

A new approach: genomic medicine

Some doctors with Eagle Physicians and LeBauer HealthCare are participating in a research project to add genomic medicine to their practices.

Genomic medicine uses genetic information, such as family history, to improve patients' health. Doctors use this information to group their patients, based on their risk for common diseases, and then create health-care plans that lower their patients' risk for disease.

Because it takes time to collect and assess a patient's family history, The Genomedical Connection created a computer-based tool that performs this process for three diseases: breast cancer, colon cancer and blood-clotting disorders. Patients using this tool get a list of risk factors for each disease. Their doctors get a similar list with follow-up suggestions. Patients and doctors can then talk about the items on the lists.

The goal of this study is to create a program that works in a busy doctor's office. Patients whose doctors are taking part in this study will get a letter three weeks before a new patient comes in for a first visit or before a regular patient has a yearly well visit.

To take part in the project, patients will need to:

1. Take a short phone survey before their visit.
2. Enter their family history into the computer.
3. Take a follow-up survey.
4. Update their family history at their next well visit.

All information is kept confidential.

To learn more about the project, go to
The Genomedical Connection's Web site
at www.genomedical.com.

