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Save a Dying Child: Have Another One

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Nov. 6, 2007

Then Wagner told the Nashes of his procedure that could save Molly's life, and the Nashes chose to have a baby that was genetically selected to match Molly's bone marrow.

As the couple struggled to conceive the genetically selected baby through in vitro fertilization, Molly's condition took a turn for the worse.

"She was now starting to require transfusions, her blood counts were such that she was very prone to developing an overwhelming infection at any time ... we were at the very bottom of what we could tolerate," Wagner said on "20/20."

Finally Lisa conceived a son that would be able to help Molly.

"I started screaming and crying. I told Molly she was going to have a brother," she said.

After the baby, Adam, was born, doctors took blood from the placenta. It was given to Molly and ended up saving her life.

Adam was the first child born using this procedure, and many people debated whether the Nashes chose to "play God" when having Adam for the purpose of saving Molly's life.

"God gave us this technology. If God did not want [preimplantation genetic diagnosis] to be available, he would not have allowed the doctors to figure out how to do this," Lisa said.

Anissa and Marissa Ayala

Some parents have tried to conceive a child to help their other sick children without the help of treatments like preimplantation genetic diagnosis.

Abe and Mary Ayala made headlines in the early 1990s when they went public with their intentions to have a third child in the hopes of producing a bone marrow match for their middle child.

The Ayala's daughter, Anissa, had myelogenous leukemia, and a suitable donor could not be found.

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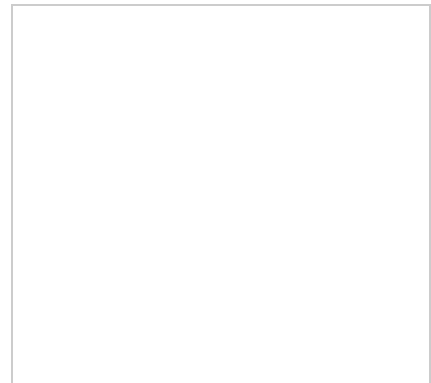
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Both over the age of 40, Abe reversed the vasectomy he had received nearly two decades earlier and Mary conceived with the hope that their new baby would beat the one in four odds and be match for Anissa.

Abe told The Associated Press that if it weren't for his daughter's illness, "we would have never had another baby this late."

Luckily for the Ayalas, the new baby was a match for Anissa's bone marrow. Fourteen months after she was born, baby Marissa's bone marrow was given to her older sister, saving her life.

Abe and Mary's decision to conceive Marissa solely for the purpose of saving their other daughter's life created ethical debates across the country. After the transplant, the sisters appeared on the June 17, 1991, cover of Time and were the subject of the 1993 TV movie "For the Love of My Child: The Anissa Ayala Story."

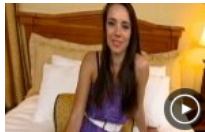
Now 35, Anissa recognizes the special bond her parents' decision created between her and Marissa.

"What they did was really, completely just a blessing," she told Newsday. "My sister is the one who will tell you that without me she wouldn't be here, and without her, I wouldn't be here."

Anissa now works for the National Bone Marrow Registry.

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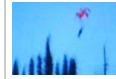
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9:17 PM EST
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angelsmommy04, By all means if you saw it on CSI it MUST be true. Check with General Hospital, they might have an answer as well. People like you who are absolutely clueless should not be making any comments at all!! Keep watching those shows, they are made for audiences like you. Leave science to those who actually understand it!!!

shakyjake6977
7:59 PM EST
Nov 29, 2007
I also tend to think that even though the way the interview was worded out, That Michael should'nt be considered as quote " Made for spare parts", Michael should be thanked for having done this for another precious life, Nevermind the number of embryo he was, He iis a human being who saved another by the grace of god. I'am a Very Proud Daddy, & I too have had more than my share of heartache with my boys where their health is concerned, If, God-Forbid, I'd ever be in the exact same boat that their parents were in, I would do what I could to save the lives of my children, & Each child is as Equal & Special to me as the next!! -shakyjake6977

shakyjake6977
7:32 PM EST
Nov 29, 2007
I would think if Mature Adults Such As Myself Would Take This In A Much Better Way, Instead of Nit-Picking, They Would See The Beauty Of One Sibling Able To Help Another From Dying, If This Had Been A Different Situation, You'all would've been more Inclined to see it the way Others see it!! That Little Girl Can Always Depend On This Little Brother a Helluva Lot Better Than Anybody Else Because Of This!! We've got creeps walkin' the streets hurtin' kids all the time, She'll always have this trust for him the rest of her life!! I don't believe he was made for parts as somebody put it, I believe that that baby is a Blessing!!-shakyjake6977!!

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Save a Dying Child: Have Another One

Nov. 6, 2007—

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**Families Use
Genetic Selection
to Have a Baby**

to Save Their Other Child's Life

Most parents would do anything to keep their children safe.

But what can parents do when their child is sick with a deadly disease and requires a bone marrow transplant?

Many in this situation are turning to a controversial procedure in which they choose to have another baby genetically selected from embryos created outside the womb to save the life of their sick child.

The following are several stories of families who made the choice to have a genetically selected baby to save their child's life.