Important issues are also raised by recent developments in prenatal genetic testing. Since 2011, a new, non-invasive prenatal test (NIPT) has been offered to pregnant women during the first trimester to detect Down syndrome. The test, which requires only a single blood draw, is more reliable, safer for the fetus, and can be performed at an earlier stage of pregnancy than the previous genetic screening method. According to some specialists, these characteristics, together with commercial interests that support the routinization of NIPT, risk increasing pressure on women, who are then faced with the moral burden of deciding whether or not to have the test conducted, without being adequately provided with information by medical personnel.[[1]](#footnote-1) Moreover, the number of conditions that can be detected by NIPT is gradually increasing, such that it will soon be able to provide a wide range of genetic information about the fetus. It’s worth considering whether the potential to obtain more genetic information about a fetus is a positive development from the individual and social perspectives. In what way does it protect a pregnant woman’s right to not know the probability that her fetus will present atypical genetic conditions? At the social level, does prenatal genetic screening encourage eugenics?

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