



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Savior Siblings - Created for a Purpose



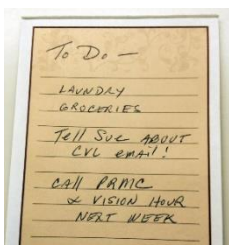
Education: Sahdev and Aparna Solanki of India both have thalassemia minor. They have a son, Abhijit, who inherited the thalassemia gene from both his parents, to give him thalassemia major. He needed frequent transfusions and his immune system was compromised. A bone marrow transplant could cure him, but no one in the family was a match. And so they set about to create a brother or sister for Abhijit, specifically for the purpose of creating a sibling without the thalassemia gene, who would also be able to donate bone marrow to Abhijit. And so the Solanki's consulted a fertility specialist to help them. (1)

It is not known how many embryos were created with in vitro fertilization, or how many were subjected to pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, to determine if they had the bad gene and compare their DNA to Abhijit's. Embryos created with IVF are allowed to grow for 3 days, when they are at the 6 -10 cell stage. One or two cells are removed in order to test the DNA. The embryo can continue to grow and develop, since the cells are still nearly identical to each other. If the DNA has the wanted characteristics, the embryo can then be implanted on Day 5 when they are at the blastocyst stage, which is a ball of cells with fluid inside. This procedure can also be used in cases where the parents simply want to create a child who does not have a defective gene that one or both the parents have. It took the doctor over six months to create, screen and find an embryo that was a perfect match for Abhijit. His sister Kavya was born in 2018, and in March of 2020, when she was 16 -18 months old, her bone marrow was used to give her brother a transplant. The procedure was successful and Abhijit was declared cured. (1) He has one sister who saved him, but how many other siblings were created and discarded because they were not a match?

1. <https://liveaction.org/news/india-girls-aborted-create-daughter-save-son/>



Prayer: Dear Jesus, please help the medical community and everyone to understand that every human embryo, however he or she is created, is actually created by God, and is His child, deserving of respect, and with the right to live. No human being should be discarded because they are not as healthy as other embryos, or don't have the right genes. Every child deserves to know that he or she was created from the expression of his parents' love for each other, not as a commodity produced in a lab. Every child deserves to know that God designed him to be as he is, with his unique gifts and talents, for His purposes, not just to serve as a source of biological material to help a sibling.



Action: If you know someone who is considering the use of IVF to have a child, ask them if they have really thought about how the method works, and how many more embryos are created than will ever be born. NaProTechnology is an alternative way to help infertile couples, with better results than IVF. Doctors who are trained in NaProTechnology can be found at <https://www.fertilitycare.org/find-a-mc> . A video explaining NaProTechnology is available [here](#).