

RARE CAUSE OF CHOLESTASIS IN AN INFANT

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BACKGROUND

- 3 ½ month old female infant, developmentally normal
- 4th born to 2nd degree consanguineous parentage
- H/o sibling death (first 2 male children, both expired at 3 months of age, etiology unclear)
- Born of NVD, birth weight was 2.64 kg, had no adverse perinatal events

BACKGROUND

- 3 months of age → growth faltering → started on dexolac feeds
- Child was admitted outside and received albumin transfusion (edema, s. albumin = 2 g/dl) and PRBC transfusion (Hb = 5.2 gm/dl) and was referred to KKCTH for further management.

PRESENTATION

- **Growth faltering**(2.64 kgs → 3.1 kgs)
- **Cholestasis** → High colored urine (staining diaper) and pale colored stools since 1 month of age
- **Pallor**
- **Edema**
- **Icthyosis**
- **Doll like facies (chubby cheeks)**
- **Hepatomegaly**





INVESTIGATIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Hb | 6.0 |
| TC | 18900 (55/43/2) |
| Platelet | 2.92 lakhs |
| PT/aPTT/INR | 15/44/1.3 |
| Total Bilirubin/Direct | 6.1/4.0 |
| OT/PT | 132/39 |
| Protein/albumin | 3.8/2.6 |
| GGT/SAP | 77/153 |
| RFT | Normal |

USG abdomen- mild hepatomegaly, fatty changes + both kidneys towards lower limit , rest normal

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

- Ophthalmology evaluation- Corneal and Conjunctival Xerosis. (treated with vitamin A)
- Thyroid Profile - **fT4- 1.37, TSH-19.52** (started on thyroid supplements)
- S. Ammonia-50, pyruvate-0.087, **Lactate-3.5**

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- **CYSTIC FIBROSIS**

- ✓ FTT/neonatal cholestasis
- ✓ Fecal chymotrypsin (2 samples) – no activity
- ✓ CFTR gene panel (72 mutations) –negative

- **MITOCHONDRIAL HEPATOPATHY**

- ✓ Neonatal cholestasis/ lactate= 3.5
- ✓ No CNS /other system involvement

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- GLYCOGEN STORAGE DISORDERS

- ✓ Hepatomegaly/ doll like facies
- ✓ No fasting hypoglycemia/lipid profile/uric acid –normal

- FANCONI BICKEL SYNDROME

- ✓ Hepatomegaly/doll like facies
- ✓ However no RTA/no renomegaly

So WHAT is the DIAGNOSIS ????



- History of consanguinity and sibling loss
- CHOLESTASIS with fat soluble vitamin deficiencies
- Failure to thrive
- Fatty liver
- Anemia
- Hypoproteinemia
- DOLL LIKE FACIES

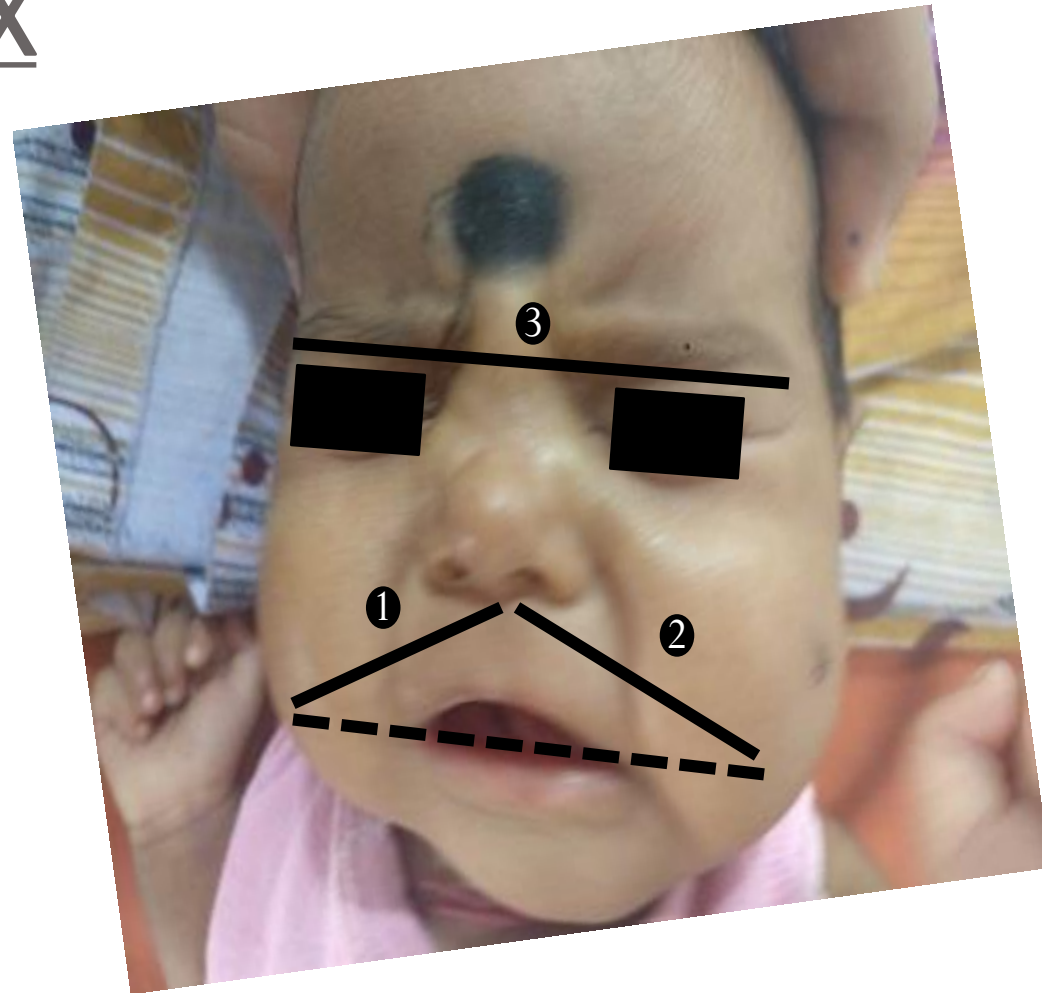
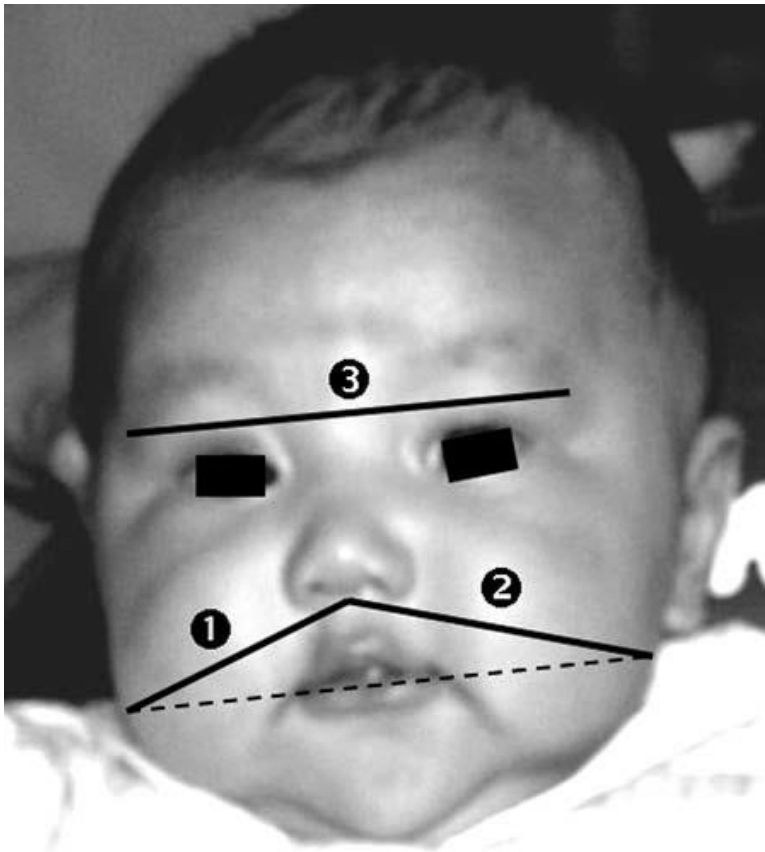
CITRIN DEFICENCY

Neonatal Intrahepatic
Cholestasis a/w Citrin
Deficiency (NICCD)

CHUBBY INDEX

- Defined → the sum of the lengths of the bilateral cheeks (1+2) divided by the distance between the lateral ends of the eyebrows (3).
- At the age of 2 to 4 months, the **Chubby Index in the NICCD** group (1.3310.071, range 1.217–1.402) was significantly higher than that in the control group (1.0680.059, range 0.964–1.169) ($P < 0.05$) (*Chen et al 2008*)
- Our patient → chubby index → 1.3.

CHUBBY INDEX



Chen HW, Chen HL, NiYH, Lee NC, ChienYH, HwuWL, HuangYT, Chiu PC, Chang MH. Chubby face and the biochemical parameters for the early diagnosis of neonatal intrahepatic cholestasis caused by citrin deficiency. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr 2008; 47: 187–92

Can LFTs predict ???

- NICCD was related to
 - ✓ **AST/ALT ratio >2**
 - ✓ **D-BIL/T-BIL ratio < 0.67 .** (*Chen et al 2008*)

- In our patient
 - ✓ AST/ALT ratio $\rightarrow 132/39 \rightarrow \underline{3.4}$
 - ✓ D-BIL/T-BiL ratio $\rightarrow 4.0/6.1 \rightarrow \underline{0.65}$

- In NICCD \rightarrow **serum bile acids >200** (*Kobayashi et al. 2006*), which was similar to the finding in our patient.

FISCHERS RATIO

- Fischer ratio → (branched-chain amino acids [BCAAs] Val+Leu+Ile / aromatic amino acids [AAAs] Tyr+Phe) → decreased from ~3.4 to ~2 in citrin deficiency.

(Saheki T, Song YZ. Citrin Deficiency. 2005 Sep 16. In: Adam MP, Ardinger HH, Pagon RA, et al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2018.)

- In our patient the Fischers ratio was 1.63.
- The above test is usually positive in the asymptomatic phase of the disease.

CITRIN

DEFICIENCY

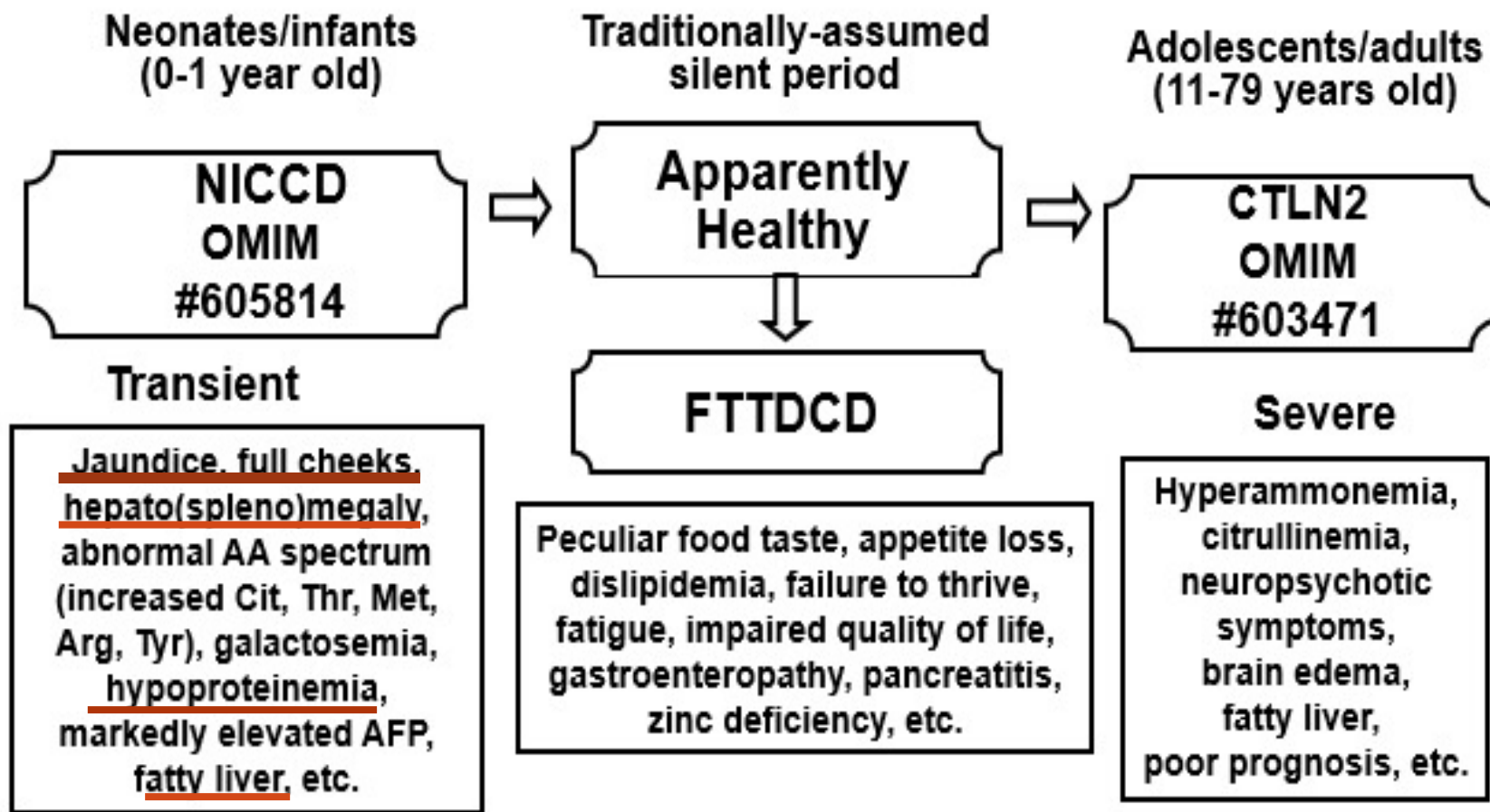
CITRIN DEFICIENCY

- Autosomal recessive
- Disease of **EAST ANCIENT ANCESTRY** (carrier rates in Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea are 1:65, 1:65, 1:48 and 1:112) → Disease of **PAN ETHNIC ORIGIN** (Israel, Pakistan, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic)
- In India only 2 cases of NICCD have been published so far.

CITRIN DEFICIENCY

- Newborns or infants - neonatal intrahepatic cholestasis caused by citrin deficiency (**NICCD**)
- Older children - failure to thrive and dyslipidemia caused by citrin deficiency (**FTTDCD**)
- Adults - as recurrent hyperammonemia with neuropsychiatric symptoms in citrullinemia type II (**CTLN2**).

Presentations of Citrin Deficiency



(Saheki T, Song YZ. Citrin Deficiency. 2005 Sep 16. In: Adam MP, Ardinger HH, Pagon RA, et al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2018.)

LAB PARAMETERS IN NICCD

| Assayed Item (NICCD) | Median (25%-75% range) (mg/dL) | Control Range (mg/dL) |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| TB | 4.9 (2.8-8.0) | 0.2-1.0 |
| DB | 2.5 (1.5-3.7) | 0-0.4 |
| TB/DB ratio | 0.55 (0.41-0.66) | — |
| TBA | 239 (172-293) | 5-25 |
| AFP | 91,900 (33,200-174,700) | 260-6,400 ^{1,2} 2-55 ^{2,3} |

Kobayashi et al (2006)

In our patient TB/DB ratio was less and serum bile acids was >200 , however AFP =1837.

LAB PARAMETERS IN NICCD

| Phenotype (Age) | Blood or Plasma Concentration of Ammonia ($\mu\text{mol/L}$) | Plasma or Serum Concentration of: | | Plasma or Serum Threonine- to-Serine Ratio |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|---|
| | | Citrulline ($\mu\text{mol/L}$) | Arginine ($\mu\text{mol/L}$) | |
| Control | 18-47 ³ | 17-43 ³ | 54-130 ³ | 1.10 |
| NICCD (0-6 mos) | 60 | 300 | 205 | 2.29 |
| FTTDCD (>1-11 yrs) | Normal or slightly elevated | Normal or slightly elevated | Usually normal | Unknown |
| CTLN2 (11-79 yrs) | 152 | 418 | 198 | 2.32 |

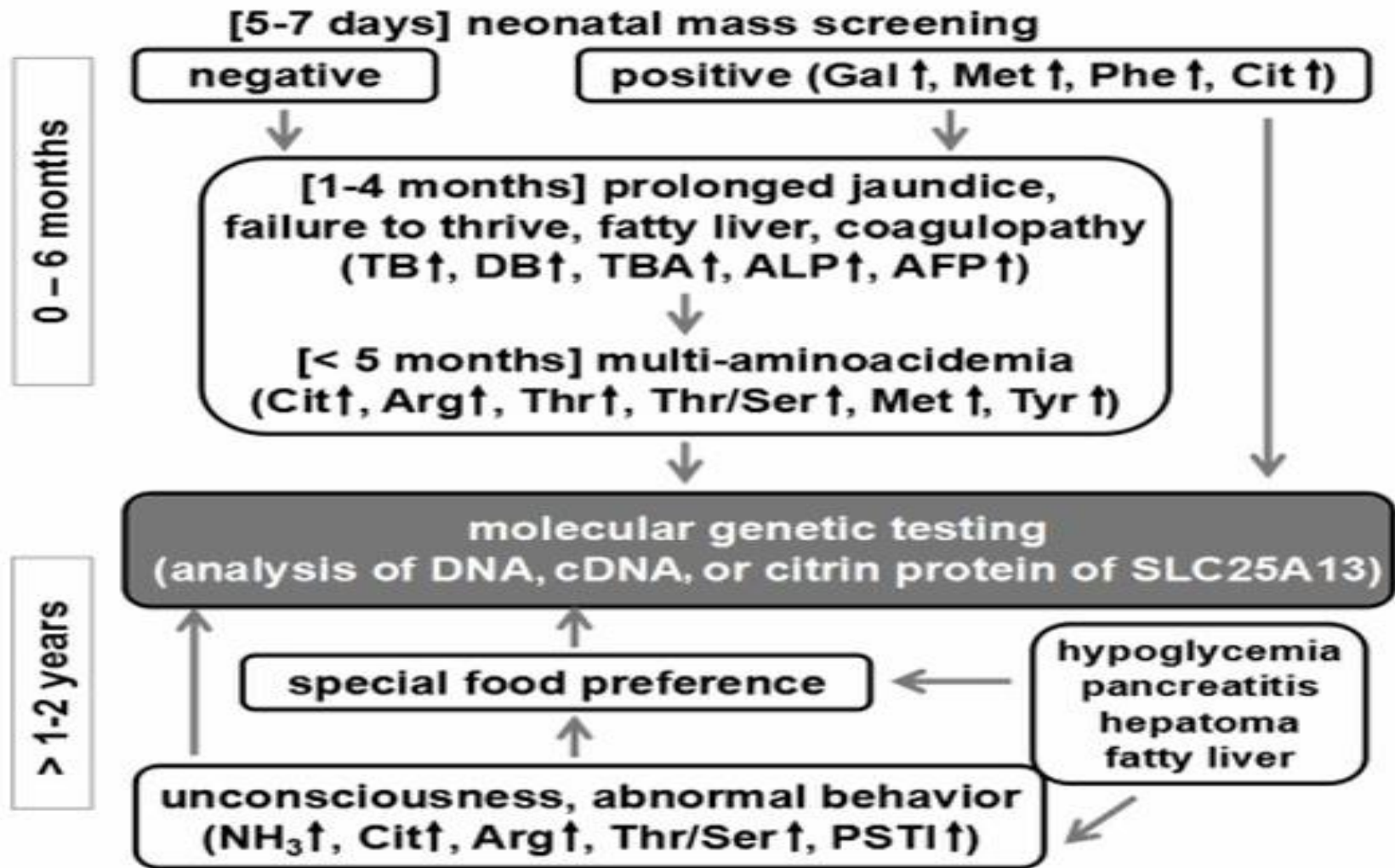
Kobayashi
et al
(2006)

In our patient aminoacidogram and threonine- serine ratio was normal

CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS

- Gene analysis involving identification of biallelic pathogenic variants in **SLC25A13** .

HOW TO DIAGNOSE ???



(Saheki T, Song YZ. Citrin Deficiency. 2005 Sep 16. In: Adam MP, Ardinger HH, Pagon RA, et al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2018.)

PITFALLS IN DIAGNOSIS

- Natural history of disease is unclear.
- Misdiagnosed as **Galactosemia and Tyrosinemia**.
- **Plasma amino acids** show
 - ✓ inconsistent and varied elevation.
 - ✓ The newborn screening is ineffective.
 - ✓ **Normal during asymptomatic phase** (as in our case)
- **Gene test not widely available in India.**

MANAGEMENT

- **NICCD**
 - ✓ Fat soluble vitamins
 - ✓ Lactose-free and MCT-enriched therapeutic formulas
 - ✓ Usually self limiting

- **FTTDCD**
 - ✓ Dietary preferences
 - ✓ Sodium pyruvate

- **CTLN2**
 - ✓ Arginine supplementation
 - ✓ Sodium pyruvate
 - ✓ Liver transplantation

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- **Cholestasis with chubby cheeks with unexplained hypoproteinemia – consider Citrin deficiency**
- Plasma aminoacidogram may be normal during asymptomatic phase, however Fischers ratio will be <2 .
- **Transient condition**, managed by dietary intervention (avoid lactose and provide high protein)

