



Chronic presentations of Infantile Metabolic Encephalopathies

Dimitrios I Zafeiriou, MD, PhD

Professor of Child Neurology & Developmental Pediatrics Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece



Overview – learning objectives

- Pathophysiological classification
- Epidemiology
- Causes genetics
- Clinical features
- Developmental delay vs. regression
- Specific disorders/groups of disorders
- Take home messages





Group 1: disorders that give rise to intoxication *(acute or chronic)*

Group 2: disorders involving energy metabolism

Group 3: disorders involving complex molecules



Group 1: disorders that give rise to intoxication *(acute or chronic)*

Group 2: disorders involving energy metabolism

Group 3: disorders involving complex molecules





- Aminoacidopathies (PKU, tyrosinemia etc.)
- Organic acidurias (MMA, IVA, PA etc.)
- Urea cycle disorders (OTC etc.)
- Sugar intolerances (galactosemia, hereditary fructose intolerance)
- Metal disorders
- Porphyrias

Group 2: Inborn errors of intermediate (energy) metabolism

Cytoplasmic energetic processes

- Glycolysis
- Glucogenesis
- Gluconeogenesis
- Hyperinsulinisms
- Creatine pathways
- Pentose phosphate pathways



Mitochondrial

- Respiratory chain
- Krebs cycle
- Pyruvate oxidation
- Fatty acid oxidation
- Ketone bodies

Group 3: Cellular organisms-complex molecules

- Lysosomal
- Peroxisomal
- Glycosylation
- Cholesterol synthesis
- ✓ Some of them are treatable



Group 3 (complex molecules)

EPNS

- Cellular organelles (trafficking, processing)
- Disturbed synthesis or catabolism of complex molecules
- Embryo-fetal development: possible interference
- No provocative circumstances
- Permanent symptoms independent of the diet
- Storage disorders (lysosomes)
- Specific diagnostic methods (substrates, enzyme assays, molecular analyses)
- Enzyme replacement & substrate reduction treatments

Common clinical presentations of infantile metabolic encephalopathies

EPNS

- Acute symptoms in the neonatal period
- Later onset acute & recurrent attacks (coma, ataxia, vomiting, acidosis)
- Chronic & progressive disorders (neurological, muscular, digestive)
- Specific & permanent organ dysfunction (*i.e. cardiomegaly, hepatomegaly, lens* dislocation)



Examination

- \circ Growth
- Appearance
- Organomegaly
- o Smell
- Neurological findings



- Failure to thrive
- Abnormal head circumference
 - microcephaly (sulfite oxidase deficiency, maternal PKU, CDGs, as a result of non-specific damage)
 - macrocephaly (Canavan, L-2 hydroxyglutaric aciduria, Krabbe, GA I, Tay-Sachs)





- Eyes
- Hair
- Skin
- Dysmorphism



Eyes

Cataract

- Peroxisomal
- Homocystinuria
- Gyrate atrophy
- Galactosaemia

Corneal clouding

MPSs

Cherry red spot

Neurolipidoses







Hair

Coarse MPSs

Kinky

Menkes



Skin

Thickened, coarse

- MPSs
- Refsum's disease





Dysmorphism

- o Smith-Lemli-Opitz
- o CDGs
- o MPSs
- o Menkes
- o Peroxisomal



Organomegaly

- Gaucher
- NPB, NPC
- Other storage disorders





Sweaty feet

Isovaleric aciduria

Maple syrup urine

MSUD



Neurological findings

- Developmental Delay Regression
- Hypotonia (muscle disease, initial phase of neurological regression)
- Spasticity (neurodegenerative disorders)
- Dystonia (neurotransmitter, mitochondrial, GA I, LSDs, Wilson's, GLUT-1)
- Ataxia (Refsum's, GLUT-1, LSDs)
- Stroke (OTC, organic acidurias, Fabry, CDG, homocystinuria, mitochondrial)
- Peripheral neuropathy (LSDs, Refsum)



Developmental Delay

the hallmark of static encephalopathy as the key clinical feature of IMEs

Cause of DD in the literature

EPNS

Causes	%
Chromosomal abnormalities	4-28
Recognisable syndromes	3-7
Known monogenic conditions	3-9
Structural CNS abnormalities	7-17
Complications of prematurity	2-10
Environmental/teratogenic	5-13
"Cultural-familial" mental retardation	3-12
Provisional unique, monogenic syndromes	1-5
Metabolic/endocrine causes	1-5



IME as a cause of DD

- Not common cause of pure DD 1%
- Usually other features suggesting IME

However...

some IME will present as pure DD!



- Birth & prenatal
 - Birth often normal
- Family history
 - Previous neonatal death
 - Parental consanguinity



• Accompanying unusual episodes

Unusual behavior



DD

- Regression?
- Single domain
 - motor
 - language
- Multiple domains



- A period of normal development followed by loss of skills
- May follow a viral illness
- May follow minor head injury
- Strongly suggestive of IME

Metabolic causes of regression

- Disorders associated with intermediate metabolism: deficient energy production (i.e. mitochondrial)
- Organic acidurias (i.e. GA I)
- Copper metabolism disorders (Wilson, Menkes)
- Leukodystrophies
- o LSDs

EPNS

Peroxisomal



Static encephalopathies

Multisystem diseases with major neurological involvement:

- Cholesterol synthesis disorders (SLO)
- Congenital disorders of glycosylation (CDGs)
- Glucose transporter deficiency (GLUT-1)

Cerebral palsy "plus" syndromes

Problems in interpreting clinical features

- Early fatal disease before cerebral maturation has occurred
- Extremely long standing disease where it is unclear if there is regression
- ✓ Abrupt onset confused with infectious diseases
- Intercurrent illness, seizures or drug therapies affect assessment
- Manifestations of earlier non-progressive lesions evolve



Further Lecture's Outline

Group of disorders

i. Aminoacidopathies i. SLOS

Single entities

- Mitochondrial disorders ii. GLUT-1 deficiency ii.

iii. LSDs

- iv. Peroxisomal disorders
- CDGs V.



Aminoacidopathies



Phenylketonuria (PKU)

- Enzyme defect: phenylalanine hydroxylase (12th chromosome), more than 400 mutations
- **Incidence**: average 1:10,000 (highest incidence in Turkey, 1: 4,000)

Phenylketonuria (PKU): variants

- Classical phenylketonuria (complete or near complete enzyme deficiency): phenylalanine levels above 20 mg/dL (<1200 mmol/L) require diet therapy
- **2.** Atypical phenylketonuria (partial enzyme deficiency): (enzyme activity 1-5%) require partial diet therapy
- 3. Benign phenylketonuria phenylalanine levels below 10 mg/dL (<600 mmol/L) no clinical findings, not requiring diet therapy</p>
- 4. Malignant phenylketonuria Tetrahydrobiopterin (BH4=cofactor of phenylalanine hydroxylase): Severe neurologic findings, <u>does not respond to diet therapy</u>. Dopamine and setotonin may be helpful

Phenylketonuria (PKU): Clinical findings

- Severe brain damage, progressive motormental retardation
- Spasticity
- Convulsions

- Self-mutilation
- Light colored skin and eye (yellow hair, blue eyes; tyrosine deficiency)
- Mouse-like odor in urine and sweat
Phenylketonuria: diagnosis

- High phenylalanine and low tyrosine levels
- Ferric chloride test gives green color in urine (not reliable)
- Neonatal screening: Guthrie-card (taken between 3rd and 7th days of life)





Phenylketonuria: therapy

 Phenylalanine restricted diet, supplementation of tyrosine, essential amino acids and trace elements

Goals of the therapy:

- **0-10 years**: phenylalanine values: 0.7-4 mg/dL
- **11-16 years**: phenylalanine values: <15 mg/dL
- **16+ years**: phenylalanine values: <20 mg/dL

Pregnant mothers with PKU: phenylalanine values < 7mg/dL

Prognosis: with immediate and efficient treatment, normal development and intelligence



- Normal phenylalanine levels
- Microcephaly
- Cardiac defects
- Motor-mental retardation
- No therapy



Classical Homocystinuria

- **Enzyme defect**: Cystationine-ß-synthase
- Mechanism: Accumulation of homocysteine (collagen disorder)
- Clinical findings: Progressive disease, usually starting with school age
- Marfan-like appearance (arachnodactyly)
- Progressive myopia (the earliest finding)
- ✓ Lens dislocation
- Epilepsy
- Mental retardation
- Osteoporosis
- Thromboembolism !!!



- Diagnosis: High methionine, high homocysteine (N: 0-3.5 μmol/L) and low cysteine levels
- Therapy: Pyridoxine (Vit. B6): 50-1000 mg/day + folic acid 10 mg/day.
- If this fails diet + betaine (100 mg/kg) up to 3X3 g
- **Goal:** Keep homocysteine <3.0 µmol/L



MILD HYPERHOMOCYSTEINEMIA Causes

- Methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) polymorphism, thermolabile variant, homozygosity, up to 5% in Europeans, 60% in Asians
- Heterozygosity for cystationine-ß-synthase
- Endogenous and exogenous disorders of folic acid metabolism
- Vitamin B12 deficiency



MILD HYPERHOMOCYSTEINEMIA

Clinical findings:

• **Premature vascular disease** in the 3rd and 4th decade (infarctions, thrombosis, embolism)

Maternal hyperhomocysteinemia: Congenital defects

- Neural tube defects
- Cardiac output defects
- Renal defects
- Pyloric stenosis?



Mitochondrial disorders





Any system

Any inheritance

Any age





Mutations within mtDNA

- MELAS
- Kearns-Sayre
- MERFF
- NARP

Nuclear DNA mutations



Genetics of mitochondrial DNA maintainance

(mtDNA depletion or multiple deletions within mtDNA)

Gene	Age of onset	Major CNS features	Organ involvement	Inheritance
mtDNA replication				
POLG	Infancy-adult	Ataxia, seizures, dementia Blindness, PEO, neuropathy, Developmental delay, ptosis	Brain, liver, muscle	Recessive and dominant
POLG2*	Infancy-Adolescent	PEO, migraine, hypotonia, Developmental delay, Seizures, blindness	Brain, liver, muscle	dominant
C10rf2	Infancy	Seizures, PEO, psychosis, MR, ataxia, hypotonia	Brain, liver	recessive
Nucleotide Pool Maintenance				
DGUOK	Neonatal-Adolescent	Dystonia, nystagmus, developmental delay	Brain, liver	recessive
ТК	Infancy-Child	Seizure, PEO	Brain, muscle	recessive
RRM2B	Neonatal	Microcephaly, hypotonia, PEO, MR, Hearing loss	Muscle, kidney	recessive
ТҮМР	Adolescent-adult	Leukodystrophy, PEO, ptosis, encephalopathy, neuropathy	Brain, GI, Peripheral nerve	recessive
SLC25A4	Adult	PEO	Muscle	dominant
SUCLG1/SUCLA2	Neonatal-infancy	Dystonia, hearing loss, encephalopathy, PEO	Brain, muscle	recessive
Unknown Function				
MPV17	Neonatal-adult	Ataxia, neuropathy, dystonia Hypotonia, encephalopathy, leukodystrophy	Liver, brainmuscle	recessive

Epidemiology of mitochondrial diseases

- As a group \rightarrow one of the most common IEMs
- Total minimal birth prevalence (for both mtDNA and nuclear DNA) around 1 in 5,000
- In two large pediatric studies (Sweden & Australia): minimum birth prevalence 4.7 per 100,000 & 5.0 per 100,000
- In both studies: 15% of children → mtDNA mutation
- Recent estimations (report from northern England) → approximately 1 in 200 live births possess a pathological mtDNA mutation
- It is not clear why the high prevalence of pathological mtDNA mutations does not translate into higher disease prevalence

Onset of mitochondrial disease

- Median age of 7 months in one large study and 44 months in another (range 1 mo to 18 y)
- Nuclear mutations: the majority (83%)
- A small but larger proportion and diversity of mtDNA-derived diseases compared to neonatal onset disorders
- Patients with likely nuclear genome mutations present earlier, while patients possessing mtDNA mutations present later in life

CNS manifestations of mitochondrial diseases

	Neonatal	Childhood
Neurological	Unexplained encephalopathy Psychomotor delay Myopathy Hypotonia Seizures Involuntary movements Microcephaly Hearing loss Ataxia	Encephalopathy (illness, drugs) Global developmental delay Myopathy Hypotonia Seizures Involuntary movements Microcephaly Hearing loss Ataxia Myoclonus Peripheral neuropathy Migraine Absent deep tendon reflexes Stroke-like events Dysarthria Psychiatric disorders
Opthalmological	Optic atrophy Ptosis Nystagmus Ophthalmoplegia/paresis	Optic atrophy Ptosis Nystagmus Lack of smooth pursuit Ophthalmoplegia/paresis Retinal degeneration

Signs of mitochondrial disease

Both grey and white matter

Other suggestive signs

• Cardiomyopathy

- Ocular signs (retinitis pigmentosa, cataract, ptosis)
- Muscle disease
- Haematological
- Liver disease



The A to Z of Mitochondrial Symptoms and Signs

Aminoglycoside deafness Bone marrow dysfunction Cardiomyopathy Diabetes Episodic vomiting Fever Gastrointestinal Motility Hepatomegaly Idiopathic dystonia Jaundice Kidney dysfunction Lipomas Malformations

Neuropathy Optic atrophy Progressive organ involvement Questionable diagnosis Retinitis pigmentosa Seizures Tachypnea Unexplained assoc symptoms Vascular abnormalities Wasting Xertional myoglobinuria Yucky outlook Zestless



- Mutations in both nuclear (80%) as mtDNA (20%)
- Can be slow onset regression
- Episodic hyperventilation
- Basal ganglia changes



Lysosomal Storage Disorders







Epidemiology of LSDs

- Approximately 1 in 5000 to 8000 births in the United States, Europe and Australia
- Collectively LSDs affect a considerable portion of the population (prevalence ranging from 12 to 25 per 100,000 live births)
- > 50 different genes identified
- Large number of mutations for most disorders wide clinical spectra



The main clinical manifestations of LSDs: the CNS, the joints, the bones, the liver and spleen

Other manifestations include:

the eyes, the heart and the skin





Ideal way to approach the neurology of LSDs but also other organelle disorders

Clinical symptoms and signs?



Specific diseases or group of diseases?

"Splitters": symptoms & signs

- i. Only neurological involvement
- ii. No neurological involvement
- iii. Primary neurological involvement
- iv. Secondary neurological involvement





Only neurological involvement

The presence of pure neurological signs and symptoms without additional somatic features (*i.e. coarse facies, organomegaly, bone dysplasias*) justifies searching for:

- GM1 & GM2 gangliosidosis
- MLD
- CNLs
- Krabbe disease





No neurological involvement

Gaucher disease type 1 MPS IV & VI

However:

- patients with GD1 have higher risk for: impaired saccades, Parkinson disease, schizophrenia, mood disorders & dementia
- Patients with MPSs IV & VI may develop: obstructive hydrocephalus from spinal cord compression (with all associated symptomatology)





Primary neurological involvement

Symptoms & signs related to:

- i. CNS dysfunction
- ii. PNS dysfunction
- iii. Vision
- iv. Hearing



- Developmental delay, mental retardation or regression (most LSDs)
- Spasticity (most LSDs with regression)
- Dystonia-parkinsonism (GM2, NPB, NPC)
- Ataxia (GM2, NPC)
- Myoclonus (GD2 & 3, GM2, sialidosis I)
- Seizures (NCL, sialidosis, presence of cortical involvement on MRI)
- Craniosynostosis (alpha mannosidosis, GD3, MPS II, ML II)
- Psychosis (GM2, MLD, NPC)
- Intracranial hypertension (MPSs, cystinosis, Pompe)



Eye involvement

- Cornea, lens, sclera, retina & nerve
 - Cataract
 - Other corneal pathology
 - Glaucoma
 - Retinopathy
 - Optic atrophy
 - Cherry-red spot

Eye movement disorders

- Supranuclear opthalmoplegia & abnormal saccades
- Vertical gaze paresis
- Squint







Whorl-like keratopathy

(Fabry)









Cornea verticilata

(Fabry)

Chorl-like corneal opacities distributed in a vortex pattern









Retinopathy

(MPS II, ML IV, NCLs)





Optic atrophy

(CNL, Krabbe, sialidosis, Schindler)





Cherry red spot

- Farber
- Galactosialidosis
- GM1 & GM2 gangliosidosis
- Metachromatic leukodystropy
- Multiple sulfatase deficiency
- Niemann-Pick disease types A, B, C, D
- Tay-Sachs disease
- Sandhoff disease
- Sialidosis types I & II
- Wolman disease

In the center of the pale region lies the foveal pit which lacks ganglion cells (due to heavy deposition of lipid, sphingolipid, or oligosaccharide material), and thus continues to retain its reddish appearance







Vertical gaze palsy

(NPC)



Supranuclear opthalmoplegia & abnormal saccades

(GD3, GM2)








Supranuclear opthalmoplegia & abnormal saccades

(GD3)



Neurosensory hearing impairment

- Alpha & beta-mannosidosis
- MPSs & MLs
- GM2 (Tay-Sachs): hyperacousia











Omphalocele







Scrotal oedema







Phenotypic variety: MPSs





Progressive coarseness of facial features (MPS I)







12 m



34 m





Macroglossia





Gum hyperplasia





Bone involvement (multiple dysostosis)





Bone involvement (GD)











Short & thick fingers







Hydrops fetalis





Craniosynostosis – 3D CT

(GD3)





Intracranial Hypertension

(MPSs, cystinosis, Pompe)









- Muscle hypotonia & weakness (Pompe)
- Peripheral neuropathy (MLD, Krabbe, multiple sulfatase deficiency, Fabry, NPC)
- Acroparesthesias & pain crises (Fabry, Krabbe)



Weakness - hypotonia

Weakness: no movement against gravity - movements only after stimuli

Hypotonia: spontaneous movements & movements against gravity







Secondary neurological involvement

- Paraplegia due to spinal cord compressions (mostly in MPS I, IV, or VI)
- Carpal tunnel syndrome (almost in all MPSs and MLs)
- Cerebrovascular accidents in Fabry disease (rarely in MPS II, GD1)
- Radiculopathy secondary to vertebral compression in osteoporotic patients with GD1



Spinal cord compression due to dysostosis multiplex

(MPS VI)





"Lumpers": single disease or group of diseases

- i. Early infantile regression
- ii. Eye movement disorders
- iii. Extrapyramidal syndrome
- iv. Coarse facial features
- v. Myoclonus, seizures & optic atrophy
- vi. Spasticity & optic atrophy



- Onset before the first 12–18 months of life
- GM1, GM2, GD2 & 3, ML2, fucosidosis I, Krabbe and NPA
- Usually absent enzyme activities
- Similar neurological and systemic manifestations



The three main sphingolipids are: ceramide, sphingomyelin and the glycosphingolipids (including cerebrosides and gangliosides)

 Defects in degradation of these macromolecules produce the LSDs collectively called sphingolipidoses



Since these lipids are synthesized in neural tissue, the storage produced by an SL most frequently affects the central and peripheral nervous systems



Additional clues for some sphingolipidoses (i.e. GM1)

- Cherry red spot
- Extraneurological features
 - dysplastic vertebra
 - signs of storage
 - (e.g., macroglossia, hepatomegaly)



Group 2: Eye movement disorders

NPC

- Late-onset GM2 type B
- GD 3



Adult GM1

NPB



Group 3: Coarse facial features

- Most MPSs
- a- & b-mannosidosis
- Galactosialidosis
- MSD
- Fucosidosis 2
- Sialidosis II
- Mucolipidosis II
- GM1



Profound mental deterioration

- MPS 1H (Hurler syndrome)
- severe form of MPS II (Hunter syndrome)
- all subtypes of MPS III (Sanfilippo syndrome)
- Severe behavioral disturbances, such as hyperactivity, obstinacy and aggression



- Combination of symptoms of mucopolysaccharidoses and sphingolipidoses
- Striking variation between phenotypes



- NCLs
- Sialidosis I
- Aspartoglucosaminouria (Salla disease)
- Schindler disease



- A group of at least ten genetically distinct disorders
- Intralysosomal aggregation of autofluorescent ceroid and lipofuscin
- NCLs probably constitute the most common group of progressive encephalopathy in children



- alpha- and beta-mannosidosis
- Fucosidosis
- Schindler disease
- Aspartylglucosaminuria
- Sialidosis (cherry-red-spot myoclonus syndrome)



- KD and MLD →very well known leukodystrophies
- Long tracts
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Optic atrophy and retinopathy



Peroxisomal disorders




Classification of peroxisomal disorders with nervous system involvement.

Disorder	Abbreviation	Gene symbol	Enzyme deficiency	Associated phenotypes
Disorders of peroxisome biogenesis				
-Zellweger spectrum disorders	ZSD, PBD,	Multiple PEX genes	Generalized	Zellweger spectrum
-Zellweger syndrome	ZS			
–Neonatal adrenoleukodystrophy	NALD			
–Infantile Refsum disease	IRD			
Rhizomelic chondrodysplasia punctata type 1	RCDP1	PEX7	DHAPAT Alkyl-DHAP synthase Phytanoyl CoA hydroxylase	RCDP and variants
Single peroxisomal enzyme/protein deficiencies				
X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy and adrenomyeloneuropathy	XALD AMN	ABCD1	ABC transporter protein	XALD, XAMN, and variants
Peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase 1 deficiency	ACOX1D		Peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase 1	NALD-like disease
D-bifunctional protein deficiency	DBPD	HSD17B4	D-bifunctional protein	ZS-like disease
Rhizomelic chondrodysplasia punctata type 2	RCDP2	GNPAT	Dihydroxyacetone phosphate acyltransferase	RCDP and variants
Rhizomelic chondrodysplasia punctata type 3	RCDP3	AGPS	Alkyl-DHAP synthase	RCDP and variants
Refsum disease	RD	РНҮН	Phytanoyl-CoA hydroxylase	Refsum disease
2-Methylacyl-CoA racemase deficiency	AMACRD	AMACR	AMACR	Adult-onset polyneuropathy



Neonatal profile

- Severe muscular hypotonia with resultant poor feeding
- Seizures
- Hepatic dysfunction incl. mixed hyperbilirubinemic jaundice
- Dysmorphic signs



Childhood profile

- Retinopathy often leading to early blindness
- Sensorineural deafness
- Hepatic dysfunction that may involve symptoms of vitamin K-responsive coagulopathy
- Developmental delay
- Failure to thrive
- Dysmorphic signs
- Adrenal insufficiency



Late-onset mild profile

- Cerebellar ataxia
- Neuropathy
- Sensorineural deafness
- Retinopathy
- Cholestatic liver disease during infancy

Bony changes in the neonatal and childhood group

- Large fontanel
- Osteopenia of long bones
- In 50%, calcified stippling in the epiphyseal and periarticular regions of large joints, especially the patellar region

Cerebral changes in the neonatal and childhood group

 Neocortical dysgenesis, due to neuronal migration failure

EPNS

 Metabolic changes involving the process of myelination, and in some cases leading to later demyelination

X-linked ALD



(single peroxisomal protein deficiency - peroxisomal beta oxidation)

- Addison's disease in boys, adolescents and adults
- Insidious onset with hyperactive behavior & declining school performance
- Central deafness
- Decreased visual acuity
- Spastic tetraparesis
- Cognitive decline
- Seizures

Leading to a severe disability and death within years after onset of symptoms





- Symmetric proximal shortening of the extremities (rhizomelia)
- Severe contractures from birth
- Typical facial appearance
- Cataracts (from birth or in the first months of life)
- Severe growth retardation
- Developmental delay



- Early-onset retinitis pigmentosa
- Cerebellar ataxia
- Polyneuropathy
- Less constant features:
 - sensorineural hearing loss
 - anosmia
 - ichthyosis
 - skeletal malformations
 - cardiac abnormalities



Congenital disorders of glycosylation





- > 50 disorders due to congenital defects in N-linked glycosylation
- clinical syndromes affecting multiple systems including:
 - CNS
 - muscle function
 - immunity
 - endocrine system
 - coagulation
- Some: unexpectedly long-term survival
- Some: Non-syndromic intellectual disability



- Abnormal fat pads
- Inverted nipples
- Arachnodactyly
- Mild muscle hypotonia
- Strabismus at birth
- However
 - abnormal fat distribution might disappear with older age
 - milder cases frequently present without any of these dysmorphic features
 - Endocrine disturbance and thrombotic complications
 - severe communication problems vs. cheerful habitus
 - Many patients survive to adulthood, losing the syndromal aspects



- Hepatointestinal phenotype
- Chronic diarrhea (protein-losing enteropathy)
- Coagulation defects
- Liver disease
- No dysmorphic features
- Normal development
- Liver fibrosis in childhood or in young adulthood



Other subtypes

- Oculocerebellar syndrome with occasional ichthyosis
- Dilated cardiomyopathy
- Syndromal dystroglycanopathies
- Severe early symptoms including eye malformations, muscle weakness, and developmental delay
- Mild congenital myasthenia leading to muscle weakness
- Severe hearing loss & skeletal abnormalities
- Microcephaly, ventricular septal defect, failure to thrive, hyperthermia, ↑CK



Other subtypes

- Distal limb malformations
- Skeletal dysplasia
- Cerebrocostomandibular syndrome
- Short stature & cutis laxa
- Radioulnar synostosis
- Conotruncal malformation



Dystroglycanopathies

Alpha-dystroglycanopathies

- Syndromes of variable severity imitating muscleeye-brain disease
- Severe neurologic disease with developmental delay and muscle weakness with CK elevations
- Mild limb-girdle-type muscle dystrophy with cardiomyopathy
- alpha dystroglycanopathy with high CK levels, abnormal muscle histology, and associations with microcephaly and severe seizure disorder

Genetic and Metabolic Disorders to Consider as Differential Diagnoses in CDGs

Genetic Disorders	Metabolic Disorders	
Prader-Willi syndrome	Mitochondrial disorders	
Congenital muscular dystrophies • Muscle-eye-brain disease • Fukuyama congenital muscular dystrophy	Peroxisome biogenesis disorders • Zellweger syndrome spectrum	
 Walker-Warburg syndrome 		
Congenital myopathies	Urea cycle defects	

Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome

- Congenital multiple anomaly/intellectual disability syndrome
- Deficiency of cholesterol synthesis resulting from a deficiency of 7-dehydrocholesterol (7DHC) reductase encoded by DHCR7
- Autosomal recessive pattern of inheritance



Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome

- Prenatal and postnatal growth retardation
- Microcephaly
- Variable degree of intellectual disability
- Multiple major and minor malformations



Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome

- Distinctive facial features
- Cleft palate
- Postaxial polydactyly
- Syndactyly of the toes (2nd & 3rd finger)
- Underdeveloped external genitalia in males



- Infantile seizures refractory to anticonvulsants
- Microcephaly
- Delays in mental and motor development
- Spasticity
- Ataxia
- Dysarthria
- Other paroxysmal neurologic phenomena, often occurring prior to meals



- Affected infants normal at birth
- Uneventful pregnancy and delivery
- Seizures usually begin between 1 & 4 months
- Preceded by apneic episodes or abnormal eye movements
- Atypical presentations
 - mental retardation
 - intermittent ataxia without seizures
 - movement disorders (choreoathetosis & dystonia)





No history

No regression

Rest of the examination normal



DD only!

- Propionic/methylmalonic acidemia
- D-2 or L-2 hydroxyglutaric aciduria
- UCDs
- Homocystinuria
- Phenylketonuria (missed by neonatal screening)
- Creatine deciciency
- MPSIII (mainly A or C)



DD without a clue

- Importance of re-evaluation!!!
- Diagnoses increase 5-20% with return visits
 - Two visits in the 1st year of life
 - Yearly until school
 - Re-evaluation during puberty



When to think about IME?

- Consider IME in parallel with other more common conditions
- Be aware of symptoms that persist and remain unexplained after initial treatment
- Don't confuse a symptom or a syndrome with etiology
- IME can present at any age from fetal life to old age

When to think about IME?

- Although most IME are autosomal recessive disorders, the majority of cases appear sporadic
- Take care first of the patient (emergency treatment), and then of the family (genetic counselling)
- Initially consider IME amenable to treatment

DON'T MISS A TREATABLE DISORDER!!!

The importance of making a diagnosis

- Parental knowledge/acceptance
- Prognosis
- Recurrence risk to patients and siblings
- Option of prenatal diagnosis and genetic counselling in subsequent pregnancies
- There may be a treatment











Thank you very much for your attention!



