



GENETICS

Can we Really Blame it all on Our Genes?

Lecture 4:
**How Medicine can work with your Genetics
to Improve your Care**

Thursday, May 19th, 2016
Medical Sciences Building 150
Jane Gair, Ph. D.

GENETICS: Can we Really Blame it all on Our Genes? Series Overview

- ❖ **WEEK 1 (April 28th, 2016):**
Introduction to Genetics
- ❖ **WEEK 2 (May 5th, 2016):**
How is Genetics Important for your Health?
- ❖ **WEEK 3 (May 12th, 2016):**
Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders
- ❖ **WEEK 4 (May 19th, 2016):**
How Medicine can work with your Genetics to Improve your Care

OVERVIEW: How Medicine can work with your Genetics to Improve your Care (Lecture 4)

- ❖ Continuation from last week
- ❖ Stem cell treatments for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases
- ❖ Genes Associated with Obesity and Over-eating
- ❖ Personalized medicine
- ❖ Human Genome Project
- ❖ Pharmacogenetics
- ❖ Questions

Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ Alzheimer's Disease



❖ Characterized by

- ❖ development of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary (tau) tangles
- ❖ Loss of connections between neurons in brain
- ❖ Death of nerve cells

❖ Both early and late-onset Alzheimer's have genetic components

❖ Several Risk genes implicated

- ❖ Apolipoprotein E-e4 (APOE-e4) has the strongest influence (thought to contribute to 20-25% of Alzheimer cases)

Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

- ❖ Early-onset familial Alzheimer's Disease (FAD)
 - ❖ Occurs at ages 30-60 (less than 5% of Alzheimer's Patients)
 - ❖ Child of a carrier parent have 50/50 chance of inheriting mutation
 - ❖ Caused by single-gene mutations on chromosome 21, 14 and 1
 - ❖ Chromosome 21: formation of abnormal amyloid precursor protein (APP)
 - ❖ Chromosome 14: abnormal presenilin 1
 - ❖ Chromosome 1: abnormal presenilin 2
 - ❖ Mutations breakdown APP (function of protein not fully understood) but generates the harmful amyloid plaques

Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ Late-onset Alzheimer's Disease

- ❖ Occurs at ages 60+(more common form)

- ❖ Combination of genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors

- ❖ APOE gene on chromosome 19 is a presumed risk factor

- ❖ APOE has several forms (alleles)

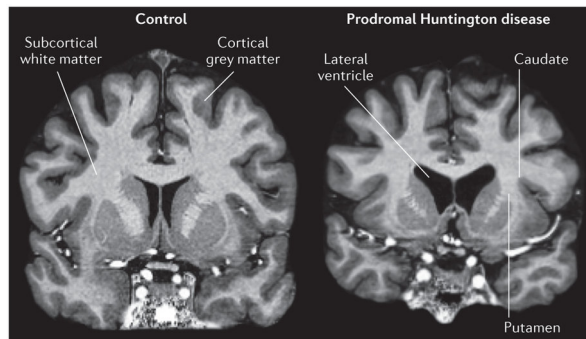
 - ❖ APOE ϵ 2 (rare). May provide protection against disease

 - ❖ APOE ϵ 3 (most common allele). Neutral role , neither increase or decreasing risk.

 - ❖ **APOE ϵ 4.** increased risk for Alzheimer's disease and associated with earlier onset of the disease. Person can have 0,1, or 2 APOE4 alleles (more leads to increased Alzheimer's risk)

Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

- ❖ Late-onset of Huntington Disease
 - ❖ Neurons normally do not replicate
 - ❖ Huntington Disease is characterized by accumulation of Huntington protein due to mutation in the gene
 - ❖ The overexpression of Huntington protein leads to neurodegeneration



Nature Reviews | Disease Primers

Note:

-Enlarged ventricles

-Atrophy of the basal ganglia and nerve tissue

Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

- ❖ Stem cell treatment for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease
 - ❖ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yCgLythe00>
- ❖ Early stages in research but some successful trials on mice
- ❖ Stem cells can be made from patient's skin cells which undergo a chemical transformation
- ❖ Currently Stem Cell research is quite controversial
 - ❖ [Stem-Cell Challenges in the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease: A Long Way from Bench to Bedside - Paper](#)

Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ Genetics of Depression

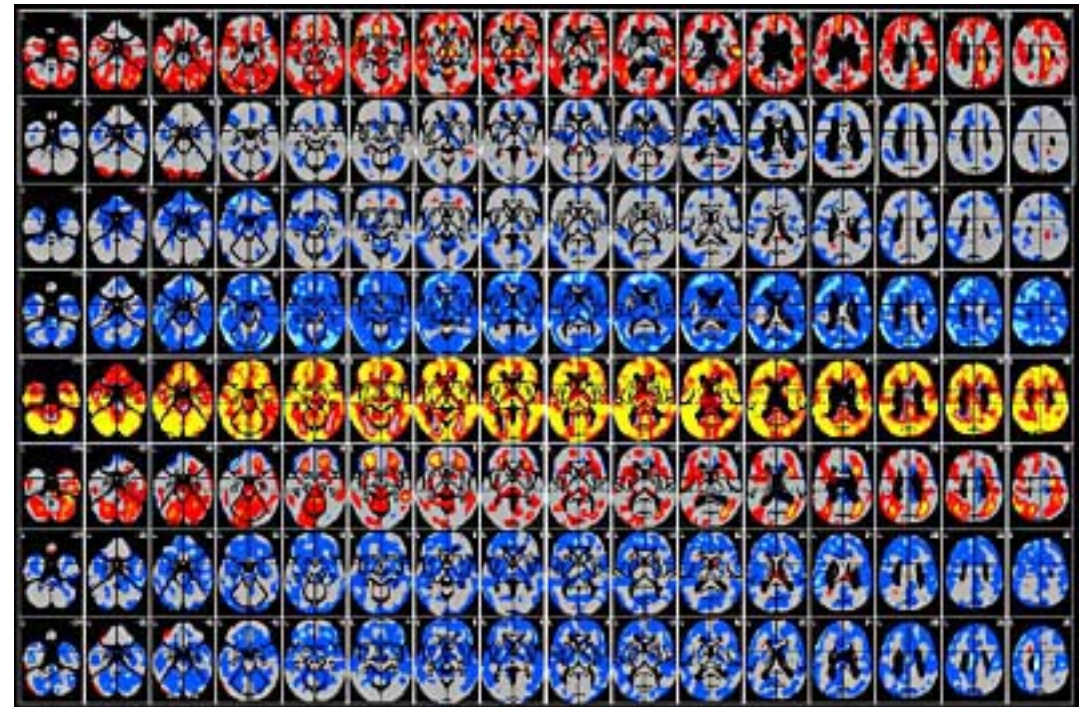
- ❖ 40% of Depression thought to have a genetic link

- ❖ Parents or siblings with depression are 3X more likely to have the condition



Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oREhaoXP8uI>

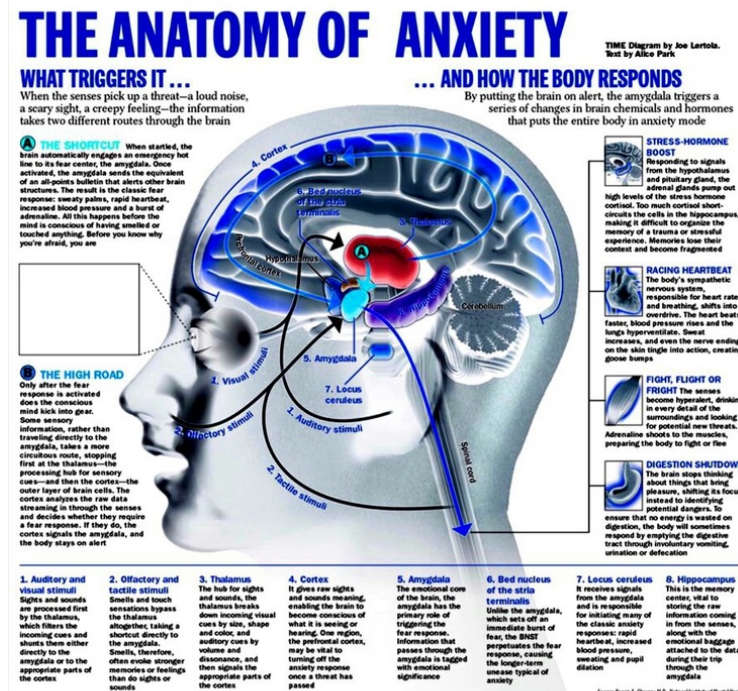


Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ Genetics of Anxiety

❖ Like Depression, some genetic causes but also environmental and lifestyle influences too

❖ Around 30-40% of variability related to genetic factors



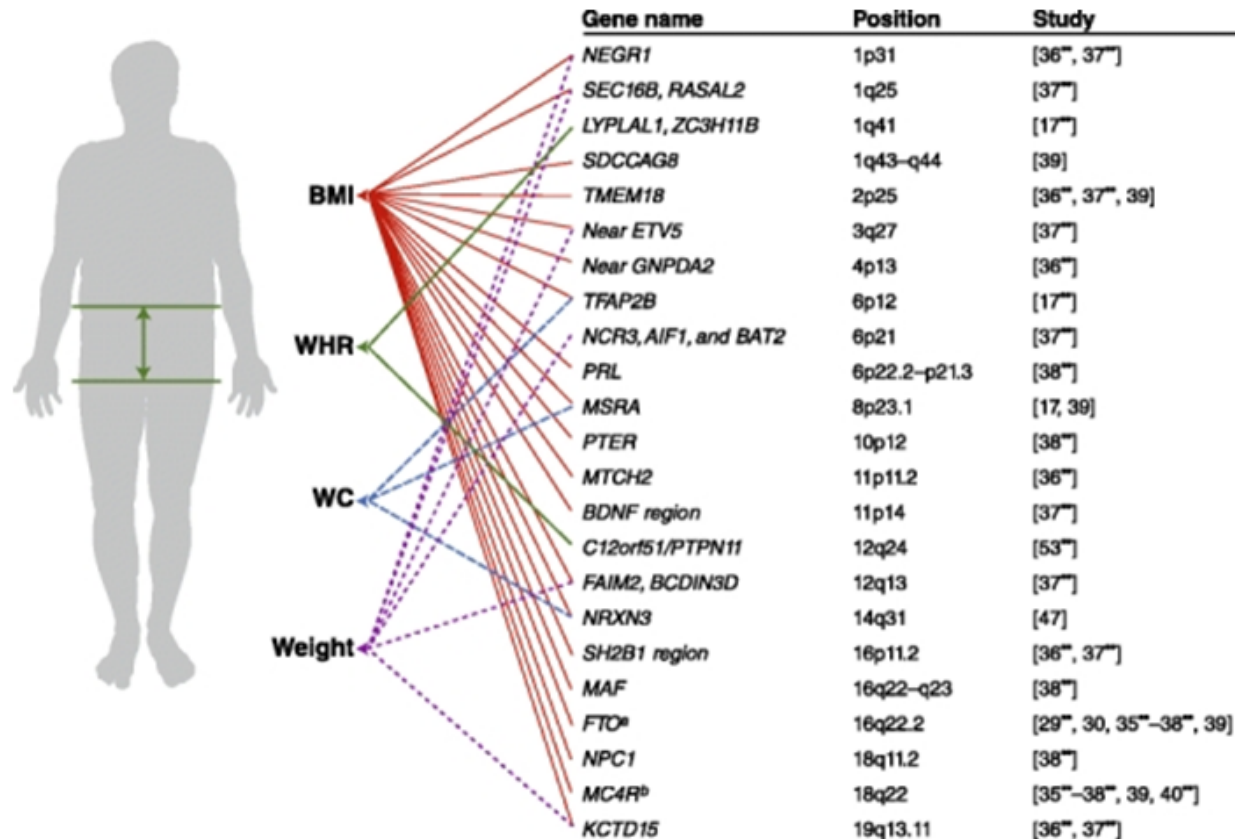
❖ SUMMARY

- ❖ Alterations to genes can cause mutations which can lead to dysfunction in the body
- ❖ Variation in both elimination or resistance to certain factors can play a role with disease in organisms
- ❖ Disease and disorders are preventable by supplementation/bringing the body back to homeostasis
- ❖ There are many diseases and disorders that have a genetic influence, but environmental and lifestyle choices are also implicated

Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ Genetics of Obesity and Over Eating

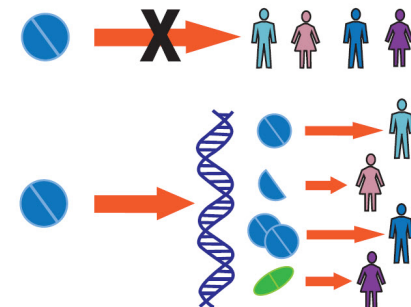
❖ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ts2qo44aNi4>



Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ Personalized Medicine

- ❖ Definition: Separates patients into different groups
- ❖ Medical practices are tailored to accommodate for the unique needs of the individual
- ❖ based on their predicted response or risk of disease
- ❖ Dates back as far as Hippocrates, where the professional was expected to treat the patient rather than the disease (create a remedy suitable for the person)



Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ The Human Genome Project

❖ International research effort

❖ Goal to sequence and map all the genes that comprise the complete genome of humans

❖ Completed in April 2003

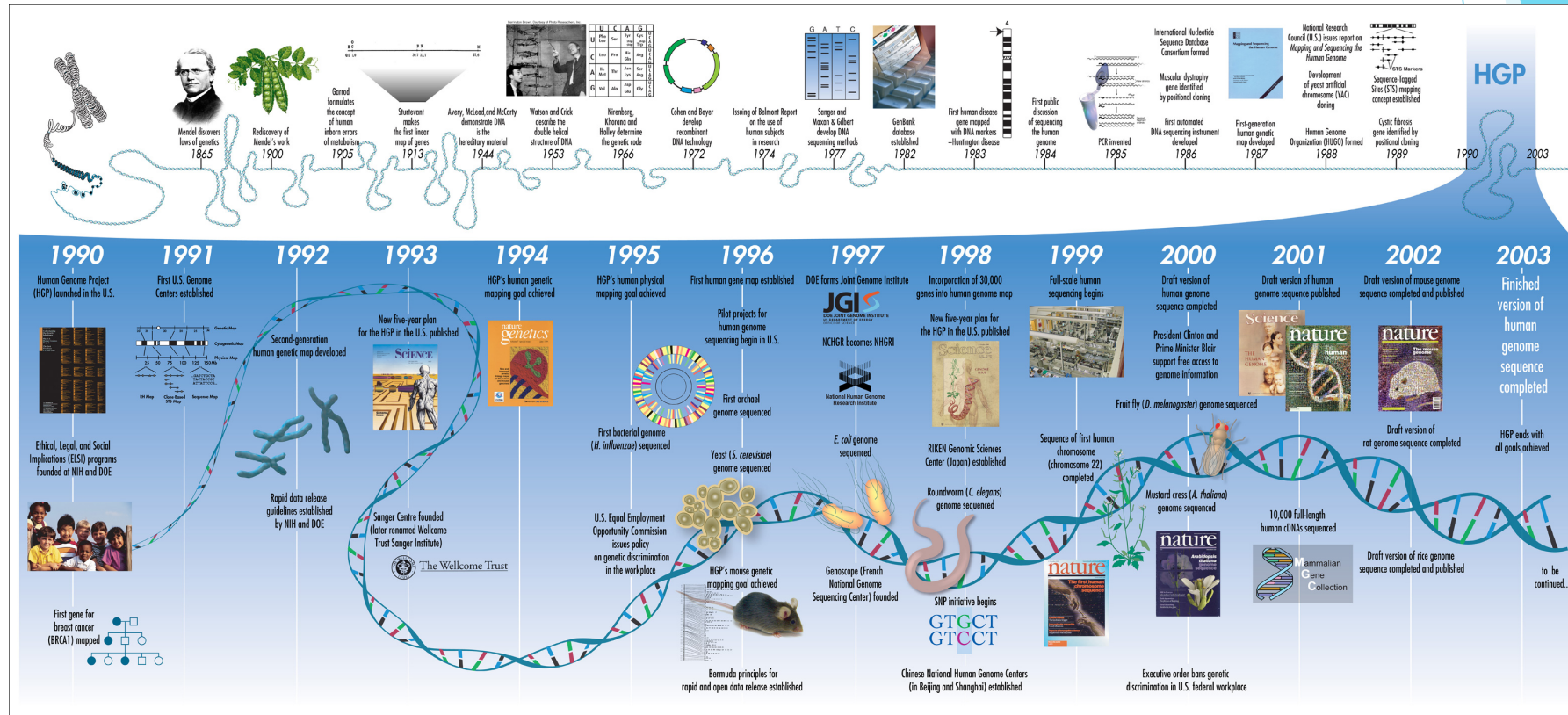
❖ Allows comprehension of the human “blueprint”

❖ Personalized medicine utilizes the data to highlight trends that occur throughout the species

❖ Diagnosis and treatment of genetic diseases occurs more quickly and efficiently due to availability of information

Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvuYATh7Y74>



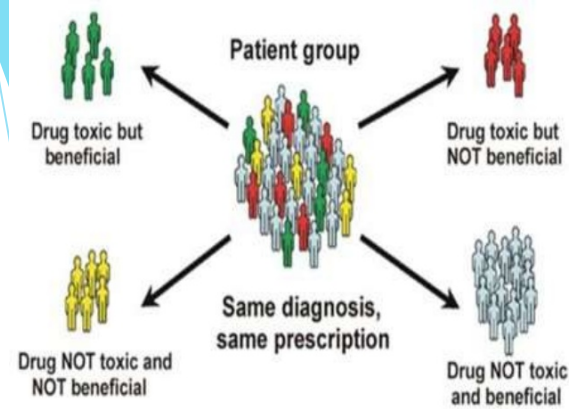
Understanding the Genetics of some Common Diseases and Disorders (Lecture 3)

❖ Pharmacogenomics

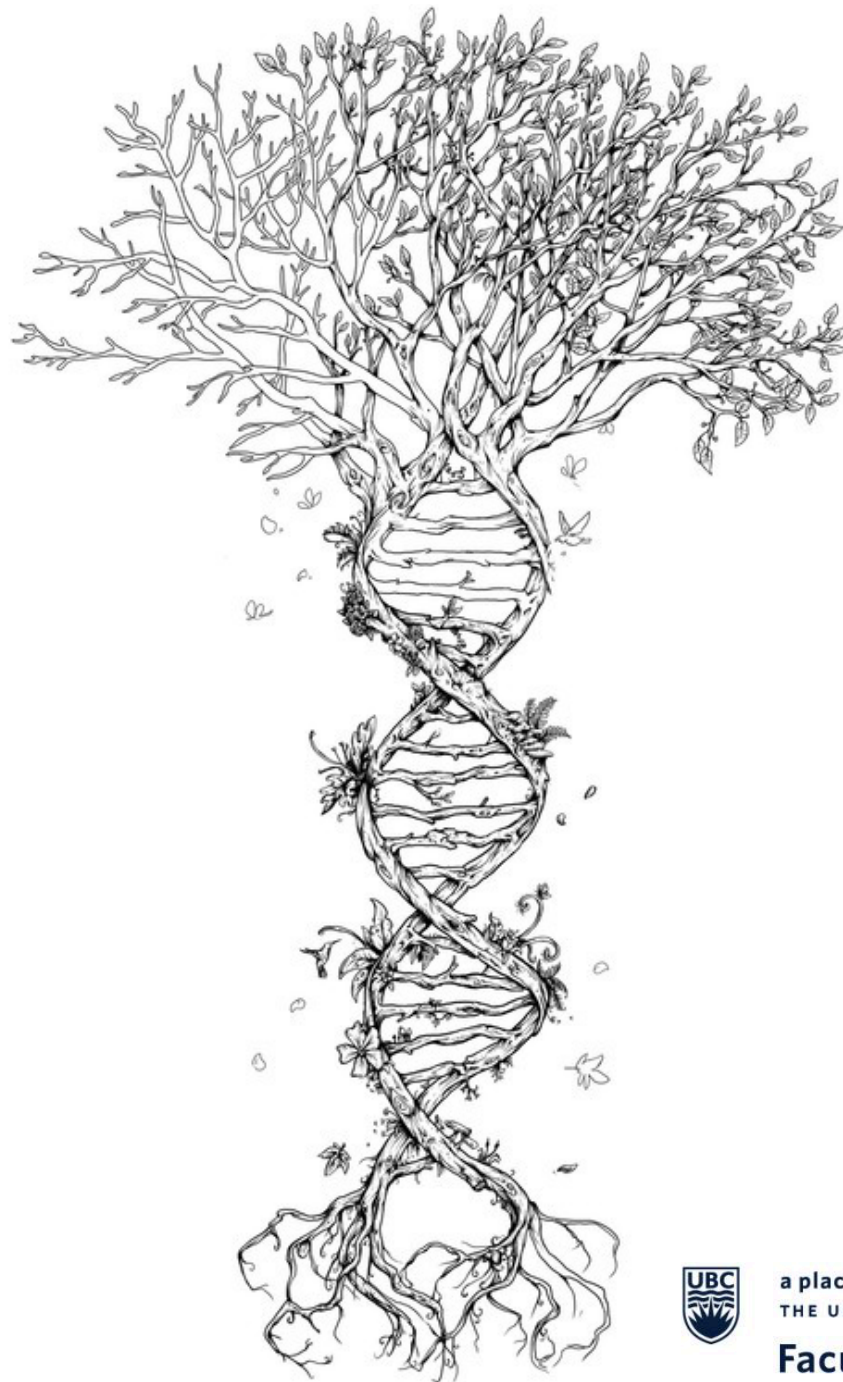
- ❖ Study of inherited genetic differences in drug metabolites and pathways affect patient's responses to drugs
- ❖ Combines pharmacology (science of drugs) and genomics (study of genes and their function)
- ❖ Therapeutic effect: Consequence of the medical treatment, where the results are thought to be desirable
- ❖ Adverse effect: Harmful or undesirable effect (Also known as side effect)
- ❖ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGjG_9EEeeA

❖ SUMMARY

- ❖ Large variation seen in individuals due to genetic differences (as well as lifestyle and environmental factors)
- ❖ Personalized medicine treats the PATIENT uniquely rather than the disease characteristics alone
- ❖ Trends studied throughout the past, including the Human Genome Project, allow for correlation and a set point when helping an individual
- ❖ Pharmacogenetics is the study of drugs used specifically for certain individuals and is used to predict the outcome of certain therapies and their effectiveness



QUESTIONS?



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