"It's not about me but about my family"-

The involvement of family within the genetic test setting

Within different genetic settings- such as newborn screening, predictive testing, carrier identification- ethical questions involving the knowledge of genetic information, its implications on the individual and familial life arise for tested persons. This also includes various time spans (childhood, adulthood, etc.) where information is spread within the genetic diagnosis to the concerned persons. The offering of knowledge about one's own genetic condition promised to give the individual person the possibility to care about the own health status. This involves early diagnosis, treatment with medical therapies and readapting personal life style. For the national health policy the reducing of therapy costs and longterm treatments show also great effects on the overall health care expenditures. But even if the genetic screening is seen within the literature as something for what individuals are responsible for- this can not be seen as a right thesis. The inconsiderate consequence of such genetic tests is the outcome of not only individual information on the genetic condition but also the knowledge of possible involvement of blood relatives. Because when genetic comes to mind, this actually leads to inheritable health problems. We can not consider the information as an individual problem as rather an familial problem.

Keywords: genetic settings; early diagnosis; ethical questions; individual; familial.

Daniela Freitag

Mag.ª Daniela Freitag

Studierte Soziologie an der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz. Seit November 2006 ist sie als Doktorandin im Rahmen des ELSA-Projekts „Genetic Testing" des österreichischen Genomforschungsprogramms GEN-AU beschäftigt.

Arbeitsschwerpunkte: Sozialwissenschaftlich relevante Auswirkungen neuer Biotechnologien, im Besonderen der genetischen Tests.

Tel. +43/316/81 39 09-42

freitag@ifz.tugraz.at

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