

**Lauren Howard**

**Bioethics Topic Selected:** Who owns your cells or your DNA? Can someone use it without your permission?

Who owns your cells or your DNA? Can someone use it without your permission? Many people have different opinions about this. Some individuals think that scientists should be able to use your DNA for research without your consent. Others think that your permission must be given before any research can be done. You should have full ownership of your DNA. Someone should only be able to use your cells or DNA if you've given permission. DNA is a part of your body. You should be able to decide what happens to your body.

An article titled "Ethical and Legal Considerations Regarding the Ownership and Commercial Use of Human Biological Materials and their Derivatives" states that the patient's consent must be given before scientists can use it. "Informed consent must be obtained from patients for the use of organs or tissues in clinical research." When scientists use unsuspecting individuals' DNA without informing them, they are committing illegal acts. Another article called "Privacy in Genomics" discusses the different laws connected to using human DNA and cells for research. One law is called the common law, it means that scientists must get consent from patients to do research. They must also inform them of any risks that may occur during the research if it's to take place.