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6

Evolution of genomic imprinting with biparental care: implications for Prader-Willi and Angelman syndromes.

Ubeda F
PLoS Biol. 2008 Aug 26; 6(8):e208

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This theoretical study extends the parental conflict model of the evolution of genomic imprinting by considering the implications of paternal care.

The parental conflict model postulates a conflict over maternal provisioning of offspring, which can favor the silencing of maternally inherited alleles, but Ubeda shows that paternal provisioning can alter the predicted pattern of genomic imprinting.

Moreover, the contrasting patterns of gene silencing favored by maternal and paternal care may account for the switch between poor suckling in infancy and ravenous over-eating later on that characterizes Prader-Willi syndrome.

Competing interests: None declared

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The University of New South Wales, Australia
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29 Sep 2008

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