

Are genetic data likely to be of major importance in the personalized treatment of epilepsy patients? - Likely!

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I will argue that discovery of rare variants of large effect has already had a revolutionary impact on the management of developmental and epileptic encephalopathies of childhood. To date there has been a more modest impact on the management in older children and adults, but this will increase. The role of common variants of small effect, discoverable by genome-wide association studies will emerge soon. While assaying individual variants will not be of value, derivation of polygenic risk scores will yield powerful diagnostic and possibly prognostic information. Genetic analysis will become an obligatory, and not optional, part of the comprehensive management of people with epilepsy.