Reviewer’s report

Title: Implementation Challenges for an Ethical Introduction of Noninvasive Prenatal Testing: A Qualitative Study of Healthcare Professionals’ Views from Lebanon and Quebec

Version: 0 Date: 13 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Jane Fisher

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this paper. It addresses an important and timely topic and I believe it will be of interest to readers to learn of the cultural aspects around implementation of NIPT.

I would hope my comments would require minor revisions before publication.

It would be helpful to the reader to have more information in the background/introduction about the two cultural contexts regarding the health care systems and socio-cultural settings in Lebanon and Quebec i.e. the status of religion, general acceptance of prenatal screening etc. I note that the interviews in Quebec were carried out in French, which was likely to be a first language for many, but this is less likely to be the case in using English in Beirut. Did the use of English in Beirut mean some professionals were excluded from participating?

p4 line 4 I struggle with the use of 'revolutionary' to describe NIPT as it is a loaded term to describe what is, in the context of aneuploidy, a very good screening test. It is also misleading to emphasise high sensitivity and specificity without the caveat that this is how it is marketed. The positive predictive value is much better than current screening but less compelling in marketing the test.

p15 Here it is not clear what the concern about lack of HCP knowledge actually means. Is it about the scientific properties of the testing technology or because it can give a more accurate assessment of the chance of aneuploidy?

I would also ask that the authors emphasise that women/couples are central to considerations of legal and policy frameworks arund NIPT. Regulating multinational biotechnical companies is hugely challenging but we can go further in helping women negotiate the territory and this is where HCPs can be better trained to help and actively encouraged to consider the ethical implications of their relationships with commercial companies. It would benefit the impact of the paper that they are more explicit about what 'education and training' for HCPs means.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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