

Dopamine Genetics: Substance Use Disorders vs. Parkinson's Disease

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Summary. It is established that Substance use disorders (SUDs) and Parkinson's Disease (PD) among many other neuropsychiatric disorders are dopamine (DA)-related brain disorders with strong heritability. However, it is unclear whether DA-associated genetic risks share commonality across these disorders. This study utilizes the Genotype and Phenotype Database (dbGaP), by downloading related genome-wide association studies (GWAS) for individual genotype/phenotypes. According to our results DA pathways are significantly implicated in the genetic etiology of both SUDs and PD but much more in the former. Epistatic effects may represent a major portion of missing heritability observed in current main effect-oriented GWAS analyses.

Keywords: disease-specific, epistasis, genetic etiology, missing heritability, neuropsychiatric disorders, pathways.

Генетика дофаминэргической системы: сравнение аддикций и болезни Паркинсона

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Резюме. Установлено, что расстройства, связанные с употреблением психоактивных веществ (SUDs) и болезнь Паркинсона (PD), среди многих других психоневрологических расстройств являются связанными с дофамином (DA) расстройствами головного мозга с высоким уровнем наследуемости. Тем не менее, неясно, имеют ли эти заболевания общие механизмы формирования генетических рисков. В этом исследовании используется база данных генотипов и фенотипов (dbGaP) путем загрузки связанных исследований геномных ассоциаций (GWAS) для отдельных генотипов / фенотипов. Согласно нашим результатам, дофаминэргическая нейромедиация в значительной степени вовлечена в генетическую этиологию как SUD, так и PD, но гораздо больше в первом случае.

Ключевые слова: болезнь-специфичный, эпистаз, генетическая этиология, пропущенная наследственность, нейropsychиатрические заболевания, пути.

BACKGROUND

Substance use disorders (SUDs) are the leading cause of chronic diseases, generating enormous global economic burden [1-4] and are a major public health concern.[5-9] Unfortunately, there are few clinically accepted medications to treat SUDs.[4] It is established that SUDs and Parkinson's Disease (PD) among many other neuropsychiatric disorders are dopamine(DA)-related brain disorders with strong heritability.[10] However, it is unclear whether DA-associated genetic risks share commonality across these disorders.

AIM

Determine whether these neuropsychiatric disorders have common risks in DA-associated genes, including DA synthesis (2 genes), metabolism (2 genes), receptors (DRs, 5 genes), monoamine transporters

(5 genes), an uptake modulator (alpha-synuclein: SNCA), and transcription factors (7 genes) [11, 12].

MATERIALS & METHODS

This study utilizes the Genotype and Phenotype Database (dbGaP), by downloading related genome-wide association studies (GWAS) for individual genotype/phenotypes. First, genomic controlling was performed to ensure unrelatedness among subjects[13]; secondly, linkage-based imputation procedures were conducted to capture genotypes for these 22 DA system genes including serotonin and norepinephrine transporters' genes as controls; thirdly, association analyses for main effects and Logistic regression-based epistasis analyses for intergenic effects on neuropsychiatric etiologies; and, finally meta-analyses of these association results. Genetic manipulations of gene activity in animal models were carried out to determine causality of these genetic associations.

RESULTS

Overall three SUD GWAS datasets and three PD datasets were utilized for the meta-analysis. After genomic and quality control, data from more than 6500 unrelated subjects with each disease were used in the analysis.

Specifically data from four SUD [12] cohorts were obtained from the three datasets: Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA, dbGaP accession#: phs000125.v1.p1), Study of Addiction: Genetics and Environment (SAGE, polysubstance abuse but mainly with cigarette smoking, dbGaP accession#: phs000092.v1.p1), and the Australian twin-family study of alcohol use disorder (OZALC, dbGaP accession#: phs000181.v1.p1). After COGA data quality control (QC), data from the US Caucasians of European (EA) descent and African Americans (AA) were split into these 2 separate ethnic cohorts. Individuals found in both the COGA and SAGE studies, were removed from the SAGE datasets. The OZALC study used family genotype but only unrelated individuals were extracted for the purpose of epistasis analysis. After QC, data from 6,596 subjects remained: 1,368 from COGA_EA, 753 from COGA_AA, 2,063 from the OZALC study, and 2,412 from the SAGE study.

Data from three PD[14] cohorts were screened [phg000126.v1.p1 (CIDR), phs000089.v3.p2 (NINDS), and phs000196.v2.p1 (NGRC)]. Cohort composition included CIDR (900 cases and 867 controls); NINDS (940 cases and 801 controls); and NGRC (2013 cases and 1995 controls). After QC, the CIDR dataset included 770 cases and 783 controls; the NINDS dataset included 716 cases and 673 controls; and the NGRC dataset included 2000 cases and 1986 controls, for a total of 6,533 unrelated subjects.

After initial analyses, only one of the 22 genes, SNCA, showed a significant main effect for PD which is consistent with the established literature. After Bonferroni corrections, none of the target genes resulted in a significant main effect for SUDs. However, epistasis analysis uncovered extensive and significant association signals between gene variants and SUDs or, to less extent, PD.

For SUDs, the strongest significant interaction was SNCA with the developmentally expressed vesicular monoamine transporter 1 gene *SLC18A1* and our recently discovered TFs. The greatest number of significant interactions were between the DA transporter gene *SLC6A3* and 21 of the 22 genes including two DR genes, *DRD3* and *DRD5*. For PD, *DRD3* interacted with the tyrosine hydroxylase gene *TH* and the dopa-decarboxylase gene *DDC*; *SLC6A3* interacted with 6 of the 22 target genes. Interestingly, the interaction between *DRD3* and the NET gene (*SLC6A2*) was implicated in both diseases. Importantly, the significant association between *SLC6A3* and SUD was confirmed by findings from mouse modeling.[14]

CONCLUSIONS

DA pathways are significantly implicated in the genetic etiology of both SUDs and PD but much more in the former. Epistatic effects may represent a major portion of missing heritability observed in current main effect-oriented GWAS analyses.

Acknowledgements

We thank NIH for granting ZL access to dbGaP, under project #1542: "Functional genomics of dopamine-related diseases". This work was supported by the U.S. National Institutes of Health grants DA021409, AA026663 (ZL), AA015512 and AA013522 (RLB).

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