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# Attitudes of professionals, donors, patients and general population towards the ethical problems in assisted reproduction



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## Introduction

Assisted reproduction techniques have opened numerous ethical questions different from religious or legal approaches. The excessive expectations of technological advances, the uncertainty of the results, the opening towards a medicine of desire, etc. can generate ethical problems that require deep analysis. The aim of this work was to compare the attitudes of professionals, gamete donors, patients and population toward bioethical problems in assisted reproduction and the ethical values that support these opinions.

## Methods

This is a cross-sectional electronic survey study completed by a representative sample of 233 people. Data were collected from 123 voluntarily participating assisted reproductive centres (including clinicians, embryologists, nurses and administrative staff) and 110 non-professionals (gamete donors, patients and general population).

The survey was conducted from September to December 2018.

300 participants filled out an anonymous questionnaire asking for their socio-demographic characteristics and 100 questions based on the main ethical problems, around 4 values: solidarity, trust, religiosity and morality. A total of 233 completed questionnaires were obtained, to which Exploratory Factor Analysis was carried out.

After a depuration process by means of Factorial Analysis a definitive questionnaire was obtained whose 41 final items have enough interrelation for a perfect adjustment to a factorial model. The average of scores in the four values and the numerical evaluation of these with the Student's T test were compared.

## Results

Doctors have a greater moral concern than the rest and a less supportive attitude.  
Nursing presents a more religious, trusting profile and the most restrictive of the entire sample.  
Laboratory personnel have high values in morality and agnosticism.  
Non-care professionals have a high level of trust and a moral attitude.  
People without a direct relationship with reproduction present a more solidarity and distrustful profile, but they clearly present a greater disregard for moral issues.  
Donors are the group that presents less concern for ethical or moral aspects and greater confidence in medical decisions.  
The professional / non-professional dichotomy is the one that occupies more extreme values, being able to affirm that the professionals display a greater preoccupation by the morality, a greater confidence and a more restrictive attitude, without influence with religiosity.

