Genetic Modification of Human Embryos

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Ethical discussions related to genetic modification mostly center in the human germline since the edition of one’s germline means that is passed down to other generations. Genetic modification has been viewed as controversial and also necessary by some individuals. Vast arguments have risen over time where scientists are questioned on whether alteration of genes may affect other factors within the human system. In this argumentative essay, various points of view will be highlighted to discuss whether genetic modification of human embryos is morally permissible.

Modifying of genes can be inherently dangerous since it is hard to predict scientifically how the genome modification may affect the individual (Savulescu et al 2017). It is eminent that more research ought to be carried out before human embryos gene editing is approved universally. Denial of the ethics behind genetic modification can cost human lives. Bioethicists and some researchers have much concern about the guiding principles behind genome editing. A prediction is made that the practice may begin on a slippery slope since it is something new in science. There are arguments that the process should be selective to cure genetic ailments or for other healing purpose; the genetic modifiers should follow a moral imperative. Another ethical concern has been raised on whether genetic modification will be regulated by other countries who do not have experts of genome editing (Levy, 2015). There are different medical regulations used in other parts of the world and this may affect the means through which genetic modification is used. Some people worry whether it is probable to get an informed consent for genetic modification since the patients affected by the modifications are future generations or embryos (Savulescu et al 2017). However, a counterargument arises that parents have jurisdiction to make decisions that affect their children’s future. As it is with other modified technologies, there are concerns whether genetic modification will only be accessible to the privileged. This concern increases the disparities that are found in the healthcare sector and in other medical interventions. Genetic modification may create social classes that are defined by engineered genome editing.

Most people have their own religious and moral stands when it comes to genetic modification in embryos. There are different ethical considerations when it comes to the topic of genome editing. Guardians and scientists should be keen while making decisions related to genetic modification. These decisions should be logically and ethically thought about to ensure that the future of their children is not affected negatively.

References

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