

The 9th Conference on Health Care of the Chinese in North America



Pharmacological and Therapeutic Considerations

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Legal Implications in Patient Care

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Psycho-Social Issues That Will Affect Patient Care

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Abstract

Inter-ethnic differences are important factors that contribute to inter-individual variability in drug response. There is increased understanding of genetic determinants in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs. The concept of pharmacogenetics will be presented. Examples will be given to illustrate how metabolic and pharmacodynamic differences could account for inter-ethnic differences in drug action. Emphasis will be placed on data from the Chinese population. Clinical implications of pharmacogenetics will be discussed.

Several issues on the topic of cultural diversity and legal issues related to health care will be presented. Initially, we will explore the welfare changes and determine if these changes adversely affect the Asian American communities, with a particular emphasis on health care. Thereafter, we will look at the health conversions and the establishment of major foundations, whether funding and staffing have reflected the cultural diverse needs, especially health needs, of the Asian and Chinese American populations in Southern California. What are the diversity dimensions of this?

In ethnically diverse North America, there has been increasing interest in the influence of ethnicity and culture on the diagnosis and treatment of medical illnesses. This includes epidemiology of illnesses in various ethnic groups, differences in the way symptoms are expressed in different cultures, and the ways in which members of different ethnic groups seek help from health professionals. The impact of ethnicity and culture on health care issues relating to the Chinese population in North America will be presented.