1.0 PURPOSE AND INTENT

1.1 To describe the approach to the diagnosis and management for newborns with confirmed perinatal hypophosphatasia (HPP). HPP has been classified clinically according to age at first symptom onset, immediately after birth. This guideline focuses on the management of the most severe form, perinatal HPP. For cases where the diagnosis is made prenatally, this guideline can be used to inform the management team and family when developing a management plan. (See 4.3 in Decision-Making Structure). This guideline can also be used as a template for the management of infantile HPP with onset generally after the perinatal period but before 6 months of age.

2.0 PRACTICE OUTCOME

2.1 Newborns with perinatal hypophosphatasia receive the systemic support necessary to achieve the goals of treatment including: survival, enhanced respiratory function, improved bone mineralization, metabolic control, seizure control, prevention of renal failure, pain control, and improved growth and development.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

3.1 **Hypophosphatasia**: A rare inherited systemic, metabolic disorder caused by autosomal recessive mutations or a single dominant-negative mutation in the gene encoding tissue nonspecific alkaline phosphatase (TNSALP). It mainly affects bone and teeth mineralization. The perinatal form is at the most severe end of the spectrum of HPP and is evident either before birth on ultrasound or in the first few days of life. It is generally lethal without the pharmaceutical treatment with Asfotase alfa*.

3.2 **Asfotase alfa**: A human recombinant enzyme (TNSALP) replacement therapy (ERT) which replaces deficient TNSALP in patients with HPP.

3.3 **Abbreviations**:
- ALP = alkaline phosphatase (also TNSALP)
- PLP = pyridoxal 5 phosphate (also Vitamin B6)
- PTH = parathyroid hormone
- CBC = Complete Blood Count
- BUN = blood urea nitrogen
- PEA = phosphoethanolamine
- Ca/Cr = calcium/creatinine ratio

4.0 GUIDELINES

4.1 Consult Medical Genetics Service and any other relevant medical subspecialties including Endocrinology, Respiratory, Neurology, Neurosurgery and Orthopedics, as indicated.

4.1.1 Educate the multidisciplinary care team about the disease and treatment including potential complications and outcomes.
To confirm the diagnosis of HPP perform the following immediately after birth or as soon as diagnosis is suspected:

4.2.1 Chest x-ray – generally performed as a result of need for respiratory support with the primary finding of a lack of appearance of mineralization in the ribs with or without lung hypoplasia.

4.2.2 Skeletal x-ray survey – to confirm the findings and provide a baseline for later comparison. If baby cannot tolerate transport, perform a partial skeletal survey with portable equipment at the bedside, with x-ray of the long bones.

4.2.3 Total serum ALP – to provide confirmation of the diagnosis of HPP. Low ALP differentiates it from osteogenesis imperfecta, campomelic dysplasia and other chondrodysplasias, as well as provides a baseline value.

4.2.4 Other baseline laboratory testing: Plasma PLP (Vitamin B6), Ionized Calcium, Calcium, PTH, 25 Hydroxy Vitamin D, Phosphate, CBC, Liver Function, Electrolytes, Creatinine, BUN. Urine for PEA (if available), Urine Calcium, Urine Creatinine, Urine Ca/Cr ratio.

4.2.5 Genetic testing (if not yet performed) – ALPL gene sequencing or direct mutation analysis.

Decision-Making Structure

4.3 When a diagnosis is suspected or confirmed by the Genetics/Metabolics team, discuss the diagnosis, natural history and outcome of perinatal HPP without ERT with the family and discuss the possibility of initiating ERT. For cases when the diagnosis is suspected or confirmed prenatally, develop a management team including Neonatology, Genetics and Maternal-Fetal Medicine to discuss diagnosis and develop a written detailed management plan including preterm induction of labour documenting the families wishes with respect to resuscitation. This is initiated by the Genetics/Metabolics team. Consider a consult to the Palliative Care/Symptom Management Team depending on parental direction.

4.4 The Genetics/Metabolics team with the healthcare team, review the baby (case) in order to quantify and predict treatment response and develop an individualized approach to potential treatment failure and criteria for recommendations for treatment continuation or withdrawal of care. Use clinical and radiological markers (eg degree of lung hypoplasia) as treatment response. Assess lung function and response using whatever techniques are available.

4.5 Plan team meetings to include the family on a regular basis (weekly or bi-weekly) to review treatment response and any decisions that need to be made. Utilize decision guides or consultants with the family if there is decision conflict. Consider the amount of information and questions asked to the family to avoid overwhelming them while continuing to ensure their full understanding.

Pharmacologic Treatment

4.6 After obtaining appropriate approvals initiate ERT with Asfotase alfa (Strensiq™) subcutaneous 2 mg/kg per dose given three times a week.

4.7 Rotate injection sites and monitor for injection site erythema, discoloration, pain, pruritis, swelling, induration, macule, bruising and nodules.

4.8 Increase the dose only under the direction of the Metabolic Genetics consulting physician.

Treatment Initiation Phase

4.9 Provide respiratory support to keep blood gases and oxygen saturations within the normal range providing ventilator support as required.

4.10 Establish central venous access and initiate total parenteral nutrition.
4.11 Insert an arterial line for blood sampling. Do not obtain blood for any purpose from capillary samples. Squeezing may result in fractures.

4.12 Initiate appropriate enteral nutrition and advance as tolerated. Follow serum calcium levels and adjust calcium intake accordingly.

4.13 Manage pain using opioids and monitor effectiveness using a validated age appropriate pain scale.

4.14 Perform baseline evaluation including:
   4.14.1 Renal ultrasound– looking for nephrocalcinosis
   4.14.2 Eye exam – looking for ectopic calcification and increased intracranial pressure
   4.14.2 Hearing screening

4.15 Perform baseline respiratory and age-appropriate pulmonary function testing with ongoing frequency dependent based on individual patient presentation.

4.16 Monitor for seizures. Initiate treatment with Vitamin B6 and consult Neurology for ongoing management.

Treatment Monitoring Phase

4.17 Follow the frequency of management, investigations and review outlined below as a minimum and increase frequency as needed or indicated by clinical presentation and results.

4.18 Daily:
   4.18.1 Respiratory support needs.
   4.18.2 Sedation and analgesia requirements
   4.18.3 Infant’s tolerance of and response to handling as reported by bedside nurses.

4.19 Twice weekly:
   4.19.1 Laboratory investigations: Serum ionized calcium, phosphate, ALP & PTH
   4.19.2 Weight

4.20 Once a week:
   4.20.1 Head circumference and length
   4.20.2 Nutrition review
   4.20.3 Urine testing for calcium & creatinine
   4.20.4 Family and team meetings to review treatment course, evidence of response/non-response and drug dosing

4.21 Every two weeks:
   4.21.1 Chest x-ray.
   4.21.2 Pulmonary function testing (if available).

4.22 Once a month:
   4.22.1 Patient growth parameters including length/height, weight, body mass index, head circumference and shape routinely.
   4.22.2 Multidisciplinary meeting (with clinical consultants) to review treatment course and discuss unified recommendation regarding continuation of therapy.

4.23 Every 3 months:
   4.23.1 Radiologic testing of the chest, wrists and knees (skeletal survey) to monitor skeletal improvement. Do more frequent imaging dependent on disease severity. Minimize radiation exposure unless clinically indicated.
4.23.2 Serum for: ALP, Plasma PLP, Ionized Calcium, Calcium, 25OHVitamin D, Phosphate, CBC, Liver Function, Electrolytes, Creatinine, BUN.
4.23.3 Urine for: PEA (if available), Calcium, Creatinine.

4.24 Every 6 months:
4.24.1 Eye exam for increase intracranial pressure and calcium deposition.
4.24.2 Renal ultrasound for nephrocalcinosis.

4.25 As clinically indicated:
4.25.1 Standard-of-care investigations and treatment for seizures.
4.25.2 Standard of care investigations for nutrition and feeding status and consideration of gastrostomy tube insertion.
4.25.3 Craniofacial CT scan (low dose, bone only), to investigate for craniosynostosis and related complications.
4.25.4 Consultation with Bioethicist.

Note: See table in Appendix A for summary of baseline and ongoing laboratory testing.

Clinical Considerations

4.26 Respiratory management:
4.26.1 Assess the whole clinical presentation for decisions on increasing or decrease support as no one indication alone is an accurate reflection of the infant’s respiratory capability.
4.26.2 Change respiratory support settings in very small increments as each will have a bigger impact than expected.
4.26.3 Plan routine suctioning due to infant’s inability to take deep breaths. Assess need for adjustment as respiratory status indicates.
4.26.4 Consider alternate modes of ventilation both in escalating and de-escalating respiratory support as bone structure improves in order to minimize pulmonary impact of mechanical ventilation. (See guideline)

4.27 Cardiovascular management:
4.27.1 Establish and maintain central venous access. Peripheral intravenous starts are very difficult due to the lack of bone structure to stabilize. Utilize umbilical venous access for as long as possible in the newborn period and progress to surgical cutdown if necessary.
4.27.2 Monitor cardiovascular status using integrated evaluation of neonatal hemodynamics (IENH) and targeted neonatal echocardiography as indicated if available. (See guideline)
4.27.3 If chest compressions are required, depress sternum to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the anterior-posterior diameter of the chest, using only enough force to achieve this depth in order to prevent causing damage to the bones.

4.28 Positioning, handling and comfort:
4.28.1 Support baby on a high density foam mattress with only a single layer between the baby and the mattress to optimize pressure relief.
4.28.2 Move the baby as a single unit using a “turning sheet” in order to provide optimum support to the trunk and limbs. This is essentially a small sheet under the baby that is not tucked in at the ends, similar to a “slider”, to allow turning the baby without grasping the limbs or head.
4.28.3 Assess pain using a validated age-appropriate pain scale every 3-4 hours and to assess effectiveness of analgesia. (See guideline)
4.28.4 Provide ongoing analgesia and additional doses before significant position changes and as needed.
4.28.5 As comfort improves wean opiates gradually using a stepped approach and monitor for symptoms of withdrawal.
4.29 Skin management:
4.29.1 Inspect the skin at all pressure points and under skin folds (axilla, neck, groin) for signs of erythema and skin breakdown.
4.29.2 Prevent skin breakdown by maintaining an appropriate moisture balance using skin barrier products and/or appropriate lotions or other infant-appropriate skin products.

4.30 Parent participation in care:
4.30.1 Provide opportunities for “modified” skin to skin contact with parents able to sit at baby’s level of the bed with arms placed gently across baby’s shoulders or around trunk and cradling baby’s head.
4.30.2 Encourage parents to provide skin hygiene, oral care, diaper care and more as appropriate.
4.30.3 As baby tolerates, have parents “hold” baby with baby supported on the bed’s memory foam mattress.
4.30.4 Teach parents to do increased physical care including suctioning as appropriated.
4.30.5 Continue to find ongoing new aspects of care that the parents can participate in.

5.0 REFERENCES


6.0 PRIMARY AUTHORS
6.1 Dr. Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, Medical Genetics and Metabolics
6.2 Doris Sawatzky-Dickson, Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist
APPENDIX A
Routine Laboratory Testing in the first year of life

Note: minimum frequency – monitor more closely during acute illness as indicated by clinical status

**Blood**

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ALP = alkaline phosphatase; PLP = pyridoxal 5 phosphate; PTH = parathyroid hormone; CBC = Complete Blood Count; BUN = blood urea nitrogen

**Urine**

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PEA = phosphoethanolamine; Ca/Cr = calcium/creatinine ratio