

Pharmacogenetics and Tardive Dyskinesia

Pharmacogenetics may improve the chances of people taking psychiatric medication avoiding the side effect of Tardive Dyskinesia. Pharmacogenetics is the tailoring of medications to a person's genetic predisposition that targets certain diseases or risk factors as a result of heredity. Tardive Dyskinesia is a side effect such as tremors or uncontrollable movements of involuntary muscles caused by long term use of antipsychotic medication.

An example of how pharmacogenetics could help people avoid TD is this process.

1. Genome researchers would analyze the human genome and then would identify the specific genes in the human genome that would lead to TD.
2. Pharmacologists would do a development of psychiatric medication and would determine which psychiatric medication produced TD or had a given risk factor based on the presence of certain genes.
3. The doctor would take DNA samples from the mentally ill patients before they gave them any psychiatric medication.
4. The patient's DNA would be analyzed and any genes in the sample which could cause TD would be noted.
5. The Psychiatrist would then decide to administer the psychiatric medication to a patient based on the patient's genetic predisposition. They would avoid medications due to certain risk factors noted by a person's genetic makeup.
6. In the future through custom drug design and pharmacogenetics researchers could also determine the biochemical processes that produce a psychiatric disease and the genes which are affected thus avoiding TD.
7. Pharmacogenetics may offer hope in the future to people with mental illness that they may avoid developing Tardive Dyskinesia.

An article by Andrew

