

What scientific idea do you think this movie clip is highlighting



Are We Too Close to Making Gattaca a Reality?

Anxious couples are approaching fertility doctors in the US with requests for a hotly debated new genetic test being called “23andMe, but on embryos.”

The baby-picking test is being offered by a New Jersey startup company, Genomic Prediction.

The company says it can use DNA measurements to predict which embryos from an IVF procedure are least likely to end up with any of 11 different common diseases. In the next few weeks it's set to release case studies on its first clients.

Handed report cards on a batch of frozen embryos, parents can use the test results to try to choose the healthiest ones. The grades include risk estimates for diabetes, heart attacks, and five types of cancer.

For or Against Designer Babies?

- ✧ Mark Hughes, a pioneer of the PGD process and director of Genesis Genetics Institute says, “It’s technically feasible and it can be done,” adding that “no legitimate lab would get into it and, if they did, they’d be ostracized.”
- ✧ Fertility Institutes disagrees
 - “This is cosmetic medicine,” says director Jeff Steinberg. “Others are frightened by the criticism but we have no problems with it.”
 - Trait selection in babies “is a service,” Steinberg says. “We intend to offer it soon.”
- ✧ In a recent U.S. survey of 999 people who sought genetic counseling, a majority said they supported prenatal genetic tests for the elimination of serious diseases

Should couples be given
the right to alter their
children's genes to their
own preference and
liking?

Do you support
the idea of
designer babies?
Why or why not?

Where do we draw the line if we make
GATTACA a reality?