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Neuropsychiatric pharmacogenetics: moving toward a comprehensive understanding of predicting risks and response.

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Abstract

Pharmacogenetic research in the area of **neuropsychiatric** illnesses is rapidly evolving. Due to the complexity of the human brain, it is not surprising that our knowledge about the interaction between genetics and the treatment of these illnesses is very small. The Human Genome Project (HGP) has identified > 30,000 genes; several thousand of which have been found to occur in the brain or serve a role that enhances the brain's function. Much of the research in the post-HGP era is being driven by a desire to use genetics to predict which patients deviate from the norm in terms of drug **response** or side effects. By identifying these people, we will be able to direct clinical practice such that therapies for these disorders can be individualized. With this in mind, the following review is intended to cover a broad **understanding** of CNS **pharmacogenetics** with the goal of summarizing available literature on promising candidate gene targets, which may eventually help us predict clinical outcomes in patients taking medications commonly used to treat **neuropsychiatric** disorders.

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