# Using genetics to predict succeptibility to depression

*The current state of genetic testing for major depression falls squarely into entertainment and education territory, with more to offer as a curiosity to those who can afford access than as a diagnostic or preventative tool. In this way, it's similar to 23andMe, and emblematic of the hopes that have been pinned to the results of Genome-wide Assocation Studies (GWASs), which look for associations between traits (like disease) and small changes in DNA.*

*The following is an excerpt:*

The possibility of harnessing genetic science to head off major depressive disorder, the [world's leading cause of disability](#), is getting closer. But molecular intervention for this common multifactorial disease is [fraught with controversy](#) while the science matures.

Promising but difficult-to-replicate results of genetic studies have triggered a proliferation of start-up private laboratories marketing genetic "susceptibility" tests on the internet, direct to consumers. Many of these products lack a robust scientific basis and the results are complex to interpret, even for experts.

**View the original article here: Predicting the risk of depressive disorder: promises and pitfalls**

**Related Resources:**

- ["Genetic pre-natal test opens window to improved diagnoses, stirs concerns,"](#) Genetic Literacy Project
- ["It's Time To Stop Obsessing About the Dangers of Genetic Information,"](#) Slate
- ["Is personalized medicine a myth?,"](#) CNN