

Genetic & Biological Contributions to Eating Disorders

Below are some summaries of the findings from some studies of genetic and biological contributions to eating disorders. Read each finding, then briefly explain its implications for the biological view of eating disorders. If you can, suggest a criticism or problem with each finding.

Finding	Implications	Problem or criticism
<p>Collier et al (1999) examined the gene that controls serotonin (a neurotransmitter) brain systems. They found that women with eating disorders were twice as likely as a control group to have an abnormal version of the gene.</p>		
<p>Cnattinguis et al (2000) looked at the medical histories of anorexic women. They found that women born at least 8 weeks prematurely were three times more likely than controls to develop an eating disorder.</p>		
<p>Hook et al (2000) examined medical records of 144,000 people on the island of Curacao, where it is considered attractive to be fat. They found that the prevalence of eating disorders was the same as in Europe and the US.</p>		