Introducing the Universal Genetic Test

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Each year, children are born with serious genetic disorders that cannot be cured. Increase your chances of a healthy pregnancy with a simple test taken before conception

A safe, non-invasive medical test to screen for dozens of serious diseases like cystic fibrosis, SMA, fragile X, sickle cell, and Tay-Sachs. These diseases cannot be cured, but they can be prevented.

Many Genetic Diseases Are Preventable
Each year millions of healthy parents are taken by surprise when their children are born with life-threatening genetic disorders. These parents are carriers: healthy individuals who nevertheless have a mutated version of a critical gene.

Testing Allows Prevention
The new medical consensus is that every adult should be offered genetic testing before pregnancy. Early testing is the only way to know if your pregnancy will be at high risk, and to allow you and your doctor to take specific actions to conceive a healthy child.

A Truly Universal Test
More than 1000 African American children are born with sickle-cell disease each year. Almost half the thalassemia cases in the US afflict Asian Americans. And the Jewish community is affected by a vastly disproportionate share of genetic disease. We can now end this needless suffering with a single inexpensive test for all ethnic groups.

The New Medical Consensus
The American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) has recommended that every adult of reproductive age be offered carrier testing for cystic fibrosis and spinal muscular atrophy. As members of minority groups are at even greater risk for genetic disease — whether it be sickle cell disease in African Americans, Tay-Sachs in the Jewish community, or thalassemia in Asian Americans — testing is indicated for virtually every population.

What is Carrier Testing?
Carrier testing is a way to see whether we "carry" certain mutations in our DNA that may not affect us, but can cause our children to inherit a disease. If both parents are "carriers" of the same mutation, their child has a significant chance of suffering from a serious genetic disease, like cystic fibrosis, spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), fragile X, sickle cell disease, or Tay-Sachs disease.

We Are All Carriers
Approximately 10% of childhood deaths and an unknown number of stillbirths and miscarriages are caused by inherited genetic diseases. Carriers of serious genetic diseases are surprisingly common — in fact, on average, each person is estimated to be a carrier of 4 or 5 lethal recessive mutations.

Because the majority of genetic mutations are passed down quietly through the generations, more than 80% of children born with a preventable genetic illness lack a family history of that disease. As a result, the only way to know your carrier status for certain is through testing.

Testing Can Save Your Baby's Life

Most parents learn their carrier status when it's already too late, after their baby is unexpectedly born with a serious genetic disease. If you and your partner are both carriers of the same genetic disease, there are actions you can take to improve your chances of having a healthy baby. The earlier you know your carrier status, the more options you have.