UPDCJ OPEN ACCESS

Genomics in Personalized Dental Care

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Article info.
Received: 22 February 2024
Accepted: 13 March 2024

Volume: Vol-14, Issue-1, April 2024
DOI: https://doi.org/10.3329/updcj.v14i1.73409

Publisher: Update Dental College, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Web: www.updatedentalcollege.edu.bd
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Scan QR code to access your article on UpDCJ BanglaJOL index.

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ABSTRACT:
The integration of genomics into dental care marks the advent of precision dentistry, offering transformative potential in diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of oral diseases. Dental practitioners can discover predispositions to diseases including dental caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer and use this knowledge to tailor treatment. Customized therapies, early interventions, and preventative measures are made possible by genomic insights, which greatly enhance patient outcomes. To guarantee equal access, this encouraging change must address ethical issues, privacy concerns, and financial obstacles. With the progress of research and the growth of multidisciplinary collaborations, dentistry is set to usher in a new era of oral health management by providing more accurate, efficient, and customized patient treatment.

KEYWORDS: Genomics, Personalized dental care, Precision dentistry

INTRODUCTION:

The field of genomics has emerged as a transformative force across various area of medicine. Dentistry, traditionally viewed as a separate entity within healthcare, is now poised to experience a paradigm shift due to advancements in genomic science. The incorporation of genetics into dental care promises to transform how we approach diagnosis, prevention, and treatment, ushering in a new age of personalized dental care.

GENOMICS IN DENTISTRY

Genomics, the study of an individual's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes, provides a comprehensive blueprint of biological information is central to the science of Biology.[1] This genetic information influences an individual's susceptibility to diseases, response to medications, and overall health trajectory. In the context of dentistry, genomics offers the potential to tailor dental care based on an individual's unique genetic makeup, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of treatments and improving patient outcomes.

The Intersection of Genomics and Oral Health

Oral health is intrinsically linked to genetic factors. Conditions like dental caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer have significant genetic components.[2] Traditional approaches in dentistry often involve a one-size-fits-all methodology, where treatments are standardized regardless of individual variations. However, with the advent of genomics, dental practitioners can now identify genetic predispositions to certain conditions and customize preventive and therapeutic strategies accordingly. For instance, dental caries, one of the most common chronic diseases worldwide, is influenced by genetic factors that affect enamel formation, saliva composition, and microbial colonization.[3] By analyzing a patient's genetic predisposition to caries, dental professionals can implement personalized preventive measures, such as fluoride treatments or specific dietary recommendations, thereby reducing the incidence of caries more effectively than generic advice.

Periodontal Disease and Genomic

Periodontal disease is another area where genomics can significantly impact dental care. Research has identified several genetic markers associated with an increased risk of different types of periodontal disease. These markers can influence the body's immune response to bacterial infections in the periodontal tissue, leading to varying degrees of susceptibility among individuals.[4] By conducting genetic screenings, dentists can identify patients at higher risk and implement early interventions, such as more frequent cleanings, targeted antimicrobial treatments, and personalized oral hygiene regimens. Furthermore, understanding the genetic basis of periodontal disease can also help in developing new therapeutic approaches. For example, gene therapy, which involves correcting or replacing faulty genes, promise for treating or even preventing periodontal disease at its root cause. While still in the experimental stages, such innovative treatments could become a reality in the near future, further highlighting the importance of integrating genomics into dental practice.

Oral Cancer: Early Detection and Treatment Personalization

Oral cancer is highly prevalent in India, Pakistan, Brazil, France, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Iran and Maldives, ranking first or second with respect to different types of cancer occurrence in these countries.[5] Oral cancer remains a significant health issue with high morbidity and mortality rates. Early identification is crucial for improving survival rates, but traditional diagnostic methods often fall short in identifying the disease at its earliest stages. Genomic profiling can aid in the early detection of oral cancer by identifying genetic mutations and biomarkers associated with the disease.[6] Additionally, personalized treatment plans based on a patient's genomic profile can enhance the effectiveness of oral cancer therapies. For example, certain genetic mutations may make a tumor more susceptible to specific chemotherapeutic agents or targeted therapies. By tailoring treatment to the genetic characteristics of the cancer, dental oncologists can improve patient outcomes and reduce the side effects associated with conventional treatment protocols.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND CHALLENGES

Even though genomics has a lot of potential applications in dentistry, there are still a number of ethical issues and difficulties that need to be resolved. Concerns of consent, privacy, and potential discrimination are raised by genetic testing and the use of genomic information[7]. To guarantee that genetic data is utilized appropriately and that patients' rights are upheld, strong ethical standards and legal frameworks must be established. Furthermore, financial obstacles may arise from the price of genetic testing and the incorporation of genomic technology into dental practice. To prevent escalating already-existing health inequities, it is imperative to provide fair access to these cutting-edge diagnostic and treatment alternatives. It is imperative to undertake endeavors aimed at rendering genomic technology reasonably priced and attainable for all demographic.

THE FUTURE OF GENOMIC DENTISTRY

Although the use of genetics to dentistry is still in its infancy, great things are ahead for this field. As the genetic foundations of oral disorders are further investigated, new techniques for diagnosis, prevention, and therapy will become available. Programs for dental education and training must change in order to give aspiring dentists the know-how and abilities to use genomics in their work. To quickly translate genomic discoveries into clinical practice, cooperation between dental researchers, geneticists, and healthcare officials will be crucial. Furthermore, interdisciplinary methods that combine genomes with other disciplines like proteomics and microbiomics will offer a more thorough knowledge of oral health and illness.

CONCLUSION

The importance of genomics in personalized dental care represents a significant advancement in the field of dentistry. By leveraging genetic information, dental professionals can offer more precise, effective, and personalized care to their patients. This shift towards precision dentistry not only enhances patient outcomes but also opens a new window for research and innovation. As we stand on the brink of this new era, it is essential to navigate the ethical, financial, and educational challenges that accompany the integration of genomics into dental practice. By doing so, we can ensure that the benefits of personalized dental care are realized for all patients, paving the way for a healthier future. In conclusion, the incorporation of genomics into dentistry has the potential to transform the landscape of dental care. Personalized approaches based on genetic information can lead to better prevention, early diagnosis, and specialized treatments for oral diseases. As we embark on the path to precision dentistry, the opportunities presented by the human genome are immense. By adopting these advancements with a focus on ethical standards and fair access, we can fully utilize genomics to transform dental healthcare.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT: The data presented in this study are available on reasonable request from the corresponding author.

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CITE THIS ARTICLE:
Iqbal MA, Islam SMS. Genomics in Personalized Dental Care. Update Dent. Coll. j [Internet]. [cited 2024 May 24];14(1):1-3. Available from: https://www.banglajol.info/index.php/UpDCJ/article/view/73409