**A Baby, Please! Blond, with Green Eyes...**

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Gautam Naik,

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Want a daughter with blond hair, green eyes and pale skin?

A Los Angeles clinic says it will soon help couples select both gender and physical traits in a baby when they undergo a form of fertility treatment. The clinic, Fertility Institutes, says it has received “half a dozen” requests for the service, which is based on a procedure called preimplantation genetic diagnosis, or PGD.

While PGD has long been used for the medical purpose of averting life-threatening diseases in children, the science behind it has quietly progressed to the point that it could potentially be used to create designer babies. It isn’t clear that Fertility Institutes can yet deliver on its claims of trait selection. But the growth of PGD, **unfettered1** by any state or federal regulations in the United States, has accelerated genetic knowledge swiftly enough that preselecting cosmetic traits in a baby is no longer the stuff of science fiction.

“It’s technically feasible and it can be done,” says Mark Hughes, a pioneer of the PGD process and director of Genesis Genetics Institute, a large fertility laboratory in Detroit. However, he adds that “no legitimate lab would get into it and, if they did, they’d be ostracized.”

But Fertility Institutes disagrees. “This is cosmetic medicine,” says Jeff Steinberg, director of the clinic that is advertising gender and physical trait selection on its web site. “Others are frightened by the criticism but we have no problems with it.”

**unfettered**1: unrestrained, unrestricted

Read the text and make sure you can answer the following questions to write down a *compte-rendu* in English:

1 – Introduce the document (nature, title, author, information about the publishing…)

2 – What’s the name of the genetic engineering procedure that is dealt with in the document?

3 – What does it consist in?

4 – Can you deduce why it has become a controversial issue ?