



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

False Positive Tests for Genetic Disorders



Education: Everyone wants and prays for a healthy baby. But many people see babies with handicaps or problems to be defective products that they can reject, and choose to abort those babies. We have laws against discriminating based on handicaps, and require businesses to be accessible to those in wheelchairs, but we allow discrimination before birth with abortion. Downs syndrome in particular is feared, in spite of individuals with Downs are so often not only able to function and be happy but are loving people.

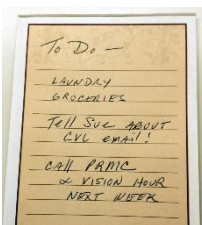
But of course where there is money to be made, people take advantage of the fears of others. Several blood tests are being sold to pregnant women to screen for rare genetic disorders such as DiGeorge syndrome, 1p36 deletion, Cri-du-chat syndrome, and others. These tests are described as “reliable” and “accurate”, but one study found an average false positive rate of 85 percent for 5 of these tests! The manufacturer recommends a follow-up test later in the pregnancy, but not all couples do that; some go ahead and abort because of the first positive test. In one case, a mother aborted her baby after an unconfirmed positive test, but the tissue of the aborted baby showed that the baby had been healthy.

Another problem is pressure from doctors to abort a child who is found to have a disability, in spite of the fact that a genetic disability would clearly not make the doctor liable for a malpractice suit. Doctors need to not only allow – and even encourage - parents to choose to have their child, but inform them about support services that are available to help families with individuals suffering with the disorder in question.

<https://www.lifenews.com/2022/01/03/prenatal-tests-wrong-85-of-the-time-but-theyre-used-to-kill-disabled-babies-in-abortions/>



Prayer: Dear Jesus, please help doctors to be well aware of the inaccuracy of many genetic tests, and of services available to parents struggling with a child with the corresponding disorders. Help them to refrain from selling these tests and be diligent in warning the parents against acting on these uncertain results. Inspire doctors to encourage parents to embrace their child in spite of a possible disorder. Help parents who receive discouraging test results to trust in You to equip them to be the best parents they can be for the child that You will entrust to them. Please have mercy on parents who do choose to abort, and help them to repent of their action and find forgiveness and healing from You.



Action: Let your pregnant friends know about the unreliability of many genetic tests. If they are concerned about a possible problem with their baby, refer them to the [National Institute for Health website on rare diseases](#), and [Center for Parent Information and Resources](#). Parents can get information about how to find medical specialists with experience in a specific condition, and helped to find the nearest Parent Training and Information Center. The centers work with families with children with disabilities and help

parents participate effectively in their children’s education and development.