

Inborn Errors of Bile Acid Metabolism

James E. Heubi, M.D.

Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research

Director of Center for Clinical and Translational Science and
Training

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine



Financial Disclosures

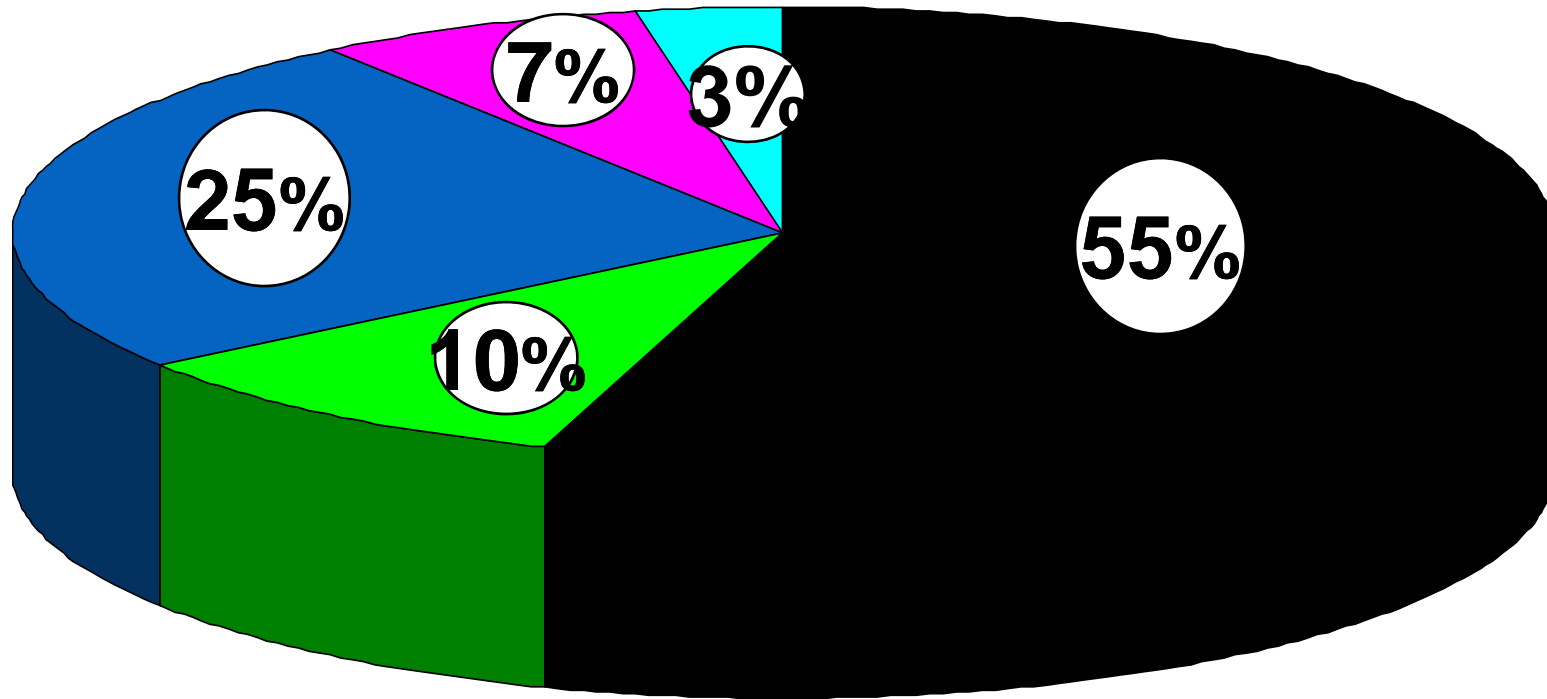
- Equity interest in Asklepion Pharma, LLC.
- Funding: NCATS, NIDDK, NICHD, and CFF
- Consultant to Nordmark, Retrophin, Alnylam



Outline

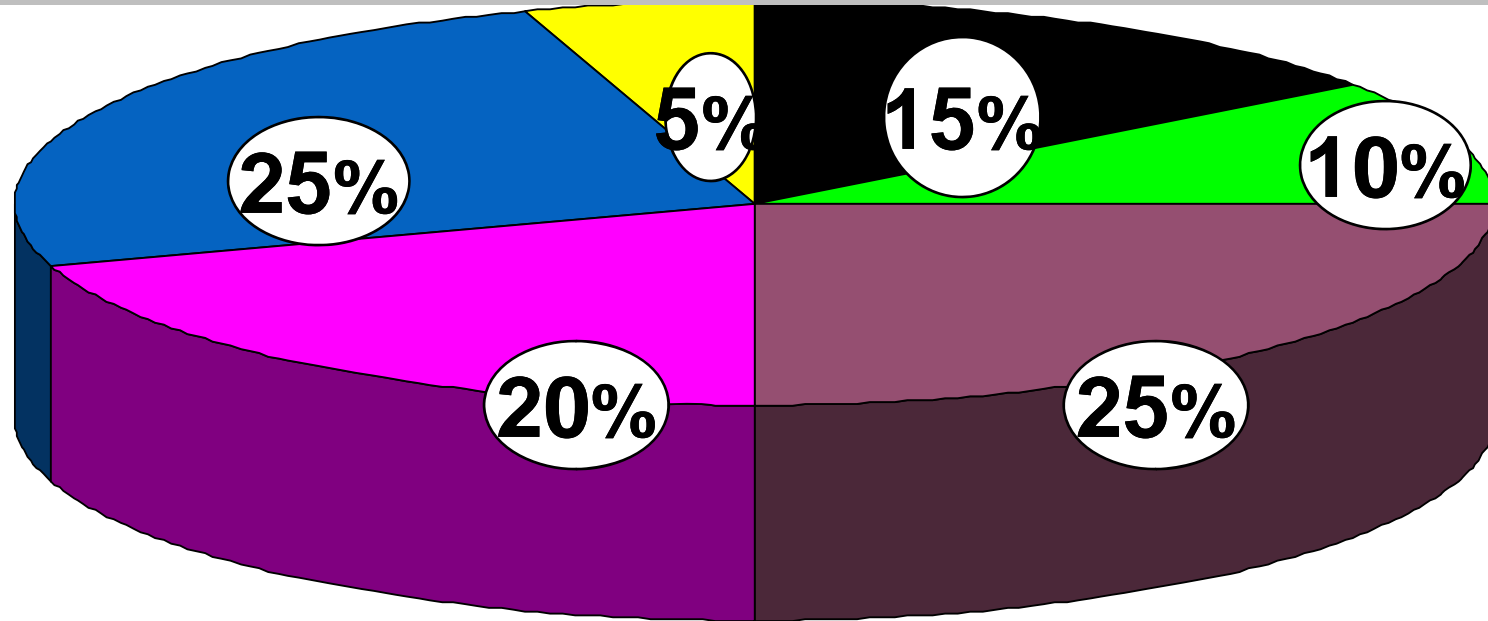
- Causes and evaluation for neonatal cholestasis
- Role of bile acids in cholestasis and fat/fat soluble vitamin absorption
- Pathophysiology of inborn errors of BA metabolism
- Diagnosis of inborn errors of BA metabolism
- Commonly identified defects
- Treatment

Differential - "Neonatal Cholestasis" 1973



- "Neonatal Hepatitis"
- Biliary Atresia
- "Viral" (TORCH)
- A-1-AT deficiency
- Miscellaneous*

Differential - "Neonatal Cholestasis" 2016



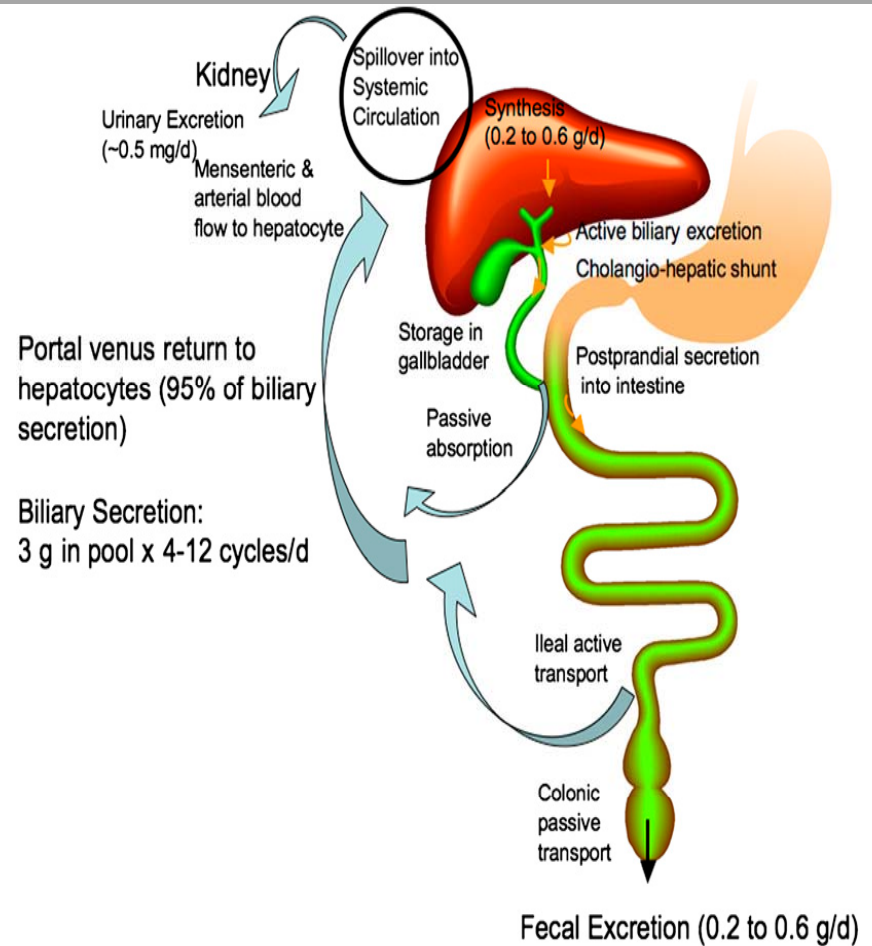
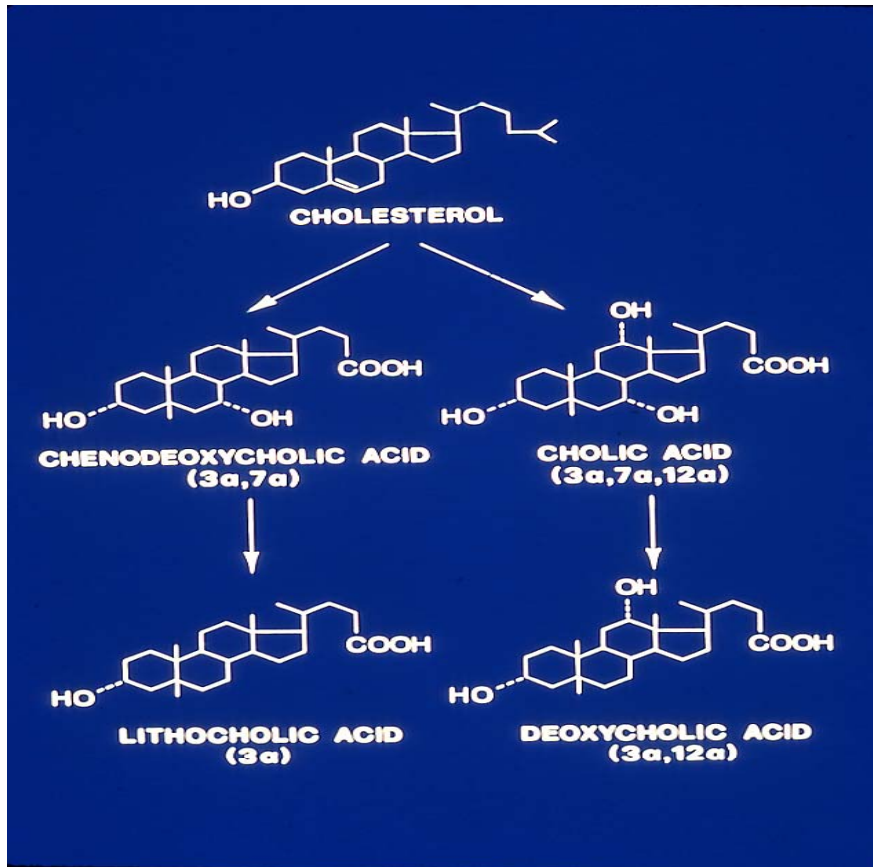
■ "Neonatal Hepatitis"
■ "PFIC" & Alagille
■ Biliary Atresia

■ A-1-AT deficiency
■ Metabolic Disease
■ Viral

Role of Bile Acids

- Major metabolic pathway for elimination of cholesterol
- Promote formation/ secretion of bile
- Fat and fat soluble vitamin absorption
- Cathartic action-induce water and electrolyte secretion
- Bacteriostatic properties
- Role in signaling pathways

EHC and BA Metabolism 101



Biochemical Anomalies/ Hepatotoxicity of Bile Acid Synthesis Disorders¹⁻³

- Lack of, or markedly diminished synthesis of primary bile acids, CA and CDCA→ poor bile flow
- Concomitant production and accumulation of precursors in the pathway proximal to enzyme defect→metabolites may be directly toxic

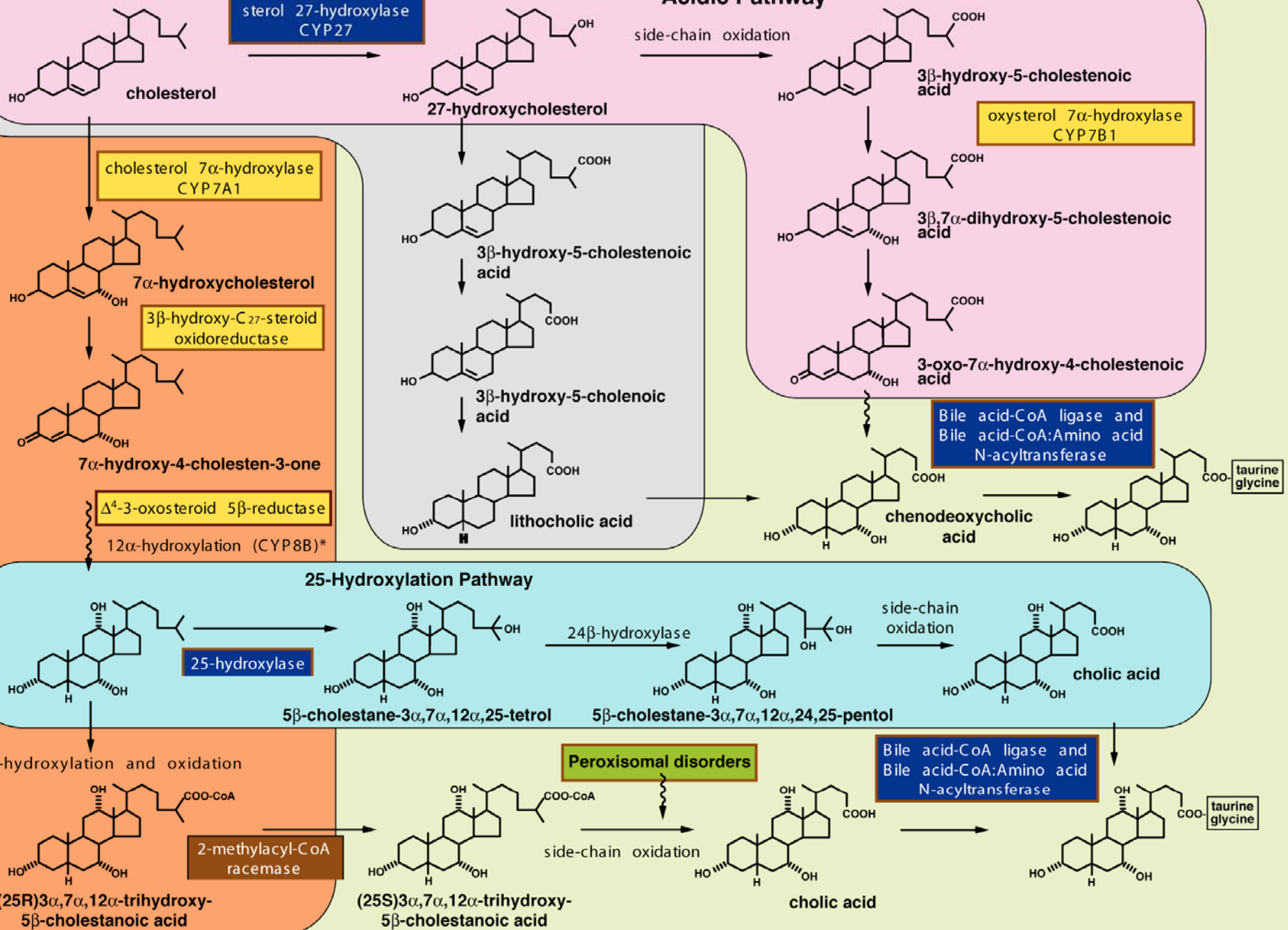
1. Bove KE, et al. *Pediatr Dev Pathol.* 2000;3(1):1-16.
2. Witzleben CL, et al. *Pediatr Pathol.* 1992;12(2):269-274.
3. Setchell KD, Heubi JE. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr.* 2006;43(suppl 1):S17-S22.

Pathways for Bile Acid Synthesis

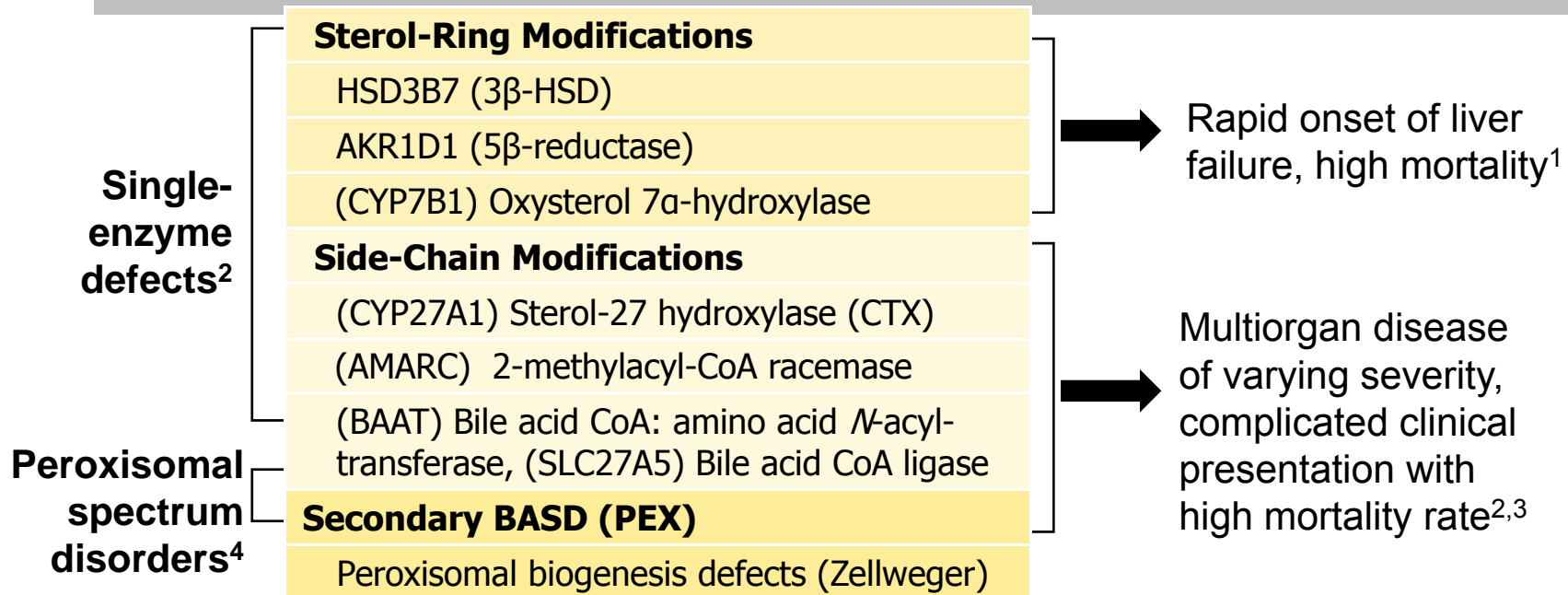
Classical (Neutral) Pathway

Yamasaki Pathway

Acidic Pathway

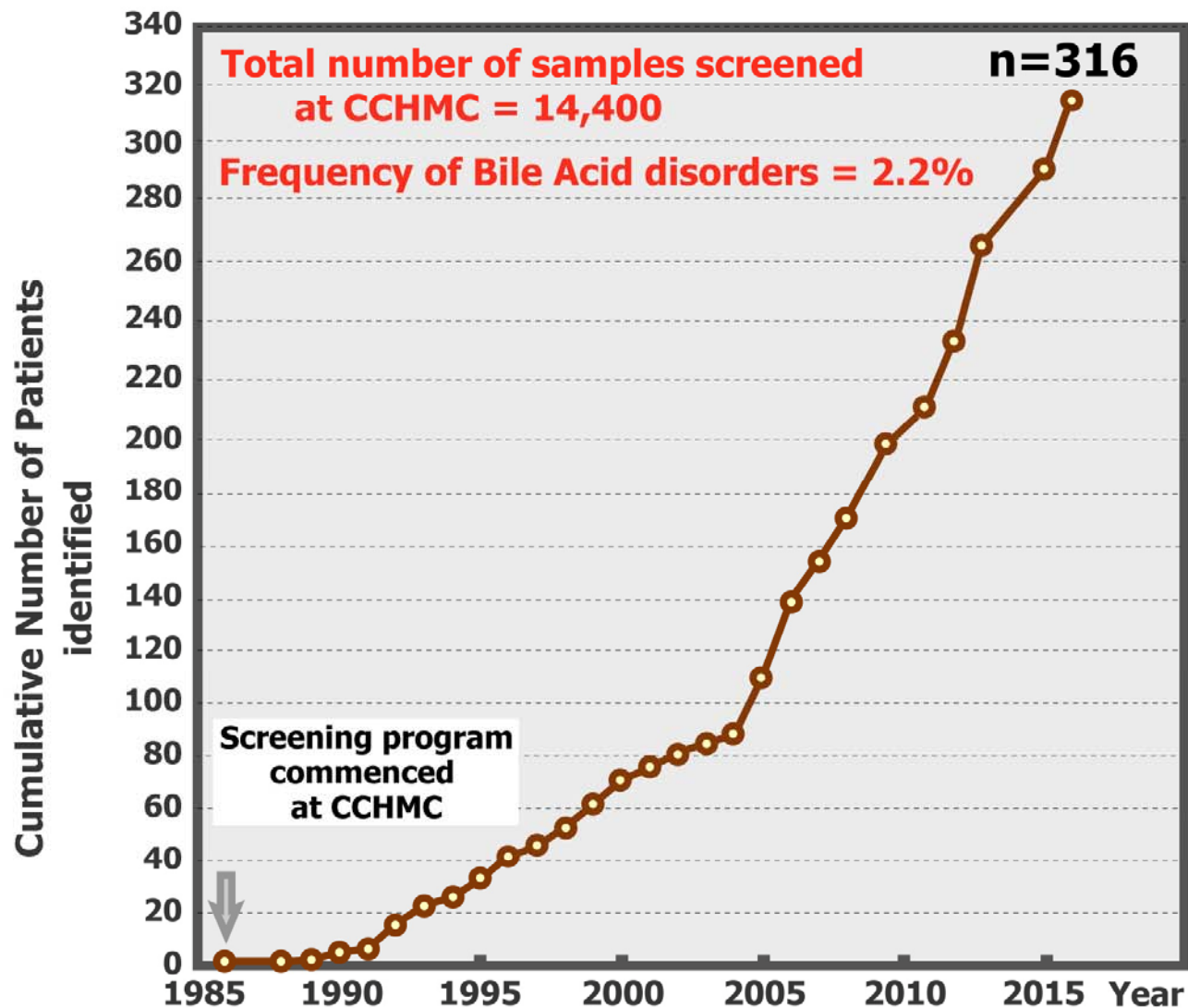


Clinical Sequelae of BASD: SED vs PD

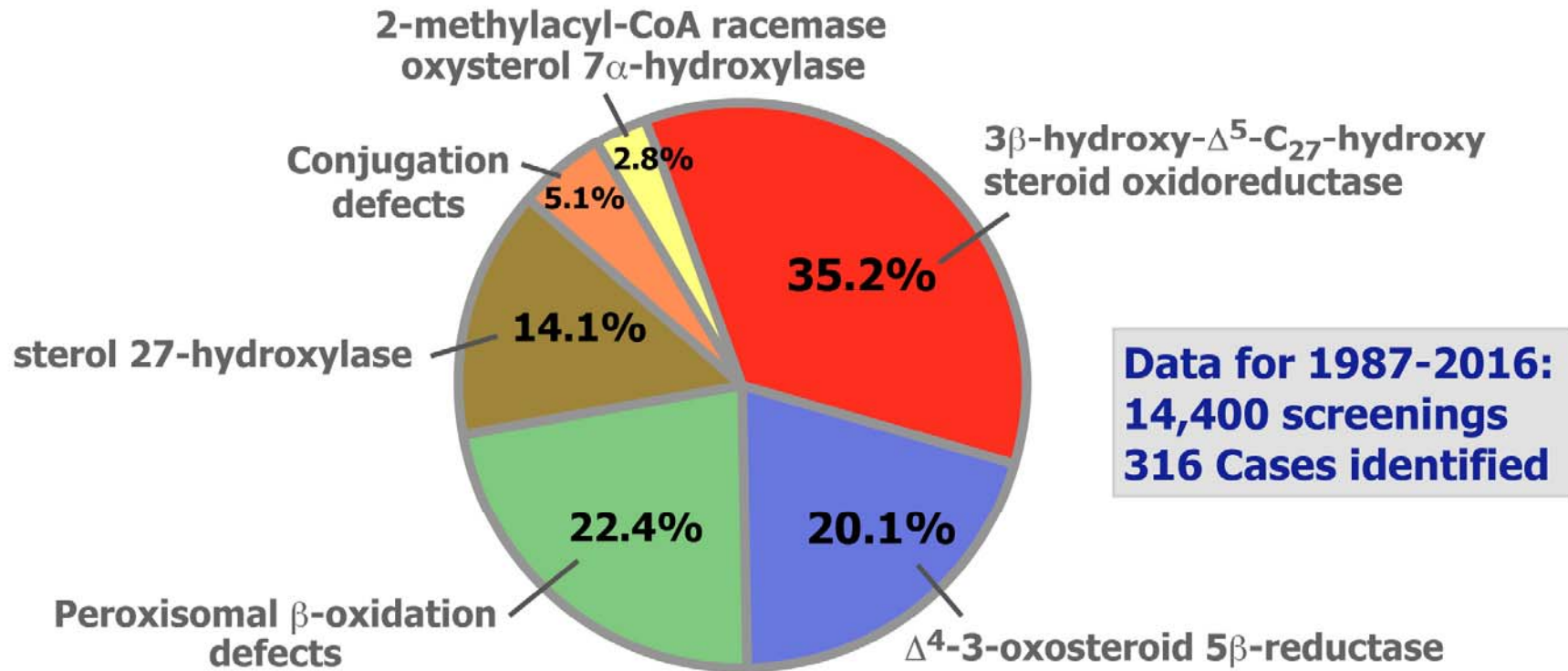


Clinical phenotype is highly variable — high index of suspicion based on physical examination and laboratory evaluation

Cumulative Numbers of Patients Diagnosed with Inborn Errors in Bile Acid Synthesis



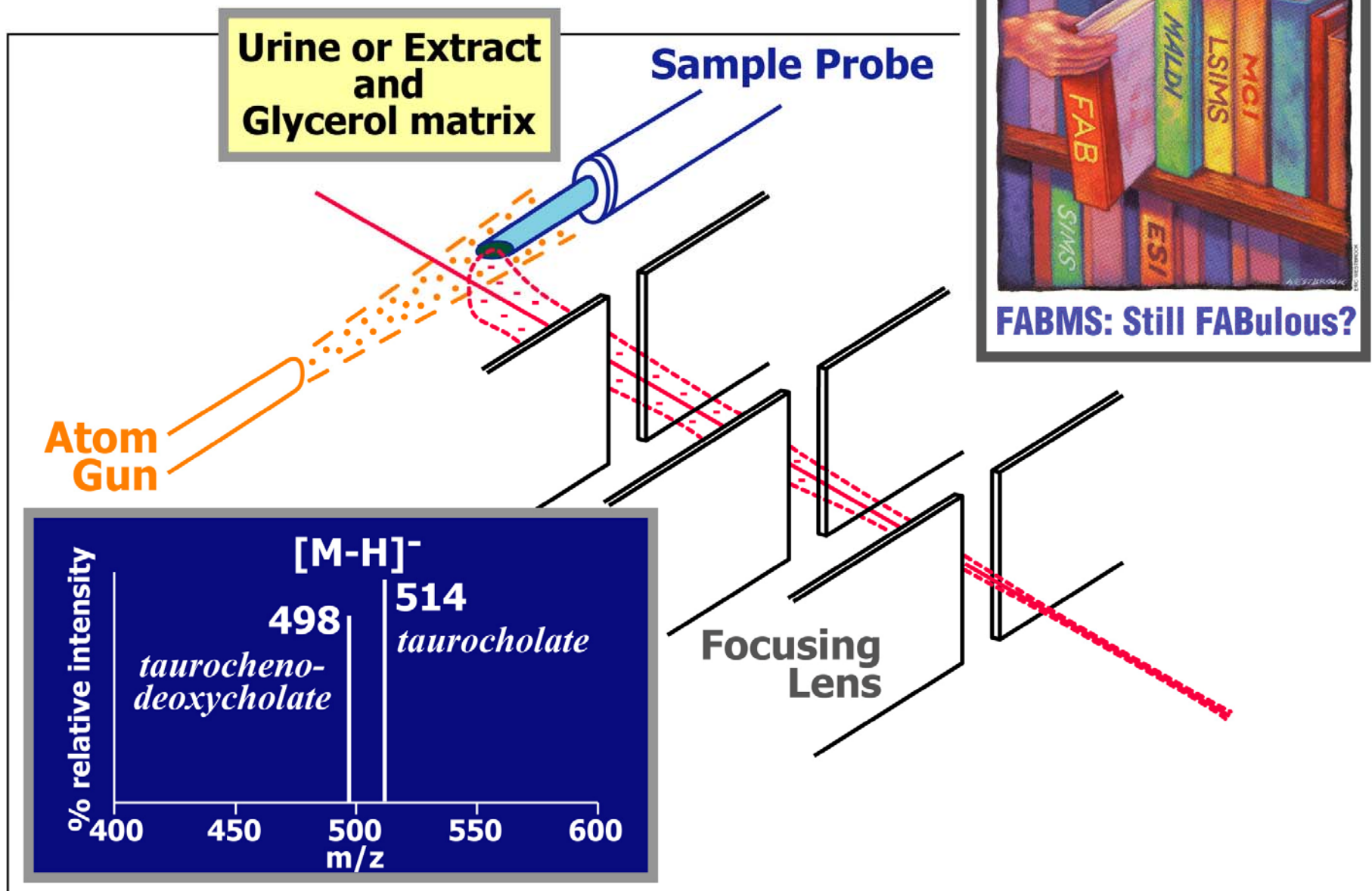
Defects in Bile Acid Synthesis: 'The Cincinnati Experience'



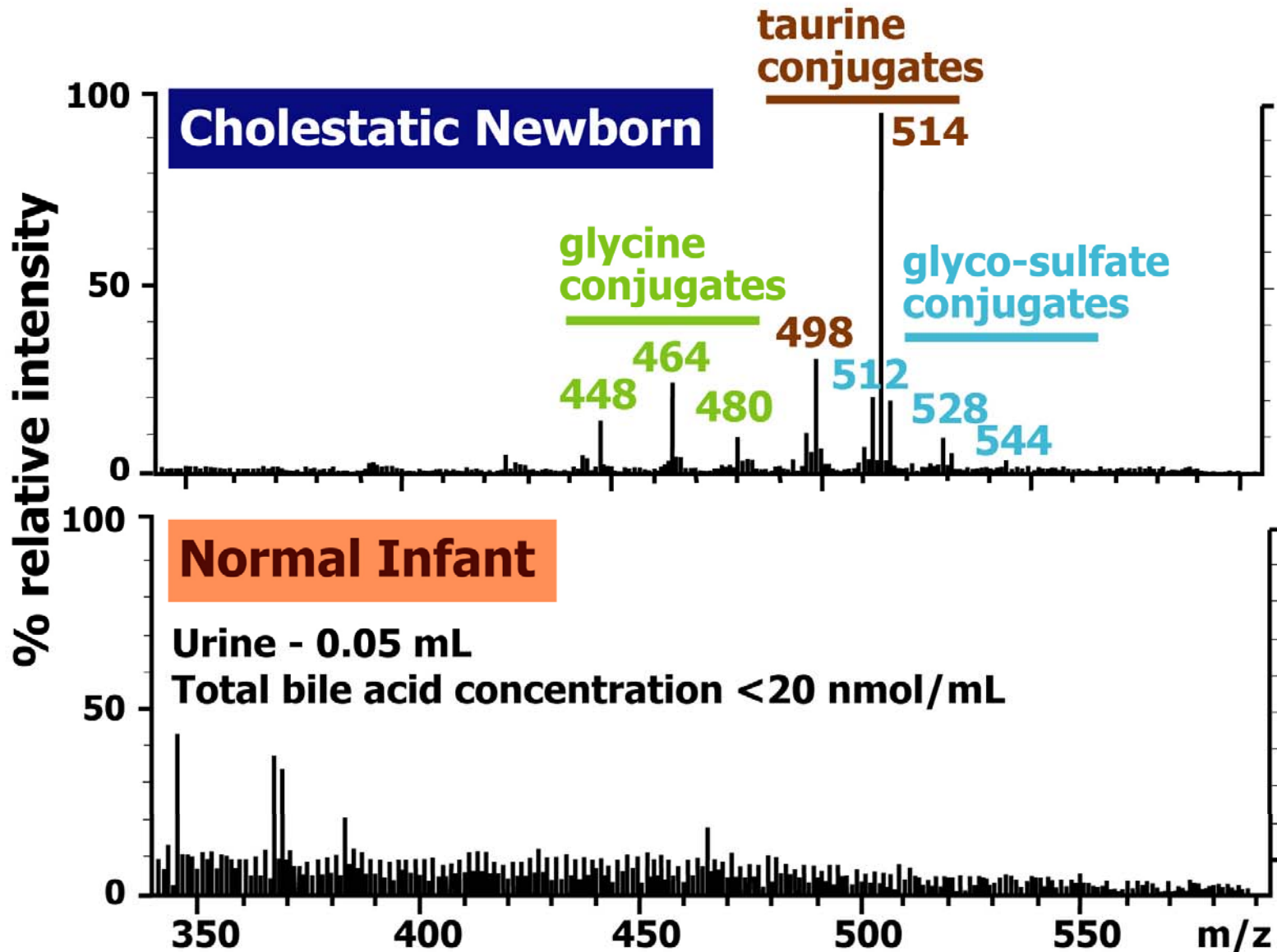
- **Age at diagnosis and clinical presentation is highly variable ranging from early infancy to adulthood - Can be a cause of late-onset chronic cholestasis**

1. Heubi JE, et al. Semin Liver Dis. 2007;27(3):282-294.
2. Bove KE, et al. Pediatr Dev Pathol. 2000;3(1):1-16.
3. Setchell KD, Heubi JE. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr. 2006;43(suppl 1):S17-S22

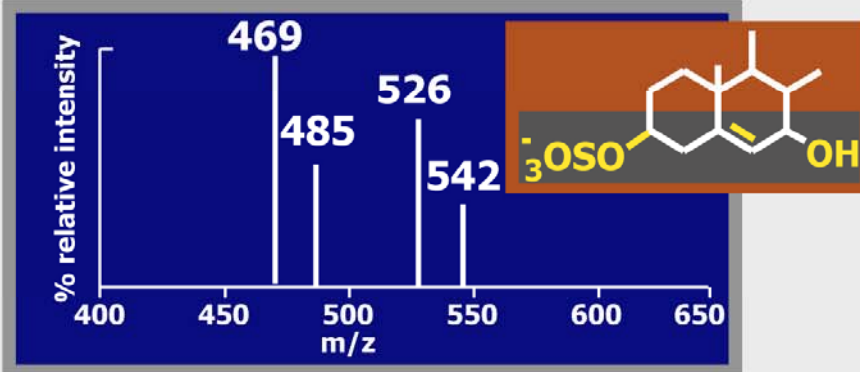
Fast Atom Bombardment ionization- Mass Spectrometry



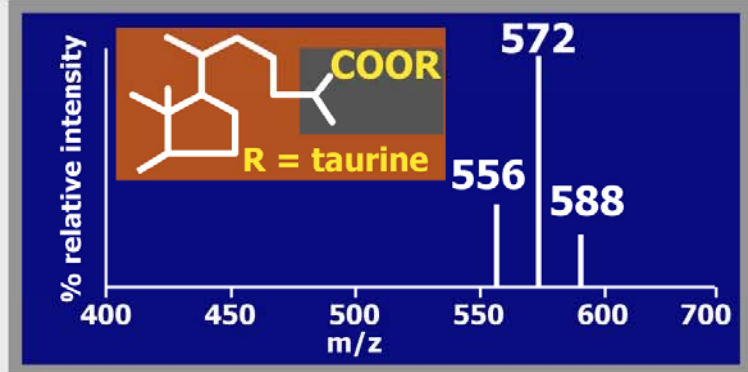
Typical FAB-MS (-ve) spectra comparing urine from a cholestatic newborn with healthy infant



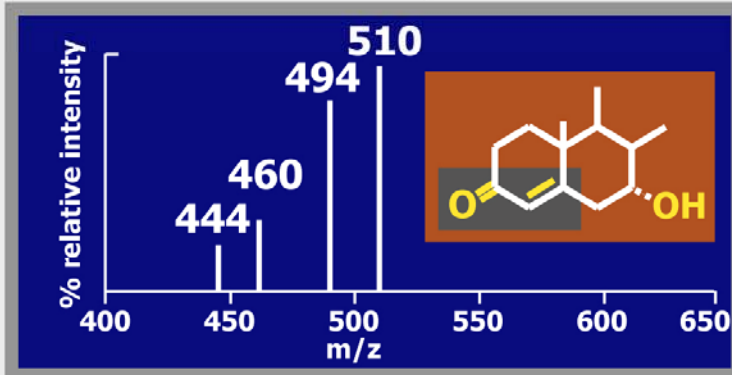
3 β -Hydroxy- Δ^5 -C₂₇-steroid oxidoreductase



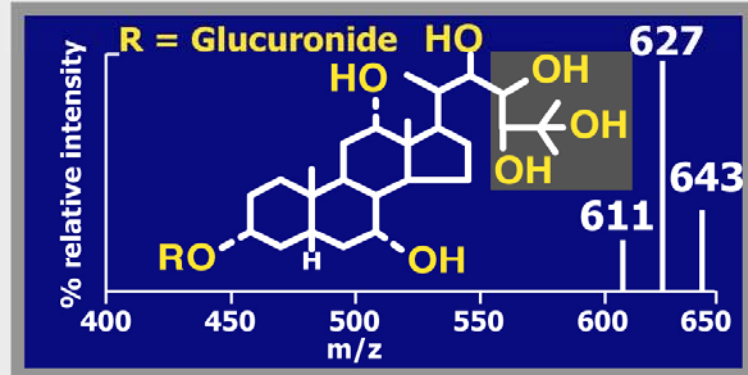
2-Methylacyl-CoA racemase



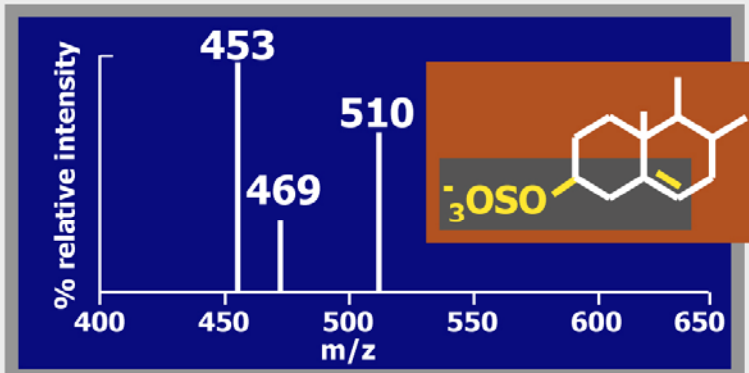
Δ^4 -3-Oxosteroid 5 β -reductase



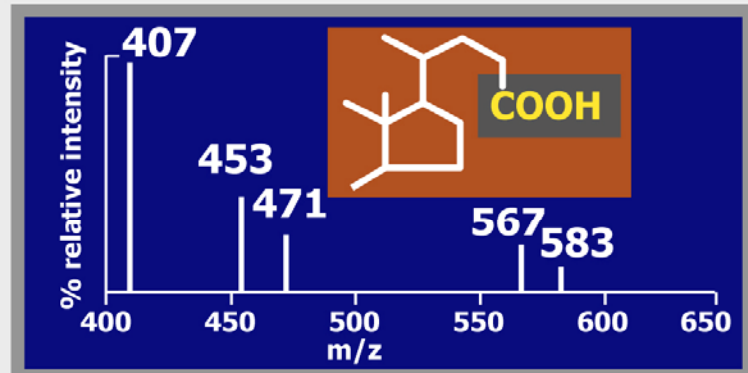
Sterol 27-hydroxylase



Oxysterol 7 α -hydroxylase



Bile acid Conjugation defect



Comparing Intrahepatic Cholestasis in Bile Acid Synthesis and Transporter Disorders

Features	Bile acid defects	PFIC-1, 2, 4 and 5
<i>Age at presentation:</i>	variable, late onset	< 1 year
<i>Liver:</i>	hepatosplenomegaly	hepatosplenomegaly
<i>Pruritus:</i>	absent	severe
<i>Growth failure:</i>	mild/absent	severe
<i>Jaundice:</i>	+/-	mild/severe
<i>Serum transaminases:</i>	elevated	slight to ↑ elevations
<i>Serum GGT:</i>	generally normal	normal
<i>Serum cholesterol:</i>	low	low
<i>Fat-soluble vitamins:</i>	malabsorption	malabsorption
<i>Bile acids:</i>	no primary bile acids	↑ primary bile acids
<i>Treatment:</i>	Bile acid therapy	Transplantation
<i>Prognosis:</i>	excellent	Fatal 1st-2nd decades

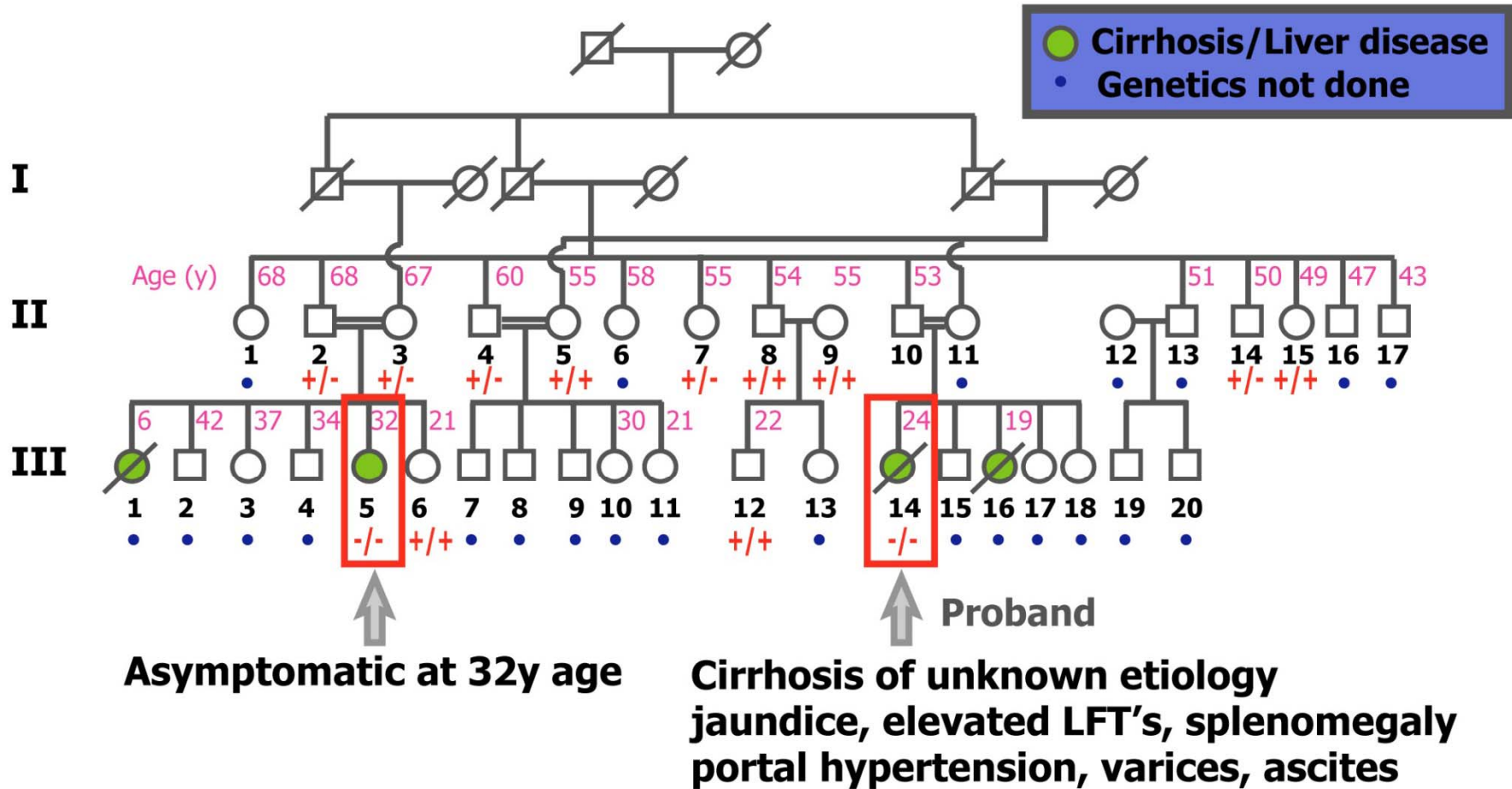
Diagnosis of Inborn Errors of Bile Acid Metabolism

- Diagnosis confirmed in Commercial lab
 - www.genetests.org
- CCHMC (formerly jaundice chip)
 - www.cincinnatichildrens.org/service/h/hereditary-liver/tests/
- Emory
 - <http://geneticslab.emory.edu/tests/MM340>
- Supported by Retrophin
 - <http://testcholestasis.com>

3 β -OH steroid dehydrogenase/ isomerase deficiency

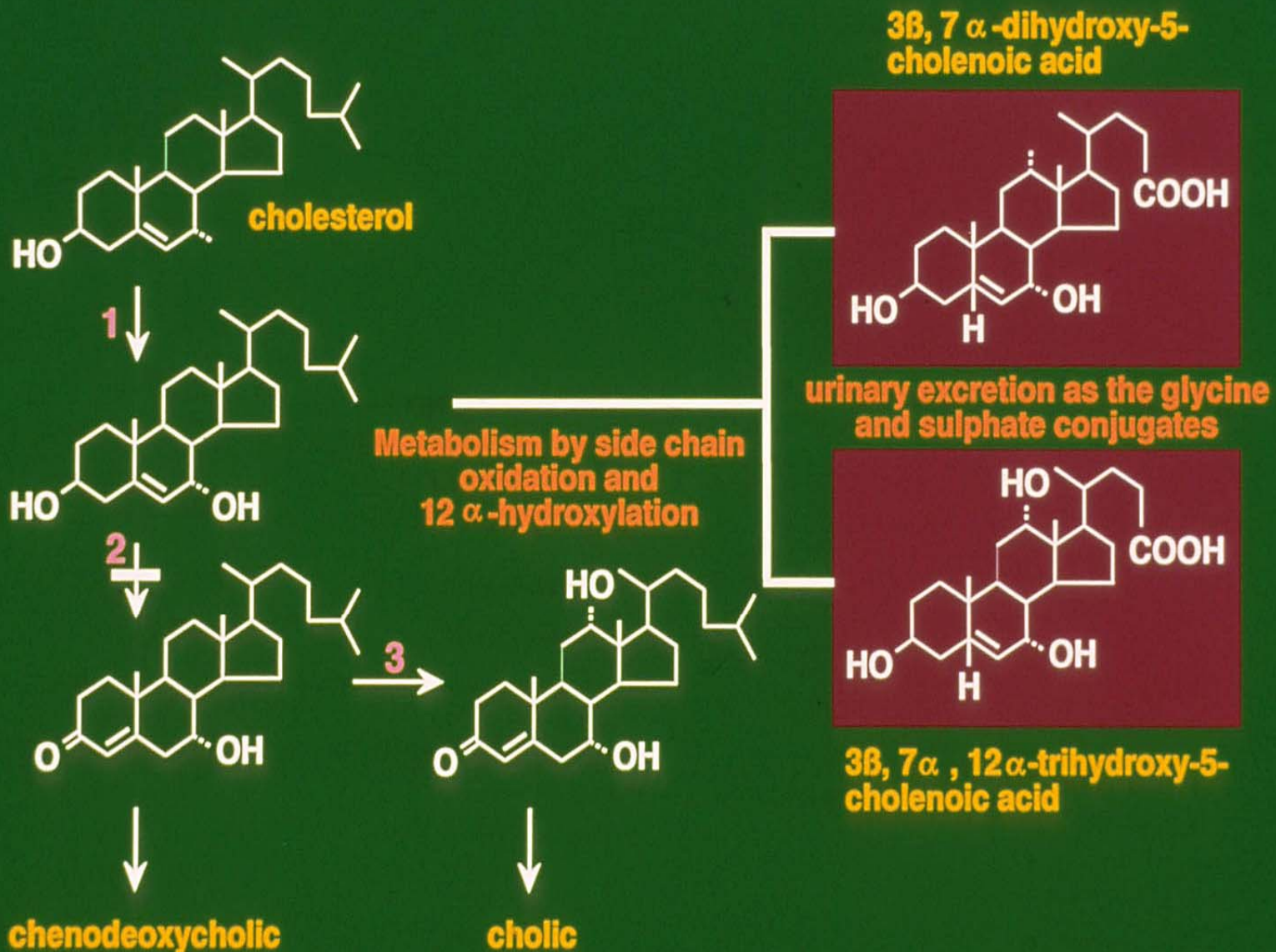
- Presents with cholestasis in infancy
- Fat soluble vitamin deficiency (rickets, bleeding)
- Older siblings of affected infants/children
- Low serum gamma GT concentration
- Indolent course→cirrhosis
- May have rapidly progressive course→transplantation
- May present in later childhood/ adulthood

Pedigree of Arab-Iranian Family with 3β -hydroxy- Δ^5 - C_{27} -steroid oxidoreductase deficiency



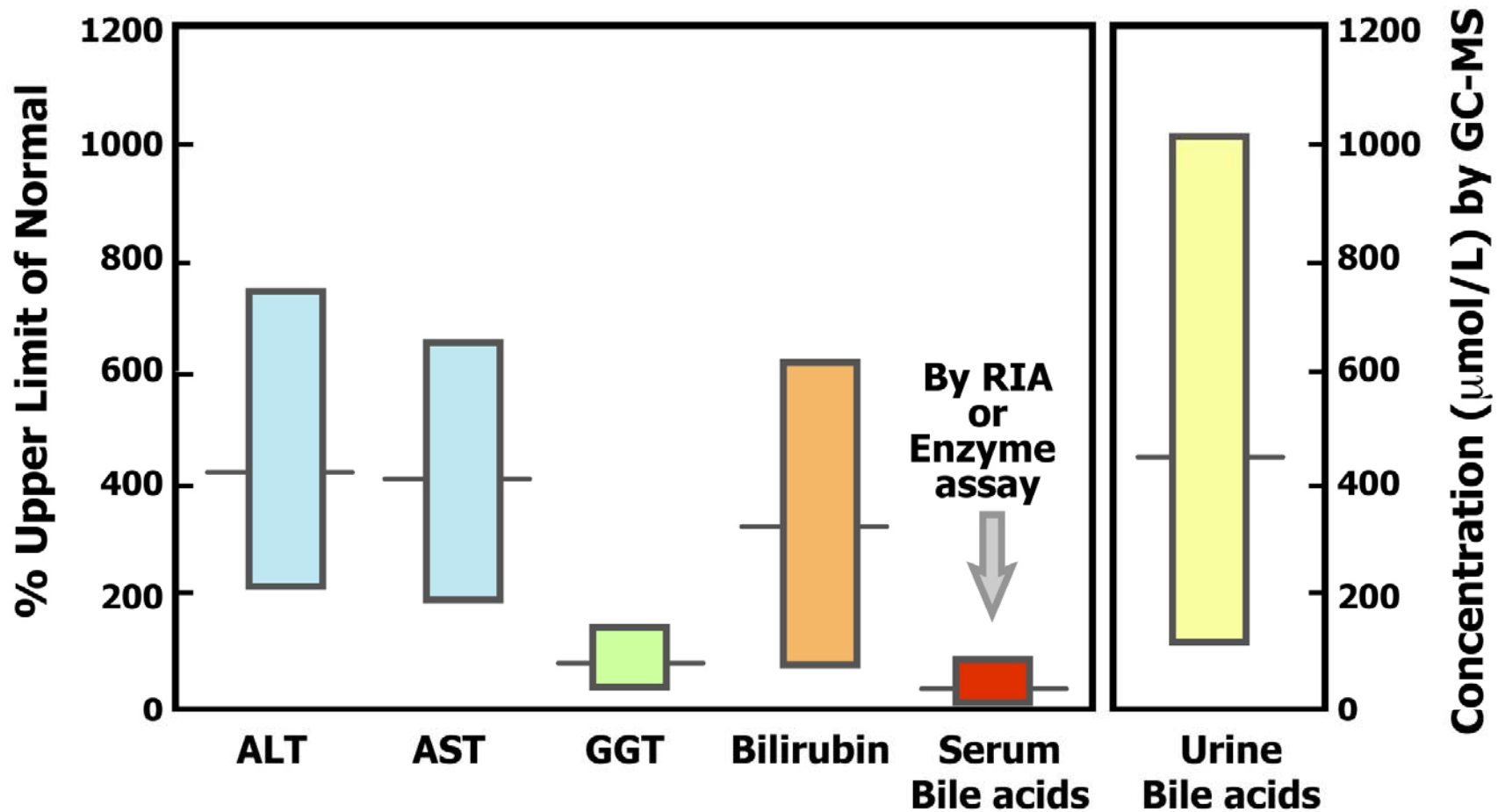
**Homozygous for 2 basepair deletion in exon 1 of *HSD3B7* (c.45_46del AG)
FAB-MS of serum confirmed bile acid synthetic defect**

Biochemical defect in 3 β -Hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase/isomerase deficiency

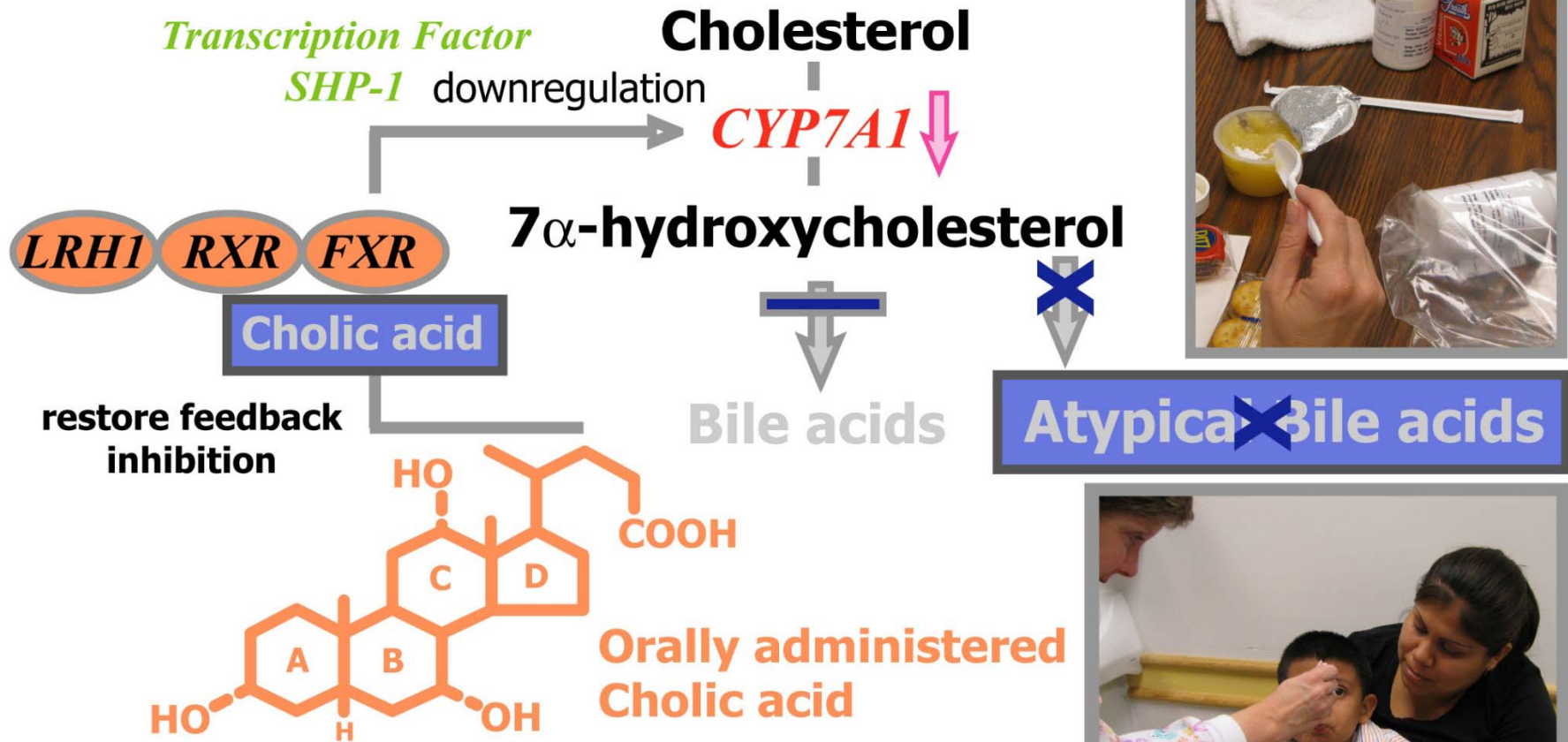


Biochemical Characteristics of Patients with HSD3B7 Deficiency

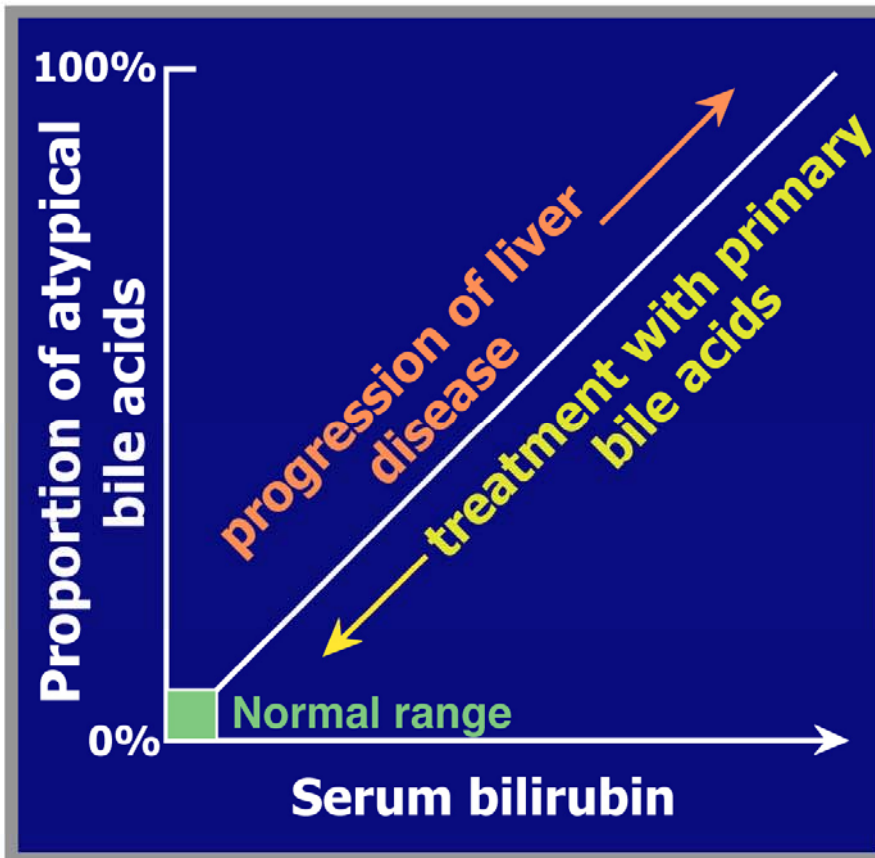
- Range of baseline values for 19 patients with a biochemically confirmed 3β -hydroxy- Δ^5 -C₂₇-steroid oxidoreductase (HSD3B7) deficiency



Metabolic Basis for Cholic Acid Therapy



Clinical Manifestation of Inborn Errors in Bile Acid Synthesis and Effect of Primary Bile Acid Therapy



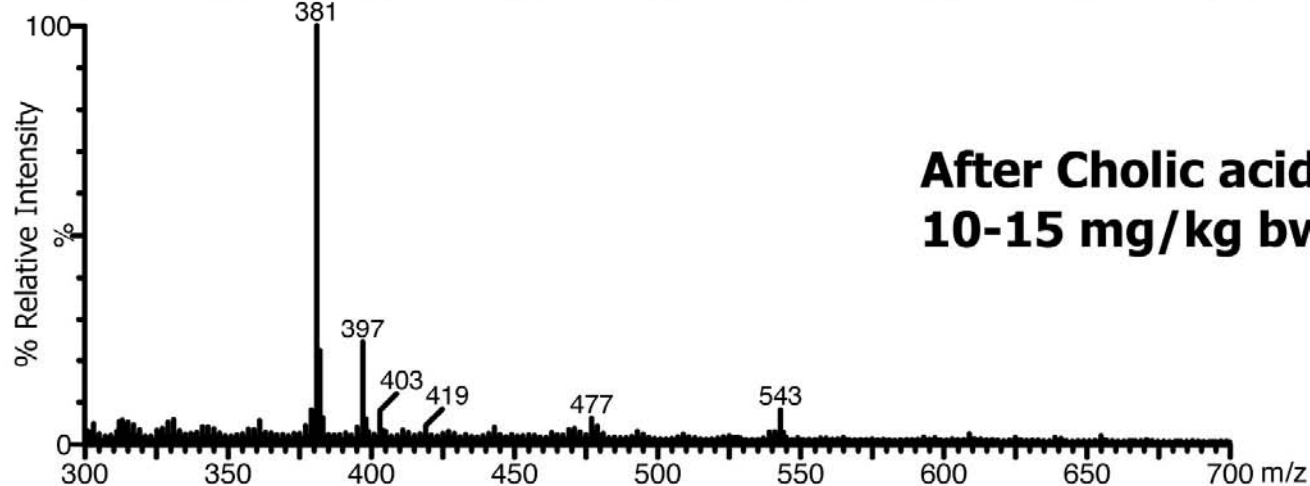
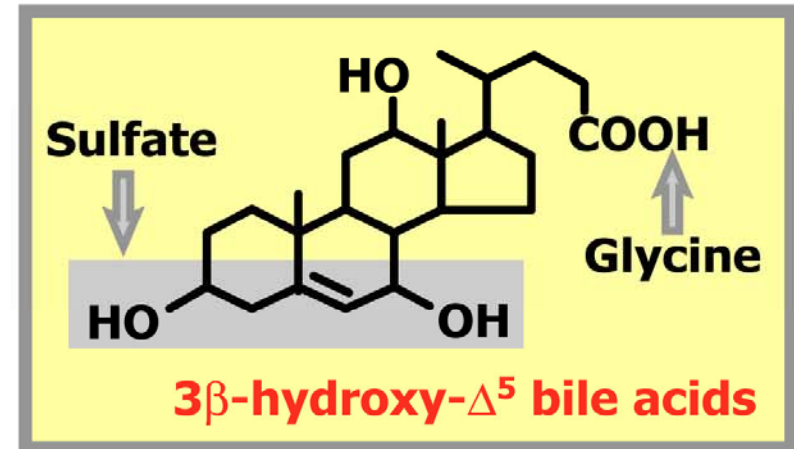
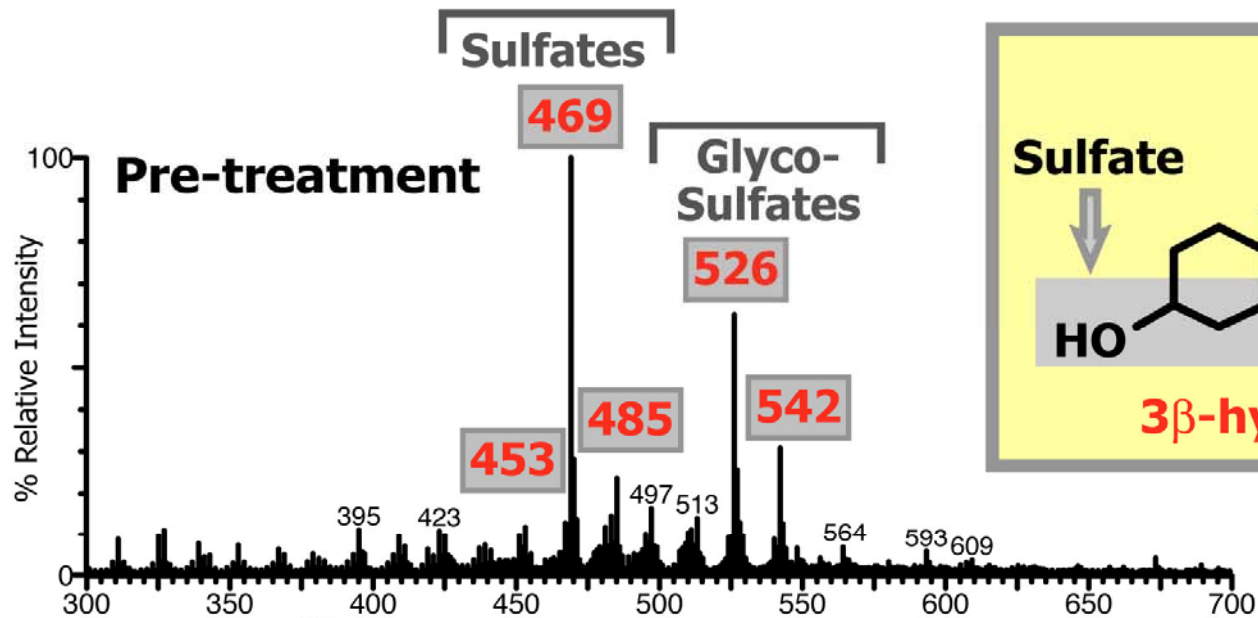
Therapeutic goals:

1. Inhibit endogenous bile acid synthesis - reduce accumulation of atypical bile acids
2. Provide stimulus for bile secretion - generate choleresis
3. Increase intraluminal bile salts - facilitate absorption of fats and fat-soluble vitamins



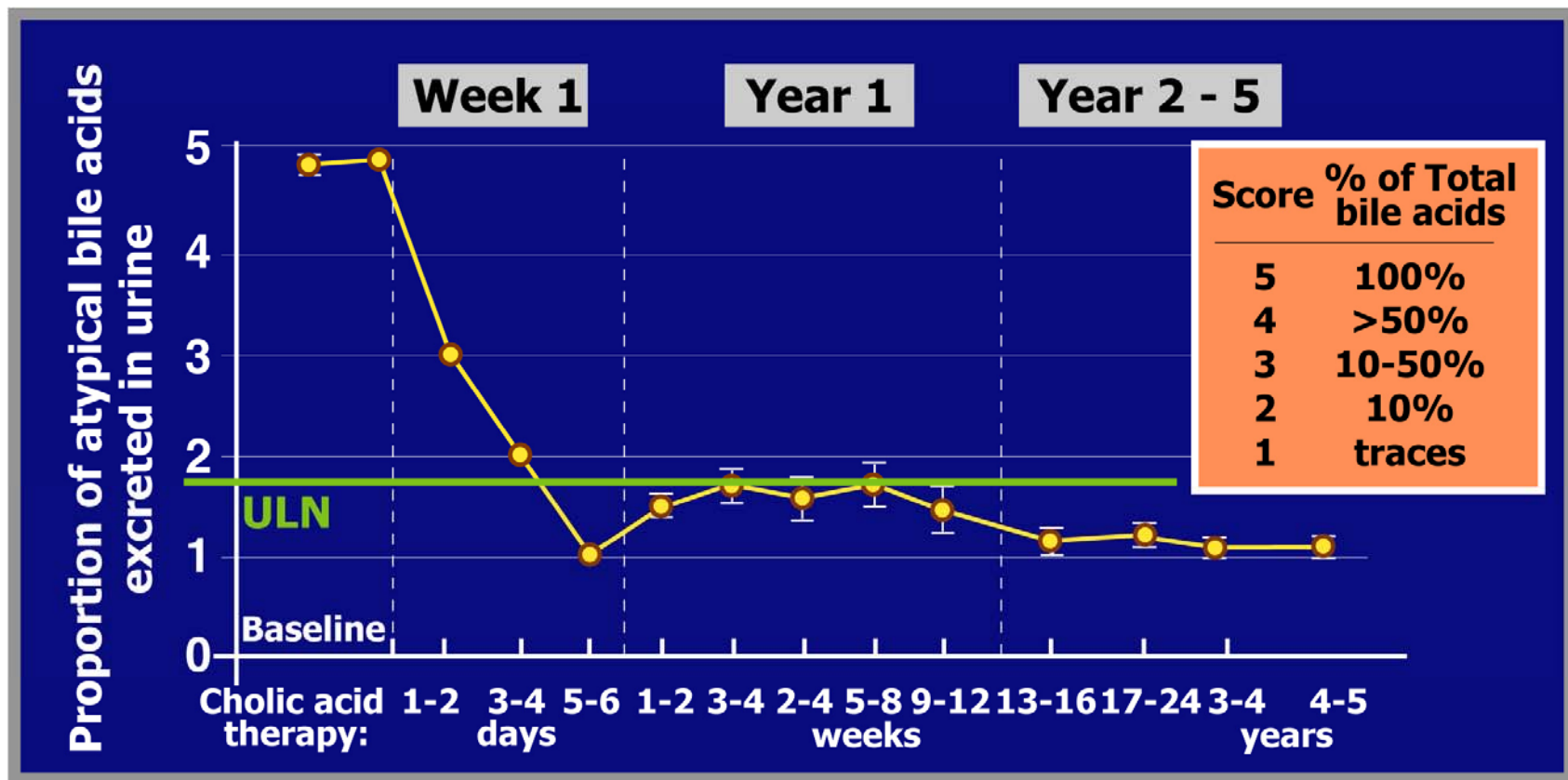
Ursodeoxycholic acid may improve ALT/AST but not suppress synthesis and prevent liver injury

Suppression of Atypical Bile Acids with Cholic Acid Therapy - Urinary FAB-MS profiles



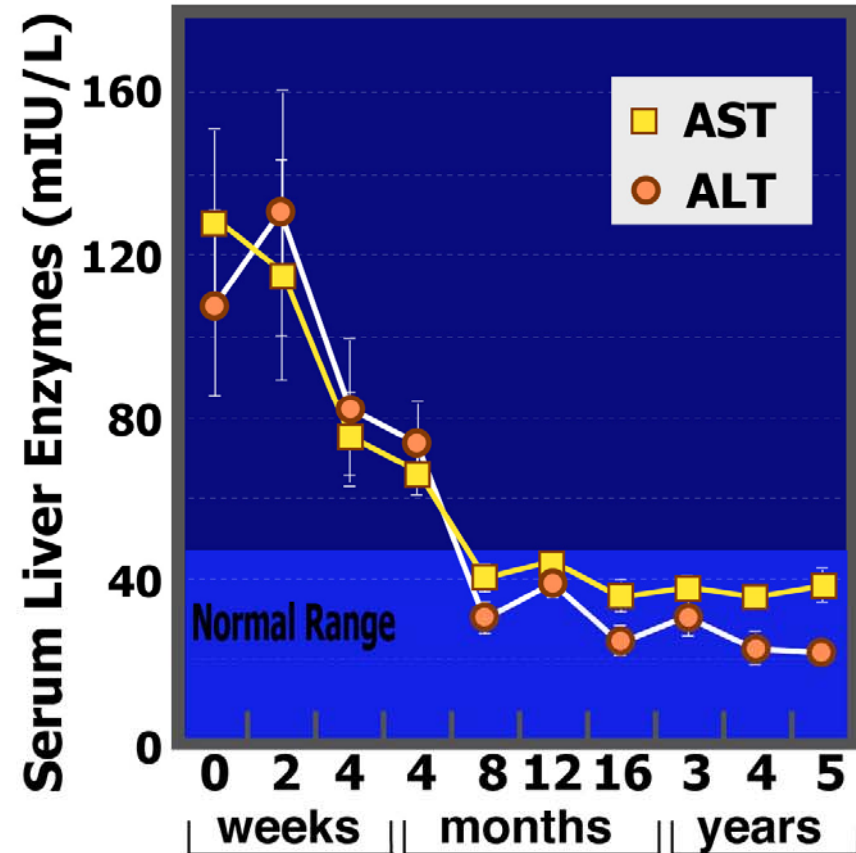
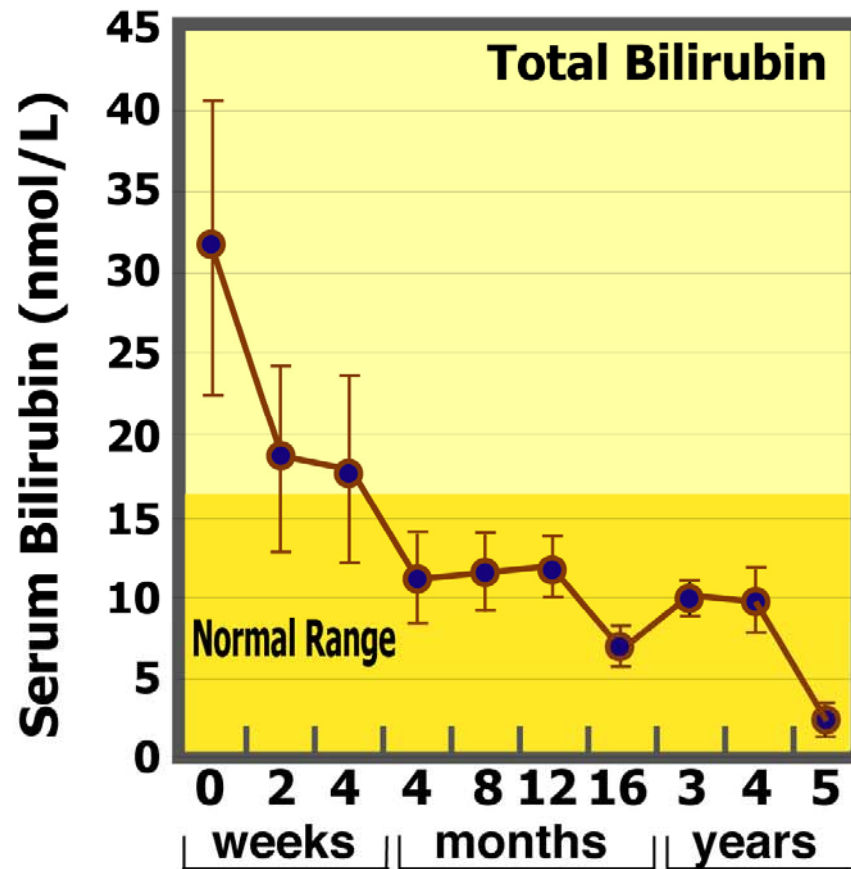
3 β -Hydroxy- Δ^5 -C₂₇-steroid oxidoreductase deficiency - Effect of Cholic Acid Therapy on Atypical Bile Acids

Oral cholic acid therapy 10-15 mg/kg body weight/day
Summary of long-term therapy in 19 patients



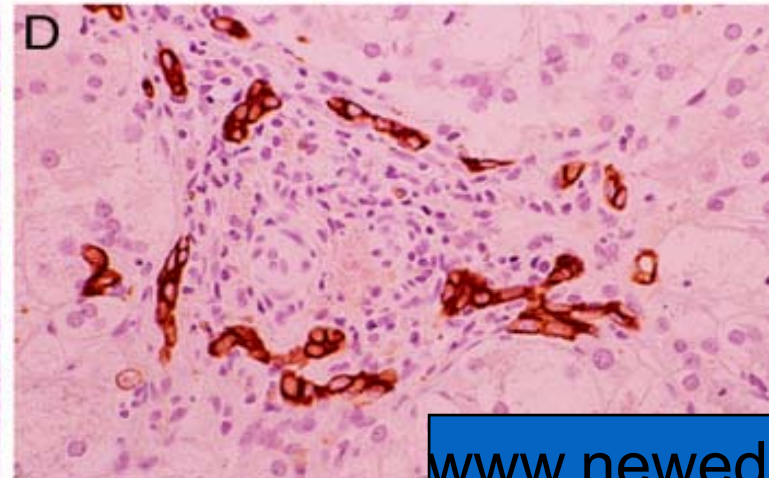
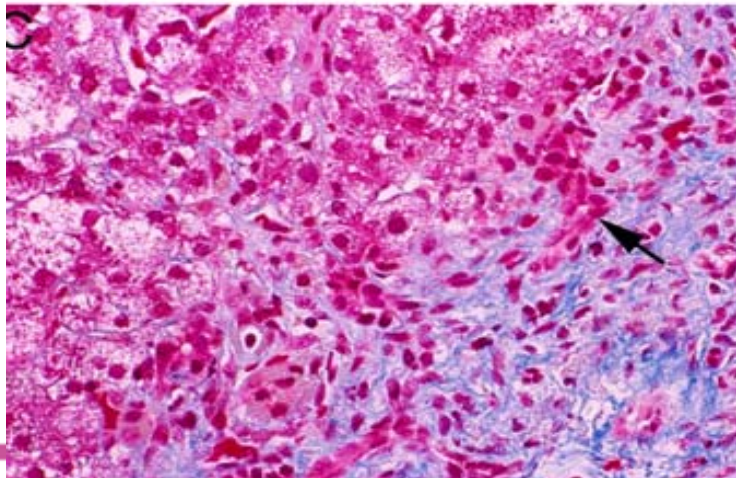
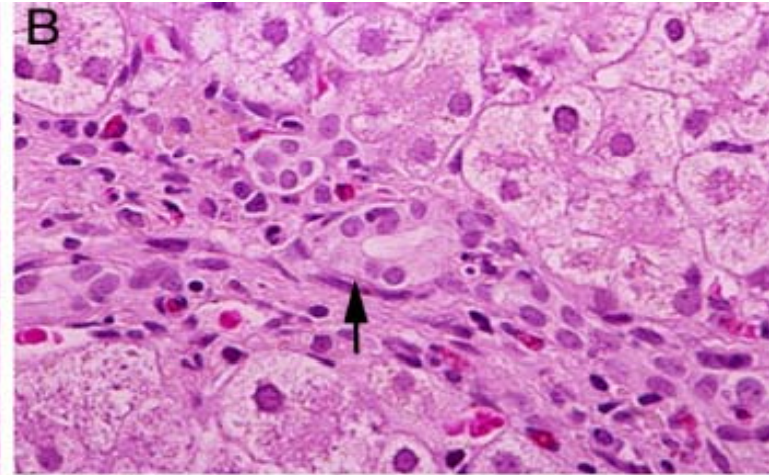
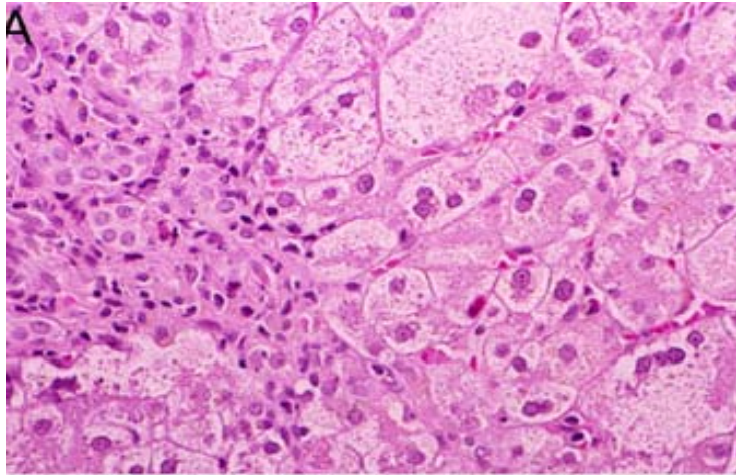
Effect of Oral Cholic Acid Therapy on LFTs in Patients with 3β -Hydroxy- Δ^5 -C₂₇-steroid oxidoreductase Deficiency

Cholic acid therapy: 10-15 mg/Kg bw/day (19 Patients)



Time after initiating oral cholic acid therapy

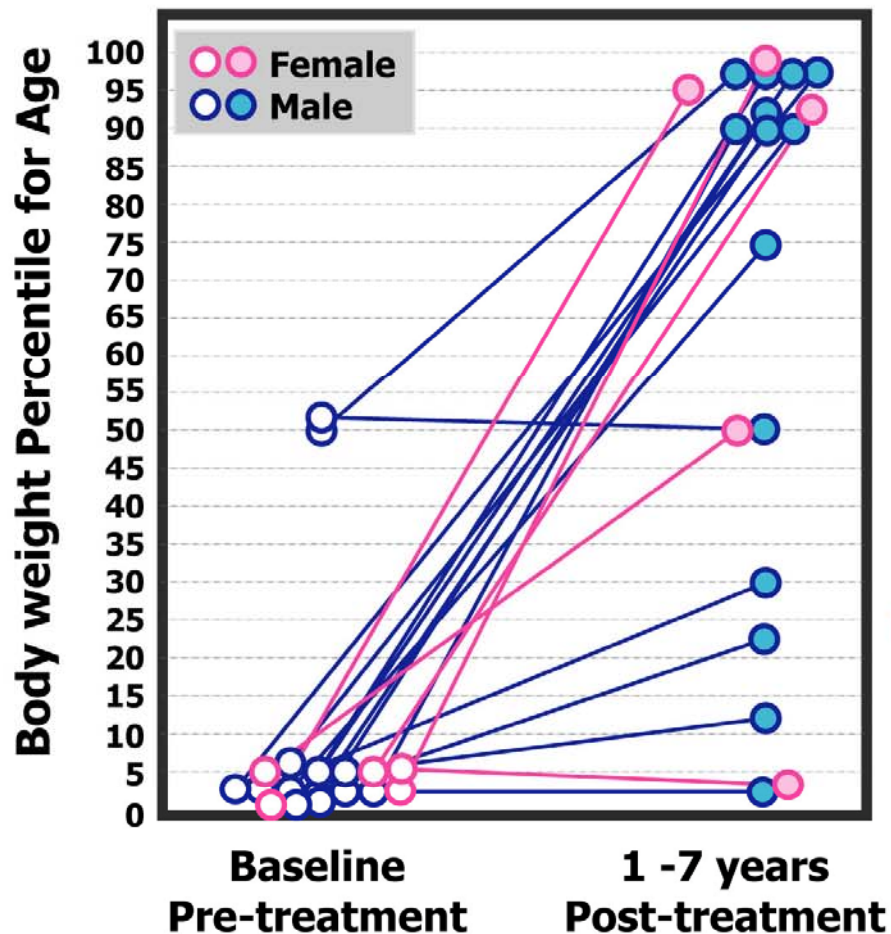
Pathology in 3-HSD



www.newedu.com

Long-term Effect of Cholic Acid on Growth

3β -Hydroxy- Δ^5 -C₂₇-steroid oxidoreductase deficiency (n=19)



Cholic acid therapy
Oral dose 10-15 mg/kg bw/day

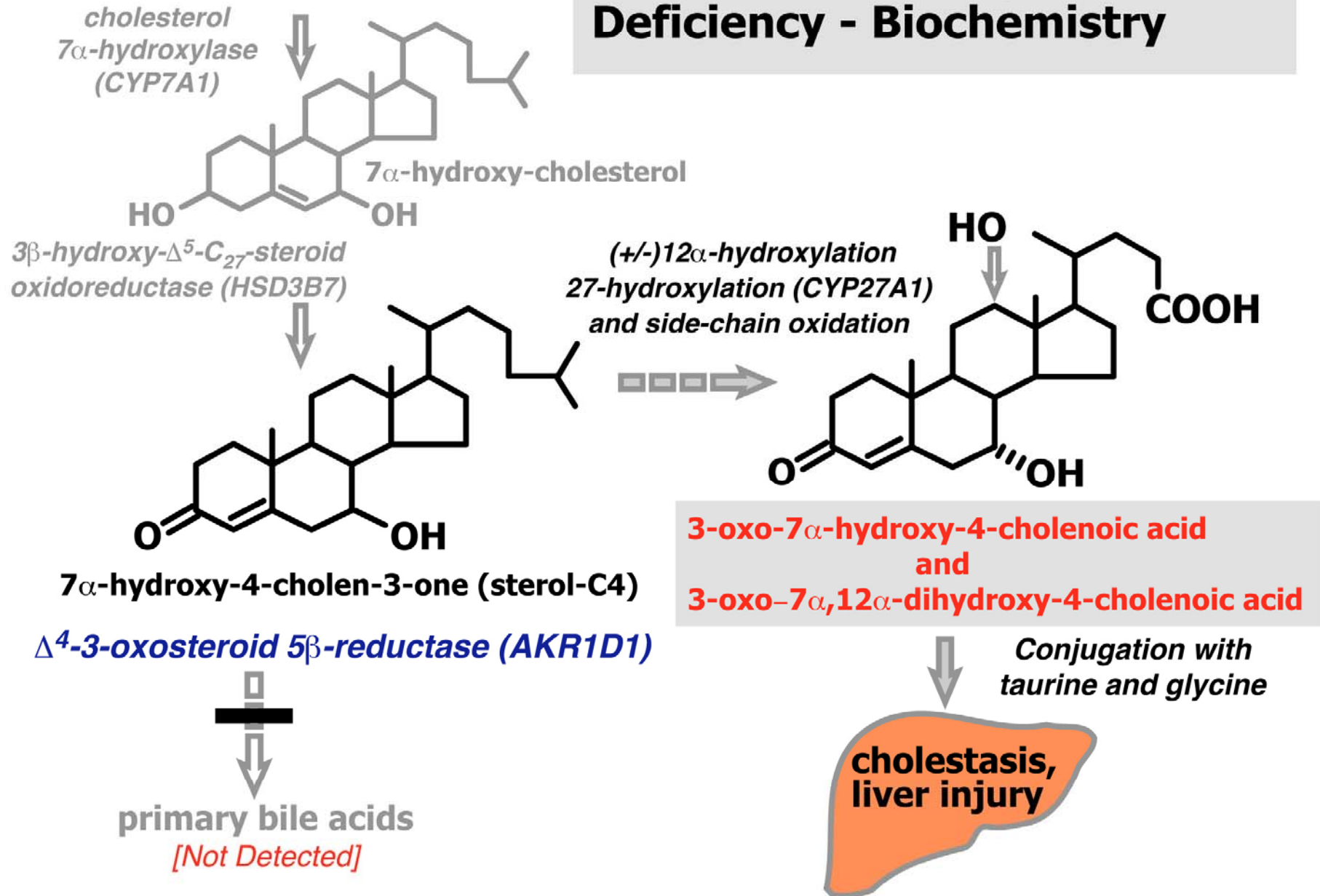
- Long term Cholic acid therapy leads to significant improvement in growth and body weight in most patients
- Cholic acid was well tolerated with no significant side-effects reported in >20 yrs of therapy

Δ^4 -3-oxosteroid-5 β -reductase deficiency

- Initial description of monochorionic twins presenting with neonatal cholestasis
- Presented with jaundice and varying severity of liver dysfunction
- Rapidly progressive disease leading to cirrhosis in infancy: Previously presumed affected sibling died in infancy

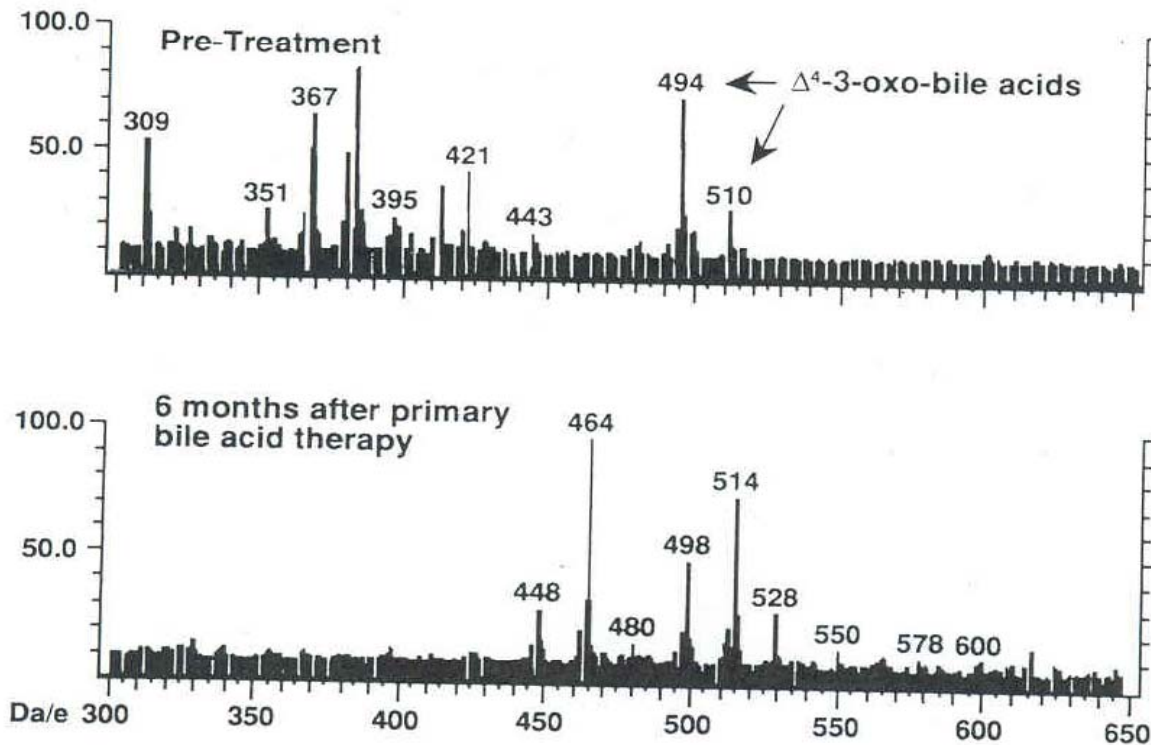
Cholesterol

Δ^4 -3-Oxosteroid 5β -reductase Deficiency - Biochemistry

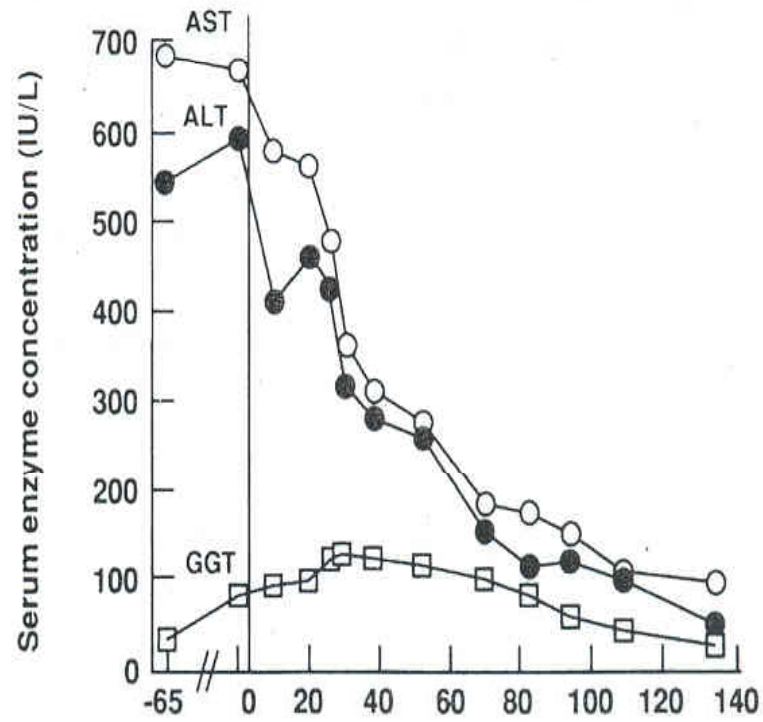
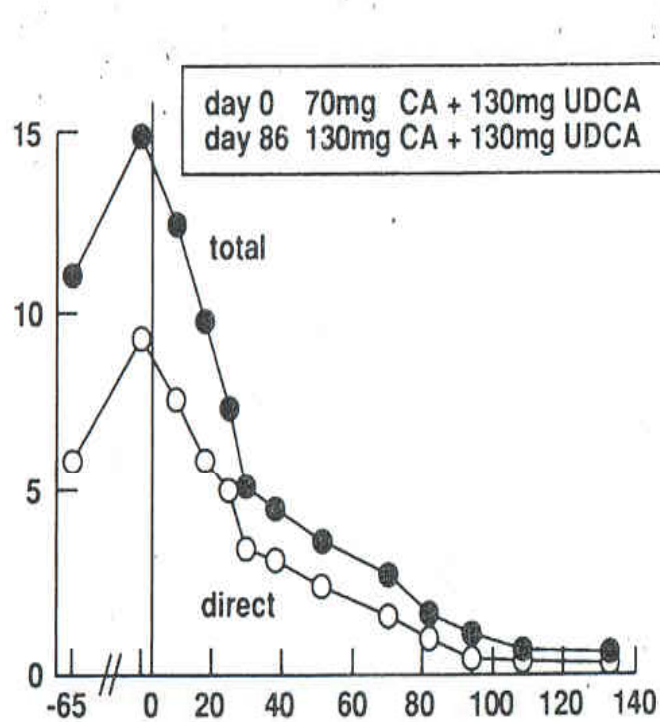




Effect of Therapy on Bile Acid Excretion



Biochemical Response to Therapy

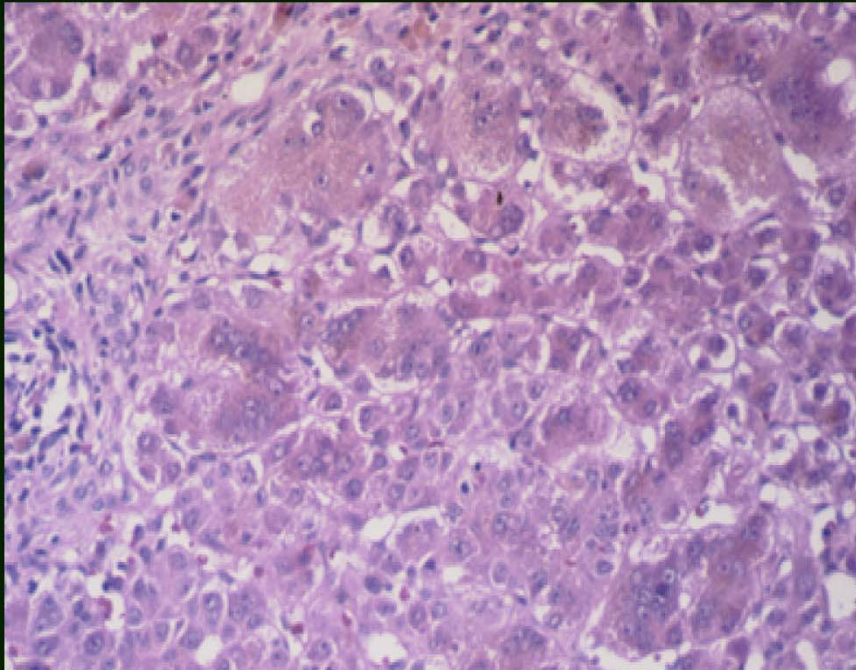


Day on bile acid therapy

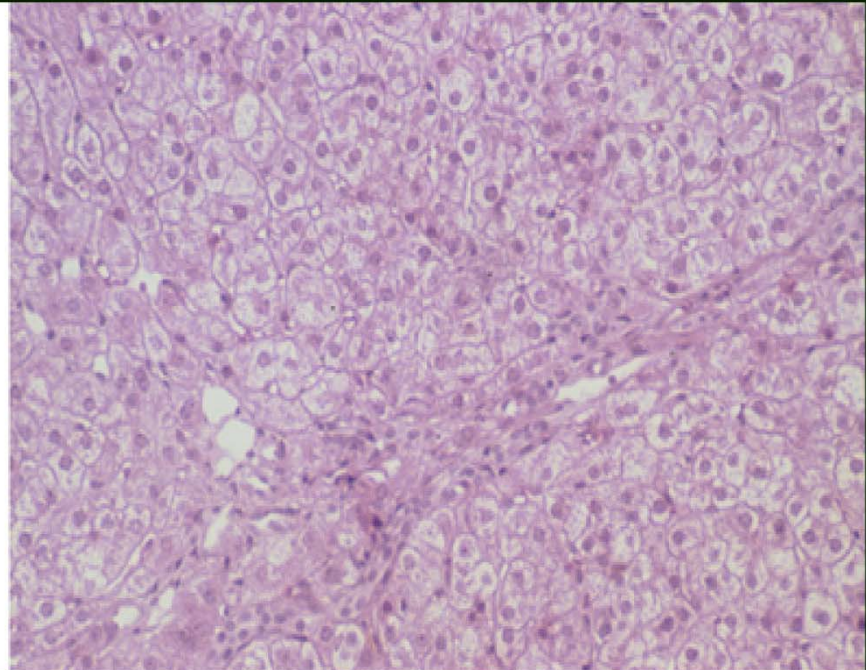
Effect of cholic acid therapy on liver histology: Patient with a bile acid synthetic defect

Δ^4 -3-Oxosteroid 5 β -reductase deficiency

Cholic acid: 15 mg/kg/day



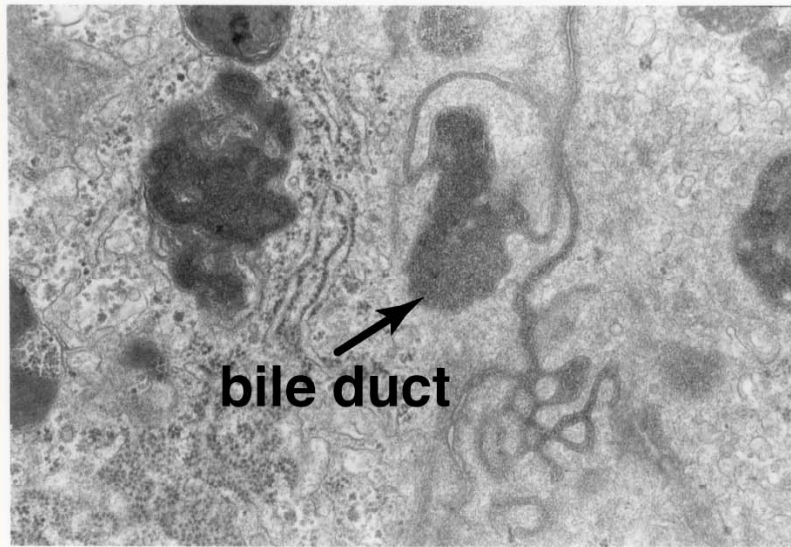
**Liver: Age 3 months
(Before treatment)**



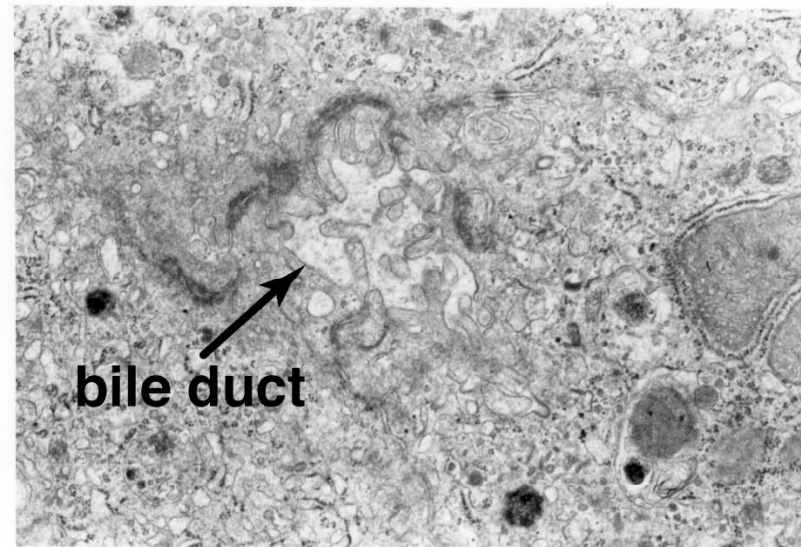
**Liver after 16 months
of cholic acid therapy**

EM of liver of a patient (SG) with Δ^4 -3-oxosteroid 5 β -reductase deficiency

Bile ducts poorly developed, lacking normal microvillus structure
and filled with electron-dense material

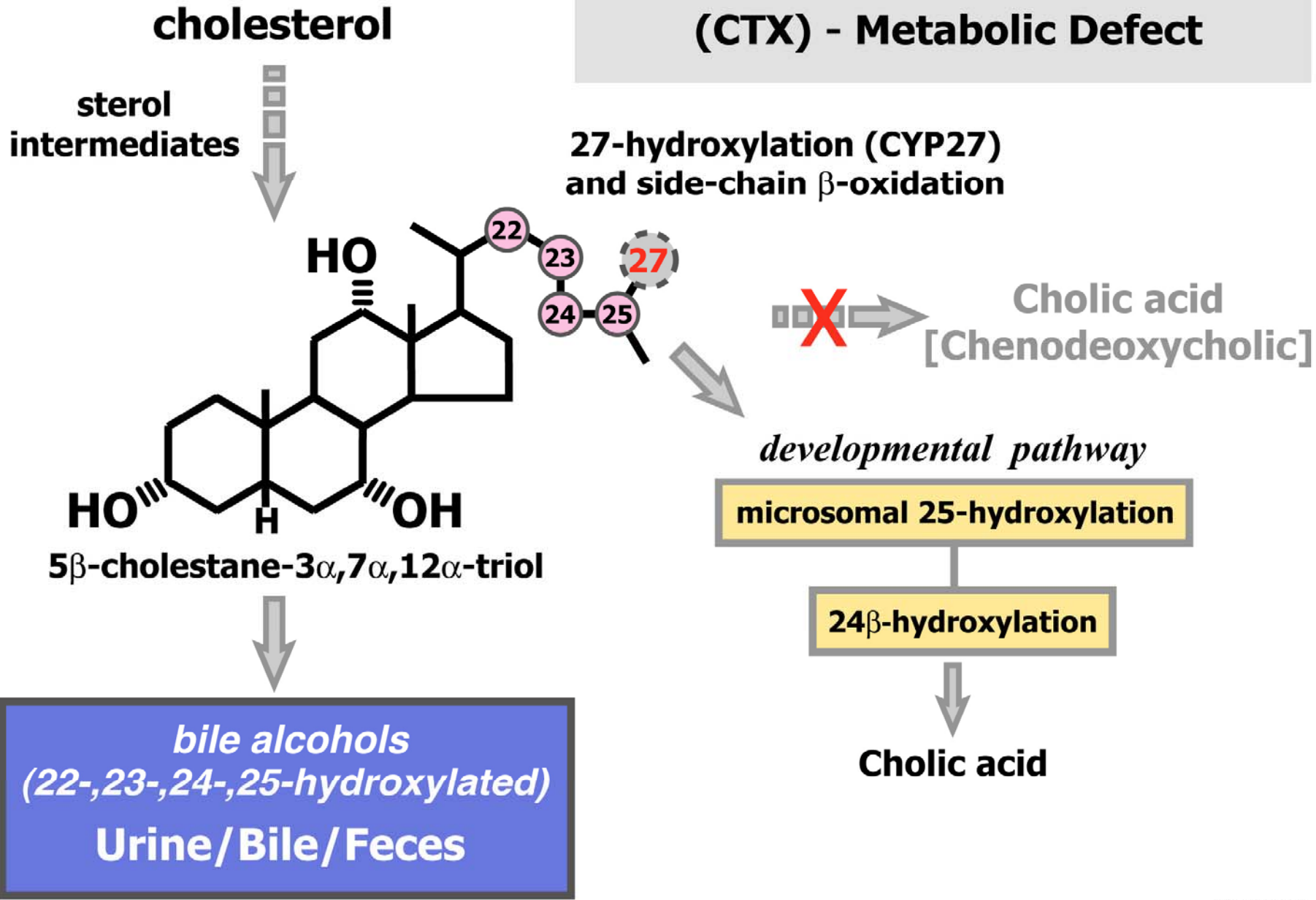


Before treatment



**After 6 months of
bile acid therapy**

Sterol 27-hydroxylase Deficiency (CTX) - Metabolic Defect



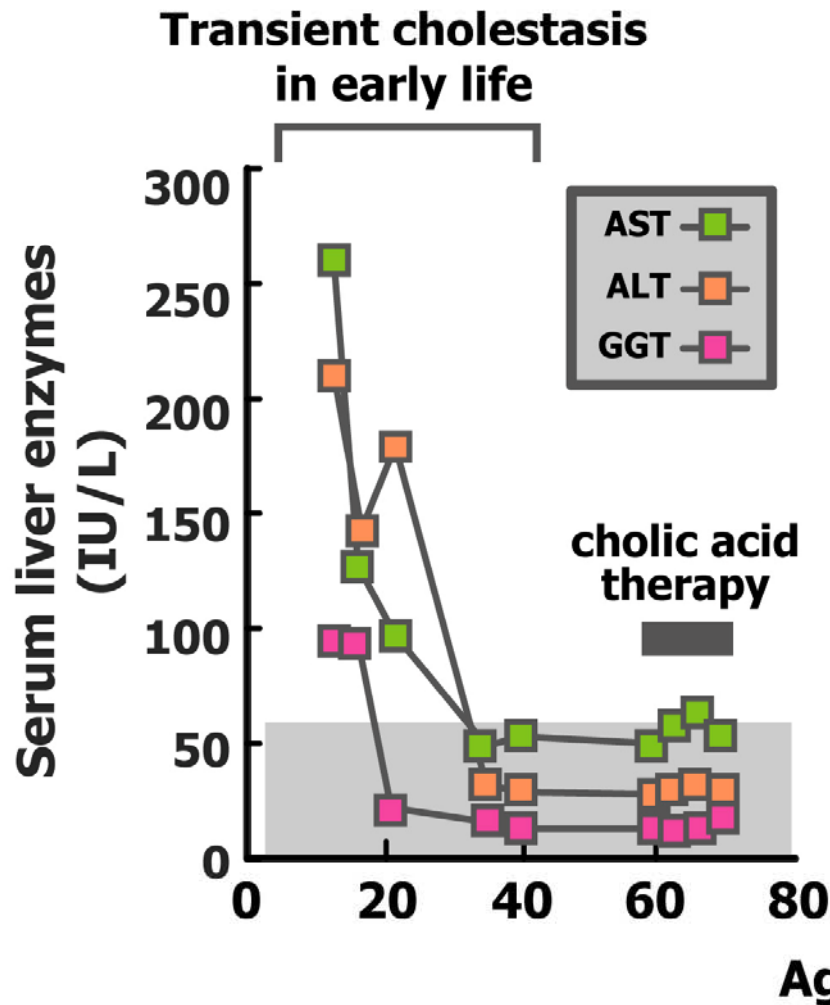
Clinical History-Index Patient

- Asian male (parents 1st cousins), full term pregnancy, BW 2.6 kg
- At 8 weeks, prolonged jaundice, pale stools
 - Serum bilirubin 4.9 mg/dl, albumin 3.9 gm/dl, AST 275 u/L, ALP 1281 U/L
 - Cholic acid started
- Age 3 months, poor growth, weight 3%ile, hepatosplenomegaly
 - Serum AST 260 U/L, ALT 212 U/L, GGT 95 U/L, ALP 2555 U/L

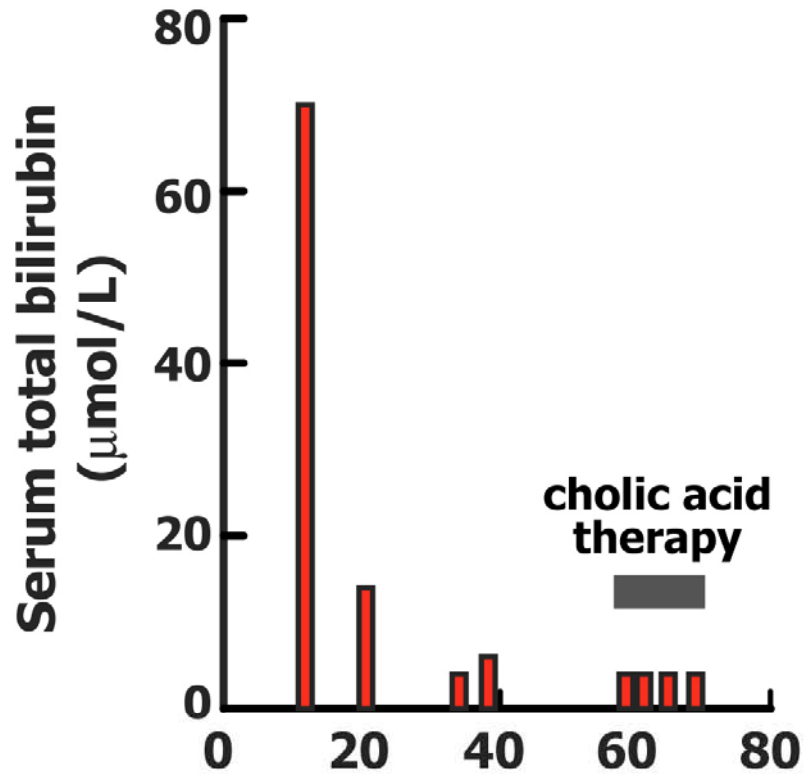
Clinical History Index Patient

- **Impression: Neonatal hepatitis**
- Age 4 months: jaundice ↓, pruritus
- Age 5 months: resolved jaundice, pruritus improved, BW at 50thile
- Age 8 months: LFT's normal
- Age 13 months: seizures

Liver Function Tests in an Infant with Sterol 27-hydroxylase Deficiency

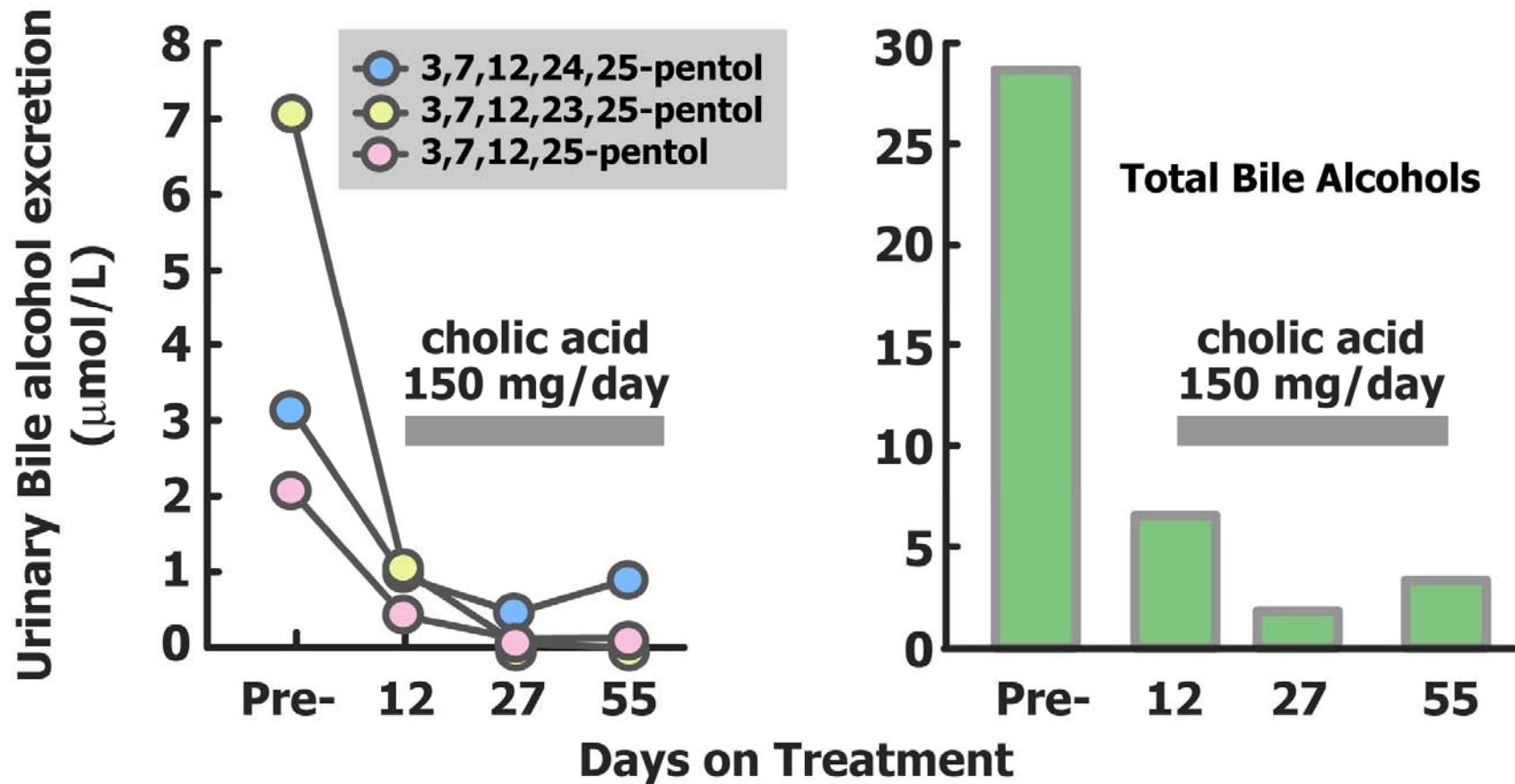


Patient: 12-week old infant diagnosed with CTX



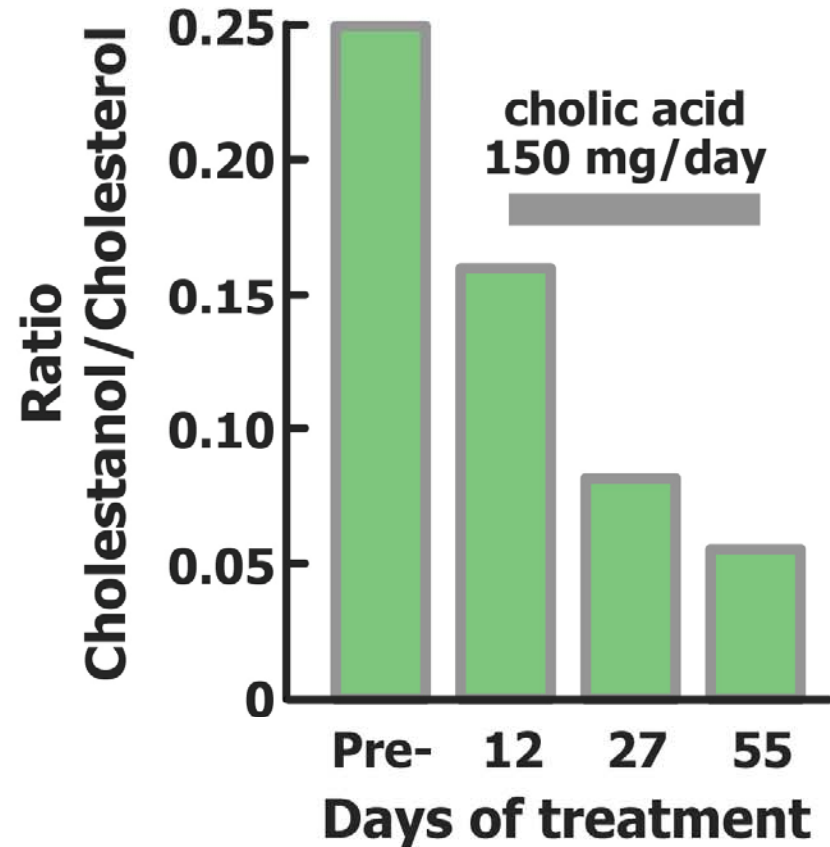
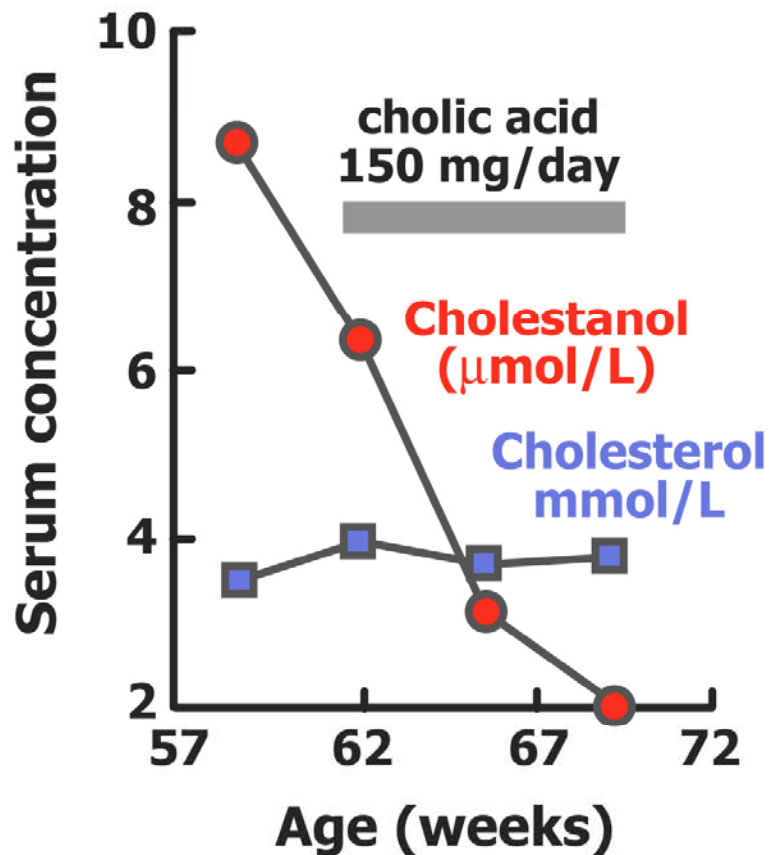
Changes in Urinary Bile Alcohol Excretion with Cholic Acid Therapy

Patient : MM - Sterol 27-hydroxylase deficiency
Oral cholic acid 150 mg/day



Cholestanol/Cholesterol Changes in Response to Cholic Acid Therapy

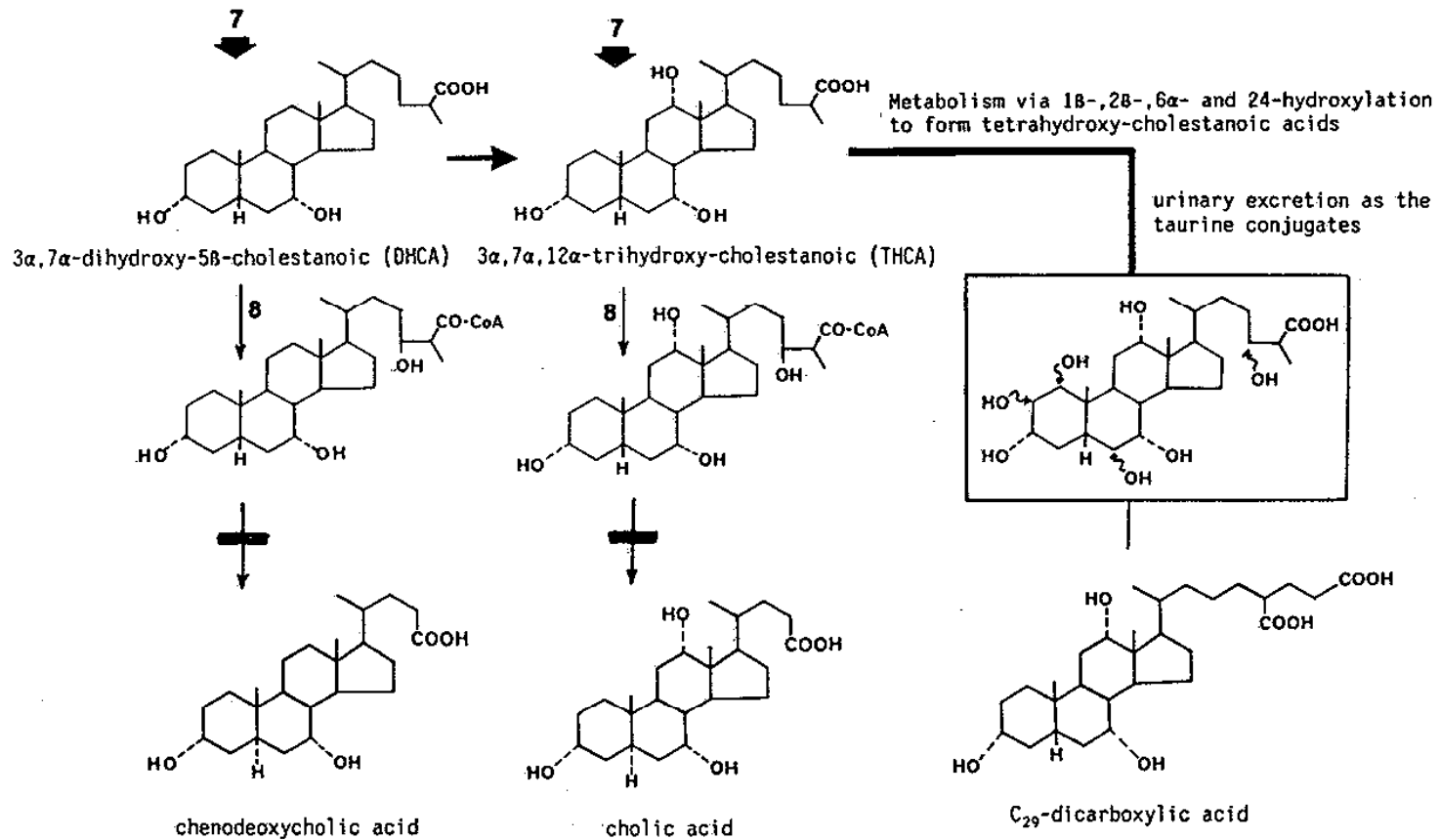
Patient : MM - Sterol 27-hydroxylase deficiency
Oral cholic acid 150 mg/day



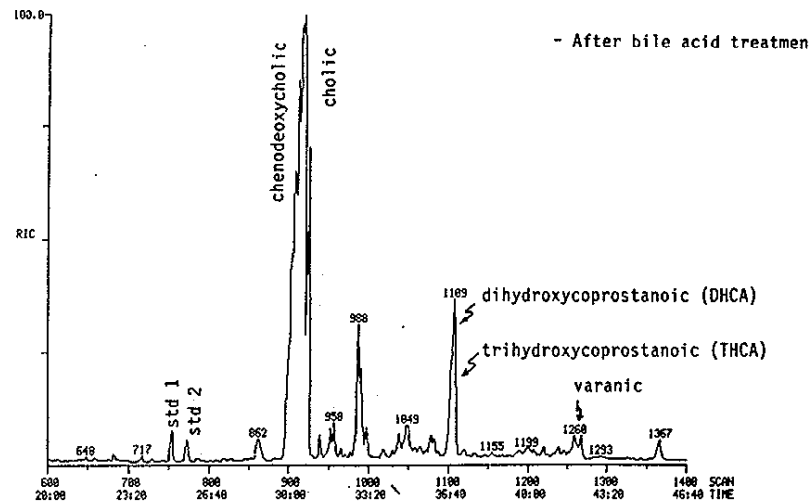
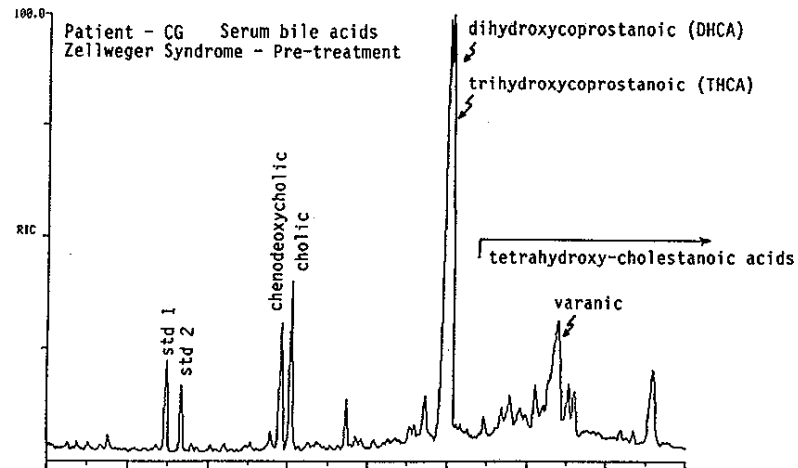
Disorders of Peroxisomal Function

- Zellweger syndrome, Neonatal Adrenoleukodystrophy, Refsum syndrome
- Profound muscular weakness, liver disease, fatal early in life
- Characterized by absent peroxisomes or defects of enzymes in peroxisomes
- BA and defects of FA metabolism:
 - Accumulation of VLCFA, Pipecolic Acid, Phytanic, Pristanic Acids
 - Di- and Trihydroxycholestanoic acid

Effect of peroxisomal disorders on BA synthetic pathway



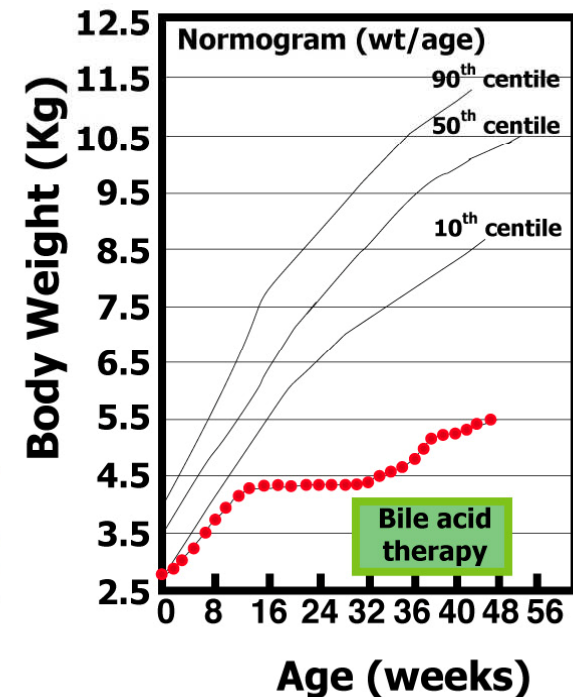
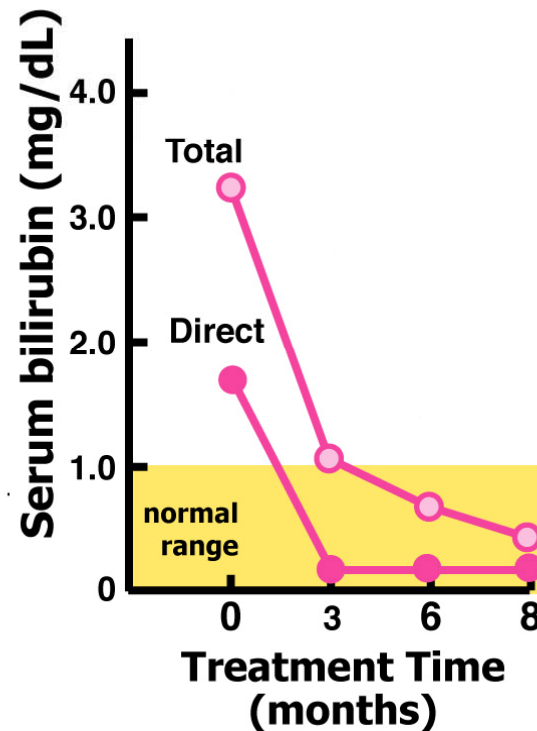
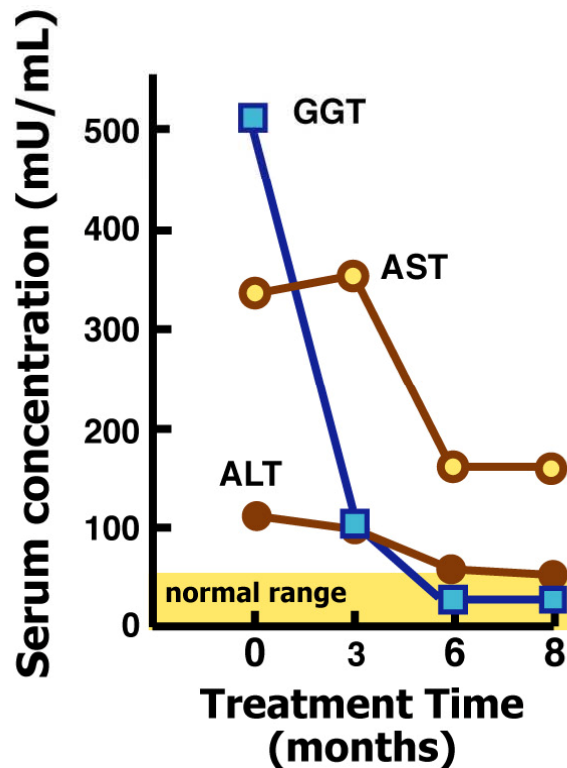
Effect of CA in Peroxisomal Disorders



Effect of Oral Primary Bile Acid Treatment on LFT's and Growth in a Patient with Zellwegers

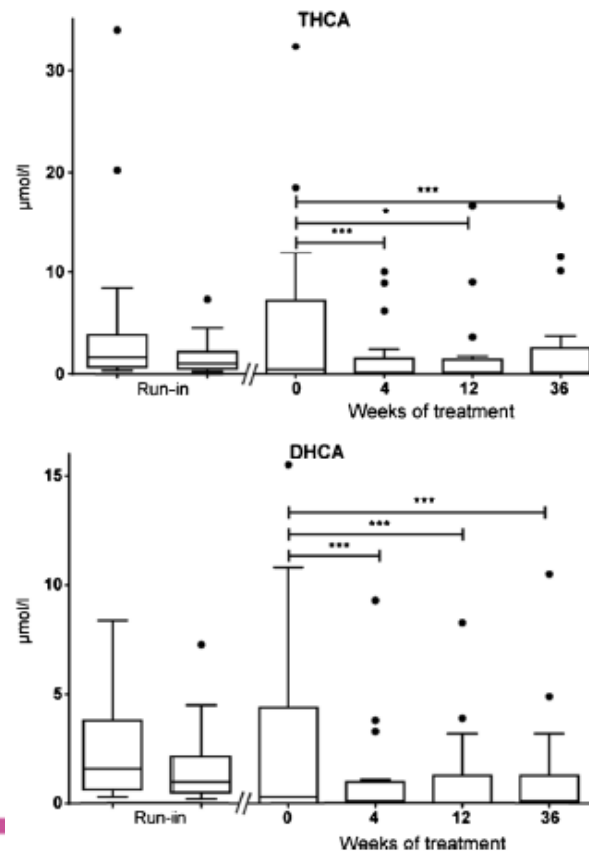
Index Case:

Cholic and chenodeoxycholic acid (15 mg/kg bw/day)



Reference: Setchell et al., Hepatology 1992; 15:198-207

Response to Cholic Acid



Safety/Efficacy of Cholic Acid

- Bile acid therapy singled out as curative for BA defects by IOM*
- No drug-related adverse events in > 20 year use
- Impressive clinical response
 - Normalization of liver chemistries
 - Resolution of histologic abnormalities
 - Improved growth
- Treatment failures only in advanced ESLD
- Exceptions (Cholic acid does not work!)
 - Oxysterol 7 α -hydroxylase deficiency
 - Conjugation defects (treated with glycocholic acid)

*IOM Report on Rare Diseases and Orphan Products 2010

Acknowledgements

- William K Schubert, M.D.
- Bill Balistreri, M.D.
- **Donna Buckley**
- Nancy O'Connell
- Linda Nechemias
- Pinky Jha
- Wujuan Zhang
- Stephanie Galandi
- Kevin Bove, M.D.
- Laura Woollett, Ph.D.
- David Russell, Ph.D.
- **Collaborating MDs**
 - Ron Sokol
 - Carol Potter
 - Ben Shneider
 - Rob Squires
 - Saul Karpen
 - Simon Horslen
 - David Suskind
 - Phil Rosenthal
- **CRC Staff**
 - Nurses, dietitians
 - Andrea Smith
- **Patients/families**
- **Sponsors**
 - NIH (NCRR, NIDDK), FDA (OPG), CCHMC, Asklepiion Pharm



Gracias