Important issues have also been raised by recent developments in prenatal genetic testing. Since 2011, a new non-invasive prenatal test (NIPT) is available to women in the first trimester of their pregnancy in order to detect Down’s syndrome. Requiring a simple blood sample taken from the mother, the method is more reliable and safer for the foetus. It can also be performed earlier in pregnancy than the method previously used for this type of genetic screening. According to some specialists, these features, paired with commercial interests in favour of making NIPT a routine procedure, may increase the pressure on women facing the moral dilemma of whether or not to go through with the test without being well informed about it by medical staff[[1]](#footnote-0). Moreover, the number of conditions that NIPT can detect is steadily rising; soon it will be able to offer a wide range of genetic information on the foetus. There is good reason to ask whether this is a positive development in individual and societal terms. To what extent should one uphold a woman’s right not to know how likely it is for her foetus to exhibit atypical genetic conditions? On a societal level, does prenatal genetic screening not encourage eugenics?

1. V. Ravitsky, 'The shifting landscape of prenatal testing: Between reproductive autonomy and public health', *Hastings Center Report*, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)