

Publication

[Pregnant women's assessment and level of knowledge of prenatal counseling]

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)**ID** 1195455**Author(s)** Tschudin, S; Holzgreve, W; Conde, N; Alder, J; Bitzer, J; Tercanli, S**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Tercanli, Sevgi](#) ; [Bitzer, Johannes](#) ;**Year** 2009**Title** [Pregnant women's assessment and level of knowledge of prenatal counseling]**Journal** Ultraschall in der Medizin : Organ der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Ultraschall in der Medizin (DEGUM) ... [et al.]**Volume** 30**Number** 2**Pages / Article-Number** 157-62

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PURPOSE: Informed decision making and informed consent prior to any intervention are crucial in the ethically and psychologically complex field of prenatal diagnosis (PND). The aim of this study was to investigate whether and to what extent pregnant women understand the information provided by their physicians. **MATERIALS AND METHODS:** Fifty pregnant women in the first trimester answered a structured questionnaire after their first visit between 7 to 10 weeks of gestation that routinely includes basic prenatal counseling. A special focus was put on information transfer, knowledge about and understanding of prenatal tests, as well as previous experiences with PND. The results were analyzed with regard to differences due to background, educational level and previous experiences with PND. **RESULTS:** The maternal mean age was 31.1 years (SD 6.7). 38 patients (76 %) had at least one previous pregnancy and two thirds of them had experiences with PND. Their experience was mainly positive. About three quarters of the women stated that they had been informed about the test methods during the consultation and had understood the explanations. Uncertainty was reported in 12.2 % and 23.3 % of the women said they had further questions. The percentage of questions related to appropriate understanding that were answered correctly was only 44 % to 77.5 %. The percentage of correct answers was lower in women without experience with PND, with a lower educational level and born in countries outside the EU and Switzerland. **CONCLUSION:** Pregnant women are relatively well informed about prenatal tests. Their actual knowledge of the meaning of the tests, however, seems to be incomplete. Especially in the case of immigrants and women without previous experience with PND, it is therefore doubtful whether the preconditions for an informed consent are met. Further research needs to focus on more helpful information and individually adapted counseling concepts for decision making in PND.

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