



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Easier, Earlier Testing May Result in More Abortions



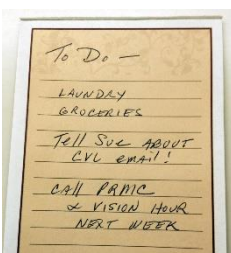
Education: In the 2nd quarter of 2019, 216 children were born in the Uttarkashi district of India. They were ALL boys. (1) In China and India, cultural preference for a male child (who will care for his parents in their old age) has led to preferential abortion (and infanticide) of female babies, and an alarming imbalance of males to females being born. Immigrants to western nations frequently maintain their cultural preference for male children, and some states and countries have banned abortion for the purpose of sex selection. Although England has outlawed sex selection abortions, the Crown Prosecution Service declined to prosecute two abortionists who were discovered to be performing them. An examination of U.S. census data indicated that the sex ratio of the 3rd child of Asian parents who already had 2 girls was 151 boys to 100 girls – an extremely imbalanced ratio. (2)

In 2017, a new genetic screening test became available that can be done at 10 weeks gestation and is less risky than amniocentesis. The test (Non-invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT), or cell-free DNA screening) uses a blood sample from the mother to obtain fetal tissue circulating in the blood. The test is able to detect trisomies (the presence of 3 of a given chromosome, rather than 2, such as causes Down Syndrome), and also can detect the sex of the child. (1) The real question is how the test is being used. The test is costly, quoted at \$2700, but actual cost to the consumer can be as low as \$200 (or \$0 if covered by insurance) if they are over 35 or at high risk. (3)

1. <https://www.insider.com/india-investigates-why-no-baby-girls-born-in-uttarkashi-2019-7>
2. <http://www.lifenews.com/2017/03/01/groundbreaking-genetic-test-could-lead-to-killing-more-girls-in-abortions/>
3. <https://community.whattoexpect.com/forums/35-moms-to-be/topic/maternit21-verify-cost-1.html>



Prayer: Dear Lord, please help every parent to value every child you entrust to them. Help parents who fear not having a son to care for them in their old age to trust in You and in the love of their daughters and sons-in-law to help them in their old age. Help parents who discover that their child may be handicapped to also value their child as a child of God who still possesses unique talents and gifts. Please help doctors advising pregnant women to be able to refer their patients to resources to help families of handicapped children, to encourage them and to help them see the beautiful value of their child, rather than recommending abortion.



Action: If you know someone who is pregnant and fearful of having a child who does not meet their expectations, encourage them to trust in God to provide them with the support and grace they need to parent whatever child He gives them. Pray for parents who bear the burden of caring for a severely handicapped child, that they will find support from the community and have the grace to be the best parents they can be for all their children.