P1-24: Knowledge and Attitudes about Pharmacogenetic Testing Among Nurses

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Abstract:
**Introduction:** Of the many influences that advances in genetics and genomics are destined to have on clinical practice, one of the most profound and earliest to be realized will be the use of genetic information to guide a patient’s drug therapy. Yet, in spite of the potential benefits of
pharmacogenetic testing, little is known regarding what nurses know and think about this emerging technology. The purpose of this project was to examine knowledge and attitudes about pharmacogenetic testing among 206 practicing nurses in North Carolina.

**Method(s):** Participants completed an online survey concerning their knowledge and attitudes about pharmacogenetic testing. The survey was developed based on the existing literature. The survey was evaluated by an interdisciplinary group of nurses, physicians, and pharmacists with expertise in pharmacogenetic testing prior to the beginning of data collection.

**Results:** Most of the participants rated their understanding of pharmacogenetic testing as fair (38%) or poor (49%). In terms of attitudes about pharmacogenetic testing, the majority of the participants thought it was likely that pharmacogenetic testing would decrease the number of adverse drug reactions. Over 60% expressed concern that unauthorized individuals would gain access to pharmacogenetic testing and over 80% expressed concern that pharmacogenetic testing may result in discrimination by employers and insurance companies. Further analyses will be conducted to identify factors (such as age, number of years in practice, and level of education) that may account for variability in knowledge and attitudes about pharmacogenetic testing.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** It is important to understand the nurses’ knowledge and attitude about pharmacogenetic testing in light of patients’ safety as well as other social, ethical, and legal implications. This analysis will account for the variability surrounding pharmacogenetic testing among practicing nurses in the state of North Carolina. In addition, knowledge deficits in relation to pharmacogenetic testing highlighted through this study will aid in the development of interventions to enhance knowledge about pharmacogenetic testing.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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