



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

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## Self-Correcting of Embryonic Abnormalities

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**Education:** Older women are at greater risk for fetal abnormalities, and they are usually offered a prenatal test to determine if their baby is healthy. Amniocentesis obtains fetal cells that are shed into the amniotic fluid surrounding the baby, and can be done at 15- 20 weeks of pregnancy. Earlier testing is now available with chorionic villus sampling (CVS), which removes cells from the placenta, the organ connecting the preborn child to his mother. CVS can be done at 11-14 weeks of pregnancy. If an abnormality is found, abortion is offered.

With in vitro fertilization, testing can be done by removing one cell of an embryo only a few days old. If the cell is found to be abnormal, the parents are encouraged to simply discard the embryo.

However, one mother had CVS done, was told that her child's placenta had up to 1/4 abnormal cells. She discovered that little was known about how an embryo dealt with a portion of its cells being abnormal. Being a scientist, she decided to do some research. Using mice embryos, she was able to show that embryos with abnormal cells can eliminate those abnormal cells as they continue to grow and develop, resulting in a completely healthy baby at the time of birth.(1)

Olivia-Jax (pictured) is a beautiful 7 month old girl. She is one of several children who were born perfectly healthy – but whose parents were urged to abort because the doctors told them their babies had severe handicaps or would only live a short time after birth.(2) One little girl with Trisomy 18 (sometimes described as “incompatible with life”) is now 4 years old and doing well!(3) Of course, even if the predictions of a severe handicap are correct, the value of a human life is not determined by whether he or she is physically perfect.

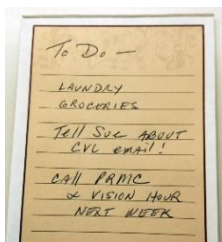
1. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/science-now-proves-babys-abnormalities-womb-can-self-correct/>

2. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/parents-pressured-abort-show-beautiful-healthy-daughter/>

3. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/meet-melody-little-girl-trisomy-18-defying-odds/>



**Prayer:** Dear Father God, please help doctors and other health professionals be diligent in informing their patients that prenatal testing is not infallible. Help all doctors to learn of this new research and be able to encourage parents that even if abnormalities are discovered, the child may still be able to eliminate the abnormal cells and be born healthy. And even though most babies with Trisomy 18 do not live long, there is still hope for a much better outcome. Help parents to trust in You, accept Your will for their child, and be ready to love and care for their child whether they are healthy or disabled.



**Action:** If you know someone who planning to have prenatal testing, be sure to let them know about the articles referenced above. Encourage them that first of all, even if some abnormal cells are found, their child may still be able to be born perfectly healthy. If they are born with a disability, their child may do much better than the grim predictions given by the doctors. There are also support organizations to help parents with the difficulties of parenting handicapped children.