

Power Point Slide: Azumi Tsuge

WHAT DO WOMEN WANT
TO CHOOSE IN PRENATAL
TESTING IN JAPAN?

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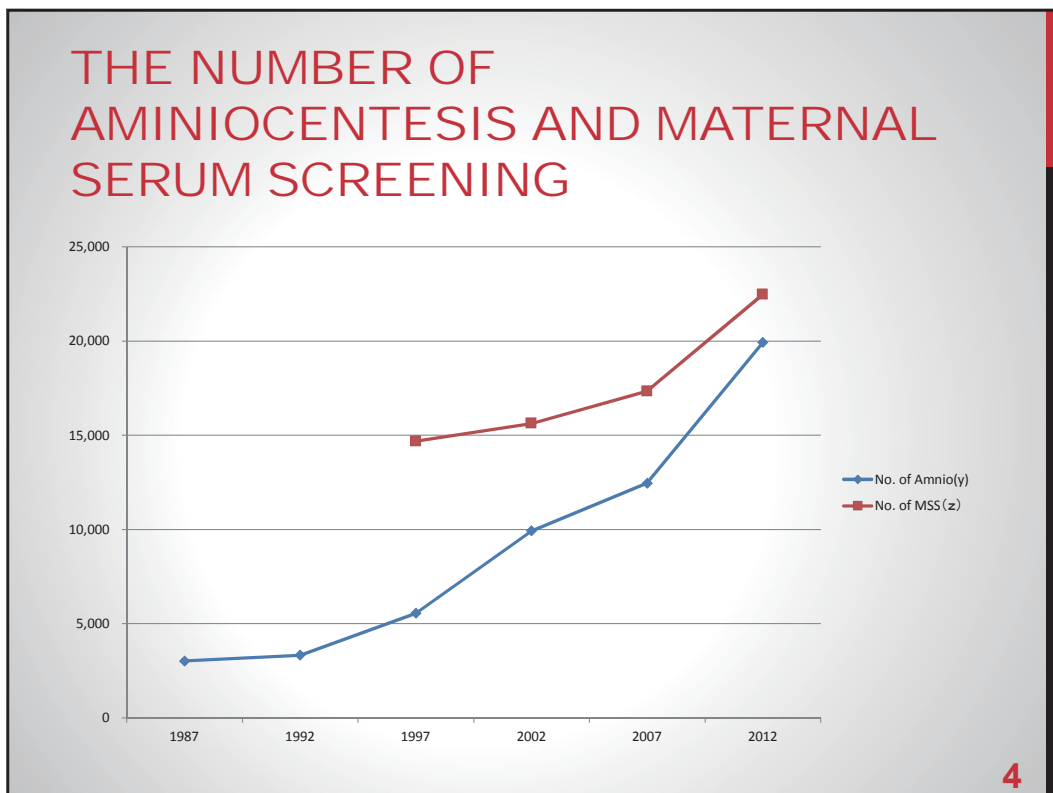
PRENATAL TESTS IN JAPAN

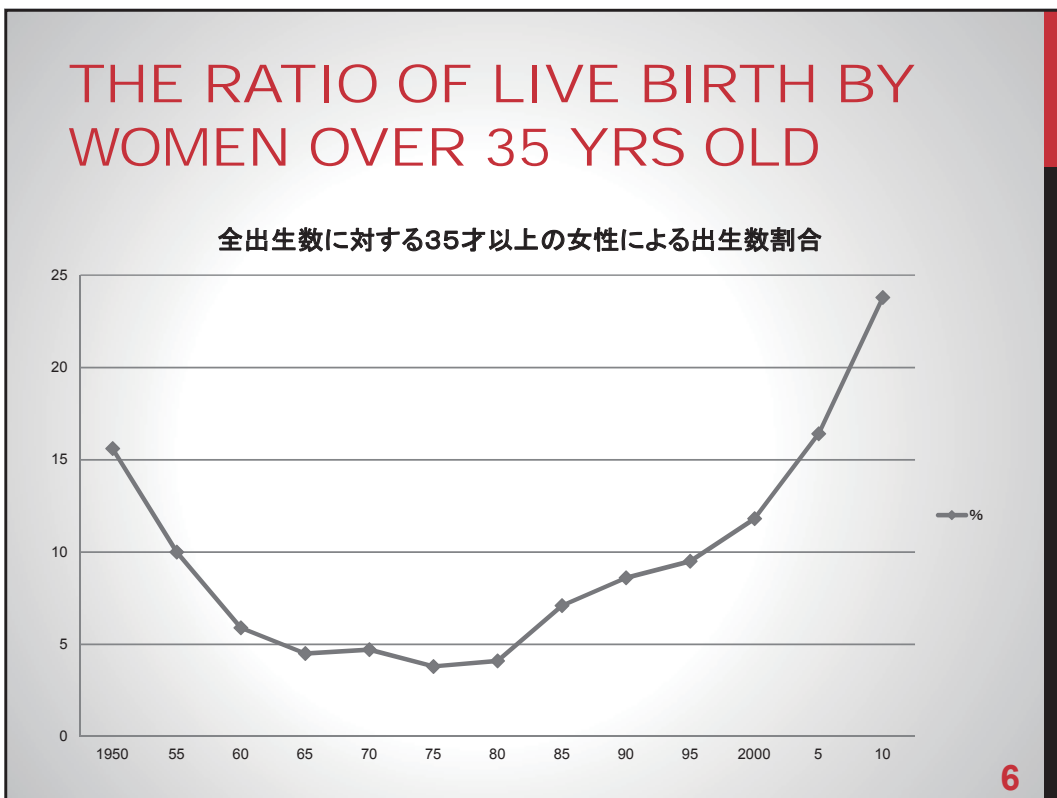
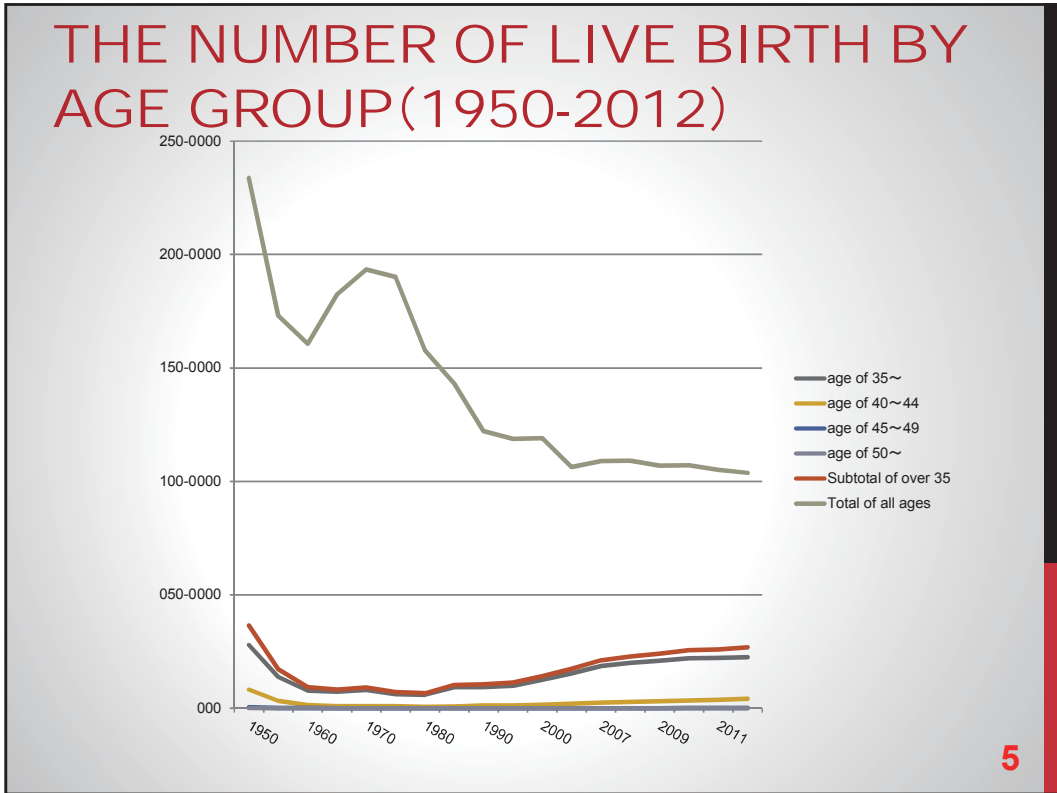
- **The ratio of women undergoing prenatal genetic tests is low in Japan**
- **Only 3% of all pregnant women received prenatal diagnosis other than ultrasound scanning**
- **Abortion is allowed, but it is not allowed by the reason of fetal abnormality**

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Noninvasive + Not definitive	Invasive + Definitive
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ultrasound scan• Maternal serum marker screening (MSS)• Cell-free fetal DNA in the maternal blood (NIPT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amniocentesis• Chorionic villus Sampling test (CVS)

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THE GUIDELINE OF MATERNAL SERUM MARKER TEST BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ISSUED IN 1999

1. A doctor does not need to tell a pregnant woman actively about the prenatal test using mother's body blood.
2. The doctor should not recommend easily the new genetic prenatal test which used mother's blood to a pregnant woman.

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新出生前診断 慎重に
安易な実施 社会に混乱

好妊の血液検査 出生前診断
先行の独、相鉄義務化
十分な情報も二に判別

安易な中絶 日本で顕著も

New prenatal testing should be introduced with caution. Practicing the test without consideration may bring social disruption.

Abortion without consideration may increase

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MASS MEDIA FEARS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ABORTIONS

Because

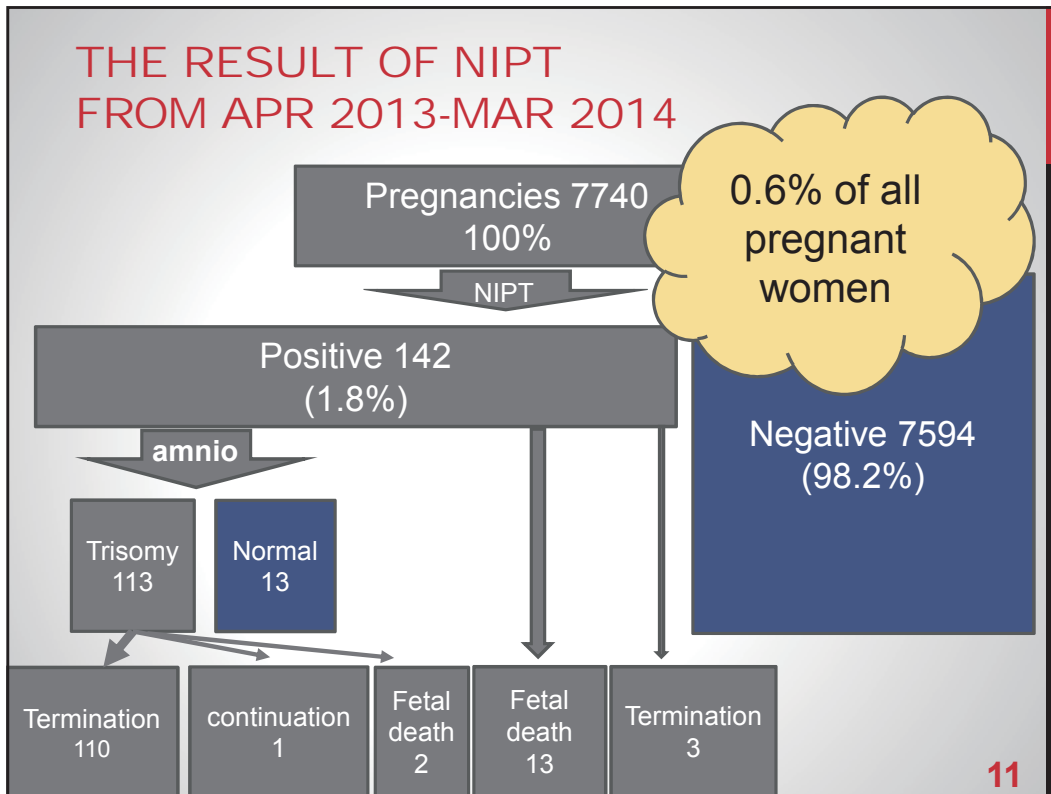
- 1. New prenatal test is non-invasive so that pregnant women choose to have tests easily or without consideration.
- 2. So results that show chromosomal abnormality of fetus should increase.
- 3. Therefore the number of abortions after the test would be increasing.

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THE GUIDELINE FOR NIPT BY THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF OB/GYN (JSOG) IN 2013

- **The test should not be widely introduced into general obstetric clinical practice**
- **The test should only be carried out in pregnant women with an increased risk for fetal aneuploidy, conducting the test in mass screening of general pregnant women should be strictly prohibited.**

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The Chronological View from the Criminal Abortion Law in the Penal Code to the Maternal Body Protection Law

1907	Penal Code revised from 1880 It makes abortion severe crime.
1922	Birth Control Movement, Margaret Sanger was invited to Japan.
1923	A legal precedent to allow doctors to perform emergency abortion to save a woman's life.
1931	Feminist (first wave) organized Japan Birth Control League and Alliance for Reform of the Anti-Abortion Law. Dr. Ogino, Kyusaku published his theory for contraception(Ogino Method) .
1932	Dr. Ohta, Tenrei invented IUD (Ohta Ring) based on Gräfenberg Ring in German in 1930.
1936	IUD and contraceptive methods except for condom were forbidden.
1937	Birth Control Movement was forced to quit. Ishimoto-Kato, Shizue was arrested for Birth Control expanding action.
1940	National Eugenic Protection Law based on the Law of Nazi, Eugenic Sterilization
1948	Eugenic Protection Law legalized abortion under conditions. However penal code of abortion issued in 1907 continue to operate.

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Japanese History concerning Prenatal Testing	
1950	Reform of Eugenic Protection Law Women can have an abortion for economic (social) reason as well as her health reason.
1966	A local government started the “policy of prevention of unhappy children.” It compensates partially cost of amniocentesis.
1973	Anti-abortion movement scheme to delete the term of abortion by economical reason. Medical association demands abortion by fetus abnormalities. However, these amendments did not succeed because Disabled movement and women’s liberation movement are against it strongly.
1974	Disabled movement criticized the policy of prevention for unhappy children. So it was reformed.
1982	Anti-abortion movement which demanded to delete the term of abortion by economical reason clause was again arisen. However, it failed to submit a bill to the Diet.
1996	Reform of Eugenic Protection Law to Maternal Body Protection Law because EPL discriminate people with disabilities.

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Brochures published by the measure room to prevent that unhappy children in Hyogo prefecture around 1970

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Research Methods

Questionnaire and Interview in 2003 in Tokyo;

- 375 valid responses of Questionnaire
- 26 interviewees

We started a bigger research project from 2013.

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