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Permalink
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Publication Date
2019-08-13

Peer reviewed
Asian Flush
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Asian Flush

Precision Medicine

an emerging approach for disease treatment and prevention that takes into account individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle for each person.
TWO WEEKS AGO...

THUMP

THUMP

UGH...

THUMP

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

Ughh!
Ugh...

Eh? What, again?

It's nothing, nothing

Just a little heartburn
Asian Flush

THE FOLLOWING WEEK...

TAKE A SEAT
MISTER LIIU,
DOCTOR ROHANI
WILL BE WITH YOU
IN JUST A MOMENT
SO TELL ME, WHAT’S BEEN BOTHERING YOU?

YOUR GENES AND YOU

WHAT IS PRECISION MEDICINE
Asian Flush

I'm having some pain in my chest.

EH? What, again?

It's nothing.

You said heartburn...

I know.

Did you eat too much hong shao rou last night?

...

Well... where does it hurt?

It's not going away?!

OK, when did the pain start?

This morning.

Just one time?

Well... it's been a couple of times. When you wake up, and...?

And when I eat.

Can you show me where you feel the pain?

Anywhere else?

Arms?

No, but it hurts sometimes to swallow.

TSK, I'm fine. It probably is nothing.
FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID, I DON'T THINK IT'S HEARTBURN. CAN I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HABITS?

SURE.

WELL... FLUSHING RED IS A SIGN YOU HAVE A GENETIC VARIANT THAT MAKES YOUR BODY LESS ABLE TO PROCESS A TOXIC BYPRODUCT IN CIGARETTES AND ALCOHOL CALLED ACETALDEHYDE. THE RED FLUSH IS YOUR BODY'S REACTION TO TOO MUCH OF THAT STUFF IN YOUR BLOOD.

I DO SMOKE, AND I DRINK OCCASIONALLY. AND I FLUSH RED, BUT WHY DO YOU ASK ABOUT THAT?

THE GENETIC VARIANT, ALOHS, IS COMMON IN PEOPLE OF EAST ASIAN DESCENT.

IT AFFECTS AN UPWARDS OF 560 MILLION PEOPLE OF MAINLAND CHINESE, TAIWANESE, JAPANESE AND KOREAN DESCENTS AROUND THE WORLD!
Having this genetic variant, and a history of smoking and drinking alcohol puts you at a high risk of developing esophageal cancer.

Based on that, I would strongly suggest you quit smoking and limit alcohol use. These all increase your risk.

I could have cancer?!

Well, it’s really too early to say anything. But I’m going to schedule you an endoscopy...

We’ll know more after we’ve done that.
We'll know more after we've done that...

I'd also like to suggest that we do a simple genetic test for the variant...

If you have this ALDH2*2 variant it's possible your children have it as well...
MOM, YOU OK?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOUR DAD.
Financial Support: This work is supported by University of California Tobacco Related Disease Research Program 261P-0038 and NIH NIGMS GM119522 (Dr. Gross).

Disclosures: Disclosures can be viewed at www.acponline.org/authors/icmje/ConflictOfInterestForms.do?msNum=G18-0025.

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