

Dor Yeshorim- The “Closed” Screening Model

Dor Yeshorim is a genetic screening system that was designed to cater to certain segments of the Orthodox community who wish to avoid having children with genetic diseases, while protecting themselves from possible stigmatization as a result of being a carrier.

The process is quite unique in that the tested individuals do not receive a copy of their results, and never know their precise carrier status. Instead, they are given an identification number and are instructed to call the Dor Yeshorim hotline using their ID number when they are considering a relationship. Both members of a couple, therefore, must do their screening through Dor Yeshorim if they wish to have this type of “closed testing.”

If both members of the couple are carriers of the same genetic disease, they are advised that they are “not a match.”

Partners who are “a match” may be carriers of different genetic diseases, but they are not carriers of the *same* genetic disease and therefore not at risk to have an affected child.

The Dor Yeshorim program was founded by Rabbi Joseph Ekstein, who had four children die of Tay-Sachs disease. He set out to establish a protocol to prevent couples from having children with these genetic diseases by helping carriers avoid marrying each other.

For more information on Dor Yeshorim, you can visit the following website:

<http://www.modernlab.org/doryeshorim.html>

Articles:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304441404577482883792957586.html>

<http://www.beineinu.org/medical-information/conditions-and-syndromes/694-jewish-genetic-diseases/1282-the-gene-marker/>

