

July 14, 2025

MEDICAL UPDATE LETTER FOR DONOR #14030 (BENNETT) - 2025-07-14

Seattle Sperm Bank has been notified that donor 14030/Bennett recently received a diagnosis of epilepsy. He remains seizure free on his medication and has no family history of a seizure disorder or epilepsy.

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to provide a medical update regarding Donor #14030 (Bennett).

What is epilepsy?

Epilepsy is a brain disorder that causes recurring, unprovoked seizures. Seizures are sudden bursts of electrical activity in the brain. Epilepsy can be caused by many things, including head trauma, infection, brain malformations, an inherited genetic predisposition, or a combination of genetic and environmental factors. However, an exact cause for an individual's epilepsy diagnosis is often never determined.

Summary

Based on imaging studies, the donor was found to have *subependymal heterotopic gray matter*. Subependymal heterotopic gray matter is a type of malformation of brain development where certain brain cells fail to migrate to their proper location in the brain during fetal development. Such a malformation can be associated with seizures which is likely the case for donor 14030/Bennett. Although the exact mechanism for subependymal heterotopic gray matter is not fully understood, genetic factors can play a role. The donor did not complete any genetic testing to determine if he carries an underlying gene variant that predisposed his brain to developing this way. The chance for people conceived by this donor to have a brain malformation or to develop epilepsy cannot be quantified, however, it may be elevated. We encourage you to share this family history update with your child's pediatrician and/or providers involved in your fertility treatment and prenatal care.

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