



Alberta **Children's** Hospital

Cases: Inborn Errors of Metabolism

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Case 1:

- 3 day old male brought to the ED for progressive poor feeding, lethargy – admission requested for “rule out sepsis”
- On your assessment, HR 180, RR 90, SaO₂ 97% RA, BP 80/50, T 36.5. Lethargic and hypotonic

Case 1:

- CBC, lytes, liver enzymes normal
- Cultures all pending
- U/A normal, no ketones
- Gas 7.5/28/24
- Ammonia 400
- BUN 0.8, creatinine 90

Hyperammonemia

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graph TD; A[Hyperammonemia] --> B[IEM]; A --> C[Liver]; A --> D[Iatrogenic]; A --> E[Other]; B --> B1[Urea cycle defects]; B --> B2[Organic acidemias]; B --> B3[FAODs]; B --> B4[Galactosemia]; B --> B5[Hereditary fructose intolerance]; B --> B6[Hyperornithinemia, hyperammonemia, homocitrullinemia syndrome]; B --> B7[Pyruvate carboxylase deficiency]; B --> B8[Hyperammonemia/Hyperinsulinemia syndrome]; B --> B9[Hereditary fructose intolerance]; C --> C1[Liver failure (any cause)]; C --> C2[Sepsis]; C --> C3[Perinatal depression/hypoxia]; D --> D1[VPA]; D --> D2[TPN]; E --> E1[Transient hyperammonemia of the newborn]; E --> E2[Transient neonatal hyperammonemia];
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- IEM
 - Urea cycle defects
 - Organic acidemias
 - FAODs
 - Galactosemia
 - Hereditary fructose intolerance
 - Hyperornithinemia, hyperammonemia, homocitrullinemia syndrome
 - Pyruvate carboxylase deficiency
 - Hyperammonemia/Hyperinsulinemia syndrome
 - Hereditary fructose intolerance
- Liver
 - Liver failure (any cause)
 - Sepsis
 - Perinatal depression/hypoxia
- Iatrogenic
 - VPA
 - TPN
- Other
 - Transient hyperammonemia of the newborn
 - Transient neonatal hyperammonemia

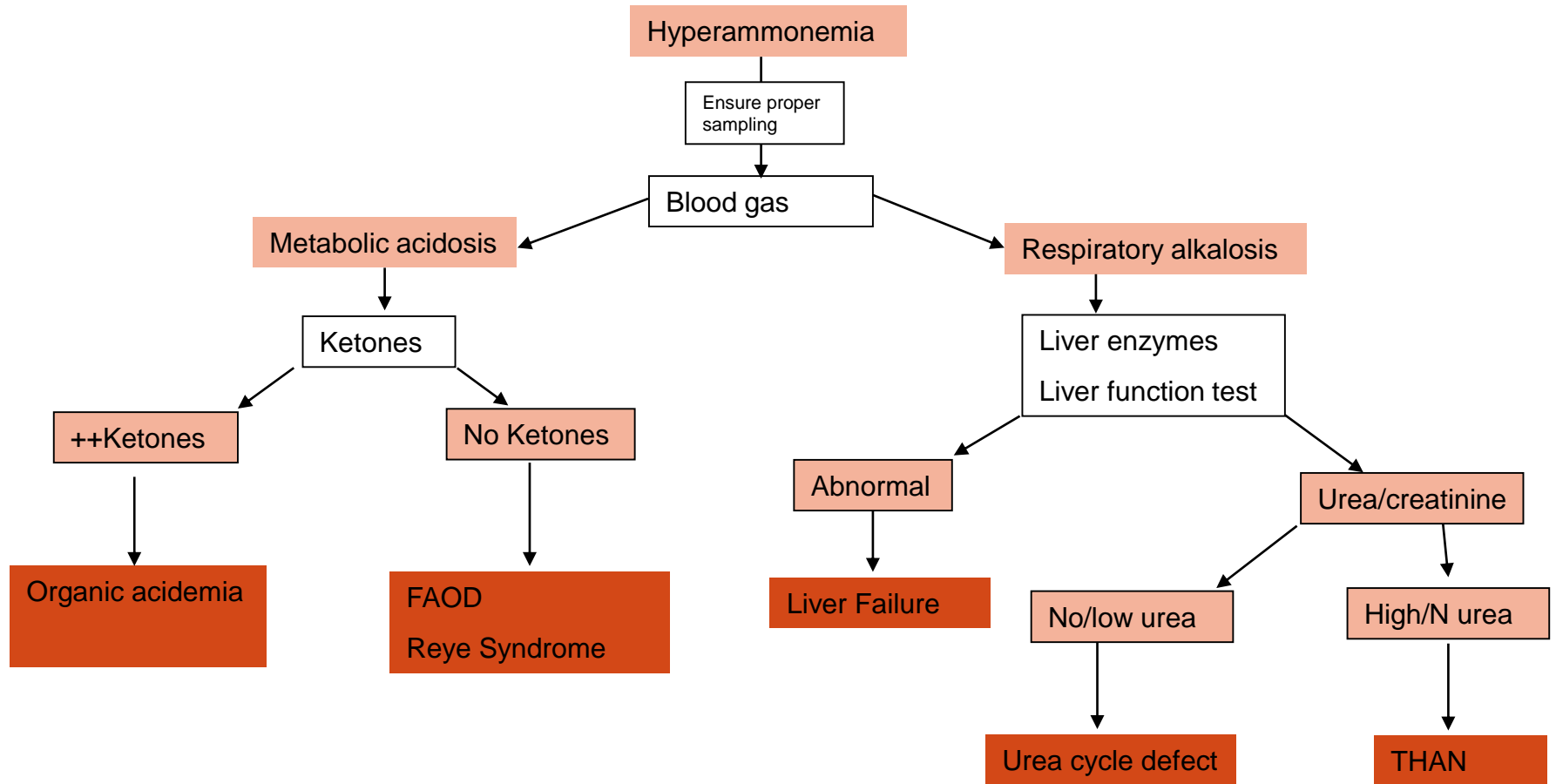
Work up

- Plasma ammonia level
- Liver function and liver enzymes
- Plasma amino acid
- Urine organic acid
- Lactate levels
- Blood gas
- BUN level

Case 1:

- CBC, lytes, liver enzymes normal
- Cultures all pending
- U/A normal, + ketones
- Gas 7.2/20/10
- Ammonia 400
- BUN 10, creatinine 90

Approach to Hyperammonemia

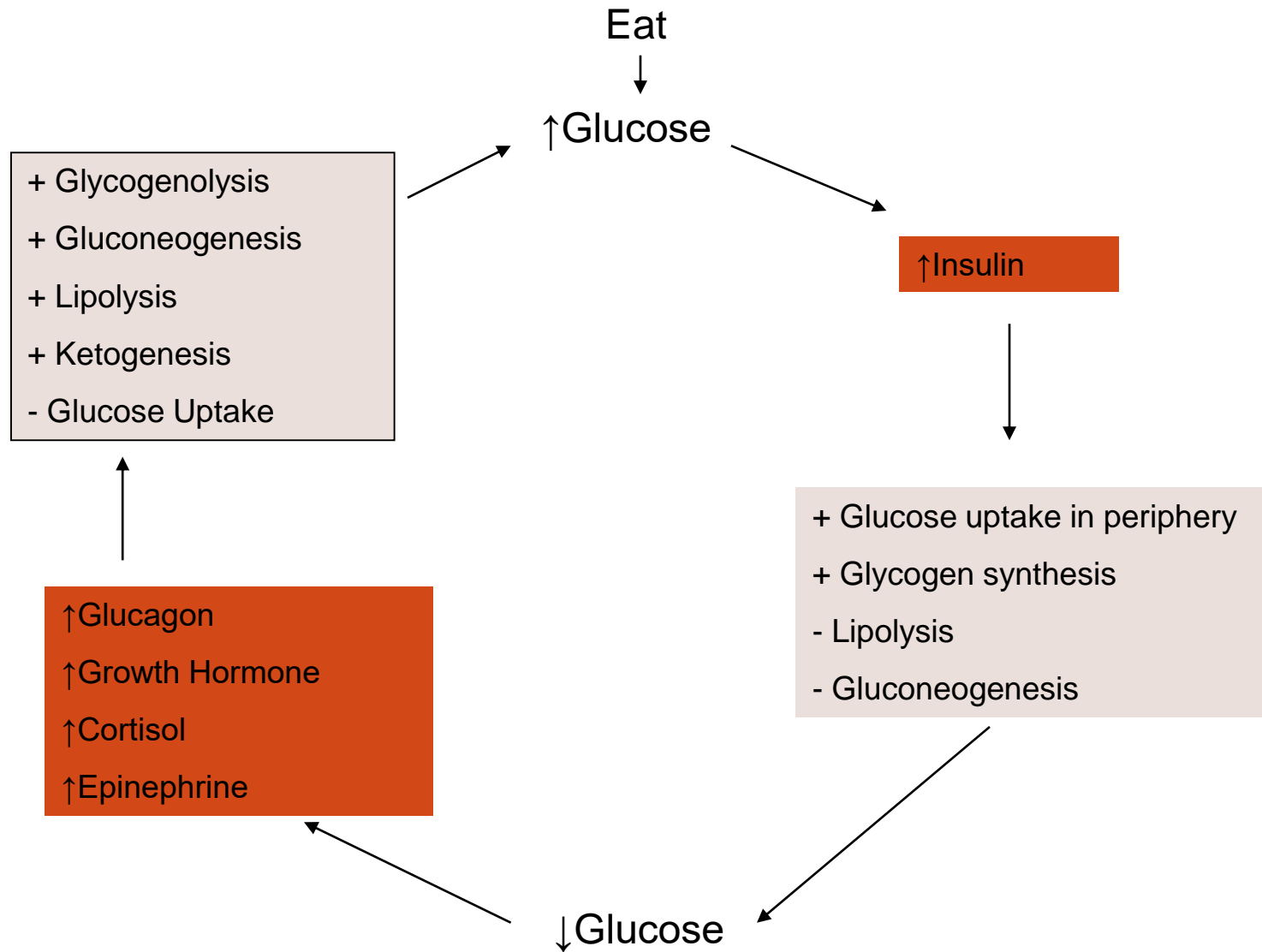


Plasma amino acids
Plasma organic acids
Urine amino acids

Case 2

- 3 month male with progressively poor feeding, lethargy, hypoglycemic seizure – admission requested for “rule out sepsis”
- On your assessment, HR 150, RR 48, SaO₂ 99% RA, BP 80/50, T 36.5.
- Admitted for Abx, but ongoing hypoglycemic every time you try to wean fluids

Glucose Regulation



Hypoglycemia

Liver Failure

↓ **Substrate**

Endocrine

Metabolic

↑ **Demand**

- Prolonged fast
- Prematurity
- SGA
- Ketotic Hypoglycemia

Hyperinsulinism

- IDM
- Birth Asphyxia
- Persistent Hyperinsulinemia Hypoglycemia of infancy
- Insulin adenoma
- Beckwith Weidman

Decreased Counterregulation

- Panhypopituitarism
- GH deficiency
- ACTH deficiency
- Hypothyroid
- Adrenal insufficiency

Carbohydrate

- Glycogen Storage Diseases (some types)
- Inability to metabolize substrate (fructosemia, galactosemia)
- Gluconeogenesis problem
- Pyruvate metabolism problem

Lipids

- FAOD
- Carnitine Deficiency

Proteins/Amino acids

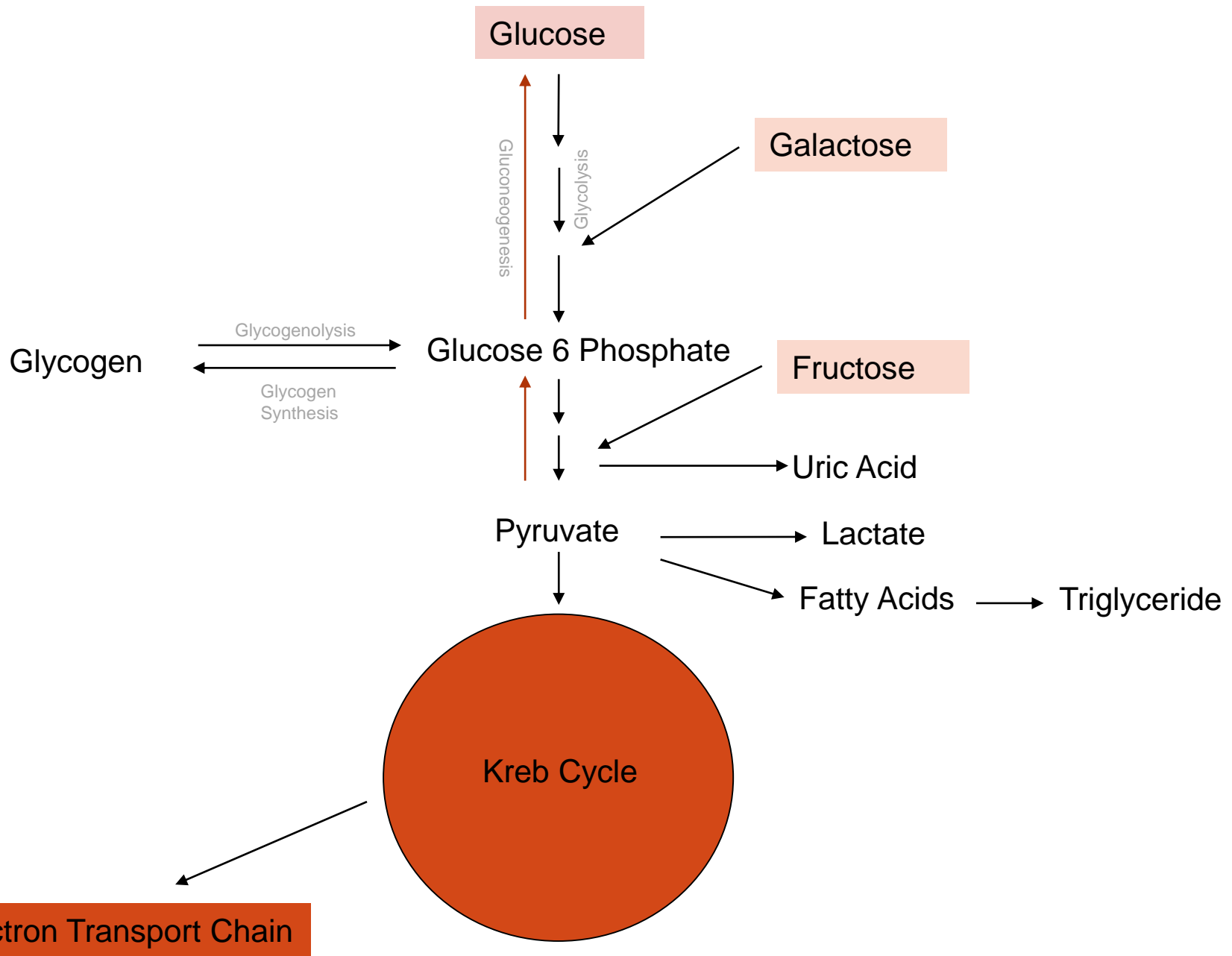
- Organic Acidemia (PA, MMA, IVA)
- Urea Cycle Defects
- Aminoacidopathy (MSUD)

Systemic Disorders

- Sepsis
- CHF
- Renal
- Malnutrition
- Shock
- LGA infants?

Drugs

- Insulin
- Sulfonylurea drugs



Investigations

The Critical Sample

- Glucose ↓
- Insulin ↓
- Growth Hormone ↑
- Epinephrine ↑
- IGF-1 ↑
- Lactate **N**
- Pyruvate **N**
- Blood Gas **7.35/45/24**
- Ketones – Urine, serum
βhydroxybutyrate ↑
- Free Fatty acids ↑
- Free Carnitine **N**
- Acyl Carnitine profile **N**
- Ammonia **N**
- Urine organic acids **P**
- Urine amino acids **P**
- Plasma amino acids **P**

Investigations

The Critical Sample

- Glucose ↓
- Insulin ↓
- Growth Hormone ↑
- Epinephrine ↑
- IGF-1 ↑
- Lactate ↑
- Pyruvate ↑
- Blood Gas 7.20/30/60/15
- Ketones – Urine, serum
βhydroxybutyrate ↑
- Free Fatty acids ↑
- Free Carnitine **N**
- Acyl Carnitine profile **N**
- Ammonia **N**
- Urine organic acids **P**
- Urine amino acids **P**
- Plasma amino acids **P**

Investigations

The Critical Sample

- Glucose ↓
- Insulin ↑
- Growth Hormone ↑
- Epinephrine ↑
- IGF-1 ↑
- Lactate **N**
- Pyruvate **N**
- Blood Gas **7.35/45/24**
- Ketones – Urine, serum
βhydroxybutyrate **Negative**
- Free Fatty acids ↓
- Free Carnitine **N**
- Acyl Carnitine profile **P**
- Ammonia **P**
- Urine organic acids **P**
- Urine amino acids **P**
- Plasma amino acids **P**

Investigations

The Critical Sample

- Glucose ↓
- Insulin ↓
- Growth Hormone ↑
- Epinephrine ↑
- IGF-1 ↑
- Lactate **N**
- Pyruvate **N**
- Blood Gas **7.35/45/24**
- Ketones – Urine, serum
βhydroxybutyrate **Negative**
- Free Fatty acids ↑
- Free Carnitine **N**
- Acyl Carnitine profile **P**
- Ammonia **200**
- Urine organic acids **P**
- Urine amino acids **P**
- Plasma amino acids **P**

Interpretation of The Critical Sample

Hypoglycemia
<2.6 Neonates
<4.0 Child

Critical Sample

Endocrine

Metabolic

↓ Ketones
↑ Insulin

↑ Ketones
↓ Glucagon,
Epinephrine, Cortisol,
IGF-1

Ketones

↑ Ketones

↓ Ketones
↑ FFA

Hyperinsulinism

Defective
Counterregulation

Ammonia/Gas
lactate/pyruvate

Ammonia/Gas
Serum aa, urine aa/oa

FAOD
Carnitine
deficiency

Carbohydrate
Metabolism Defect

Protein Metabolism
Defect

Resources

- **Paul A. Levy. Inborn Errors of Metabolism. Pediatrics in Review. April 2009, VOLUME 30 / ISSUE 4**
- Gregory M. Rice, Robert D. Steiner. Inborn Errors of Metabolism (Metabolic Disorders). Pediatrics in Review. January 2016, VOLUME 37 / ISSUE 1
- <https://newenglandconsortium.org/>
- **Gene reviews**

Questions

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