



TITLE: Genetics Jenga: Balancing new technology and old art in pediatric neurology.

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ABSTRACT

Genetics is a subspecialty which has come into the limelight in the last 15- 20 years. Ever since it crossed from research to bed side, it has been galloping into the forefront of clinical practice in several medical specialties and is rapidly becoming central to all healthcare services. Health and every illness are now determined at least in part by genes.

In pediatrics genetics has been playing a vital role in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. New advances in diagnostic tools and technological revolution in drug development and biotechnology have offered hope of treatment for several previously untreatable genetic diseases.

Clinicians, especially pediatricians, are already confronted with the diagnosis and management of genetic diseases in their office practice.

I would like to highlight the utility and limitations of this new technology through pediatric neurology cases. It is important for us to be aware of the ever-changing field and make the best choices in our patient's interest. It has indeed become a tight rope walk balancing use of new technology with the old art of clinical judgement.

We also need to balance patient management while ensuring fodder for continued research. And not to forget balancing patient vs academic and industry interest. Hence, I call it a game of JENGA we all ought to accel in!

BIOGRAPHY.

Ami Shah is a pediatrician from Directorate National Board in India and has later done her fellowship in Clinical Genetics from Maharashtra University of Health Sciences. She is currently working as a consultant in Clinical Genetics at different institutes in Mumbai and also conducts OPD in outskirts of the city for Genetic management. She has 10 publications in national and international journals and has authored chapters in 4 books (online + print). She has multiple presentations at national and international conferences with some being award winning.

She is currently on board FLICNA (Future Leaders of International Child Neurology association: 2022 – 2025) and is also a lifetime member of Society of Indian Association of Medical Genetics.

Her main interests lie in genetic academics, Neurogenetics, fetal autopsy and she hopes to pursue clinical research in this field.

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