

Dor Yeshorim's testing policy was developed with extreme care, under the guidance and support of leading genetics experts and rabbinical authorities. Every disease for which we currently test has been painstakingly researched, scrutinized and evaluated to ensure it meets the necessary criteria.

Our policy is to test only for common, incurable recessive diseases which present serious health issues or risk of fatality and for which there exists reliable testing methods with definitive carrier status results. These policies, along with our strict confidentiality rule, is what sets us apart from all other genetic screening services. The 16 diseases on the Ashkenazic standard and optional panels as well as the 16 diseases on the Sephardic panel all meet these criteria.

While other screening services may seem more inclusive with a long list of diseases, as per worldwide genetic experts, more is indeed less. The simple explanation is that for many genetic mutations, the manifestation of the actual disease and the symptoms associated with it, are not clear-cut. In addition, based on research in which Dor Yeshorim has, and continues to play, an integral role, unless a test can be deemed reliable and carrier status confirmed, subjecting the population to disclosed carrier status that is ambiguous at best, is contrary to our mission to help make matches, not break them. The tests we do conduct have been determined to be in our community's best interests.

The mere existence of a genetic disease should not result in its inclusion within a testing panel. The lack of scientific data to provide definitive answers as to carrier status, results in moral, ethical and potential medical dilemmas to which there are no easy answers. What is one to do with an inconclusive carrier status?

Dor Yeshorim is determined to find answers and reliable testing methods for as many recessive genetic diseases as possible. To that end, we utilize our extensive database as well as our more than three decades of experience serving the Jewish community. It is why we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to conduct extensive research, in collaboration with other industry experts, to unravel the genetic mysteries involved.