

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on Critical Care Decisions in Fetal and Neonatal Medicine: Ethical issues during March to June 2005. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

Anon 6

QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Question 1

ANSWER:

Present position - fetal surgery in rare cases - seems appropriate in current state of knowledge. I do not think it would be appropriate to override the wishes of the pregnant woman.

Question 2

ANSWER:

In my view, there is no substitute for individual decision-making, case by case.

Question 3

ANSWER:

(1) The moral status of the fetus.

Question 4

ANSWER:

I think that the first two questions are important, but I am doubtful about the third one.

Question 5

ANSWER:

Ultimate decision should remain with the courts.

Question 6

ANSWER:

None

Question 7

ANSWER:

Lack of evidence about QALYs in neonates makes this approach inappropriate at this time. In any case, I am not clear how QALYs can be weighted differently, while following the methodology.

Question 8

ANSWER:

Yes to both

Question 9

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ANSWER:

Yes