

Pharmacogenomics and schizophrenia

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Abstract

Although antipsychotic drugs are effective in alleviating schizophrenic symptoms, individual differences in patient response suggest that genetic components play a major role, and pharmacogenetic studies have indicated the possibility for a more individually based pharmacotherapy. The new field of pharmacogenomics, which focuses on genetic determinants of drug response at the level of the entire human genome, is important for development and prescription of safer and more effective individually tailored drugs. DNA microarray (DNA chip) analysis enables genome-wide scanning, using the high-density single nucleotide polymorphisms map. Pharmacogenomics will aid in understanding how genetics influence disease development and drug response, and contribute to discovery of new treatments. The rate of discovery of those polymorphisms will depend on the quality of the drug response phenotype. Prospective genotyping of schizophrenic patients for the many genes at the level of the drug target, drug metabolism, and disease pathways will contribute to individualized therapy matching the patient's unique genetic make-up with an optimally effective drug. © 2000 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

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1. Introduction

Schizophrenia is a psychotic disorder that can greatly limit the patient's ability to function normally and thus impairs the quality of life. For diagnosis of schizophrenia, the fourth Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (DSM-IV) (1994) is at present perhaps the most widely used, although the definition in the 10th edition of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) (World Health Organization, 1990) provides a similar alternative. In these criterion-based systems, schizophrenia is characterized by symptoms that reflect multiple mental processes, including hallucinations, delusions, disorganized speech, and disorganized behavior (Andreasen, 2000; American Psychiatric Association, 1994). Those four symptoms are the classic positive symptoms of schizophrenia in which normal functions are distorted or exaggerated. The various negative symptoms of schizophrenia, such as alogia, affective blunting, avolition and anhedonia are another important aspect of the illness.

Complete remission is probably not common in this disorder (American Psychiatric Association, 1994).

The lifetime prevalence of schizophrenia is approximately 0.5% to 1% worldwide (American Psychiatric Association, 1994). The vast costs associated with schizophrenia are estimated to account for approximately 1.6% to 2.5% of annual total healthcare expenditure in various developed countries, according to data collected from the late 1980s or early to mid-1990s (Foster and Goa, 1999; Hamilton et al., 1999). Of the direct costs of schizophrenia, hospitalization is the greatest contributor, with drug costs representing about 1% to 6% of the total. Therefore, schizophrenia is one of the most important public health problems confronted by society.

Many studies, including twin, family, and adoption studies have consistently revealed that while schizophrenia does not appear to be solely a genetic disorder, genetic factors are involved (Kirov and Murray, 1997; Moldin and Gottesman, 1997; Tsuang, 1998). Furthermore, simple Mendelian inheritance patterns are unlikely and, in this regard, schizophrenia resembles obesity, hypertension, diabetes and many other relatively common yet complex human disorders. It is therefore likely that genetic and environmental risk factors interact in a complex fashion to produce the disorders. Identifying genes that effect an

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individual's predisposition to develop schizophrenia could improve diagnosis of the disease, and perhaps lead to improvements in prevention and in pharmacological treatment of the disease. However, it is very disappointing that molecular genetic approaches have yet to yield conclusive evidence.

In the pharmacotherapy of schizophrenia, chlorpromazine was discovered by serendipity and utilized in treating schizophrenia in the 1950s. Neuropsychopharmacological evidence supports the fact that all clinically useful neuroleptics are antidopaminergic (Kaplan and Sadock, 1998; Terenius, 2000). The observation that conventional antipsychotic agents (e.g. haloperidol and chlorpromazine) are primarily dopamine antagonists was first made by Carlsson in 1963 (Carlsson and Lindquist, 1963). Although these antipsychotics are effective in alleviating positive symptoms (for example, delusions and hallucinations) and reducing patient disability (Kaplan and Sadock, 1998), they also possess the ability to cause extrapyramidal and other side effects and may not fully alleviate negative symptoms. In response to these problems, recent years have seen the introduction of a number of so-called atypical antipsychotic agents (e.g. clozapine, risperidone, olanzapine, quetiapine) that target other neurotransmitter receptors, most notably serotonin as well as dopamine (Meltzer, 1995; Jibson and Tandon, 1998; Kaplan and Sadock, 1998; Moore, 1999; Worrel et al., 2000). These agents usually have efficacy against both the positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia, that demonstrate a superior clinical profile compared with typical antipsychotics, especially in measures of negative symptoms and quality of life (Meltzer, 1995; Jibson and Tandon, 1998; Kaplan and Sadock, 1998; Moore, 1999; Worrel et al., 2000). Furthermore, atypical antipsychotics are associated with a significantly lower incidence and severity of treatment-emergent extrapyramidal symptoms and tardive dyskinesia than conventional agents. However, the response to even these drugs is heterogeneous, and psychiatrists usually prescribe antipsychotics based only on the clinical symptoms since they lack the biological evidence, which would help to make decisions of the appropriate drug for each individual patient. This means that clinical psychiatry is not always a science, but an art.

Then, the observed patient-to-patient differences in the response to drug treatments may be caused by a variety of factors. Among them, genetic components presumably play a major role (Propping and Nöthen, 1995; Evans and Relling, 1999). Clinical observations of such inherited differences in drug effects were first documented in the 1950s (Hughes et al., 1954; Carson et al., 1956; Kalow, 1956; Evance et al., 1960), giving rise to the new field of "pharmacogenetics" which focuses largely on how genetic polymorphisms in drug-metabolizing enzymes translate into inherited differences in drug effects (Vogel, 1959; Nebert, 1997). Such studies have been fundamental in optimizing therapeutic doses in order to minimize toxic effects (Arranz

and Kerwin, 2000). However, mutations in metabolizing enzymes cannot fully account for the heterogeneity observed in the response of an individual to drug treatment. The overall pharmacologic effects of medications are typically not monogenetic traits; rather, they are determined by the interplay of several genes encoding proteins involved in multiple pathways of drug effects and disposition in addition to metabolism (Evans and Relling, 1999). Recently, pharmacogenetic research has been extended to include the drug's site of action as a source of variability, independent of metabolism, which could influence treatment response, using methods of DNA analysis that are capable of identifying genetic variations at the level of the drug target (Propping and Nöthen, 1995). Many of these variants are single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) referred to as "snips" (Isaksson et al., 2000; McCarthy and Hilfiker, 2000).

Single nucleotide polymorphisms, the single-base differences in the DNA sequence that can be observed between individuals in a population (Zhao et al., 1998; Brookes, 1999; Hacia et al., 1999b), are present throughout the human genome with an average frequency of approximately 1 per 1000 base pairs (Brookes, 1999). Such frequency means that 3 million single nucleotide polymorphisms exist, since there are 3 billion base pairs in the human genome. The SNP Consortium (a consortium of pharmaceutical and bio-informational companies, five academic centres and a charitable trust) is currently producing an ordered high-density single nucleotide polymorphism map of the human genome (Marshall, 1999). The original target was to produce a single nucleotide polymorphism map with 200,000–300,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms evenly distributed throughout the human genome. In fact, this initiative is ahead of schedule and will probably provide 600,000–800,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms by the end of year 2 (April 2001) with the collaboration of the Human Genome Project, which focuses on a genome-wide map of 100,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms (Brower, 1998). This map will enable disease and drug response phenotypes to be mapped by linkage disequilibrium (Roses, 2000).

On June 26th, 2000, President Clinton, leaders of the Human Genome Project and representatives of the biotechnology company Celera announced the completion of a "working draft" reference DNA sequence of the human genome, which is one of the third plan "U.S. Human Genome Project 5-Year Research Goals 1998–2003". This achievement provides scientists worldwide with a road map to an estimated 90% of genes on every chromosome. The ultimate Human Genome Project goal of generating a high-quality reference genome sequence, expected to be achieved by the year 2003 or sooner, will identify all 100,000 human DNA genes (<http://www.ornl.gov/hgmis/resource/media.html>).

Knowledge about single nucleotide polymorphisms and genes within the whole genome will speed up the under-

standing of how a person's genetic constitution influences disease development and drug response, and will contribute to the discovery of new treatments. Therefore, the field of pharmacogenetics has entered into a new era when it became recognized as a significant concept for the development and prescription of individually tailored drugs, that are both safer and more effective for each patient (Sadée, 1998, 1999; March, 2000). Applying the large-scale systematic approaches of genomics, the discipline of pharmacogenomics was created. This emerging discipline focuses on genetic determinants of drug response at the level of the entire human genome (Sadée, 1999).

Since the use of single nucleotide polymorphisms is considered to be an excellent tool for pharmacogenetics in schizophrenia and potentially might lead to the discovery of schizophrenia-related genes, many researchers have been engaged in identifying genetic factors that may influence response to and adverse effects of antipsychotic drugs. These investigations have made steady progress (Arranz and Kerwin, 2000; Cichon et al., 2000; Masellis et al., 2000) and our goal is to identify variants relevant to drug response within the whole genome. "Psychopharmacogenetics" (pharmacogenetics in the psychiatric field) will become "psychopharmacogenomics" in the near future through the development of genome science. Although the field of psychopharmacogenomics has a bright future, there are still obstacles to overcome. Therefore, the objectives of this review are two-fold. First, we will review the pharmacogenetic studies of schizophrenia, which have produced evidence that metabolizing enzyme and receptor polymorphisms influence antipsychotic response. Second, we will discuss how this relates to the development of psychopharmacogenomics.

2. Genetic variants of drug-metabolizing enzyme

Most of the drugs acting on the central nervous system are extensively metabolized by cytochrome *P*450 (CYP) enzymes. The CYP enzymes, together with aldehyde and alcohol dehydrogenase and esterases, belong to drug-metabolizing enzymes responsible for functionalization (phase I metabolism) (Evans and Relling, 1999; Nebert, 1997). Among these enzymes, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP1A2, CYP3A4, and CYP2D6 are related to metabolism of drugs used in psychiatry. Pharmacogenetic studies have reported for several decades that CYP phenotypes, which are genetically determined and have large interindividual variations, strongly influence drug sensitivity or response resulting from elimination rates, steady state concentrations, and biotransformation. Thus, adverse effects and efficacy of drugs are strongly influenced by genetic variations of these enzymes. Many of the CYP genes including CYP2C9, CYP2C19, and CYP2D6 gene exhibit genetic polymorphisms, and extensive and poor metabolizers (EM and PM) exist in each enzyme. This means that the PM

phenotype consisted of individuals having homozygous or compound heterozygous PM alleles, and the EM phenotype consisted of those having homozygous wild type or heterozygous wild type/PM alleles (Coutts and Urichuk, 1999; Cichon et al., 2000).

CYP2D6 is the most widely studied schizophrenia-related cytochrome, since it plays a major role in metabolism of almost all antipsychotics. Its phenotype is characterized historically by debrisoquine/sparteine metabolism, which is a polymorphic trait following response to the probe drugs. Recent pharmacogenetic studies have revealed that phenotypes of PMs consisted of various alleles (CYP2D6*3, *4, and *9), which decrease or inactivate CYP2D6 activity (Daly et al., 1996). Five to ten percent of Europeans, about 2% of Asians, and 7–8% of Africans are PMs of debrisoquine/sparteine (Marez et al., 1997). Phenotyped panel studies have indicated that the distribution of haloperidol, perphenazine, zuclopenthixol, thioridazine, and risperidone co-segregates with that of debrisoquine (Fang and Gorrod, 1999). PMs of debrisoquine have higher plasma concentrations of and more adverse effects from perphenazine and thioridazine than EMs (Dahl and Bertilsson, 1993). Acute side effects including postural hypotension, excess sedation, or extrapyramidal symptoms have an overrepresentation of PMs (Spina et al., 1992a,b; Vandel et al., 1999). On the other hand, it is not clear whether the development of tardive dyskinesia is associated with a reduced metabolizing capacity of CYP2D6 (Arthur et al., 1995; Armstrong et al., 1997; Andreassen et al., 1997; Kapitany et al., 1998; Ohmori et al., 1998, 1999). All antipsychotics undergo extensive oxidative metabolism in the liver, and many of them have pharmacologically active metabolites. Haloperidol is metabolized by reduction to form reduced haloperidol that is also pharmacologically active and the plasma half life of both was found to be longer in PMs than EMs (Llerena et al., 1996). In summary, these findings suggest that CYP2D6 genotype and phenotype might partially affect response to typical antipsychotics and drug side effects; however, caution must be used because of inter-ethnic differences in the frequency of PM alleles and PM phenotype. The high frequency of a certain CYP2D6 variant in the Chinese population results in a slower average hydroxylation of debrisoquine and of haloperidol in the EM group (Johansson et al., 1994). Several reports suggest that, on the average, Asians develop higher plasma levels than Europeans and thus have an increased sensitivity to antipsychotics including haloperidol (Frackiewicz et al., 1997; Mihara et al., 1999).

Clozapine, an atypical antipsychotic, exhibits large interindividual variations in bioavailability, steady-state plasma concentrations, and clearance. Genetic factors might contribute to the observed variations. Clozapine is metabolized by several CYP enzymes, including CYP1A2, CYP3A4, CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 (Fang and Gorrod, 1999; Prior et al., 1999). In a study by Arranz et al. (1995b),

CYP2D6 was found not to be a major enzyme responsible for metabolizing clozapine. On the contrary, Collier et al. (2000) have indicated that clozapine is metabolized primarily by CYP1A2, since CYP1A2 knock-out mice had a significant decrease in clozapine clearance. These results suggest that CYP1A2 gene polymorphism might be associated with clozapine response. There are only a few reports regarding metabolic pathways of other atypical antipsychotics such as risperidone, olanzapine, and quetiapine (Prior et al., 1999; Scordo et al., 1999). Further research is needed in this area to clarify the relationship between polymorphisms of metabolic enzymes and response to antipsychotic drugs.

3. Genetic variants of drug targets

All receptor genes for neurotransmitters and genes located down stream in the intracellular signaling pathways can be considered candidate genes for pharmacogenetic studies in schizophrenia. These include, among others, dopamine, serotonin, glutamate, γ -aminobutyric acid, and catecholamines. Selecting a good candidate gene is difficult, since it is not always clear which of these systems is responsible for the therapeutic action of the drug. However, the existence of a response-determining variant in a receptor system will indicate its therapeutic relevance, in addition to the discovery of genetic variability related to drug efficacy. To investigate the potential involvement of a specific candidate gene in drug response or occurrence of side effects, association studies have been performed. These studies exemplify the candidate gene approach, which uses biological hypothesis of the disease or a priori knowledge of drug profiles to identify genes relevant to disease or drug response. First, a genetic variation is identified for the potential candidate gene by molecular genetic techniques. Second, the frequencies of gene polymorphisms are compared between responders and nonresponders, or between subjects suffering from adverse effect and subjects showing no adverse reactions. Any significant differences between the two groups will indicate that the drug action is mediated through the receptor studied. Because these studies are time-consuming, from among the large number of potential candidate genes the dopamine and 5-HT (5-hydroxytryptamine; serotonin) receptors have been most extensively studied for the presence of genetic variation, based on dopamine and/or serotonin hypothesis for schizophrenia, and binding profiles of antipsychotics.

3.1. Dopamine receptors

Since almost all antipsychotics are dopamine receptor antagonists, genetic variants in the genes coding the receptors may affect antipsychotic drug responses. Table 1 lists the genetic variants identified in dopamine receptor genes, their functional consequences, and associations with an-

tippsychotic drugs. Dopamine D₂ receptor is a major site of action of conventional antipsychotics, such as chlorpromazine and haloperidol. One functional polymorphism (–141 Ins/Del) in the promoter region (Arinami et al., 1997) and three missense variants (Val96Ala, Pro310Ser, and Ser311Cys) (Gejman et al., 1994; Itokawa et al., 1993) in the coding region of the dopamine D₂ receptor gene have been identified. Although Arinami et al. (1997) reported that –141 Ins/Del polymorphism affected promoter activity and dopamine D₂ receptor expression, no positive results of association studies between this polymorphism and clinical response to clozapine, as well as other typical antipsychotics, have been reported (Ohara et al., 1998; Arranz et al., 1998a; Malhotra et al., 1998). On the other hand, missense variants were reported in relation to genetically determined differences in response to antipsychotics. The Val96Ala mutation was indicated to reduce dopamine, chlorpromazine, and clozapine binding affinities, and increase inhibition of cAMP synthesis, whereas both Pro310Ser and Ser311Cys mutations were shown to decrease inhibition of cAMP synthesis (Cravchik et al., 1996, 1999).

The dopamine D₃ receptor gene has one missense variant (Ser9Gly) (Crocq et al., 1992). Studies in patients treated with classical antipsychotics revealed an association between this polymorphism and response to antipsychotics (Krebs et al., 1998). While Shaikh et al. (1996) reported an association between Ser9 homozygotes and failure to respond to clozapine, Malhotra et al. (1998) could not replicate this result. An *in vitro* study indicated that this mutation increases dopamine and GR99841 binding affinities (Lundstrom and Turpin, 1996). Recently, three novel nucleotide polymorphisms were identified in the 5'-leader of the dopamine D₃ receptor gene in tight linkage disequilibrium both with each other and with Ser9Gly (Sivagnanasundaram et al., 2000). These polymorphisms were not associated with clozapine response and their functional significance remains unclear.

The dopamine D₄ receptor gene has the characteristic array of genetic polymorphisms that create structural diversity in the receptor. These include 16 amino acids repeat in exon 3 (Van Tol et al., 1991), 4 amino acids repeat in exon 1 (Catalano et al., 1993), a 13-base pairs deletion in exon 1 (Nöthen et al., 1994a,b), Gly11Arg (Cichon et al., 1995), and Val194Gly (Shaikh et al., 1995). In addition, a polymorphism (–521C/T) affecting the transcriptional efficiency in the 5'-promoter region of the dopamine D₄ receptor gene has been recently identified (Okuyama et al., 1999). Among them, the 16 amino acids repeat in exon 3 polymorphism have been the most investigated. A possibility was raised that structural variations of the receptor may be associated with observed variations in individual response to clozapine (Van Tol et al., 1991, 1992). This polymorphism was also shown in an *in vitro* study to influence sodium chloride sensitivity of clozapine binding and inhibition of cAMP synthesis (Asghari et al., 1994,

Table 1
Genetic variants of dopamine receptors and drug response

Receptor	Variant	Position	Gene frequency (%)	Functional consequence	Association with drug response	Reference
D ₁	– 2218T/C	Promoter	2			Cichon et al., 1996
	– 2102 C/A	Promoter	4			Cichon et al., 1996
	– 2030T/C	Promoter	3			Cichon et al., 1996
	– 1992G/A	Promoter	< 1			Cichon et al., 1996
	– 1251G/C	Promoter	13			Cichon et al., 1996
	– 800T/C	Promoter	61			Cichon et al., 1996
	– 94G/A	5UTR	11			Cichon et al., 1994
	– 48G/A	5UTR of exon 2	45			Liu et al., 1995; Kojima et al., 1999
	90A/G	5UTR				Ohara et al., 1993
	Leu66Leu	TMD2	13			Liu et al., 1995
	Ser421Ser	N-term.	2.8			Cichon et al., 1994; Liu et al., 1995
	1403T/C	3UTR	34			Cichon et al., 1994
D ₂	– 141C Ins/Del	Promoter	11	mRNA Expression ↓		Arinami et al., 1997
	Val96Ala	TMD2	< 1	Dopamine, chlorpromazine and clozapine binding ↓, inhibition of cAMP synthesis ↑		Gejman et al., 1994; Cravchik et al., 1996, 1999
	Pro310Ser	ICL3	< 1	Inhibition of cAMP synthesis ↓		Gejman et al., 1994; Cravchik et al., 1996, 1999
	Ser311Cys	ICL3	3	Inhibition of cAMP synthesis ↓		Itokawa et al., 1993; Gejman et al., 1994; Cravchik et al., 1996, 1999
D ₃	– 707C/G	5'-leader	30			Sivagnanasundaram et al., 2000
	– 343A/G	5'-leader	30			Sivagnanasundaram et al., 2000
	– 204A/G (Lys9Glu)	5'-leader (uORF)	30			Sivagnanasundaram et al., 2000
	Ser9Gly	N-term.	28	Dopamine and GR 99841 binding ↑	clozapine, typical neuroleptics	Crocq et al., 1992; Lundstrom and Turpin, 1996; Shaikh et al., 1996; Scharfetter et al., 1999; Krebs et al., 1998
D ₄	– 521C/T	Promoter	59	mRNA Expression ↓		Okuyama et al., 1999
	Gly11Arg	N-term.	1			Cichon et al., 1995
	4 aa repeat	N-term.	4 (1 repeat) 96 (two repeats) < 1 (three repeats)	Influence on clozapine and quinpirole binding		Catalano et al., 1993; Zenner et al., 1998
	7 aa deletion		< 1			Cichon et al., 1995
	13 bp deletion	N-term.	2	Loss of function		Nöthen et al., 1994a
	Val194Gly	TMD2	12.5	Dopamine, clozapine and olanzapine binding ↓, insensitivity to guanine nucleotide suggests non-functional receptor		Seeman et al., 1994; Liu et al., 1996
	16 aa repeat	ICL 3	Highly polymorphic	Influence on sodium chloride sensitivity of clozapine binding and inhibition of cAMP synthesis	clozapine, typical neuroleptics	Van Tol et al., 1991, 1992; Asghari et al., 1994, 1995; Hwu et al., 1998; Cohen et al., 1999
D ₅	Leu88Phe	TMD2	< 1	Dopamine binding ↑, SCH-23390 and risperidone binding ↓		Feng et al., 1998; Cravchik and Gejman, 1999
	Ala269Val	ICL3	< 1	No effect on binding affinities		Sobell et al., 1995; Cravchik and Gejman, 1999
	Pro330Gln	ECL3	10	No effect on binding affinities		Sobell et al., 1995; Cravchik and Gejman, 1999
	Cys355Stop	ECL3	< 1	Loss of function		Sobell et al., 1995
	Asn351Asp	TMD7	< 1	Dopamine and R(+)-SKF-38393 binding ↓		Sobell et al., 1995; Cravchik and Gejman, 1999
	Ser453Cys	N-term.	< 1	No effect on binding affinities		Sobell et al., 1995; Cravchik and Gejman, 1999

Table 2 (continued)

Receptor	Variant	Position	Gene frequency (%)	Functional consequence	Association with drug response	Reference
5-HT _{5B} 5-HT ₆ 5-HT ₇	Pro15Ser	N-term.	5	clozapine		Iwata et al., 1998
	789C/T		1			Shimron-Abarbanell et al., 1997
	267C/T	TMD1	31			Yu et al., 1999
	Thr92Lys		< 1			Erdmann et al., 1996b
	Pro279Leu		< 1			Erdmann et al., 1996b
	1233A/G	ICL3	1			Erdmann et al., 1996b

1995). Therefore, several association studies were carried out and suggested that the polymorphism did not seem to correlate with the degree of response to clozapine (Shaikh et al., 1993; Rao et al., 1994; Rietschel et al., 1996; Kohn et al., 1997). However, it has recently been reported that alleles with homozygous 4 repeats of 16 amino acids were associated with a quick neuroleptic response during typical neuroleptic treatment at the acute stage, and a lower rate of negative symptoms at remission (Hwu et al., 1998). In addition, Cohen et al. (1999) reported differences in allele frequencies between patients showing a good response to typical antipsychotics and those showing a good response to clozapine. These studies suggest that this polymorphism might partially determine the efficacy produced by different classes of antipsychotics. Results from investigations of other polymorphisms were as follows: (1) four amino acids repeat might influence clozapine and quinpirole binding (Zenner et al., 1998), (2) a 13-base pairs deletion might produce the loss of function of dopamine D₄ receptor (Nöthen et al., 1994a,b), and (3) Gly194 might be less sensitive to dopamine, olanzapine, or clozapine than wild type, and produces a non-functional receptor (Liu et al., 1996).

The dopamine D₁ and dopamine D₅ receptor genes have been systematically screened and several polymorphisms have been detected (Ohara et al., 1993; Cichon et al., 1994, 1996; Liu et al., 1995; Sobell et al., 1995; Feng et al., 1998; Kojima et al., 1999). None of the variants in the dopamine D₁ receptor gene were confirmed to correlate with an antipsychotic drug response. Sobell et al. (1995) found a Cys355Stop mutation in the dopamine D₅ receptor gene, producing a non-functional receptor. Cravchik and Gejman (1999) carried out an in vitro study of the dopamine D₅ receptor gene, and showed that Leu88Phe increases dopamine binding affinities and decreases both SCH-23390 (1*H*-3-Benzazepin-7-ol, 8-chloro-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-, (*R*)) and risperidone binding affinities, whereas Asn351Asp reduces dopamine and *R*(+)-SKF-38393 (*R*(+)-1-Phenyl-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-(1*H*)-3-benzazepine-7,8-diol) binding affinities.

3.2. 5-HT receptors

Recent years have seen the introduction of a number of so-called atypical antipsychotic agents (e.g. clozapine,

risperidone, olanzapine, quetiapine) that target other neurotransmitter receptors, most notably 5-HT receptors (Meltzer, 1995; Jibson and Tandon, 1998; Kaplan and Sadock, 1998; Moore, 1999; Worrel et al., 2000). Atypical antipsychotic agents usually have efficacy against both the positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia. This has accelerated the many investigations of 5-HT receptor genes, especially the 5-HT_{2A} gene.

Table 2 lists the genetic variants identified in 5-HT receptor subtype genes. Several genetic variants were identified in most of the receptor subtypes. To date, for variants of the 5-HT_{2A}, 5-HT_{2C}, 5-HT_{5A} and 5-HT₆ receptors, positive findings have been reported in pharmacogenetic studies related to the treatment of schizophrenia. Although strong associations were reported between 102T/C polymorphism in 5-HT_{2A} gene and clozapine response (Arranz et al., 1995a; Masellis et al., 1998), several groups could not replicate the strength of the associations (Masellis et al., 1995; Nöthen et al., 1995; Malhotra et al., 1996a). However, meta-analysis showed that the 102T/C silent polymorphism of the 5-HT_{2A} gene plays a major role in determining clozapine response (Arranz et al., 1998c). Similarly, a-1438G/A polymorphism in the promoter region of the gene was also strongly associated with clozapine response, since it is in an almost complete linkage disequilibrium with the 102T/C polymorphism (Arranz et al., 1998b). Furthermore, the 102T/C polymorphism and the -1438G/A polymorphism by inference have also been associated with the classical neuroleptic response (Joobert et al., 1999) and schizophrenia (Williams et al., 1997; Spurlock et al., 1998). With respect to the 5-HT_{2A} gene, positive associations were also reported between a structural His452Tyr variant and clozapine response (Arranz et al., 1996, 1998b,c). Interestingly, the 5-HT_{2A} His452Tyr variant indicates potential functioning significance, based on in vitro studies showing that the function of the receptor protein, as measured by calcium mobilization, is altered (Ozaki et al., 1997). These findings strongly support the involvement of 5-HT_{2A} receptors in the therapeutic activity of both typical and atypical antipsychotics.

Furthermore, an association has also been reported between a Cys23Ser structural change in the 5-HT_{2C} receptor and clozapine response (Sodhi et al., 1995), and this variant showed potential functioning significance, based on

in vitro studies indicating that function of the receptor protein as measured by ligand binding characteristics, is altered (Goldman et al., 1995). However, this association was not replicated by other studies (Malhotra et al., 1996a,b; Rietschel et al., 1997; Masellis et al., 1998).

Other 5-HT receptors investigated for association with an antipsychotic response include the 5-HT_{3A}, 5-HT₅ and 5-HT₆. In vitro studies of the 5-HT_{1A} Gly22Ser and 5-HT_{1B} Phe124Cys variants indicate a potential functioning significance, since results indicate that the function of the receptor protein, as measured by intracellular cAMP production or ligand binding characteristics, is altered, respectively (Bühlen et al., 1996; Rotondo et al., 1997; Brüss et al., 1999). This possibility has yet to be investigated pharmacogenetically due to the rarity of the polymorphisms found. Although two silent polymorphisms were detected in the 5-HT_{3A} receptor gene neither was related to clinical response (Arranz et al., 2000). Investigations of the 5-HT₅ and 5-HT₆ genes produced modest associations. A 12A/T silent polymorphism in the 5-HT_{5A} gene showed a trend toward an association with clozapine response (Birkett et al., 2000). In addition, a silent 267T/C change in the 5-HT₆ gene was marginally associated with clozapine (Yu et al., 1999). Taken together, these results suggest that the 5-HT_{5A} and 5-HT₆ receptors have a minor contributing role in treatment response.

4. Adverse effects of antipsychotics

Previous pharmacogenetic studies concerning adverse effects (side effects) of antipsychotic drugs have targeted the presence of association to CYP enzymes that involve pharmacokinetics of antipsychotics, or dopamine receptors involving their pharmacodynamics. As mentioned in the above section, extrapyramidal symptoms and early stage side effects from initiation of pharmacotherapy, such as postural hypotension and excess sedation, were reported to be associated with overrepresentation of PMs of CYP2D6 (Spina et al., 1992a,b; Vandel et al., 1999).

On the other hand, a correlation between the development of tardive dyskinesia and a reduced metabolizing capacity of CYP2D6 has not been conclusive because of conflicting results (Arthur et al., 1995; Andreassen et al., 1997; Armstrong et al., 1997; Kapitan et al., 1998; Ohmori et al., 1998, 1999; Hamelin et al., 1999). The Ser9Gly polymorphism in the dopamine D₃ receptor gene has also been implicated in the development of tardive dyskinesia, suggesting a protective effect of the Ser9 allele (Steen et al., 1997; Segman et al., 1999; Rietschel et al., 2000). Recently, Basile et al. (1999, 2000) reported a strong significant association both between tardive dyskinesia and dopamine D₃ receptor gene polymorphism and tardive dyskinesia and a functional polymorphism (C/A) in the first intron of the CYP1A2 gene ($P < 0.0005$, and $P < 0.0007$, respectively). Other reports investigating the

dopamine D₂ receptor (Chen et al., 1997) and manganese superoxide dismutase genes (Hori et al., 2000) found weak associations with tardive dyskinesia.

Furthermore, other side effects have also been studied for associations with polymorphism of candidate genes. Acute akathisia, as well as tardive dyskinesia, was reported to associate with dopamine D₃ receptor gene polymorphism (Eichhammer et al., 2000). Neuroleptic-induced hyperprolactinemia might associate with the dopamine D₂ receptor gene Taq1A polymorphism (Mihara et al., 2000). Clozapine-induced agranocytosis was shown to associate with a dominant gene within the major histocompatibility complex region marked by heat shock protein 70-1 and 70-2 variants (Corzo et al., 1995). These findings suggest that, in the near future, single nucleotide polymorphisms might predict potential side effects from psychiatric medications.

5. Further study of pharmacogenetics of schizophrenia

Although the above discussed findings are important, none of the associations reported can fully account for the heterogeneity of response observed in antipsychotic treatment, and thus other genes have been suggested to contribute to antipsychotic response. Association studies performed by Arranz et al. (2000) in multiple candidate genes attempted to find the combination of polymorphisms that gave the best predictive value of response to clozapine in schizophrenic patients. Based on clozapine binding profiles, 19 genetic polymorphisms in eight receptor subtypes and one transporter including the α_{2A} -adrenoceptor, dopamine D₃ receptor, 5-HT_{2A}, 5-HT_{2C}, 5-HT_{3A}, 5-HT_{5A}, histamine H₁ receptor, histamine H₂ receptor, and serotonin transporter were studied. A combination of six polymorphisms showing the strongest association with response ($P < 0.09$; 5-HT_{2A} 102T/C and His452Tyr, 5-HT_{2C}-330GT/-244CT and Cys23Ser, 5-HTTLPR, H₂-1018G/A) gave a level of prediction of 76.86% ($\chi^2 = 35.8$; $P = 0.0001$) and a sensitivity of 95.89 (± 0.04) for the identification of patients who will show a satisfactory improvement with treatment. This finding is the first report on the use of combinations of receptor polymorphisms to predict the response to antipsychotic medication. These data draw attention to possible implications for a more individually based pharmacotherapy, and show great potential for pharmacogenomics of schizophrenia.

6. Genome-wide scanning for pharmacogenomics

6.1. Single nucleotide polymorphisms and linkage disequilibrium

When the high-density single nucleotide polymorphism map of the whole genome is completed, it is possible to

uncover drug response markers through scanning the entire human genome for relevant polymorphisms (Sadée, 1999; McCarthy and Hilfiker, 2000). By broadening the search for genetic polymorphisms that determine drug responses, the new field of pharmacogenomics begins to replace the candidate gene approach typical of pharmacogenetic studies currently performed, because genome-wide scanning using linkage disequilibrium can identify these genes even if the mechanisms by which the drug acts in the body are unknown (McCarthy and Hilfiker, 2000). Through linkage disequilibrium, associations found with these anonymous markers can identify a region of the genome that may harbor a susceptibility gene without any *a priori* assumptions about what or where the susceptibility gene is. This approach relies on linkage disequilibrium or nonrandom association between single nucleotide polymorphisms in proximity to each other. Tens to hundreds of thousands of anonymous single nucleotide polymorphisms need to be identified and their location in the genome mapped (McCarthy and Hilfiker, 2000), and mapped single nucleotide polymorphisms are being regularly posted on public domain websites <http://snp.cshl.org>). Although these anonymous single nucleotide polymorphisms may fall within genes and may in fact be considered susceptibility single nucleotide polymorphisms, most are located in the vast amount of non-coding DNA between genes and play no obvious role in drug response. Additional significant efforts using positional cloning are then required to find the gene and single nucleotide polymorphisms within that confer the underlying association. Expanding and selecting the number of single nucleotide polymorphisms, which are functionally relevant single nucleotide polymorphisms in coding or promoter/enhancer regions, currently being investigated would greatly enhance the power of genome-wide scanning (Sadée, 1999).

6.2. Microarray gene chips

One of the major challenges of linkage disequilibrium mapping is the need to genotype each person in the study for every one of the 60,000–500,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms in the map (McCarthy and Hilfiker, 2000). Several genotyping platforms are available today, including nucleic acid hybridization on filter (Saiki et al., 1989) or chips (Chee et al., 1996), single-strand conformational polymorphism (Orita et al., 1989), and primer-extension methods (Syvanen, 1999). Although these genotyping technologies are robust, at the current average price of one dollar per genotype, their use in large-scale single nucleotide polymorphism genotyping studies may be prohibitively expensive (McCarthy and Hilfiker, 2000). However, DNA microarray (DNA chip) analysis is a promising new technology, which potentially may allow rapid and cost-effective screens for all possible mutations and sequence variations in genomic DNA (Hacia, 1999). This

technology enables a scan of the entire human genome for relevant polymorphisms (Service, 1998). As applied to genotyping, microarrays usher in the possibility of determining alleles at hundreds of thousands of loci from hundreds of DNA samples, allowing the contemplation of whole genome association studies to determine the genetic contribution to complex polygenetic disorders (Collins, 1999), including schizophrenia and its drug response. Furthermore, when applied to expression analysis this approach facilitates the measurement of RNA levels for the complex set of transcripts of an organism, showing the mechanisms of drug action in a genomic context. It can also clarify interindividual differences in drug response that are downstream of immediate drug effects in the body by sheer force of the massive amount of information emanating from chip technology.

Differential display, which is one of the recent comprehensive transcript expression analyses, can lead to identifying drug-dependent regulation of unknown gene products (messenger RNA). To date, using this technique in an animal model of schizophrenia, both novel and previously described genes have been identified, which could be related to sensitization induced by repeated doses of dopaminergic agonists such as cocaine (Wang et al., 1997; Berke et al., 1998), and might be potential therapeutic targets for treatment of schizophrenia. This technique has also been applied in animals treated with antipsychotics in order to find relevant molecular events underlying the pharmacotherapeutic effects of neuroleptics (Fischer et al., 1998). DNA microarray studies will generate more clues of gene function that can help to identify appropriate targets for therapeutic intervention (Debouck and Goodfellow, 1999) and lead to the discovery of new tailored drugs.

7. Phenotype

To uncover drug response markers and establish individual tailor-made drug treatments for schizophrenic patients by using the strategy of pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics, it is important that several phenotypes (e.g. drug response, clinical symptoms, etc.) of schizophrenic patients are taken into account. It should be noted that the rate of discovery of those polymorphisms will depend on the quality of the drug response phenotype, since the polymorphisms relevant to drug response will already exist in the single nucleotide polymorphism maps after the high-density single nucleotide polymorphism map of the whole genome is completed. As mentioned above, pharmacogenetic studies of schizophrenia investigating the same target sometimes report conflicting results. These differences in findings of pharmacogenetic studies may be due to differences of definition of the phenotype including clinical symptoms and drug response, and sample size and ethnicity. In addition, the majority of gene effects in

response to medication might be individually small and statistical error may affect results. Thus, a collection of patient samples with possibly uniform phenotypes, large enough to exclude statistical errors, is required for pharmacogenomic study. Recently, preliminary guidelines in the field of pharmacogenetics have been proposed by the “Consensus Group for Outcome Measures in Psychosis for Pharmacogenetic Studies” (Rietschel et al., 1999).

Rigorous and quantitative definition of phenotype for schizophrenia is difficult, since the disease has neither visible traits nor significant laboratory data. However, as indicated by Cichon et al. (2000), first, patient characteristics including standardized diagnosis such as DSM-IV or ICD-10, subtype criteria, age, gender, ethnicity, the course of the disorder including age at onset, and history of prior treatment response are needed at the start of the investigation. Second, specific symptoms (e.g. presence of negative symptoms, specific hallucinations and delusions) should be followed over the course of investigation. If possible, other quantitative measures of response should be assessed (e.g. neurocognitive functioning, psychophysiologic measures, motor behavior). Finally, assessment of response requires clarification with respect to instruments to be applied, initiation, duration of the study, dose, and co-medication. These considerations for phenotype will accelerate the pharmacogenomic studies in schizophrenia.

8. Prospects

The antipsychotic drug response in schizophrenia might be predicted from a certain pattern of polymorphisms, rather than from a single polymorphism. The development of rapid techniques for mutation screening and genotyping by using DNA array technology will greatly accelerate the discovery of the polymorphisms relevant to drug response. However, it must be noted that the rate of discovery of those polymorphisms will depend on the quality of the drug response phenotype, since the polymorphisms relevant to drug response will already exist in the single nucleotide polymorphism maps after the high-density single nucleotide polymorphism map of the whole genome is completed. The next technical hurdle will be the development of inexpensive high-throughput methods for scoring large numbers of single nucleotide polymorphisms from hundreds of patients. Considerable efforts are now underway within the biotechnical community to establish low-cost, high-throughput, accurate single nucleotide polymorphism scoring technologies (Armstrong et al., 2000; Pastinen et al., 1984). With the use of pharmacogenomics, new antipsychotics that are safer and more effective will be discovered. It might also be possible to salvage useful experimental drugs that would have failed with standard clinical trials, because of an unacceptable incidence of toxicity in a poorly defined patient population. Prospective

genotyping of schizophrenic patients for the many genes at the level of the drug target, drug metabolism, and disease pathways, will contribute to individualized therapy matching the patient's unique genetic make up with an optimally effective drug. Perhaps a gene chip that establishes a single nucleotide polymorphism signature involving multiple genes relevant to therapeutic outcome for each individual will be developed in order to select medications and dosages that are optimized for each patient. In addition, psychiatrists may be obliged to order such genetic testing to avoid malpractice litigation. Finally, such optimization will also result in decreasing the overall direct treatment costs of schizophrenia through prescription of the right drug for the right patient, improvement of quality of life and other aspects of day-to-day functioning.

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