



A young man with hypertension, renal failure, hypercalcemia, and “no diagnosis”

Matt Ettleson, M.D.*

Endorama

October 24, 2019

M170



AT THE FOREFRONT

**UChicago
Medicine**

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (9-2296)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (9-49911)

UNSUB; "VALLEJO TIMES-HAROLD," VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA-VICTIM,
EXTORTION.

REURTEL NOVEMBER SIX LAST. ^{Nov 29}

LATENT FINGERPRINTS AND IMPRESSIONS THIS CASE NOT IDENTICAL
FINGERPRINTS OF [REDACTED] BORN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI NUMBER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BORN [REDACTED] FBI NUMBER

[REDACTED] OR [REDACTED] BORN [REDACTED]

¹⁴ [REDACTED] NO PALM PRINTS HERE FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS.

[REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] MAY BE IDENTICAL INDIVIDUALS NAMED RETEI.

NO FINGERPRINTS OUR FILES FOR [REDACTED]

GEG/lvc 

Learning Objectives

- Briefly review the diagnosis and evaluation [REDACTED]
- Explain the mechanism of [REDACTED] and other [REDACTED]
- Discuss the fundamentals of [REDACTED]
- Identify [REDACTED] for [REDACTED]
- Speculate on role of [REDACTED] in this case [if time allows]

**22 year old man presents with headache, vision changes,
and progressive lower extremity weakness.**



HPI: a chronology

2007



Presents with abdominal pain, possibly appendicitis. An abdominal CT scan demonstrates borderline prominent mesenteric lymph nodes in the RLQ which is consistent with mesenteric adenitis. No secondary signs of appendicitis.



~~21.6~~ ~~16~~ ~~303~~

139	103	23	115
5.1	23	0.5	

calcium 9.9
albumin ?

Abdominal pain resolved. No further work up at that time.

HPI: a chronology

2016



Presents with R inguinal pain. He has multiple palpable inguinal lymph nodes. He undergoes CT imaging, which demonstrates lymphadenopathy (again) and ascites.

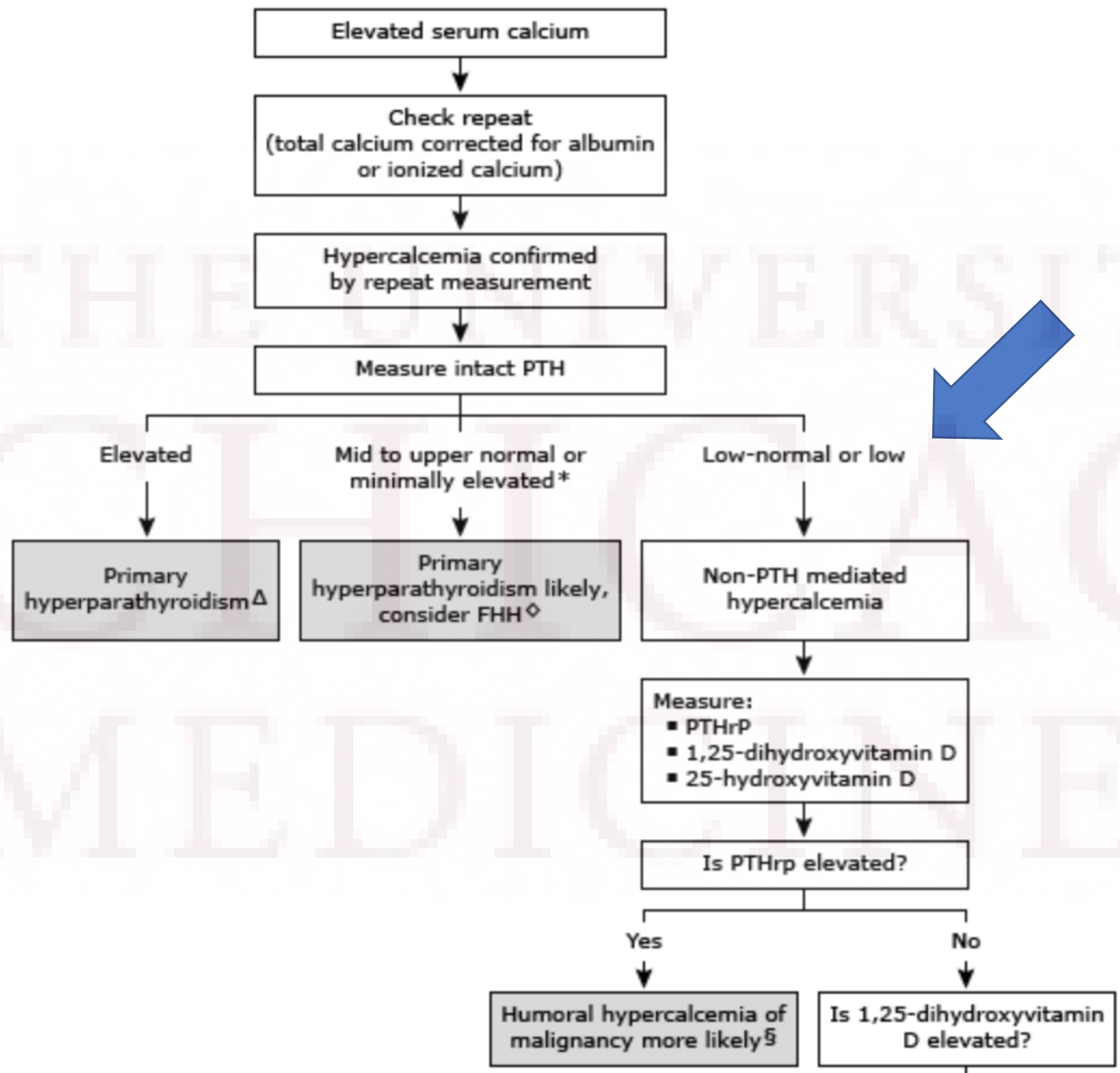


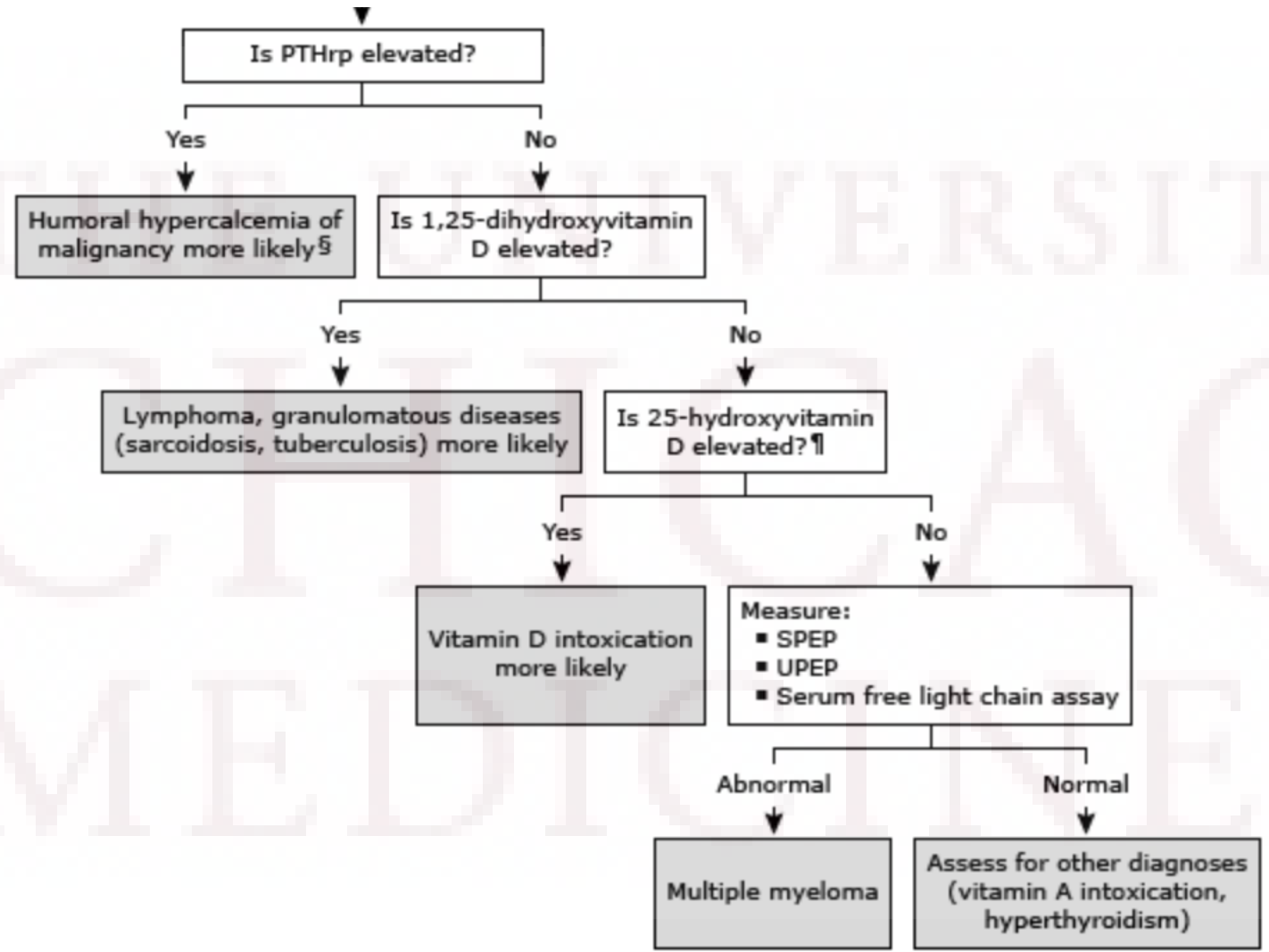
~~9.1 14 211~~

141	104	19	83
3.8	32	2.1	

calcium **12.8**
albumin 4.2
protein 7.0
alk phos 61
AST 15
ALT 11
mag 2.1
LDH 128

PTH **1.2**





HPI: a chronology

2016



Presents with R inguinal pain. He has multiple palpable inguinal lymph nodes. He undergoes CT imaging, which demonstrates lymphadenopathy (again) and ascites.



~~9.1 14 211~~

141	104	19	83
3.8	32	2.1	

calcium **12.8**
albumin 4.2
protein 7.0
alk phos 61
AST 15
ALT 11
mag 2.1
LDH 128

PTH **1.2**

Vitamin D 25-OH 15.8

Vitamin D 1, 25-OH 68.5 (cr 1.6)

TSH 4.0

PTH-rp: **3.1**

SPEP: normal serum protein pattern, normal IF

HPI: a chronology

calcium **12.8**
albumin 4.2
protein 7.0
alk phos 61
AST 15
ALT 11
mag 2.1
LDH 128

PTH **1.2** 

TSH 4.0

Vitamin D 1, 25-OH 68.5

Vitamin D 25-OH 15.8

PTH-rp: **3.1**

How do you interpret these findings in the setting of the patient's acute kidney injury?

What are your next steps?

Submitted 5.23.11 | Revision Received 6.10.11 | Accepted 6.14.11

Falsely Elevated Parathyroid Hormone-Related Protein (PTH-RP) in a Patient With Hypercalcemia and Renal Failure

Gifford Lum, MD

(Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service, VA Boston Healthcare System, Boston, MA)

DOI: 10.1309/LM23TD4IUTAJBUMG

Abstract

Humoral hypercalcemia of malignancy (HHM) is the cause of hypercalcemia in the majority of patients with hypercalcemia and cancer. Parathyroid hormone-related protein (PTH-RP) has been identified as the circulating factor that mediates HHM. An N-terminal and a C-terminal PTH-RP are clinically useful assays for screening patients for HHM, and both assays are elevated in such patients. C-terminal PTH-RP

depends on glomerular filtration and accumulates in patients with renal failure without malignancy, resulting in falsely-elevated levels, whereas N-terminal PTH-RP is low or undetectable in such patients. We present a case of a patient with renal failure and hypercalcemia who did not have an obvious malignancy and who presented with an elevated C-terminal PTH-RP level and a normal N-terminal PTH-RP. In patients with renal failure and hypercalcemia

without cancer, C-terminal PTH-RP may be falsely elevated, especially if the eGFR is <20 mL/minute, and in such patients, N-terminal PTH-RP, because it is less affected by renal function, is the preferred test.

Keywords: PTH-RP, hypercalcemia, false elevation, renal failure, malignancy, C-terminal PTH-RP, N-terminal PTH-RP

The patient was a 76-year-old male who was admitted to the hospital for the revision of a right total knee amputation. Past medical history was significant for end-stage renal disease treated with hemodialysis (3 times a week), Type II diabetes, total right knee amputation, hypertension, gout, peripheral neuropathy, anemia of chronic disease, osteoarthritis, hypertension, and history of prostate carcinoma and right knee infection.

Table 1 summarizes this patient's principal laboratory results. The most striking laboratory findings were an elevated serum total calcium of 11.4 mg/dL, an elevated ionized calcium of 6.0 mg/dL, elevated serum creatinine of 5.6 mg/dL,

a low estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) of 14 mL/minute, elevated urea nitrogen of 48 mg/dL, and elevated intact parathyroid hormone (PTH) of 328 pg/mL. The patient was also anemic, with a RBC of 3.2 K/cmm, hemoglobin of 9.3 g/dL, and hematocrit of 27.1%. His hypercalcemia persisted despite the use of cinacalcet, a calcimimetic agent. Because of this patient's hypercalcemia and to screen this patient for malignancy, a PTH-related protein (PTH-RP) was sent to a reference laboratory (Quest Diagnostics, Nicholas

Table 1 Principal Laboratory Findings

Test	Patient's Result	"Normal" Reference Range
<i>Chemistry</i>		
Albumin	2.5	3.2-5.0 mg/dL
Calcium, ionized	6.0	4.5-5.3 mg/dL
Calcium, total	11.4	8.5-10.5 mg/dL
Creatinine	5.6	0.5-1.5 mg/dL
eGFR	14	>60 mL/min
Magnesium	2.1	1.8-2.4 mg/dL
Phosphate	4.1	2.5-5.0 mg/dL
PTH intact	328	12-88 pg/mL
Total protein	6.2	6.0-8.5 mg/dL
Urea nitrogen	48	7-25 mg/dL
<i>Hematology</i>		
RBC	3.2	4.7-6.1 K/cmm
Hemoglobin	9.3	14-18 g/dL
Hematocrit	27.1	40%-50%

Corresponding Authors

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Abbreviations

HHM, humoral hypercalcemia of malignancy; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; PTH, parathyroid hormone; PTH-RP, parathyroid hormone-related protein; PTH, parathyroid hormone

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PTH-rp is widely expressed in normal and malignant tissues.

Most labs screen for C-terminal PTH-rp levels because it is more stable, but clearance depends on GFR.

PTH-rp can be falsely elevated in patients with renal failure without malignancy.

Vitamin D-Mediated Hypercalcemia: Mechanisms, Diagnosis, and Treatment

Peter J. Tebben, Ravinder J. Singh, and Rajiv Kumar

Divisions of Endocrinology (P.J.T., R.K.) and Nephrology and Hypertension (R.K.), and Departments of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine (P.J.T.), Internal Medicine (P.J.T., R.K.), Laboratory Medicine and Pathology (R.J.S.), and Biochemistry in Molecular Biology (R.K.), Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota 55905

Hypercalcemia occurs in up to 4% of the population in association with malignancy, primary hyperparathyroidism, ingestion of excessive calcium and/or vitamin D, ectopic production of 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D [1,25(OH)₂D], and impaired degradation of 1,25(OH)₂D. The ingestion of excessive amounts of vitamin D₃ (or vitamin D₂) results in hypercalcemia and hypercalciuria due to the formation of supraphysiological amounts of 25-hydroxyvitamin D [25(OH)D] that bind to the vitamin D receptor, albeit with lower affinity than the active form of the vitamin, 1,25(OH)₂D, and the formation of 5,6-*trans* 25(OH)D, which binds to the vitamin D receptor more tightly than 25(OH)D. In patients with granulomatous disease such as sarcoidosis or tuberculosis and tumors such as lymphomas, hypercalcemia occurs as a result of the activity of ectopic 25(OH)D-1-hydroxylase (CYP27B1) expressed in macrophages or tumor cells and the formation of excessive amounts of 1,25(OH)₂D. Recent work has identified a novel cause of non-PTH-mediated hypercalcemia that occurs when the degradation of 1,25(OH)₂D is impaired as a result of mutations of the 1,25(OH)₂D-24-hydroxylase cytochrome P450 (CYP24A1). Patients with biallelic and, in some instances, monoallelic mutations of the *CYP24A1* gene have elevated serum calcium concentrations associated with elevated serum 1,25(OH)₂D, suppressed PTH concentrations, hypercalciuria, nephrocalcinosis, nephrolithiasis, and on occasion, reduced bone density. Of interest, first-time calcium renal stone formers have elevated 1,25(OH)₂D and evidence of impaired 24-hydroxylase-mediated 1,25(OH)₂D degradation. We will describe the biochemical processes associated with the synthesis and degradation of various vitamin D metabolites, the clinical features of the vitamin D-mediated hypercalcemia, their biochemical diagnosis, and treatment. (*Endocrine Reviews* 37: 521–547, 2016)

- I. Introduction
- II. Vitamin D-Associated Hypercalcemia
 - A. Vitamin D metabolism
 - B. Prevalence and clinical manifestations of vitamin D-mediated hypercalcemia
 - C. Hypercalcemia associated with excessive ingestion of vitamin D and active vitamin D metabolites/analogues
 - D. Hypercalcemia associated with granulomatous disease.
 - E. Hypercalcemia associated with *CYP24A1* mutations
- III. Summary and Conclusions

I. Introduction

Hypercalcemia is encountered in 0.2 to 4% of community-dwelling subjects and hospital patients (1–8). The incidence of hypercalcemia is dependent upon whether serum calcium measurements are performed in free-living subjects in a community (1), in a hospital population

(2–4), or in patients seen in an emergency department (5, 6, 8). Causes of hypercalcemia are listed in Table 1. Cancer-associated hypercalcemia and primary hyperparathyroidism are the most frequent causes of hypercalcemia. Their relative frequency depends upon whether the diagnosis of hypercalcemia is made in a hospital setting (where cancer-associated hypercalcemia is most frequent) or within the context of an outpatient practice (where the diagnosis of primary hyperparathyroidism predominates) (9).

From a diagnostic and therapeutic perspective, it is useful to think of hypercalcemia as a PTH-dependent or PTH-independent process. Increases in PTH concentrations in association with hypercalcemia indicate the presence of primary (10–14), tertiary (15–28), and post-transplant hyperparathyroidism (3, 21, 25, 26, 28–38) or severe neonatal hyperparathyroidism (associated with homozygous mutations of the calcium-sensing receptor) (39–42),

Abbreviations: HTLV, human T lymphotropic virus; IH, idiopathic infantile hypercalcemia; 1,25(OH)₂D, 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D; 25(OH)D, 25-hydroxyvitamin D; PAM, pulmonary alveolar macrophage; VDBP, vitamin D binding protein.

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Table 2. Vitamin D-Associated Hypercalcemia

Exogenous Vitamin D Toxicity

Administration of excessive amounts of vitamin D₃ or vitamin D₂

Administration of excessive amounts of 25(OH)D₃

Administration of excessive amounts of 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃, other 1 α -hydroxylated vitamin D analogs such as 1 α (OH)D₃, paricalcitol, and doxercalciferol in the context of chronic renal failure, end-stage renal disease, and hemodialysis therapy

Excessive Production of Vitamin D Metabolites

Congenital disorders: excessive production of 25(OH)D and 1,25(OH)₂D₃, eg, in Williams-Beuren syndrome with mutations of the Williams Syndrome Transcription Factor

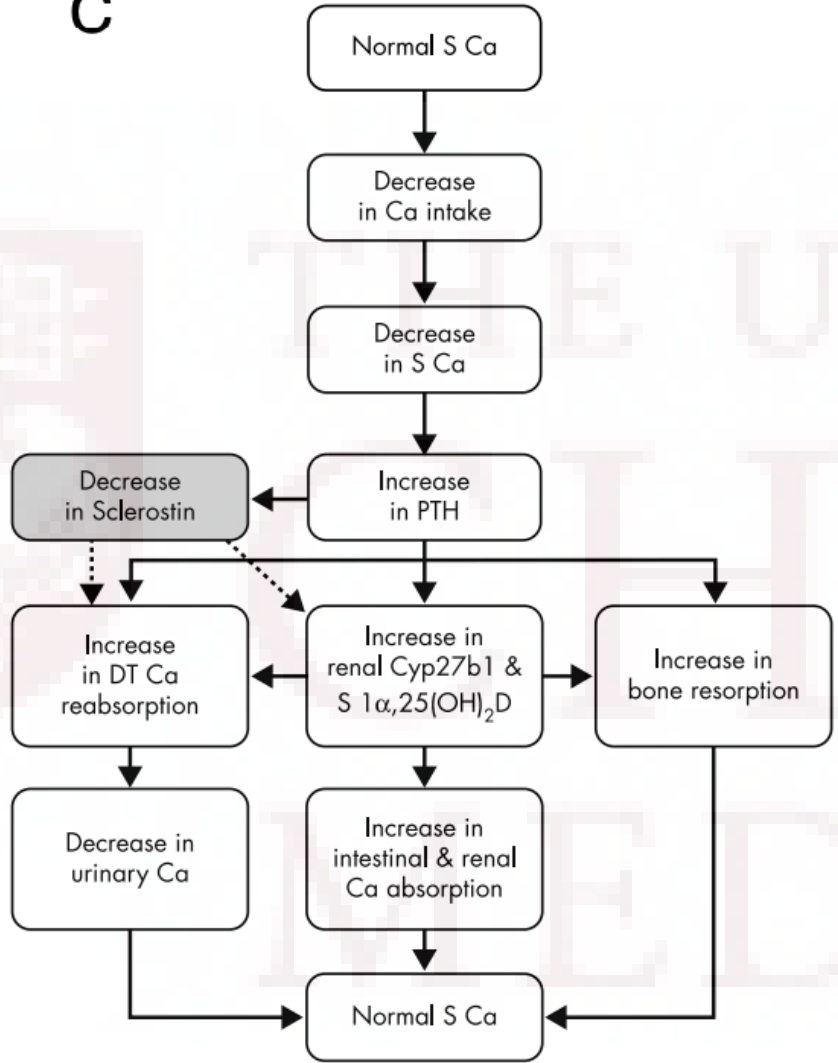
Granulomatous disease: excessive production of 1,25(OH)₂D₃: sarcoidosis, tuberculosis, leprosy, histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, paracoccidioidomycosis, candidiasis, cat-scratch disease, *Pneumocystis jiroveci* or *P. carinii* pneumonia, *Mycobacterium avium* complex, Wegener's granulomatosis, Crohn's disease, infantile sc fat necrosis, giant cell polymyositis, berylliosis, silicone-induced granuloma, paraffin-induced granulomatosis, talc granuloma.

Lymphomas and malignant lymphoproliferative disease: excessive production of 1,25(OH)₂D₃: lymphoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, lymphomatoid, granulomatosis, inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor, dysgerminoma

Mutations in Enzymes Associated With Vitamin D Metabolite**Degradation**

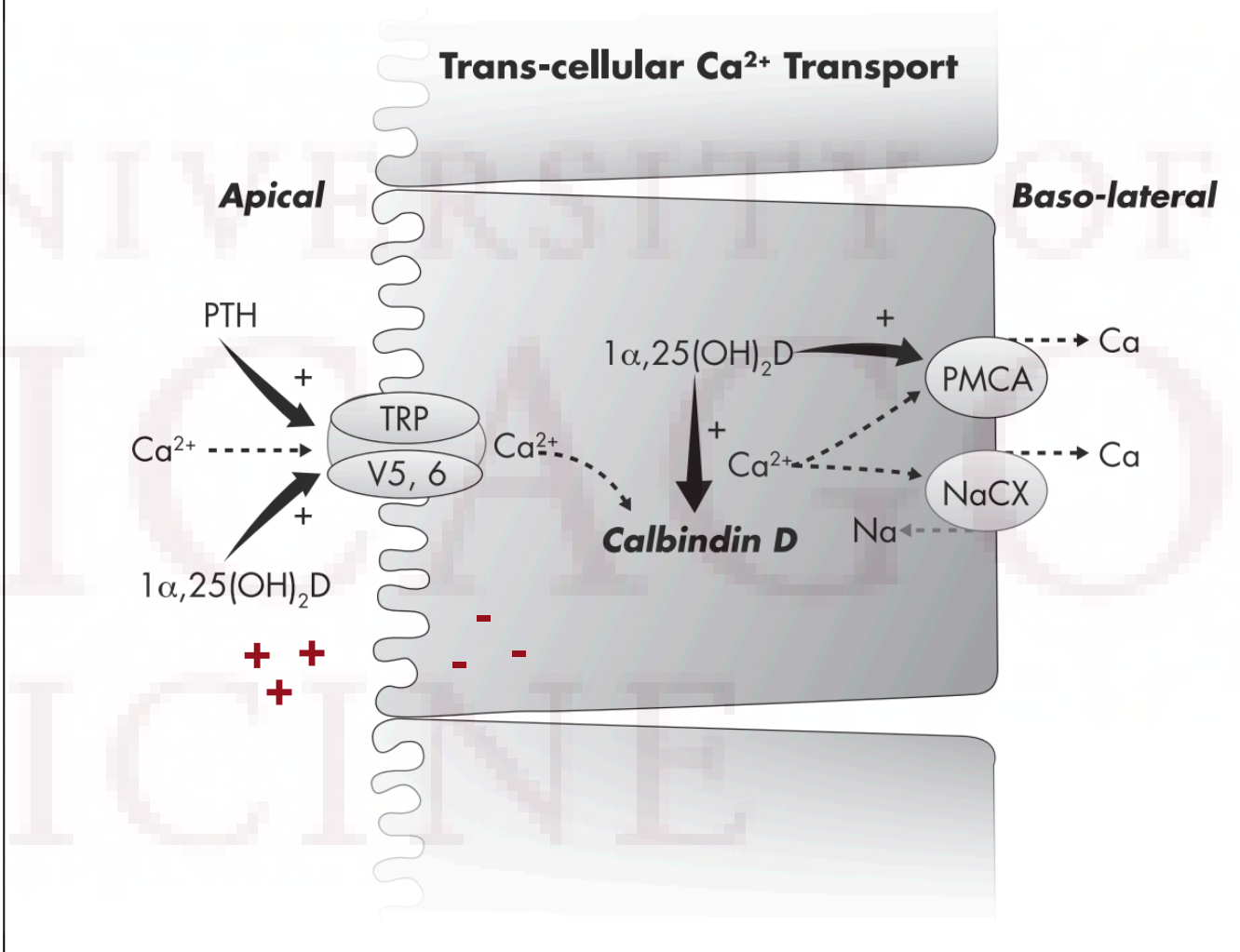
Mutations of the *CYP24A1* gene: reduced degradation of 1,25(OH)₂D₃: infantile and adult hypercalcemia

C



S=serum; Ca=calcium; DT=distal tubule and connecting duct;
Cyp27b1=25(OH)D₃-1-dydroxylase cytochrome P450

Trans-cellular Ca²⁺ Transport





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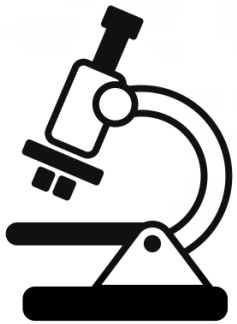
HPI: a chronology (continued)



Paracentesis: no evidence of infection, cytology 'negative for malignancy'



Bone marrow biopsy and peripheral smear: unremarkable



Core lymph node biopsy: reactive lymphoid tissue, no evidence of malignancy, no evidence of acid fast organisms or fungal elements.

HPI: a chronology (continued)

2018 - 2019



Further evaluation of secondary hypertension and renal disease

24 hour urine calcium: **535 mg/24h**

24 hour urine volume: 5050 mL/24h

24 hour urine creatinine: 1899 mg/24h

24 hour urine protein: 303 mg/24h

PTH **1.4**

Aldosterone: 5.5

Renin: 28.4

Serum metanephrines: 0.11

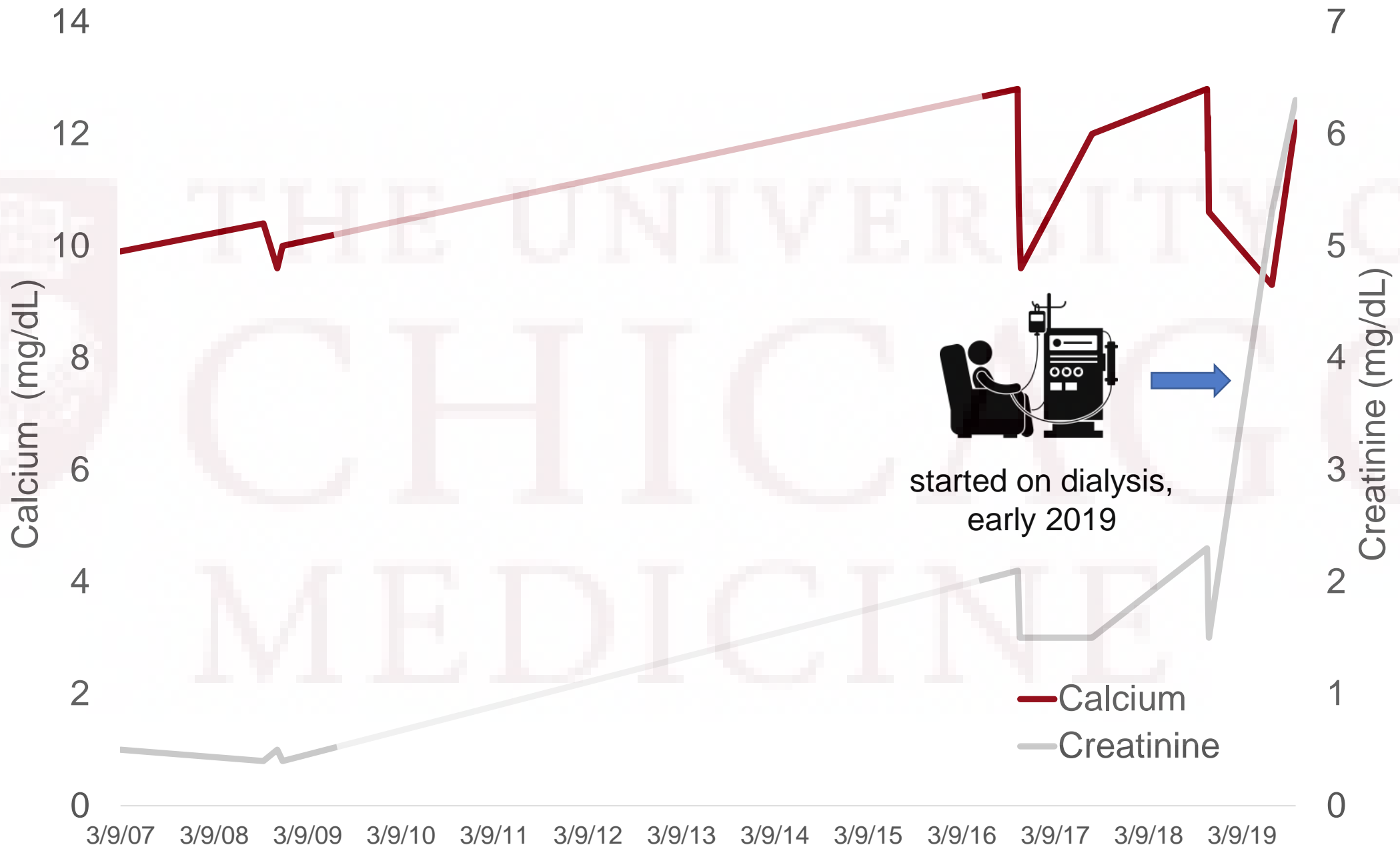
Serum normetanephrines: 0.22



Renal ultrasound with doppler:
bilateral nephrolithiasis and mild
hydronephrosis; normal renal peak systolic
velocities and resistive indices



Echocardiogram:
Reduced systolic function, EF ~40%



started on dialysis,
early 2019

— Calcium
— Creatinine

2019

The patient presents to
and weakness.



for evaluation headache, renal disease

HPI

The patient presents with 3 weeks of weakness, nausea and weight loss. He is having trouble walking and has been falling at home. He has symptoms of lightheadedness but no vertigo. During his last session of dialysis, he had transient loss of vision and headache. He had one episode of emesis and has some non-specific abdominal pain that is near his baseline. He was seen recently in the cardiology clinic to establish care for a new diagnosis of heart failure. He has lost 25lbs in the last 2 months and has little appetite. He has no history of passing kidney stones. He denies constipation. He denies heavy calcium intake.

Emergency department evaluation



Vitals

Temp: 36.8

Pulse: 87

RR: 19

BP: **149/73**

SO₂: 99%

Physical Exam

general: fatigued, does not engage in conversation

PERRL, EOMI

CTAB but decreased effort

RRR. No murmur appreciated

Tunneled catheter line in place with no skin changes

Diffusely tender to palpation in abdomen, scaphoid abdomen

2+ peripheral pulses

No costovertebral tenderness

No obvious skin changes.

Depressed mood. When directly asked, will answer questions appropriately

Emergency department evaluation



Current Medications

Amlodipine 10mg daily

Aspirin 81mg daily

B complex-vit C-folic acid daily

carvedilol 25mg BID

cholecalciferol 1000 units daily

Ferric citrate 420mg TID

hydralazine 25mg TID

isosorbide mononitrate 60mg daily

Biochemical evaluation



~~5.1~~ ~~11.0~~ ~~83~~

67% PMNs
15% lymphs

138	98	22	102
4.9	25	6.3	

calcium **12.2**
albumin 4.0
protein 6.8
alk phos 55
AST 16
ALT 13
mag 2.0
phos 4.4

iCal **5.85**
ESR 12
CRP **9**

BNP **4143**

TSH 1.86

PTH **6**

25-OH vitamin D 60

PTH-rp 2.6

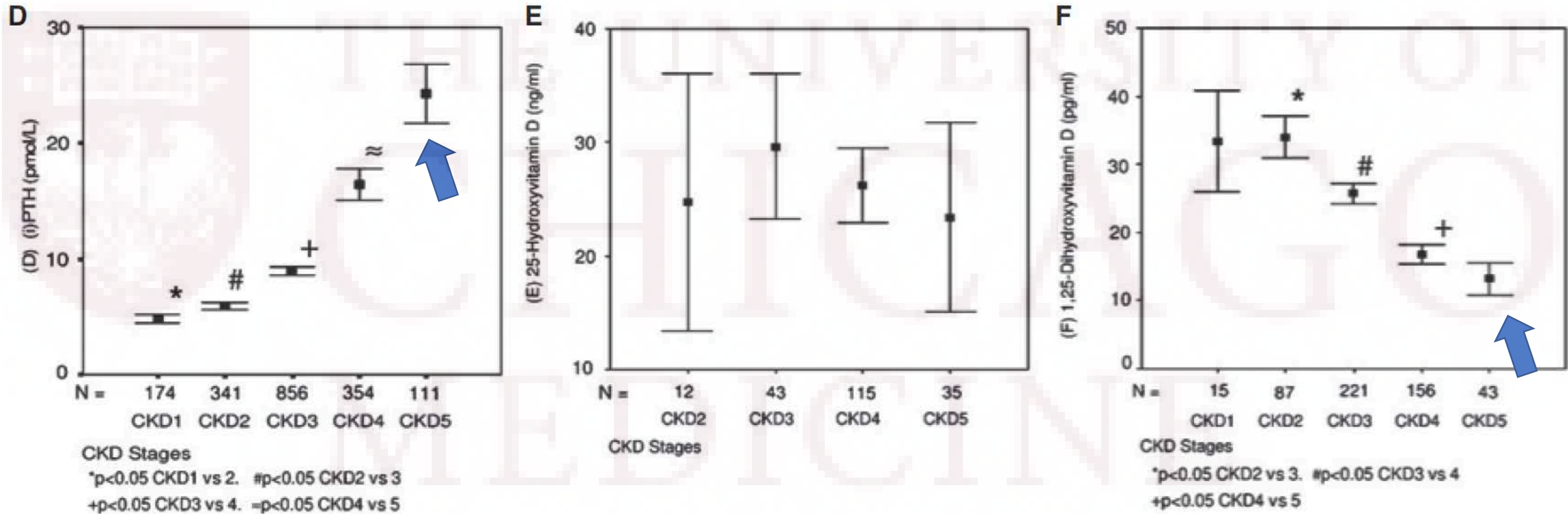
1, 25-OH vitamin D **191**

What is the significance of low PTH and alk phos in the setting of chronic renal failure?

Pathophysiology of Calcium, Phosphorus, and Magnesium Dysregulation in Chronic Kidney Disease

Arnold J. Felsenfeld,* Barton S. Levine,* and Mariano Rodriguez†

*Department of Medicine, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, California, and †Nephrology Service, IMBIC, Hospital Universitario Reina Sofia, University of Cordoba, Cordoba, Spain



*Typically, ESRD leads to decreased 1,25 – Vit D levels, causing hypocalcemia and secondary hyperparathyroidism. Our patient's PTH is **LOW**.*

Is this patient at risk of having adynamic bone disease?

Adynamic bone disease: “low or absent bone formation in conjunction with thin osteoid seams, decreased cellularity and minimal marrow fibrosis.”

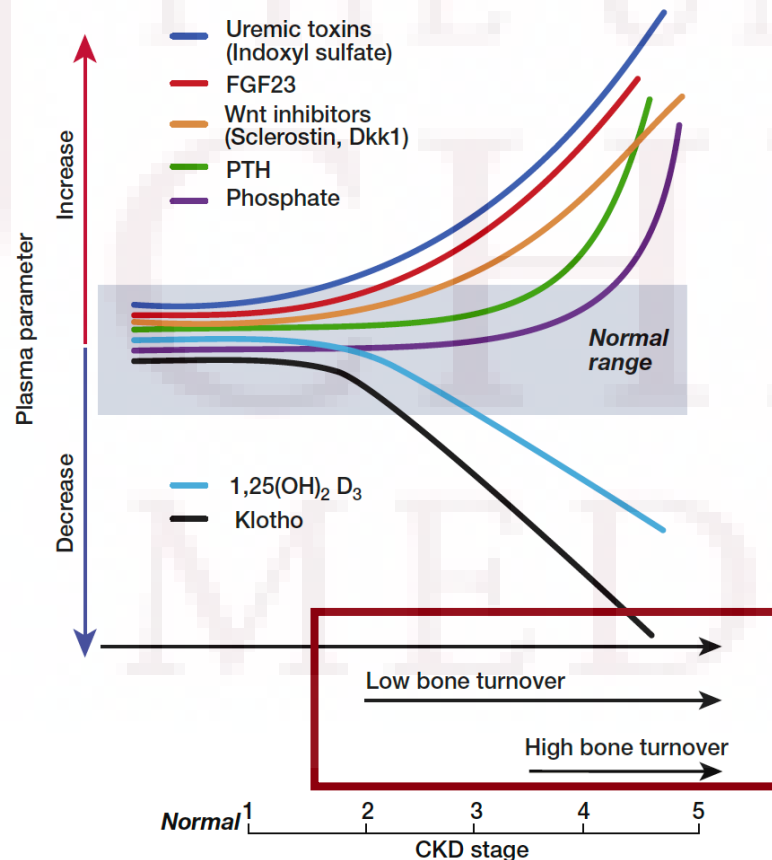


Figure 4 | Schematic view of the time profile of disturbances in mineral hormones and bone turnover with the progression of CKD. CKD, chronic kidney disease; Dkk1, Dickkopf-related protein-1;

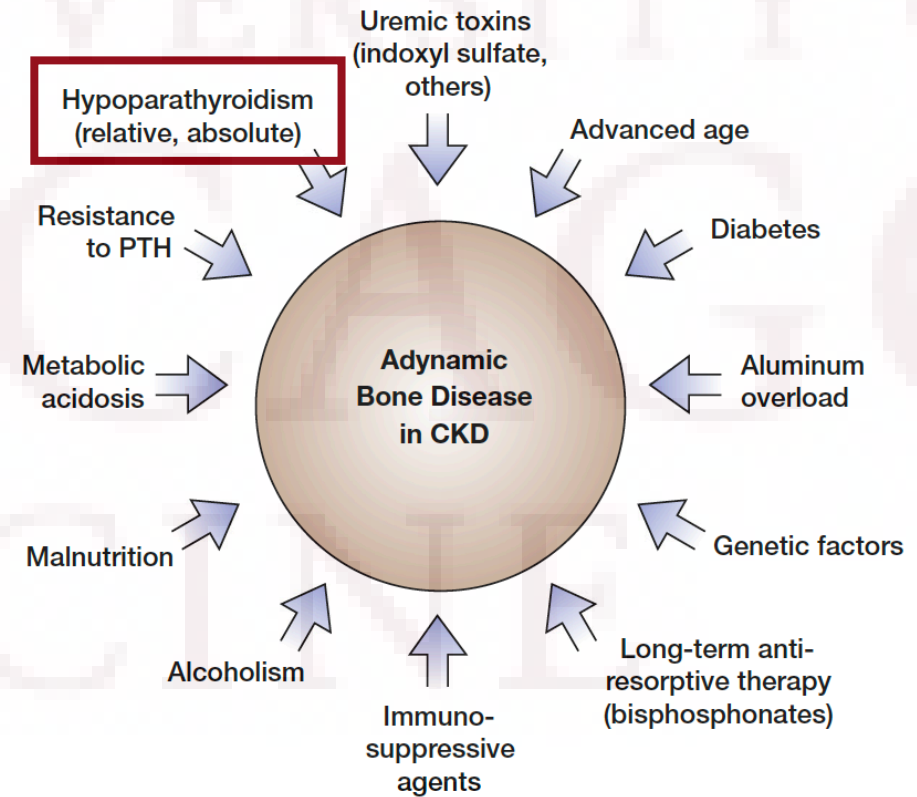


Figure 6 | Schematic representation of factors and conditions favoring low bone turnover (adynamic bone disease). Hypoparathyroidism is generally considered to be the main cause. It may

Is this patient at risk of having adynamic bone disease?

Adynamic bone disease: “low or absent bone formation in conjunction with thin osteoid seams, decreased cellularity and minimal marrow fibrosis.”

“The principal factor underlying adynamic bone disease is either oversuppression of PTH release or resistance of PTH actions on the bone.”

PTH suppression can occur via use of calcimimetic agents, calcium-based phosphate binders or *relatively high doses of vitamin D analogs*.

It is noted that patients with CKD and adynamic bone disease have *relatively low* PTH levels, which are usually still above the upper limit of normal.

What are the clinical features of adynamic bone disease and how is the diagnosis made?

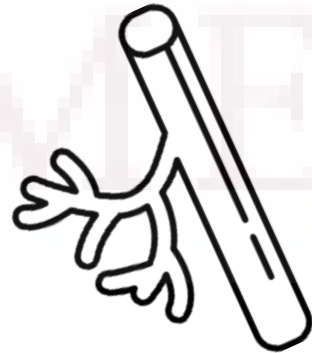
Most patients are asymptomatic. If symptoms are present, the most common are:

bone pain

fractures

hypercalcemia

vascular calcification



What are the clinical features of adynamic bone disease and how is the diagnosis made?

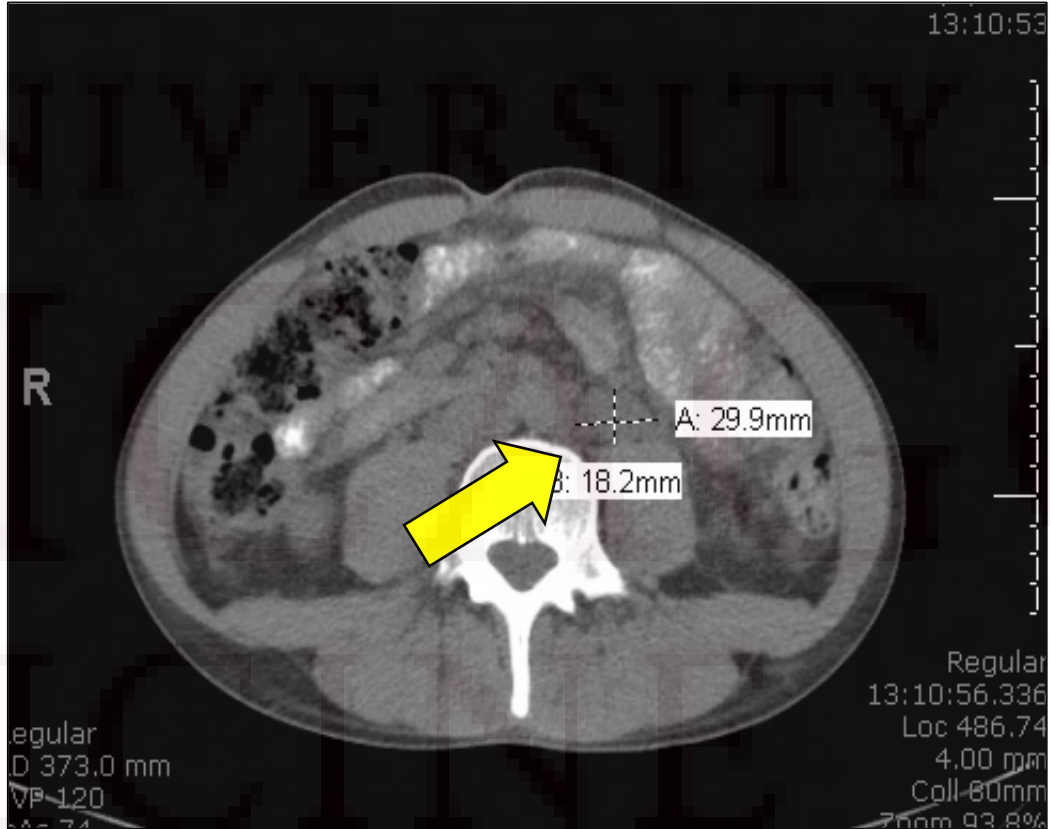
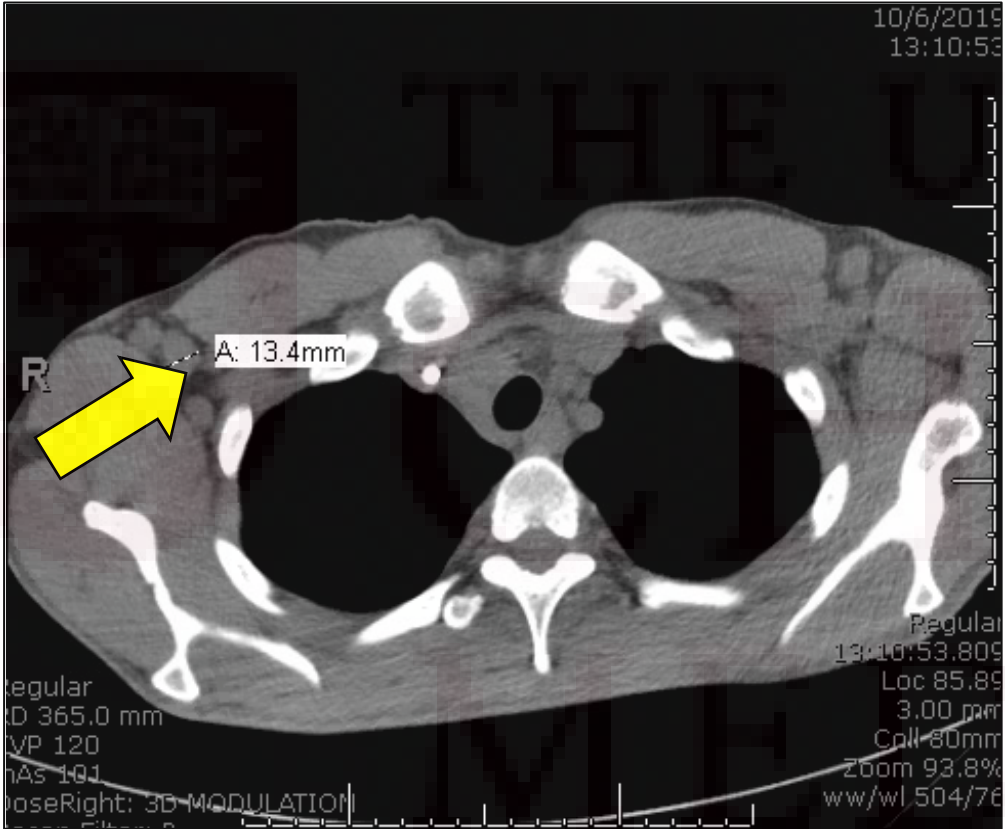
Among dialysis patients, **PTH levels less than 100 pg/mL** are consistent with ABD, especially if hypercalcemia is present.

High levels of **bone specific alkaline phosphatase** (>20 ng/mL) make ABD very unlikely.

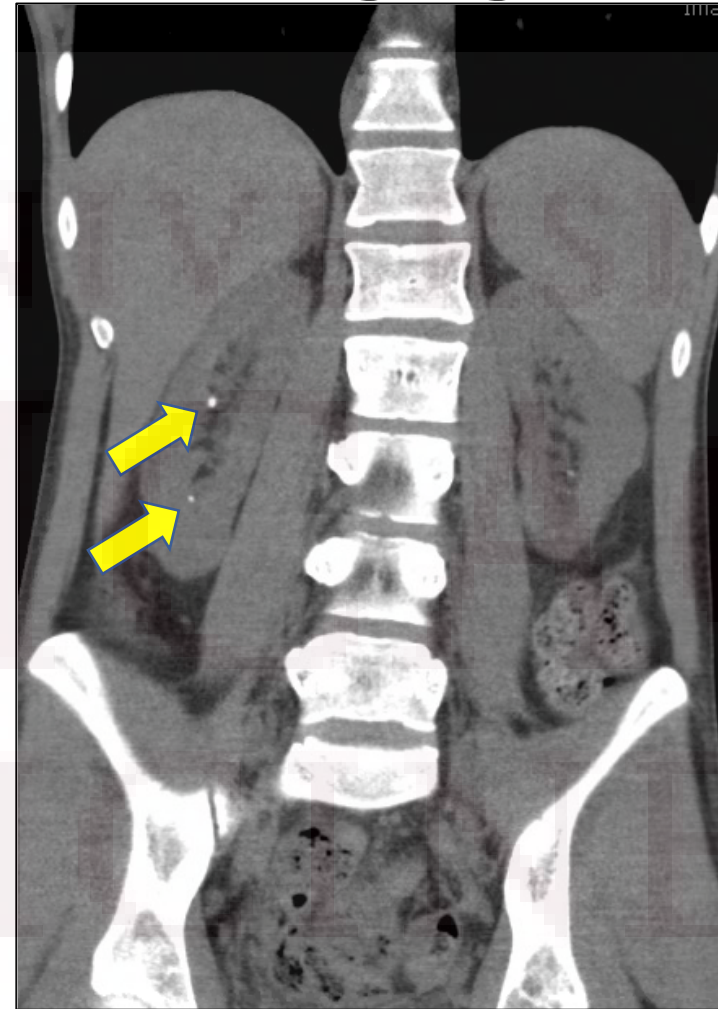
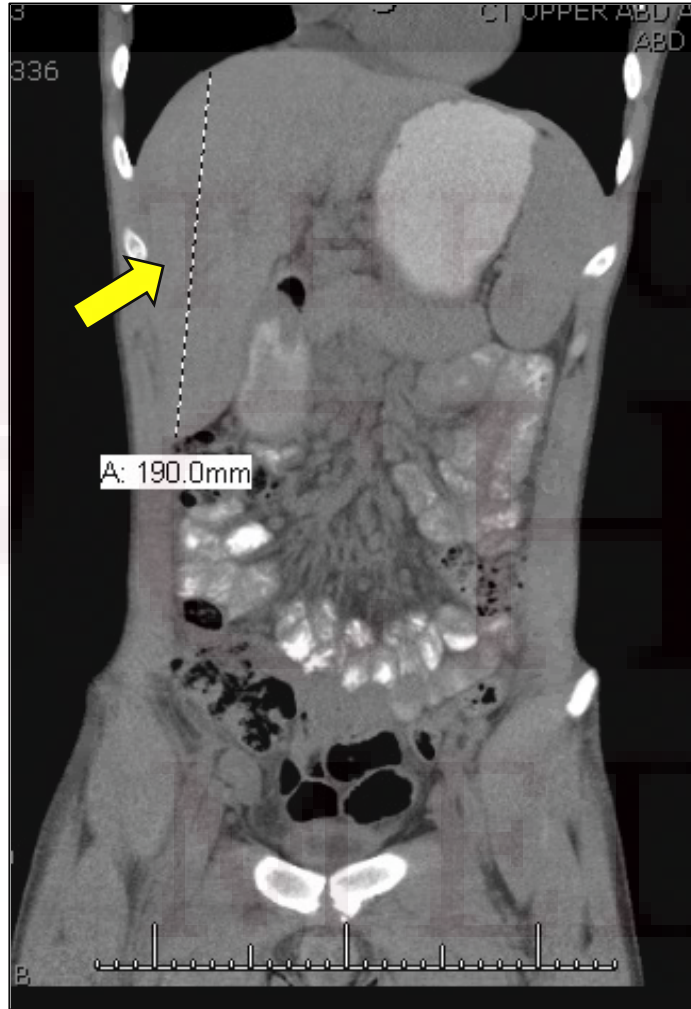
Definitive diagnosis is made on **bone biopsy**.

Our patient's bone-specific alkaline phosphatase: **8.5 ug/L** (0 – 20 ug/L).

radiographic and cross sectional imaging

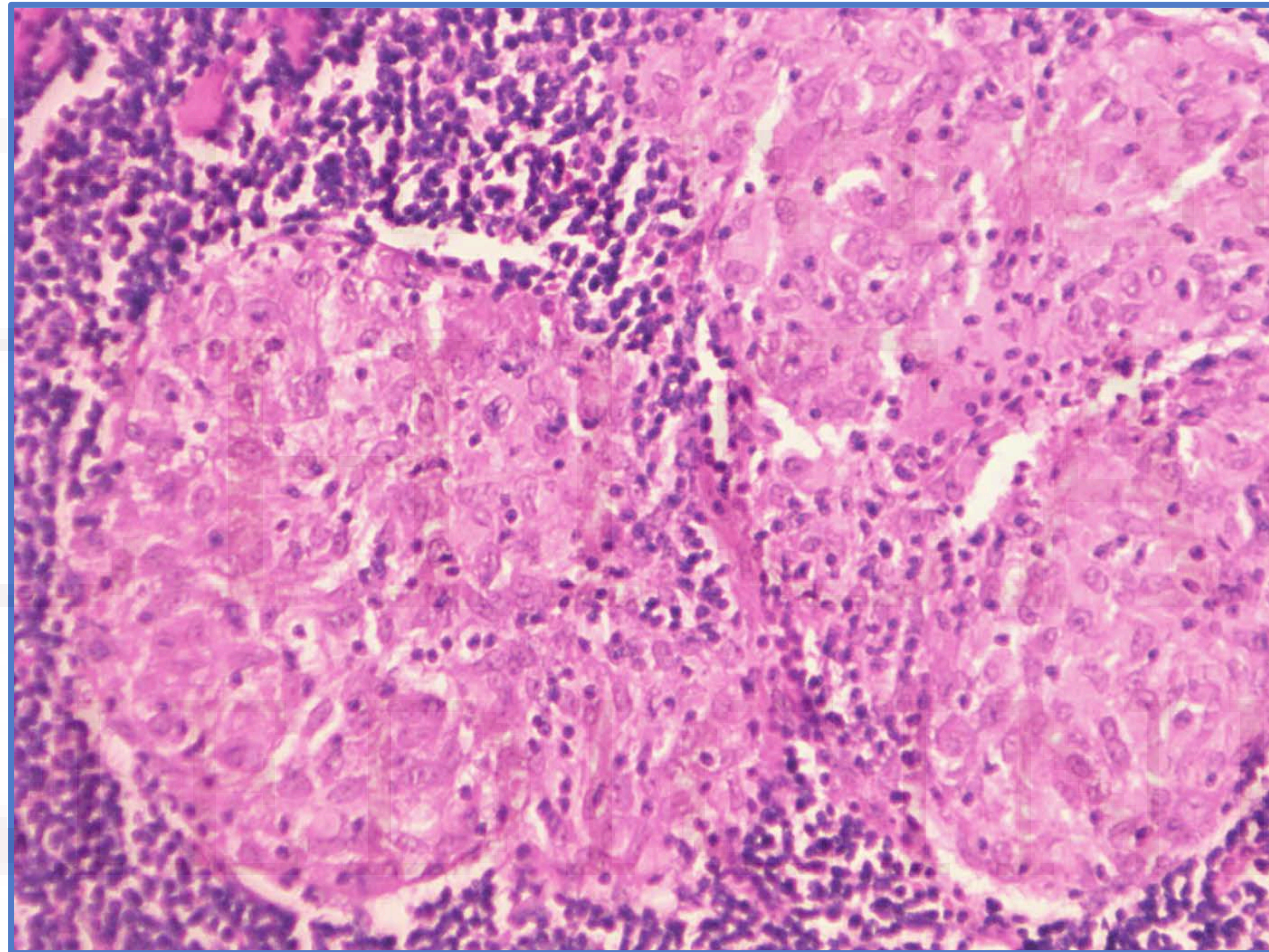


radiographic and cross sectional imaging



CT C/A/P: Prominent mediastinal, axillary, and supraclavicular lymph nodes, pleural effusions. hepatosplenomegaly, extensive mesenteric and retroperitoneal adenopathy, nonobstructive bilateral nephrolithiasis.

excisional inguinal lymph node biopsy



Left inguinal lymph node 1, 2 and 3: lymph nodes with non-caseating granulomas. Comment: The findings support the clinical impression of **sarcoidosis** assuming that cultures are negative for infectious etiologies.

**22 year old man presents with headache, vision changes,
and progressive lower extremity weakness.**

Final diagnosis: SARCOIDOSIS

**Started on 20mg prednisone daily.
Stopped vitamin D supplementation.**

Metabolism of 25-Hydroxyvitamin D₃ by Cultured Pulmonary Alveolar Macrophages in Sarcoidosis

JOHN S. ADAMS, O. P. SHARMA, MERCEDES A. GACAD, and FREDERICK R. SINGER,
*Bone and Connective Tissue Laboratory, Orthopaedic Hospital, and
Department of Medicine, University of Southern California School of
Medicine, Los Angeles, California 90007*

Sarcoid associated pulmonary macrophages convert 25-OH vitamin D to 1,25-OH vitamin D via a specific hydroxylase that is not inhibited by vitamin D or calcium.

The process operates in a PTH-independent manner.

Table 3. Initial Therapy According to Organ and Clinical Status.*

Organ	Clinical Findings	Treatment
Lungs	Dyspnea plus FEV ₁ , FVC <70% Cough, wheezing	Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day Inhaled corticosteroid
Eyes	Anterior uveitis Posterior uveitis	Topical corticosteroid Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day
Skin	Optic neuritis	Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day
	Lupus pernio	Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day Hydroxychloroquine, 400 mg/day Thalidomide, 100–150 mg/day Methotrexate, 10–15 mg/wk
Central nervous system	Plaques, nodules	Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day Hydroxychloroquine, 400 mg/day
	Erythema nodosum	NSAID
	Cranial-nerve palsies Intracerebral involvement	Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day Prednisone, 40 mg per day Azathioprine, 150 mg/day Hydroxychloroquine, 400 mg/day
Heart	Complete heart block Ventricular fibrillation, tachycardia	Pacemaker† AICD
Liver	Decreased LVEF (<35%)	AICD; prednisone, 30–40 mg/day
	Cholestatic hepatitis with constitutional symptoms	Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day Ursodiol, 15 mg/kg of body weight per day
Joints and muscles	Arthralgias	NSAID
	Granulomatous arthritis	Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day
	Myositis, myopathy	Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day
Hypercalciuria and hypercalcemia	Kidney stones, fatigue	Prednisone, 20–40 mg/day Hydroxychloroquine, 400 mg/day

Other treatments:
Diet modification
Ketoconazole
(P450 inhibitor)

Monitoring response and follow up?



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Learning Objectives

- Briefly review the diagnosis and evaluation [REDACTED]
- Explain the mechanism of [REDACTED] and other [REDACTED]
- Discuss the fundamentals of [REDACTED]
- Identify [REDACTED] for [REDACTED]
- Speculate on role of [REDACTED] in this case [if time allows]

Learning Objectives

- Briefly review the diagnosis and evaluation of PTH-independent hypercalcemia
- Explain the mechanism of hypercalcemia in sarcoidosis and other granulomatous diseases
- Discuss the fundamentals of adynamic bone disease
- Identify treatment options for hypercalcemia in sarcoidosis
- Speculate on role of hypercalcemia as a driver of renal failure in this case [if time allows]

Hypercalcaemia due to sarcoidosis corrects with bisphosphonate treatment

Charles J. Gibbs and Munro Peacock

MRC Mineral Metabolism Unit, The General Infirmary, Leeds LS1 3EX, UK.

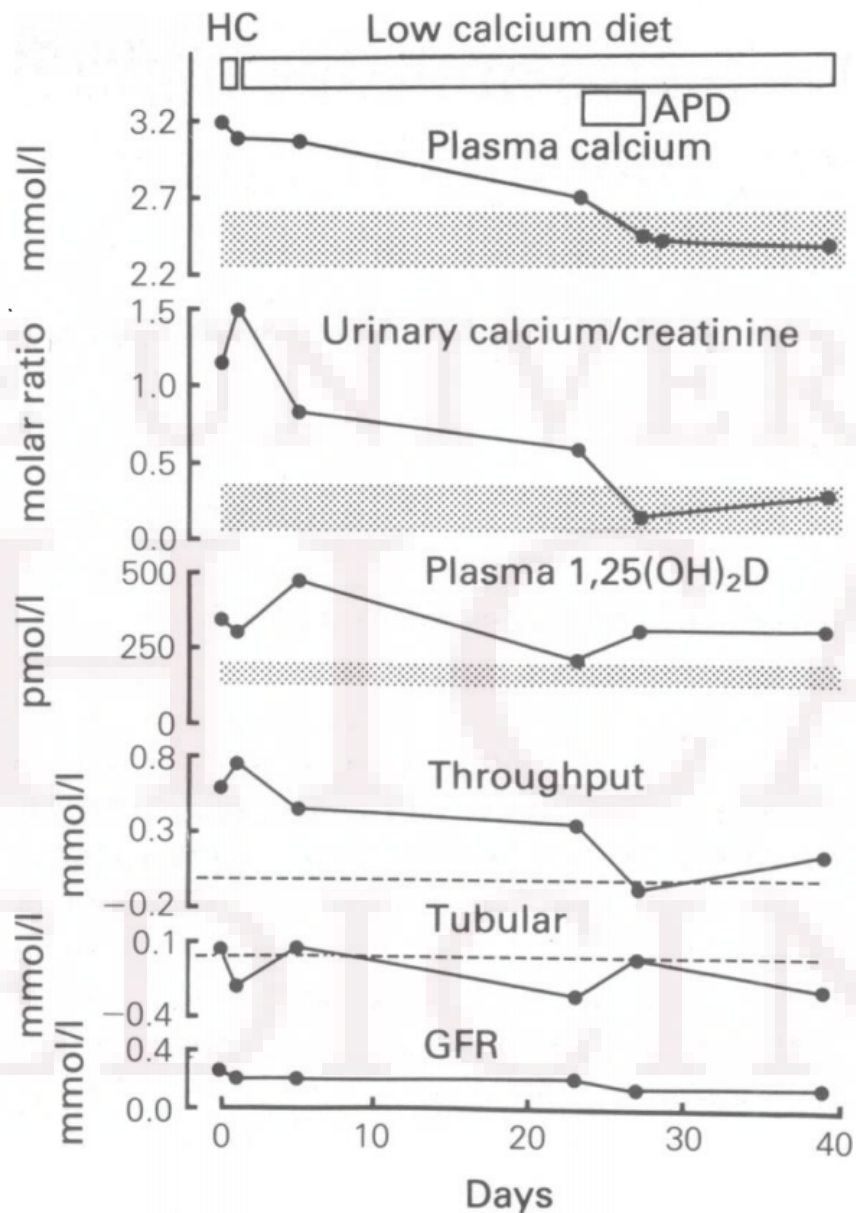


Figure 1 Biochemistry and components of hypercalcaemia during treatment with hydrocortisone (HC), low calcium diet and APD. The stippled areas represent normal ranges and the dotted lines indicate zero.

Is there a direct effect of hypercalcemia on the kidney that leads to loss of filtration?

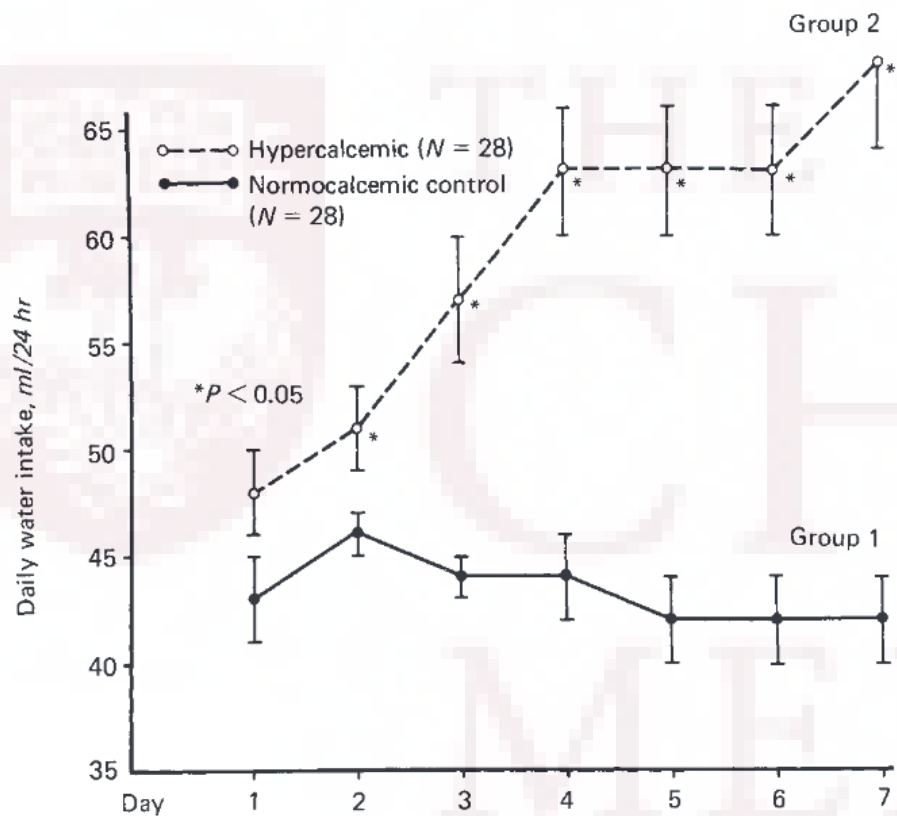
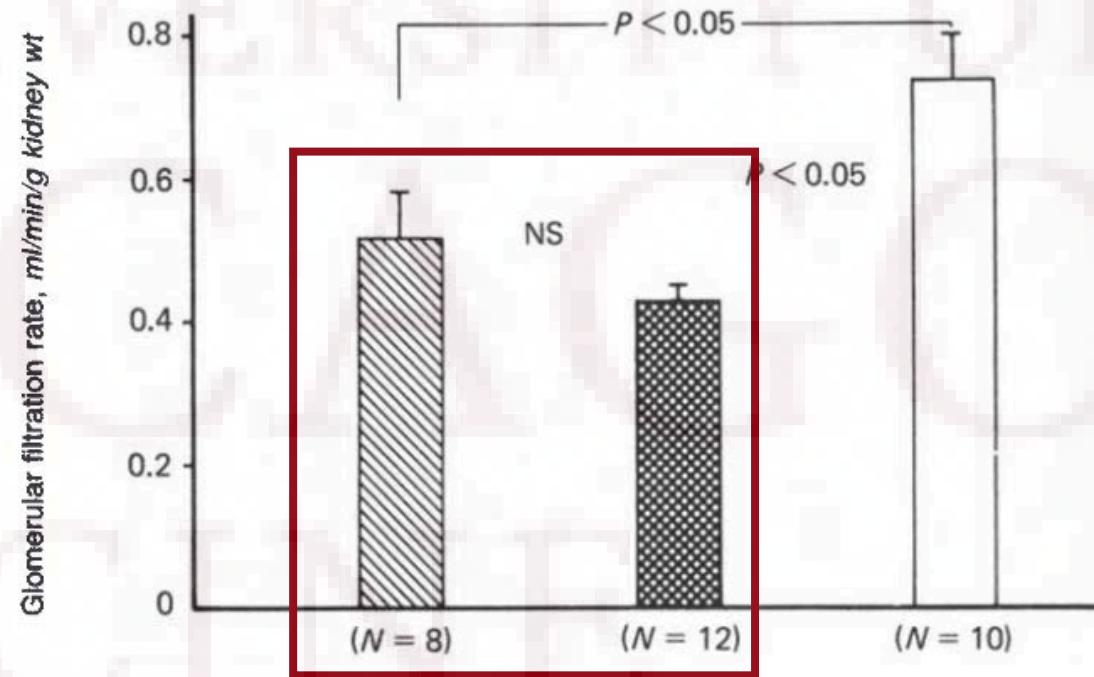


Fig. 1. Daily water intake (ml/24 hr) of pair-fed normocalcemic rats (Group 1) and hypercalcemic rats (Group 2).



hypercalcemia