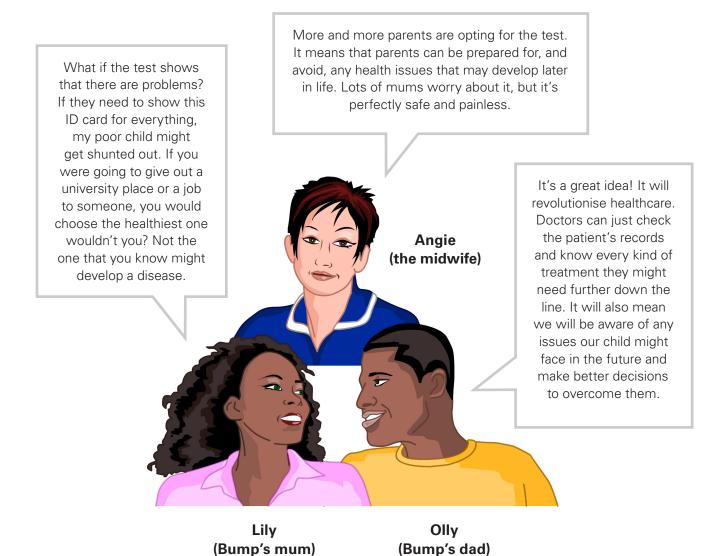
SHOULD A BABY HAVE ITS GENOME SEQUENCED?

Olly and Lily are expecting their first child. The baby, currently known as 'Bump', is scheduled to be born by caesarean section on the 1st of March. Angie, Lily's midwife, is running through the paperwork in preparation for the birth and asks the couple if they would like Bump's genome sequenced.

Angie explains that along with being weighed, measured and having a heel prick test, a simple swab taken at birth will reveal Bump's genetic background, indicating the various conditions he or she may or may not be at risk of developing. The results will be presented on an ID card and will form part of Bump's medical records. Olly thinks it's a great idea but Lily is concerned that the information revealed could lead to discrimination and inequality later in life.

Should Olly and Lily have their baby's genome sequenced at birth?



ANDY'S UNEXPECTED PATERNITY RESULTS

Last year Andy bought himself an online genotyping kit. The results were kind of fun; no big shocks, just a couple of things that made his friends laugh. Last Christmas Andy decided to have some more fun and bought a testing kit for his father, George. Andy had to take his father through the whole genotyping process and was surprised how long it took to explain the basics.

Going through the results together, Andy noticed that there were some major differences between markers on the Y chromosomes of the two men. This was a shock, as the only explanation is that George is not Andy's biological father. Andy asked his sister, Kate, about this and she just got really angry. Naturally, George didn't spot the differences and wouldn't recognise their importance if he did. Andy's mum died a few years ago, so he can't ask her about it.

Should Andy tell his father the result?

