

Canavan Disease: Wrongful Birth Lawsuit Faults Nurse’s Prenatal Screening.

A lawsuit filed in the Superior Court, Ocean County, New Jersey against a clinic nurse and three nurse-midwives by the parents of a child born with Canavan disease recently settled for \$2,500,000.

The patient claimed the intake nurse at the clinic where she received her prenatal care did not ask the necessary questions about her and her husband’s ethnic backgrounds to screen for Canavan disease, a genetic disorder that can affect descendants of Jews from Eastern Europe.

If both parents are suspected of carrying the gene for the disorder a relatively simple blood test can be done. If both parents are in fact carriers there is a one-fourth chance of their child being afflicted. With that information the parents can make their own informed choice how to proceed. [Alter v. Hale, 2008 WL 2039344 \(Sup. Ct. Ocean Co., New Jersey, April 8, 2008\).](#)