

## **How do Women Make Decisions about Preimplantation Genetic Screening? Sacrifices Made and Factors Considered**

**Sarah Cochrane, Erin Thorpe, MaryAnn Campion, Katherine Krepkovich**  
Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts

Pre-implantation genetic testing is a field in which research and techniques are advancing and uptake is increasing. Preimplantation Genetic Screening (PGS) is a process by which embryos are screened for chromosomal aneuploidies prior to implantation into a woman's uterus for development. Implementation of ever-advancing technologies to screen embryos has been shown to potentially increase pregnancy rates. Most research on PGS has been done on those of higher socioeconomic groups. The goal of this study was to assess women's opinions about PGS and the associated decisions made by women from a broader range of backgrounds, especially from varied socioeconomic groups. Fifty women, recruited through an infertility support group, completed surveys. Possibility of avoiding termination was rated as the strongest factor playing into decisions, but cost was consistently cited as a barrier to PGS. Thematic analysis was performed, which yielded 3 major themes: 1.) We'll try anything, 2.) Knowledge is power, and 3.) If we could afford it, we would do it. The majority of the women in this study indicated clearly that any technology that could increase the possibility of a euploid (and therefore, more likely healthy) pregnancy is worth pursuing, but that there are major barriers to the utilization of PGS technology. IVF/PGS was found to be financially inaccessible to women across a wide range of socioeconomic groups, including those of lower SES.