Genomic risk through the lifespan Amit V. Khera, MD MSc Massachusetts General Hospital Broad Institute of MIT & Harvard Harvard Medical School Twitter: @amitvkhera

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Clinical observation Family history of heart attack linked to increased risk



YOUNG CANDIDATES FOR CORONARY HEART DISEASE

Menard M. Gertler, M.D., New York, Stanley M. Garn, Ph.D., and Paul D. White, M.D., Boston

JAMA (1951)



N = 100



Controls N = 146

Traditional approach to DNA-based prediction focused on rare, monogenic mutations

Familial hypercholesterolemia



0.4% of the population

How might DNA predispose to heart attack?

2 models – monogenic and polygenic

Monogenic

Rare driver mutation in each individual

Cumulative impact of many variants



Can a polygenic score identify individuals with risk equivalent to a monogenic mutation?

Khera,* Chaffin,* ... Kathiresan | *Nat Genetics* | 2018 Khera,* Chaffin,* ... Kathiresan | *Circulation* | 2018

Test genome-wide polygenic score in 300,000 additional people

Normally distributed in population



Test genome-wide polygenic score in 300,000 additional people

Normally distributed in population

0.4-0.3-Density 0.2 0.1 0.0 -2 0 2 Genome-wide polygenic score



Top 8% of the population has polygenic risk equivalent to a monogenic mutation



polygenic score for coronary artery disease

Traditional risk factors used in clinical practice are inadequate to pinpoint at-risk patients

	Remainder of population	Top 8% of polygenic score
Family history	35%	44%
Hypertension	28%	32%
Type 2 diabetes	2%	2.7%
Hypercholesterolemia	13%	20%
Current smoking	9.2%	9.5%
Body mass index	27.3	27.7
Systolic blood pressure	140	141

Some traditional risk factors are slightly elevated, but not enough to be useful

Genome-wide polygenic score for heart attack identifies 20x than monogenic mutations

Prevalence

Odd ratio for MI

Mode of detection

Intervention

Monogenic

0.4%

3x

↑ LDL-cholesterol

Statin, ezetimibe PCSK9i Polygenic

8%

3x

Currently undiagnosed

Lifestyle Medication

Approach works for other common diseases . . .

including those without monogenic risk factors



How does polygenic susceptibility to obesity impact weight over the lifespan?

Khera,* Chaffin,* ... Kathiresan | Cell | 2019

Genome-wide polygenic score for obesity

doi:10.1038/nature14177

2.1 million variants

Discovery GWAS 2.1 million variants N > 300,000

ARTICLE

Genetic studies of body mass index yield new insights for obesity biology

A list of authors and their affiliations appears at the end of the paper

Obesity is heritable and predisposes to many diseases. To understand the genetic basis of obesity better, here we conduct a genome-wide association study and Metabochip meta-analysis of body mass index (BMI), a measure commonly used to define obesity and assess adiposity, in up to 339,224 individuals. This analysis identifies 97 BMI-associated loci ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$), 56 of which are novel. Five loci demonstrate clear evidence of several independent association signals, and many loci have significant effects on other metabolic phenotypes. The 97 loci account for ~2.7% of BMI variation, and genome-wide estimates suggest that common variation accounts for >20% of BMI variation. Pathway analyses provide strong support for a role of the central nervous system in obesity susceptibility and implicate new genes and pathways, including those related to synaptic function, glutamate signalling, insulin secretion/action, energy metabolism, lipid biology and adipogenesis.

Locke et al. 2015

Normal distribution N = 288,016



Impact of polygenic obesity to obesity in Middle age

UK Biobank

288,016 participants Mean age 57

Impact of polygenic obesity to obesity in Middle age

UK Biobank

288,016 participants Mean age 57

Gradient across deciles

29 pounds + 4.8 kg/m²



Impact of polygenic obesity to obesity in Middle age

UK Biobank

288,016 participants Mean age 57

Gradient across deciles

25-fold



Impact of polygenic obesity to obesity in Young adulthood

Framingham / CARDIA

3,722 participants Mean age 28 Followed 27 years

Impact of polygenic obesity to obesity in Young adulthood

Framingham / CARDIA

3,722 participants Mean age 28 Followed 27 years



ALSPAC birth cohort



ALSPAC birth cohort



ALSPAC birth cohort

7,425 participants Recruited 1991-1992 Followed birth to age 18



18 months

ALSPAC birth cohort



ALSPAC birth cohort



ALSPAC birth cohort





How does polygenic susceptibility to Alzheimer's dementia impact risk?

Zahid* ... Khera | *Manuscript in preparation*

Polygenic score for Alzheimer's disease 5-fold risk gradient across deciles in middle age



Polygenic score for Alzheimer's disease 5-fold risk gradient across deciles in middle-age



ApoE locus: 70% of predictive value Remaining variants: 30% of predictive value













Polygenic scores enable 'genome-interpretation' from the time of birth for a range of important diseases and they will continue to improve in coming years





Polygenic scores enable 'genome-interpretation' from the time of birth for a range of important diseases and they will continue to improve in coming years

Charting a course for genomic medicine from base pairs to bedside

Eric D. Green¹, Mark S. Guyer¹ & National Human Genome Research Institute*

