Genetic Testing and Gene Therapy

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Genetic Testing and Gene Therapy

- Pertinent and happening now
 - Increase in direct-to-consumer genetic testing
 - Growth in clinical genetic testing
 - Gene therapies approved since 2017 and more on the way







What's New?

- 40+ Clinical Trials
- In development...
 - More gene replacement therapies
 - CRISPR gene editing
 - Antisense oligonucleotide based therapies
 - Optogenetics

Importance of Genetic Testing & Gene Therapy

Gene Therapy Outcomes

- voretigene neparvovec-rzyl result
 - Improvement in multi-luminance mobility testing (MLMT) score
 - [Luxturna video from Spark Therapeutics]



voretigene neparvovec-rzyl

- FDA approved 2017
- Only for patients with RPE65 gene mutations (small percentage of patients with RP and LCA)

Gene Therapy Outcomes

- Improvement in functional vision
- Improvement in mobility under different luminance settings
- Improvement in light sensitivity
- Improvement in VF
- Non-statistical improvement in VA

Testing Recommendations

- "Recommendations on Clinical Assessment of Patients with Inherited Retinal Degenerations – 2016"
- Numbers refer to clinical phenotypes:
 - 1. Rod-cone degenerations
 - 2. Cone-rod degenerations
 - 3. Chorioretinal degenerations
 - 4. Inherited dystrophies that involve the macula

	Initial Visit	Follow Up Visit Every 1-2 Years
History Ocular (including current needs) Medical (including current medications and history of retinotoxic medication use) 	1-40	1-4
Pedigree (family history)	1-4	1-4
Clinical eye examination Bast corrected visual acuity: ETDRS (or equivalent) Slit-lamp biomicroscopy Intraocular pressure Indirect Ophthalmoscopy	1-4	1-4
Spectral Domain Optical Coherence Tomography Fundus autofluorescence: Short wavelength	1-4 1-4 1-4 ^b 1, 3, 4	1-4 1.4 ^b 1, 3, 4
	1-4° 1-3 ^d 1-4	1-4° 1-3 ^d 1-4
	1-4 2,4	1-3 2,4
Genetic Diagnostic Testing	1-4	

AAOphthalmology Clinical Statement

• "Genetic testing plays an important role in improving the accuracy of diagnosis and prognosis, providing patients and families with specific inheritance risks, and guiding treatment decisions."

AAOphthalmology Clinical Statement

 "...a causative mutation can be identified in up to 60-80% of patients with inherited retinal disorders"

GENETIC TESTING

Types of Genetic Testing

• Direct-to-consumer

 Mainly provide info on ancestry/ genealogy services, traits, genetic predisposition to common conditions, carrier status

• Health care provider ordered

Differences Between Direct-to-Consumer and Heath Care Provider Ordered Tests

- Regulation
- Analytical validity, clinical validity, clinical utility
- Diagnostic ability
- Guidance and counseling access
- Data privacy
- Relevance to patients with inherited retinal dystrophies

Ethical & Other Considerations

- Data privacy
- Does the patient want to know? Do the family members want to know?
- What will be done with the information?
- Is it ethical to test children?
- Who can give consent for testing?

AAOphthalmology Current Recommendations

 "Recommendations for Genetic Testing of Inherited Eye Diseases- Report of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Task Force on Genetic Testing"

5 Steps

- 1) clinical exam presence of genetic eye disease
- 2) molecular investigation of genomic samples
- 3) analysis of data
- 4) interpretation of data in context of clinical findings
- 5) patient counseling

Additional Specific Recommendations

- Use of CLIA- approved laboratories
- Avoid direct-to-consumer tests
- Avoid unnecessary parallel testing
- Avoid genetic testing for genetically complex disorders
- Avoid testing asymptomatic minors for untreatable disorders

"Recommendations for Genetic Testing of Inherited Eye Diseases- Report of th American Academy of Ophthalmology Task Force on Genetic Testing"

Current Genetic Testing Relating to Eye Care

- Multiple single gene and panel tests available, including for:
 - Inherited retinal dystrophies
 - Age-related macular degeneration risk
 - Keratoconus risk
 - Corneal dystrophies
 - Glaucoma risk
 - Mitochondrial conditions
 - And more...
- · Consider the pros, cons, and limitations

TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT GENETICS DISCOVERIES AND BREAKTHROUGHS

1859	On the Origin of Species published
1865	Gregor Mendel experiments published
Late 1880s	"Chromosome" discovered
1953	Structure of DNA published
1956	Correct number of human chromosomes
1950s	Genetic tests for Down syndrome
1990	 BRCA1/ BRCA2 mutations linked to breast cancer risk
1990-2003	Human Genome Project
2017	First FDA approved in vivo gene therapy

1859

• Charles Darwin published, On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection



Genotypes vs Phenotypes

- 2 copies of each gene; one from each parent
- Alleles
 - DominantRecessive
- Genotype- the genes
- Phenotype- how they are expressed as characteristics



- Autosomal dominant
 - One mutated copy of the gene is sufficient for a person to be affected
- Autosomal recessive
 - $-\operatorname{Both}$ copies of the gene must be mutated for a person to be affected
- X-linked
 - Caused by mutations in genes on the X chromosome
 - Females have XX; Males have XY















- Human Genome Project launched and officially completed
- Improvements in sequencing ability and processing speed







Autosomal Dominant Inheritance • Ex. Best Vitelliform Macular Dystrophy

Best Vitelliform Macular Dystrophy

- Autosomal dominant BEST1
- Early-onset vitelliform macular dystrophy
- Yolk-like macular lesion
- Decreased central VA and metamorphopsia

Best Vitelliform Macular Dystrophy

- Clinical implications:
 - Patients will have family members with the condition
 - Straightforward to do genetic testing for this condition



Achromatopsia

- Autosomal Recessive
- CNGA3, CNGB3, GNAT2, PDE6C, PDE6H – CNGA3, CNGB3 account for ~75%
- Clinical implications:
 - Genetic causes of this condition have been well identified
 - Genetic testing will most likely give a positive result
 - Genetic testing, though unlikely to change clinical diagnosis easily determined through clinical testing, is needed for eligibility for current clinical trials







Choroideremia

- 1 in 50,000-100,000
- Progressive vision loss- childhood night vision impairment, peripheral vision loss, later decreased VA

Choroideremia

- X-Linked Recessive
- CHM
 - Rab escort protein-1 (REP-1) \rightarrow loss of retina, choroid, RPE
- · Genetic testing very effective
- Clinical implications:
 - More likely to affect males than females
 - Females likely to be carriers

X-Linked Juvenile Retinoschisis

- 1 in 5,000-25,000 men
- RS1 gene
 - Retinoschisin protein, likely involved in intercellular adhesion & retinal cell organization
- Macular involvement in 1st decade



Mitochondrial Inheritance

- Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) mutation
- Maternal inheritance

 Males: none of their children will inherit the mtDNA mutation
 Females: all children will inherit the mtDNA mutation
- Ex. Leber hereditary optic neuropathy



Our genes aren't everything

• CONs

 Depending on the condition and the genetic test, genetic testing by itself may not tell us the whole clinical picture.

• PROs

<u>Lifestyle and environmental changes can make a difference</u> in some cases.

Genotypic & Phenotypic Heterogeneity

- Patients may have similar phenotype but have different affected genes.
- Patients may have same affected gene and have different phenotypes
 - Even within the same family!

Genotypic Heterogeneity

- · Some IRDs are associated with many different genes
- Some genes are associated with many different IRDs



Cremers FPM, Boon Clf, Bujakowska K, Zeitz C. Special Issue Introduction: Inherited Retinal Disease: Novel Candidate Genes, Genotype-Phenotype Correlations, and Inheritance Models. *Genes*. 2018; 9(4):215. https://doi.org/10.3390/genes9040215

Ex. Retinitis Pigmentosa

- >100 identified genes, >60 genes associated with nonsyndromic RP
- AD (RHO,...), AR (USH2A...), X-linked recessive (RPGR, RP2,...), de novo

Ex. Retinitis Pigmentosa

- Highly varied RP fundus appearances, age of onset, speed of progression, VA and VF loss
 - $-\operatorname{Ex.}$ X-linked RP associated with earlier onset and faster progression
- Understanding genetics can provide better understanding of condition and prognoses.

Ex. Retinitis Pigmentosa

- 20-30% have syndromic RP
 - Ex. Usher syndrome
 - Ex. Bardet-Biedl syndrome
- Early identification can lead to better management of systemic condition.

Leber Congenital Amaurosis (LCA)

- 2-3 / 100,000 newborns
- Mutations in 14-22 (?) different genes
- Most autosomal recessive
- Most common mutations: CEP290, CRB1, GUCY2D, RPE65
- Some autosomal dominant: CRX, IMPDH1
- 30% unknown cause

Stargardt Macular Degeneration

- 1/8,000-10,000
- Most common- Autosomal recessive (ABCA4)
- Autosomal dominant (ELOVL4)

Conditions affected by one gene vs multiple genes

• Added complexity when multiple genes are involved. - Ex. Risk of keratoconus affected by multiple genes

Complex Multifactorial Disorders

- AAOphthalmology Recommendation: Avoid genetic testing for genetically complex disorder.
 - Ex. AMD
 - Other risk factors: age, smoking

"Nature vs. Nurture"

- Both genetics and environment play a role.
 Some conditions are more affected by genetics.
 - Some conditions are more affected by environment.

Epigenomics

- Not all genes are active.
- External epigenetic factors can affect gene activity, determining when genes are "turned off" or "turned on".



Not always as simple as Punnett Squares...

- Reduced penetrance
 - $-\operatorname{Ex.}$ Not all people with the mutation will develop the condition
- Variable expressivity
 - $-\operatorname{Ex.}$ Not all people with the condition exhibit the same severity



Result Interpretation

- Not all genes are tested. Not all tests will deliver satisfactory results.
- Positive result- found pathogenic mutation in the gene(s) tested
- Negative result- did not find mutation in the gene(s) tested
- Inconclusive results

Variant Classification

- Pathogenic
- Likely Pathogenic
- Uncertain Significance
- Likely Benign
- Benign

Result Interpretation

- Variants of Uncertain Significance – May be reclassified in the future
- Pathogenic (low penetrance)

Genetic Testing + Clinical Findings

- IMPORTANT: Consider the genetic testing results within the context of clinical findings
 - Ocular findings
 - Systemic findings
 - Family history

GENE THERAPY - CURRENT



Why gene therapy for inherited retinal dystrophies?

- Pros
 - Effective treatment
 - Eye is immune privileged
- Physiology of the eye
- Cons
- Limitations of treatment
- Number and rarity of genetic mutations
- Cost

Current FDA Approved Gene Therapies

- Luxturna (voretigene neparvovec-rzyl)- Spark Therapeutics
- Approved for biallelic RPE65-mutation associated retinitis pigmentosa & Leber congenital amaurosis

voretigene neparvovec-rzyl

- Single subretinal injection
- Copy of the RPE65 gene is delivered via a viral vector – Adeno-associated viral (AAV) vector





voretigene neparvovec-rzyl

Result

- Improvement in multi-luminance mobility testing (MLMT) score





- Adverse Reactions
 - Conjunctival hyperemia 22%
- Cataract 20%
- Increased IOP 15%
- Retinal tear 10% – Dellen 7%
- Macular hole 7%
- Subretinal deposits 7%
- Cost \$\$\$

GENE THERAPY – CLINICAL TRIALS & FUTURE

Achromatopsia videos

- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MLSxOz4HnE</u>
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaugUyMDkdk</u>



Do Patients Need to Have Genetic Testing Before Enrolling in a Clinical Trial?

- Many clinical trials underway are for genetic therapies and will require that patients have a confirmed genetic diagnosis.
- There are several emerging cross-cutting therapies for example, stem cells, oral drugs, and optogenetic approaches that may not require a genetic diagnosis.

Time Commitment to Participate in a Clinical Trial?

- Depends on the clinical trial. Time commitment can be extensive.
 Most trials for inherited retinal disorders (IRDs) require the visits to occur at the clinical trial site. About 12 visits year 1, visits 1-2x a year for 4 more years.
 - Consider time commitment for both patient and travel companion.
- Consider number and duration of visits.

Cost of Participation in a Clinical Trial?

- Depends on the clinical trial.
- All sponsors will cover the medical costs associated with a clinical trial
- Not all sponsors cover the travel and miscellaneous costs (food, lodging).
- Be wary of clinical trials that require out-of-pocket costs to participate or receive therapy.

Side effects/ risks of IRD gene therapy?

- Depends on route of administration and therapy (subretinal, intravitreal, suprachoroidal).
- The risks will be covered with the patient.
- · Consider contraindications of steroids.
- Oral, topical, and subtenon steroids may be administered before, during & after the procedure

Options for Patients Who May Not Qualify for a Current Clinical Trial

Patient Registries:

- Enrolling in the registry enables patients to get on the radar screen of clinical trial sponsors and investigators. Free genetic testing is often available through the registry.
- Personal information is never shared with third parties. Only de-identified information can be shared
 Natural History Studies
- A natural history study collects information about the natural history of a disease in the absence of an
 intervention, from the disease's onset until either its resolution or the individual's death. Although
 knowledge of a disease's natural history can benefit drug development for many disorders and
 conditions, natural history information is usually not available or is incomplete for most rare diseases;
 therefore, natural history information is particularly needed for these diseases.

Ongoing and Future Gene Therapy Research & Clinical Trials

- Achromatopsia (CNGA3, CNGB3) AGTC, MeiraGTx/Janssen
- Batten Disease (CLN5) Neurogene
- Choroideremia (REP1) 4DMT
- LCA (GUCY2D) Atsena
- RP (PDE6B) Coave
- RP (RLBP1) Novartis
- RP (NR2E3, RHO) Ocugen
- X-Linked Retinoschisis NEI
- X-Linked RP (RPGR) AGTC, MeiraGTx/Janssen



Antisense Oligonucleotide-Based Therapy

- Targets <u>mRNA</u>
 - Small fragments form complementary pairs with target mRNA Inhibit mRNA translation, regulate gene expression
- ProQR
 - LCA (LCA10)
 - USH2A Exon 13
 - Autosomal dominant RP (RHO-P23H)



Optogenetics

- Targets ganglion cells
- Vision enhanced when using goggles
- Limited improvement in vision
- Clinical trial: patients with advanced RP



Credit: Sahel, et al.; Nature Medicine

More...

- Gensight Biologics

 LHON (mitochondrial gene ND4)
- jCyte
 Neurotrophic factors for RP
- Alkeus

 Modified vitamin A for Stargardts

Clinical Application of Genetic Testing, Gene Therapy, and Clinical Trial Referrals

Genetic Testing Referrals

- Search provider lists
 ID Your IRD
- Complete Clinical Exam & Genetic Test



Sample Test Panels

- Blueprint Genetics
 - https://blueprintgenetics.com/tests/panels/ophthalmology/retinaldystrophy-panel/
 - 351 genes (including RPGR)
- Invitae
 - https://www.invitae.com/en/inherited-retinal-disorders-panel/ - Recently updated to 330 genes (including RPGR)
- Alternative labs

Conditions Tested Can Include...

- Achromatopsia
- Best disease · Leber congenital amaurosis
- Choroidal dystrophies
- Choroideremia
- Cone dystrophy
- Cone monochromacy Cone-rod dystrophy
- Congenital stationary night
 Rod monochromacy

blindness

- Fundus albipunctatus
- Fundus flavimaculatus
- Gyrate atrophy Retinitis pigmentosa
- Retinoschisis (juvenile X-
- linked retinoschisis)
- Rod-cone dystrophy
 - Rod dystrophy

 - Stargardt disease Usher syndrome
- ...and more...

Example Panel Panel Content Genes in the Retinal Dystrophy Panel and their clinical significance Gene Associated phenotypes ABCA4 Stargardt disease, Retinitis pigr Retinal dystrophy, early onset a ABHD12 Polyneuropathy, hearing loss, ataxia, retinitis pig Optic atrophy, Infa



Ex. Lab Selection Process

- Your patient has a clinical diagnosis of retinitis pigmentosa. He has a relatively early onset and rapidly progressive field loss.
- After completing a pedigree, you suspect an x-linked inheritance pattern.

Ex. Lab Selection Process

- You search for information about retinitis pigmentosa inheritance patterns and associated genes on MedlinePlus.
- "Together, mutations in the <u>RPGR</u> and <u>RP2</u> genes account for most cases of X-linked retinitis pigmentosa."
- <u>https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/retinitis-</u> pigmentosa/#synonyms

Ex. Lab Selection Process

- You look through both test panels from the labs (Ex. Blueprint Genetics & Invitae)
- You find that both Invitae and Blueprint's panels currently test RPGR!
- The Blueprint panel testing is being sponsored by Foundation Fighting Blindness's My Retina Tracker Program and Invitae panel is being sponsored by Spark Therapeutics, so now you check that your patient meets their eligibility requirements.

Ex. Alternate Scenario – past testing

- Patient has clinical diagnosis of RP with possible x-linked pattern.
- Genetic testing > 5 years ago with Invitae lab panel was negative
 - (This panel did NOT include RPGR 5 years ago)
- Consider retesting!





PATIENT INFORMATION			ION	CLINICIAN INFORMATION				
First name	MI	Last name		Organization name				
Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Biological sex	MRN (media	cal record number)	Phone		Fax		
			Caucasian Ashkenazi Jewish	Address			City	
O Sephardic Jewish O Mediterranean O Other:			State/Prov	ZIP/Postal code Cou		intry		
Phone	Email address	Email address (report access after clinician releases)			act name (if different from o	edering provider]	NPI	
Address City			Primary clinical contact email address (for report access)					
State/Prov	ZIP/Postal cod	le Cou	ntry	Ordering provide	r (select one ordering provid	e checkbox before the name		
Ship a saliva kit to this patient Client Services at 415-276-4164 O Ship kit to address above O Ship kit to alternate addres	4)	his form and P	atient Authorization form to	0	NPI	Emai	I address (for report access)	
SPI	ECIMEN IN	FORMAT	TION	0				
Specimen type: Blood (3-mL We are unable to accept blood/s • Allogeneic bone marrow trans	aliva from patient	ts with:	gene") -OR- Assisted Saliva weeks prior to specimen collection	0				
Specimen collection date	(MM/DD/YYY	Y):					are access to order online	
Special cases: O History of			a la astint		with the primary clinical cont		al team, manage at invitae.com	
apecial cases. O History of	/current nemator	ogic mangnani	sy in papent	Name		Email address	(for report access)	









Result Interpretation

- Not all genes are tested. Not all tests will deliver satisfactory results.
- **Positive result-** found pathogenic mutation in the gene(s) tested
- Negative result- did not find mutation in the gene(s) tested
- Inconclusive results – Variants of Uncertain Significance

AAOphthalmology Clinical Statement

 "...a causative mutation can be identified in up to 60-80% of patients with inherited retinal disorders"

Results Interpretation

- Gene with mutation may be associated with several different eye conditions
- Other factors must still be taken into account
 - Patient ocular findings
 - Patient medical history
 - Patient family history
- Is the variant pathogenic? Does it cause the clinical condition?
- Is it a secondary finding?

COMMONLY ASKED PATIENT QUESTIONS – Q&A

Genetic Testing Q&A

- How much does genetic testing cost?
 The lab testing might be free if the patient meets the eligibility requirements.
 - There may be cost associated with office visits.
- How long will it take to get the results?
- Could be as short as 2 weeks; could be longer depending on the lab and testing.
- Do you need a blood sample?
 Saliva sample is sufficient in most cases.

Genetic Testing Q&A

- Will this tell me what eye condition I have?
 - Not always. Genetic testing does not replace a clinical exam.
 Depending on the eye condition, genetic testing panel, and current knowledge on the condition, the possibility of positive or negative genetic test results varies.
- I did genetic testing a long time ago. Is this the same?
 Consider retesting if genetic test was inconclusive in the distant past.
- Can children be tested?
 Yes. However, there may be ethical considerations.

Gene Therapy Q&A

- Will I qualify for gene therapy?
- Most likely not right now since gene therapy is only available for RPE65 mutation, but if you have RP or LCA there is a small possibility.
- Will I qualify for a gene therapy clinical trial?
 Possibly. Can determine after receiving the genetic testing results.

Patient Recommendations

- Genetic Counseling is recommended
 - Family counseling
 - Inheritance patterns
- Additional family member testing is indicated in some cases

Eligibility for Gene Therapy & Clinical Trials

- Determine eligibility and referral for gene therapy
- Determine eligibility and referral for clinical trial
 ClinicalTrials.gov
- · Continuation of ocular health management
- Continuation of low vision rehabilitation

Next Steps

- Consider joining a registry

 Ex. My Retina Tracker
- Consider joining a natural history study

Continued Management

- Continuation of ocular health management
- Continuation of low vision rehabilitation











Ð	RESULT: POSITIVE		
	mal recessive Leber conge nal Variant(s) of Uncertai		-
	VARIANT	ZYCOSITY	VARIANT CLASSIFICATION PATHOGENEC
REFAS			
87065			1 Bals Pathonesis
RPESS RPESS		heterszygowi	Likely Pathogenic
RPEES CERCL		heterstypout heterstypout	Uncertain Significance
89665		heterszygowi	
RPESS CERCL CIR2		heternatygous heternatygous heternatygous	Uncertain Significance Uncertain Significance





Resources

 Search for gene specific clinical trials/ Determine eligibility for clinical trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov

Benefits of genetic testing

- Improve accuracy and specificity of diagnosis
- Improve accuracy of prognosis
- Improve accuracy of genetic counseling, family counseling
- Mutation/ mechanism-specific care – Gene therapy & clinical trials

Conclusions

- Increase public and patient awareness
- Increase access to genetic testing and gene therapy – Early testing and referrals

Q&A

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