

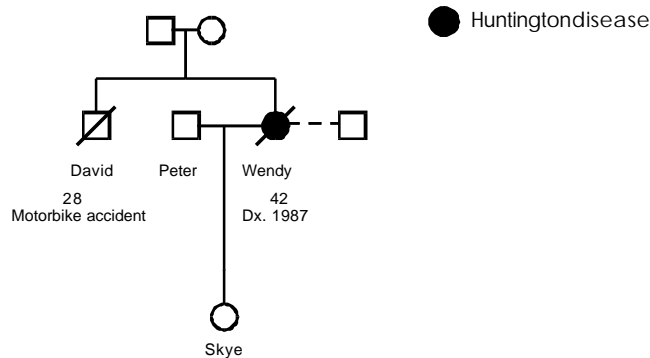
It Runs In The Family

Learning Objectives

- Autosomal dominant inheritance
- Ethical issues in predictive testing

Answers

1. For an explanation of pedigree symbols, refer to reference sheet B.



2. Melissa has a 1 in 2 chance of developing Huntington disease.
3. Potential advantages
 - Knowledge to make informed decisions about education and employment.
 - Knowledge to make reproductive decisions.
 - Removal of anxiety and doubt.

Potential disadvantages

- Discrimination in health/life insurance or employment.
- Stigmatisation in society and within family.
- "Survivor guilt".

Students may come up with other potential advantages and disadvantages that are not listed here.

4. Prenatal testing for an adult onset disorder brings up issues about termination for a disorder that will develop 30-40 years into the future. If the child does have the condition and the pregnancy continues, the child may be treated differently by parents and society, eg social and educational opportunities may be affected, and because of a pre-existing condition, employment and health and life insurance may be affected. There are also issues about prenatal diagnosis without the partner's knowledge or consent.

Resources

Reference Sheets B, C and D

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