

# #MDchat

## Healthcare Hashtag Twitter Transcript

**From:** Tue Dec 21 17:45:00 PST 2010

**To:** Tue Dec 21 19:15:00 PST 2010

Learn more about #MDchat at [The Healthcare Hashtag Project](#)

**mkmackey**

"Tests Detect Alzheimer's Risks, but Should Patients Be Told?"<http://ow.ly/3sOYi> Interesting topic.. coming up in 3min [#mdchat](#) [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 17:58:20 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed**

Hi gang - Paul Moniz here - Albert Einstein College of Medicine in NYC. Hope everyone is having a great week. Good topic 2nte. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:01:48 PST 2010

**mdstudent31**

Spending the next hour chilling w/ physicians on [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:02:01 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

Mark, family doc in [#RVA](#), pondering the ethical and moral issues this chat will address...tough topics. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:02:08 PST 2010

**ability4life**

[#MDchat](#) Kathy Kastner health blogger, Alz highly relevant for my site, [www.ability4life.com](http://www.ability4life.com) 4 adult kids taking care of aging parents

Tue Dec 21 18:02:28 PST 2010

**mdstudent31**

Hey everyone! Kevin, 4th year med student, fam med advocate, just matched family med in the Navy, looking fwd to following along! [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:02:54 PST 2010

**ocamsrazor**

greetings, gen int. med MD [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:02:59 PST 2010

**apjonas**

Pat Jonas, MD Holistic Family Physician in OH. Hi everyone! [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:03:55 PST 2010

**MD\_chat**

[@mdstudent31](#) Welcome! [#MDchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:04:05 PST 2010

**mdstudent31**

[@MD\\_CHat](#) thanks! Happy holidays to everyone! [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:04:46 PST 2010

**MD\_chat** T1 Alzheimer's: Discuss +/- of & the dilemma of foreknowledge of Dx. #MDchat See: <http://nyti.ms/gZvBt6> by @ginakolata  
Tue Dec 21 18:05:02 PST 2010

**NursingLink** U.S. #Doctor Distribution Uneven <http://ow.ly/3sP3H> #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:05:02 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed** Shoutout to @mdstudent31 @RichmondDoc @ability4life @mkmackey Glad you made it. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:05:36 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** Oh dear, computer not obeying tonight! I am Ellen, a nurse who deals with critically ill people, some with alzheimers. Very tough #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:05:37 PST 2010

**ability4life** Thanks! RT @EinsteinMed: Shoutout to @mdstudent31 @RichmondDoc @ability4life @mkmackey Glad you made it. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:06:48 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** T1 Biggest dilemma to foreknowledge at this point is where do you go once you know? #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:06:57 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** T1 There are many illnesses w/ early Dx but poor/little treatment. What role does early Dx play if no effective Rx available. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:07:52 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** T1 If I had a choice, though, I guess I would want to know if I had Alzheimers (AD) #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:08:19 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** T1: Implications for insurance premiums? If ACA repealed - pre-existing condition?? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:08:22 PST 2010

**mkmackey** T1 Should a patient learn about a future diagnosis? A genetic testing issue as well #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:08:27 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed** Ability 2 diagnose /develop predictive models vastly outpacing ability to treat Alz. With no long-term tx, would you want to know? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:08:35 PST 2010

**ocamsrazor** only role I see is early decision making for unfortunate pt with Dx #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:08:45 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** T1: Seems "Gattaca"-like #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:09:16 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** @mdstudent31 Absolutely a risk. There is a law preventing discrimination on basis of genetic testing, but not in settings like this #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:09:29 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** T1 With earlier diagnosis, preparations can be better made for future decisions & control over the AD victim #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:10:06 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** @RichmondDoc seems like a slippery slope from there in respect to knowledge of all genetic issues #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:10:14 PST 2010

**apjonas** T1#mdchat The patient has the problem, so they have to decide what to do. We are mirror holders, hand holders and doctors, not gods.  
Tue Dec 21 18:10:22 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** T1: Patients must be protected in regards to coverage/premiums, but targeted for earlier tx options #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:11:08 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** T1 When someone with AD gets ill & needs hospitalization, it creates a whole new set of critical safety issues during medical rx #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:11:32 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** @ability4life One of the slippery slopes. If medicine has a duty to avoid harm, but if Dx creates emotional distress & no Rx helps? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:11:45 PST 2010

**apjonas** @EllenRichter They are not victims, in my opinion.#mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:12:30 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** @RichmondDoc @ability4life and if Rx sides > benefit if Tx early? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:12:33 PST 2010

**ocamsrazor** @GailZahtz @ocamsrazor we all should do things B4 too ill/too late #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:12:33 PST 2010

**ocamsrazor** @apjonas @EllenRichter agree #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:13:05 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed** @RichmondDoc RE T1/careful counseling. Essential. Many of these tests have variable interpretations. Pts might feel fate sealed. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:13:31 PST 2010

**ability4life** Doesn't being a pt = emotional distress RT @RichmondDoc: meds has duty 2avoid harm, but if Dx creates emo distress & no Rx helps? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:13:37 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** T1 Pros: early Dx, poss early preparations. Cons: distress, ? discrimination, side effects, \$ spent, emotional distress/depression. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:13:53 PST 2010

- ocamsrazor** best AD tests only 90% diag accuracy, prevalence AD 50% in mild cog. impairmnt #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:14:51 PST 2010
- RichmondDoc** @ability4life Yes; AD Dx will create emotional distress. But is it better or worse for that distress to begin 20 yrs before sx's? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:14:54 PST 2010
- PracticalWisdom** Thought this was also a great piece:  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/18/health/18moral.html?partner=rss&emc=rss> #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:15:11 PST 2010
- EllenRichter** T1 Many diagnoses cause emotional distress, but it doesn't mean we withhold information. Remember empowerment comes with knowledge #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:15:47 PST 2010
- ability4life** Ah. IMHO depends on ptRT @RichmondDoc: Yes; AD Dx will create emo distress. But better or worse for distress 2 begin 20 yrs b4 sx's? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:15:51 PST 2010
- RichmondDoc** @ability4life @EllenRichter Hence need for careful pre-test and post-test counseling. What do pts expect/want, what does info mean? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:16:49 PST 2010
- ocamsrazor** @GailZahz Could also lead to doing "wrong/bad" things B4 too late.. desperate times=desperate measures #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:16:55 PST 2010
- ocamsrazor** Dx also impacts family members...? do I have it too #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:18:10 PST 2010
- apjonas** @EinsteinMed @RichmondDoc Great point on variable interpretation of tests. Society feels med tests black and white. We live in gray#mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:18:17 PST 2010
- RichmondDoc** T1 Any such testing \*must\* come with true informed consent. Once pts have the info, cannot be undone. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:18:27 PST 2010
- ability4life** Agree RT @RichmondDoc: @ability4life @EllenRichter Hence careful pre-/post-test counseling. What pts expect/want, what ds info mean? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:18:30 PST 2010
- mkmackey** @beRt\_MD it is a difficult decision in all respects. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:18:44 PST 2010
- EinsteinMed** Sobering Every 70 sec. an American develops Alzheimer's; by 2050 (with aging boomers) rate will be every 33 seconds (alz.org) #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:18:53 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** @RichmondDoc Even with informed consent, what keeps pt from bringing about lawsuit for non-economic damages? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:19:14 PST 2010

**MD\_chat** @ocamsrazor Very true. #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:19:14 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** @RichmondDoc T1 I think pts & families would want to prepare better for when AD symptoms begin to occur. #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:19:20 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** @EllenRichter T1 Counterpoint could be: what if pts feel the end is inevitable and become depressed or hurt themselves? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:20:34 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** Those are mind-boggling stats! RT @EinsteinMed: Every 70 sec an American develops Alzheimers; by 2050 rate will be every 33 sec #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:20:52 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** @RichmondDoc -Re: Counterpoint - Same thing w/ HIV testing? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:21:20 PST 2010

**ocamsrazor** benefit of early testing is if neg...then must look for other cause of early cog. impairment #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:21:34 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed** Impact of Alz on family HUGE: 2009: 10.9 M family/caregivers of people with Alz/dementia provided 12.5 B hours of care (alz.org) #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:21:52 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** @mdstudent31 Key difference: HIV has active, effective treatment that prolongs life and that prevents morbidity/mortality. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:22:14 PST 2010

**ocamsrazor** easier to Tx HIV #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:22:18 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** @RichmondDoc T1 I think knowing about Alzheimers is just the same as knowing about cancer that has no treatment. Still can plan #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:23:03 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** @EinsteinMed: Increase in Dx/Sx due to more Dx? Is it all truly Alzheimers vs multi-infarct vs etc (yea, mdstudent DDX!) #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:23:13 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** @ability4life @GailZahtz I agree that empowered pts should be able to make their own decisions: but must insure info is understood. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:23:19 PST 2010

- mdstudent31** True story: RT @RichmondDoc: Key difference: HIV has active, effective treatment that prolongs life and that prevents M&M. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:23:57 PST 2010
- mkmackey** LOL.. I did not choose to know the sex of my 3rd child where planning would have been helpful. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:24:04 PST 2010
- RichmondDoc** @EllenRichter True. But a difference if the test shows increased risk of a dz vs. formal and official Dx of a dz. Is AD there yet? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:24:11 PST 2010
- mdstudent31** @ability4life lots of financial planning could be beneficial esp for assisted living, and future placement #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:24:43 PST 2010
- ability4life** 4 sure!RT @mdstudent31: @ability4life lots of financial planning could be beneficial esp for assisted living, and future placement #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:25:10 PST 2010
- PracticalWisdom** Important point from the article: "We don't know for certain what these results mean," Dr. Morris said. #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:25:14 PST 2010
- EllenRichter** @RichmondDoc T1 My point comparing AD with cancer is about the depression & poss self harm. It can happen knowing abt any disease #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:25:58 PST 2010
- RichmondDoc** T1 we run the risk of a situation analogous to PSA testing for prostate CA: what does the result mean, what Rx relevant. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:26:56 PST 2010
- mkmackey** Wondering how insurance would be affected with earlier diagnosis? Seems to be very personal decision of family & provider #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:27:15 PST 2010
- ocamsrazor** pts often do not come in asking for testing...families bring in pt to be tested...then what? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:27:27 PST 2010
- RichmondDoc** T1 In PSA testing the science of the test outran the science of the treatment. Many pts harmed as a result w/o any definite benefit #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:27:33 PST 2010
- EllenRichter** @PracticalWisdom T1 I feel we can learn to get better control over the fate of AD victims if we know ahead of time. Planning is key #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:27:44 PST 2010
- westr** Good point! RT @EllenRichter: T1 Biggest dilemma to foreknowledge at this point is where do you go once you know? #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:28:00 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed**

[@apjonas](#) Agree regarding losing your mind vs. cancer. Esp. when there are no known LT treatments. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:28:12 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

[@ability4life](#) [@EllenRichter](#) Would be interesting to know if depression after Dx AD > after Dx for cancer. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:28:21 PST 2010

**westr**

Me too! RT [@EllenRichter](#): T1 If I had a choice, though, I guess I would want to know if I had Alzheimers (AD) [#MDchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:28:25 PST 2010

**apjonas**

[@RichmondDoc](#) PSA fog seems different than AD fog, much thicker and more perilous with the AD. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:28:37 PST 2010

**westr**

Whoa!! GINA protects?? RT [@mdstudent31](#): T1: Implications for insurance premiums? If ACA repealed - pre-existing condition?? [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:29:08 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

T1 But remember: this test does \*not\* Dx AD 100%. Suggests increased risk or likelihood of Dx in the future. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:29:15 PST 2010

**MD\_chat**

T1a How do/would you guide patients who want tests for AZ which can't be reliably interpreted? [#MDchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:30:03 PST 2010

**apjonas**

[@ability4life](#) [@beRt\\_MD](#) Exactly. Pt is in charge until POA is in charge. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:30:04 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

T1 This is not the same as "Your sugar is 300; you have diabetes." This is "Your test suggests that you have increased risk of AD." [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:30:11 PST 2010

**beRt\_MD**

[#MDchat](#) Need to understand that not all patients r create equal. Some will have cognitive ability & fam support to understand/withstand dx

Tue Dec 21 18:30:22 PST 2010

**ability4life**

Good Q. RT [@RichmondDoc](#): [@ability4life](#) [@EllenRichter](#) Would b interesting 2 know if depressn after Dx AD>after Dx for cancer. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:30:27 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed**

Critical distinction. RT [@RichmondDoc](#): T1 But remember: this test does \*not\* Dx AD 100%. Suggests increased future risk /likelihood [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:30:33 PST 2010

**mdstudent31**

[@westr](#) protects pt or doc? And Will it really? Or will there be new interests/political \$\$ to create issues [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 18:30:34 PST 2010

- PracticalWisdom** How does "not knowing" impact the life of a person? Could the stress/depression cause other damage to the body/mind. [#MDchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:30:49 PST 2010
- RichmondDoc** [@MD\\_Chat](#) T1a Find the best and most qualified pre-test and post-test counselors out there; have a few visits before drawing test. [#mdchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:30:58 PST 2010
- beRt\_MD** [#MDchat](#) Great convo but kids screaming. Thanks all. Will read script later.  
Tue Dec 21 18:31:38 PST 2010
- mdstudent31** T1a: This is another area where the PCMH concept truly helps - interdisciplinary professionals helping pt together [#mdchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:32:17 PST 2010
- RichmondDoc** [@EinsteinMed](#) But a distinction all too easily lost or overlooked. This is part of why this is so cloudy to me. [#mdchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:32:26 PST 2010
- PracticalWisdom** [@beRt\\_MD](#) Good Night [#MDchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:32:45 PST 2010
- apjonas** [@PracticalWisdom](#) Knowing or not knowing about the increased is an individual patient problem. Each is unique in their decisions [#mdchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:32:52 PST 2010
- westr** [@RichmondDoc](#) Not sure about that [#mdchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:33:12 PST 2010
- PracticalWisdom** [@apjonas](#) Different Strokes for Different Folks seems to be one of the answers [#MDchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:33:56 PST 2010
- apjonas** [@mdstudent31](#) Good point. Especially if you have a numbers maven and a hugger on the PCMH team. [#mdchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:34:14 PST 2010
- westr** Be the first to say i dont know. RT [@mdstudent31](#): And Will it really? Or will there be new interests/political \$\$ to create issues [#mdchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:34:43 PST 2010
- GailZahz** [@mdstudent31](#) I agree, interdisciplinary teams are essential in not only AD, but many chronic and untreatable diagnosis. [#MDChat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:35:56 PST 2010
- EinsteinMed** The debate on wx to give dx & how much 2 reveal will rage on. [@ginakolata](#) article: nearly 300 comments: <http://nyti.ms/ghAr79> [#mdchat](#)  
Tue Dec 21 18:36:12 PST 2010



- mdstudent31** @westr looking at it, GINA should... but does it protect the physician against non-economic damages? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:36:21 PST 2010
- EllenRichter** With any fatal dz RT @EinsteinMed: One must consider support systems: friends, family. Knowing early and being alone = devastating #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:37:13 PST 2010
- westr** Non-economic damages?? RT @mdstudent31: GINA should... but does it protect the physician against non-economic damages? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:38:17 PST 2010
- mkmackey** Education & awareness like the @ginakolata article w 300 comments <http://nyti.ms/ghAr79> will likely help some families w decision #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:38:29 PST 2010
- EllenRichter** Grrrr, my computer has its own plan for me tonight! LOL, I hate when it wont cooperate! #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:38:44 PST 2010
- mdstudent31** @westr Damages for pain, suffering, loss of companionship, consortium (not medical bills) #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:39:21 PST 2010
- EllenRichter** T1 When a person w/ AD symptoms is hospitalized, it usually worsens their confusion & makes it a safety challenge #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:39:57 PST 2010
- EinsteinMed** Voices of those with early Alz. Still lucid enough to know what lies ahead: Powerful, moving video series: <http://bit.ly/ihaDEd> #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:40:11 PST 2010
- PracticalWisdom** Agree! RT @westr: RT @apjonas: @mkmackey yes. Most of my pts dont want the genetic test. Dont want to know if they will be like Mom. #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:40:22 PST 2010
- mdstudent31** @RichmondDoc @westr and was the "Treatment" for prolonging Disease/tx earlier than normal also harmful leading to other damages #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:40:55 PST 2010
- RichmondDoc** T1 Is it appropriate to give pts years and years of fear based on a test that does not make the Dx and that could prove wrong? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:40:58 PST 2010
- mdstudent31** No RT @RichmondDoc T1 Is it approp. to give pts years&years of fear based on test that does not make Dx and that could prove wrong? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:41:52 PST 2010
- westr** !!!!! RT @PracticalWisdom: Important point from the article: "We don't know for certain what these results mean," Dr. Morris said.#MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:43:03 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** T1 These discussions are critical, but it is very important to remember how complicated/multifaceted these issues are. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:43:14 PST 2010

**mkmackey** I value the experience & compassion of MDs for their patients every time I listen in to these chats #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:43:52 PST 2010

**ability4life** Ditto! RT @mkmackey: I value the experience & compassion of MDs for their patients every time I listen in to these chats #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:44:08 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** Great link, thanks! @EinsteinMed: Powerful, moving video series: <http://bit.ly/ihaDEd> #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:44:14 PST 2010

**PracticalWisdom** Agree 100%RT @RichmondDoc: T1 discussions R critical, it is very important 2 remember how complicated/multifaceted these issues R #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:44:22 PST 2010

**MD\_chat** T2 Genetic testing: Have you had PTs who've used services like @23andme? What are practice considerations? #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:45:02 PST 2010

**westr** Agree RT @EllenRichter: @PracticalWisdom T1 we can get better control over the fate of AD if we know ahead of time. Planning is key #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:45:23 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** @ability4life @apjonas Which brings me back to the point of the importance of pre- and post-test counseling. Key part of process. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:45:32 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed** @EllenRichter That woman in first video is still so positive -with a sense of humor. Courageous in the face of likely doom. #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:46:01 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** @ability4life @apjonas The issue is this: how often is informed consent truly informed, and how often will the counseling be used? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:46:08 PST 2010

**EllenRichter** Great point! RT @apjonas Pt decides. Some get fear, some relief w/varying expectations based on same test result. We dont decide 4 pt #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:46:28 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** @TomPeddicord @practicalwisdom \*IF\* you could reduce risk, this is one thing. As of now, no such intervention proven to exist. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:47:11 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** T2: 23andMe.... wow Now THAT is Gattaca-like. Geez. What do physicians do w/ this? I have not encountered as student yet #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 18:47:22 PST 2010

**ability4life**

#MDChat T1 Alz video based on transcripts from dementia pts and caregivers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZnLy4RJKfo&feature=related>

Tue Dec 21 18:47:38 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

T2 I really worry about 23andMe. Give info, but no counseling or help understanding the results. Can be v. subtle results. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:49:36 PST 2010

**apjonas**

@RichmondDoc @ability4life informed consent flawed by human limits. Counseling likewise. "To Err is human, to forgive is not medical"#mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:50:35 PST 2010

**mdstudent31**

T2: How do you approach this though, esp. when a pt you know in your practice for a while shows "test" results #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:50:53 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

T2 Services such as 23andMe are very concerning: info w/o context, could be misunderstood and lead to further harm. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:51:11 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

@apjonas @ability4life Consent and counseling are flawed, but better than ordering a test without context and without explaining. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:51:53 PST 2010

**ocamsrazor**

there is no primary prevention for AD, "TX" in pipeline aimed at tertiary prevention. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:51:58 PST 2010

**healthpolicygrp**

Discussions w/ patients about end-of-life choices & options can be constructive. AD predictions w/o good tx options seem murkier. #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 18:52:35 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed**

T2 Some genetic tests like those to predict sudden death can serve as early warning signs or offer relief <http://on.wsj.com/bhl1BG> #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 18:52:49 PST 2010

**EllenRichter**

T1a If the pt can be offered support systems & counselling ahead of time, why would we deny them this benefit? Better done than not. #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 18:52:56 PST 2010

**GailZantz**

In AD, chronic conditions, untreatable diagnosis, the full spectrum of team professional services is key. #MDChat #HPM

Tue Dec 21 18:54:17 PST 2010

**ability4life**

Check out #hpm RT @healthpolicygrp: Discussions w/ patients about e-0-l choices /options can b constructive. #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 18:54:19 PST 2010

**apjonas**

T2 Geneology a good use for 23&me type sites. Genomics VERY FLAWED medically, dangerous for pts. But I will "spit" in cup for \$99. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:55:32 PST 2010

**mdstudent31**

@apjonas \$99 for gym membership may be more useful #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:56:08 PST 2010

**GailZahz**

@RichmondDoc Is it the test in particular that concerns you or the early possible diagnosis and its ramifications to the pt? #MDChat

Tue Dec 21 18:56:11 PST 2010

**mkmackey**

T2 IMO a risk for patients is the unpredictability of results from testing like 23andme #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:56:13 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed**

Curious. Of the MDs on this chat - have any had to tell a pt they likely have Alz? How did you handle? #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 18:56:13 PST 2010

**westr**

Teaching it to our med students now. RT @mdstudent31: T2: 23andMe.... wow Now THAT is Gattaca-like. Geez. What do physicians do.. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:57:03 PST 2010

**miller7**

Whoops @RichmondDoc @EllenRichter Couldnt resist - good academic "relative risk" article. <http://bit.ly/gvNQak> #MDCHAT

Tue Dec 21 18:57:24 PST 2010

**mdstudent31**

@westr in clinical situations? with SPs? That would be very helpful! #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:57:54 PST 2010

**ability4life**

Check out this article <http://tinyurl.com/2bvhnj> RT @RichmondDoc: @EllenRichter meds can rush into dec that turn out 2 b ill-advsd. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:57:56 PST 2010

**westr**

Doubt they test the same things. RT @RichmondDoc: T2 Fortunate that we have a great patient-focused Clinical Genetics dept. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:58:35 PST 2010

**EllenRichter**

@RichmondDoc I cant agree more. Health care professionals need to know their pts & know how to approach them w/ info such as AD test #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 18:58:51 PST 2010

**apjonas**

@mdstudent31 curiosity and a cousin who did test compel me 2 be a good cuz and spit my DNA in \$99 cup for 23&me 2 learn 4 my pts(?) #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:59:05 PST 2010

**westr**

No, as a med elective. SP wud b great! RT @mdstudent31: @westr in clinical situations? with SPs? That would be very helpful! #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:59:47 PST 2010

**mdstudent31**

"Baldness"?? So, are men going to take meds to prevent before happening and suffer sides. Probably already happening! #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 18:59:51 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** @westr this will almost certainly need to be in curriculum and not elective as we move forward. Get LCME on the phone :) #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:00:28 PST 2010

**GailZahtz** @RichmondDoc I agree impact on the pt is key. I just believe that the pts, with the accurate information, deserve to decide impact. #MDChat  
Tue Dec 21 19:00:39 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** @GailZahtz But how can we know if the info is accurate? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:01:16 PST 2010

**mdstudent31** @apjonas May be worth the money to see how it feels personally to relate with the pt who comes in w/ results from test #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:01:24 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** Sorry, all. Getting a little "meta" on my end. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:01:35 PST 2010

**westr** For sure. Heading that way.. RT @mdstudent31: will need to be in curriculum and not elective. Get LCME on the phone :) #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:01:55 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** Holiday wishes: a safe and successful medical service trip to the Dominican Republic, health & wellness for all. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:02:08 PST 2010

**MD\_chat** @RichmondDoc :) #MDchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:02:11 PST 2010

**ability4life** fabulous! thought provoking thank goodness for committed #MDchat -ers. Peace happy holidays 2 all  
Tue Dec 21 19:02:16 PST 2010

**hvto** @RichmondDoc @GailZahtz "how can we know if the info is accurate?" & how 2 know if pt perception is accurate? #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:02:18 PST 2010

**GailZahtz** @RichmondDoc The information physicians provide and approve is accurate. Explanations of inconclusive tests include med information. #MDChat  
Tue Dec 21 19:02:46 PST 2010

**westr** Studies dont support that. RT @RichmondDoc: T2 Services such as 23andMe could be misunderstood and lead to further harm. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:03:04 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc** Final thought: all medical intervention involves some degree of risk; more risk in some vs. others. Must remember our fallibility. #mdchat  
Tue Dec 21 19:03:11 PST 2010

**mdstudent31**

Safe, Happy holidays/New Year, good luck to students/residency progs on upcoming interviews! And.. Hug a med student. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 19:03:25 PST 2010

**ability4life**

Spoken like a true gent RT @RichmondDoc: Final thought: all med interveninvolves some degree of risk; Must remember our fallibility. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 19:03:52 PST 2010

**EllenRichter**

I never heard of 23andme I will have to read about it! Learn something new every hour on Twitter :) #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 19:03:57 PST 2010

**EinsteinMed**

F/Thought: May 2011 bring vitality, good health, humor and appreciation of how lucky we are. Happy Holidays, everyone. #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 19:04:43 PST 2010

**MD\_chat**

Next #MDchat is next Tuesday 12/28 9pm Eastern. Topics can always be submitted: <http://tinyurl.com/MDtopic>

Tue Dec 21 19:04:56 PST 2010

**EllenRichter**

Wishing everyone who follows #MDchat hashtag a wonderful holiday season & safe & happy new year! Great chat tonight! :)

Tue Dec 21 19:05:08 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

One more thought: Medical professionals have a terrible time understanding absolute vs. relative risk. How to teach non-med folk? #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 19:05:43 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

@westr DM to follow w/ my e-mail. Thanks for the offer. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 19:05:56 PST 2010

**MD\_chat**

From #MDchat enjoy your holiday festivities - be safe, have fun and reflect on the good things in life. Cheers! :-)

Tue Dec 21 19:06:10 PST 2010

**westr**

Routinely. RT @RichmondDoc: @EllenRichter I think medicine has rushed into making decisions that later turn out to be ill-advised. #mdchat

Tue Dec 21 19:06:13 PST 2010

**PracticalWisdom**

We call it a cost benefit analysis #MDChat

Tue Dec 21 19:06:23 PST 2010

**MD\_chat**

@GailZantz Good to hear that, means a lot. Hope to see you next week. Enjoy your holiday weekend! #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 19:07:40 PST 2010

**westr**

Conjecture, i think. RT @PracticalWisdom: play crossword puzzles, eat right and exercise you will not have to worry. Sad. #MDchat

Tue Dec 21 19:07:44 PST 2010

**EllenRichter**

[@westr](#) [@RichmondDoc](#) What decisions could be interpreted as "ill-advised" when it comes to knowing about AD earlier? I [#MDchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 19:08:04 PST 2010

**suzanakm**

[#mdchat](#) what a great topic: we were just doing a workshop on AZ gen test w/ our med students. How to get the tweet chat to share with them?

Tue Dec 21 19:08:44 PST 2010

**EllenRichter**

[@MD\\_Chat](#) Hey thanks! I love to banter with [@RichmondDoc](#) :) [#MDchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 19:09:41 PST 2010

**westr**

Make sure you follow me so i can dm back RT [@RichmondDoc](#): [@westr](#) DM to follow w/ my e-mail. Thanks for the offer. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 19:09:53 PST 2010

**suzanakm**

[@westr](#) [@mdstudent31](#) [@westr](#) we did a scenario on this with 1st yr students and SPs... AZ genetic testing [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 19:10:31 PST 2010

**hvto**

[@suzanakm](#) <http://tweetchat.com/> - set up hashtag [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 19:10:53 PST 2010

**RichmondDoc**

[@EllenRichter](#) [@MD\\_Chat](#) Banter and intellectual discussion is great. I think it makes us better health care providers. [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 19:11:27 PST 2010

**apjonas**

[@EinsteinMed](#) Many times in 153,000 pt visits. I allow their values to drive the ship. Vocab responds 2 pt level of desire 2 know [#mdchat](#)

Tue Dec 21 19:11:41 PST 2010