

Genetic Testing in Psychiatry: Ready for Prime-time?

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Disclosure

Dr. Macaluso has received grant/research support from the following commercial entities in the last year:

Alkermes, Allergan, AssureRx/Myriad, Eisai, Forum, Liva Nova, Lundbeck, Janssen, Naurex/Aptinyx, Otsuka.

All clinical trial and study contracts were with and payments made to either the University of Alabama at Birmingham or the Kansas University Medical Center Research Institute.

Dr. Macaluso has also received royalties from Springer Nature for his work as editor of the textbook *Antidepressants: from Biogenic Amines to New Mechanisms of Action*.

An ideal lab test in psychiatry

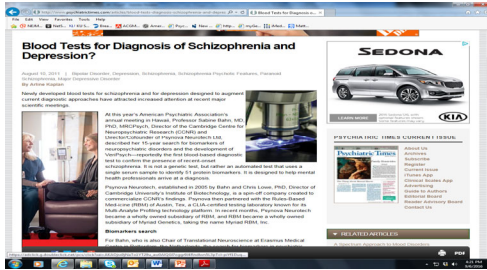
- Have diagnostic sensitivity and specificity
- Determine diagnosis
- Predict course of illness
- Predict drug response
- Predict drug tolerability

Failed lab tests in psychiatry

- Tests to distinguish serotonergic versus noradrenergic forms of depression in the 1970's
- Dexamethasone suppression test in the 1980's

Mass JW. Biogenic amines and depression. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 1975;32:1357-1361.
Carroll BJ, Feinberg M, Greden JF, et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 1981;38:15-22.

Recently a test for schizophrenia was marketed....



What types of tests are being developed?

- Pharmacogenomic based lab tests
 - Genes coding for pharmacokinetic mechanisms (eg CYP 450)
 - Genes coding for pharmacodynamic mechanisms (serotonin transporter)
- Immunoassay based tests
 - Measure proteins including inflammatory cytokines (eg IL-6)

What does it take to market these tests?

- Lab must meet CLIA standards
- Demonstrate analytical validity
- No requirement for clinical validity

<http://www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/deviceregulationandguidance/ivdregulatoryassistance/ucm124105.htm>

What about the FDA?

- Currently only “high risk” tests (eg detecting malignancy) require FDA approval
- FDA requires proof of clinical validity and utility

What is clinical validity?

- A clinically meaningful measure (eg response)
- An adverse effect
- A biologically meaningful measure (eg drug level)

What is clinical utility?

- proof that the test can:
 - reliably be used to guide clinical management
 - Meaningfully improve outcomes (eg dose selection)

Several companies have marketed pharmacogenetic “decision support tools”

What are these decision support tools?

- Examine pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic genes that affect a patient's ability to tolerate or respond to medications

How are PG tests unique?

- PG tests are trait, rather than state characteristics
- PG tests could influence the prescribing of non-psychotropic medications

GeneSight Psychotropic Results
121,006

Clinician: Matthew Macaluso DO
Order Number: 14186
Report Date: 1/28/2021

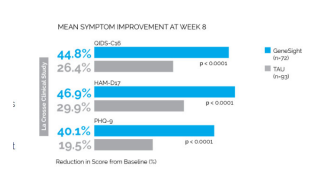
Antidepressants	Antipsychotics
USE AS DIRECTED Escitalopram (Lexapro) [®] Sertraline (Zoloft) [®] Venlafaxine (Effexor) [®] Vilazodone (Viibac) [®]	USE AS DIRECTED Aripiprazole (Abilify) [®] Risperidone (Risperdal) [®] Quetiapine (Seroquel) [®] Ziprasidone (Geodon) [®]
USE WITH CAUTION Duloxetine (Cymbalta) [®] Doxepin (Sinequan) [®] Fluoxetine (Prozac) [®] Imipramine (Tofranil) [®] Nefazodone (Pfizer) [®] Nortriptyline (Pamelor) [®] Paroxetine (Paxil) [®]	USE WITH CAUTION Clozapine (Clozaril) [®] Haloperidol (Haldol) [®] Quetiapine (Seroquel) [®] Risperidone (Risperdal) [®]
USE WITH INCREASED CAUTION AND WITH MORE FREQUENT MONITORING Amitriptyline (Elavil) [®] Bupropion (Wellbutrin) [®] Desipramine (Norpramin) [®] Doxepin (Sinequan) [®] Fluoxetine (Prozac) [®] Imipramine (Tofranil) [®] Nefazodone (Pfizer) [®] Nortriptyline (Pamelor) [®] Paroxetine (Paxil) [®]	USE WITH INCREASED CAUTION AND WITH MORE FREQUENT MONITORING Aripiprazole (Abilify) [®] Clozapine (Clozaril) [®] Risperidone (Risperdal) [®] Quetiapine (Seroquel) [®] Ziprasidone (Geodon) [®]

Is your functional status at a given moment the same as your PG trait?

What objective evidence supports the use of these tests in clinical practice?

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a research article. The article title is "Utility of integrated pharmacogenomic testing to support the treatment of major depressive disorder in a psychiatric outpatient setting". The authors listed are Hall-Flavin, Daniel K., Wimmer, Joel G., Allen, Joseph D., Carnatt, Joseph M., Proctor, Brian P., Snyder, Karen A., Dimes, Neuman S., Esterhuysen, Linda L., Gasko, Jennifer, Wasek, David A., and others. The article is from the journal "Pharmacogenetics and Genomics", October 2013, Volume 23, Issue 10, pages 535-548. The abstract states: "Objective: The objective was to evaluate the potential benefit of an integrated, two-gene pharmacogenomic test and interpretive report (GeneSight) for the management of psychiatric medications used to treat major depression in an outpatient psychiatric practice. Methods: The open-label study was divided into two groups: in the first (unpublished) group (N=113), pharmacogenomic information was not shared with participants; in the second (published) group (n=143), the pharmacogenomic report was provided to physicians for clinical use. Three depression ratings, the 17-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D-17), the Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology - Clinician Rated (QIDS-C16), and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), were collected at baseline, and at 2, 4, and 8 weeks. Results: The guided group experienced greater percent improvement in depression scores from baseline on all three depression instruments (HAM-D-17, PHQ-9, QIDS-C16, P<0.001, PHQ-9, P<0.001) compared with the unguided group. Eight-week response rates were higher in the guided group than in the unguided group on all three measurements (HAM-D-17, PHQ-9, QIDS-C16, P<0.001, PHQ-9, P<0.01). Eight-week QIDS-C16 remission rates were higher in the guided group (P<0.01). Participants in the unguided group who at baseline were prescribed a medication that was most discordant with their genotype experienced the least improvement compared with other unguided participants (HAM-D-17, P<0.007). Participants in the guided group and on a baseline medication most discordant with their genotype showed the greatest improvement compared with the unguided cohort participants (HAM-D-17, P<0.01). Conclusion: These findings replicate previous studies and demonstrate significantly improved depression outcomes with use of GeneSight, an integrated, multigenetic pharmacogenomic testing platform." The article level metrics show it was picked up by 2 news outlets, tweeted by 10, and highlighted by 1 platform, with 81 readers on Mendeley. Related links include articles in PubMed, Google Scholar, and other journals.

Hall-Flavin, et al results



*Minimum Score of 14 on the 17-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D17). QIDS-C16 (Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology-Clinician Rated) PHQ-9-Patient Health Questionnaire

<https://genesight.com/education/clinical-studies/>

Format Abstract

QIDS-C16. 2013 Nov;76(11):178-27.

A prospective, randomized, double-blind study assessing the clinical impact of integrated pharmacogenomic testing for major depressive disorder.

Worke DJ, Carhart-Jell AM, Cole GA, Allen AB, DeLamater BM

Abstract

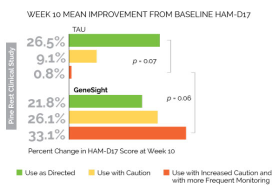
OBJECTIVE: A prospective double-blind randomized control trial (RCT) to evaluate the benefit of a combinatorial, five gene pharmacogenomic test and integrative report (GeneSight) for the management of psychotropic medications used in the treatment of major depression in an outpatient psychiatric practice.

METHODS: Depressed adult outpatients were randomized to a treatment as usual (TAU, n=20) arm or a pharmacogenomic-informed GeneSight (n=20) arm. Subjects were blinded to their treatment group and depression severity was assessed by blinded study raters. Within two days of enrollment, clinicians of subjects in the guided group received the GeneSight report that categorized each of 28 psychotropic medications within a green, yellow, or red "box" based on the relationship of each medication to a subject's pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic combinatorial gene variant profile. Antidepressant medication changes began within 2 weeks after baseline assessments. Depression severity was assessed by blinded study raters using the HAM-D-17, PHQ-9, QIDS-C16, and QIDS-C16 administered 4, 6, and 10 weeks after baseline assessment.

RESULTS: Between group trends were observed with greater than double the likelihood of response and remission in the GeneSight group measured by HAM-D-17 at week 10. Mean percent improvement in depressive symptoms on HAM-D-17 was higher for the GeneSight group over TAU (33.1% vs 26.1%, p=0.21). TAU subjects who had been prescribed medications at baseline that were contraindicated based on the individual subject's genotype (i.e., red box) had almost no improvement (0.8%) in depressive symptoms measured by HAM-D-17 at week 10, which was far less than the 33.1% improvement (p<0.001) in the pharmacogenomic-guided subjects who started on a red box medication and the 26.1% improvement in GeneSight subjects overall (p=0.06).

CONCLUSIONS: Pharmacogenomic-guided treatment with GeneSight doubles the likelihood of response in all patients with treatment resistant depression and identifies 30% of patients with severe gene-drug interactions who have the greatest improvement in depressive symptoms when switched to genetically suitable medication regimens.

Winner, et al results



*Minimum Score of 14 on the 17-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D17).



When is pharmacogenomic testing recommended?

PSYCHIATRY
JOURNAL

PSYCHIATRICNEWS

SECTIONS DEPARTMENTS

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

Task Force on Gene Testing for Antidepressant Efficacy Concludes Tests Not Yet Ready for Widespread Use

MARK MODER

Published Online: 19 Jul 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.2018.p0061>

[f](#) [v](#) [in](#) [a](#)

One problem is lack of transparency regarding algorithms used by commercial entities to determine treatment recommendations on the basis of testing of genetic variations.

Individualized medicine employing pharmacogenetics to guide psychiatric treatment is the future, experts agree. But the future is not here yet.

That's the conclusion of the APA Task Force for Novel Biomarkers and Treatments, a component of the APA Council on Research. In a report published in *APR* in Advance this spring, the group described how there are insufficient data to support widespread use of pharmacogenetic tests in clinical practice to guide antidepressant treatment.

The task force was chaired by Charles Nemeroff, M.D., Ph.D., the Leonard M. Miller Professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The task force members examined the research base supporting the claims of four major commercial pharmacogenetic tests (GenoLight, GeneCyt, CYP2D6, and CYP2A6). In general, these companies claim that their pharmacogenetic tests can improve the accuracy of drug choice and reduce trial and error.

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Combinatorial Pharmacogenomic Algorithm is Predictive of Citalopram and Escitalopram Metabolism in Patients with Major Depressive Disorder

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Keywords:
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Pharmacogenetics
Metabolism
Blood Levels
Depression
Citalopram
Escitalopram

Pharmacogenetic tests used to guide clinical treatment for major depressive disorder (MDD) must be thoroughly validated. One important assessment of validity is the ability to predict medication blood levels, which reflect altered metabolism. Historically, the metabolic impact of individual genes has been evaluated, however, we now know that multiple genes are often involved in medication metabolism. Here, we evaluated the ability of individual pharmacokinetic genes (CYP2C19, CYP2D6, CYP3A4) and a combinatorial pharmacogenetic test (GenoLight Psychometric®) against measurement of all three genes to predict citalopram/escitalopram blood levels in patients with MDD. Patients who had been treated with citalopram/escitalopram for at least 14 days and who were taking citalopram/escitalopram at screening and had available blood level data were included (N=191). In multivariate analysis of the individual genes and combinatorial pharmacogenetic test separately (adjusted for age, smoking status), the F statistic for the combinatorial pharmacogenetic test was 1.7 to 2.5 times higher than the individual genes, showing that it explained more variance in citalopram/escitalopram blood levels. In multivariate analysis of the individual genes and combinatorial pharmacogenetic test together, only the combinatorial pharmacogenetic test remained significant. Overall, this demonstrates that the combinatorial pharmacogenetic test was a superior predictor of citalopram/escitalopram blood levels compared to individual genes.

***Back to our question:
when is pharmacogenomic
testing recommended?***

FDA Recommends Specific Types of Genetic Tests

- **More than 30 drugs have PG testing incorporated into their package labeling**
- **Some recommend testing at certain dose levels, others prior to starting certain medications**

Table 1. Therapeutic areas in which pharmacogenomic information (PGI) is being incorporated into product labels as well as influencing the development of new designer drugs
Copyright Preskorn 2013

Biomarker	Therapeutic area	Biomarker	Therapeutic area
ALK	Oncology	G6PD	Oncology, dermatology & dental, antileishmaniasis
Antithrombin III deficiency (SERPINC1)	Hematology	HGPRT	Transplantation
APOE2	Cardiovascular, metabolic & endocrinology	HLA-B*1502	Neurology
BRAT	Oncology	HLA-B*57:01	Antivirals
CCR5	Antivirals	IL28B	Antivirals
CD20 antigen	Oncology	KRAS	Oncology
CD25	Oncology	LDL receptor	Metabolic & endocrinology
CD39	Oncology	NAT1, NAT2	Antifungals, cardiovascular
CFTR (G551D)	Pulmonary	PDGFR	Oncology
Chromosome 5q C-Rn	Hematology	Pt Chromosome	Oncology
CYP1A2	Gastroenterology	PML/RAR α	Dermatology & dental, oncology
CYP2C19	Antifungals, cardiovascular, gastroenterology, reproductive, psychiatry, musculoskeletal, neurology	Prothrombin mutations (F2)	Oncology
CYP2C9	Hematology, rheumatology	Rh genotype	Reproductive & urologic
CYP2D6	Psychiatry, analgesics, reproductive and urologic, neurology, antifungals, antiarrhythmic/cardiovascular, dermatology & dental	TPMT	Rheumatology, oncology
DPD	Oncology	UGT1A1	Oncology, pulmonary
EGFR	Oncology	VKORC1	Hematology
ER & PGR	Oncology		
ERBB2 (HER2)	Oncology		
Factor V Leiden (FV)	Hematology		
FIP1L1-PDGFR α	Oncology		

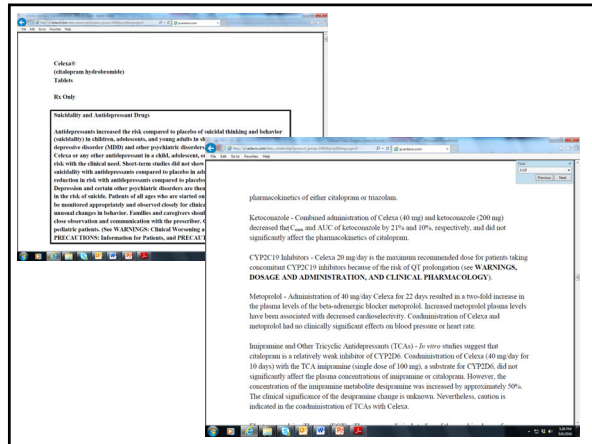
This table is adapted from the Table Pharmacogenomic Biomarkers in Drug Labels on the FDA website www.fda.gov/Drugs/ScienceResearch/ResearchAreas/Pharmacogenomics/ucm325754.htm. Commonly accepted abbreviations for biomarkers are shown in the table in the interest of space, but full names of most, if not all of these biomarkers can be readily located via an Internet search. Note that, in some cases, two therapeutic areas are listed together (e.g. metabolic & endocrinology, dermatology & dental) because these are therapeutic groupings to FDA review and approval, with specific advisory committees with these names.

Preskorn, et al. *J Psychopharmacol*. 2013 Mar;19(2):142-9. doi: 10.1097/JPR.0b00000000000001953.73.

Conclusions: Given the risk of increased pimozide concentrations and longer time to steady state in CYP2D6 poor metabolizers, the FDA has revised the pimozide label to provide clinicians with clearer dosing, titration, and genotype testing recommendations. The new information is intended to enhance therapeutic individualization of pimozide in pediatric and adult patients.

J Clin Psychiatry 2012;73(9):1187–1190

Caution is warranted when prescribing FANAPT with drugs that inhibit FANAPT metabolism [see *Drug Interactions* (7.1)], and in patients with reduced activity of CYP2D6 [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)].



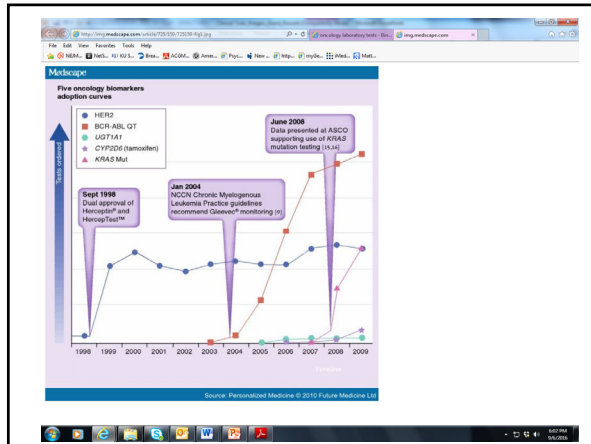
Example: venlafaxine

- **Examined data from 4 RCT's of venlafaxine**
- **Examined ODV/VEN ratio and EM/PM status**
- **ODV/VEN ratio and EM status predicted response and remission**

J Clin Psychiatry 2010;71(11):1482-1487 10.4088/JCP.08m04773blu

What does the future hold?

- In oncology lab tests are used to understand how cancer tissue differs genetically from normal tissue
- There continues an unmet need for clinically meaningful tests to aid in patient care in psychiatry



AS GENETIC TESTS ARE INCREASINGLY USED IN CLINICAL TRIALS, DRUGS APPROVED IN THE FUTURE WILL REQUIRE GENETIC TESTING IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

What does the future hold?

- **Personalized medicine**
- **The end of one size fits all prescribing both for type of drug and dosing**
- **Understand how individuals with the same disease have differing biology**

**Could psychiatry follow a
similar path?**

•*Stay tuned.....*

The End
Thank You
