

Pre-implantation genetic screening couple (For)

We are both carriers of cystic fibrosis, so there is a 25% chance that each child we have will be severely affected by the disease. We could undergo a special type of IVF called pre-implantation genetic screening. Some cells would be taken from the embryo before it is implanted and tested to see if the embryo will have cystic fibrosis, but this can harm the embryo and even destroy it. If we could split the embryo, one embryo could be tested so we could be sure the second embryo doesn't have the disease and before it's implanted. We'd donate any of our unused embryos to research so more can be discovered about cystic fibrosis.

Fact: From 2005 to 2007, 8140 embryos were donated to research in the UK – but no studies using them have focused on cystic fibrosis.

Issue: This technique could help prevent suffering.

Question: Why shouldn't we try to make sure that we prevent cystic fibrosis in our children as there's no effective treatment or cure yet? If we can't prevent it, what's wrong with donating the embryos we won't use so researchers will be able to discover a good treatment?