Late Onset Multiple Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency: A Rare Treatable Neurometabolic Disorder

Sir,

Multiple acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (MADD) also called glutaric aciduria (GA) type II, is a rare inborn error of metabolism that affects the oxidation of fatty acids and catabolism of branched-chain amino acids namely lysine and tryptophan. MADD occurs due to a defect in electron-transfer flavoprotein (ETF) encoded by ETFA and ETFB genes or electron-transfer flavoprotein dehydrogenase (ETFDH) encoded by ETFDH gene. We describe an adolescent boy with recurrent vomiting, unprovoked seizures and progressive muscle weakness who was diagnosed with MADD.

A 12-year-old boy presented with progressive difficulty in squatting, rising from squatting position and climbing stairs for seven months. He had difficulty in rising from supine but no difficulty in rising arms or buttoning shirts. He had difficulty in swallowing, hypophonia, and jaw, neck, and leg pain with inability to walk for two days. He had lost his head control and had breathing difficulty at presentation. There was no history of visual or hearing disturbances, eyelids drooping, eye movement restriction, or deviation of angle of mouth. There were no sensory disturbances or involuntary movements. There were no antenatal risk factors; he was born at term by forceps delivery with birth weight of 2400 g with no neonatal concerns. His premorbid development was normal. Family history was non-contributory. He had recurrent vomiting from 7 years of age and unprovoked generalized seizures twice at 9 and 11 years of age. Investigations elsewhere at 9 years showed a normal Computed Tomography scan (CT) brain with an abnormal EEG, for which he was managed with valproate and clobazam.

Anthropometry assessment was normal weight 35 kg (IAP z score -0.79), height 148 cm (IAP z score -0.6), and head circumference of 53.2 cm. He had acidic breathing, stable vitals, and SaO2 of 97% in room air. His higher mental functions were normal. Cranial nerve examination revealed normal fundus, jaw weakness, bulbar weakness, and hypophonia. Generalized wasting and proximal > distal weakness of lower > upper limbs was observed. Hypotonia and hyporeflexia was noted. There were no cerebellar or extrapyramidal signs. Systemic examination did not reveal any organomegaly. Provisional diagnosis of metabolic myopathy was considered.

On evaluation, blood glucose level was low (patient value: 55 ng/dL) and urine ketones were 3+. Arterial blood gas analysis revealed pH of 7.26, bicarbonate of 10.3 mmol/L, and blood lactate of 5 mmol/l. Plasma ammonia was elevated (patient value: 227 µg/dL, normal range: 27-102 µg/dL). Serum creatine kinase (patient value: 58520 U/L, normal reference range: 46-171 U/L) and CKMB (patient value: > 300 ng/ml, normal range: 0-6.22 ng/ml) were elevated. Echocardiography was normal. Electromyography (EMG) was suggestive of myopathic process. Serum amino acid analysis revealed elevated proline. Urinary organic acid analysis by Gas Chromatography -mass spectrometry (GCMS) revealed elevated lactic, ethylmalonic, 2-hydroxyglutaric, adipic, suberic, sebacic, and glutaric acids along with hexanoylglycine. Acylcarnitine profile showed elevated levels of C4-DC, C6, C6-DC, C8, C10, C12, and C14. Awaiting the exome sequencing reports, child was managed with intravenous
Letters to the Editor

**Muscle biopsy demonstrates lipid storage.**

To the best of our knowledge, only three patients with MADD riboflavin responsiveness was also documented in this cohort. A few had masseter weakness similar to our patient. Dramatic at symptom onset varied from 26 to 57 years.

In a cohort of 350 patients with late onset MADD, mean age at presentation was 19.6 y and chronic muscle weakness, muscle pain, and exercise intolerance were the common symptoms reported in this sub-type while these patients may also manifest episodic vomiting, encephalopathy, and hypoglycaemia. Respiratory insufficiency, cardiomyopathy and hepatopathy have also been described. Urinary organic acid shows an elevated 2-hydroxyglutaric acid, glutaric, adipic, butyric, lactic, suberic, sebacic, ethylmalonic, and isovaleric acids. Acylcarnitine analysis shows an increase in short, medium, and long-chain acylcarnitines C4-C18. Muscle biopsy demonstrates lipid storage myopathy. Diagnosis may be challenging as biochemical abnormalities are often mild or atypical. Genetic testing is often used to confirm diagnosis.

In a cohort of 350 patients with late onset MADD, mean age at presentation was 19.6 y and chronic muscle weakness was twice as common as acute decompensation. Majority had ETFDH mutations (93%) and were riboflavin responsive (98.4%). In a Chinese cohort of 13 patient’s age at symptom onset varied from 26 to 57 years. Interestingly, a few had masseter weakness similar to our patient. Dramatic riboflavin responsiveness was also documented in this cohort. To the best of our knowledge, only three patients with MADD have been published from India. The first report described bilateral symmetrical hyperintensity and diffusion restriction involving globus pallidi in an infant; the second, a young male with bipolar affective disorder with metabolic profile suggestive of GA type II and the third, a young male with myopathy.

Patients with late onset MADD have good survival on treatment. Nevertheless, treating clinicians must be aware of the mortality risk (5%) during metabolic decompensation. This highlights the need for a sick-day plan and awareness of the patient’s family to seek emergent medical treatment during such metabolic crises. Our patient has done well at one year follow-up on appropriate diet, high dose riboflavin, carnitine, coenzyme Q, and sick-day management plan.

Late onset MADD should be considered among children and young adults presenting with episodic or chronic muscle weakness especially in clinical setting of recurrent unexplained episodes of vomiting and metabolic crisis. Riboflavin responsiveness has been well established in this disorder. Sick day plan is of utmost importance because of the mortality risk during acute metabolic crises. Neonatal screening can enable presymptomatic diagnosis and early treatment.

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There are no conflicts of interest.

Sophy Korula, Sangeetha Yoganathan1, Jeyanthi Peter2, Mahalakshmi Chandran23, Chithrinesa S. Christudass4, Sumita Danda4

Paediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism Division, Paediatric Unit-1, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, 1Department of Neurological Sciences, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, 2Department of Paediatrics, Christian Fellowship Hospital, Oddanchatram, Tamil Nadu, 3Department of Medical Genetics, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, 4Department of Medical Genetics, Clinical Genetics Unit, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India

Address for correspondence: Dr. Sophy Korula, Paediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism Division, Paediatric Unit-1, Christian Medical College, Vellore - 632004, Tamil Nadu, India. E-mail: jsophyhr@yahoo.co.in

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Letters to the Editor

CASE 1: A 26-year-old lady, G1P0L0, known case of rheumatic heart disease (RHD) with atrial fibrillation for the past 5 years, presented to our emergency at 28 weeks period of gestation with sudden onset left hemiplegia of 3 h duration. She had an emergency cesarean section was made, and UFH stopped. Three hours post-surgery, UFH was restarted, followed by a switch to warfarin 4 mg. She had to be managed conservatively for AIS, was taken for thrombolyzed with alteplase and taken up for EVT using a Solitaire device [Figure 1c and d]. The procedure was partially successful and the operator decided to administer by tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA) followed by EVT. Post-procedure she showed a normal ejection fraction without any clots/vegetation. Six hours post-surgery, UFH was restarted, followed by a switch to warfarin on discharge (NIHSS-6). Her power gradually improved to 4-/5 with complete resolution of numbness in the back to warfarin on discharge (NIHSS-6). NCCT head with the abdominal shield was normal [Figure 1a] and CT angiography of head showed a filling defect in the region of basilar top and proximal P1 segments of both posterior cerebral and neck vessels revealed a filling defect in the region of atlantoaxial dislocation [Figure 1b]. Both vertebral arteries had an anomalous junction abnormality in the form of basilar invagination and normal brain parenchyma [Figure 1d]. Post-procedure she improved to 2 and mRS to 1, and she was discharged on low support and extubated. Three days post-EVT, her NIHSS score was 13 and 3, respectively. NCCT head (with abdominal shield) was normal [Figure 2] and the left vertebral artery was hypoplastic. She was intubated because of poor GCS. Reflex movements of all limbs were noted, but she was ill-sustained on painful stimuli application (National Institute of Health Stroke Severity [NIHSS] score -21; modified Rankin Scale score [mRS] -5). Non-contrast computed tomographic angiography of head was normal. Her two-dimensional echocardiography (2D-ECHO) showed a normal ejection fraction without any clots/vegetation. Her two-dimensional echocardiography (2D-ECHO) showed a normal ejection fraction without any clots/vegetation. Her two-dimensional echocardiography (2D-ECHO) showed a normal ejection fraction without any clots/vegetation. Her two-dimensional echocardiography (2D-ECHO) showed a normal ejection fraction without any clots/vegetation. Her two-dimensional echocardiography (2D-ECHO) showed a normal ejection fraction without any clots/vegetation. Her two-dimensional echocardiography (2D-ECHO) showed a normal ejection fraction without any clots/vegetation. Her two-dimensional echocardiography (2D-ECHO) showed a normal ejection fraction without any clots/vegetation.

CASE 2: A 26-year-old lady, G5P0L0A4, known case of RHD with atrial septal defect (ASD) for the past 10 and 18 years, post percutaneous balloon mitral valvotomy, not on warfarin 4 mg. She had to be managed conservatively for AIS, was taken for thrombolyzed with alteplase and taken up for EVT using a Solitaire device [Figure 1c and d]. The procedure was partially successful and the operator decided to administer by tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA) followed by EVT. Post-procedure she showed a normal ejection fraction without any clots/vegetation. Six hours post-surgery, UFH was restarted, followed by a switch to warfarin on discharge (NIHSS-6). Her power gradually improved to 4-/5 with complete resolution of numbness in the back to warfarin on discharge (NIHSS-6). 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