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Appliance of medical genogram and social network theory in cardiovascular health promotion intervention and non-laboratory-based risk monitoring: A clinical trail

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Abstract---Objective: This study aims to determine the number of patients, as well as their nuclear and extended family members with or without established cardiovascular disease, at the baseline age of ≤ 20 along with the family members under 20 years old, who could benefit from a potential sociocultural, environmental and household related cardiovascular health promotion interventions in a social tie network, which enriches the explanation of human behavior by explicitly taking its social structure into account. Methods: This study is a part of a clinical trial-educational family-centered health intervention on patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention and their household members. Ethical clearance was obtained from Iran National Committee for Ethics in Biomedical Research, and approved by the Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials. The study was conducted from October 2021 to March 2022. It involved a total of 33 patients. The demographic information was gathered from a self-administered questionnaire and the information was analysed via medical genogram and social network analysis model at individual

and group level. Results: Overall, via only 33 patients and their significant other (n=66), we got access to the medical history of 429 nuclear and extended family members. Out of 429 family members, disclosing the participants, 21 individuals were under age of 20, between ages of 21 and 40 (n=101), 41 to 60 (n=176) and from 61-80 (n= 103) and 14 family members over 81 years old, who could benefit from a potential cardiovascular health promotion intervention. Conclusion: Our study indicates that lifestyle-related controllable risk factors namely, smoking, obesity, drug use and alcohol consumption increases after the age of 30, and could be prevented early in life.

Keywords---cardiovascular health promotion, cardiovascular risk monitoring, medical genogram, social networks theory.

Introduction

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), stating conditions related to the blood vessels and the heart, ^[1,2] are the paramount causes of disability-adjusted life years (DALY), premature and mature mortality globally. ^[3-11] According to the world health organisation (WHO), CVDs with a constant age reduction in its prevalence-both gender included, are a major public-health concern, with the estimation of \$1044 billion USD direct and indirect costs, only a decade from 2020. ^[12-14] The nature of CVDs, starting early in life, lies within modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors. However, considerable guidelines including, the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) comparative risk assessment (CRA), the American Society for Preventive Cardiology (ASPC) and the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), indicate that, more than 80% of CVD-related prevalence and incidence can be exceedingly preventable and delayed by lifestyle modifications, non-pharmaceutical and risk management.^[15-17] Hence, in 2010 the American Heart Association (AHA), highlighted the importance of primordial preventive strategies towards cardiovascular health (CVH), through favourable lifestyle changes approaches and risk monitoring, at a nation, subnational and primary care level. ^[18-21]

The concept of risk monitoring, first established by the United States' Framingham Heart Study; the Framingham risk score (FRS), forming a predictive analytics algorithm, in order to estimate individuals CVD's developmental risk within 10 years. ^[22-23] Continuously, since the FRS various risk prediction tools, namely, the British QRISK and JBS, the Scottish ASSIGN, the European SCORE, the AHA's ASCVD and the WHO risk prediction tools, in attempt to pre-treatment, targeting the environmental inter-correlated risk factors, with the solitary aim of CVD primary prevention has been developed. ^[24-25]

Moreover, except for the positive family history (FH+) and the body mass index (BMI), modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors, including, age of ≤ 30 , gender differences, smoking status, hypertension (systolic and diastolic blood pressure), total-cholesterol-to-low and high density lipoproteins (LDL-C, HDL-C), glucose and diabetes mellitus (DM) screening, defined as laboratory-based variables by WHO, are the mutual required aspects of the mentioned tools. However, due to

varies determinations, the measurement of laboratory-based variables, may not always be assessable. [26-31]

Hence, the 2019 WHO CVD non-laboratory-based risk chart, with the goal of whole-of-society approach at a macro-level, has limited its CVD-risk variables to the baseline age of ≤ 20 , sex, tobacco use, systolic blood pressure (SBP) and BMI, and only obliges DM, LDL-C and HDL-C tests, once the CVD-risk score is greater than 10% or beyond. [32-35] Consequently, the accessibility and the cost-efficiency of the non-laboratory-based risk chart, has allowed the policy-makers and healthcare systems to monitor and reach a wider range of population, and imply different lifestyle interventions, at a meso- and micro-level, toward public health. [36-38]

Public health has been defined as “what we do together as a society to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy”. [39-40] Therefore, in addition to healthcare legislators, by enchanting a holistic approach into consideration, family’s being the most important form of social units, play a significant role toward achieving health, throughout life. [41-46] Hence, the purpose of the present pilot study, using gathered demographic information, not only from the patients but also from the family members (FMs), by application of social network theory (social network analysis) and the use of medical genogram, is to detect the number of FMs with or without established CVDs, at the baseline age of ≤ 20 as well as the FMs under 20 years old, who could benefit from a potential sociocultural, environmental and household related CVH interventions in a social tie network, which enriches the explanation of human behavior by explicitly taking its social structure into account.

Description of the Intervention and Methods

Medical Genogram

A medical genogram is a computer generated graphical pedigree illustrating using symbols, representation an image of a family’s structure, on various data such as biological relationships and medical conditions that can be used specially to access disease risk. In order to outline the importance of environmental and genetic risk factors of CVDs to the participant, and to assist in the assessment, planning, and family intervention, and to allow knowing what members constitute the family we used medical genogram on the first session and as the studie’s demographic information gathering.

The medical genogram interview was conducted with 33 pilot participants. In this study, medical genogram symbols, represents participant’s FMs, demographic information including, date of birth and death, the history of non-communicable diseases (heart-related conditions, Cancer, Diabetes Mellitus), obesity, hypertension, smoking status and other drugs and alcohol consumption among first- and second degree relatives. For the construction of the medical genogram, notes were taken in chronological order, meaning from the oldest to the youngest FM, from left to right and from top to bottom in each generation. The patient was defined as the index person (IP) and IP’s wife, presented as significant other

(IPSO). In an attempt to quantify and further define the reported history, the participants were asked to review the final medical genogram. [47-51]

Social Network Analysis Model

Social network analysis (SNA), is a set of theories and methods used to define how a whole group of individuals and their interrelation and behavioral patterns such as, information seeking, social norms and lifestyle (e.g. eating habits), have an impact on one another. SNA, are calculated at both individual and network level. In this study, the individual level, is used to define each person's position from the IP and IPSO, and at the group level (nuclear and extended family members). SNA measures the emergence of connectedness among family members, with the assumption of how these relationships (closeness) and word-of-mouth influence healthy behaviors.

Moreover, the nodes are the individuals, the links (lines) are social connections between the hospital, IP, IPSO, nuclear and extended family members (NF, EF). Furthermore, we used "decade" as our baseline age division, and color coded IP, IPSO, NF and EF accordingly. "H" represents the Hospital. The green nodes are the household members of IP and IPSO (the children), and the grey nodes represent IP's (on the left side) and IPSO's (on the right side) siblings and parents. Note: the departed FMs are not included in the visual SNA (Figure 1).

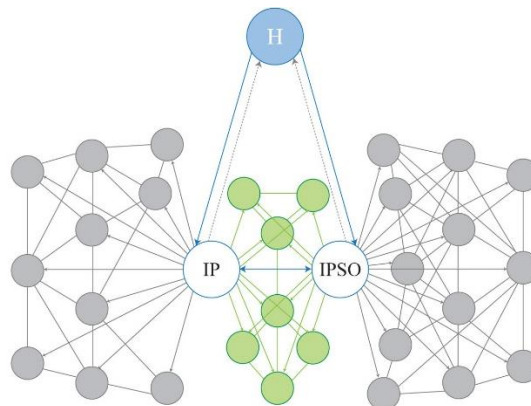


Figure 1. Group Social Networks visualize Analysis for each participant

During the first and second session (week 1), pilot participants, filled a questionnaire, based on family relations (parents, siblings and children). Study participants (wife's), who were not in the hospital on the data collection days, received a data collection telephone call within one week. The final social network diagram, where nodes were labeled with FMs age (eliminated from the published article), in order for the IP to detect the FM, was sent to the IP via WhatsApp Messenger and discussed the accuracy of it, on the last session. [52-53]

SNA Individual Level

The SNA's individual level (agent-centric) of this study has been divided into two groups. The gathered data regarding the demographic information and the history

of NCDs of the IP, and IPSO are presented in table 1 and 2, in the same particular order.

SNA Group Level

The SNA’s group structure of the current study, maps the interaction of the IP’s house hold members (nuclear family) as well as the extended FM’s for both IP and IPSO, through SNA’s visualization analysis (Figure 2). For the extended FM’s, we collected demographic data as well as medical history of chronic conditions from the IP and IPSO (Table 3). Notably, some information such as the year of births and deaths not recalled by the participants were counted as the study’s missing data. [54-55]

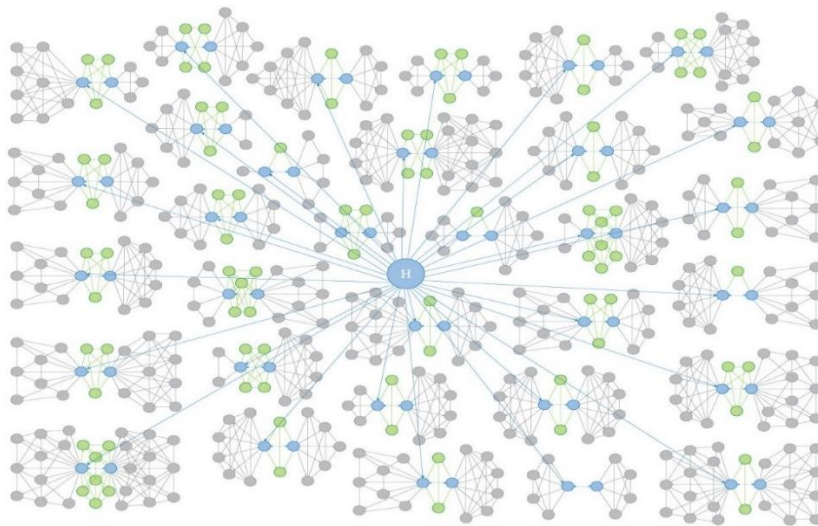


Figure 2. IP’s and IPSO’s Group Social Networks visualize Analysis
 Note: The departed members are not included in social networks analysis

Results

General Information at Individual Level.

Table 1 and 2, presents general data such as age, occupation, level of education, smoking status, alcohol or any other drug consumption, obesity and NCDs of the IP and IPSO, respectively.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of Total Patients				Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Total Patient’s Significant Other			
Variables	Levels	Median (IQR)/ Frequency (%)	P-values	Variables	Levels	Median (IQR)/ Frequency (%)	P-values
Age	Median (IQR) 41-50 51-60	56.0 (50.0, 59.0) 8 (24.20)	<0.001	Age	Median (IQR) 31-40	50.0 (44.0, 55.0)	<0.001

	61-70	17 (51.50) 8 (24.20)			41-50	1 (3.00) 13 (39.40) 17 (51.50) 2 (6.10)	
Education	Primary	15(46.88)	0.355	Education	Primary	23 (69.69)	0.018
	Secondary	12 (37.50)			Secondary	5 (15.15)	
	University	5 (15.63)			University	5 (15.15)	
Occupation	Employed	21 (72.41)	0.016	Occupation	Employed	4 (12.12)	<0.001
	Unemployed	8 (27.59)			Unemployed	29 (87.88)	
CVD*	Yes	21 (63.64)	0.117	CVD	Yes	2 (6.06)	<0.001
	No	12 (36.36)			No	31 (93.94)	
Cholesterol*	Yes	16 (48.48)	0.862	Cholesterol	Yes	8 (24.24)	0.003
	No	17 (51.52)			No	25 (75.76)	
Hypertension	Yes	12 (36.36)	0.117	Hypertension	Yes	3 (9.09)	<0.001
	No	21 (63.64)			No	30 (90.91)	
Diabetes	Yes	3 (9.09)	<0.001	Diabetes	Yes	5 (15.15)	<0.001
	No	30 (90.91)			No	28 (84.85)	
Cancer	Yes	0 (0.00)	<0.001	Cancer	Yes	0 (0.00)	<0.001
	No	33 (100.00)			No	33 (100.00)	
Overweight	Yes	2 (6.10)	<0.001	Overweight	Yes	7 (21.21)	0.001
	No	31 (93.90)			No	26 (78.79)	
Smoking	Yes	10 (30.3)	0.024	Smoking	Yes	10 (30.3)	<0.001
	No	23 (69.70)			No	23 (69.70)	
Drug Use	Yes	8 (24.20)	0.003	Drug Use	Yes	8 (24.20)	0.003
	No	25 (75.80)			No	25 (75.80)	
Alcohol*	Yes	7 (21.21)	0.001	Alcohol	Yes	4 (12.12)	0.001
	No	26 (78.79)			No	29 (87.88)	

Note: Pearson's Chi-squared Test was used to compare percentage of levels

*CVD: Cardiovascular Disease. *Cholesterol: High Blood Cholesterol Level. *Alcohol: Alcohol Consumption.

General Information at Group Level

Table 3 presents number of NF and EF members linked to the IP and IPSO at a group level. The age distribution of NF and EF members linked to the IP and IPSO are presented in table 4.

Group ID	IP to NF*	IP to EF*	IPSO to EF	Total	Group ID	IP to NF	IP to EF	IPSO to EF	Total
A	3	4	4	11	R	1	6	7	14
B	2	11	9	22	S	4	3	5	12
C	2	7	4	13	T	2	3	6	11
D	3	7	4	14	U	2	9	5	16
E	4	2	6	12	V	2	5	5	12
F	2	5	7	14	W	2	6	5	13
G	4	6	11	21	X	3	2	3	8
H	7	2	6	15	Y	3	5	6	14
I	4	3	8	15	Z	3	5	9	17
J	3	5	4	12	Aa	3	7	5	15
K	5	4	7	16	Ba	3	5	2	10

L	2	4	8	14	Ca	5	10	12	27
M	3	3	3	9	Da	3	8	3	14
N	2	7	6	15	Ea	2	6	3	11
O	1	1	4	6	Fa	-	4	4	8
P	2	6	6	14	Ga	1	3	5	9
Q	3	6	10	19					N*= 429

*NF: IP's Nuclear Family Member (Children). *EF: IP's Extended Family Member.

*N represents the number of NF and EF, linked to IP and IPSO (n=66), whom are not included in the total.

The demographic information of FMs with a chronic condition (CVD, high cholesterol level, DM, cancer), as well as positive controllable risk factors of the IP's and IPSO's household members (children), and extended FM (parents and the siblings), are presented in Table 4. Notably, the departed members were excluded from SNA's visual representation, but were presented on medical genogram diagram. Moreover, according to Figure 5, the frequency of high cholesterol level, diabetes mellitus, and hypertension was highest among individuals aged 61-70.

Age	IP to NF n	IP to EF n	IPSO to EF n	Total
1-10	6	-	-	6
11-20	15	-	-	15
21-30	30	1	6	37
31-40	25	15	24	64
41-50	5	36	45	86
51-60	-	51	53	104
61-70	-	33	35	68
71-80	-	13	22	35
81-90	-	5	7	12
91+	-	-	2	2

N*= 429

*N represents the number of NF and EF, linked to IP and IPSO (n=66), whom are not included in the total.

Table 4. The Age Distribution of NFs and EFs of IP and IPSO

In addition, cardiovascular disease, smoking status, and alcohol consumption, were more prevalent in those 51-60 years of age. Patients with cancer were mostly in the age group of 71-80 years, and those with overweight were mostly in the age group of 40-50 years. The presented data illustrates lifestyle-related controllable risk factors namely, smoking, obesity, drug use and alcohol consumption increase after the age of 30, and could be prevented early in life.

Table 4. Descriptive statistics of the IP's and IPSO's nuclear and extended family members.

Age	Cardiovascular disease	High Blood Pressure	High Blood Fat	Diabetes	Cancer*	Overweight	Smoke	Drug	Alcohol consumption
<= 10	1 (2.50)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
11 - 20	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (6.06)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
21 - 30	1 (2.50)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (3.23)	0 (0.00)	4 (12.12)	3 (6.12)	0 (0.00)	3 (16.67)
31 - 40	2 (5.00)	1 (3.03)	2 (4.55)	3 (9.68)	1 (8.33)	5 (15.15)	10 (20.41)	1 (16.67)	4 (22.22)
41 - 50	6 (15.00)	2 (6.06)	7 (15.91)	2 (6.45)	1 (8.33)	7 (21.21)	13 (26.53)	2 (33.33)	3 (16.67)
51 - 60	10 (25.00)	8 (24.24)	4 (9.09)	8 (25.81)	2 (16.67)	6 (18.18)	18 (36.73)	2 (33.33)	6 (33.33)
61 - 70	12 (30.00)	12 (36.36)	16 (36.36)	10 (32.26)	2 (16.67)	5 (15.15)	4 (8.16)	0 (0.00)	1 (5.56)
71 - 80	6 (15.00)	8 (24.24)	13 (29.55)	7 (22.58)	5 (41.67)	4 (12.12)	1 (2.04)	0 (0.00)	1 (5.56)
81 - 90	2 (5.00)	2 (6.06)	2 (4.55)	0 (0.00)	1 (8.33)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (16.67)	0 (0.00)
91+	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Total	40 (100.00)	33 (100.00)	44 (100.00)	31 (100.00)	12 (100.00)	33 (100.00)	49 (100.00)	6 (100.00)	18 (100.00)

Note: Pearson's Chi-squared Test was used to compare percentage levels.

Departed members are not included in the given data. *Cancer survivals and current FMs fighting cancer are both included.

The presented data illustrates lifestyle-related controllable risk factors namely, smoking, obesity, drug use and alcohol consumption increases after the age of 30, and could be prevented early in life.

Discussion

In 2007, WHO issued the Guidelines for Evaluation and Management of CVD's Risk Factors, which clearly pointed out that the incidence and mortality of CVD's were closely related to individual's lifestyle (LS) patterns regardless of gender and age. [56-57] Ideal CVH has been proposed by the AHA and used to measure population health. The seven risk factors (Life's Simple 7) that people can improve through LS changes, included four health behaviors (stop smoking, eat better, get active, and lose weight) and three health factors (manage blood pressure, control cholesterol, and reduce blood sugar). [58-61]

At present, plenty of relevant studies shown that LS interventions is one of the most important aspects of primary and secondary prevention of CVD's. Elimination of mentioned modifiable risk factors including unhealthy lifestyle allows for prevention of 80% of CVD cases and individuals with desirable lifestyle factors (not smoking, physically active, healthy diet, BMI < 25) are expected to have a 67-72% lower risk of developing heart failure. [62-63]

Health promotion interventions are very common method used to encourage individuals to adopt a healthier LS.⁶⁴ Since LS interventions aim to implement subjects behavioral change, the knowledge about the link between behavior and health (or risk awareness) is an important factor to inform choices about healthy behaviors. Moreover, the science of behavior change seeks to improve the understanding of underlying mechanisms of human behavior change by promoting and a basic mechanism of action research by use of an experimental medicine. In addition, trans-cultural studies, have long established the powerful role of environmental and cultural dimensions in behavioral change. [65-69]

Pro-active public health approaches focused on sociocultural and 'upstream' population-wide policies are increasingly recognized as being potentially powerful, rapid, equitable and cost-saving. [70-72] While the role of public health system must involve strong leadership, partnerships, funding, relevant data, and a foundational infrastructure, challenges may best be achieved as practitioners

consider the influence of policies and practices on families and households. Hence, the process that has been called health promotion no longer focuses on individuals alone, but now leads strengthening the social resources of individuals as well as improving the resources present in the social environment and units. “Public health begins at home”, proposes that the family should be considered as the basic unit of health production at the societal level, a context in public health practice, and an essential part of public health policy, studies, and interventions. [73-74]

Contemporary health promoting involving the FMs can establish scaffolds for shaping simple health behaviors (e.g. changes in meal preparation) in which individuals are born and receive resources for their growth and development. [75-77] family involvement has been defined as “a relationship between health care providers working together to promote and support active patient and public involvement in health care and to strengthen their influence on health care decisions at an individual and collective level”.⁷⁸ Therefore, lifestyle changes are likely to be more effective when delivered to the whole family than to individuals as it works within the framework of biologic and sociocultural relationships to affect risk reduction. [79-82]

Conclusion

This pilot study was conducted to assess the number of people living in the same household as our patients and their extended FMs who could potentially benefit from a health promotion intervention (in spite of their age) and a CVD’s non-laboratory-based risk measurement for individuals at the baseline age of ≤ 20 . The aim of this study was to make healthcare accessible not only to the patients but also to a wider society in order to detect and break the chain of unhealthy habits. Therefore, the future aim of the healthcare team is to make sure that every time a patient walks out of the hospital, our team members know that they have all contributed not only to the patient’s treatment success, but also passed on their knowledge to a greater population.

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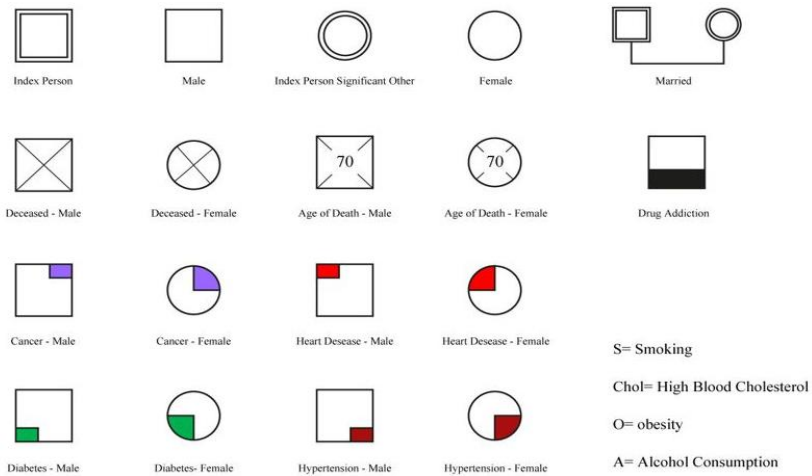
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Appendix

1. Medical Genogram symbols used in this study.



2. Group Aa's Medical Genogram.

