

REGULATION OF THE PREIMPLANTATION GENETIC TESTING IN JAPAN: CHALLENGES FOR THE CLINICAL APPLICATION

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Introduction and Methods: In Japan, number of preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) cases has been very small, and reasons for that are seemed not to be well known in other countries. To explain the PGT regulation system in Japan, we explored the PGT guidelines of the Japanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (JSOG), extracted points of consideration, and discussed clinical implications and challenges. **Results:** PGT in Japan is not illegal. However, JSOG has set a strict regulation for PGT, since 1998. Although JSOG does not have legal power, specialists who perform PGT are supposed to be members of JSOG, and therefore, they are obliged to follow the JSOG guidelines. PGT guidelines of JSOG have been formulated as ethical guidelines, as there seems to be a strong belief among some professionals that selecting embryos can be ethically problematic, although the idea seems not to be related with any specific religious thoughts. According to the JSOG guidelines, if a patient wants to undergo PGT, each case should go through not only the hospital's ethics committee, but also JSOG's ethics committee. JSOG's ethics committee examines every case separately, and approves PGT only with extremely severe childhood onset monogenic conditions or couples with chromosomal rearrangement who had more than two miscarriages. **Conclusions and Discussion:** In Japan, PGT is not regarded as a standard option. As the availability has been very limited, there have been some people having PGT outside of Japan. It has also been a problem that most medical professionals do not know the recent development of the PGT technique, as PGT has not been commonly practiced in Japan. Further discussion may be needed for these issues, including whether or not the JSOG guidelines need to be reconsidered from a different point of view.