Reviewer’s report

Title: Attitudes of sperm, egg and embryo donors and recipients towards genetic information and screening of donors

Version: 0 Date: 20 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Haotian Wu

Reviewer’s report:

The main objective of the study was to qualitatively examine the attitudes of sample donors and recipients drawn from an IVF setting toward genetic screening of the sample donors. Overall, the authors noted that both donors and recipients were comfortable with the current genetic screening, but are wary of expanded screening techniques. In particular, both groups raised concerns regarding usefulness of such information as well as potential moral quandaries such as "designer babies". Given the lack of information on the topic, this paper provide helpful insight toward the current attitudes regarding genetic screening among sperm, egg, and embryo donors and recipients. However, I do have some comments/concerns:

* While balancing the need for patients' confidentiality and privacy, it would still be helpful to describe the overall population. Specifically, the authors should describe their donor and recipient populations as it would be helpful for the readers to know whether the study population represent a single sociodemographic group or a more diverse one.

* On the third page of results, lines 19-29, the following quote "the chances of getting someone with a perfectly clean medical history is just negligible we are all going to die from something whether it be a stroke, cancer, heart disease, so let's face it, when you put it on paper and it looks scary but that is the reality for all of us" was attributed to the observation that "The majority of recipients were satisfied with the amount of donor genetic information they received". At first glance, this does not seem appropriate; rather, the quote seems more indicative of the previous observation that some recipients "used donors who had a significant genetic or family history, and felt the information was helpful but did not influence their choice of donor". If possible, the authors need to clarify how the quote is indicative of satisfaction.

* In order to assess the responses of study participants, it is necessary to learn more about the interview "script" or questionnaire(s). Specifically, it would help if the authors were to include, as an appendix or other supplemental material, the specific question(s) or script(s) used to assess the study participants' attitudes towards genetic screening.

* It should be noted that the participation rates in both groups are not particularly high and represents an opportunity for bias. This specifically issue should be mentioned as a limitation in the discussion (in addition to the discussion of the small sample size).

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