S20-3 Ethical, legal and social implications of direct-to-consumer PGx testing

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Since late 1990s, genetic testing services regarding obesity and multi-factorial disorders have been sold via internet and criticized from academia. Various discussions focus on the following issues; 1) doubt about academic evidences which meet with analytic validity, clinical validity and clinical utility, 2) concerns on informed consent and delivery of results without professional advices from clinical geneticists and genetic counseling, 3) criticism towards their business model connecting with secondary sales of supplement and diet food after testing. In 2008, The American College of Clinical Pharmacy announced their position paper on genetic testing and recognized that “the topic is compelling to clinical pharmacologists because the response of consumers to such advertising can have effects on public health and the future adoption of pharmacogenetic testing.” Pharmacogenetic testing is now on clinical research phase and its clinical application would be limited within hospitals. Considering Japanese government policy on acceleration of OTC medicines and toleration of market growth of home testing, however, it is undeniable to launch DTC PGx testing services and pharmacists are involved with these sales in the near future. I would like to discuss with roles of clinical pharmacologists / pharmacists as important interfaces for patients / consumers.