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Jeffrey F. Scherrer

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Kathleen K. Bucholz

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Pamela A.F. Madden

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Andrew C. Heath

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Hong Xian

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

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The Contribution of Parent, Sibling and Friend Behaviors to Regular Smoking and Nicotine Dependence

Jeffrey F. Scherrer, Kathleen K. Bucholz,
Pamela A.F. Madden, Andrew C. Heath, Theodore Jacob,
Hong Xian



BACKGROUND

- Genetic and environmental factors contribute to smoking initiation, regular smoking and nicotine dependence (ND)
- Parents, siblings and friends influence smoking in young adults

OBJECTIVE

- Determine risk for young adult smoking behaviors as a function of parent-child relationships, parent substance use, sibling substance use and peer alcohol, smoking and illicit drug use in a design that accounts for the genetic risk imparted from parental nicotine dependence

METHODS

Sample and data derived from Twins as Parents (TAP) and Children of Alcoholics (COA) study (1999-present)

- Fathers
 - 1,107 twin fathers sampled from the Vietnam Era Twin Registry
 - Twin pairs either concordant or discordant for ND. Controls were non-ND twin pairs
- Mothers
 - 1,023 biological and/or rearing mothers
- Offspring
 - 1,919 offspring between 12-32 years of age

Predictor variables

- Twin 4 group design variable
- Maternal and paternal substance use history
- Offspring report of:
 - mother – child / father-child closeness
 - Sibling alcohol and drug use
 - Friend smoking, alcohol and drug use
 - Sociodemographics

4 group design variable

GRP 1: Monozygotic (MZ) and Dizygotic (DZ) twins with ND	High genetic-high environmental risk (HG-HE)
GRP 2: Non-ND MZ twins with ND co-twins	High genetic-low environmental risk (HG-LE)
GRP 3: Non-ND DZ twins with ND co-twins	Medium genetic-low environmental risk (MG-HE)
GRP 1: non-ND MZ and DZ twins	Low genetic-low environmental risk (LG-LE)

Outcome Measures

- Regular smoking: 21 cigarettes per day, smoking 3 or more times per week for a minimum of 3 weeks
- Fagerstrom Test for Nicotine Dependence (FTND)

Analytic Approach

- Chi-square tests for univariate analyses
- Logistic Regression of significant univariate variables
- SAS SURVEYLOGISTIC used to account for clustered data when computing 95% confidence intervals

RESULTS

Table 1. Smoking variables for all offspring respondents (n=1,919)

Ever try cigarettes	67.3%
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Regular smoker	32.5%
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FTND (among regular smokers)	40.0%
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Table 2. Logistic regression modeling results showing association [Odds Ratios (95% CI)] between parental nicotine dependence (ND), parent, sibling and peer behaviors and offspring smoking and offspring FTND.

	Offspring smoking variables	
	regular smoker	FTND
ND GRP1 (HG-HE)*	1.77 (1.25-2.52)	2.00 (1.21-3.30)
ND GRP2 (HG-LE)	1.63 (0.98-2.69)	1.44 (0.71-2.92)
ND GRP3 (MG-LE)	1.26 (0.73-2.17)	1.62 (0.77-3.45)
ND GRP 4 (LG-LE)	1.0	1.0
Maternal Heavy Smoking Index (HSI):		
Lifetime non-smoker	1.0	1.0
Low HSI	1.32 (0.96-1.82)	0.92 (0.57-1.48)
High HSI	1.31 (0.93-1.86)	1.61 (1.03-2.52)
Age	1.10 (1.06-1.13)	1.02 (0.97-1.08)
White race	0.61(0.33-1.10)	0.50 (0.17-1.41)
Parent's not married	1.16 (0.85-1.58)	1.60 (1.07-2.39)

Mom problem/excessive drinker	1.82 (1.17-2.82)	1.84 (1.02-3.32)
Father problem/excessive drinker	1.04 (0.77-1.41)	--
Very close to mother	1.0	
Somewhat close to mother	1.18 (0.87-1.59)	--
Not very/not at all close to mother	1.09 (0.62-1.90)	
Very close to father	1.0	
Somewhat close to father	1.05 (0.79-1.39)	--
Not very/not at all close to father	1.61 (1.10-2.34)	
Sibling drug use:		
None	1.0	
Cannabis only	1.30 (0.95-1.78)	--
Cannabis and or other illicit drugs	1.51 (1.11-2.07)	

Current friends smoking:

none	1.0	1.0
a few	2.30 (1.65-3.20)	1.38 (0.78-2.43)
a quarter or more	7.41 (5.05-10.88)	3.49 (2.01-6.07)

Current friends drink at least 1/week:

none	1.0	1.0
a few	0.93 (0.64-1.35)	0.43 (0.23-0.79)
quarter or more	0.73 (0.50-1.09)	0.66 (0.38-1.15)

Current friends use drugs:

none	1.0	--
a few	2.01 (1.40-2.88)	
quarter or more	2.90 (1.90-4.42)	

* 4-group design: Group 1 - Offspring at high genetic (HG) and high environmental (HE) risk because fathers are MZ and DZ twins with DSM-III-R nicotine dependence (ND), Group 2- Offspring at high genetic (HG) and low environmental (LE) risk because fathers are unaffected MZ twins with DSM-III-R ND, Group 3- Offspring at medium genetic (MG) and LE risk because fathers are unaffected DZ with DSM-III-R ND, Group 4- offspring at low genetic (LG) and LE because fathers are unaffected MZ and DZ

CONCLUSIONS

- Paternal ND is significantly associated with offspring being regular smokers and FTND.
- Heavy maternal smoking index associated with offspring FTND
- In multivariate logistic regression age, closeness to father sibling drug use and friend smoking and drug use were significantly associated with offspring regular smoking.
- Parental divorce and friends smoking associated with offspring FTND
- Evidence for larger spectrum of environmental covariates contributing to regular smoking vs. FTND