

Sustaining the Mitochondrial Transcription Factor A in Sperm

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Abstract : Researchers have found that mature sperm cells are not only devoid of mature MTDNA (mitochondrial DNA) but also lack a particular protein essential for DNA maintenance, known as mitochondrial transcription factor A, or TFAM (transcription factor A mitochondria). As a result, children get the DNA of certain important body functions only from their mothers. More experiments show that TFAM appears to burn out when it is used as a source of energy for sperm movement. This study investigates alternative sources of energy for sperm movement that could sustain the existence of TFAM.

Keywords : mItochondria, DNA, TFAM, sperm

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