

S20-5 Importance of ethical education for pharmacists on their roles in pharmacogenomics

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Genetic polymorphism is one of the critical factors for individual variation in responses to medicine. Pharmacogenomic approaches indicated the influence of genetic variation on response to medicine in patients by correlating gene expression or single-nucleotide polymorphisms with efficacy or toxicity of medicine. Pharmacogenomics aims to develop rational ways to optimize drug therapy to ensure maximum efficacy with minimal adverse effects. Environmental factors also contribute to the individual variability in response to medicine. Among the environmental factors that may influence drug metabolism, the diet and nutritional status are important determinants for the responses to medicine. To build the personalized medicine, it is important to develop the ability predicting the individual variability from the information of genetic and environmental factors.

Since pharmacists are experts in pharmacotherapy, the ethical education for all pharmacists will be of increasing importance to provide the benefits of pharmacogenomics.

In this symposium, I will illustrate the several problems regarding to the pharmacogenomic diagnosis of sensitivity for medicine, which pharmacists will be faced in future. I will also discuss the importance of the ethical educations for pharmacists on their roles in pharmacogenomics.