Genetic Science Spotlight

Scientists at Oxbridge Double Number of Known Genetic Risk Factors for Endometrial Cancer

A team of international researchers led by Scientists at the University of Cambridge and Oxford University has recently identified 5 new gene regions, in addition to the existing 4, that increase a woman's risk of developing endometrial cancer. This genome-wide association study (GWAS) involving 7,000 women with endometrial cancer and 37,000 normal controls was published in Nature Genetics, bringing 13q22.1 (rs11841589, near KLF5), 6q22.31 (rs13328298, in LOC643623 and near HEY2 and NCOA7), 8q24.21 (rs4733613, telomeric to MYC), 15q15.1 (rs937213, in EIF2AK4, near BMF) and 14q32.33 (rs2498796, in AKT1, near SIVA1) into sight. Some of the said gene regions are already known to be associated with ovarian and prostate cancers. Although each individual variant only increases risk by around 10-15%, by looking at the total number of such variants inherited by a woman, physicians and genetic counselors can estimate her risk of developing endometrial cancer. These women can then be regularly checked and be alert to the early signs and symptoms of the disease.

http://www.nature.com/ng/journal/v48/n6/full/ng.3562.html

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