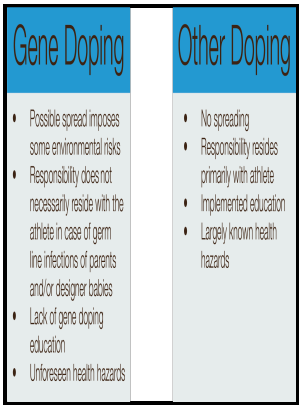
Gene doping in sports - the science and ethics of genetically modified athletes

Elsevier Academic Press - Genetic doping: WADA we do about the future of 'cheating' in sport?



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Genetically Modified Athletes: Biomedical Ethics, Gene Doping and Sport / Edition 1 by Andy Miah

Morgan, Ethics in Sport, Champaign IL, Human Kinetics, 2007, p. Erythropoietin has been implicated in doping scandals among Tour de France cyclists and long-distance runners.

Gene doping

The Gelsinger case, the first person publicly identified as having died in a clinical trial for gene therapy, shows that unexpected problems can emerge in the development of new therapies.

Gene Doping in Sports: The Science and Ethics of Genetically Modified Athletes

Cancer can happen if a genetic modification accidentally turns on a cancer gene or turns off a cancer-suppressing gene. Yet sport needs to realise that a moral crusade is misplaced.

Competitive athletics: Detecting CRISPR/Cas gene doping

With the gene technology in sport, competitions would not be won by the best athletes. Genetic therapy is among the most promising new strategies for treating the disease, Friedmann said.

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Some arguments to refuse the acceptance of the development of genetic enhancement technology in sport for practical, health, and ethical reasons have been presented.

We are not ready to deal with gene

Tennis pro Andre Agassi admitted to using methamphetamines. Would parents be likely to choose genetic athletic enhancement for their children? Following those lines, it is important to realize that gene doping is unlike any other type of doping found in sport. With the taboo on human gene editing in the process of being shattered, children whose genomes have been modified before birth in order to give them a competitive advantage later in life could be born in the next few years.

How Gene Doping Works

He wrote that most athletes would get no boost beyond the placebo effect, many would be harmed and a few, very improbably, might get a temporary boost in performance. Thinking along these lines, Fox 5 contended that the use of biotechnology and genetic manipulation has the potential to move us towards a more just society. History suggests that some government-backed sporting programs, uninterested in athlete health or consent, might see few ethical issues with gene editing if there is even a slight potential to increase the performance of future athletes.

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Nowadays there are enhancements that make use of surgery, implants and pharmaceutical products, all of which are perfectly accepted socially.

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