


How To Interpret The Organic Acids Test (OAT) From Great Plains Laboratory

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Lecture Overview

- Organic Acids Testing (OAT)
- The role of the OAT in candida assessment
- The role of the OAT in clostridia assessment
- The role of the OAT in oxalate assessment
- Certain neurotransmitter imbalances
- Indicators of other problems – *vitamin deficiencies, fatty acid oxidation, etc.*
- Mitochondrial dysfunction assessment



Prioritization Based On Common Findings

- The OAT is a complicated test with many markers indicating a variety of *potential* problems.
- Not all markers on any given OAT indicate problems that demand immediate attention.
- The goal is to get proficient at reading the OAT with regards to your child's particular situation.



Support Documents for Module #3

- The Clinical Significance of the Organic Acids Test (*marker interpretation handout*) - pdf
- Sample OAT (*pdf*)
- OAT – Quick Assessment Guide of the Most Commonly Seen Markers in Autism (*pdf*)
- Mitochondrial Lab Assessment at a Glance (*pdf*)
- Mitochondrial Cocktail Options (*pdf*)
- Lecture slides (*pdf*)
- Lecture slides – *note taking* (*pdf*)




The Clinical Significance of the Organic Acids Test

The Organic Acids Test (OAT) offers an accurate metabolic snapshot of what is going on in the body. Besides offering the most complete and accurate evaluation of intestinal yeast and bacteria, it also provides information on important neurotransmitters, nutritional markers, glutathione status, oxalate metabolism, and much more. The test offers 74 urinary metabolite markers that can be very useful for discovering underlying causes of chronic illness.

Patients and physicians report that treating yeast and bacterial abnormalities reduces fatigue, increases alertness and energy, improves sleep, normalizes bowel function, and reduces hyperactivity and abdominal pain.







Organic Acids Test (OAT) - Quick Assessment Guide of the Most Commonly Seen Markers in Autism
(The percentages and trends listed are approximations recognized by Dr. Woitler over many years in clinical practice evaluating the OAT.)

Page 1 of the OAT - Yeast/Fungal Section



1. Look at the Arabinose marker first. This will be the most common marker indicating the presence of candida. It is present in approximately 90% of OATs. Second to that is Tartaric Acid which can be seen with candida too. It tends to show up about 10 to 15% of the time. The level of Arabinose can be deceiving in some clinical situations. A high level doesn't always mean that a patient presents more symptomatically with yeast, or that a low level means a person is less affected. However, approximately 85 to 90% of the time the number matches up with a person's symptoms. Either way, any elevation suggests some invasiveness of candida and warrants some treatment.
2. Next evaluate the clostridia markers, i.e. HPPHA, 4-cresol. In the autism population these show up elevated approximately 60 to 70% of the time. The HPPHA is the most common marker for clostridia and appears elevated approximately 75% more frequently than 4-cresol. Both markers indicate

Page 1 - Yeast & Fungal Markers



Organic Acids Test - Nutritional and Metabolic Profile

Metabolic Markers in Urine	Reference Range (mmol/mol creatinine)	Patient	Reference Population - Males Under Age 13
Intestinal Microbial Overgrowth			
Yeast and Fungal Markers			
1 Citramalic	≤ 5.0	4.4	
2 5-Hydroxymethyl-2-furonic	≤ 28	1.6	
3 3-Oxoglutaric	≤ 0.46	0	
4 Furan-2,5-dicarboxylic	≤ 18	2.2	
5 Furan-carboxylglycine	≤ 3.1	0.15	
6 Tartaric	≤ 6.5	1.3	
7 Arabinose	≤ 50	H 93	
8 Carboxycitric	≤ 25	H 68	
9 Tricarballic	≤ 1.3	0.08	

Page 1 - Bacterial and Clostridia Markers

Bacterial Markers			
10 Hippuric	≤ 680	60	
11 2-Hydroxyphenylacetic	≤ 0.86	0.37	
12 4-Hydroxybenzoic	≤ 3.0	0.98	
13 4-Hydroxyhippuric	≤ 30	12	
14 DHPHA (Beneficial Bacteria)	≤ 0.59	0.04	
Clostridia Bacterial Markers			
15 4-Hydroxyphenylacetic (C. difficile, C. stricklandii, C. lituseburense & others)	2.0 - 32	9.2	
16 HPPHA (C. sporogenes, C. caloritolerans, C. botulinum & others)	≤ 220	206	
17 4-Cresol (C. difficile)	≤ 84	57	
18 3-Indoleacetic (C. stricklandii, C. lituseburense, C. subterminale & others)	0.60 - 14	2.0	

Page 2 - Oxalate Metabolites

Oxalate Metabolites				
19	Glyceric	0.74 - 13	2.4	
20	Glycolic	27 - 221	120	
21	Oxalic	35 - 185	110	

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Page 2 - Mitochondrial and Glycolytic Metabolites

Glycolytic Cycle Metabolites				
22	Lactic	2.6 - 48	11	
23	Pyruvic	0.32 - 0.8	4.2	

Mitochondrial Markers - Krebs Cycle Metabolites				
24	Succinic	≤ 23	5.2	
25	Fumaric	≤ 1.8	0.25	
26	Malic	≤ 2.3	1.1	
27	2-Oxoglutaric	≤ 96	27	
28	Acetic	9.8 - 39	L 5.6	
29	Citric	≤ 597	335	

Mitochondrial Markers - Amino Acid Metabolites				
30	3-Methylglutaric	0.01 - 0.97	0.18	
31	3-Hydroxyglutaric	≤ 16	0	
32	3-Methylglutaconic	≤ 6.9	1.3	

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Page 2 - Neurotransmitter Metabolites

Neurotransmitter Metabolites				
Phenylalanine and Tyrosines Metabolites				
33	Homovanillic (HVA) <i>(dopamine)</i>	0.49 - 13	5.0	
34	Vanillylmandelic (VMA) <i>(norepinephrine, epinephrine)</i>	0.72 - 6.4	1.3	
35	HVA / VMA Ratio	0.23 - 2.8	H 3.7	
Tryptophan Metabolites				
36	5-Hydroxyindoleacetic (5-HIAA) <i>(serotonin)</i>	≤ 11	2.3	
37	Quinolnic	0.48 - 8.8	2.9	
38	Kynurenic	≤ 4.2	1.4	
39	Quinolnic / 5-HIAA Ratio	≤ 2.5	1.3	

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Page 3 – Pyrimidines and Fatty Acids

Pyrimidine Metabolites - Folate Metabolism

40	Uracil	≤ 16	6.5	
41	Thymine	≤ 0.91	0.21	

Ketone and Fatty Acid Oxidation

42	3-Hydroxybutyric	≤ 4.8	0.97	
43	Acetoacetic	≤ 10	0.36	
44	4-Hydroxybutyric	≤ 4.7	0.91	
45	Ethylmalonic	0.06 - 4.8	1.9	
46	Methylsuccinic	≤ 4.0	0.88	
47	Adipic	0.19 - 6.5	2.2	
48	Sebacic	≤ 7.0	2.4	
49	Sebacic	≤ 0.61	0.16	

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Page 3 – Nutritional Markers

Nutritional Markers

Vitamin B12				
50	Methylmalonic	≤ 5.2	1.1	
Vitamin B6				
51	Pyridoxic (B6)	≤ 53	2.4	
Vitamin B5				
52	Pantothenic (B5)	≤ 14	4.1	
Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin)				
53	Glutaric	≤ 1.4	1.7	
Vitamin C				
54	Ascorbic	10 - 200	5.0	
Vitamin Q10 (CoQ10)				
55	3-Hydroxy-3-methylglutaric	≤ 88	14	
Glutathione Precursor and Chelating Agent				
56	N-Acetylcysteine (NAC)	≤ 0.34	0.08	
Biotin (Vitamin H)				
57	Methylcystic	≤ 5.7	1.6	

● A high value for this marker may indicate a deficiency of this vitamin.

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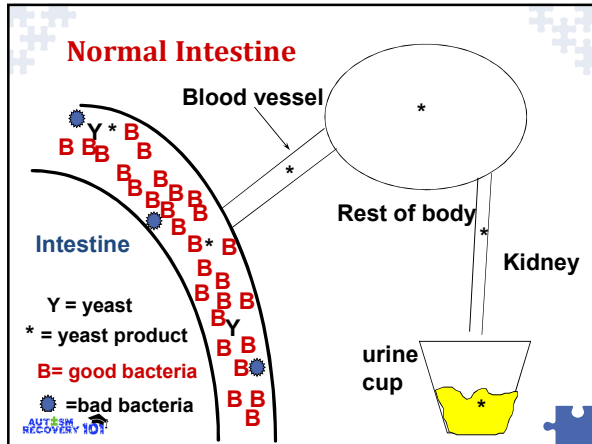
Page 4 – Indicators of Detoxification

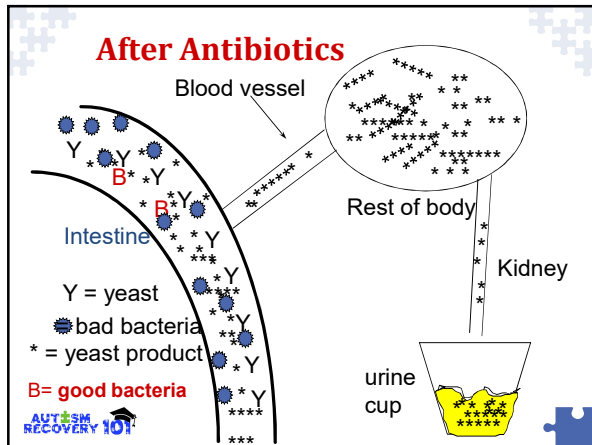
Indicators of Detoxification

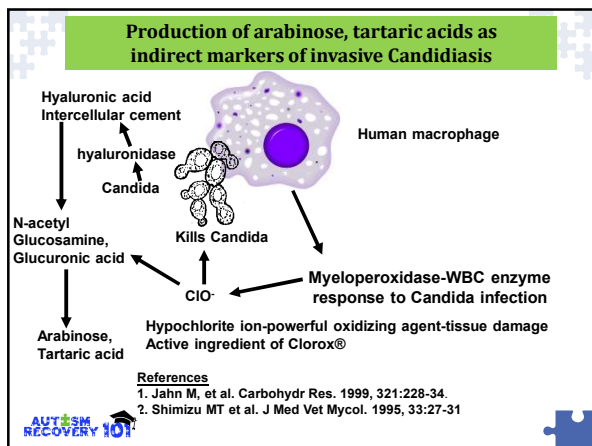
Glutathione				
58	Pyroglutamic	13 - 62	22	
59	2-Hydroxybutyric	0.19 - 2.0	1.3	
Ammonia Excess				
60	Orotic	0.04 - 0.80	0.53	
Aspartame, ealicylates, or GI bacteria				
61	2-Hydroxyheptatic	≤ 1.2	0.31	

● A high value for this marker may indicate a Glutathione deficiency.

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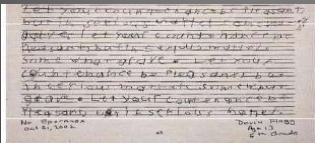




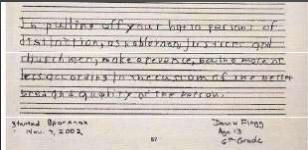


Handwriting improvement after antifungal therapy
- Discover Magazine

Before Antifungal



After Antifungal - 1 month later



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List of *Observations* Seen in Autism That Appear (in part) Related to Candida Overgrowth

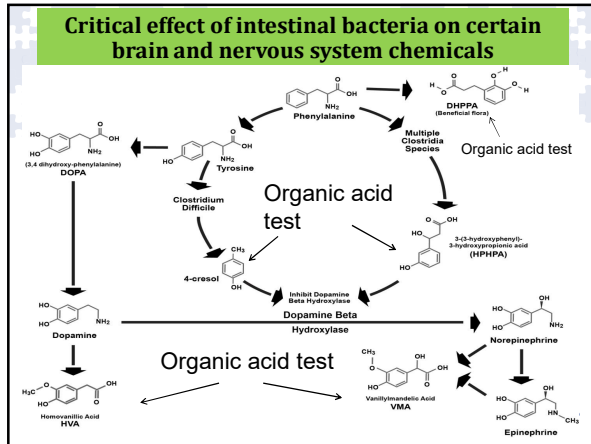
- Silly/goofy/giddy, inappropriate laughter – “acts drunk.”
- Sugar and carbohydrate cravings intensified.
- Heightened sensory seeking behavior, anxiety, and emotional instability.
- Strange behavior such as seeking pressure, hanging upside down, heightened seeking of masturbation.

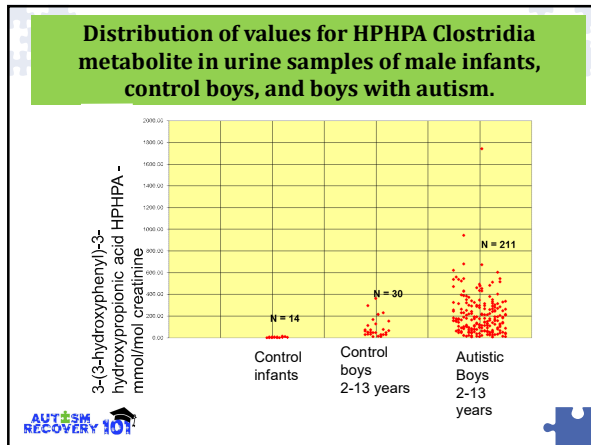
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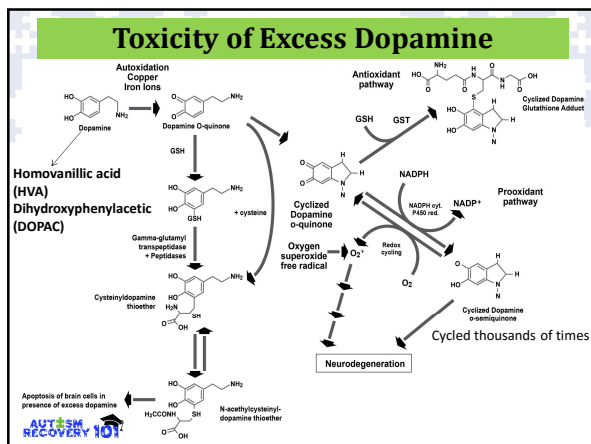
Alcohol-related symptoms have been observed

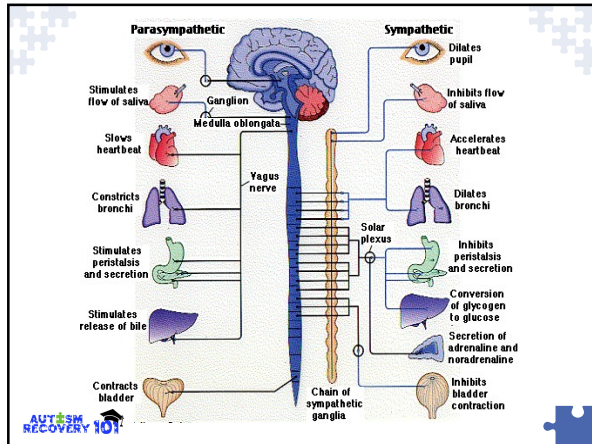
Plants, yeast and bacteria – can ferment compounds (glucose) into acetylaldehyde and finally into alcohol.

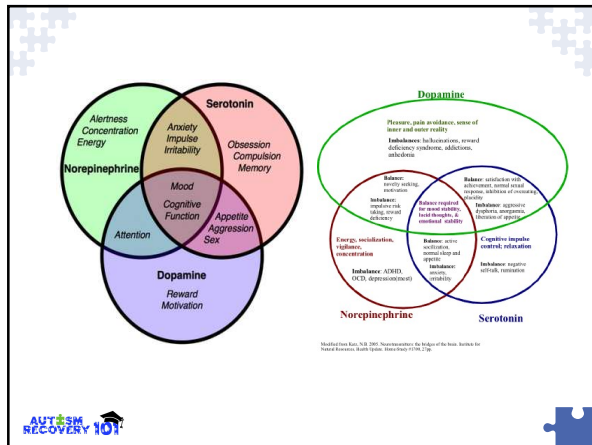
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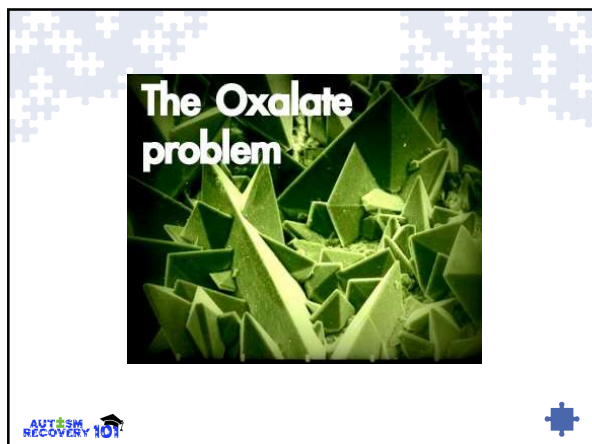


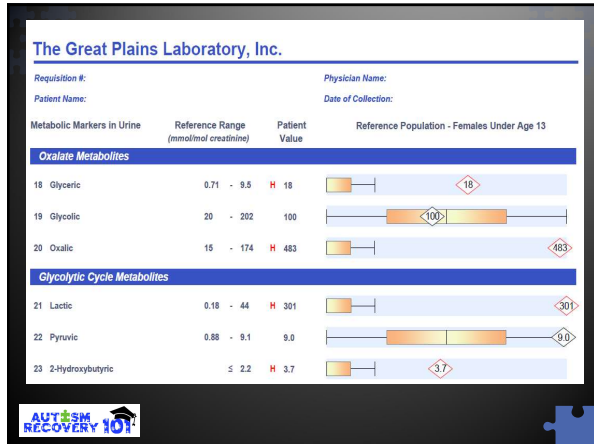








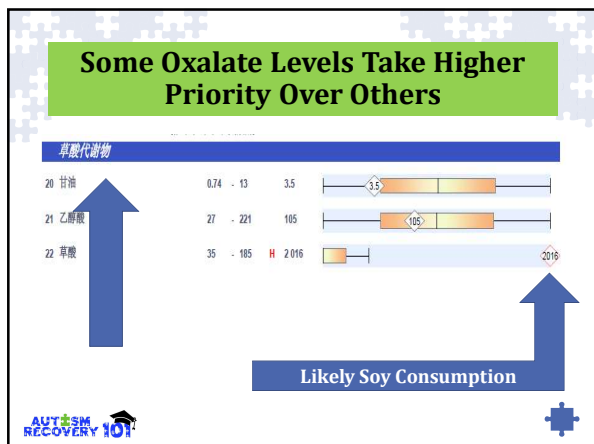


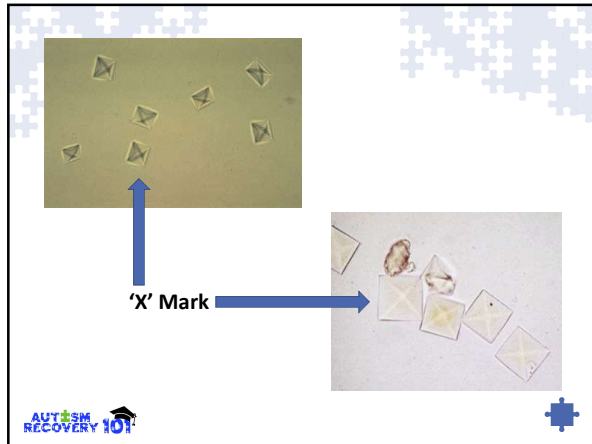


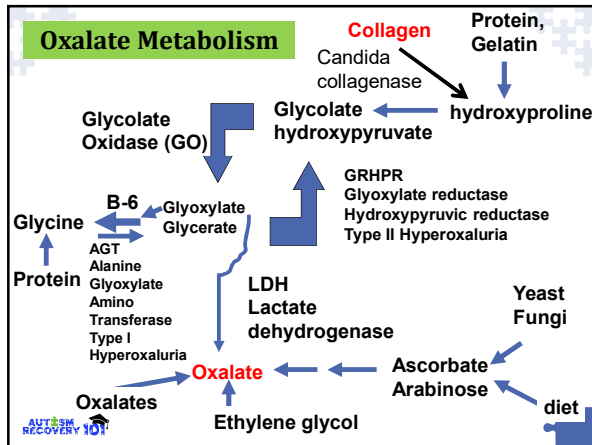
What Are Oxalates?

- Oxalate, and its acid form, are organic acids found from 3 primary sources:
 - Diet
 - Fungus, such as mold and candida
 - Cell metabolism
- Oxalic acid is the most acidic organic acid in body fluids.
- Ethylene glycol (antifreeze) - *primary toxicity effects are from oxalate crystal formation.*

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Common Complaints and Observations

- Sandy and grainy stools
- Bladder irritability
- Pain on urination – *holding penis or groin region*
- Eye pain (eye poking in children)
- Body aches, burning feeling in muscles
- Moodiness, irritability, and aggressive behavior – *often seen in autism.*
- Generalized pain that likely manifests as aberrant behavior.

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Brain and Nervous System Chemical Imbalances

Low normal tryptophan metabolite 5-HIAA


Neurotransmitter Metabolites			
30	Homovanillic (HVA)	0.80 - 3.6	2.1
31	Vanillylmandelic (VMA)	0.46 - 3.7	2.2
32	5-Hydroxyindoleacetic (5-HIAA)	≤ 4.3	0.37
33	Quinolinic	0.85 - 3.9	2.5
34	Kynurenic	0.17 - 2.2	H 2.3
35	Quinolinic / 5-HIAA Ratio	0.42 - 2.0	H 6.8
36	Quinolinic / Kynurenic Ratio	0.82 - 3.6	1.1

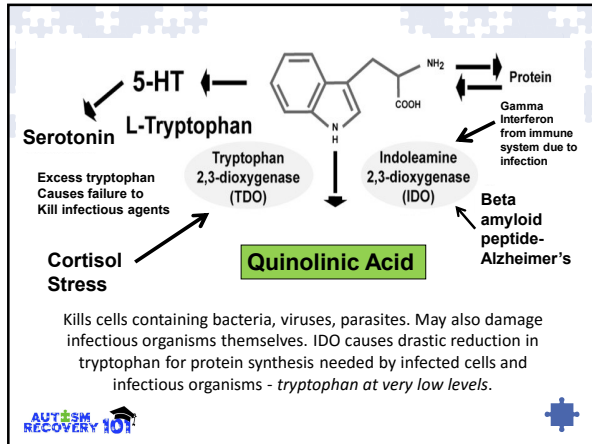
Normal quinolinic acid, but very high ratio indicates excessive conversion of tryptophan to quinolinic acid.



Neurotransmitter Metabolites			
32	Homovanillic (HVA)	≤ 14	12
33	Vanillylmandelic (VMA)	0.87 - 5.9	4.4
34	HVA / VMA Ratio	0.12 - 3.0	2.9
35	5-Hydroxyindoleacetic (5-HIAA)	≤ 7.7	3.7
36	Quinolinic	0.63 - 6.7	H 7.7
37	Kynurenic	≤ 4.1	0.10
38	Quinolinic / 5-HIAA Ratio	0.04 - 2.2	2.1

Neurotransmitter Metabolites			
32	Homovanillic (HVA)	≤ 14	7.6
33	Vanillylmandelic (VMA)	0.87 - 5.9	3.5
34	HVA / VMA Ratio	0.12 - 3.0	2.1
35	5-Hydroxyindoleacetic (5-HIAA)	≤ 7.7	3.6
36	Quinolinic	0.63 - 6.7	H 14
37	Kynurenic	≤ 4.1	2.4
38	Quinolinic / 5-HIAA Ratio	0.04 - 2.2	H 3.8

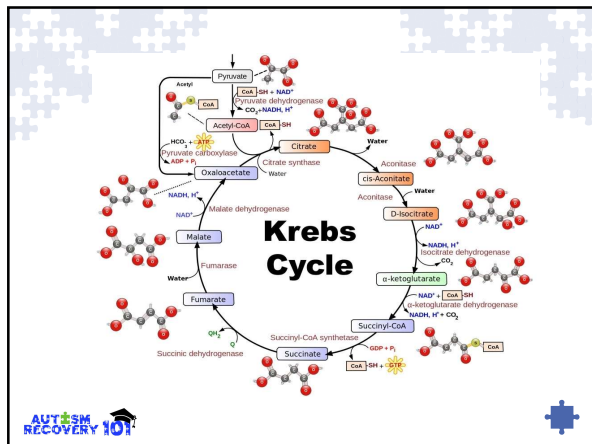


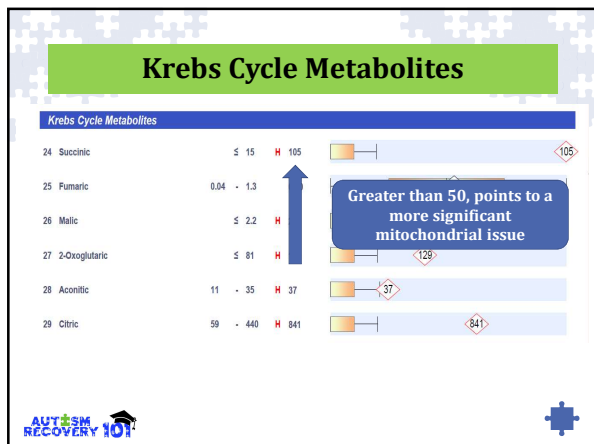


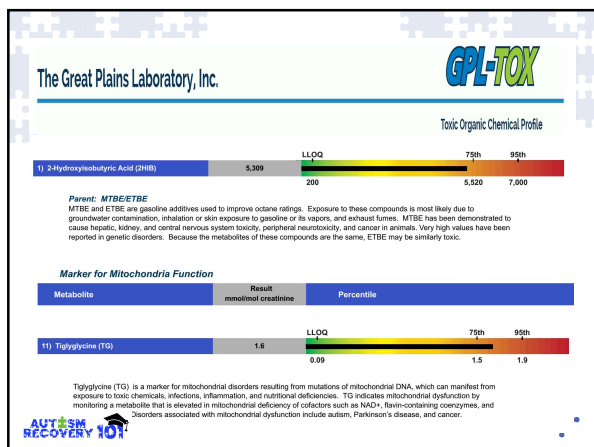
Mitochondria Dysfunction

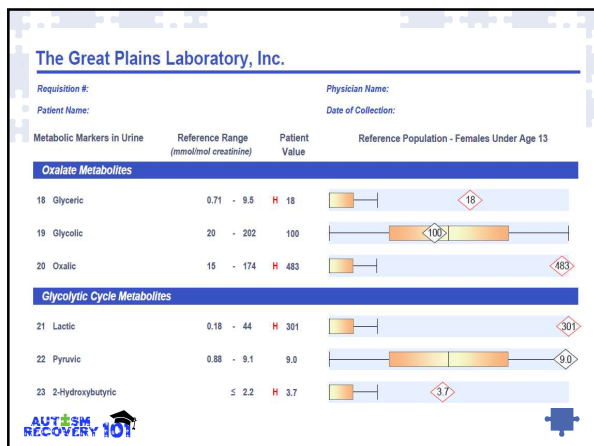
The Role of Mitochondrial Problems in Autism and the Association with Various Co-Morbid Conditions

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Mitochondrial Disease (Mde)

- Once thought to be rare, are now considered to be one of the most common metabolic problems in children.
- Some cases of Mde can occur in autism – *usually brought on by genetic mutations or abnormalities in the metabolic mechanism of mitochondrial function.*



Various Serious Health Problems

- **Heart defects** - including electrical and contraction problems.
- **Brain abnormalities** - seizures, strokes
- **Balance and coordination problems** - including limb weakness and poor musculoskeletal development.
- **Severe gastrointestinal problems** – obstruction



Autism = Mds (dysfunction - *usually*)

In Autism, the majority of kids have a mitochondrial dysfunction (Mds) which indicates suboptimal functioning of mitochondria, but not definable as a specific mitochondrial disease (Mde).



Autism-Spectrum Children Can Have Similar Issues Related to Mito. Diseases

One study looking at over 20 autism-spectrum (ASD) kids showed no evidence of mitochondrial disease patterns via muscle biopsy testing, despite these kids having the following:

- Attention, language, and behavior issues
- Seizures
- Poor muscle tone
- Gastrointestinal motility problems



Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Autism

Mds versus Mde seems more common in autism as the majority of ASD kids overall presentation is *less severe* than kids with "classic" Mde.



Research and clinical speculation that many of the problems with Mds in Autism is environmentally induced.

1. Environmental chemicals, i.e. PCB, pesticides
2. Heavy metal toxicity, i.e. lead, nickel, cadmium, mercury.
3. Vaccine reactions
4. Cell membrane dysfunction from poor methylation, i.e. leads to increased oxidative stress via glutathione depletion.
5. Nutritional imbalances leading to susceptibility for poor cellular function.
6. Endogenous toxins from gut pathogens, i.e. clostridia (*propionic acid*).



Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Autism – Supplement Therapy

Supplement support and antioxidant therapy can be helpful for mitochondrial issues.

Examples:

- **L-Carnitine** – helps with fatty acid transport
- **Thiamine (B1), Pyroxidine (B6), Riboflavin (B2)** - all support mitochondrial function.
- **Antioxidants** – help to decrease oxidative stress
- **'Mitochondrial Cocktail'** – combination approach for balanced mitochondrial support.



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Mitochondrial Cocktail Options

In many situations you will be supporting mitochondrial function already through the foundational nutritional products, i.e. multivitamins and multi-minerals that contain vitamin E, C, and B-vitamins. However, there are certain supplements that have added benefit for cellular metabolism and can be useful to add to a supplement program.

See the handout document titled "Mitochondrial Lab Assessment at a Glance" for specifics on laboratory markers indicating problems in the mitochondria.

Clinical indicators that may suggest an underlying mitochondrial problem:

- Poor physical energy and stamina
- Poor immunity
- Seizure disorder
- Low muscle tone and strength
- Poor gross and/or fine motor skills
- Cyclical vomiting
- Ongoing digestive problems not resolved by eradicating pathogens, dietary changes, and confirmation of no inflammation.

Common Mitochondrial Support Supplements:



Mitochondrial 'Cocktail' Example

Example is for a 18 Kg (40lbs) child

- **L-Carnitine** – 40 to 50mg/kg per day (approx. 1000mg per day).
- **(Ubiquinol – active CoQ10)** – 5 to 10 mg/kg (approx. 100mg to 200mg).
- **NADH** – 5 mg+ daily
- **Malic Acid** – 500mg to 1000mg daily

NOTE: usually no more than 2000mg of L-carnitine or 400mg of CoQ10 are used daily for individuals with adult weights.



See handout "Mitochondrial Cocktail Options" for dosing recommendations



www.nbnus.com

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Ketones and Fatty Acid Metabolism

Ketone and Fatty Acid Oxidation

Code	Substrate	U	mmol/mol creatinine	Reference Range	U	mmol/mol creatinine	Value
39	3-Hydroxybutyric	≤ 4.1	H	26	26		
40	Acetoacetic	≤ 10	H	38	38		
41	4-Hydroxybutyric	≤ 3.4		0.44	0.44		
42	Ethylmalonic	≤ 4.6		4.1	4.1		
43	Methylsuccinic	≤ 4.3		2.4	2.4		
44	Adipic	≤ 9.7		2.8	2.8		
45	Suberic	≤ 9.5		6.5	6.5		
46	Sebacic	≤ 0.37	H	0.46	0.46		

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2 year old girl from China

Metabolic Markers in Urine	Reference Range (mmol/mol creatinine)	Patient	Reference Population - Females Under Age 13
Ketone and Fatty Acid Oxidation			
41 3-Hydroxybutyric	≤ 4.1	H 257	257
42 Acetoacetic	≤ 10	H 12	12
43 4-Hydroxybutyric	≤ 3.4	0.94	0.94
44 Ethylmalonic	≤ 4.6	H 5.5	5.5
45 Methylsuccinic	≤ 4.3	H 6.4	6.4
46 Adipic	≤ 9.7	H 187	187
47 Suberic	≤ 9.5	H 349	349
48 Sebacic	≤ 0.37	H 1 185	185

High dose Medium Chain Triglycerides (MCT Oil)

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Vitamin Indicators

Indirect:

- Methylmalonic acid - *vitamin B-12*
- Methylcitric acid - *biotin*
- Glutaric and Succinic acid - *indicators of riboflavin and coenzyme Q-10 deficiency.*

Direct:



- Ascorbic acid - *vitamin C*
- Pantothenic acid - *B vitamin*
- Pyridoxic acid - *metabolite of vitamin B-6*

Nutritional Markers

Vitamin B12				
49 Methylmalonic ●	≤ 6.2	4.8		
Vitamin B6				
50 Pyridoxic (B6)	≤ 59	7.9		
Vitamin B5				
51 Pantothenic (B5)	≤ 26	13		
Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin)				
52 Glutaric ●	≤ 1.1	H 2.5		
Vitamin C				
53 Ascorbic	10 - 200	L 4.9		
Vitamin G10 (CoQ10)				
54 3-Hydroxy-3-methylglutaric ●	≤ 101	66		
Glutathione Precursor and Chelating Agent				
55 N-Acetylcysteine (NAC)	≤ 0.41	0.06		
Biotin (Vitamin H)				
56 Methylcitric ●	≤ 5.5	1.4		



● A high value for this marker may indicate a deficiency of this vitamin.

Nutritional Markers



Vitamin B12				
49 Methylmalonic ●	≤ 6.2	4.8		
Vitamin B6				
50 Pyridoxic (B6)	≤ 59	7.9		
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55 N-Acetylcysteine (NAC)	≤ 0.41	0.06		
Biotin (Vitamin H)				
56 Methylcitric ●	≤ 5.5	1.4		

● A high value for this marker may indicate a deficiency of this vitamin.

Most Common Nutritional Marker Imbalances



1. Low vitamin C (ascorbic acid)
2. Low or low normal vitamin B6 (pyridoxic acid)
3. High glutaric acid (vitamin B2)
4. High B5 (pantothenic acid)
5. Low to low normal N-acetyl-cysteine (NAC)
6. High CoQ10 marker
7. High B12 (methylmalonic acid) + High Methylcitric (biotin) – *rarely seen*




The Great Plains Laboratory, Inc.

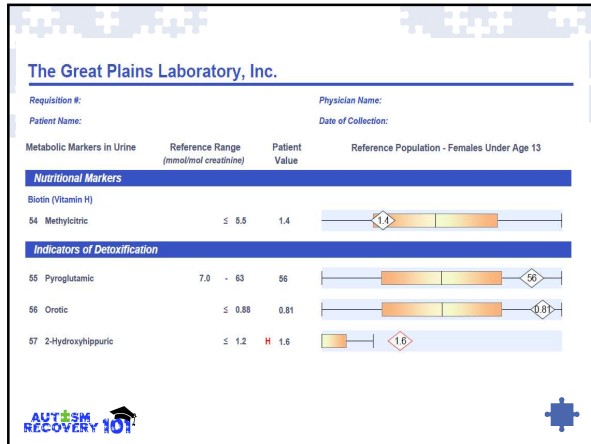
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 Patient Name: _____ Date of Collection: _____

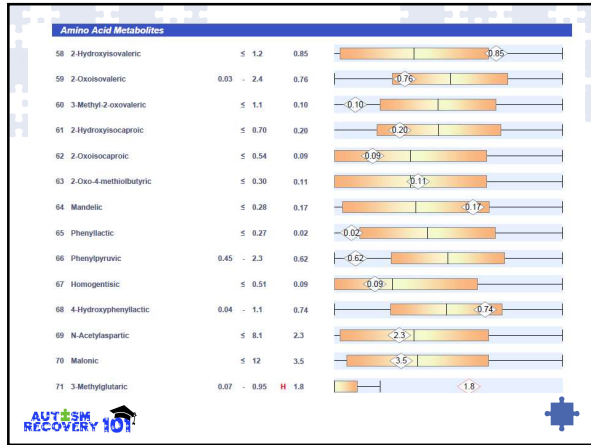
Metabolic Markers in Urine	Reference Range (mmol/mol creatinine)	Patient Value	Reference Population - Females Under Age 13
Pyrimidine Metabolites			
37 Uracil	≤ 19	16	
38 Thymine	0.02 - 0.88	0.44	
Bone Metabolites			
72 Phosphoric	≤ 10769	8450	

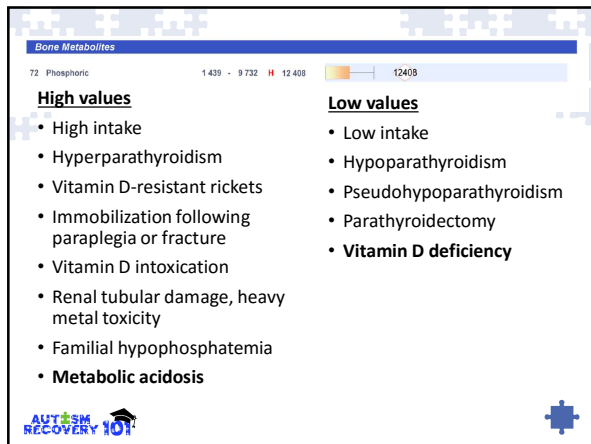



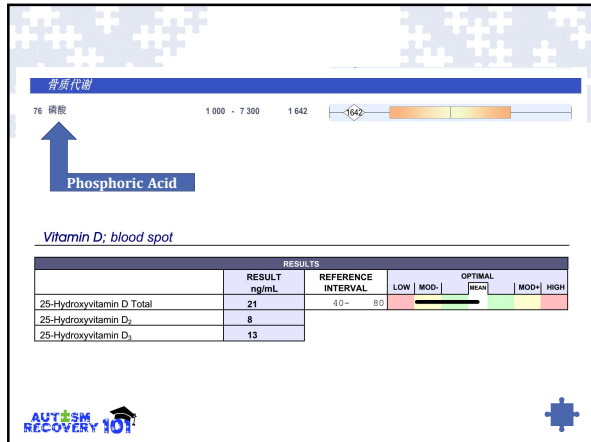
Metabolic Markers in Urine	Reference Range (mmol/mol creatinine)	Patient Value	Reference Population - Males Age 13 and Over
Indicators of Detoxification			
57 Pyroglutamic	5.7 - 25	14	
58 Orotic	≤ 0.46	0.32	
59 2-Hydroxyhippuric	≤ 0.86	H 36	
Neurotransmitter Metabolites			
32 Homovanillic (HVA) (dopamine)	0.39 - 2.2	1.6	
33 Vanillylmandelic (VMA) (noradrenaline, epinephrine)	0.53 - 2.2	1.75	
34 HVA / VMA Ratio	0.32 - 1.4	H 2.2	
17 HPHPA (Clostridia Marker)	≤ 102	3.0	
18 4-Cresol (C. difficile)	≤ 39	33	









**Prioritization of OAT Findings
(general recommendations)**

1. If any clostridia marker is high this takes priority regarding treatment.
2. If arabinose, or other yeast markers are high, need to correlate to clinical picture.
3. If oxalate is high need to correlate to clinical picture.

NOTE: remember, these 3 areas often greatly influence other markers on the OAT.



**Prioritization of OAT Findings
(general recommendations)**

4. If one or more of the first 3 sections are positive (yeast, clostridia, oxalate) and other imbalances are seen then additional supplement therapy can be worthwhile:
 - If one specific fatty acid marker is significantly high, or multiple are high using L-carnitine is worthwhile.
 - If multiple mitochondrial markers are high consider MitoSpectra or just L-Carnitine.
 - If HVA and/or HVA/VMA ratio are high cross check to clostridia markers.

**Prioritization of OAT Findings
(general recommendations)**

4. (continued):



- If 5-HIAA is low to low normal consider 50mg to 100mg of 5-HTP daily for serotonin support.
- If Quinolinic Acid is high use at least 500mg of Niacinamide as a priority supplement.
- If HVA and/or HVA/VMA ratio high cross check to clostridia markers.
- If Uracil is high consider additional L-Methyl-Folate supplementation, i.e. 500mcg to 1000mcg daily.
- Address vitamin deficiencies individually as needed
- Low phosphoric – consider Vitamin D testing or supplementation with Vitamin D3, i.e. 1000IU/25lbs body weight (approximately).

Module #4

Topic

- Treating Yeast, Bacteria and Other Digestive Problems:
 - Success strategies for treating common pathogens
 - Remedies for other digestive problems
 - Review of behaviors often linked to digestive problems.

Thank You

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