# Practical Genetics 101

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Luba Djurdjinovic MS

Luba Djurdjinovic Program Director/Genetic Counselor Ferre Institute-Ferre Genetics 124 Front Street, Binghamton NY 1641 Genesee Street, Utica NY



## No financial disclosures



- Ferre Institute, Inc
- Established in Utica NY in 1974

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# Communitybased genetic service

• We are committed to assuring access to genetic risk assessment for patients and their medical providers in the communities where they live and work

• We are committed to integrating genetic and genomic advances into daily medical practice



### Genetic risk assessment and opportunities in primary care

 Consider genetic diagnoses in differential diagnosis

 Judge value of genetic information for health outcomes

 Offer balanced perspective on role of genetic tests





## Family history



### Case: Simon

- Simon's is 52yrs and software developer. Recently noticed some forgetfulness
- Pursued 23&Me and learned he has the "the gene for Alzheimer".
- Seeking treatment options







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## Case

- Peggy is 58 yrs old and experiencing some difficulty with word retrieval
- Peggy's family history of dementia/Alzheimer Disease: Father was 60 years with initial symptoms and raised concern.
- Peggy's risk -20%-25% based on sporadic family history
- 95% of dementia/Alzheimer Disease after 60 years of age
- She would like testing- "I want to know".
- Is there a role for APOE testing?
- APOE variants maybe associated with late onset but not predictive

# What do we know about APOE genotyping

• Three versions: e2, e3, or e4

**e3:** The most common allele, considered neutral in terms of AD risk.

e4: Carrying the e4 allele increases the risk of AD, and having two copies (e4/e4) increases the risk even more. Only 2% of US population have this combination.



**e2:** The e2 allele is associated with a lower risk of AD

APO e4 allele has about a 10%-20% chance of developing AD by age 75, whereas an APO e4 homozygote has about a 25%-35% risk.

## Patients are seeking answers

• Genetic testing for the APOE gene will continue to be marketed.



### Case

- Thomas is 41 years old, and his mother was diagnosed with hemochromatosis. She is requiring phlebotomy.
- Thomas is concerned.
- Hemochromatosis an AR disorder
- Results from increased intestinal iron absorption and increased recycling of iron derived from senescent red blood cells leading to elevated ferritin levels
- Thomas ferritin level is within normal range

# HFE and prolonged ferritin levels

- cirrhosis of liver,
- changes in skin pigmentation,
- diabetes mellitus,
- a range of heart conditions
- men often experience impotence
- Ferritin is a non-specific test and can be elevated for reasons other than hemochromatosis.

### • The HFE gene two common variants

- "C282Y" or "H63D"
- It is estimated that 1 in 10 people of European background

### Genotypes for Risk of Haemochromatosis



### Thomas

- Mother's diagnosis and phlebotomy most likely linked to homozygous variants: C282Y / C282Y
- Thomas must inherit one C282Y
- Thomas's genotype C282Y/?

- With a 1in 9 or 1 in 5 chance that Thomas may have inherited a second HFE variant....
- Testing was offered to Thomas
- HFE gene "C282Y"
- HFE gene "H63D"
- . Compound heterozygote
- Risks...

## Genotype/phenotype

C282Y / C282Y Severe iron overload
occurring in most if
 not all of the
 individuals.

C282Y / H63D compound heterozygous Significant iron overload occurs in only 15% of these individuals.

H63D / H63D -Iron overload is unusual,

### Case

- Ivan is 58 years old is frustrated with his unexpected difficultly in competing in long distance races. He is highly active with past marathons and more recently limiting himself to half-marathons.
- He runs 10 miles a day when possible- he is sales representative and is on the road a lot. He has experienced bilateral lower extremities-"falling asleep" after 2-3 hours driving.
- He is frustrated with the fatigue he is experiencing during training and after competing his daily run. Has had episodes of presyncope or syncope.
- Cardiology eval: moderated LVH/RVH, mild pulmonary hypertension associated with right atrial enlargement. Suspected cardiac amyloidosis
- Note: Father had an MI at 65 years of age-no other history.

### Hereditary Transthyretin Amyloidosis (hATTR)

- Transthyretin (TTR) is a transport protein for retinol and thyroxine
  - The amyloidosis results from abnormal "clumping" of the TTR protein.
- Clinical findings. Slowly progressive sensorimotor and/or autonomic neuropathy that is frequently
- accompanied by one or more of the following:
- • Cardiac conduction blocks
- • Cardiomyopathy
- • Nephropathy
- • Vitreous opacities
- • Glaucoma

# Genotype/phenotype

- Over 150 reported pathogenic variants
- Ivan's result: p.Thr80Ala- associated with familial cardiomyopathy
- p.Val50Met is also one of the most common pathogenic variants worldwide.

p.Val142Ile in the African American population is 3.0%-3.9%; late-onset cardiac amyloidosis. Note: cardiac amyloidosis x four times more common among Blacks than Whites

# Genotype/phenotype

Common features	p.Val50Met	Other TTR variants
Sensory neuropathy	84%	60%
Motor neuropathy	52%	29%
Autonomic dysfunction	60%	45%
GI issues	47%	33%
Cardiac symptoms	39%	59%

## Treatment

Penetrance is not 100% with some being symptom free till late age



Even though you are born with a gene mutation, normally the harmful deposits don't occur until adulthood. Although all the types of the hereditary amyloidoses can cause serious complications, there are some carriers of this genetic mutation that may not show symptoms of the disease at all. Others may have a few,

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There are 2 main classifications of hereditary amyloidosis diseases: ATTR and Non-TTR

However, It is further complicated by the fact that there are approximately 136 different genetic variations in ATTR, and at least 60 genetic variations in Non-TTR hereditary amyloidosis diseases. It is possible that more may be discovered as research continues. Each family with a certain hereditary form of amyloidosis has its own pattern of organ involvement, approximate age of onset and associated symptoms.

Typically, families know when they have a hereditary form of amyloidosis because of similar symptoms and causes of illness among blood relatives, so family history is a key indicator.



### Case

- Tina is 52 years old and followed for her elevated LDL levels.
- After 16-month dietary modifications and exercise routine 4 times week , there was minor improvement.
- Tina was offered a statin to decrease her LDL levels. She declined based on her father's and paternal aunt's frustration with use of statins with small improvement and their reported side effects.
- She was referred to evaluate the family cholesterol/ LDL history and consider genetic testing.
- Genetic testing options: LDLR gene are the most common cause of FH



# Result informed Tina treatment approach

- Test result
- APOB c.10580G>A (p.Arg3527Gln) / heterozygouspathogenic
  - Note: These mutations in this gene are family specific
- The APOB gene is associated with autosomal dominant familial hypercholesterolemia (FH)
- Statin will reduce LDL levels- some individuals still will have elevated APOB levels and a residual risk for a cardiovascular episode.
- Some may benefit from an apolipoprotein B synthesis inhibitor

# 25 genes linked to hypercholesterolemia and lipidemia

- Three most common genes linked to Familial Hypercholesterolemia: LDLR, PCSK, APOB
- Comprehensive lipidemia panels- may be helpful



### Case

Mark is 28 years old His sister is 32 years old has elevated cholesterol levels and just experienced a cardiac arrest.

# Risk assessment and testing recommendation

- Sister should consider genetic testing
- Mark's sister declined genetic testing
- Mark has an elevated LDL and he is frustrated as he has recently become a vegan after his sister's event

Lipidemia panel

Pathogenic variant identified in ABCG8

Pathogenic variant in ABCG5

### Testing result: ABCG8/ABCG5

- The ABCG8 gene is associated with AR -sitosterolemia leading to hypercholesterolemia due to increased absorption of plant sterols and associated with premature atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease, myocardial infarction.
- Plant-based foods with high sterol levels sesame oil, wheat germ oil, mayonnaise, pistachio nuts, olive oil, sage, oregano, thyme, paprika, cocoa butter oil, almond butter, avocado, macadamia nuts, broccoli, red onion, carrot, corn and other vegetables.
- Sitosterolemia is linked to variants in the ABCG5 or ABCG8 genes. Mark is a compound heterozygote for ABCG5/ABCG8 gene variants that links him to sitosterolemia.
- Management Dietary restriction of food high in sterols. Medication that inhibits the absorption of cholesterol and plant sterols in the intestine and sometimes addition of bile acid sequestrants

What to do with requests for Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes (EDS) testing

A group of rare inherited conditions that affect connective tissue/ overlapping autoimmune symptoms

### Symptoms of Classic EDS

- Joint hypermobility
- Loose joints that dislocate easily
- Stretchy velvety skin
- Fragile skin that can split easily
- Wounds that are slow to heal
- Hernias and organ prolapse
- There are 13 different types of EDS that vary depending on genetics and symptoms

Genes that are linked to EDS

- COL1A1
- COL1A2 CHST14
- COL1A3 COL12A1
- COL5A1 C1R
- COL5A2 C1S
- COL3A1 ADAMTS2
- ZNF469 PLOD1
- SLC39A13 TNXB
- There is currently no genetic test for hypermobile EDS. A diagnosis is only based on medical history and physical exam

## Many tests -many choices

GeneticTesting Registry (GTR) was created in 2008

200 laboratories 37,124 current clinical tests

29 laboratories performed whole exome sequencing (WES)

17 laboratories performed whole genome sequencing (WGS)

# Clinical application of genetic test results

#### Positive

- Management guidelines
- Edibility for research
- Eligibility for clinical trials

### Negative

• Negative test results does not eliminate a clinical diagnosis

#### Variants of Uncertain Significance (VUS)

• Temporary evaluation of identified variant



Understanding variants of uncertain significance in clinical practice

Cardiac gene testing

Cancer gene testing

- Kaitlyn is 32 years old had a routine pre-surgical EKG reported a Long QT interval. 10 years prior during your pregnancy a similar finding and 5 years ago, she was hospitalized for an unexplained fainting episode with no EKG findings.
- Father has been hospitalized several times for unexplained fainting episodes.

- Beth breast cancer at 49 years of age.
- Her mother had breast cancer diagnosis at 56 and maternal aunt was 69 years old.

### VUS test results-

Kaitlyn Test result

- Test: CACNA1C CALM1 CALM2 CALM3 KCNE1 KCNH2 KCNJ2 KCNQ1 SCN5A TRDN
- KCNQ1 coding variation c.1861G>A
  - Gene linked to Loing QT
- SCN10A coding variation c. 40C>T.
  - Gene linked to Brugada

### Beth test results

- APC, ATM, BAP1, BARD1, BMPR1A, BRCA1, BRCA2, BRIP1, CDH1, CDKN2A, CHEK2, EPCAM FH, FLCN, HOXB13, MET, MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, MBD4, MSH3, MUTYH, NF1, NTHL1, PALB2, PMS2, POLD1, POLE, PTEN, RAD51C, RAD51D, SMAD4, STK11, TP53, TSC1, TSC2 and VHL
- CHEK2 gene Gain (exon 2-8)

## Role of family testing

To identify who in the family maybe at risk

To help learn more about a variant of uncertain significance and is associated with affected family members in the family.

# Selecting a testing lab

- Some test are best ordered from a reference lab: Quest Diagnositics, LabCorp, ARUP, Mayo
- Chromosome testing, thrombophilia testing (i.e. Factor V Leiden), hemochromatosis common variants
- Specialty laboratories for Cancer predisposition syndromes, cardiovascular predisposition, neuromuscular disorders and rare disorders
- NYS approved ( if not, must submit NYS non-permit lab request to Wadsworth)
- Variant re-classification protocols
- Patient assistance options
- Family testing option for positive findings





#### Our catchment area and offices



# Thank you!

# **Questions?**