

MEDICAL UPDATE LETTER FOR DONOR #13032 (BRENDL) - 2026-06-01

A pregnancy resulting from donor #13032 (Brendel) was impacted with a neural tube defect.

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to provide a medical update regarding Donor #13032 (Brendel).

At Seattle Sperm Bank, we are committed to keeping families informed about significant medical information related to our donors. We share these updates with care and transparency. We recognize that receiving medical updates may raise questions, and we are always available to discuss this information further. All donor-related updates can be found on the Medical Update Log, which is the final page of the donor profile.

Updated Medical Information:

Seattle Sperm Bank was recently notified that a pregnancy conceived from donor #13032 (Brendel) was diagnosed with a neural tube defect (myelomeningocele), microcephaly, and bilateral club feet. Genetic testing, called microarray, was reportedly completed on the pregnancy and the results were normal. Seattle Sperm Bank is not aware of any other donor conceived children with these birth defects. The donor was recontacted and denied any family history of birth defects including neural tube defects. The egg source for the pregnancy reports that she has a third-degree relative with a history of a neural tube defect.

Why am I Receiving this Letter?

Birth defects affect 3-5% of babies in the United States. Most birth defects occur sporadically, without family history. After Seattle Sperm Bank is notified of a birth defect in a child resulting from a sperm donor, the genetics team collects medical information from the reporting recipient and investigates the donor's personal and family medical history. If Seattle Sperm Bank determines that the risk for the birth defect to occur in half-siblings of the affected child is increased beyond that of the general population, a medical update letter is provided to all recipients of the sperm donor.

What is Neural Tube Defect?

A neural tube defect is a birth defect affecting the developing brain or spinal cord. Spina bifida is a neural tube defect that affects the spine, and myelomeningocele is the most severe form, where the spinal cord and nerves extend through an opening in the backbone. Neural tube defects, like myelomeningoceles, can be due to genetic syndromes or multifactorial (caused by a combination of multiple genetic factors and environmental factors). Certain risk factors including low folate in early pregnancy, certain medications, and pre-existing health conditions can increase the chance for neural tube defects including myelomeningocele in a pregnancy. Based on the information available at this time, there is no known genetic cause of the neural tube defect and no other history of neural tube defects in the sperm source's family.

Interpretation:

- Children conceived using sperm from donor #13032 (Brendel) may have an increased risk for neural tube defects, compared to the general population risk.
- Please share this letter with your fertility doctors and any clinicians caring for you prior to pregnancy and during pregnancy, as they may recommend folate supplementation prior to conception and during pregnancy and screening for neural tube defects in pregnancy.

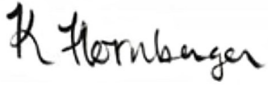
If Seattle Sperm Bank receives additional medical information that would impact the risk for birth defects in children of this donor, we will notify you by sending a follow-up letter. Please notify Seattle Sperm Bank of births and or

June 1, 2026

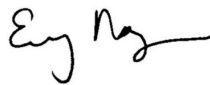
pregnancies beyond the first trimester using [SSB's birth reporting webpage](#) and notify the genetics team if your child has been diagnosed with any birth defects or neurological differences.

Do not hesitate to reach out if questions arise or if clarification would be helpful. You are welcome to schedule a phone consultation with one of Seattle Sperm Bank's certified genetic counselors if you would like to discuss this information over the phone.

In partnership,



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