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Should oocyte donation offspring receive information of their origin and the identity of their donor: public opinions in Sweden

Background Oocyte donation is established by Swedish legislation from January 2003. According to the law, offspring have the right to receive identifying information about the donor when they reach mature age. The main aim of the present study was to investigate public opinions regarding different aspects of oocyte donation. Specific research questions concern attitudes regarding the disclosure of genetic origin and donor identity to offspring

Material and method A study-specific questionnaire regarding attitudes toward different aspects of oocyte donation was sent to a randomised sample of 1000 women (25-35 years) and 1000 men (25-40 years). The response rate was 73% for women and 59 % for men.

Results A large majority of women and men agreed to that the offspring from oocyte donation have the right to know about the nature of their conception and that parents should be honest with their children with regard to their genetic origin. While half of respondents considered that offspring should be able to find out the identity of the donor, one third opposed to this. Overall, women were more positive towards disclosure than were men ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusion The present results indicate that there is strong support for the right of oocyte offspring to receive information regarding their genetic origin among the Swedish public. However, a considerable part of respondents did not support the offspring right to receive identifying information about their donor, as outlined in Swedish law.

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