KENTUCKY NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM

PARENT TEACHING SHEET

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Tyrosinemia, type 11 or 111 (TYR II/TYR 111)

CAUSE

Tyrosinemia type II and III affect an enzyme needed to break down proteins from the food we eat. In tyrosinemia type II and II, the enzyme used to break down proteins is missing or not working properly.

A person who has tyrosinemia type II or III doesn't have enough enzyme to break down protein containing tyrosine. When the body can't break down tyrosine, it builds up in the body and causes health problems.

Tyrosinemia type II and III are genetic disorders that are passed on (inherited) from parents to a child. The mother and father of an affected child carry a gene change that can cause tyrosinemia type I. Parents usually do not have signs or symptoms, or even know they carry the gene change.

IF NOT TREATED

Tyrosinemia type II or III are different for each child. Some children with tyrosinemia type II or III have only a few health problems, while other children may have serious complications.

If tyrosinemia II or III is not treated, a child might develop:

- Poor coordination and balance
- Intellectual disability
- Eye problems (Type II)
- Behavior changes (Type II)
- Skin lesion (Type II)
- Seizures (Type III)

It is very important to follow the doctor's instructions for testing and treatment.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

Tyrosinemia type II and III can be treated. Treatment is life-long and can include:

- Low protein diet- a dietician will help you with the best diet for your child
- Medications to lower amino acid levels.

Children with tyrosinemia type II or III should see their regular doctor, a doctor who specializes in tyrosinemia type II or III, and a dietician.

IF TREATED

Prompt and careful treatment helps children with tyrosinemia type I live the healthiest lives possible.