



Connection Found Between Enigmatic Viral DNA in Human Genome and Psychiatric Disorders: ScienceAlert

Description

Researchers have discovered that ancient viral DNA sequences, known as human endogenous retroviruses (Hervs), play a role in susceptibility to psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder. These sequences make up around 8% of human DNA and have been passed down through generations, dating back hundreds of thousands to millions of years.

Initially considered "junk DNA," Hervs have now been found to regulate the expression of other human genes, produce RNA molecules, and even proteins in blood and brain samples. Some human genes, like syncytins 1 and 2, derived from Hervs, play crucial roles in placental development.

In a recent study, researchers profiled Herv expression in brain samples from nearly 800 autopsy cases, identifying variations in DNA that influenced Herv expression in the brain. This information was cross-referenced with findings from large genetic studies on psychiatric disorders, revealing that the expression of specific Hervs was linked to genetic susceptibility to conditions like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression.

While further research is needed to understand the precise impact of Hervs on brain cells and psychiatric disorders, this study marks a significant step in recognizing the importance of these ancient viral DNA sequences in the human genome. The findings open up possibilities for new treatments and therapeutic interventions in the future.

Led by researchers from King's College London and Cornell University, this groundbreaking study sheds light on the potential role of Hervs in psychiatric disorders, highlighting the intricate complexities of the human genome and its impact on mental health conditions.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Susceptibility** // (noun): The state of being likely or prone to experience something typically something undesirable.
2. **Endogenous** // (adjective): Originating or produced within an organism or system.
3. **Depressive** // (adjective): Relating to or characterized by feelings of severe despondency and dejection.
4. **Autopsy** // (noun): The examination of a body after death to determine the cause of death or the character and extent of changes produced by disease.
5. **Cross-referenced** // (verb): To refer to another source or authority to get confirmation or additional information.
6. **Genetic** // (adjective): Relating to genes or heredity.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term describes adding something extra to complete or enhance?
Option: Definitive
Option: Promoted
Option: Essential
Option: Supplementing
2. Which term describes not leading to a definite result or conclusion?
Option: Diagnosed
Option: Manifest
Option: Impulsive
Option: Inconclusive
3. Which term means a connection or link between things?
Option: Untreated
Option: Crucial



Option: Association
Option: Differentiate

4. Which word describes something that is different in form or quality from others of the same kind?

Option: Variant
Option: Circulating
Option: Mimic
Option: Reliable

5. Which term is related to the study of genes and heredity?

Option: Vigilant
Option: Susceptibility
Option: Genetic
Option: Endogenous

6. Which term describes a mental state characterized by feelings of sadness?

Option: Cumulative
Option: Sequential
Option: Integral
Option: Depressive

7. What is the medical examination of a dead body to determine the cause of death?

Option: Systematic
Option: Supervised
Option: Autopsy
Option: Coordinated

8. Which term relates to the study of diseases?

Option: Intuitive
Option: Abrasive
Option: Pathological
Option: Ambiguous

9. Which term describes something transmitted or carried by a vector such as an insect or animal?

Option: Indifferent
Option: Apocalyptic
Option: Vectored
Option: Interchangeable

10. Which term describes having a high reputation or honor?

Option: Unique
Option: Marginal
Option: Prestigious



Option: Typical

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Taking vitamins is _____ for maintaining good health.
12. The doctor _____ the illness after running several tests.
13. After his hard work he was _____ to a managerial position.
14. It is important to _____ between the various species of birds.
15. Proper nutrition is _____ for children's growth and development.
16. Having a _____ source of information is important in decision-making.
17. Hormones are examples of _____ substances produced within the body.
18. Children have a higher _____ to certain diseases than adults.
19. The symptoms of the illness began to _____ after a few days.
20. The news about the event started _____ among the attendees.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Some animals the features of other dangerous creatures for protection.
22. Having a family history of heart disease is considered a for developing heart problems.
23. Leaving a bacterial infection can lead to serious complications.
24. His decision to quit his job surprised everyone.
25. The loss of her pet left her in a state for weeks.
26. The doctors conducted a study to understand the progression of the disease.
27. Proper hydration is for athletes to perform at their best.
28. The new software update includes a of features for improved user experience.



29. The test results were requiring further analysis and tests.

30. The cause of death was determined through a detailed examination.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Supplementing 2. Inconclusive 3. Association 4. Variant 5. Genetic 6. Depressive 7. Autopsy 8. Pathological 9. Vectored 10. Prestigious

Gap-Fill: 11. Essential 12. Diagnosed 13. Promoted 14. Differentiate 15. Crucial 16. Reliable 17. Endogenous 18. Susceptibility 19. Manifest 20. Circulating

Matching sentence: 1. Mimic 2. Genetic Risk Factor 3. Untreated 4. Impulsive 5. Depressive 6. Pathological 7. Crucial 8. Variant 9. Inconclusive 10. Autopsy

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL6

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