

AQA GCSE Biology (Higher) For the Summer 2022 Exams

Flashcard Notes - 6.1.7 Inherited disorders

Copy the questions and answers below onto flashcards and use them to test yourself.

What is an inherited disorder?

An inherited disorder is a medical condition that is passed on from parents to offspring. Inherited disorders are caused by certain alleles.

What is an example of an inherited disorder that is caused by a dominant allele?

Polydactyly (having extra fingers or toes) is an inherited disorder caused by a dominant allele.

What is an example of an inherited disorder that is caused by a recessive allele?

Cystic fibrosis (a disorder of cell membranes) is an inherited disorder caused by a recessive allele.

What is embryo screening?

Embryo screening is when DNA is taken from an embryo and analysed to see whether the embryo has any alleles that cause inherited disorders. It can be carried out on an embryo that is growing in the womb or an embryo that has been created in a laboratory for use in IVF. If the embryo is found to have alleles for inherited disorders, the parent(s) may decide to terminate the pregnancy or to not use the embryo in IVF.

What is the main risk associated with embryo screening?

When embryo screening is carried out on an embryo in the womb, there is a risk that it may cause a miscarriage (death of the embryo).

What are some of the ethical considerations relating to embryo screening?

Some people object to embryo screening because they argue that it is based on the idea that some lives are more valuable than others.

On the other hand, some people argue that it gives potential parents the ability to make an informed choice about whether to continue with a pregnancy.

What are some of the economic issues related to embryo screening?

Embryo screening is expensive.

On the other hand, it prevents people with certain medical conditions from being born, so it also reduces the amount of money spent on healthcare.