Novel techniques for the prevention of mitochondrial DNA disorders: an ethical review

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Ethical questions

• The use of human embryos
• Genetic modification
• A germline intervention
• Implications for identity
• Parentage of the child
• Is it safe (enough)?
• Implications for other germline interventions
Conclusions

• If proved safe and effective, and if appropriate information and support is offered, it would be ethical for families to use these techniques as treatment.

• It is not legally or biologically accurate to refer to as ‘mother’ or ‘third parent’.

• Information and counselling must be provided.

• Follow up and evaluation is crucial could be supported by centrally funded register.

• Should only be offered as part of a clinical trial in specialist centres.