乳癌基因篩檢與基因歧視：以羅爾斯正義理論探討

Screening for Susceptible Genes of Breast Cancer and Genetic Discrimination：Based on Rawls Theory

中文摘要

基因資訊可能使得個人與外界的互動產生風險與不確定的情形，也就是說當擁有某種基因資訊的個人若得知自己身上帶有某種家族性遺傳疾病或是高罹病傾向的易感受基因時，個人往往基於保護自己的前提避免向外界暴露這樣的資訊。這種單憑個體的基因型與「正常」基因組的差異，而歧視該個人或其家族成員的態度稱為「基因歧視」。

基因歧視是後基因體時代必須處理的基本議題，隨著基因及疾病關聯的日漸了解，如何利用基因技術有效預防疾病同時能夠避免基因歧視的產生實為刻不容緩的工作。

本文以乳癌基因篩檢為例，應用當代政治哲學家羅爾斯「無知之幕」的概念作為接受人類先天遺傳特徵的前提，系統性的論證「差異原則」作為避免基因歧視的分配基礎。

基於上述討論，建議乳癌易感受性基因篩檢政策如下：

一、如果可以使用檢驗所獲得的資訊進行有效的預防與治療，
應鼓勵有乳癌家族病史及具有 BRCA1、BRCA2 易感受性基因
族群做基因檢驗。

二、篩檢的費用應由公共資源負擔。

三、建立基因科技知識交流平台。

英文摘要

Genetic information may cause risk and uncertainty between people. That is, when a person has a genetic knowledge about his family hereditary disease or high susceptible tendency, he may choose not to expose this kind of information to avoid potential risk. For that reason, genetic discrimination can be defined as an attitude that people discriminate others just base on his/her own genotype.

Genetic discrimination is a challenging and growing issue to deal with in this post genetic era. Undoubtedly, the more we understand the relationship between genes and diseases, the more attention should be paid to effectively prevent disease and avoid genetic discrimination.

We will use screening for susceptible genes of breast cancer as an example, and will apply Rawls Justice Theory to analyze the dilemma. In addition, we will also take advantage of “veil of ignorance” as a premise to accept human nature heredity

character. Besides, we will demonstrate systematically utilize “principle of difference” as a distribution base to eliminate genetic discrimination.

Conclusively we will propose the following policy suggestions for screen for cancer susceptible genes:

1.If we can apply genetic information to prevent or treat disease, we have an obligation to encourage high risk group to have a genetic test.

2. Public resource should be burdened with the screen cost.

3. The government authorities should establish a public platform to educate and share the latest genetic technology.