



GenePeeks Responds to BuzzFeed Article:
[*This Company Is Trying To Make More Perfect Babies*](#)

July 13, 2015

It's wonderful to have an ongoing conversation around genetics and health.

We are not in pursuit of the "perfect baby," however that would ever be defined. We want what all parents want — a world where every child has the chance at a healthy future.

Unlike carrier screening, GenePeeks digitally weaves together the genetic information of two potential parents to predict the risk of a hypothetical child inheriting more than 500 serious recessive conditions. Because our analysis combines cutting edge sequencing technology with recessive disease expression in hypothetical children, its sensitivity is very high. We detect clinically validated mutations as well as many other genetic variants — including ones not previously identified in affected individuals — that are predicted to disrupt gene function based on molecular and evolutionary principles. All together, our analysis detects and interprets millions of variants that could occur in the genes that we cover.

By looking directly at hypothetical genomes created with thousands of combinations of paternal and maternal genes, we can generate a more complete picture of the genetic risks that a potential child would face. The process adds crucial genetic risk information to the donor selection process and helps families avoid donor matches associated with a risk of passing on certain life-threatening and life-altering conditions.

Further, we echo Laura Hercher's sentiment about complex disorders and the work ahead of us as a community to understand what causes diabetes, schizophrenia, and many more complex, multigenic and multifactorial conditions. GenePeeks is currently focused on single genes known to cause recessive disease, but we are poised to tackle the sophisticated risk analysis needed for predictive modeling of more complex disorders when that research is fully realized.

While the cost of advanced genetic services can feel out of reach, GenePeeks is dedicated to helping prospective parents with programs designed to ease financial burden.

If you have questions about the GenePeeks analysis, the conditions we cover, or opportunities for financial aid, please contact us at support@genepeeks.com or 1-855-362-7335.

