

## 2017 Alabama Newborn Screening Conference



Marriott Hotel and Conference Center  
Prattville, Alabama  
Friday, August 18, 2017

## Inherited Disorders of Metabolism

S Lane Rutledge, MD  
Professor of Genetics and Pediatrics  
Director of Clinical Services  
Department of Genetics  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

### Inherited Disorders of Metabolism Definition

- Clinical or biochemical condition caused by an enzyme deficiency
- Enzyme may have completely or partially absent activity: so patient can present early or later
- Enzyme is deficient as a result of genetic mutation

### Inherited Disorders of Metabolism Biochemistry

- Biochemical abnormality precedes signs and symptoms: a latent period where the biochemistry is abnormal but the infant is well
- This latent period is basis of newborn screening
- Want to diagnose baby before illness is apparent!

### Inherited Disorders of Metabolism Biochemistry

- The abnormality is not always an enzyme
- However, the abnormality does always involve a biochemical pathway
- So there should be some biochemical test available for the disorder
- We do screen for the full recommended panel

NORMAL

$A \rightarrow B$

↓

C

IEM

$A \not\rightarrow B$

↓

C

so: ↑ A (substrate)

↓ B (product)

↑ C (minor product)

**Alabama Newborn Screening for Inherited Disorders of Metabolism**

- **Most common abnormalities**
  - Premature infants
    - Many false positives due to TPN
    - “expected abnormalities in light of clinical setting”

**Alabama Newborn Screening for Inherited Disorders of Metabolism**

- High tyrosine level due to enzyme immaturity or liver disease
- 4 most common diagnoses of confirmed metabolic disorders

**Alabama Newborn Screening for Inherited Disorders of Metabolism**

- hyperphenylalaninemia
- MCAD
- VLCAD
- galactosemia

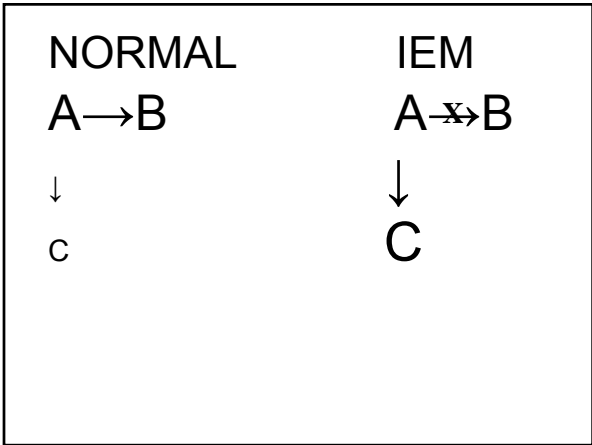
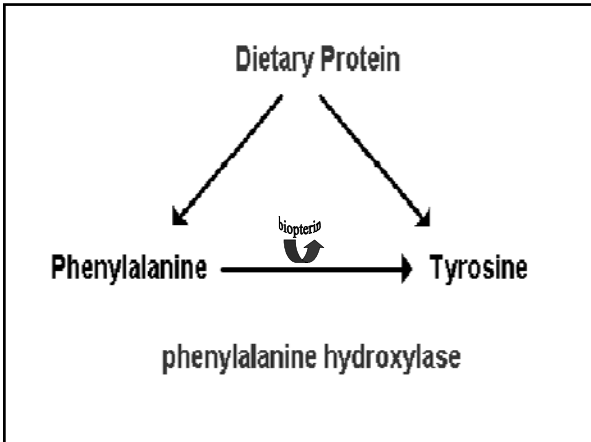
2011 Diagnoses	2016 Diagnoses
Hyperphe=4	Hyperphe=4
PKU=5	PKU=2
Galactosemia=0	Galactosemia=4
Duarte Galactosemia=10	Duarte Galactosemia=4
VLCADD=1	VLCADD=3
VLCADD Carriers=4	VLCADD Carriers=3
MCADD=5	MCADD=3
MCADD Carriers=12	MCADD Carriers=0
CUD=2	CUD=1
CUD Carriers=0	CUD Carriers=2
Maternal 3MCC=1	Maternal 3MCC=0
Citrullinemia Carrier=0	Citrullinemia Carrier=2
GA1=1	GA1=0

**PKU**

**PKU History**

- 1934: Fölling first described unusual compound in urine of 2 intellectually disabled siblings
  - Really the story of a determined mom and a doctor who listened!
- 1951: successful treatment with diet
- 1960: Guthrie test developed and newborn screening started

**The discovery of phenylketonuria: the story of a young couple, two retarded children, and a scientist.**  
 Centerwall SA, Centerwall WR.  
 Pediatrics. 2000 Jan;105(1 Pt 1):89-103.

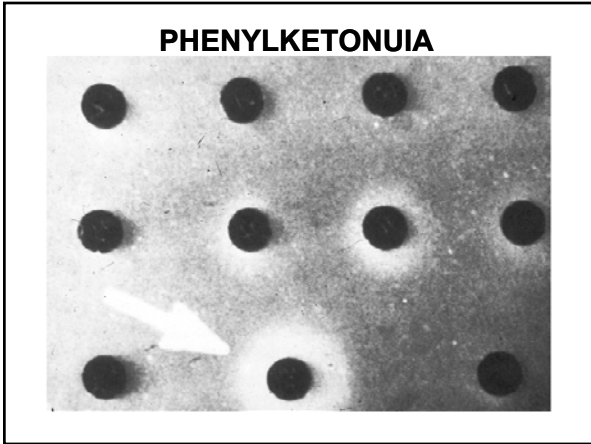


**PKU: Clinical Untreated**

- Gradual onset (first year of life) of significant intellectual disability
  - 50-70% IQ < 35
  - 90% IQ < 65
  - 2-5% IQ normal

**PKU: Clinical Untreated**

- Fair pigmentation for ethnic group
- Eczema
- Musty odor



### **PKU Treated**

- Normal IQ!!
- Best outcome with strict, lifelong adherence to diet
- Discontinuation of diet will result in loss of IQ points and psychological abnormalities for most patients
- Diet treatment in first few weeks of life leads to normal outcome

### **INITIAL WORK UP FOR PKU**

- Differential diagnosis of elevated phenylalanine levels
  - PKU
  - Biopterin defects
  - Infant on TPN

### **INITIAL WORK UP FOR PKU**

- Obtain plasma amino acids and urine and blood for biopterin studies before come to clinic
- In general, we do not obtain any genetic testing

### **Initial clinic visit: PKU**

- Confirm diagnosis
  - Initiate treatment as soon as family notified
  - Clinic visit ASAP
    - Confirm diagnosis same day as clinic visit
  - In most patients, treatment initiated within 7-14 DOL

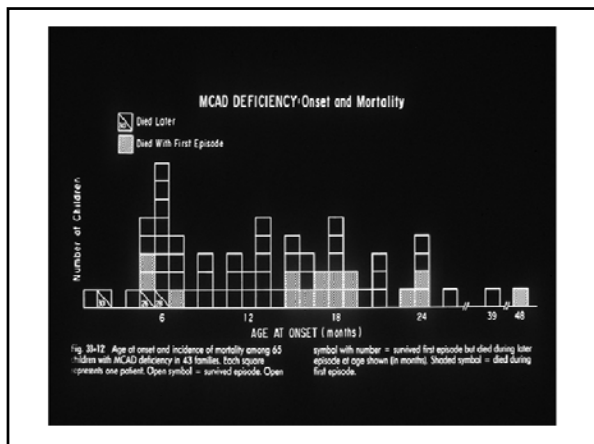
### **Initial clinic visit: PKU**

- Education about
  - Newborn screening
  - Condition
  - Genetics

### **Initial clinic visit: PKU**

- Diet explanation
  - Washout
  - Daily diet: changes weekly based on levels
- Lots of phone numbers and contact info and f/u visit within 7-10 days





**Disorders of FAO  $\beta$  Oxidation  
 CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS  
 Medium Chain Fats**

- For unscreened (undiagnosed) patients:
  - Death in 25-30% of patients with first episode
  - Neurocognitive residual in 32% survivors of an episode of metabolic decompensation

**Disorders of FAO  $\beta$  Oxidation  
 CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS  
 Medium Chain Fats**

- NBS changes all of this
  - 5 fold higher risk of death in unscreened patients

**Initial Clinic Visit: MCAD**

- Send testing to confirm diagnosis
  - Initiate treatment with first phone call, prior to confirmation
  - Clinic visit ASAP

**Initial Clinic Visit: MCAD**

- Education about
  - Newborn screening
  - Condition
  - Genetics

### Initial Clinic Visit: MCAD

- Plan for intercurrent illnesses
  - mild illnesses with normal appetite
  - illnesses which meet our admit criteria
- Lots of phone numbers and contact info and f/u visit within 7-10 days

### Disorders of FAO $\beta$ Oxidation TREATMENT

- GOAL:
  - Avoid fasting, especially fasting with increased metabolic rate
  - Provide appropriate types of fat in diet


### Disorders of FAO $\beta$ Oxidation TREATMENT

- METHODS:
  - Normal meal/snack pattern
  - cornstarch
  - Increase calories from sugar when needed
  - Carnitine in some
  - Treat illness aggressively

### Disorders of FAO $\beta$ Oxidation CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS Medium Chain Fats

- Known diagnosis:
- Admit for illness criteria
  - vomiting  $\geq 2$  times in  $< 8$  hours
  - Fever of  $101^\circ$  for  $> 4$  hours
  - Diarrheal illness

### Disorders of FAO $\beta$ Oxidation CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS Medium Chain Fats

- Anything we think needs admitting!
- If they look very ill, or glucose is low
  -  we have waited too long!

### MCAD: Metabolic Decompensation

What exactly are we doing?

IV glucose: shutting down ongoing fat metabolism, decreasing substrate into system

Carnitine: promoting metabolic flux  
AVOIDING FURTHER DEAD CHILDREN

### **Current problems with evaluation for MCAD**

- Alert values only
  - This means we work up any newborn who meets our criteria
- Often: quite clear have MCAD
- Sometimes: values are not as clear cut
  - Ancillary testing helps with this
- **UNABLE TO GET MOLECULAR ANALYSIS ON MEDICAID PATIENTS**

### **Disorders of FAO $\beta$ Oxidation CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS Long chain fats: 3 Clinical Presentations**

- Early onset and severe (occasionally in utero)
  - Heart, liver, hypoketotic hypoglycemia
  - Significant fatality rate

### **Disorders of FAO $\beta$ Oxidation CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS Long chain fats: 3 Clinical Presentations**

- Infancy onset, milder
  - Onset with infections
  - Heart, liver hypoketotic hypoglycemia

### **Disorders of FAO $\beta$ Oxidation CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS Long chain fats: 3 Clinical Presentations**

- Later onset and myopathic
  - Often induced by exercise or infection
  - Muscle: may include rhabdomyolysis
  - Early onset presentations who survive may evolve to this

### **VLCAD**

- If 3 different presentations, how do we decide what the baby is at risk for?
  - Ancillary biochemical testing not helpful (may normalize)
  - Can do skin fibroblasts
    - Mildly invasive procedure
    - Takes weeks for results

### **VLCAD**

- Molecular
  - Expected clinical presentation based on mutations
- Cannot get molecular testing on Medicaid patients
  - We can order but Medicaid won't pay and family will get large bill



### VLCAD

- Insurance maybe 80/20
  - Family may get large bill
- This really hurts our ability to care for these patients

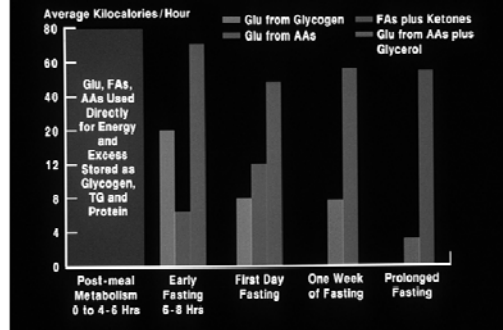
### VLCAD: echo pre and post RX



### GALACTOSEMIA

Inborn Error of Carbohydrate Metabolism

### FUEL USED WITH FASTING



### Inherited Disorders of Carbohydrate Metabolism

1. Deficiencies in stored glucose (glycogen) metabolism
2. Deficiencies in ability to metabolize ingested sugars (galactose, fructose)
3. Deficiencies in muscle carbohydrate metabolism: metabolic myopathies
4. Many things (hormones) affect carbohydrate metabolism

### GALACTOSEMIA

- EARLY CLINICAL
  - FTT
  - vomiting and diarrhea
  - LIVER: hepatopathy: direct bili, coags, transaminases

## **GALACTOSEMIA**

- **LABORATORY**
  - elevated LFT's/coagulopathy
  - E Coli infection
  - positive urine reducing substances: not glucose

## **GALACTOSEMIA**

- **LATE CLINICAL**
  - ovarian failure
  - speech delay

## **GALACTOSEMIA NOW**

- Most patients detected by newborn screening before becoming ill
- Carriers are detected by newborn screening
- Approximately 1 new case of classic galactosemia/year
- Many carriers diagnosed/year
- Must be on galactose to be symptomatic

## **How do we diagnose?**

- State lab measures enzymes but
  - This is just a screen
  - Get result of < 2.5 u/dl, presumed positive
  - Often picks up carrier

## **How do we diagnose?**

- So how do we figure out who has disease?
- Galactosemia genes can come in 1 of 3 ways
  - Normal "N": normal enzyme activity
  - Classic galactosemia "G": no enzyme activity
  - Duarte "D": some residual enzyme activity

## **How do we diagnose?**

- We often pick up, as positive, babies who have
  - NG: no treatment required
  - DG: treatment probably not required but we do change formula
 And ongoing studies about treatment requirements

### How do we diagnose?

- We would like to do genetic confirmation
  - that will tell us exactly what infant has
- Currently, we base our specific diagnosis on enzyme activity
- Usually effective, can be a little iffy

GALACTOSEMIA, GALT ENZYME ACTIVITY		Method: Radioenzymatic Assay	
	units/hr/gram Hb	Normal	Note
Galactose-1-Phosphate Uridylyltransferase	0.0	22.2 - 45.8	

### How do we diagnose?

- Cannot get molecular testing on Medicaid patients
  - We can order but Medicaid won't pay and family will get large bill
- Insurance maybe 80/20
  - Family may get large bill
- This really hurts our ability to care for these patients

**The world of lab testing coverage must keep pace with what is necessary, and least expensive, in 2017**

**Practicing 20th century medicine in 21st century**

### PKU & MCAD Examples of Why NBS Works

- PKU:
  - Patients develop severe brain damage over time
  - Early treatment prevents the brain damage
  - We can detect it early enough to prevent any brain injury from occurring

### PKU & MCAD Examples of Why NBS Works

- MCAD:
  - Patients are well and normal until their first significant illness
  - 1/3 to 1/2 of patients with undiagnosed MCAD will die with their first significant illness
  - These deaths are prevented by knowing that the child has MCAD and treating with IV glucose for illnesses

### PKU & MCAD Why difference in Initiating Treatment?

- PKU:
  - Treatment is restriction of phenylalanine by restricting protein and adding special metabolic formula
  - This can be quite dangerous to do if you do NOT have PKU or hyperphenylalaninemia

### **PKU & MCAD Why difference in Initiating Treatment?**

- **MCAD:**
  - Treatment is primarily IV glucose with significant intercurrent illness
  - So not dangerous to treat with IV glucose if you do NOT have MCAD
  - very dangerous to NOT treat with IV glucose if you do have MCAD and develop an illness

### **Current Problems in Metabolic Newborn Screening**

- Too many repeats!!
  - Do enough and something will show up as abnormal
  - Just do the gold standard test
  - Especially true in NICU patients
  - Follow protocol but beyond that...

### **Current Problems in Metabolic Newborn Screening**

- Sending incorrect confirmatory testing
  - ASK ALICIA 205-996-6983

### **Current problems in Metabolic Newborn Screening**

- Inability to get genetic analysis
  - Not just for the ones I discussed but true for many of these
- Still often called “the PKU test”
- DO NOT CALL IT THE PKU TEST!!

**Produced by the  
Distance Learning &  
Telehealth Division  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
(334) 206-5618  
alphtn@adph.state.al.us  
August 2017**

