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Congenital intestinal diarrhoeal diseases: A diagnostic and therapeutic challenge



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ABSTRACT

Keywords:

Congenital diarrhoeal disorders
Malabsorptive diarrhoea
Osmotic diarrhoea
Secretory diarrhoea
Inflammatory diarrhoea
Defects of digestion
Absorption and transport of nutrients
Defects of enterocyte differentiation or polarisation
Defects of enteroendocrine cells
Defects of the intestinal immune system

Congenital diarrhoeal disorders are a heterogeneous group of inherited malabsorptive or secretory diseases typically appearing in the first weeks of life, which may be triggered by the introduction of distinct nutrients. However, they may also be unrecognised for a while and triggered by exogenous factors later on. In principle, they can be clinically classified as osmotic, secretory or inflammatory diarrhoea. In recent years the disease-causing molecular defects of these congenital disorders have been identified. According to the underlying pathophysiology they can be classified into four main groups:

- 1) Defects of digestion, absorption and transport of nutrients or electrolytes
- 2) Defects of absorptive enterocyte differentiation or polarisation
- 3) Defects of the enteroendocrine cells
- 4) Defects of the immune system affecting the intestine

Here, we describe the clinical presentation of congenital intestinal diarrhoeal diseases, the diagnostic work-up and specific treatment aspects.

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Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|--|
| AE | acrodermatitis enteropathica |
| ALP | abetalipoproteinemia |
| APECED | autoimmune-polyendocrinopathy-candidiasis-ectodermal-dystrophy |
| CD | Crohn's disease |
| CCD | congenital chloride diarrhoea |
| CDD | congenital diarrhoeal disorders |
| CEP | congenital enteropeptidase-deficiency |
| CF | cystic fibrosis |
| CGD | chronic granulomatous disease |
| CGGM | congenital glucose-galactose malabsorption |
| CLD | congenital lactase deficiency |
| CLPS | cofactor protein colipase |
| CMD | congenital malabsorptive diarrhoea |
| CRD | chylomicron retention disease |
| CSD | congenital sodium diarrhoea |
| CSID | congenital sucrase-isomaltase deficiency |
| CVID | common variable immunodeficiency |
| DNA | deoxyribonucleic acid |
| FMF | familial Mediterranean fever |
| FOXP3 | forkhead box P3 |
| G6PC3 | glukose-6-phosphatase catalytic subunit 3 |
| GI | gastrointestinal |
| GSD1b | glycogen storage disease type Ib |
| HED | hypohydrotic ectodermal dysplasia |
| HLP | familial hypobetalipoproteinemia |
| HP | hereditary pancreatitis |
| HPS | Hermansky–Pudlak syndrome |
| HSCT | haematopoietic stem cell transplantation |
| IBD | inflammatory bowel disease |
| IED | intestinal epithelial dysplasia |
| Ig | immunoglobulin |
| IGAD | IgA deficiency |
| IL | interleukin |
| ILE | intestinal lymphangiectasia |
| IPEX | immunodysregulation, polyendocrinopathy and enteropathy X-linked |
| LAD1 | Leucocyte adhesion deficiency 1 |
| LPI | lysinuric protein intolerance |
| NLH | nodular lymphoid hyperplasia |
| MGAD | congenital maltase-glucoamylase deficiency |
| MVID | microvillus inclusion disease |
| MKD | mevalonate kinase deficiency |
| PBAM | primary bile acid malabsorption |
| PCD | prohormone convertase 1/3 deficiency |
| PNLIP | pancreas lipase |
| SCID | severe combined immunodeficiency |
| SDS | Shwachman–Diamond syndrome |
| SeHCAT | selenium-homocholeic acid taurine |
| STAT | signal transducer and activator of transcription |
| THES | trichohepatoenteric syndrome |
| TNF | tumour necrosis factor |
| TPN | total parental nutrition |

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