two groups. Analyzing separately subgroups of men and women showed that men lost their weight independently from the fact of getting personal genetic cardiovascular risk estimates (1.5 kg and 1.8 kg in groups 1 and 2 accordingly), while women reduced their weight mainly in the group with genetic testing - 4.2 kg compared to control group who lost 0.8 kg. Conclusions: Our data reports that there can be gender-specific reaction to genetic testing. It was shown in previous studies that women in our population have more positive attitudes and beliefs to predictive genetic testing.

P01.74
Ethical Issues in pre-implantation genetic diagnosis in Portugal: a comparative analysis of professional's opinions in years 2000 and 2010 using questionnaires

N. M. P. O. Teles1,2
1Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Neurogenetics Unit, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal, 2Faculty Medicine, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal.

Medical genetics has made significant progress in the last decades, especially in the field of prenatal testing. After the dramatic expansion of prenatal diagnosis that started in the seventies, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) became a reality in 1990, following advances in the techniques of medically assisted reproduction (MAR). Ethical problems related to this technique start well before the analysis: it is necessary to offer appropriate genetic counselling, to obtain informed consent for the necessary procedures and to maintain strict confidentiality of the whole process. The main ethical problems concern the status of the embryo, the investigation and the manipulation of embryos, eugenic or sex selection and the provision of resources. In 2000 a questionnaire addressing several of the principal ethical concerns, namely the attitude towards PGD, embryos and genetic testing, was distributed to the Directors of the five largest MAR centres in Portugal; in 2010 the same questionnaire was sent to 27 MAR centres and answered by 11. In all cases it was required that the answers should be based on the general policy of each centre. This work presents the comparative analysis of all the obtained data, particularly focusing on the main ethical problems related to this diagnosis, i.e., the status of the human embryo and the attitude of the genetic professionals working in this still relatively new, and very specific, field of genetic diagnosis.

P01.75
Prenatal diagnosis based on informed choice

S. Izumi
Tokai University, Isehara, Japan.

In general, prenatal test is recognized as population screening in many countries. For example, more than 80% women have maternal serum test as screening in the UK. In Japan, we do not offer maternal serum test as screening in most obstetrics services. We might provide the information of screening test and further chromosomal test such as CVS and amniocentesis with the information of genetic counselling. There is no regulation for prenatal diagnosis in ultrasound diagnosis, so some clinic would offer screening at some point and some do not. We do not scan the fetus as screening without patient’s request at our hospital. Historically, we have been concerned with prenatal diagnosis over 30 years at our hospital. At first, we had been doing only the test and giving the result for referred patients; however we now offer genetic counselling for referred patients to avoid automatic screening and to have informed choice for prenatal diagnosis. Prenatal diagnosis contains ethical issues all the time, but most pregnant women do not notice this problem until they consider termination at some point. Genetic counselling in prenatal diagnosis could be good support for the patient who has to face difficult ethical issues during pregnancy. It sometimes reduces unnecessary risk for worries and/or invasive test.

P01.76
Information related to prenatal genetic counseling: Interpretation by teenage students and ethical implications

P. A. Melas1, S. Georgsson Ohman2,3, N. Juth1, T. H. Bui2
1Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Neurogenetics Unit, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, 2Department of Women’s and Children’s Health, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, 3Sophiahemmet University College, Stockholm, Sweden, 4Department of Learning, Informatics, Management and Ethics, Stockholm Centre for Healthcare Ethics, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, 5Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Clinical Genetics, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden.

Among current teenagers we find a large proportion of future parents, some of whom will be seeking prenatal genetic counselling. Getting results in the genomic era may not only increase the knowledge of available genetic testing but may also have an impact on how genetic information is perceived. However, little is known about how this teenage group reacts to the language commonly used by health care professionals providing prenatal counseling. In addition, as risk communication is related to numbers and figures, having different educational backgrounds may be associated with separate risk perceptions. In order to investigate these issues, a previously developed questionnaire (Abramsky & Fletcher, 2002) was administered to high-school students in Sweden. A total of 344 questionnaires were completed by students belonging to a natural science or a social science program. Our data show that teenage participants were particularly worried by the use of technical jargon and words like rare and abnormal. Negative framing effects and perception differences related to numeric risk formats were also present. There were some cases of gender and educational program effects on risk assessment but this outcome was not generalizable. Besides the questionnaire results, we discuss the ethical implications of the data based on the norm of non-directiveness and try to provide some basic guidelines. In general, genetic counselors should be aware that the language used within clinical services can be influential on this group of upcoming counselees.