Pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy

Pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy is a condition that involves seizures beginning in infancy or, in some cases, before birth. Those affected typically experience prolonged seizures lasting several minutes (status epilepticus). These seizures involve muscle rigidity, convulsions, and loss of consciousness (tonic-clonic seizures). Additional features of pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy include low body temperature (hypothermia), poor muscle tone (dystonia) soon after birth, and irritability before a seizure episode. In rare instances, children with this condition do not have seizures until they are 1 to 3 years old.

Anticonvulsant drugs, which are usually given to control seizures, are ineffective in people with pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy. Instead, people with this type of seizure are medically treated with large daily doses of pyridoxine (a type of vitamin B6 found in food). If left untreated, people with this condition can develop severe brain dysfunction (encephalopathy). Even though seizures can be controlled with pyridoxine, neurological problems such as developmental delay and learning disorders may still occur.

Frequency

Pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy occurs in 1 in 100,000 to 700,000 individuals. At least 100 cases have been reported worldwide.

Causes

Mutations in the ALDH7A1 gene cause pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy. The ALDH7A1 gene provides instructions for making an enzyme called α-aminoadipic semialdehyde (α-AASA) dehydrogenase, also known as antiquitin. This enzyme is involved in the breakdown of the protein building block (amino acid) lysine in the brain.

When antiquitin is deficient, a molecule that interferes with vitamin B6 function builds up in various tissues. Pyridoxine plays a role in many processes in the body, such as the breakdown of amino acids and the productions of chemicals that transmit signals in the brain (neurotransmitters). It is unclear how a lack of pyridoxine causes the seizures that are characteristic of this condition.

Some individuals with pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy do not have identified mutations in the ALDH7A1 gene. In these cases, the cause of the condition is unknown.

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

• AASA dehydrogenase deficiency
• EPD
• epilepsy, pyridoxine-dependent
• PDE
• pyridoxine dependency
• Pyridoxine Dependency
• pyridoxine dependency with seizures
• pyridoxine-dependent seizures
• vitamin B6-dependent seizures

Diagnosis & Management

Genetic Testing Information

• What is genetic testing?
  /primer/testing/genetictesting
• Genetic Testing Registry: Pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy

Research Studies from ClinicalTrials.gov

• ClinicalTrials.gov
  https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=%22pyridoxine-dependent+epilepsy %22+OR+%22vitamin+B6-dependent+seizures%22

Other Diagnosis and Management Resources

• GeneReview: Pyridoxine-Dependent Epilepsy
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1486
• MedlinePlus Encyclopedia: Generalized tonic-clonic seizure
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000695.htm

Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

• Drugs and Supplements: Vitamin B6
  https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/natural/934.html
• Encyclopedia: Generalized tonic-clonic seizure
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000695.htm
• Health Topic: Epilepsy  
  https://medlineplus.gov/epilepsy.html

• Health Topic: Seizures  
  https://medlineplus.gov/seizures.html

**Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center**

• Pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy  
  https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/9298/pyridoxine-dependent-epilepsy

**Additional NIH Resources**

• National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke: Epilepsy Information Page  
  https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/All-Disorders/Epilepsy-Information-Page

**Educational Resources**

• Boston Children's Hospital: Seizures and Epilepsy  
  http://www.childrenshospital.org/conditions-and-treatments/conditions/s/seizures

• MalaCards: epilepsy, pyridoxine-dependent  
  https://www.malacards.org/card/epilepsy_pyridoxine_dependent

• Merck Manual Home Edition for Patients and Caregivers: Seizure Disorders  

• Orphanet: Pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy  
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=3006

• University of Washington: Pyridoxine-Dependent Seizures Registry  
  http://faculty.washington.edu/sgospe/pyridoxine/

**Patient Support and Advocacy Resources**

• American Epilepsy Society  
  https://www.aesnet.org/

• Metabolic Support UK  
  https://www.metabolicupportuk.org/

• National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)  
  https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/pyridoxine-dependent-epilepsy/

**Clinical Information from GeneReviews**

• Pyridoxine-Dependent Epilepsy  
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1486
Scientific Articles on PubMed

- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28pyridoxine-dependent+epilepsy%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28pyridoxine-dependent+seizures%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+3600+days%22%5Bdp%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM

- EPILEPSY, PYRIDOXINE-DEPENDENT
  http://omim.org/entry/266100

Sources for This Summary

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  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2083882/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17433748

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- Pearl PL, Taylor JL, Trzcinski S, Sokohl A. The pediatric neurotransmitter disorders. J Child Neurol. 2007 May;22(5):606-16. Review. 
  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17690069

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