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Screening Babies for Criminality

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase, president of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.


Mr. Baron-Cohen says certain genes, including the MAOA gene, may be linked to aggression. The article suggests that a combination of a brain scan, genotyping and a case history could “diagnose” most cruel personalities, perhaps even before they commit crimes.

This has all sorts of ethical issues and may seem far fetched. But a new study from the University of Connecticut School of Law tries to make a case for screening every newborn’s level of the MAOA gene. The researcher says States could then “target children at risk for criminal behavior.”

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Sources:


“The Case for Newborn Screening for the MAOA-Low Genotype and Intervention Services for MAOA-Low Children,” Jenifer Melien Brooks-Crozier, University of Connecticut School of Law (SelectedWorks) 2011.