The Ethical Framing of Personalized Medicine

Heung-Woo Park
Department of Internal Medicine
Seoul National University College of Medicine

Learning objectives

1. An overview of ethical issues in the pharmacogenomics research
2. Important ethical issues related with the clinical application of pharmacogenomics from three main perspectives; researcher, pharmaceutical company, and government.

Presentation summary

Advances in -omics technology make it possible to individualize prescription practices by narrowing the target populations exclusively to those for which the medication is safe and effective. Pharmacogenomics reflects this merging of pharmacology and genetics. Knowledge improvement inevitably accompanies greater levels of complexity and an increasing number of problems. Likewise, many ethical issues arise in the research and clinical application of pharmacogenomics. Buchanan at al. pointed out six ethical issues: (1) regulatory oversight, (2) confidentiality and privacy, (3) informed consent, (4) availability of drugs, (5) access, and (6) clinicians’ changing responsibilities. In this presentation, I will briefly overview ethical issues in the pharmacogenomics research and consider the ethics of pharmacogenomics from three main perspectives: (1) researcher (2) pharmaceutical company and (3) government.
References


