Application of single nucleotide polymorphisms of risk genes in schizophrenia in choosing the appropriate antipsychotic drug

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Schizophrenia has a genetic etiology in about 80% of patients concerned. In recent years, some risk genes have been described. Table 1 summarizes some important risk genes, the functions of these risk genes in the neurotransmission in the brain areas involved in schizophrenia, the SNPs of the risk genes and an improved therapeutic effect or a lack of efficacy regarding a specific antipsychotic drug. The rs 165599 SNP of the COMT gene is connected with a higher therapeutic efficacy of risperidone, whereas the SNP of this risk gene is linked with a pharmacotherapy resistance. The SNP (rs 1799836) of the MAO B gene is correlated with schizophrenia and hyperprolactinemia. Both risk genes encode a reduced activity of enzymes catalyzing the dopamine degradation. Consequently, an increased dopamine release occurs via D2 receptors in the mesolimbic system and hippocampus. The GAD 67 gene is associated with a disturbed GABAergic neurotransmission, and in the hippocampus, GABAergic neurons which coexist with CCK weakly inhibt D2 dopaminergic neurons. The neuregulin-1 gene is linked with a glutamatergic dysfunction via NMDA receptors and an increased activation of the D2 receptor. In the hippocampus, glutamatergic neurons weakly activate GABAergic neurons which enable dopamine hyperactivity through a reduced presynaptic inhibition. The DAOA gene encodes as well a glutamatergic dysfunction via NMDA receptors. The SNPs of the D2 receptor (rs 1801028) and D3 receptor (rs 6280) genes are correlated with a better therapeutic efficacy of risperidone, whereas the SNPs (rs 4680 and rs 1800497) of the D2 receptor gene are more frequently found in patients with a pharmacotherapy resistance. In this review, the neural networks in the mesolimbic system, hippocampus and prefrontal cortex are updated according to the reviewed literature. In the future, it is of importance to examine the SNPs of schizophrenic patients in order to differentiate patients with a better response to a specific antipsychotic drug and patients with a pharmacotherapy resistance. The latter patients could be treated with the antipsychotic drug clozapine and an additional therapy with cariprazine, a partial D2 and D3 receptor agonist.

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INTRODUCTION

Schizophrenia is a chronic disabling mental disease that approximately 1% of the population suffers from. In this disease, positive (paranoia, illusions, and hallucinations), negative schizophrenic (social withdrawal, mutism, depression, and autism) and cognitive symptoms can be observed. Schizophrenia is manifested as an acute psychosis and shows remitted, residual and chronic forms in the course of the disease. Pharmacotherapy, that is, the administration of mostly second-generation antipsychotic drugs, can improve psychotic symptoms, but an accompanying sociotherapy and different forms of psychoeducation are also very essential to reach a good maintenance therapy [1].

Some genetic examinations have revealed that the onset/course of the disease and the therapeutic efficacy of a determined antipsychotic drug are associated with single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) of risk genes [2]. Genetic research on the risk genes involved in schizophrenia has greatly been enlarged, and, till now, about 260 risk genes have been described. In schizophrenia, risk genes encoding, for example, alterations of dopaminergic, GABAergic, and glutamatergic neurotransmission have been found. Other factors, for example, stressful life-events, childhood trauma and drugs and substances abuse of substances such as cannabis, alcohol, nicotine or amphetamines, can deteriorate psychotic symptoms [3].

Besides, interactions between risk genes and environment play an important role in schizophrenia. Neural circuits, which describe the interaction between classical neurotransmitters and neuropeptides in a multi-neurotransmitter system, have been described in previous studies and updated [4]. In these neural circuits, the pharmacodynamic effect of antipsychotic drugs at dopaminergic and as well serotonergic and glutamatergic receptors has been considered. These neural circuits (including ventral tegmental area, hippocampus, and prefrontal cortex) are the neuroanatomical and pharmacological basis to choose an appropriate antipsychotic drug in clinical practice [5].

It is essential to further examine SNPs of risk genes in schizophrenia and to establish a correlation between the clinical efficacy of specific antipsychotic drugs and the reduced therapeutic effect of these drugs, i.e. a pharmacotherapy resistance [2]. An updating of the neural circuits serves to further understand the cellular function of the recently discovered risk genes in schizophrenia [6].

A literature search was performed at the PubMed database

using the following keywords: first-episode schizophrenia, risk responders to an antipsychotic treatment [9]. In another study, acid decarboxylase 67 (GAD 67), neuregulin-1 and dysbindin-1 antipsychotic treatment with risperidone [2]. [3].

Risk genes in schizophrenia

among them, it is important to mention the catechol-O-methyl and noradrenaline. SNPs of the MAO A and B genes can be transferase and monoamine oxidase genes, which are connected detected in schizophrenic patients with hyperprolactinemia, with dopamine degradation and hence a genetically encoded caused by antipsychotic drugs such as risperidone and deficiency in these enzymes leads to dopamine hyperactivity; palliperidone which show a D2 antagonistic effect and a high the glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD) 67 gene that encodes a affinity for the D2 receptor. In a cohort of schizophrenic patients reduced activity of GAD and hence it causes a deficiency in the in West Siberia, SNPs of MAO B, D1, D2, D3 and D4 receptor presynaptic inhibitory neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric and dopamine transporter SLC6A3 genes were examined. In acid (GABA), and the dysbindin-1 and neuregulin-1 genes which schizophrenic men, the SNP: rs1799836 of the MAO B gene are linked with a reduced glutamatergic neurotransmission via was related with hyperprolactinemia under a treatment with the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor [3].

The cellular functions of these risk genes and a possible association between them and the therapeutic efficacy or decreased therapeutic effect of specific antipsychotic drugs will be mentioned. For example, Han et al. [2] examined the Glutamic Acid Decarboxylase 67 (GAD 67) COMT and the D1, D2 and D3 dopaminergic receptors risk genes and correlated the results of SNPs of these risk genes with the clinical efficacy of risperidone as a maintenance therapy in schizophrenia. Other risk genes related to the serotonergic, GABAergic or glutamatergic pathways in the brain centers involved in schizophrenia will also be mentioned [6].

Catechol-O-Methyl Transferase (COMT)

SNPs of the COMT gene were examined in a cohort of 55 schizophrenic patients and 53 healthy volunteers who also underwent magnetic resonance examinations. The first-episode schizophrenic patients who were Val homozygotes showed a correlation of the SNPs of the COMT gene with the severity of negative schizophrenic symptoms, i.e. social withdrawal, a decreased drive and mutism; in the MRI imaging showed an Dystrobrevin Binding Protein 1 (DTNBP1) altered resting-state functional connectivity of the neural circuits which originate in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex [7]. In a clinical study performed in Iran, 100 schizophrenic patients, 100 patients with bipolar disorder I and 127 healthy subjects were genotyped; for the risk genes, SNPs of the COMT and D-amino acid oxidase activator (DAOA) genes were determined. The DAOA gene was related to a glutamate dysfunction via NMDA receptors. SNPs (rs156699 and rs4680) of the COMT risk gene and rs946737 and rs3918342 of the DAOA risk gene were both correlated with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder I [8]. In a cohort of Mexican schizophrenic patients, SNPs of the COMT and D2/D3 receptor risk genes were examined, and a continuous maintenance therapy or a pharmacoresistance was correlated to Neuregulin-1 the SNPs of these risk genes. SNPs of the COMT/Val158Met (rs4680) and D3 receptor/Ser9 Gly (rs6280) risk genes were found in patients with a good response to an antipsychotic treatment and also in patients with pharmacoresistance. The SNP: rs1799978 of the D2 receptor gene was found in non-

genes in schizophrenia, then the neurotransmitters dopamine, 690 schizophrenic patients and 430 healthy subjects were serotonin, acetylcholine, GABA and glutamate, and later the studied for the COMT, D1, D2 and D3 receptors risk genes. risk genes described in previous reviews: catechol-O-methyl SNPs of the COMT (rs165599) and D2 receptor (rs1801028) transferase (COMT), monoamine oxidase (MAO), glutamic genes were correlated with an increased responder rate to an

Monoamine oxidase A and B (MAO A and B)

Monoamine oxidases A and B are mitochondrial enzymes that In schizophrenia, some risk genes have been described and encode dopamine degradation and other amines such as serotonin antipsychotic drugs. SNPs of the dopamine transporter SLC6A3 gene was correlated with hyperprolactinemia in schizophrenic patients treated with risperidone and palliperidone, but not with other antipsychotic drugs [10].

GAD 67 is the 67 kDA isoform of the GABA synthesizing enzyme; alterations of the GABAergic neurotransmission have been found in schizophrenia. In 10 paranoid schizophrenic subjects, 6 residual schizophrenic patients and 16 controls, a quantitative densitometric analysis of the GAD-immunoreactive neuropil in the hippocampus, superior temporal gyrus and laterodorsal thalamic nucleus was performed. Reduced GADimmunoreactive neuropil in the hippocampus CA1 region and the superior temporal gyrus was found in the brains of paranoid schizophrenic patients in contrast to schizophrenic patients with a residual form; however, this decrease was less found when the dosage of the antipsychotic drugs was increased [11].

Dysbindin-1, Disrupted in Schizophrenia 1 (DISC 1) and

In schizophrenic patients the dysbindin-1 activity, which regulates the copper metabolism, is reduced. In the serum of schizophrenic patients, the copper level is elevated; however, since the copper transport is altered in schizophrenia, normally copper-containig brain areas such as the substantia nigra contain less copper in schizophrenic patients than the controls. Reducing the copper level can induce schizophrenia-like behavior. Antipsychotic drugs can decrease the copper level [12]. In a meta-analysis including 21 studies, SNPs of the COMT (rs165599), DISC (rs3737597) and DTNBP1 (rs1047631) genes were found in schizophrenic patients [13].

321 schizophrenic patients and 309 healthy volunteers were examined to know whether they were carriers of the m8nrg433E1006 SNP of the neuregulin-1 gene. 62 schizophrenic patients and 24 healthy subjects were found to bear this SNP. In these patients, the neuregulin-1 gene was found

to be overexpressed. The overexpression of this gene is connected inhibitory neurotransmitter that acts at ionotropic, i.e. with an increased activity of the enzyme tyrosine kinase, which is co-expressed with parvalbumin and cholecystokinin, and with a two thirds of schizophrenic patients and one third of healthy glutamatergic dysfunction via NMDA receptors. Consequently subjects, the SNP: m8nrg433E1006 of the neuregulin-1 gene NMDA glutamatergic neurons less activate GABAergic neurons, can be found. This SNP is associated with an activation of the D2 receptor and a glutamatergic dysfunction via NMDA

Alterations of classical neurotransmitters in schizophrenia

Dopamine

Dopamine is a postsynaptic excitatory neurotransmitter, which acts at five receptors (D1, D2, D3, D4 and D5) and plays the major role in the pathophysiology of schizophrenia. In this disease, due to a decreased activity of the COMT and MAO A and B enzymes, the dopamine degradation is reduced. Consequently, hyperactivity of dopamine mostly via D2 receptors occurs in the ventral tegmental area, hippocampus and prefrontal cortex [6]. SNPs of the COMT and MAO A and B, as well of the D2 and D3 receptors genes can be associated with an increased therapeutic efficacy of antipsychotic drugs such as risperidone. The SNP: 165599 of the COMT gene is significantly correlated with a higher therapeutic efficacy of risperidone in the treatment of schizophrenia. However, the SNP: 4680 of the COMT gene occurs more frequently in patients who develop an antipsychotic-induced dopamine hypersensitivity psychosis and therefore a pharmacoresistance [2]. The SNP: 1799836 of the MAO B gene were found in patients with hyperprolactinemia [10].

Serotonin

Serotonin, a postsynaptic excitatory neurotransmitters, which acts at different 5-HT receptors is involved in the pathophysiology of schizophrenia. Due to an altered 5-HT transporter, serotonin shows hyperactivity in schizophrenia in the ventral tegmental area, hippocampus and prefrontal cortex. The 5-HT2 receptor gene has a dysfunction in schizophrenia. In animal experiments, NMDA receptor antagonists can cause schizophrenia-like behavior, which can be treated by risperidone, a D2 and 5-HT2 receptor antagonist, but not by haloperidol, a D2 receptor antagonist. In the brain areas involved in schizophrenia, NMDA glutamatergic neurons might, due to the risk genes, weakly presynaptically inhibit 5-HT2A serotonergic neurons and enhance serotonin hyperactivity [4, 15]

Gamma-Aminobutyric Acid (GABA)

Gamma-aminobutyric acid is a presynaptic inhibitory neurotransmitter, which acts at three GABA receptors (GABAA, GABAB, GABAC). It exerts a protecting influence on dopaminergic and noradrenergic neurons in the whole central nervous system. In schizophrenia, the GAD 67 risk gene indicates that a GABAergic dysfunction is involved in the pathophysiology of the disease. Medium spiny neurons have been located in the extrapyramical system and prefrontal cortex; in these neurons, GABA is colocalized with the neuropeptides substance P, enkephalin and cholecystokinin [4, 11].

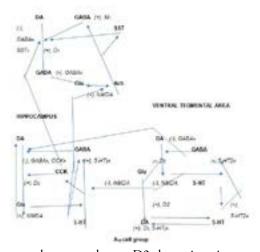
Glutamate

Glutamate is mostly a postsynaptic excitatory neurotransmitter, i.e. an excitotoxic neurtransmitter and partly a presynaptic

inhibitory neurotransmitter that acts at ionotropic, i.e. NMDA, AMPA and metabotropic glutamatergic receptors. In two thirds of schizophrenic patients and one third of healthy subjects, the SNP: m8nrg433E1006 of the neuregulin-1 gene can be found. This SNP is associated with an activation of the D2 receptor and a glutamatergic dysfunction via NMDA receptors. Consequently, glutamatergic neurons weakly activate GABAergic neurons, which weakly presynaptically inhibit D2 dopaminergic neurons in the ventral tegmental area and hippocampus. The DAOA gene encodes a dysfunction of the glutamatergic neurors might weakly inhibit 5-HT2A serotonergic neurons in the mesolimbic system and hippocampus [8, 14].

Neural circuits in the ventral tegmental area, hippocampus and prefrontal cortex under consideration of the neurotransmitter alterations due to risk genes

Neural networks involved in schizophrenia (ventral tegmental area, hippocampus, prefrontal cortex) have been updated from previous reviews [4]. In these neural networks, the neurotransmitter alterations due to the risk genes have been considered (Figure. 1).



In the vental tegmental area, D2 dopaminergic neurons show an increased release of dopamine due to the COMT and MAO A and B risk genes and activate glutamatergic neurons. Due to the D2 receptor risk gene, a dysfunction of the D2 receptor can be found. Glutamatergic neurons, due to the neuregulin-1 and DAOA risk genes, weakly inhibit 5-HT2A serotonergic neurons [8] which show hyperactivity due to the serotonin transporter risk gene. The serotonergic neurons activate GABAergic neurons, which due to the GAD 67 gene, weakly inhibit D2 dopaminergic neurons. In the ventral tegmental area, D2 dopaminergic neurons activate other D2 dopaminergic neurons, and 5-HT2A serotonergic neurons activate 5-HT2A serotonergic neurons in the A10 cell group. In this brain area, D2 dopaminergic neurons and 5-HT2A serotonergic neurons activate each other.

In the hippocampus, D2 dopaminergic neurons activate glutamatergic neurons which weakly presynaptically inhibit, via NMDA receptors, 5-HT2A serotonergic neurons and activate via NMDA receptors D2 dopaminergic and GABAergic neurons. The serotonergic NEURONS activate GABAergic neurons, Conclusion that also contain cholecystokinin (CCK). GABAergic neurons, due to the GAD 67 gene, weakly inhibit D2 dopaminergic neurons via GABAA and CCKA receptors. GABAergic neurons located in the ventral tegmental area inhibit hippocampal D2 dopaminergic neurons and glutamatergic neurons in the mesolimbic system inhibit 5-HT2A serotonergic neurons.

GABAergic neurons, which via GABAA receptors inhibit COMT gene is connected with a higher therapeutic efficacy NMDA glutamatergic neurons. The latter neurons activate M1 muscarinic cholinergic neurons which activate medium spiny with a pharmacotherapy resistance. The SNP (rs 1799836) neurons, namely GABAergic and somatostatinergic neurons. of the MAO B gene is correlated with schizophrenia and The medium spiny neurons inhibit D2 dopaminergic neurons hyperprolactinemia. Both risk genes encode a reduced activity via GABAA and somatostatin 1 receptors. D2 dopaminergic neurons are inhibited by GABAergic neurons, located in the an increased dopamine release occurs via D2 receptors in the hippocampus [14].

Schizophrenia: Association between the snps of risk genes and the therapeutic efficacay of a specific antipsychotic drug

The results have been summarized in Table 1 [2, 4, 7-10, 13, 14].

Table 1: Risk genes in schizophrenia: functions, SNPs and the depending therapeutic effect of a specific antipsychotic drug or a pharmacotherapy resistance.

Risk genes in schizephrenia	Function of the risk gene	Altered function of neurotransmitters in the brain areas involved in schizophrenia	SNP	Therapeutic effect of a specific antipsychotic drug or pharmaco- therapy resistance	
COMT Decreased departine degradation		Dopamine hyperactivity via D2 receptors in the mesolenbic system and hippocampus	rs 169774	Increased therapeutic efficacy of risperidone	
COMT	Decreased doparnine degradation	Dopamine hyperactivity via D2 receptors in the mesolimbic system and hippocampes	rs 4680	Antipsychotic- induced doparnine hypersensitivity psychosis and pharmacotherapy resistance	
мло	Decreased doparnine degradation	Dopamine hyperactivity via D2 receptors in the mesolimbic system and hippocampus	rs 1799836	Schizophrenia with hyper- prolactinemia	
D2 seceptor	Altered dopamine activity	Dopamine hyperactivity via D2 receptors in the mesolimbic system and hippocampus	n 1801928	Inc-reased therapeutic efficacy of risperidone	
D3 receptor	Altered Departine hyperactivity via D2 and D3 recentors in		rs 4680	Pharmacotherapy resistance in the treatment with risperidone	
DAOA A Altered			Risk gene associated with bipolar disorder I and schizophrenia		
GAD 67 GAD 67 GAD 67 GABAA receptors		GABAergic neurons weakly inhibit D2 dopaminergic neurons		Associated with paranoid schizophrenia	

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