

“Plaques and Tangles” play asks: Would you take genetic test for your fate?

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.**

You have a 50-percent chance of carrying a gene that will radically change and then destroy your life. Do you want to know if you have it?

This decision is at the heart of *Plaques and Tangles*, Nicola Wilson’s first play, on now at the [Royal Court](#) in London. The protagonist is Megan, brilliantly played by Monica Dolan, who we see at various stages of her life.

Her mother has died of early-onset Alzheimer’s, a rare type of the disease, and Megan faces a dilemma that is becoming more and more common. Does she take a test that might lay bare her destiny?

The reality is that genetic testing for conditions like Alzheimer’s is becoming common. If you are at risk, like Megan, because a parent has a disease with a known genetic component, then in the UK, the National Health Service will offer you a test and often [counseling, too](#).

But there are now [a large number of companies offering tests](#), like 23&Me, which [recently relaunched its consumer service](#). 23&Me offers tests for 36 diseases, but it doesn’t offer counseling. After the result, you’re on your own.

So as a subject for a play, it is timely. Other writers feel it too. Lisa Genova, author of [Still Alice](#), which was made into a film last year starring Julianne Moore as a woman with Alzheimer’s, has a new novel out. *Inside the O’Briens* is about a man with Huntington’s disease and the struggle his children face about deciding whether or not to get tested.

**Read full, original post:** [Would you take a genetic test that could lay bare your destiny?](#)