

Three-parent babies 'face health risks'

Tom Whipple Science Editor

Creating "three-parent babies" may result in children suffering unexpected side-effects, research has suggested.

Scientists in Spain bred mice with the same nuclear DNA but different mitochondrial DNA and found that as they got older they aged at different rates, according to an article in *Nature*.

However, the scientists stressed that the treatment was potentially a very important tool for preventing incurable conditions.

Britain is the first country to legalise the transplantation of mitochondrial DNA into eggs, in which a tiny proportion of DNA is from a different mother. It has been argued that the technique is harmless, as it does not impact in any fundamental way on the resulting baby's physical characteristics beyond correcting defective mutations that can be passed down the mitochondrial line.

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