

# Inborn Errors of metabolism in Infancy

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## Clinical Manifestations

Acute metabolic encephalopathy

Metabolic acidosis

Hyperammonemia

Hypoglycemia

Jaundice or hepatic dysfunction

Dysmorphism

## Acute metabolic encephalopathy

Toxic effects of accumulating metabolites on the CNS

Lethargy, poor feeding, sepsis-like(no risk factors),

Seizures, abnormal muscle tone, cerebral edema, ICH

apnea, tachypnea, recurrent vomiting,

## Basic laboratory studies

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CBC, DC

Urinalysis

Blood gases

Serum electrolytes

Blood glucose, lactate, CSF lactate

Plasma ammonia

Urine reducing substances

Urine ketones if acidosis or hypoglycemia

+

Plasma and urine amino acids

Urine organic acids

Plasma lactate

Urine metabolic screening

Tandem mass (血片)

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## Hyperammonemia

Unexplained vomiting, lethargy, or other evidence of an encephalopathy

Urea cycle defects, organic acidemias, transient hyperammonemia of the newborn, fatty acid oxidation defects

Frequently  $> 1000\mu\text{mol/L}$  (v.s.  $< 500\mu\text{mol/L}$  in sepsis, herpes simplex infection, perinatal asphyxia)

## Metabolic acidosis

**Organic acidemias:** Neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, elevated plasma lactate, hyperammonemia

## Defects in pyruvate metabolism, or in the respiratory chain

Lactic acidosis, normal urine organic acid

Plasma lactate/pyruvate ratio,

$< 25$  defect in pyruvate dehydrogenase or in gluconeogenesis

$> 25$  pyruvate carboxylase deficiency, respiratory chain defect, mitochondrial myopathy

## Metabolic disease without metabolic acidosis or hyperammonemia

nonketotic hyperglycinemia

molybdenum co-factor deficiency

## Major inborn errors of metabolism presenting in the neonate as an acute encephalopathy

Disorders	Metabolic acidosis	Hyperammonemia	Others
Organic acidemia	+	+	↑plasma and urine ketones abnormal urine organic acids
Urea cycle defects	—	++	Abnormal plasma amino acids
Maple syrup urine disease	+	—	↑plasma and urine ketones ferric chloride test + abnormal plasma amino acids
Nonketotic hyperglycinemia	—	—	Abnormal plasma amino acids
molybdenum co-factor deficiency	—	—	Low serum uric acid ↑sulfites in urine

## Emergency treatment of the infant with an acute metabolic encephalopathy

### 1. Removal of accumulating metabolites

- Suspicion of a disorder associated with protein intolerance → DC protein intake
- Hyperammonemia → hemodialysis
- Urea cycle defect → 0.6mL/Kg 10% arginine HCL IVD 90 minutes
- Organic acidemia → Cofactor

Cofactors(mg/d)	Disorders
Thiamin, B1(10-50)	MSUD Hyperlactatemia (pyruvate dehydrogenase)
Biotin (10-20 p.o.)	Propionic aciduria Multiple carboxylase deficiency Hyperlactatemia (pyruvate carboxylase)
Cobalamin, B12(1-2 i.m.)	Methylmalonic aciduria
Riboflavin, B2(20-40)	Glutaric aciduria β-Oxidation defects
Carnitine (50-100 p.o, 400 i.v.)	Branched-chain organic acidemia Dicarboxylic acidemia Primary hyperammonemia Hyperlactatemia

- IV bicarbonate

### **Exchange transfusion**

MSUD, methylmalonic, propionic, and isovaleric acidurias, urea cycle defect.

Transient effect

Applied in association with other methods such as peritoneal dialysis.

Multiple exchanges: 1.5- 4-volume exchanges 4-6 times/d

Continuous exchange: 600ml/k within 15 hours

Fresh blood, slow cycle

### **Peritoneal dialysis**

Warmed dialysate solutions buffered with bicarbonate, 40-50 ml/kg

One hour cycle (15 min filling up, 30 min dwell time, 15 min drainage) over 24-36 h

Methylmalonate has a spontaneous renal clearance twice higher than that of PD

### **Hemodialysis**

Two – 4 hour hemodialysis cycles in MSUD and PA.

Most effective and rapid method of removing small solutes

## **2. Prevention of catabolism**

IV glucose, lipid(如果食物中的脂肪與疾病無關時),

Complete protein restriction 2-3 d → 0.5g protein/kg/24hours then 1.0g/k/24h

### **Hypoglycemia**

#### **Disorders of carbohydrate metabolism**

Glycogen storage diseases :hypoglycemia, hepatomegaly, lactic acidosis

GSD type II pompe disease:macroglossia, hypotonia, cardiomegaly, hepatomegaly, no hypoglycemia

Galactosemia, hereditary fructose intolerance

#### **Defect in fatty acid oxidation**

Nonketotic hypoglycemia, hyperammonemia, metabolic acidosis, elevated transaminases, hepatomegaly (Reye like syndrome), sudden death,(medium-chain acyl CoA dehydrogenase deficiency), cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, unexplained cardiac arrest (very long-chain fatty acyl CoA dehydrogenase deficiency)

Dx:urine organic acid analysis, serum carnitine, plasma acylcarnitine profile

Rx:avoidance of fasting, provision of adequate glucose, restriction of dietary fat intake, supplemental L-carnitine therapy

## Jaundice and liver dysfunction

Disorder	Laboratory studies
Galactosemia	Urine reducing substances, RBC galactose-1-phosphate uridyl transferase
Hereditary tyrosinemia	Plasma amino acid, urine succinylacetone
$\alpha$ 1-antitrypsin deficiency	Quantitative serum $\alpha$ 1-antitrypsin, protease inhibitor typing
Neonatal hemochromatosis	Serum ferritin, liver biopsy
Zellweger syndrome	Plasma very long-chain fatty acids
Niemann-Pick disease type C	Skin biopsy for fibroblast culture, studies of cholesterol esterification and accumulation
GSD type IV	Liver biopsy for histology and biochemical analysis, skin biopsy with assay of branching enzyme in cultured fibroblasts

### Galactosemia

Jaundice, liver dysfunction, vomiting, diarrhea, poor weight gain, cataract formation, hypoglycemia,

### Finding suggestive of a storage disease

**Hepatosplenomegaly** in the first few months

GM1-gangliosidosis type I, Gaucher disease, Niemann-Pick disease, Wolman disease GSD

**Coarse facial features, hepatosplenomegaly, skeletal abnormalities, hernia:** GM1-gangliosidosis, mucopolipidosis, (I-cell disease), Mucopolysaccharidosis type VII ( $\beta$  Glucuronidase deficiency), sialidosis  $\rightarrow$  urine screening test for mucopolysaccharides and oligosaccharides

### Abnormal odor

Disorder	Odor
Glutaric acidemia type II	Sweaty feet
Hawkinsinuria	Swimming pool
Isovaleric acidemia	Sweaty feet
MSUD	Maple syrup
Methionine malabsorption	Cabbage
Multiple carboxylase deficiency	Tomcat urine Hops-like
Oasthouse urine disease	Mousy or musty
PKU	Rotting fish
Trimethylaminuria	Rancid, fishy, or cabbage-like
Tyrosinemia	

### Dysmorphic features

Disorders associated with multiple defects in peroxisomal enzymes

### **Zellweger syndrome, neonatal adrenoleukodystrophy**

Congenital hypotonia, dysmorphic features (epicanthal folds, Brushfield spots, large fontanel, simian creases, renal cyst)

### **Glutaric academia type II**

High forehead, hypertelorism, low set ears, abdominal wall defects, enlarged kidneys, hypospadias, rocker bottom feet

### **Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndromes**

Dysmorphic facies, cleft palate, congenital heart disease, hypospadias, polydactyly, syndactyly, inborn error of cholesterol biosynthesis

**Agensis of the corpus callosum:** nonketotic hyperglycinemia, PDH deficiency,

**Cataracts:** galactosemia, Zellweger syndrome, Lowe syndrome,

**Dislocated lenses:** homocystinuria, molybdenum co-factor deficiency, sulfite oxidase deficiency

**Retinal degenerative change:** peroxisomal disorders,

### **Samples to obtain from a dying child with a suspected inborn error of metabolism**

Urine, frozen

Plasma, separated from whole blood and frozen

Blood in EDTA tube (for DNA), 血片，填滿四個洞

Small snip of skin obtained using sterile technique and stored at room temperature or 37 C in tissue culture medium or sterile saline

Unfixed liver tissue frozen at -20C

### **Reference:**

Burton BK. Inborn errors of metabolism in infancy: A guide to diagnosis Pediatrics 102(6)

<http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/102/6/e69>