Peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency

Peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency is a disorder that causes deterioration of nervous system functions (neurodegeneration) beginning in infancy. Newborns with peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency have weak muscle tone (hypotonia) and seizures. They may have unusual facial features, including widely spaced eyes (hypertelorism), a low nasal bridge, and low-set ears. Extra fingers or toes (polydactyly) or an enlarged liver (hepatomegaly) also occur in some affected individuals.

Most babies with peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency learn to walk and begin speaking, but they experience a gradual loss of these skills (developmental regression), usually beginning between the ages of 1 and 3. As the condition gets worse, affected children develop exaggerated reflexes (hyperreflexia), increased muscle tone (hypertonia), more severe and recurrent seizures (epilepsy), and loss of vision and hearing. Most children with peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency do not survive past early childhood.

Frequency

Peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency is a rare disorder. Its prevalence is unknown. Only a few dozen cases have been described in the medical literature.

Genetic Changes

Peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency is caused by mutations in the ACOX1 gene, which provides instructions for making an enzyme called peroxisomal straight-chain acyl-CoA oxidase. This enzyme is found in sac-like cell structures (organelles) called peroxisomes, which contain a variety of enzymes that break down many different substances. The peroxisomal straight-chain acyl-CoA oxidase enzyme plays a role in the breakdown of certain fat molecules called very long-chain fatty acids (VLCFAs). Specifically, it is involved in the first step of a process called the peroxisomal fatty acid beta-oxidation pathway. This process shortens the VLCFA molecules by two carbon atoms at a time until the VLCFAs are converted to a molecule called acetyl-CoA, which is transported out of the peroxisomes for reuse by the cell.

ACOX1 gene mutations prevent the peroxisomal straight-chain acyl-CoA oxidase enzyme from breaking down VLCFAs efficiently. As a result, these fatty acids accumulate in the body. It is unclear exactly how VLCFA accumulation leads to the specific features of peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency. However, researchers suggest that the abnormal fatty acid accumulation triggers inflammation in the nervous system that leads to the breakdown of myelin, which is the covering that protects nerves and promotes the efficient transmission of nerve impulses. Destruction of myelin leads to a loss of myelin-containing tissue (white matter) in the brain and spinal cord;
loss of white matter is described as leukodystrophy. Leukodystrophy is likely involved in
the development of the neurological abnormalities that occur in peroxisomal acyl-CoA
oxidase deficiency.

Inheritance Pattern
This condition is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern, which means both copies
of the gene in each cell have mutations. The parents of an individual with an autosomal
recessive condition each carry one copy of the mutated gene, but they typically do not
show signs and symptoms of the condition.

Other Names for This Condition
• acyl-coenzyme A oxidase deficiency
• pseudo-NALD
• pseudoadrenoleukodystrophy
• pseudoneonatal adrenoleukodystrophy
• straight-chain acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency

Diagnosis & Management
Genetic Testing
• Genetic Testing Registry: Pseudoneonatal adrenoleukodystrophy

Other Diagnosis and Management Resources
• GeneReview: Leukodystrophy Overview
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK184570

General Information from MedlinePlus
• Diagnostic Tests
  https://medlineplus.gov/diagnostictests.html
• Drug Therapy
  https://medlineplus.gov/drugtherapy.html
• Genetic Counseling
  https://medlineplus.gov/geneticcounseling.html
• Palliative Care
  https://medlineplus.gov/palliativecare.html
• Surgery and Rehabilitation
  https://medlineplus.gov/surgeryandrehabilitation.html
Additional Information & Resources

**MedlinePlus**
- Health Topic: Leukodystrophies
  https://medlineplus.gov/leukodystrophies.html

**Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center**
- Pseudoneonatal adrenoleukodystrophy
  https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/4543/pseudoneonatal-adrenoleukodystrophy

**Educational Resources**
- DiseaseInfoSearch: Pseudoneonatal adrenoleukodystrophy
  http://www.diseaseinfosearch.org/Pseudoneonatal+adrenoleukodystrophy/6045
- MalaCards: peroxisomal acyl-coa oxidase deficiency
  http://www.malacards.org/card/peroxisomal_acyl_coa_oxidase_deficiency
  https://www.merckmanuals.com/professional/pediatrics/inherited-disorders-of-metabolism/peroxisomal-disorders
- Orphanet: Peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency
  http://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2971

**Patient Support and Advocacy Resources**
- Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders
  https://www.thegfpd.org/
- United Leukodystrophy Foundation
  https://ulf.org/

**GeneReviews**
- Leukodystrophy Overview
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK184570

**ClinicalTrials.gov**
- ClinicalTrials.gov
  https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=%22peroxisomal+acyl-CoA+oxidase+deficiency%22+OR+%22pseudoneonatal+adrenoleukodystrophy%22+OR+%22straight-chain+acyl-CoA+oxidase+deficiency%22+OR+%22Peroxisomal+Disorders%22
Scientific Articles on PubMed

- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28peroxisomal+acyl-coa+oxidase+deficiency%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28pseudoneonatal+adrenoleukodystrophy%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28straight-chain+acyl-coa+oxidase+deficiency%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D

OMIM

- PEROXISOMAL ACYL-CoA OXIDASE DEFICIENCY
  http://omim.org/entry/264470

MedGen

- Pseudoneonatal adrenoleukodystrophy

Sources for This Summary


  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3791418/


  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11500517

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11815777

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28409475


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