

## **Targeted testing in prenatal diagnosis: the best way to deal with problematic findings?**

Besides being a rapid way of prenatal testing, targeted testing also provides the option to exclude testing results which are considered too problematic to counsel. To assess if this new method of testing is the obvious way to deal with problematic findings, these findings were systematically examined.

Providers from several disciplines were asked, individually and in focus group discussion, about their experiences with various testing results in general, and problematic results in particular. Clients were asked about their expectations and experiences regarding the same matter. Providers' and clients' experiences were compared and analysed to search for themes related to problematic testing results.

Problematic results arise because providers, wishing to avoid underreporting, also report results of mild or unknown clinical significance. In a context where only two choices, i.e. continuing or terminating the pregnancy, are available, these results may lead to big dilemmas. Because in the end, the decision about pregnancy is considered the clients' responsibility, clients are more troubled by problematic results than providers.

The burden for clients would be diminished in a targeted testing scenario where providers decide which problematic results would be excluded, more than in a scenario where clients would decide about this. From the perspective of a fair distribution of responsibilities between providers and clients, targeted testing would be the obvious way to deal with problematic findings in prenatal diagnosis. Consequently, the providers would need to answer the morally laden question of which testing results should be excluded from prenatal diagnosis.