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Pigs with Human Genes

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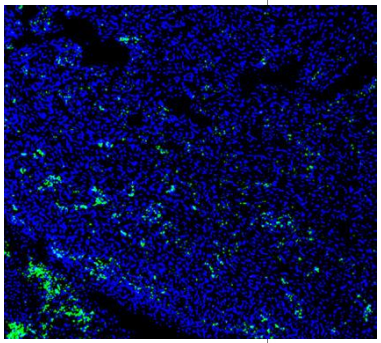
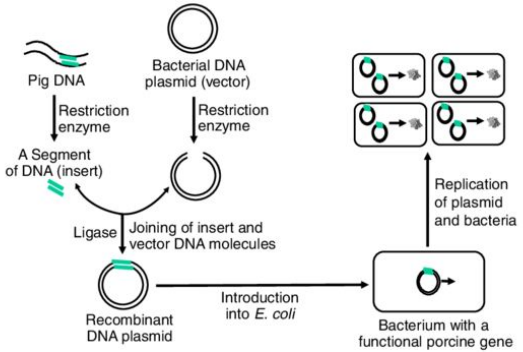
Case Highlights:

- ➔ 1985- trying to insert growth hormone in pigs
- ➔ aim= to cut costs by slaughtering fewer animals per pound of meat, farms might reduce speeding of feed, consumers may benefit from from industry and farm saving as well
- ➔ 19 pigs injected: all had abnormalities(deleterious pleiotropic effects)
  - Deformed bodies and skulls
  - Decreased immune functions
- ➔ Using livestock for donor kidneys, heart, and lungs :)
- ➔ Best candidates because of their increased phylogenetic distance from humans

Recombinant DNA:





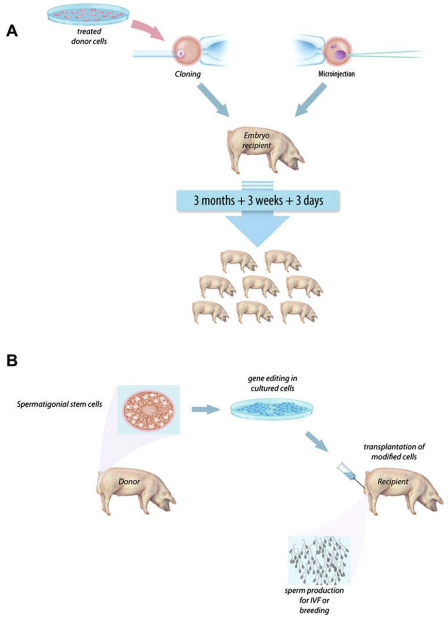
What is recombinant DNA?

- Recombinant DNA molecules are created through labratory methods of genetic recombination, in order to bring together genetic material from multiple sources. The newly formed molecule is one that would not be found in an average genome.

How is this being used in the case; Pigs with Human Genes?

- In a 1985 experiment, scientists injected human growth hormones into the chromosomes of pigs.
- This experiment was developed to create a more cost effective mammal that could then be used for leaner meat, faster.

- Ethical/moral:
  - Animal Cruelty
    - The pigs turned out to have many problems (deformed, diseases, sterile, etc.) and they are more to getting the diseases since they are not strong enough to fight it off.



- Social/legal:
  - Private Donors
    - The government and majority public frowns upon the idea, however it is not illegal to give pigs human organs.

Our Position

We are against this case due to the ethical reasoning of animal cruelty because of the results ending with the pigs forming abnormalities. Although the possibilities of growing human organs come with inserting human genes into the pigs, they are more prone to diseases which increases the risk of transporting those diseases onto the organ-receiving human(s).

But in the scientific view pigs organs are a necessity and could save the many lives that are lost in the transplant process. As these people will not have to wait for organs and die in the process.