

# Reye's syndrome & Inborn errors of metabolism affecting the liver

## Metabolic disorders " عصباني "

- Are diseases that disrupts metabolism
- Are most frequently caused by an absence or deficiency in an enzyme (or protein)
- Inborn errors of metabolism are heritable disease due to defective gene or genes that are present at birth
- When one of the enzymes is not working properly, the process of breaking down of specific foods can go more slowly or shut down completely

## Reye's Syndrome

- Characteristics**
  - Extremely rare can affect the brain and liver
  - Most commonly in kids between 4 and 14 years old recovering from a viral infection
  - Studies have linked the use of aspirin or aspirin-containing medications during viral disease to development of Reye syndrome
  - A potentially life threatening disorder that should be treated as a medical emergency
  - The mechanism by which aspirin and other salicylates trigger Reye's syndrome is not completely understood
  - Early detection and treatment are critical
- Pathophysiology**
  - Mitochondrial dysfunction that inhibits
    - Oxidative phosphorylation
    - And fatty-acid beta-oxidation
  - All cells have swollen mitochondria that are in reduced number
  - Along with glycogen depletion and minimal tissue inflammation
  - This lead to cerebral edema and increased intracranial pressure (ICP)
- Systems**
  - Persistent vomiting
  - Lethargy or sleepiness in infants
  - Diarrhea
  - Rapid breathing
  - In the later stages — A child may exhibit
    - Irrational behavior
    - Confusion
    - Severe weakness
    - Seizures
    - Loss of consciousness
- Treatment**
  - There is usually no fever
  - There is no cure for RS
  - Successful management aimed at protecting the brain against irreversible damage by
    - Reducing brain swelling, preventing complications in the lungs, and anticipating cardiac arrest
- Prognosis**
  - Recovery is directly related to the severity of the swelling of the brain
  - Some people recover completely, while others may sustain varying degrees of brain damage
  - Unless RS is diagnosed and treated successfully, death is common, often within a few days

## Wilson disease

- It is a genetic disorder that prevents the body from getting rid of extra copper
- People who get Wilson disease inherit two abnormal copies of the **ATP7B** gene, one from each parent
- Wilson disease carriers, who have only one copy of the abnormal gene, do not have symptoms
- Normally, copper from the diet is filtered out by the liver and released into bile
- In WD when the copper storage capacity of the liver is exceeded, copper is released into the bloodstream and travels to other organs—including the brain, kidneys, and eyes
- Over time, high copper levels can cause life-threatening organ damage
- About 1 in 40,000 people get Wilson disease
- It equally affects men and women
- Symptoms usually appear between ages 5 to 35, but new cases have been reported in people aged 2 to 72 years
- Systems**
  - First attacks the liver, the central nervous system, or both
    - Liver or spleen
      - Swelling
      - Yellowing of the skin
      - Whites of the eyes
      - Rarely, acute liver failure
    - CNS
      - Problems with speech, swallowing, or physical coordination
  - Other signs and symptoms
    - Anemia
    - Low platelet or white blood cell count
    - Slower blood clotting  - Measured by a blood test
  - Kayser-Fleischer rings
    - Is the most unique sign of Wilson disease
    - Result from a buildup of copper in the eyes
    - They appear in each eye as a rusty-brown ring around the edge of the iris and in the rim of the cornea
- Treatment**
  - Requires lifelong treatment to reduce copper in the body
  - Initial therapy includes
    - The removal of excess copper using drugs like (d-penicillamine and trientine)
    - A reduction of copper intake
    - The treatment of any liver or central nervous system damage

## Hemochromatosis

- Caused by too much absorption and storage of iron
- Healthy people absorb about 10 percent of the iron in the food
- People with hemochromatosis absorb up to 30 percent of iron
- Over time, they absorb and retain between 5 to 20 times more iron than the body needs
- Our body has no natural way to rid itself of the excess iron
- It is stored in body tissues, specifically the liver, heart, and pancreas
- Causes**
  - Autosomal recessive disease results from defect in a gene called HFE (human factors engineering)
    - HFE helps regulate the amount of iron absorbed from food
    - The most known mutation of HFE is C282Y
    - In people who inherit C282Y from both parents, the body absorbs too much iron and hemochromatosis can result
    - Those who inherit the defective gene from only one parent are carriers for the disease but usually do not develop it; however, they still may have higher than average iron absorption
- Diagnosis**
  - Serum transferrin saturation
    - A plasma protein that transport iron in blood
    - Transferrin saturation values greater than 45 percent are considered too high
  - Ferritin
    - Intracellular protein that stores and releases iron in controlled way
    - This test measures the amount of iron stored in your body (most of ferritin is in liver)
  - Genetic testing
    - To confirm the diagnosis blood test to detect the HFE mutation, which will confirm the diagnosis
- Treatment**
  - Phlebotomy
    - Which means removing blood the same way it is drawn from donors at blood banks
    - The amount of blood removed and how often it's removed depend on
      - your age
      - Your overall health
      - The severity of iron overload
    - The goal of phlebotomy is to reduce your iron levels to normal
    - It may take a year or longer to reduce the iron in your body to normal levels
    - Initial treatment Initially, you may have a pint (about 470 milliliters) of blood taken once or twice a week
    - Maintenance treatment schedule
      - Once your iron levels have returned to normal, blood can be removed less often
      - Typically every two to four months. The schedule depends on how rapidly iron accumulates in your body
    - Blood ferritin levels will be tested periodically to monitor iron levels

# Glycogen Storage Disease

## Characteristics

- Result from storage of abnormal quantities of glycogen or storage of glycogen with abnormal properties
- Deficiencies of enzymes related to glycogen metabolism — Affect the levels of glucose and glycogen — Because their deficiency can significantly alter the normal metabolism of glucose

Alpha-1,4-glucosidase is important for the degradation glycogen in the lysosome

## 4 Types

### Type I Glycogen Storage Disease "Von Gierke's"

- Accounting for 25% of all cases
- Cause — Inherited deficiency of liver Glucose 6- phosphatase (release free glucose & phosphate).
- The liver glycogen is normal in structure but present in abnormally large amounts
- The absence of glucose 6-phosphatase in the liver causes hypoglycemia due to inability to release free glucose
- The presence of excess glucose 6-phosphate triggers an increase in glycolysis in the liver — Leading to a high level of lactate and pyruvate in the blood
- Patients who have von Gierke disease also have an increased dependence on fat metabolism

### Glycogen storage disease type II "Acid maltase deficiency or Pompe disease"

- It is an autosomal recessive disease
- Trigger cellular damage and premature death particularly cardiac and skeletal muscle
- Cause — Deficiency of a lysosomal enzyme, alpha-1,4-glucosidase — Causes accumulation of glycogen known as GSD type II — The most abundant deposits are in the cardiac and skeletal muscles and liver, depending on the degree of residual enzyme activity
- Forms
  - Infantile
    - Characterized by heavy deposits of glycogen in the
      - The Heart
      - Liver
      - Tongue — So these tissues enlarge
    - The hypotonia (low muscle tone tension or resistance to stretch ) and muscle weakness (myopathy) involves — Skeletal and respiratory muscles as well with progressive respiratory insufficiency
    - In the CNS — The disease primarily affects the nuclei of the brainstem and the cells of the ventral horn of the spinal cord — Mental functions are preserved
  - Juvenile and adult
    - Characterized by glycogen deposition in skeletal muscles
    - The involvement of the cardiac muscle varies in the juvenile form, whereas the muscle is unaffected in the adult form

### Glycogen storage disease type III "Forbes-Cori disease or limit dextrinosis"

- Both liver and skeletal muscles are involved
- Cause — Deficiency of the cytosolic debrancher enzyme
- Abnormal glycogen with short external branches is stored in the liver, heart, and skeletal muscle cells
- Forms
  - IIla — The liver, skeletal muscles, and cardiac muscle are involved
  - IIlb, only the liver is involved
- Debrancher Enzyme
  - Catalyzes the removal of the last branched four residues
  - It has two catalytic activities it acts as a
    - 1- As a transferase — It first removes the three glucose residues, and adds it to the end of a longer chain
    - 2- Alpha amylo-1,6-glucosidase activity — Resulting in the release of free glucose

### Glycogen storage disease type IV "amylopectinosis or Andersen"

- A rare disease that leads to early death
- Causes deficiency in amylo-4:6-transferase (branching enzyme)
- Accumulation of abnormally structured glycogen in the
  - Liver
  - Heart
  - Neuromuscular system
- The abnormal glycogen has long external branches that resemble amylopectin — This form of glycogen is less soluble; liver cirrhosis probably arises as a reaction to this insoluble material
- Deficiency in amylo-4:6-transferase — When the chain reaches 11 residues or more in length — Then 6 to 8 residue piece is cleaved by amylo-4:6-transferase and reattached to a glucose unit by an  $\alpha$ -1,6 bond.