SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary Table SI Reasons provided in favour and against using genome modification.

Domain	Reasons provided (n = x)*		
	In favour	**Conditions**	**Against**
Safety of the individuals concerned	GM would not pose health risks (n = 77)	I would only use GM if it would not pose unacceptable health risks (n = 275)	GM would pose unacceptable health risks (n = 239)
	GM would pose limited health risks but those are acceptable considering the benefits (n = 65)		
	GM would not impose a high treatment burden (n = 3)[1]	I would only use GM if it would not impose a high treatment burden (n = 8)	GM would impose a high treatment burden (n = 6)
Effectiveness	GM would be an effective treatment (n = 21)	I would only use GM if it would be an effective treatment (n = 16)	GM would not be an effective treatment (n = 61)
	GM would be more effective if applied in the germline than in somatic cell lines (n = 3)		GM would not allow for me to become a full genetic parent since modified genes are passed on (n = 10)[6,7]
	GM would cure the cause of the problem (n = 5)[1]		GM would not cure the cause of the problem but merely its expression (n = 20)[7]
	GM would be acceptable because the goals justifies the means (n = 3)		
	GM would prevent the disease, which is preferable over curing the disease (n = 29)[7]		GM prevents the disease, and this is not preferable over curing the disease if it manifests (n = 45)[6]
Quality of life of the individuals concerned	GM would improve my/my child's quality of life (n = 1505)	I would only use GM if it would improve my/my child's quality of life (n = 114)	GM would not (sufficiently) improve my/my child's quality of life (n = 256)
			GM would make my child too different from me to properly support the child (n = 9)[2,6]
			GM would eliminate some of the joys of parenthood (n = 4)[2,6,7]
	GM would prevent disease's suffering in upcoming generations (n = 26)		
	GM would provide my progeny with an evolutionary advantage (n = 3)[6]		
	GM would improve the quality of life of the family and friends of the cured individual (n = 47)		
	GM would allow more people to have the positive attributes I have, which would make connections more enjoyable (n = 1)[2,6,7]		GM would allow more people to have the positive attributes I have, which would make it less special for me to have them (n = 3)[2,6,7]
	GM would prevent social exclusion because having a disease is not accepted in society (n = 1)[1,7]	I would only use GM if it was accepted in society (n = 4)[6]	GM would cause social exclusion because being genetically modified is not accepted in society (n = 3)
Existence of a clinical need or alternative	GM would prevent a disease of which the risk of acquiring is high (n = 3)[6]	I would only use GM if the risk of acquiring the disease is high (n = 29)[6]	GM would not be necessary as the risk of acquiring the disease is low (n = 137)
	GM is better than, or an acceptable alternative to, current options (n = 72)	I would only use GM if there are no alternatives available to obtain the same result (n = 30)	GM would not be acceptable as there are alternatives available to obtain the same result (n = 585)
	GM would be preferable to terminating a pregnancy (n = 8)[6]		GM would be less acceptable than terminating a pregnancy (n = 17)[5,6]

Domain	Reasons provided (n = x)*		
	In favour	**Conditions**	**Against**
	GM would not be inherently different than currently accepted vaccines and medications (n = 102)		
		I would only find GM acceptable if it would be applied for disease rather than enhancement (n = 170)	
			GM would reduce the willingness to adopt as couples with a genetic predisposition would be able to have healthy child of their own (n = 3)[5,6,7]
Biodiversity and ecosystems			GM would reduce human diversity which is important for the functioning of society (n = 98)[6]
	GM would be acceptable because disease does not have a purpose in life (n = 4)[6]		GM would be unacceptable because disease has a purpose in life (n = 42)
	GM would not affect biodiversity (n = 4)	I would only use GM if it would not affect biodiversity (n = 7)[4]	GM would reduce biodiversity (n = 15)
	GM would protect ecosystems (n = 6)	I would only use GM if it would not do ecological harm (n = 15)[4]	GM would cause harm to ecosystems (n = 18)[4]
	GM would be better for the ecosystem than current alternatives (n = 23)[7]		
Animal homo sapiens	GM would reduce the frequency of or eradicate diseases (n = 63)	I would only use GM if there was no alternative to eradicate the disease (n = 2)[3,6]	GM would not eradicate the disease (n = 4)[3,6]
			GM would not be effective as other diseases will replace the eradicated ones (n = 10)[7]
	GM would allow its users to contribute more to society (n = 65)		GM would not (sufficiently) allow its users to contribute more to society (n = 92)[6,7]
	GM would improve mankind's chance of survival (n = 7)	I would only use GM if long-term consequences for society are known (n = 1)[3,6]	GM would have negative long-term consequences for society (n = 211)
	GM would contribute to progress through science (n = 5)[1]	I would only use GM if follow-up is in place to monitor long-term consequences for society (n = 2)	
		I would only use GM if less children will be born (n = 1)[3,6]	GM would add to the global overpopulation (n = 9)[7]
Human life and dignity	GM [of the germline] would not affect a human because the embryo does not yet have that status (n = 1)[5,6]		GM [of the germline] would not do justice to the moral status of the embryo (n = 1)[5,6]
			GM would be unnecessary as I would accept my child however it is born (n = 47)[6]
	GM would not change someone's identify (n = 1)[5,6]		GM would change someone's identity (n = 20)
	GM incites the 'wow factor' and/or does not incite the 'yuck-factor' (n = 206)	I would only use GM if ethical issues were addressed (n = 2)	GM incites the 'yuck-factor' (i.e. a feeling of horror, revulsion, or disgust) (n = 262)
Trust in regulation	GM would not be offered unless it was established as being a good treatment (n = 32)[7]	I would only use GM if it would be well-regulated (n = 4)	GM would be subject to special interests (commercial, regimes, terrorist), which may cause exploitation of vulnerable individuals (n = 27)
Justice	GM would improve equality as everyone would have access to beneficial genetic traits (n = 2)[5,6]		GM would allow individuals unfair access to beneficial traits (n = 6)[6,7]
		I would only use GM if not using it would make me fall behind (n = 23)[6]	GM would incite a rate race (n = 14)[2,6]
	GM would not have much effect as it would merely shift the normal curve to a higher average (n = 15)[2,6,7]	I would only use GM if everyone would apply modification and thus no segregation would occur (n = 3)[2,6,7]	GM would increase segregation (n = 50)
		I would only use GM if it would be accessible for everyone (n = 14)	

Continued

Domain	Reasons provided (n = x)*		
	In favour	**Conditions**	**Against**
		I would only use GM if not modifying would also remain acceptable (n = 9)	GM would lower acceptability of imperfections in society (n = 32)
			GM would reduce incentives to research other treatments for these diseases (n = 1)[3,6,7]
			GM would require resources for research better spend on other goals (n = 4)
Costs	GM would be acceptable as the costs for the individual of living with a disease are high (n = 11)	I would only use GM if costs of GM are not high for the individual (n = 9)	GM would not be acceptable as the costs of GM are high for the individual (n = 10)
	GM would lower healthcare costs (n = 52)	I would only use GM if it would not increase healthcare costs (n = 8)	GM would increase healthcare costs (n = 6)
			GM would reduce healthcare needs and thereby cut revenues in healthcare (n = 2)[6,7]
Slippery slope	GM would strictly be applied to those purposes considered acceptable (n = 6)	I would only use GM if it would not change societal norms and induce a slippery slope effect (n = 3)	GM would start a slippery slope towards morally unacceptable applications (n = 119)
Argument of nature			GM would medicalize reproduction (n = 3)[6]
	GM would merely raise the speed and efficiency of a naturally occurring process (n = 93)	I would only use GM if the extent of the manipulation is limited (n = 14)	GM would be too unnatural (n = 152)
	GM would not be inherently worse than nature (n = 4)		
	GM would make use of the most modern technologies (n = 10)		GM would make individuals more dependent on technology (n = 1)[4]
Parental rights and duties	GM is a moral obligation as I do not have the right to withhold my child from the possibilities created by germline modification (n = 63)[6]		
	GM is acceptable as I do have the right to decide on modifying genes on behalf of my unborn child (n = 1)[5,6]		GM is unacceptable as I do not have the right to decide on modifying genes on behalf of my unborn child (n = 56)[6]
(Reproductive) autonomy	GM would be acceptable, because there is no authority that could decide it is not (n = 1)[5,6]		GM would not be acceptable, there is no authority to decide that it is (n = 4)[6,7]
	GM would fall under my right for autonomy and thus should not be prohibited (n = 29)	I would only use GM if it remains a free choice to do so (n = 11)	GM would create choices and thereby responsibilities that people are not able to carry out (n = 1)[5,6,7]
	GM would have consequences that are limited to myself (n = 32)	I would only use GM if potential consequences are limited to myself (n = 24)	

GM = genome modification.

*Number of times an argument was spontaneously mentioned in relation to one of the five scenarios.

[1]This argument was only referred to as a response to the scenario: 'I would cure own neuromuscular disease to prevent ending up in a wheelchair'.

[2]This argument was only referred to as a response to the scenario: 'I would increase the intelligence of my embryo'.

[3]This argument was only referred to as a response to the scenario: 'I would introduce resistance to HIV in my embryo'.

[4]This argument was only referred to as a response to the scenario: 'I would eat modified wheat if I would be gluten intolerant'.

[5]This argument was only referred to as a response to the scenario: 'I would modify my embryo to prevent passing on a severe neuromuscular disease'.

[6]This argument was only referred to as a response to the scenarios describing germline modification.

[7]This argument for or against germline GM was not identified in a recent systematic overview of the literature (van Dijke et al., 2017).