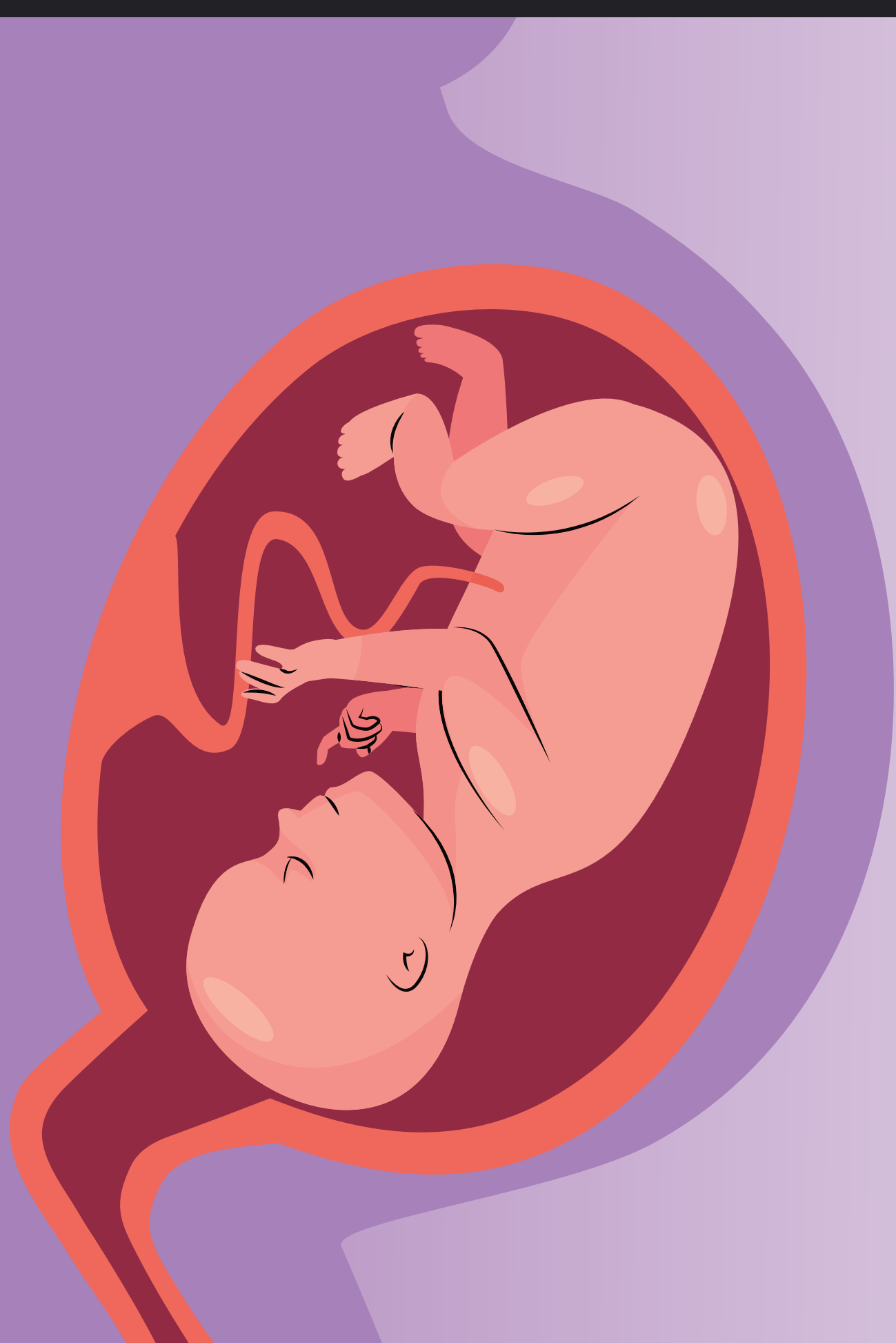


Designer babies: A utopian or dystopian future?

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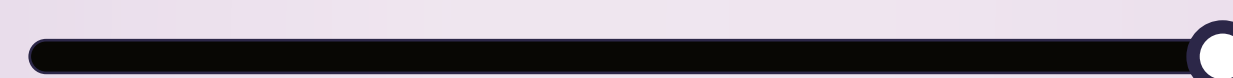
Design your baby:

☒ Boy ☐ Girl

Health



Intelligence



Athleticism



Attractiveness



Cost estimate: 1,400,000 USD

A designer baby is a baby that is either selected or gene edited for specific traits. In the future, websites where you can easily design your baby could become a reality. Let's look at some pros and cons on an individual and societal level:

INDIVIDUAL

- Unforeseen consequences

We don't know enough about genetics to say that editing gene A only leads to outcome B.

- No autonomy

The designer babies have no say in whether or not they want to be gene-edited.

+ Naturally beautiful

If you compare getting plastic surgery to gene editing for appearance, the latter might be a safer and cheaper option in the future.

+ Better in every way?

Designer babies might possess exceptional talent, as they theoretically could be enhanced in every aspect.

SOCIETY

- Uneven gender distribution

In some countries boys are preferred over girls.

- An elite from the elite

People who can afford gene editing are typically already well-off, and designer babies might have an unfair advantage, potentially widening the gap between the wealthy and the poor even further.

- Less genetic diversity

Gene editing for the same traits can lead to less diversity, which in turn can make us more vulnerable to, for example, a pandemic.

+ No genetic diseases

Genetic diseases could become a thing of the past.

Illustrations designed by Macrovector, Acongraphic and Freepik.

[1] Davies, Benjamin. "The technical risks of human gene editing". Human Reproduction. Accessed 17.04.24.

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[2] Joseph, Andrew M. et al. «Ethical Perspectives of Therapeutic Human Genome Editing From Multiple and Diverse Viewpoints: A Scoping Review». Cureus. Accessed 17.04.24. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9793437/>]

[3] Selin, Cynthia et al. "Researching the future: scenarios to explore the future of human genome editing."

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