

Controversy over gene editing

Reporter : The medical community, excited about a new therapy that re-trains the body's immune system to fight cancer. Fox news medical analyst Dr Mark Seegle with me now, so Dr. Seegle, what is your take, as a doctor?

Dr. Seegle: "I'm really excited about this. The cases that are showing hope are ones that have not responded to standard therapy. Now, we're taking the white blood cells out of the body, putting a receptor on it that recognizes the cancer, sticking it back in, and it attacks the cancer cell directly.

Reporter: Alright well that is great news of course, and in fact, it just makes me think the medical field is advancing and making progress at leaps and bounds almost over any other industry. I want to ask you, speaking of big developments; British researchers have been given the green light from the government to use genetic editing on human embryos. So the idea is to potentially screen out diseases such as cancer but there is fear from ethics communities that this could be used to create what is called designer humans.

Dr. Seegle: I get really antsy talking about this because it's a slippery slope. Look, there is a tool, called CRISPR. CRISPR is an editor that we can use to edit the genes of an emerging embryo. It can prevent deadly diseases, but you know what else it could do? It could allow you to say, I want to have blue eyes, not green. I don't want that

Reporter: You get into a very gray area ethically

Dr. Seegle: And the problem is, who is going to draw the line? In this case, it's going to be the British government, and that bothers the heck out of me. It's a great, great tool, Deandra, but it's got to be used in the right hands, and we cannot have designer babies.