

1  
00:00:03,830 --> 00:00:07,230  
Hello, I'm Dr. Steve  
Kopecky a Preventive  
2  
00:00:07,230 --> 00:00:08,730  
Cardiologist  
at Mayo Clinic  
3  
00:00:08,730 --> 00:00:10,125  
in Rochester, Minnesota.  
4  
00:00:10,125 --> 00:00:11,550  
It's my pleasure  
today to be  
5  
00:00:11,550 --> 00:00:13,560  
speaking with Dr.  
Iftikhar Kullo,  
6  
00:00:13,560 --> 00:00:14,940  
who is a Professor  
of Medicine  
7  
00:00:14,940 --> 00:00:16,785  
here at Mayo in Rochester.  
8  
00:00:16,785 --> 00:00:18,840  
And one of our  
Preventive Cardiologists  
9  
00:00:18,840 --> 00:00:20,115  
will be talking about  
10  
00:00:20,115 --> 00:00:23,100  
genetic testing in  
cardiovascular disease.  
11  
00:00:23,100 --> 00:00:24,390  
So Iftikhar welcome.  
12  
00:00:24,390 --> 00:00:25,050  
Thank you, Steve.  
13  
00:00:25,050 --> 00:00:27,270  
A pleasure to  
join you today.  
14  
00:00:27,270 --> 00:00:28,200  
I'm really looking  
15  
00:00:28,200 --> 00:00:29,415  
forward to this  
conversation.

16  
00:00:29,415 --> 00:00:31,380  
You know, that the  
genetic testing is  
17  
00:00:31,380 --> 00:00:33,750  
really come up about  
the last few years,  
18  
00:00:33,750 --> 00:00:35,970  
a large part due  
to your research.  
19  
00:00:35,970 --> 00:00:38,190  
Why is genetic  
testing needed  
20  
00:00:38,190 --> 00:00:41,100  
for coronary risk  
stratification?  
21  
00:00:41,100 --> 00:00:43,610  
Well, Steve, We everyday  
22  
00:00:43,610 --> 00:00:47,705  
use calculators for  
risk stratification  
23  
00:00:47,705 --> 00:00:48,800  
and that's a great tool.  
24  
00:00:48,800 --> 00:00:50,735  
We have experimental  
cardiologists  
25  
00:00:50,735 --> 00:00:51,710  
and we have to thank  
26  
00:00:51,710 --> 00:00:54,710  
people who kind of develop  
those calculators,  
27  
00:00:54,710 --> 00:00:56,795  
particularly the  
Framingham investigators,  
28  
00:00:56,795 --> 00:00:58,280  
Dr. Kandel and team.  
29  
00:00:58,280 --> 00:00:59,405  
And that's really a  
30  
00:00:59,405 --> 00:01:01,295  
fantastic resource for us.

31  
00:01:01,295 --> 00:01:03,440  
And we've used that  
and that was dual of  
32  
00:01:03,440 --> 00:01:04,910  
60 years ago and we've been  
33  
00:01:04,910 --> 00:01:06,500  
people into low risk,  
34  
00:01:06,500 --> 00:01:08,345  
intermediate  
risk, high risk.  
35  
00:01:08,345 --> 00:01:10,100  
But as you know, and  
36  
00:01:10,100 --> 00:01:12,230  
many of us see  
in our practice,  
37  
00:01:12,230 --> 00:01:13,385  
many of these patients,  
38  
00:01:13,385 --> 00:01:15,125  
when they develop an event,  
39  
00:01:15,125 --> 00:01:16,700  
if you had done their risk  
40  
00:01:16,700 --> 00:01:18,230  
estimate the day before,  
41  
00:01:18,230 --> 00:01:19,910  
they would not have  
been high risk.  
42  
00:01:19,910 --> 00:01:23,630  
So we do see a lot  
of patients that  
43  
00:01:23,630 --> 00:01:25,190  
would not be predicted as  
44  
00:01:25,190 --> 00:01:27,260  
High risk using  
these equations.  
45  
00:01:27,260 --> 00:01:28,610  
So there's clearly a need  
46  
00:01:28,610 --> 00:01:30,230  
for us to improve them.

47  
00:01:30,230 --> 00:01:31,760  
And it's been 60 years  
48  
00:01:31,760 --> 00:01:32,690  
since they were developed.  
49  
00:01:32,690 --> 00:01:33,770  
And as yet, there's  
50  
00:01:33,770 --> 00:01:35,330  
no single biomarker that's  
51  
00:01:35,330 --> 00:01:37,190  
in these pooled  
cohort equations.  
52  
00:01:37,190 --> 00:01:40,880  
And I think genetic risk  
assessment provides  
53  
00:01:40,880 --> 00:01:42,920  
a very exciting  
new avenue for  
54  
00:01:42,920 --> 00:01:43,940  
us to improve these risk  
55  
00:01:43,940 --> 00:01:45,035  
prediction equations.  
56  
00:01:45,035 --> 00:01:47,210  
Very interesting.  
So how do you  
57  
00:01:47,210 --> 00:01:49,595  
assess genetic risk  
for coronary disease?  
58  
00:01:49,595 --> 00:01:51,410  
Well, everybody,  
all of us have  
59  
00:01:51,410 --> 00:01:53,600  
a very simple tool and  
that's family history.  
60  
00:01:53,600 --> 00:01:55,190  
We should absolutely never  
61  
00:01:55,190 --> 00:01:56,900  
Miss to ascertain a certain family  
62  
00:01:56,900 --> 00:01:58,460

history on all our patients.  
63  
00:01:58,460 --> 00:02:00,140  
And as cardiologists, we're  
64  
00:02:00,140 --> 00:02:02,435  
typically  
interested in CHD.  
65  
00:02:02,435 --> 00:02:05,540  
And generally any  
first-degree relative male,  
66  
00:02:05,540 --> 00:02:08,150  
less than 55, female  
less than 65.  
67  
00:02:08,150 --> 00:02:09,785  
We said that's  
family history.  
68  
00:02:09,785 --> 00:02:12,650  
And that is very helpful.  
69  
00:02:12,650 --> 00:02:15,020  
It captures not only  
some genetic factors,  
70  
00:02:15,020 --> 00:02:16,610  
but also  
environmental factors  
71  
00:02:16,610 --> 00:02:18,620  
that the family may  
have been exposed to.  
72  
00:02:18,620 --> 00:02:20,870  
That's a very simple, easy,  
73  
00:02:20,870 --> 00:02:22,760  
cheap genomic  
tool, I would say.  
74  
00:02:22,760 --> 00:02:27,095  
And the risk  
ranges from 1.5 to  
75  
00:02:27,095 --> 00:02:29,330  
twofold higher when you  
have a family history  
76  
00:02:29,330 --> 00:02:30,500  
with a first-degree  
relative

77  
00:02:30,500 --> 00:02:32,255  
having premature CHD.  
78  
00:02:32,255 --> 00:02:34,580  
But more interestingly,  
recently,  
79  
00:02:34,580 --> 00:02:35,839  
we have this opportunity  
80  
00:02:35,839 --> 00:02:37,835  
to measure genetic  
risk scores.  
81  
00:02:37,835 --> 00:02:40,280  
And what those involved is,  
82  
00:02:40,280 --> 00:02:42,890  
we have these, what we  
call polymorphisms.  
83  
00:02:42,890 --> 00:02:46,565  
And even though we're  
99.9% similar these,  
84  
00:02:46,565 --> 00:02:48,170  
the remaining variation  
85  
00:02:48,170 --> 00:02:49,280  
determines how we look,  
86  
00:02:49,280 --> 00:02:50,780  
how we behave, what  
87  
00:02:50,780 --> 00:02:52,760  
our susceptibility  
to disease is.  
88  
00:02:52,760 --> 00:02:54,950  
And that's true  
for CHD as well.  
89  
00:02:54,950 --> 00:02:56,510  
And we have done  
90  
00:02:56,510 --> 00:02:59,119  
these large genome-wide  
association  
91  
00:02:59,119 --> 00:03:01,115  
studies and they've shown.  
92  
00:03:01,115 --> 00:03:03,140

Or reveal multiple  
93  
00:03:03,140 --> 00:03:04,970  
susceptibility  
genetic variance  
94  
00:03:04,970 --> 00:03:07,415  
up to about 200  
nearly at present.  
95  
00:03:07,415 --> 00:03:09,260  
So if we take an  
individual and  
96  
00:03:09,260 --> 00:03:11,180  
measured these 200  
or so variants,  
97  
00:03:11,180 --> 00:03:14,090  
we can get an assessment of  
98  
00:03:14,090 --> 00:03:16,460  
what the genetic risk  
scores simply by  
99  
00:03:16,460 --> 00:03:17,840  
counting the number of risk  
100  
00:03:17,840 --> 00:03:19,475  
variance at each locus.  
101  
00:03:19,475 --> 00:03:20,600  
And if you were really  
102  
00:03:20,600 --> 00:03:21,935  
unfortunate, you'd have to,  
103  
00:03:21,935 --> 00:03:23,060  
400 of them are,  
104  
00:03:23,060 --> 00:03:23,570  
and if you're very  
105  
00:03:23,570 --> 00:03:25,265  
fortunately would  
have none of them.  
106  
00:03:25,265 --> 00:03:30,080  
So, so when we do this  
in a cohort of people,  
107  
00:03:30,080 --> 00:03:32,105  
the genetic risk  
score is bell-shaped.

108  
00:03:32,105 --> 00:03:33,530  
But then there  
are people at  
109  
00:03:33,530 --> 00:03:34,910  
the tail end of the  
110  
00:03:34,910 --> 00:03:36,470  
bell-shaped that  
are at high risk.  
111  
00:03:36,470 --> 00:03:37,805  
And that's where this  
112  
00:03:37,805 --> 00:03:40,325  
profiling is  
really helpful.  
113  
00:03:40,325 --> 00:03:42,320  
Also very interesting and  
114  
00:03:42,320 --> 00:03:44,120  
are these  
individual markers,  
115  
00:03:44,120 --> 00:03:45,575  
these markers, you weight  
116  
00:03:45,575 --> 00:03:47,030  
them differently or.  
117  
00:03:47,030 --> 00:03:48,695  
Yes. That's an excellent  
point. So  
118  
00:03:48,695 --> 00:03:50,030  
The simplest way is  
119  
00:03:50,030 --> 00:03:51,425  
to just count them, right?  
120  
00:03:51,425 --> 00:03:52,730  
Count how many  
risk wheels are.  
121  
00:03:52,730 --> 00:03:56,450  
But you can weight them  
by weighting them by  
122  
00:03:56,450 --> 00:03:58,820  
the strength of their  
association with  
123

00:03:58,820 --> 00:03:59,960  
the disease are some snips  
124  
00:03:59,960 --> 00:04:01,280  
are more strongly  
associated.  
125  
00:04:01,280 --> 00:04:02,615  
The strongest, as you know,  
126  
00:04:02,615 --> 00:04:04,820  
is the 9P21 locus.  
127  
00:04:04,820 --> 00:04:06,740  
And then there's  
a whole host that  
128  
00:04:06,740 --> 00:04:08,824  
are weaker and association.  
129  
00:04:08,824 --> 00:04:10,400  
But the field has actually  
130  
00:04:10,400 --> 00:04:12,425  
moved on Steve now.  
131  
00:04:12,425 --> 00:04:14,480  
So when we say  
that or let's say  
132  
00:04:14,480 --> 00:04:17,375  
200 we set a very high bar.  
133  
00:04:17,375 --> 00:04:18,770  
So the p-value has to be  
134  
00:04:18,770 --> 00:04:20,420  
five into ten to  
the minus eight.  
135  
00:04:20,420 --> 00:04:22,025  
So that's a  
pretty high bar.  
136  
00:04:22,025 --> 00:04:24,290  
And people started looking  
137  
00:04:24,290 --> 00:04:25,925  
at the variance  
that we're not,  
138  
00:04:25,925 --> 00:04:28,460  
that were significant  
or not significant at

139  
00:04:28,460 --> 00:04:29,570  
that level and  
they found there  
140  
00:04:29,570 --> 00:04:31,970  
was enough additional  
information.  
141  
00:04:31,970 --> 00:04:33,410  
So now people what we are  
142  
00:04:33,410 --> 00:04:35,150  
using are called  
genome-wide scores,  
143  
00:04:35,150 --> 00:04:36,170  
where we take millions of  
144  
00:04:36,170 --> 00:04:38,150  
snips and take  
their p-values.  
145  
00:04:38,150 --> 00:04:42,140  
And it's been shown  
that when you calculate  
146  
00:04:42,140 --> 00:04:43,160  
a genome wide risk or  
147  
00:04:43,160 --> 00:04:44,330  
they are actually  
stronger than  
148  
00:04:44,330 --> 00:04:45,380  
the ones that you would do  
149  
00:04:45,380 --> 00:04:47,075  
from just a limited set.  
150  
00:04:47,075 --> 00:04:49,085  
So that's where the  
field has moved down.  
151  
00:04:49,085 --> 00:04:51,470  
I see. and then this,  
152  
00:04:51,470 --> 00:04:53,425  
so this polygenic  
risk score, the,  
153  
00:04:53,425 --> 00:04:55,805  
how do you use it  
to assess risk?

154  
00:04:55,805 --> 00:04:57,200  
To the beauty of these,  
155  
00:04:57,200 --> 00:05:00,260  
Steve is that  
they are almost  
156  
00:05:00,260 --> 00:05:02,780  
completely uncorrelated  
with the Framingham  
157  
00:05:02,780 --> 00:05:04,530  
or the pool  
cohort equations.  
158  
00:05:04,530 --> 00:05:06,460  
So because they're  
not correlated,  
159  
00:05:06,460 --> 00:05:08,635  
you can simply multiply  
160  
00:05:08,635 --> 00:05:11,560  
the two together to get  
a 10-year estimate.  
161  
00:05:11,560 --> 00:05:13,870  
And so let's  
say somebody is  
162  
00:05:13,870 --> 00:05:15,250  
polygenic risk  
score puts them  
163  
00:05:15,250 --> 00:05:17,260  
at one point five-fold higher.  
164  
00:05:17,260 --> 00:05:18,985  
And that patient's  
165  
00:05:18,985 --> 00:05:21,220  
predicted 10-year  
risk is 7%.  
166  
00:05:21,220 --> 00:05:24,265  
So you can simply  
multiply seven into 1.5.  
167  
00:05:24,265 --> 00:05:26,230  
And that puts you, I think,  
168  
00:05:26,230 --> 00:05:28,495  
at ten plus risk.

169  
00:05:28,495 --> 00:05:29,860  
And that potentially makes  
170  
00:05:29,860 --> 00:05:31,210  
your candidate  
for stat mux.  
171  
00:05:31,210 --> 00:05:33,610  
So that's the nice  
thing that you  
172  
00:05:33,610 --> 00:05:36,295  
can actually integrate  
the two together.  
173  
00:05:36,295 --> 00:05:38,080  
I see. Are these  
things are they  
174  
00:05:38,080 --> 00:05:40,225  
starting to creep  
into the guidelines,  
175  
00:05:40,225 --> 00:05:41,920  
the polygenic risk scores  
176  
00:05:41,920 --> 00:05:43,525  
or how are they treated?  
177  
00:05:43,525 --> 00:05:44,770  
So at this point,  
178  
00:05:44,770 --> 00:05:46,420  
the ACC AHA guidelines do  
179  
00:05:46,420 --> 00:05:49,535  
not in corporate them.  
180  
00:05:49,535 --> 00:05:50,825  
But if you look at that  
181  
00:05:50,825 --> 00:05:53,630  
HA 2020 statement  
on heart disease,  
182  
00:05:53,630 --> 00:05:56,975  
There's a very nice  
description of these.  
183  
00:05:56,975 --> 00:05:59,030  
It talks about  
family history,  
184

00:05:59,030 --> 00:06:01,100  
it talks about  
polygenic risk scores.  
185  
00:06:01,100 --> 00:06:02,450  
So at this point they're  
186  
00:06:02,450 --> 00:06:03,560  
not in the guidelines,  
187  
00:06:03,560 --> 00:06:04,580  
but I suspect that  
188  
00:06:04,580 --> 00:06:06,440  
eventually they will  
be because there's  
189  
00:06:06,440 --> 00:06:08,090  
so much data showing that  
190  
00:06:08,090 --> 00:06:10,160  
these are incremental to  
191  
00:06:10,160 --> 00:06:12,530  
these pool cohort  
equations and they're not  
192  
00:06:12,530 --> 00:06:13,700  
correlated so that if  
193  
00:06:13,700 --> 00:06:14,990  
you take the two together,  
194  
00:06:14,990 --> 00:06:17,840  
you get a more refined  
risk assessment.  
195  
00:06:17,840 --> 00:06:19,805  
So who, who is your  
typical patient?  
196  
00:06:19,805 --> 00:06:21,095  
Now, you use this in,  
197  
00:06:21,095 --> 00:06:22,550  
but if you see a patient,  
198  
00:06:22,550 --> 00:06:24,020  
they come in and  
say, I have  
199  
00:06:24,020 --> 00:06:26,420  
My father had a heart  
attack at age 50 or

200  
00:06:26,420 --> 00:06:28,940  
You how do you how  
do you factor it in?  
201  
00:06:28,940 --> 00:06:30,620  
Yeah, The  
interesting thing, Steve,  
202  
00:06:30,620 --> 00:06:32,885  
is that for some reason  
203  
00:06:32,885 --> 00:06:34,100  
they are not very strongly  
204  
00:06:34,100 --> 00:06:35,240  
correlated with  
family history.  
205  
00:06:35,240 --> 00:06:36,500  
Otherwise, you could  
make the case well,  
206  
00:06:36,500 --> 00:06:37,640  
if I took the  
family history,  
207  
00:06:37,640 --> 00:06:39,635  
why do I need the  
polygenic risk score?  
208  
00:06:39,635 --> 00:06:41,180  
But they're not,  
they give different  
209  
00:06:41,180 --> 00:06:42,200  
means of information.  
210  
00:06:42,200 --> 00:06:43,280  
So I would say  
211  
00:06:43,280 --> 00:06:45,185  
the best category of  
individuals would  
212  
00:06:45,185 --> 00:06:47,420  
be the intermediate risk  
213  
00:06:47,420 --> 00:06:49,010  
are those who have  
a family history.  
214  
00:06:49,010 --> 00:06:50,555  
Because intermediate risk,

215  
00:06:50,555 --> 00:06:52,700  
the AHA recommends  
adjuncts that  
216  
00:06:52,700 --> 00:06:57,410  
includes calcium  
scrolling, LPA or CRP.  
217  
00:06:57,410 --> 00:06:59,270  
But I think the  
polygenic risk score  
218  
00:06:59,270 --> 00:07:01,295  
could also be one  
such adjunct.  
219  
00:07:01,295 --> 00:07:03,470  
And you would  
then reclassify  
220  
00:07:03,470 --> 00:07:05,150  
these intermediate  
risk individuals  
221  
00:07:05,150 --> 00:07:06,575  
into high or low risk.  
222  
00:07:06,575 --> 00:07:08,255  
Okay. So just like  
anything else,  
223  
00:07:08,255 --> 00:07:09,350  
the intermediate  
patients are  
224  
00:07:09,350 --> 00:07:10,730  
the ones you focus on?  
225  
00:07:10,730 --> 00:07:12,680  
I would say that's  
where because you know,  
226  
00:07:12,680 --> 00:07:14,000  
if the patient's  
high risk based on  
227  
00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:15,050  
conventional risk factors,  
228  
00:07:15,050 --> 00:07:16,205  
you're going to treat them.  
229  
00:07:16,205 --> 00:07:17,630

So additional  
information may  
230  
00:07:17,630 --> 00:07:18,830  
not be all that critical.  
231  
00:07:18,830 --> 00:07:20,210  
But I think in  
the intermediate  
232  
00:07:20,210 --> 00:07:21,425  
risk group is  
where they met,  
233  
00:07:21,425 --> 00:07:23,765  
there might be the best  
utility initially.  
234  
00:07:23,765 --> 00:07:25,385  
And be clear, these,  
235  
00:07:25,385 --> 00:07:26,750  
this polygenic risk score  
236  
00:07:26,750 --> 00:07:28,070  
does not include LPA,  
237  
00:07:28,070 --> 00:07:30,410  
lipoprotein A  
or other things  
238  
00:07:30,410 --> 00:07:31,460  
that will code for like  
239  
00:07:31,460 --> 00:07:32,960  
hypertension or  
hyperlipidemia.  
240  
00:07:32,960 --> 00:07:34,370  
These are all  
separate factors.  
241  
00:07:34,370 --> 00:07:36,545  
That's a great question,  
actually they do.  
242  
00:07:36,545 --> 00:07:37,880  
So if you take all of  
243  
00:07:37,880 --> 00:07:38,960  
these risk factors that  
244  
00:07:38,960 --> 00:07:40,040  
are associated with CHD,

245  
00:07:40,040 --> 00:07:41,390  
some of them are,  
246  
00:07:41,390 --> 00:07:42,770  
some of the  
genetic variance  
247  
00:07:42,770 --> 00:07:44,420  
are associated with CHD  
248  
00:07:44,420 --> 00:07:46,160  
because they're  
associated with lipids.  
249  
00:07:46,160 --> 00:07:48,170  
So you might ask well if  
250  
00:07:48,170 --> 00:07:49,580  
the lipids and  
blood pressure  
251  
00:07:49,580 --> 00:07:50,810  
and the pool cohort,  
252  
00:07:50,810 --> 00:07:52,655  
why are we adding  
these factors?  
253  
00:07:52,655 --> 00:07:54,500  
Well, we've seen that  
254  
00:07:54,500 --> 00:07:56,030  
if you take a blood  
pressure measurement,  
255  
00:07:56,030 --> 00:07:57,470  
it's today's  
blood pressure.  
256  
00:07:57,470 --> 00:08:00,110  
But the genetic risk for  
blood pressure tells  
257  
00:08:00,110 --> 00:08:02,510  
you your accumulated  
exposure  
258  
00:08:02,510 --> 00:08:04,085  
to high blood  
pressure over time.  
259  
00:08:04,085 --> 00:08:05,750  
And the same is

true for lipids.  
260  
00:08:05,750 --> 00:08:08,030  
So even though these  
elements are there,  
261  
00:08:08,030 --> 00:08:08,660  
even if you add  
262  
00:08:08,660 --> 00:08:10,415  
these additional  
genetic risk factors,  
263  
00:08:10,415 --> 00:08:12,380  
it doesn't seem to have  
264  
00:08:12,380 --> 00:08:14,645  
too much of a  
correlation or overlap,  
265  
00:08:14,645 --> 00:08:17,810  
so it's safe to include  
them as well. Okay.  
266  
00:08:17,810 --> 00:08:19,430  
And how how are these  
267  
00:08:19,430 --> 00:08:20,810  
available now  
or they widely  
268  
00:08:20,810 --> 00:08:22,160  
available and  
how do  
269  
00:08:22,160 --> 00:08:24,110  
you utilize them?  
270  
00:08:24,110 --> 00:08:25,850  
Well, they had  
been actually  
271  
00:08:25,850 --> 00:08:27,110  
available for a long time,  
272  
00:08:27,110 --> 00:08:29,120  
but through  
direct-to-consumer companies  
273  
00:08:29,120 --> 00:08:30,590  
like Bernicie and Me,  
274  
00:08:30,590 --> 00:08:32,060  
the problem there is that

275  
00:08:32,060 --> 00:08:33,830  
their genetic risk scores  
276  
00:08:33,830 --> 00:08:35,180  
are somewhat antiquated at,  
277  
00:08:35,180 --> 00:08:36,680  
to my best of my knowledge,  
278  
00:08:36,680 --> 00:08:39,845  
and the way they calculate  
them is not clear.  
279  
00:08:39,845 --> 00:08:41,810  
So I wouldn't  
really be using  
280  
00:08:41,810 --> 00:08:43,865  
that in clinical practice.  
281  
00:08:43,865 --> 00:08:46,310  
So I think Mayo is  
probably one of  
282  
00:08:46,310 --> 00:08:47,630  
the only institution that's  
283  
00:08:47,630 --> 00:08:49,025  
offering this.  
284  
00:08:49,025 --> 00:08:50,750  
We started this  
as you know,  
285  
00:08:50,750 --> 00:08:52,430  
after the margin  
study and it  
286  
00:08:52,430 --> 00:08:55,535  
includes about 30  
risk variants.  
287  
00:08:55,535 --> 00:08:57,470  
And now we're  
moving to upgrade  
288  
00:08:57,470 --> 00:08:58,850  
the genetic risk score so  
289  
00:08:58,850 --> 00:09:00,395  
that we are now  
290  
00:09:00,395 --> 00:09:02,450

offering the  
genome wide risk,  
291  
00:09:02,450 --> 00:09:03,950  
polygenic risk score, which  
292  
00:09:03,950 --> 00:09:06,005  
is much, much stronger.  
293  
00:09:06,005 --> 00:09:08,990  
And I'm aware of  
many other efforts,  
294  
00:09:08,990 --> 00:09:12,740  
both in England and  
the UK and the US.  
295  
00:09:12,740 --> 00:09:14,120  
Other sites are interested  
296  
00:09:14,120 --> 00:09:15,770  
and about to offer these.  
297  
00:09:15,770 --> 00:09:17,000  
And we hope to offer  
298  
00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:18,530  
a genome wide  
polygenic risk score  
299  
00:09:18,530 --> 00:09:20,270  
for CHD also in  
the near future.  
300  
00:09:20,270 --> 00:09:21,470  
A wonderful, yeah.  
301  
00:09:21,470 --> 00:09:22,700  
And then you mentioned  
302  
00:09:22,700 --> 00:09:24,425  
combining with framingham.  
303  
00:09:24,425 --> 00:09:26,105  
How do you combine  
it with the  
304  
00:09:26,105 --> 00:09:28,370  
with the calcium score.  
305  
00:09:28,370 --> 00:09:30,500  
Yeah, so that's, that's  
306  
00:09:30,500 --> 00:09:32,060

another very  
interesting question.  
307  
00:09:32,060 --> 00:09:33,845  
If you have the  
calcium score,  
308  
00:09:33,845 --> 00:09:36,455  
where does a polygenic  
risks come in?  
309  
00:09:36,455 --> 00:09:38,210  
Well, Steve, the way I  
310  
00:09:38,210 --> 00:09:39,860  
see it is that, you know,  
311  
00:09:39,860 --> 00:09:41,210  
this is going to be a very  
312  
00:09:41,210 --> 00:09:43,055  
cheap tests where you can,  
313  
00:09:43,055 --> 00:09:44,450  
let's say genotype somebody  
314  
00:09:44,450 --> 00:09:45,380  
and you can calculate  
315  
00:09:45,380 --> 00:09:48,620  
the risk of many  
diseases, not just CHD.  
316  
00:09:48,620 --> 00:09:50,360  
And therefore there's  
so much utility  
317  
00:09:50,360 --> 00:09:52,070  
you can extract so  
much information,  
318  
00:09:52,070 --> 00:09:53,630  
you can do a colon  
cancer risk,  
319  
00:09:53,630 --> 00:09:55,100  
breast cancer  
risk assessment  
320  
00:09:55,100 --> 00:09:56,675  
from the same chip.  
321  
00:09:56,675 --> 00:09:58,775  
So my sense is that

322  
00:09:58,775 --> 00:10:00,965  
in the future this  
will become routine.

323  
00:10:00,965 --> 00:10:03,380  
And you can actually  
measure this risk

324  
00:10:03,380 --> 00:10:05,810  
at age 20 or in teens.

325  
00:10:05,810 --> 00:10:07,520  
And it will project

326  
00:10:07,520 --> 00:10:08,840  
your lifetime genetic

327  
00:10:08,840 --> 00:10:10,385  
risk for that condition.

328  
00:10:10,385 --> 00:10:13,910  
And and it could  
potentially be just

329  
00:10:13,910 --> 00:10:15,185  
incorporated into the

330  
00:10:15,185 --> 00:10:16,685  
routine risk calculators

331  
00:10:16,685 --> 00:10:18,380  
because it's going to  
be cheap and available.

332  
00:10:18,380 --> 00:10:20,270  
And then you can use  
that combined rest

333  
00:10:20,270 --> 00:10:21,320  
to determine what to do.

334  
00:10:21,320 --> 00:10:23,330  
For example, should  
we do a CT scan

335  
00:10:23,330 --> 00:10:24,410  
earlier in this patient or

336  
00:10:24,410 --> 00:10:26,090  
put them on Staten earlier?

337  
00:10:26,090 --> 00:10:27,860  
Or should I do a

colonoscopy of  
338  
00:10:27,860 --> 00:10:29,840  
that colon cancer  
risk is high earlier,  
339  
00:10:29,840 --> 00:10:32,090  
so I would say that the two  
340  
00:10:32,090 --> 00:10:33,170  
would be adjunct and  
341  
00:10:33,170 --> 00:10:34,910  
not necessarily competing.  
342  
00:10:34,910 --> 00:10:36,575  
I see. Yeah. So say  
343  
00:10:36,575 --> 00:10:38,480  
Iftakar you see two  
patients one day the,  
344  
00:10:38,480 --> 00:10:40,430  
first patient comes  
in, you do the,  
345  
00:10:40,430 --> 00:10:42,005  
the risk score and here  
346  
00:10:42,005 --> 00:10:43,505  
they have nothing, right?  
347  
00:10:43,505 --> 00:10:46,250  
The next patient you see  
all 400 are positive.  
348  
00:10:46,250 --> 00:10:48,050  
How do you do you  
tell the first one?  
349  
00:10:48,050 --> 00:10:49,190  
Go do whatever you want.  
350  
00:10:49,190 --> 00:10:50,300  
Don't worry, you're  
not going to get  
351  
00:10:50,300 --> 00:10:51,620  
disease and the second one.  
352  
00:10:51,620 --> 00:10:53,420  
And you say, Oh  
my gosh, this is  
353

00:10:53,420 --> 00:10:55,670  
a fait accompli or how  
do you approach them?  
354

00:10:55,670 --> 00:10:56,960  
Yeah, I think that's  
355

00:10:56,960 --> 00:10:58,430  
a great question  
because people,  
356

00:10:58,430 --> 00:11:00,290  
patients had that concept  
357

00:11:00,290 --> 00:11:01,730  
that genetics  
is determinism.  
358

00:11:01,730 --> 00:11:04,295  
It's not, it's something  
you can change.  
359

00:11:04,295 --> 00:11:06,200  
And so the person that  
360

00:11:06,200 --> 00:11:07,970  
had a low genetic  
risk score,  
361

00:11:07,970 --> 00:11:10,490  
if you went out and eat  
burgers and smoked,  
362

00:11:10,490 --> 00:11:12,410  
he's going to get  
CHD at some point,  
363

00:11:12,410 --> 00:11:14,015  
it's going to be high risk.  
364

00:11:14,015 --> 00:11:16,010  
And the person who  
has a very high risk  
365

00:11:16,010 --> 00:11:17,690  
if he or she  
366

00:11:17,690 --> 00:11:20,435  
modulates their  
lifestyle and  
367

00:11:20,435 --> 00:11:21,980  
if needed, takes a statin.  
368

00:11:21,980 --> 00:11:23,720  
And there are studies  
showing that,  
369  
00:11:23,720 --> 00:11:26,825  
that genetic risk is  
significantly reduced.  
370  
00:11:26,825 --> 00:11:28,130  
So I think it's a really  
371  
00:11:28,130 --> 00:11:29,240  
important point to make  
372  
00:11:29,240 --> 00:11:30,590  
that genetics is not  
373  
00:11:30,590 --> 00:11:32,210  
your destiny necessarily.  
374  
00:11:32,210 --> 00:11:34,130  
You can alter it by  
375  
00:11:34,130 --> 00:11:36,620  
lifestyle  
modification or by  
376  
00:11:36,620 --> 00:11:38,225  
treatment of risk factors.  
377  
00:11:38,225 --> 00:11:39,215  
Okay.  
378  
00:11:39,215 --> 00:11:41,360  
Well, that's fascinating  
information.  
379  
00:11:41,360 --> 00:11:43,490  
Anything else we  
need to discuss?  
380  
00:11:43,490 --> 00:11:45,740  
Well, I just wanted  
to mention that  
381  
00:11:45,740 --> 00:11:47,540  
this polygenic  
risk scores are  
382  
00:11:47,540 --> 00:11:49,610  
just one facet of  
genetic testing.  
383  
00:11:49,610 --> 00:11:51,950

There's a lot of other  
interesting things  
384  
00:11:51,950 --> 00:11:53,750  
coming down the road.  
385  
00:11:53,750 --> 00:11:56,585  
You know, epigenetics  
is one of them.  
386  
00:11:56,585 --> 00:11:59,585  
And then there's a  
phenomenon called chip,  
387  
00:11:59,585 --> 00:12:02,210  
which is clonal  
hematopoiesis of  
388  
00:12:02,210 --> 00:12:03,725  
indeterminate potential  
389  
00:12:03,725 --> 00:12:06,680  
and then expression  
profiles.  
390  
00:12:06,680 --> 00:12:08,120  
And I shouldn't, of course,  
391  
00:12:08,120 --> 00:12:10,640  
forget to mention  
our favorite disease  
392  
00:12:10,640 --> 00:12:12,980  
FH, which is monogenic.  
393  
00:12:12,980 --> 00:12:14,930  
And we should not, should  
394  
00:12:14,930 --> 00:12:16,820  
be aware of that  
condition in people who  
395  
00:12:16,820 --> 00:12:18,350  
have early disease or have  
396  
00:12:18,350 --> 00:12:20,630  
high cholesterol and we shouldn't  
397  
00:12:20,630 --> 00:12:21,980  
forget that there's  
genetic testing  
398  
00:12:21,980 --> 00:12:23,900  
available for that as well.

399  
00:12:23,900 --> 00:12:26,450  
So I think that message  
400  
00:12:26,450 --> 00:12:28,205  
would be there are  
some patients who,  
401  
00:12:28,205 --> 00:12:31,310  
whose disease is probably  
related to page,  
402  
00:12:31,310 --> 00:12:33,680  
particularly if they  
had it early on,  
403  
00:12:33,680 --> 00:12:35,330  
had high cholesterol,  
our family history.  
404  
00:12:35,330 --> 00:12:36,860  
So in those  
cases, we should  
405  
00:12:36,860 --> 00:12:39,920  
certainly consider  
genetic testing for FH.  
406  
00:12:39,920 --> 00:12:41,300  
Well, yeah, very true.  
407  
00:12:41,300 --> 00:12:41,600  
That's  
408  
00:12:41,600 --> 00:12:43,610  
a very important disease  
to genetic test.  
409  
00:12:43,610 --> 00:12:45,830  
Well, this has been a  
fascinating discussion  
410  
00:12:45,830 --> 00:12:46,940  
today with Dr. Iftakar Kullo.  
411  
00:12:46,940 --> 00:12:48,710  
One of our  
genetic experts here in  
412  
00:12:48,710 --> 00:12:51,005  
cardiology and  
cardiovascular prevention.  
413  
00:12:51,005 --> 00:12:52,625

Thank you Iftakar  
for joining us.  
414  
00:12:52,625 --> 00:12:54,870  
Thank you, Steve.  
It was a pleasure.