Using Coordinated Epistasis to Investigate Genetic Architecture of Psychiatric Comorbidity

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(Psychiatric) Comorbidity





Hypothesis: Disorder-specific pathway interactions contribute to comorbidity





Tang D, et al. AJHG 2023, Sheppard, B. et al. PNAS 2022



Data: Danish Register and iPSYCH





* Two sequence arrays and separate acertainment gave rise to replication cohorts: iPSYCH 2012 and iPSYCH 2015i



Random population controls



Random population controls

Disorder A





Disorder A

Disorder B





Phenotype definitions: Any





Phenotype definitions: Any







EO test in the UK Biobank (UKBB) across 26 trait multiple domains and find 18 with significant CE. We v approach, which uses internally cross-validated PRS, by

Phenotype definitions: Any



Phenotype definitions: Both



Random population controls Disorder A Disorder B Comorbid Phenotype cases: Both

Phenotype definitions: Both







EO test in the UK Biobank (UKBB) across 26 traits multiple domains and find 18 with significant CE. We v approach, which uses internally cross-validated PRS, by

assortative mating and population structure. Then, we p



How to test for disorder-specific pathway interactions?

Coordinated Epistasis



 $y \sim \alpha_i GS_i + \alpha_j GS_j + \gamma_{i,j} GS^* GS_j$

GS = Genetic Score (PRS / PA-FGRS)

i = disorder A

j = disorder B

i≠j

Tang D, et al. bioRxiv 2022, Sheppard, B. et al. PNAS 2022

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r = 0). (B) Same as A except the pathways interact either positively (syneroistically, X, $\gamma > 0$) or medatively

Genetic Liability Scores

Polygenic Risk Scores (PRS)



Pearson-Aitkens Family Genetic Risk Score (PA-FGRS)





1.









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* p < 0.05 ; ** p < 0.005 ; *** p < 0.0005

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Conclusions

- We find that disorder-specific polygenic pathway contribute to comorbid phenotypes, through both positive and negative interactions
- We find consistent interaction effects between PRS and PA-FGRS in most instances

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www.rietkerk-research.com