

Research Seminar Series 2020/21 #7

Ethical considerations for offering non-invasive prenatal tests within a public healthcare system: A rule utilitarian perspective

Speakers: Ms Tsui Zoe Wai-king, Senior Lecturer, School of Health Sciences
Mr Yip Jeffrey Yuk-chiu, Lecturer, School of Health Sciences

Chairperson: Professor Graeme Drummond SMITH, School of Health Sciences

Date: 14 April 2021, Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Format: Join in-person: Room A533 / Join on ZOOM

Abstract

Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) appeals to the general obstetrical population due to its reliability and safety in fetal aneuploidy screening. However, it often attracts ethical concerns when offered via publicly funded healthcare systems. Using moral reasoning, rule utilitarian arguments will be discussed in this seminar to address the ethical question: How can NIPT be ethically offered to the general obstetric population via a public healthcare system for the detection of fetal aneuploidy? Three moral arguments were constructed deductively, upon which three governing "rules" are based. According to rule utilitarianism, policies that consider and conform to these rules should lead to maximization of utility for the greatest number of people. The moral foundation for formulating policies that govern the roles of NIPT in fetal aneuploidy screening programs may have implications for many people, including pregnant women, the disabled, and society as a whole.

Biography

Tsui Zoe Wai-king is a Senior Lecturer (Nursing) at The School of Health Sciences of The Caritas Institute of Higher Education in Hong Kong. She has extensive working experience in diverse clinical areas, including pediatric intensive nursing, neonatal intensive nursing, and obstetrics and gynecology nursing. She received specialty training in neonatal intensive care, midwifery, and pediatric nursing. Her research interests are in child and adolescent care, healthcare ethics, and neonatal intensive nursing.

Yip Jeffrey Yuk-chiu is a Lecturer (Nursing) at The School of Health Sciences of The Caritas Institute of Higher Education in Hong Kong. He received his specialty training in the field of renal nursing. His research interests lie in the field of health sociology, adult nursing, and healthcare ethics.

Sandwich/salad will be provided to the participants who join the seminar in-person.
All are welcome.

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