Osg1 2012-08-22 AUTISM

Austism. No one really knows what causes it. The idea that vaccines are responsible for it has been debunked. But a new genetic study came up with a possible link that might lead to some urgent pillow talk among couples deciding when to have children.

More after this from Charlie:

((SPOT))

The study involved 78 families in Iceland whose children had brain disorders.

An Icelandic company called DeCODE Genetis examined the entire gene sequences of these families, as well as the families of a randomly selected control group, to search for genetic mutations of the type that can lead to autism and schizophrenia.

And what they found was that it isn’t just women who have a biological clock – men do too. It’s not about “performance” as the ads call it – men can perform just fine at most any age. BUT – there was a clear link between the age of the father and the number of genetic mutations transmitted by his sperm to his child.

A MOTHER’s gene mutations stay about the same through age 40. But a father’s increase dramatically.

The good news is that most mutations are benign, and in fact, they’re the essential engine of evolution. Or evidence of the Hand of God, if you’re a creationist. It’s how organisms change over time.

But a few can cause disorders – and the brain is the most susceptible when things go wrong.

So listen to Kari (CARR-ee) Stefansson, who wrote the study, on the consequences of a man waiting until he’s 40 to have children:



So he believes that at least PART of the dramatic increase in autism children is due to fathers having children in their 40s instead of their 20s.

And in the Journal Nature, which published the study, Biology Professor Alexey Kondrashov writes that it might be a good idea for men to freeze their sperm early.

So there it is men. Do what you want. But realize … your clock is ticking too. Now this…