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Commentary

Genomics Impact on Drug Discovery

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DESCRIPTION

Genome research centers around the world are working on the Human Genome Project (HGP) with the ultimate goal of elucidating and characterizing the complete sequence of 3 at 109 base pairs (bp) located in approximately 85,000 genes in the human genome. I'm out. An even bigger task is to determine their function and interaction. The genome project's genomic approach to mapping and sequencing has accelerated the rate of gene discovery. In 1990, 1772 human genes were identified and assigned to specific chromosomes or regions of the genome. In September 1996, the number was 3,868 genes, more than doubled. As of June 1996, 62 human genes associated with human disease had been isolated by genomic technology, 51 (82%) of which were publicly available as clones or DNA sequences. In addition, biomedical research is rapidly defining the molecular mechanisms of pharmacological effects, the genetic determinants of disease etiology, and the functionally important polymorphisms of genes that control drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics. A radically new but complementary approach to drug development is now emerging, promising dramatic improvements in the efficiency and speed of drug development. This approach leverages new technical expertise from pharmacological genetics, pharmacogenomics, and functional genomics to analyze, predict, and monitor the nature of an individual's response to a drug. Ultimately, this can lead to smaller and more rapid clinical trials, which can lead to individually tailored pharmacological treatments. This approach can have fundamental consequences for disease planning, clinical trials, and treatment.

An important achievement of molecular medicine is the development of technology to introduce therapeutic genes into cultured cells and in vivo tissues, which has the potential to be applied to both medical research and clinical medical practice. If we can use the genome database to search for new drug discovery targets and rapidly accumulate human gene sequences to convert molecular levels into improved interventions, we have great promise in clinical medicine. Whenever possible, a therapeutic agent can be designed with a specific molecular function, whether it is a gene product that is deficient or aberrant in the patient, or a drug that has a direct transcription or molecular effect. Individual genetic testing knowledge of the genes of the disease is useful for early detection and treatment. For example, recent advances in the genetics of complex traits (e.g., diabetes, coronary artery disease, and Alzheimer's disease) have reshaped to some extent the phenotypic description of the disease. Finally, techniques developed for automated DNA sequencing and analysis may enable cost-effective screening of multiple loci for polymorphisms.

Impact on drug discovery and clinical research

By applying pharmacological genomics in a preclinical setting, screening for compounds with the least variability among individuals can be initiated. Once the target gene is selected, the compound that works best overall for all its subtypes can be selected. Therefore, drug selection replaces patient selection, reducing the uncertainty that patient stratification brings to the FDA and marketing, and the need for genetic screening. Genomics can also be used to eliminate side effects before the drug arrives at the clinic. For example, the gene expression pattern in the liver of a drug-treated animal can indicate whether the genetic pathway associated with toxicity is turned on. Fluctuations in gene expression levels can prove to be as useful as genetic variation in predicting and diagnosing drug responses at any stage of the clinic. Pharmacological and genetic data are important during the development of compounds with a narrow therapeutic index or compounds that are metabolized by pro-drugs. Such information may influence the decision to discontinue development, or studies are planned to investigate the clinical response of individual polymorphisms of related enzymes. Serious problems at the pre-hospital level usually need to be addressed. There is still empirical evidence for drug design medicinal chemistry issues, proper absorption, metabolism, distribution, and excretion profiles. Nonetheless, small molecule drugs that target targets discovered through genomics could make up the majority of drugs on the market soon. Pharmacogenomics can be useful at many stages of clinical drug development. This has a significant impact on study design, especially through improved inclusion / exclusion criteria and a more effective assessment of patient response. Genes associated

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with drug metabolism in preclinical studies can be genotyped in patients enrolled in Phase I trials. Any genotype that correlates with side effects can then be used to screen related patients in subsequent studies. Efficacy data is collected during Phase I trials so that Phase I participants can be entered with polymorphisms in the target gene of the drug to assess whether it is associated with side effects or variability in drug response. Of course, this analysis could be further refined in Phase II trials, allowing companies to perform Phase III trials in a subset of patients who are responsive and have few side effects. The resulting drug is expected to have a better safety profile as well as better efficacy.