

Abstract

Review Paper

**Nurses' Attitudes towards Prenatal Diagnostic Procedures
within Ethical Considerations**

Nevin Utkualp, PhD

Lecturer, Uludag University School of Health Department of Nursing, Bursa, Turkey

Hicran Yıldız, RN, PhD

Associate Professor in Medical Nursing, Uludag University School of Health Department of Nursing, Bursa, Turkey

Correspondence: Hicran Yıldız, Associate Professor , Uludag University School of Health Department of Nursing, Bursa, Turkey E-mail: hicran_yildiz@yahoo.com

Abstract

Nowadays women have been given extensive rights over reproductive health. The prenatal diagnosis is a routine activity during obstetrics. The prenatal diagnostic tests are advanced and pre-planned procedures and help us to learn about the medical situation of the fetus. At this point, the roles and responsibilities of the nurses gain importance as they are close to the pregnant. Women health and maternity nurses should give information to the couples about the importance, benefits, potential harms and risks of the prenatal diagnostic tests. During this process when needed, they should ensure the confidentiality of the patients. During the implementation of prenatal diagnosis procedures, the patients should be required to determine the private information. For instance the patient should specify the people who can be given the necessary information about the process other than herself. The most important ethical considerations are the mother's autonomy and fetus' benefit. The most important benefit of the prenatal diagnosis is to ease the decision of pregnancy termination which is legal and requested by the mother. Firstly, the mother's attitude towards termination and its legal status should be examined. Then, the nurse should inform the mother, try to persuade but not to hurt being respectful to her autonomy. Consequently, during the practices of the prenatal diagnostic tests, it is very important that the nurse should give consultancy to the patient within the framework of national and universal ethical codes and principles.

Key Words: prenatal diagnostic tests, nursing, reproductive health