

Genetic screening and “toxic information”

Although [my] need to have a baby seemed to come from some emotional and primitive place, I wanted to be organized about my approach. I scheduled a “preconception” appointment and asked my husband about his thoughts on genetic screening. As a genetic counselor working in a prenatal setting, testing guidelines were imbedded in my mind – and I knew very well what testing options should be available to me. My husband thoughtfully asked, “If we are both carriers for cystic fibrosis or something else, does that mean that we are not going to have a baby?”

Whoa. What *would* we do if we were both carriers??

The term “toxic knowledge” has been used to describe genetic information that individuals may regret learning, following a prenatal genetic test ([Bernhardt 2012](#)). With the flood of new testing options, I am concerned about the potential increase of toxic knowledge and how this will play out in people’s lives. How will it change the pregnancy experience? The relationship between parent and child? The way people view themselves?

View the original article here: [Guest Post: Information Detoxification](#)