

MWIA poster abstract submission 2019 (deadline March 31, 2019)

Clinical care – case study

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Abstract category

Gender specific medicine • Global health • Healthcare & technology • **Gender equity** • Women physicians: balancing career and family • Medical students, generation Y • Aging and women • Violence against women • History of medical women • The obesity epidemic • Impact of climate change on health • Women's health

Title

Congratulations, it's a girl!

Authors' names

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Abstract (1,621/2,000 max. characters)

Case: Adverse emotions around the birth of a girl child are deeply rooted in Indian cultural and socio-economic values. Apart from safety concerns raising a girl child and the fact that she will not be the one taking care of her parents at old age, a girl is also supposed to bring dowry to her husband on their marriage. This dowry usually consists of a big amount of money or property, leading to financial troubles in lower-class families. Therefore, some people choose measurements to prevent the birth of a girl child altogether. Advanced ultrasound and invasive prenatal testing paved way for sex-selective abortion. The Indian government condemns both dowry and sex-selective abortion, but community awareness is necessary to completely stop such acts. Today, India is one of the fastest developing countries, which is also reflected in the status of females. However, changing deep-rooted values is difficult and the advent of non-invasive prenatal DNA testing might provide new challenges.

Conclusions: Indian traditional and cultural values in marriage planning replaced by gender equity awareness and education is in progress. However, prenatal DNA testing is paving ways for new methods of sex selection in small families, where at least one male child is still an essential element.

Clinical Significance: Prenatal medical techniques although very useful for a variety of reasons, might also be used into fulfilling socio-economic and cultural expectations by sex selection, raising ethical concerns in line of designer babies. In addition, it's questionable whether such practices are only limited to India.