Reviewer's report

Title: Ethics, Gender Relations and Blood Safety: Women, Anti-D and the case for Fetal Genotyping Testing

Version: 2
Date: 19 December 2013

Reviewer: Neil Avent

Reviewer's report:

Comments

The authors review the ethics surrounding an issue of major clinical importance - the mass scale implementation of routine non-invasive RHD genotyping. The piece focusses on ethical concerns very succinctly and avoids the controversy of economic considerations which have unfortunately dominated this issue, and have in this reviewers opinion inhibited progress in to what is clearly of huge benefit to mothers and obstetricians. A very enjoyable review which is timely and important. I have some minor comments for changes to be made.

Minor essential revisions

1. As I have remarked above, the controversy surrounding health economics of routine RHD NIPD has rather detracted attention. Although I completely agree the ethical issues require airing in the public domain the authors should mention the economic benefits (or not) citing the work of Warwick University and Sanquin which reach different conclusions. The authors have cited the Warwick work (ref 17) but not the opposite viewpoint from Sanquin. Additionally these studies were done at a time when molecular biology reagents were more expensive than at present.
2. Introduction p4 line 1 non-invasive prenatal testing of fetal genotype. Cell free DNA publications started in 1997 not 1995 when invasive testing was first published. Please amend.
3. introduction p4 line 5 change "throughout" to "throughput"
4. Production of anti-D IgG. The authors mention concern for prion infection, but should also mention newly emerging viruses which will not have screening procedures in place.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have worked with Prof Soothill in the past, and Dr Julie Kent is a former colleague. I have no competing financial interest, although I consult for Grifols SA who produce blood group genotyping products, but not in the non-invasive prenatal diagnosis area.