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Sara J. Strandlund

Children's Mercy Kansas City

Jotishna Sharma

Children's Mercy Kansas City

Bonnie R. Sullivan

Children's Mercy Kansas City

Ashley K. Sherman

Children's Mercy Kansas City

Laura A. Cross

Children's Mercy Kansas City

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Identification of Genetic Disorders Based on Phenotype and Subsequent Medical Management

Sara Strandlund, DO; Bonnie Sullivan, MD; Ashley Sherman, MA
 Laura Cross, MS, CGC; Jotishna Sharma, MD MEd

Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City

Background

- Genetic disorders often present in the neonatal period and contribute to significant morbidity and mortality.
- Symptom-driven exome sequencing (ES) has emerged as a cost effective and relatively rapid means of identifying single gene disorders.
- This tool has been shown to help guide management of critically ill infants.

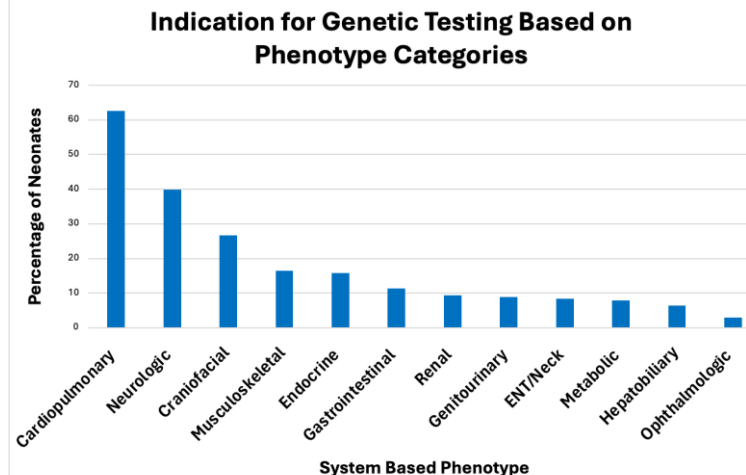
Objective

- Evaluate the indications for genetic testing based on phenotype and compare these with the diagnostic yield of symptom-driven exome sequencing (ES) in the NICU.

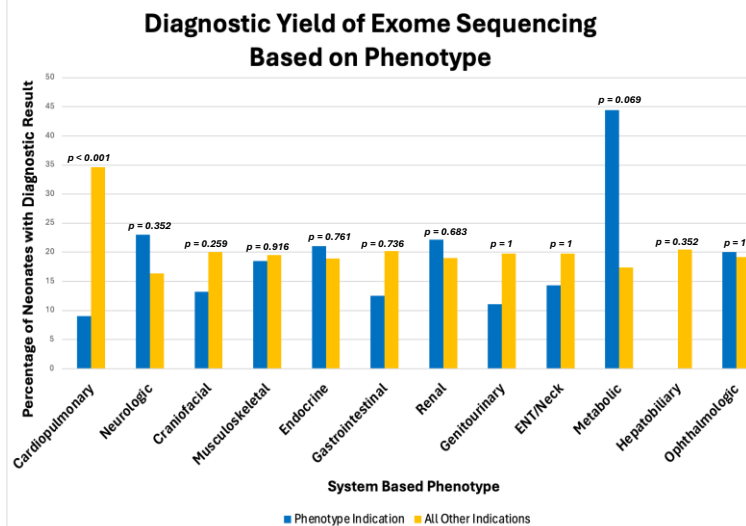
Methods

- Retrospective chart review of neonates admitted to the Children's Mercy Kansas City level IV NICU between 1/1/22-12/31/22.
- 203 neonates underwent genetic testing: ES (rapid and non-rapid), microarray, gene panels, and FISH.
- Patients with well-defined chromosomal anomalies (trisomy 13, 18, and 21) were not included
- Chi-square and Fisher's exact tests were used to evaluate relationships between the phenotypes and the diagnostic yield of ES.

Methods



Results



Results

- The median gestational age of patients was 37.8 weeks [IQR: 23.57-39.0].
- Most common admission diagnosis was congenital anomalies (65.5%).
- Cardiopulmonary phenotype (65.6%) was the most common indication for genetic testing.
- 130 out of 203 (64%) neonates underwent ES.
- ES identified 25 single gene disorders (diagnostic yield of 19.2%).
- Cardiopulmonary concerns had a significantly lower diagnostic yield of ES compared to other phenotypes (9% vs. 34.6%, $p < 0.001$).
- Management changes occurred in 48 of the 203 (23.6%) infants.

Conclusions

- This study demonstrates that genetic testing is an important adjunct, but not the only determining factor, for the clinical care of critically ill neonates.
- Continued development of new technology for diagnosis of genetic diseases remains relevant.
- Limitations of this study include a small sample size, short timeframe, confounding factors, and low yield indications.

