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### DNA matchmaking



A couple of genetic testing companies are promising to match couples based on the DNA testing, touting the benefits of biological compatibility. --PHOTO: TIME LIFE

NEW YORK - LOOKING for love? Try leaning in for a... cheek swab.

A couple of genetic testing companies are promising to match couples based on the DNA testing, touting the benefits of biological compatibility.

The companies claim that a better biological match will mean better sex, less cheating, longer-lasting love and perhaps even healthier children.

'How many dating services can you think of where they can suggest you might have better children?' said Eric Holzle, founder of ScientificMatch.com, one of the first online dating sites to use DNA. Mr Holzle wouldn't reveal membership numbers, but GenePartner, a Swiss company that works with matchmakers and dating sites, has tested more than 1,000 people, according to chief scientific officer Tamara Brown. Some were already coupled and took the test out of curiosity.

The GenePartner Test is US\$99 (S\$139), and will be offered at the dating site sense2love.com when it relaunches next month. The idea is that people tend to be attracted to those who have immune system genes that are dissimilar from their own.

Biologists say the HLA genes of the immune system - which are responsible for recognizing and marking foreign cells such as viruses so other parts of the immune system can attack them - also determine body odor 'fingerprints'. And people tend to be attracted to the natural body odors of those who have different HLA genes from their own. -- AP