

Nephrolithiasis in the hereditary and genetic disorders

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Outlines

- **Primary hyperoxaluria:**
 - genetics, diagnosis and treatment options
- **Cystinuria:**
 - genetics, diagnosis and treatment options
- **Medullary sponge kidney**
- **Proximal tubule:**
 - Dent disease/Lowe syndrome

Introduction

- Kidney stones and many associated risk factors have strongly heritable features and tend to cluster in families
- Kidney stones develop approximately **three-fold** more frequently in individuals with a family history of kidney stones than in those without such a history
- Family history of kidney stones in **16–37%** of stone formers, yielding a **heritability of stone disease of 46–63%**.

A family-based study of metabolic phenotypes in calcium urolithiasis

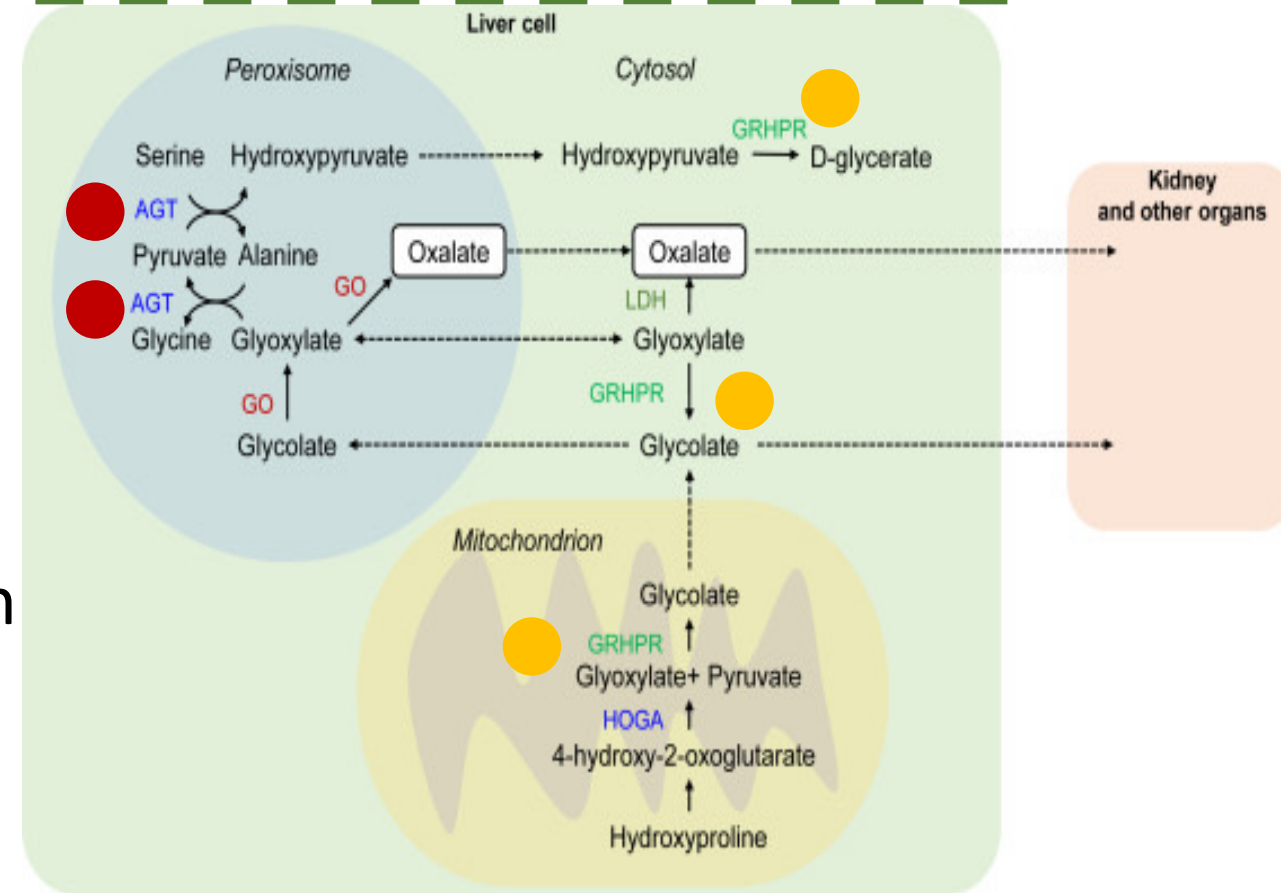
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- Evaluation metabolic risk factors: **in families with at least two sibs with a history of calcium stones.**
- Increased urine calcium excretion is the only phenotype associated with a kidney stone formation.

Primary hyperoxaluria

- Primary hyperoxaluria
- **Types 1:** peroxisomal AGT deficiency
- **Types 2:** cytosolic GRHPR deficiency
- Accumulation of glyoxylate, which is converted to oxalate by LDH
- **Type 3:** defect in HOGA in mitochondria: unknown Mx



Natural history of primary hyperoxaluria

- Progressive decline in kidney function because of complications of nephrolithiasis (e.g., urinary obstruction, infection), nephrocalcinosis
- Other organ and tissue damage from calcium oxalate deposition (i.e., "oxalosis")

Clinical Presentations

Age at Presentation	% of All PH1	Initial Manifestations			
		Nephrolithiasis	Nephrocalcinosis	Kidney function	Oxalosis
Infantile onset (age <12 mos)	10% ¹	±	+++	Advanced CKD or ESKD	+++
Childhood/adolescence (ages 1-17 yrs)	70%	+++	+	Normal-to-moderate reduction	Only occurs w/ESKD
Adulthood (age ≥18 yrs)	20%	+++	++ w/advanced CKD or ESKD	Mild-to-moderate reduction; some w/ESKD	Only occurs w/ESKD

Adult Onset (age ≥ 18 years)

- PH1 is not correctly diagnosed in 20%-50% of individuals with adult-onset disease until later stages of CKD or after kidney failure
- In $\sim 10\%$ of these adults the diagnosis of PH1 is only first considered following recurrent disease in a transplanted kidney when an allograft biopsy reveals calcium oxalate crystals by graft loss
- Most manifestations of oxalosis are **slowly reversible** following successful liver and kidney transplantation, mobilization of oxalate tissue deposits poses risk of oxalate injury to the transplanted kidney.

Oxalosis in PH1

- **Oxalosis:** complication of PH1 at any age **when eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m²**
- Progressive oxalosis, observed over time in most individuals with PH1 who are on dialysis, eventually leads to death.
 - **Bone.** oxalate osteodystrophy characterized by bone pain, pathologic fractures, growth delay.
 - **Retina.** frequent in **infants** with PH1 in kidney failure. less common in **adults**, typically do not cause visual impairment.
 - **Heart.** Cardiomyopathy resulting in heart failure; arrhythmias and heart block

less common clinical manifestations of oxalate deposition

Bone marrow

Refractory hypotension

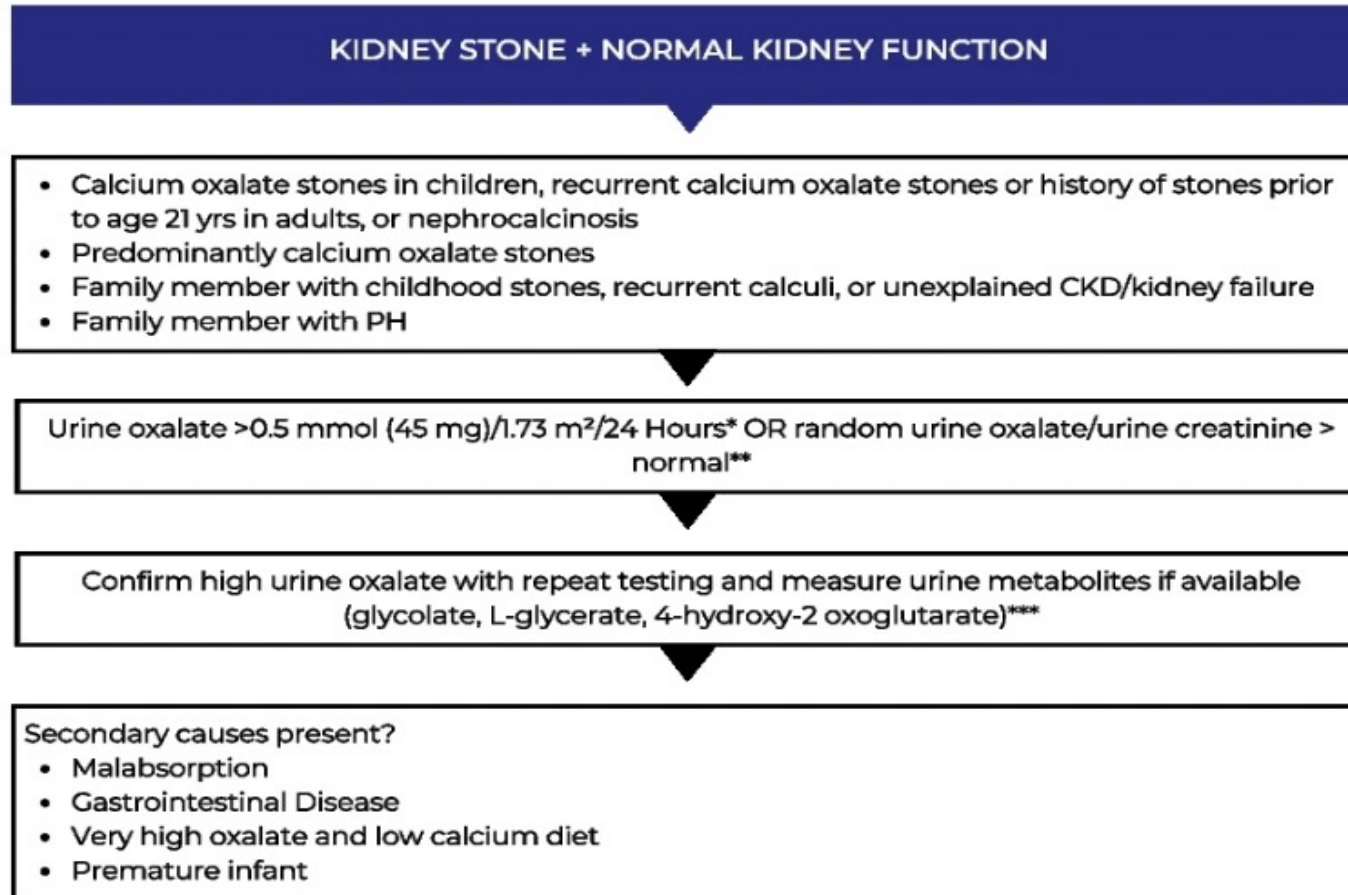
Vascular involvement

Peripheral neuropathy

Cerebral infarcts

Dental pain and root resorption

PH diagnosis



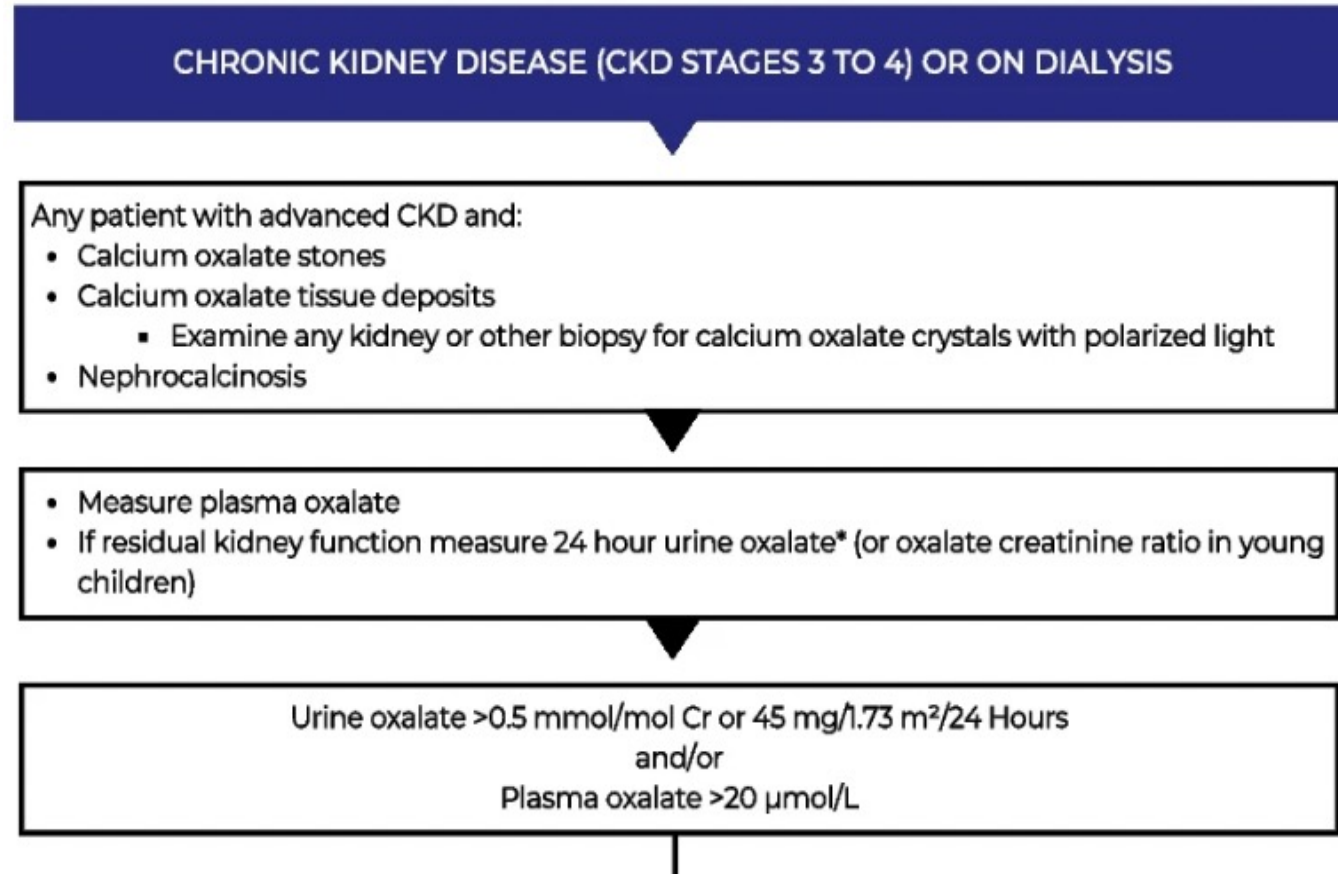
Primary Hyperoxaluria Type 1: Supportive Laboratory Findings

Laboratory Test	Constraints	Findings in PH1	Comments
Urine oxalate, 24-hr collection ¹	All individuals where possible	UOx >0.5 mmol/24 hours Uox>50mg/1.73m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be corrected to BSA 1.73 m² in children At least 2 collections required to confirm abnormality Less reliable when eGFR <30 mL/min/BSA Data for normal values for children age <2 yrs are limited.
Urine oxalate:creatinine, spot urine specimen ¹	Young children or others in whom 24-hr collection is difficult	UOx > normal range for age ²	At least 2 collections to confirm abnormality
Plasma oxalate concentration	When eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POx >20 is consistent w/ PH1. POx >50 µmol/L is strongly suggestive of PH1 [Perinpan et al 2017] ^{3, 4} 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plasma samples require special handling. Results vary by method. Available only in specialty labs
Kidney stone analysis	When stone is available	100% calcium oxalate monohydrate	Suggestive of but not specific for PH1

Normal Spot Urine Oxalate : Creatinine Ratio by Age

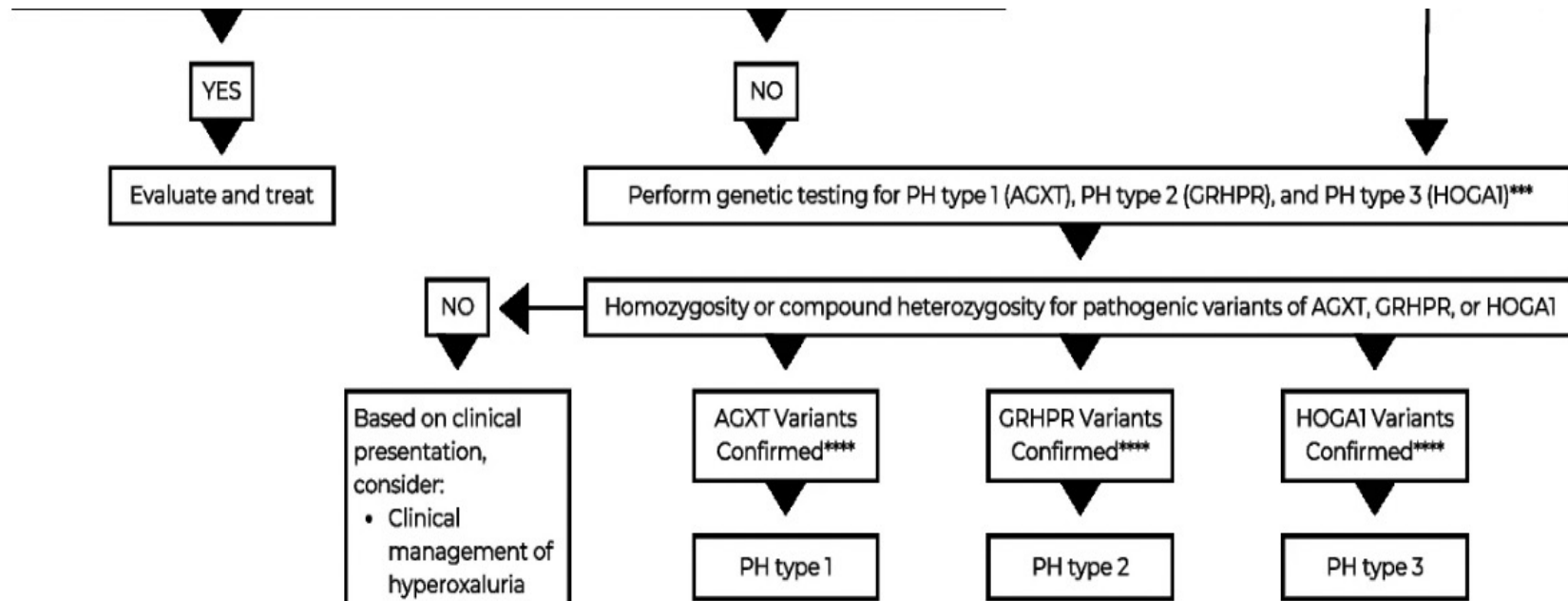
Age	mmol/mmol	mg/mg
<6 months	<0.37	<0.29
6-23 months	<0.26	<0.20
2-5 years	<0.14	<0.22
6-12 years	<0.08	<0.06
>13 years	<0.04	<0.03

PH diagnosis



Evaluations Following Initial Diagnosis

- When CKD is stage > 3b, evaluate for systemic oxalate deposits:
 - **Bone imaging:** sclerosis and/or pathologic fractures
 - **Ophthalmologic** examination: visual acuity & retinal examination
 - **Echocardiography** for evidence of cardiomyopathy
 - **Electrocardiogram** for conduction disturbances
 - **CBC** for evidence of anemia



- * Utilize lab with experience measuring serum and urine oxalate.
- ** Random oxalate/creatinine ratios vary significantly by age. Consult pediatric reference range tables for interpretation.
- *** If available, guided by the Hyperoxaluria panel interpretative report which includes recommendations for molecular testing (high glycolate may indicate PH1, high L-glycerate may indicate PH2, and high 4-hydroxy-2 oxoglutarate may indicate PH3).
- **** If diagnosed with PH or if clinical presentation may indicate novel genetic cause, contact The OHF at ohf.org or info@ohf.org for resources, and if interested, to determine eligibility for OHF research protocol or registry.

Genetic Testing

- The diagnosis of PH1 is **established** in a proband with suggestive findings and biallelic pathogenic (or likely pathogenic) variants in AGXT identified by molecular genetic testing.
- Molecular genetic testing approaches can include a combination of **gene-targeted testing** (multigene panel) and **comprehensive genomic testing** (exome sequencing, genome sequencing).

The genetics of kidney stone disease and nephrocalcinosis

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DOI: 10.1038/s41581-021-00513-4

Molecular Genetic Testing Used in Primary Hyperoxaluria Type 1

Gene ¹	Method	Proportion of Pathogenic Variants ² Identified by Method
<i>AGXT</i>	Sequence analysis ³	>97% ⁴
	Gene-targeted deletion/duplication analysis ⁵	<3% ⁶

Genotype-Phenotype Correlations

- **Pyridoxine-responsive variants.**
- Pyridoxine (vitamin B₆), a cofactor for AGT.
- Individuals **homozygous** for **3** pathogenic variants (p.Phe152Ile, p.Gly170Arg, or p.Ile244Thr) : treated with pharmacologic doses of pyridoxine
- **Heterozygotes** for p.Phe152Ile, p.Gly170Arg, or p.Ile244Thr and a non-pyridoxine-sensitive [pathogenic variant](#) developed kidney failure at a **slightly younger age**

Treatment: Pyridoxine (vitamin B₆)

- A starting pyridoxine dose of 5 mg/kg/day is recommended.
- Stepwise increases in pyridoxine dose to a maximum of 10-20 mg/kg/day with assessments of response by measurement of urine oxalate excretion at each step determines the minimum effective dose.
- Continuation of Tx:
 - Indefinitely
 - Until successful orthotopic liver transplantation

Pyridoxine (vitamin B₆) response

- Pyridoxine response: comparing the 24-hour urine oxalate excretion rate before treatment and **after at least 3 months** of pyridoxine treatment at a **minimum dose of 5 mg/kg/day**.
- **Reduction of $\geq 30\%$ or normalization** of urinary oxalate excretion while receiving pyridoxine indicates responsiveness.
- Most individuals who are pyridoxine responsive show maximum benefit at a dose of 5-8 mg/kg/day.

Primary Hyperoxaluria: Supportive Care

Objective	Treatment	Consideration/Other
Prevent crystal injury to kidneys by ↓ crystal formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high oral fluid intake to assure good urine volume. • Use oral citrate or pyrophosphate to inhibit calcium oxalate crystal formation. 	Infants or small children may need gastrostomy tube placement.
Reduce stone formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high urine volume. • Minimize urine oxalate concentration. • Optimize urine citrate. 	Use imaging studies at regular intervals to guide mgmt.
Reduce stone-related kidney damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult w/urologist experienced in mgmt of PH. • Ureteroscopic mgmt of symptomatic stones preferred when appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt attention to pain or other symptoms suggesting infection or possible urinary obstruction. • Use imaging studies at regular intervals to guide mgmt.
Preserve kidney function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid dehydration. • Avoid nephrotoxins that can cause kidney injury (e.g., NSAIDs). 	Use IV fluid if needed to assure high urine volume (e.g., during vomiting or diarrhea).
Prevent systemic oxalosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor plasma oxalate concentration during transient or permanent periods of low GFR. • Initiate dialysis promptly to ↓ oxalate concentration.^{1, 2} 	Dialysis, most often used as a bridge to kidney recovery or transplantation, often requires ≥4 dialysis sessions per week to maintain plasma oxalate concentrations that minimize risk of oxalosis. ^{2, 3}

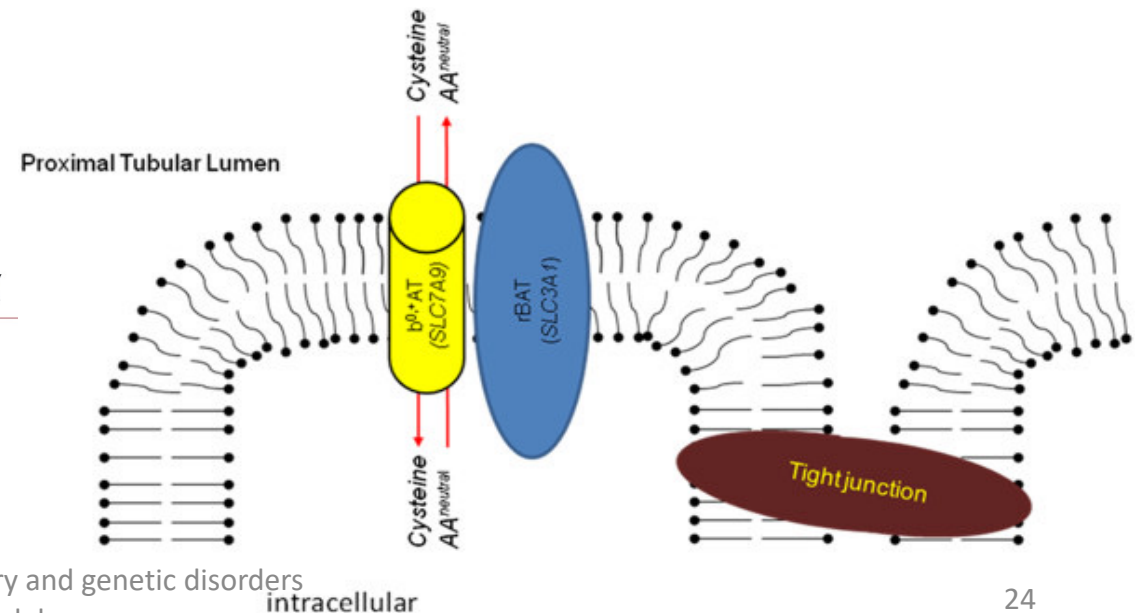
Primary Hyperoxaluria: Targeted Therapies

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Treatment Class	Treatment	Therapy Candidates	Mechanism	Comment
Small molecule therapy	Pyridoxine (vitamin B ₆ analog)	Persons w/missense AGXT variants, esp homozygotes for p.Phe152Ile, p.Gly170Arg, & p.Ile244Thr (See Genotype-Phenotype Correlations & Table 10.)	Enhances residual activity of AGT (a pyridoxal 5'-phosphate-dependent enzyme) ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~30%-50% of individuals w/PH1 are pyridoxine responsive. Since there are multiple mechanisms of pyridoxine response & only a few pathogenic variants have been tested, a trial of pyridoxine should be considered in all persons w/1 or 2 missense AGXT pathogenic variants, incl those w/advanced CKD or kidney failure. ²
Gene therapy (RNAi)	Lumasiran (Oxlumo [®])	Effective in all persons w/PH1, independent of specific AGXT pathogenic variants	siRNA therapeutic agent that ↓s glyoxylate substrate available for metabolic conversion to oxalate by <u>targeted reduction of hepatic glycolate oxidase</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDA & EMA approved for persons of all ages Experience using lumasiran in persons w/advanced CKD, on dialysis, or following kidney transplantation alone is limited.
	Nedosiran (Rivfloza [®])	Effectiveness demonstrated in PH1 independent of specific AGXT pathogenic variants	siRNA therapeutic agent that ↓s conversion of glyoxylate to oxalate by targeted reduction of hepatic LDHA	FDA approved in persons w/PH1 age >9 yrs w/eGFR >30 mL/min/1.73 m ²
Organ transplantation	Liver transplant	Persons w/GFR <25-30 mL/min/1.73 m ² Nephrolithiasis in the hereditary and genetic disorders Dr. Moeinzadeh	Liver transplantation restores normal AGT activity.	When kidney replacement therapy is needed, the decision needs to be made between kidney transplant alone or liver & kidney transplant simultaneously. ³

Cystinuria

- A monogenic disease characterized by recurrent nephrolithiasis often starting in childhood.
- An autosomal recessive inheritance
- Autosomal dominant inheritance with incomplete penetrance has also been reported
- Gene Defects: SLC3A1 or SLC7A9



Cystinuria

- Mutations in genes encoding **proximal tubule** dibasic amino acid transporter which facilitates **reabsorption of cysteine**, ornithine, lysine, and arginine from tubular fluid.
- These amino acids generally have **good solubility**, cysteine can **dimerize** to form cystine that has poor water solubility at physiological urine pH and cause recurrent stones

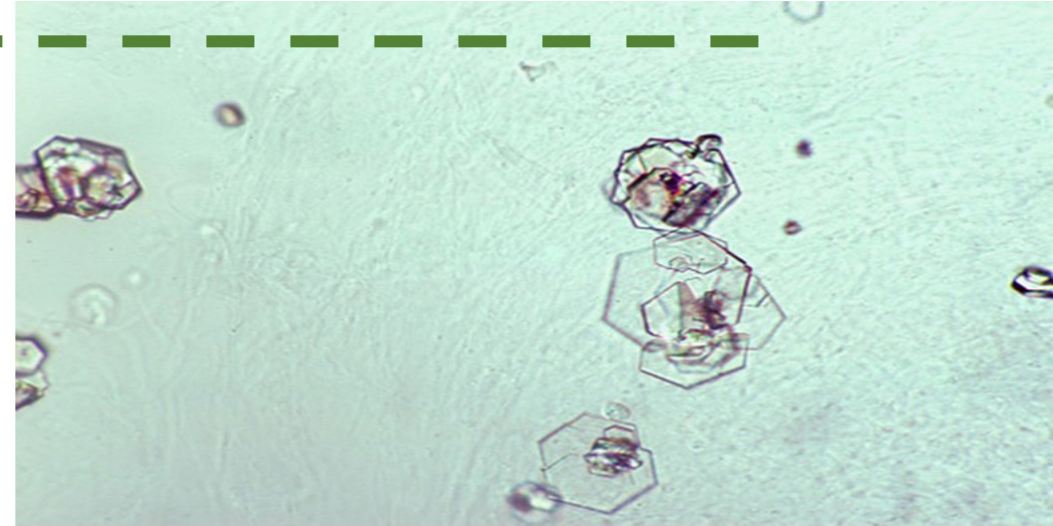
Cystinuria

- In pediatrics: stone formation (average age 13y): 6-8% of stones.
- In adults: 1% of stones
- Clinical suspicious: FH of cystinuria
- Others clues:
 - Severe stone disease including recurrent or bilateral renal stones
 - Patients presenting with large staghorn calculi filling the collecting system and requiring surgery



Cystinuria diagnosis

- Microscopic urine sediment:
- Stone analysis
- For determining cystine hyperexcretion:
 - Sodium-nitroprusside test



**Nitroprusside
Negative Test**

Absence of cysteine

**Red colored complex
absent**



**Nitroprusside
Positive Test**

Presence of cysteine

**Red colored complex
present**

Cystinuria diagnosis

- False-positive: homocystinuria, renal Fanconi syndrome, and patients taking ampicillin or sulfa-containing drugs.
- Positive results confirmation: quantitative chromatographic analysis of urine for cystine excretion.
- The gold standard test: 24-hour urine cystine excretion
 - In healthy subjects, daily urine cystine excretion is <30 mg.
 - Cystinuria patients typically have >300 mg/day of cystine excretion

Cystinuria diagnosis

- Genetic testing:
 - Atypical clinical presentation
 - Determining the mode of inheritance
 - Genetic counseling

Management of cystinuria

- **Conservative Management**
- ***Fluid intake***
- Cystine >250 to 300 mg/L is associated with higher supersaturation and greater risk of stone formation
- The goal of hyperhydration is to maintain urine output to keep cystine urinary concentrations less than that.
- **More than 4 L of urine/day** is recommended in adults.

Conservative Management

- ***Urine alkalinization***
- The goal pH to maintain cystine solubility is **7.5** or more.
- Potassium citrate: 10 - 30 mEq , 2 to 3 times per day.
- Gastrointestinal side effects were common with citrate supplements:
 - 12.3% of patients on K bicarbonate
 - 10.4% on K citrate
 - 2.6% on sodium bicarbonate

Conservative Management

- ***Diet***
- Low urinary sodium excretion reduces cystine excretion, and thus, a low salt diet of **< 2300 mg/d** is commonly prescribed.
- **Restricting animal protein and increasing plant-based protein** to meet daily protein intake of **0.8 g/kg** is recommended.

Medications and Supplements Used in Cystinuria

Hydration:
USG<1005 +

	Mechanism	Dose	Side Effects
Potassium citrate	Urine alkalinization	Children: 60–80 mEq/1.73 m ² /day Adults: 60–80 mEq/day Frequency: 3–4 times per day	Gastrointestinal side effects. Hyperkalemia can be dose-limiting in patients with advanced CKD (consider sodium bicarbonate).
Penicillamine	Thiol drug, increases cystine solubility <div>30 mg/kg/d</div>	Children: 20–30 mg/kg/day max dose 4000 mg/day Adults: 1–4 g/day Frequency: 3–4 times per day	Fever, rash, loss of taste, arthritis, leukopenia, aplastic anemia, gastrointestinal disturbance, membranous nephropathy with proteinuria, copper/zinc and pyridoxine deficiency
Tiopronin	Thiol drug, increases cystine solubility	Children: 15–40 mg/kg/day max dose 1500 mg/day Adults: 800–1500 mg/kg/day Frequency: 3 times per day	Similar side effects as D-penicillamine with slightly less prevalence.
Captopril	Thiol drug, increases cystine solubility	Children: 1.5–6 mg/kg/day max dose 150 mg/day Adults: 75–150 mg/day Frequency: 3 times per day	Acute kidney injury, hyperkalemia, hypotension, cough
Alpha-lipoic acid	Increases cystine solubility	Children: 30 mg/kg/day max dose 1200 mg/day Adults: 1200 mg/day Frequency: 2 times per day	Nausea, vomiting, vertigo

Other new drugs

- **SGLT-2 inhibitors**: inhibit the formation of stones of other compositions, so they are currently also under investigation.
- Cystinuria treated with **dapagliflozin** experienced **fewer stone events** compared to their historical rates and decreased or stable stone growth.
- Recommendation: use in patients with **cystinuria** who also happen to have diabetes, albuminuria, or reduced glomerular filtration rates

Other new drugs

- ***Vasopressin Antagonists:***
- Blocking the antidiuretic hormone effect in the kidney, causes polyuria, which can theoretically reduce cystine concentration in the urine.
- Extreme thirst with tolvaptan treatment, which suggests that long-term treatment compliance might be problematic

MONITORING FOR TREATMENT ADEQUACY



- Cystine concentration: under solubility limit (243-250 mg/L) at urine pH 7.
- Urine pH is recommended to be kept around 7.5 to increase cystine solubility; however, clinicians should be aware of **increased calcium phosphate stone formation risk at high pH**.

MONITORING FOR TREATMENT ADEQUACY

- In patients using **cystine-binding drugs**, cystine concentration and supersaturation become **unreliable** due to the chemical interactions between these drugs and cystine.
- Cystine capacity: marker of cystine solubility: not affected by cysteine-binding drugs, and positive capacity values suggest that urine is undersaturated

Cystinosis VS Cystinuria

- Cystinosis is a rare autosomal recessive lysosomal storage disorder
- Malfunctioning of the protein cystinosin, which is encoded by the *CTNS* gene.
- Accumulation of cystine within **cellular lysosomes**, leading to widespread organ involvement.
- Proximal tubulopathy: glycosuria, aminoaciduria, phosphaturia, bicarbonaturia, and other electrolyte losses.
- **Systemic Cysteamine Therapy**

Medullary sponge kidney

- Disruption to the normal ureteric bed-metanephric interface: ➡
- Ectatic precalyceal papillary collecting ducts: nephrocalcinosis and nephrolithiasis, which may lead to recurrent urosepsis.
- Simple stones, ductal stones, ductal and inner medullary collecting duct plugs, pelvic stones



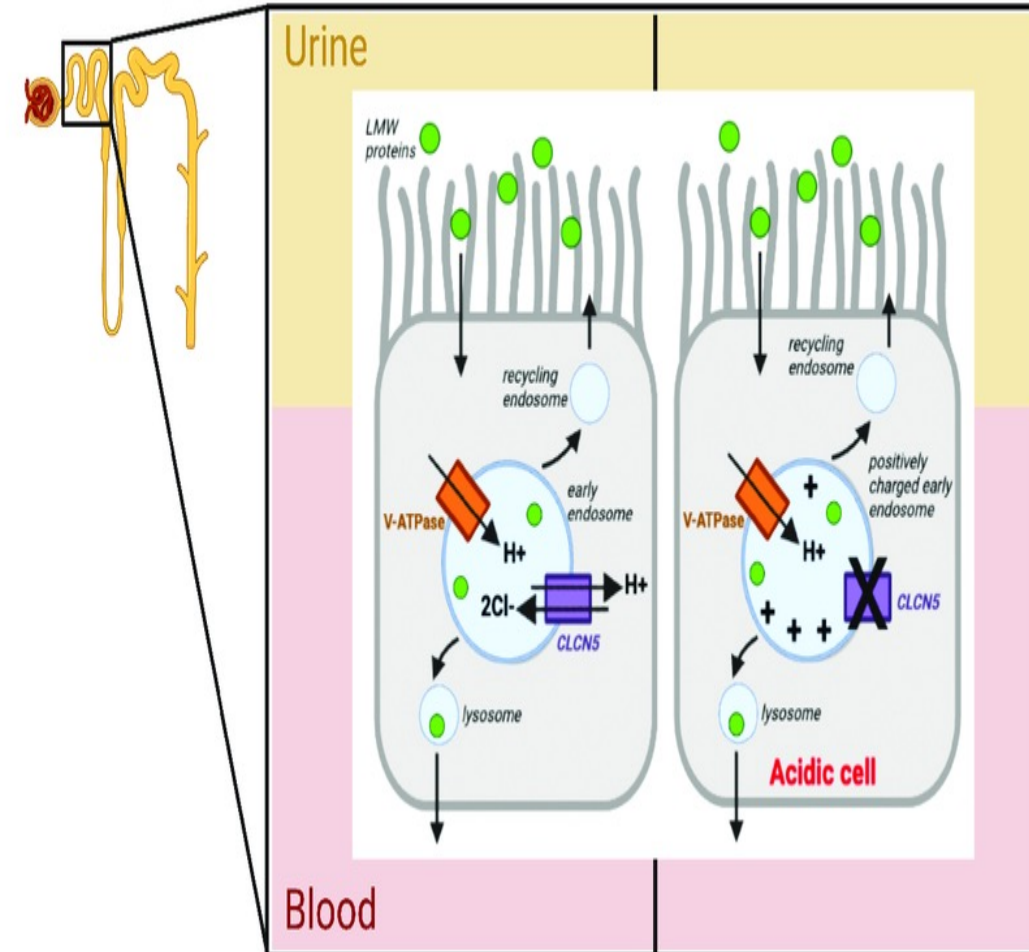
DENT DISEASE

- X-linked recessive disorder:
 - Renal Fanconi syndrome
 - Hypercalciuria
 - Nephrocalcinosis
 - Nephrolithiasis
 - ESRD out of keeping with the degree of nephrocalcinosis: 4th to 5th decade

DENT DISEASE/ LOWE SYNDROME

- Dent-1: Mutations of the CLCN5 gene: encodes the chloride transporter CLC-5.
- Dent-2: Mutation in OCRL: Impaired reabsorption of filtered solutes
- LOWE SYNDROME: Dent disease + congenital cataracts and mental impairment.

Proximal Tubule (PT) Unaffected PT Cell Dent Disease PT Cell



Pathophysiology of Hypercalciuria in Dent/Lowe

- Unknown mechanism
- Decreased chloride reabsorption in the proximal tubule:
reduced calcium absorption in downstream nephron segments
- Disturbances in PTH, Vitamin D binding protein , ...

Take Home Messages

- Primary hyperoxaluria treatment : Hydration +
 - vitamin B6: 5 mg/kg/day.
 - K-citrate dose: 0.1-0.15 mg/kg or 0.3-0.5 mmol/kg/day in three to four divided doses
- Cystinuria treatment: Hydration +
 - Potassium citrate: 10 - 30 mEq , 2 to 3 times per day.
 - Thiol based drugs