Hypophosphatemia, Hyperphosphaturia and Bisphosphonate Treatment are Associated with Survival Beyond Infancy in Generalized Arterial Calcification of Infancy (GACI)

Frank Rutsch, MD,1 Petra Böyer, MS,1 Yvonne Nitschke, PhD student,1 Nico Ruf, PhD,2 Bettina Lorenz-Depierieux, PhD,3,3a Tanja Wittkampf, PhD,1 Gabriele Weissen-Plenz, PhD,4 Rudolf-Josef Fischer, MD, PhD,5 Zulf Mughal, MBChB, FRCPCH, DCH,6 John W. Gregory, MD,7 Justin H. Davies, MD, FRCPCH, MRCP,8 Chantal Loirat, MD,9 Tim M. Strom, PhD,3,3a Dirk Schnabel, MD,10 Peter Nürnberg, PhD,11 Robert Terkeltaub, MD,12 and the GACI Study Group

1 Department of General Pediatrics, University Children’s Hospital, Münster, Germany
2 Laboratory of Developmental Genetics and Imprinting, The Babraham Institute, Cambridge, United Kingdom
3 Institute of Human Genetics, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Munich, Germany
3a Institute of Human Genetics, Klinikum rechts der Isar, Technical University, Munich, Germany
4 Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, University Hospital, Münster, Germany
5 Department of Medical Informatics and Biomathematics, Münster University Hospital, Münster, Germany
6 Department of Paediatrics, Saint Mary’s Hospital for Women & Children, Manchester, Great Britain
7 Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, Wales School of Medicine, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK
8 Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, Southampton University Hospital, Southampton, UK
9 Department of Pediatric Nephrology, Hôpital Robert Debré, Paris, France
10 Pediatric Endocrinology, Otto Heubner Center, Charité, Berlin, Germany,
11 Cologne Center for Genomics, University of Cologne, Germany,
12 Department of Rheumatology Allergy-/Immunology, VA Medical Center, UCSD, San Diego, USA.

Address for Correspondence:
Dr. Frank Rutsch, Klinik und Poliklinik für Kinder-und Jugendmedizin, Universitätsklinikum Münster, Albert-Schweitzer Strasse 33, D-48149 Münster, Germany, phone: ++49-251-8347750, fax: ++49-251-8347735, e-mail: rutschf@mednet.uni-muenster.de
Abstract

**Background**: Generalized arterial calcification of infancy (GACI) has been reported to frequently be lethal and the efficiency of any therapy, including bisphosphonates is unknown. A phosphate poor diet markedly increases survival of NPP1 null mice, a model of GACI.

**Methods and Results**: We performed a multi-center genetic study and retrospective observational analysis of 55 subjects affected by GACI to identify prognostic factors. Nineteen patients (34%) survived the critical period of infancy. In all 8 surviving patients tested, hypophosphatemia due to reduced renal tubular phosphate reabsorption developed during childhood. Eleven of 17 patients (65%) treated with bisphosphonates survived. Of 26 patients, who survived their first day of life and were not treated with bisphosphonates, only 8 patients (31%) survived beyond infancy. Forty different homozygous or compound heterozygous mutations, including 16 novel mutations in **ENPP1** were found in 41 (75%) of the 55 patients. Twenty-nine (71%) of these 41 patients died in infancy (median: 30 days). Seven of the 14 patients (50%) without **ENPP1** mutations died in infancy (median: 9 days). When present on both alleles, the mutation p.P305T was associated with death in infancy in all 5 cases; otherwise, no clear genotype-phenotype correlation was seen.

**Conclusion**: **ENPP1** coding region mutations are associated with GACI in ~75% of subjects. Except for the p.P305T mutation, which was universally lethal when present on both alleles, the identified **ENPP1** mutations *per se* have no discernable effect on survival. However, survival appears to be associated with hypophosphatemia linked with hyperphosphaturia and also with bisphosphonate treatment.

**Key Words**: Genetics, Mortality, Pediatrics, Prognosis, Survival
Background

Generalized arterial calcification of infancy (GACI, MIM#208000) is a rare autosomal recessive disorder, reported to date in ~180 individuals. Calcification of large and medium-sized arteries and marked myointimal proliferation leading to arterial stenoses are characteristic vascular features of the GACI phenotype. An extravascular feature, foci of periarticular calcification, occurs in many of the affected subjects. Initial signs of the disease may occur prenatally, and most affected children die in early infancy from sequelae of vascular occlusion, typically myocardial infarction or congestive heart failure due to hypertension. Systemic deficiency of nucleotide pyrophosphatase (NPP1) activity (E.C. 3.6.1.9) leading to low serum and urine inorganic pyrophosphate (Pi) levels has been identified as a diagnostic hallmark of the disease. Deficient NPP1-catalyzed Pi generation in GACI appears to be mediated by mutations in multiple exons of ENPP1 (MIM*173335). This gene, located on chromosome 6q22-q23, spans 83 kb of genomic DNA and contains 25 exons.

ENPP1 encodes a type II transmembrane glycoprotein ecto-enzyme that forms homodimers of identical disulfide-bonded subunits. NPP1 has an extracellular catalytic domain as well as somatomedin B-like and substrate-binding or substrate-specifying nuclease-like domains. NPP1 regulates soft tissue calcification and bone and joint cartilage mineralization by generating Pi, which not only serves as an essential physiologic inhibitor of hydroxyapatite crystal growth, but also is a suppressor of chondrogenesis. In artery smooth muscle cells (SMCs), deficiencies of NPP1 (or of extracellular Pi without NPP1 deficiency in ank/ank mice homozygous for functional inactivation of the Pi transporter ANK) promote chondrogenic trans-differentiation in vivo and also in vitro under circumstances where excess of an inorganic phosphate (Pi) source is provided. Though the pathophysiologic role of NPP1-mediated Pi generation in GACI has come to light within recent years, the factors accounting for the variation of the GACI phenotype including the presence or absence of...
intracerebral artery calcification and periarticular calcification, early death in utero and long term survival are not known.\textsuperscript{12}

PP\textsubscript{i} and inorganic phosphate (P\textsubscript{i}) appear to have mutually antagonistic roles in tissue mineralization.\textsuperscript{13} Significantly, either a phosphate poor diet or crossbreeding with PHEX knockout mice to induce hypophosphatemia markedly decreased artery calcification and periarticular calcifications, and increased survival of NPP1\textsuperscript{-/-} and \textit{ank/ank} mice.\textsuperscript{14} We previously reported a child of Turkish descent from a consanguineous marriage who manifested GACI and periarticular calcifications, and was homozygous for the p.R774C mutation of \textit{ENPP1} also detected on both alleles in his father.\textsuperscript{6} Strikingly, the father was not affected by GACI, but suffered from severe hypophosphatemic rickets. Based on this observation, we hypothesized that hypophosphatemia may inhibit potential pathologic effects of deficient NPP1-mediated PP\textsubscript{i} generation and may prevent humans from developing lethal pathologic arterial calcification. Furthermore, within the last few years, bisphosphonates, which function in part as synthetic non-hydrolyzeable analogues of PP\textsubscript{i},\textsuperscript{15,16} have been anecdotally reported to have varying degrees of success in treatment of GACI.\textsuperscript{17-19} However, it has been problematic that information on the clinical, as well as treatment and outcome features of the vast majority of cases of GACI comes from small case reports of one or a handful of patients.

Here, we describe a retrospective, multi-center study of 55 patients with GACI, by far the largest performed to date. In this study, we characterized subjects for \textit{ENPP1} genotype, and assessed if \textit{ENPP1} mutations, bisphosphonate therapy, and renal phosphate handling and serum phosphate levels (where specimens were available), were associated with survival beyond infancy.
Methods:

Patients

Inclusion in the study was based on the clinical diagnosis of GACI and on the availability of DNA material for ENPP1 mutation analysis. Patient history and clinical data were gathered through a standardized questionnaire, which was sent to the referring physician or geneticist. Diagnosis of GACI was based on the presence of cardiovascular symptoms associated with evidence of arterial calcification with or without periarticular calcification on X-ray or sonography in infancy, or typical histology (figure 1). Diagnosis of GACI is exemplified in the following case report: The male infant (case #6 of our study) was born to consanguineous Turkish parents. The mother is a 20 year old gravida II, para I, whose first pregnancy ended with a missed abortion. The father suffers from hypophosphatemic rickets since early childhood, presenting with genua vara and short stature. Pregnancy was complicated by macrosomia of the fetus and polyhydramnios. The infant was delivered by cesarian section because of fetal distress. Birth weight was 3070g, length 50cm, umbilical cord pH 7.24. Because of respiratory distress, the infant was intubated and ventilated immediately after birth. Echocardiography at the first day of life revealed a small pericardial effusion and increased echogenicity of the walls of the pulmonary arteries, the aorta, the tricuspid valve and the coronary arteries (fig. 1 panel A and B). Sonography of the abdomen showed bright, hyperechogenic walls of the celiac trunc (fig. 1 panel C), the superior mesenteric artery and of the renal arteries bilaterally. A chest X-ray showed cardiomegaly, prominent lung vessels and periarticular calcifications of both shoulders (fig. 1 panel E). Further radiographs demonstrated irregular calcifications of the left hip and spotted calcifications in the region of the carpal bones and the carpal joints (fig. 1 panel D). Serum calcium (2.01 mmol/l) and serum inorganic phosphate (1.5 mmol/l) levels were normal. Based on the signs of respiratory distress and pericardial effusion associated with the presence of arterial and periarticular
calcifications, the diagnosis of generalized arterial calcification of infancy was established, and treatment with etidronate 15mg/kg/day p.o. was started at the age of two weeks.

Fifty-five patients were included in our study after informed consent of the parents. The DNA from all patients was subjected to mutation analysis of \textit{ENPP1}. The study protocol was approved by the Muenster University Hospital Ethical Committee and other participating institutional peer review human subjects committees. Of the patients studied, 23 were part of a previously reported study on the mutational spectrum of \textit{ENPP1} mutations.\textsuperscript{21}

\textbf{\textit{ENPP1} mutational analysis}

DNA was extracted from EDTA-blood after informed consent. In specific cases, DNA from blood samples was not available, since the patients were deceased before the onset of the study and no blood samples had been taken. In these families, the parents were screened for mutations, then DNA from the deceased child was extracted from formalin-fixed tissue blocks and was analysed to confirm the segregation of the mutation. With a set of 24 primer pairs we amplified all 25 exons and their flanking splice sites of \textit{ENPP1} from genomic DNA by PCR. The PCR products were directly sequenced bidirectionally using an ABI®3730 DNA Analyzer and a BigDye\textsuperscript{TM} Terminator v1.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit according to the manufacture’s protocol (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, USA). All primer sequences are available on request. Mutations were compared to the ENSEMBL polymorphism database.

\textbf{Statistics}

The Kaplan-Meier survival curve was calculated with SPSS\textsuperscript{®} software. The Log Rank test was used to test equality of survival distributions for the different levels of therapy. The Wilcoxon test for paired samples was used when comparing serum phosphate levels and TmP/GFR levels with the respective reference values.
Statement of Responsibility

The authors had full access to and take full responsibility for the integrity of the data. All authors have read and agree to the manuscript as written.

Results:

The study cohort consisted of 55 patients with proven GACI (28 males and 27 females) out of 45 unrelated families. Patients were included between 2001 and 2006. We included one dizygotic pair of twins and 4 monozygotic twins in our survey. The detailed clinical data on each individual patient are summarized in suppl. table 1 (supplemental material). While 36 patients (65.5%) of our study cohort died in utero or in infancy, 19 patients survived beyond infancy.

Clinical features of the GACI cohort

In 28 of the 55 cases (51%), prenatal signs of the disease were detected (suppl. table 2), with fetal distress, polyhydramnios and pericardial effusion reported most frequently. 30 patients (55%) were delivered prematurely. Five patients (10%) died in utero and presented as stillbirth. Twenty-five patients (45%) presented symptoms immediately at birth. In the remaining 25 patients (45%), no obvious symptoms were noted immediately at birth. Three infants had appeared as asymptomatic until the age of 3 to 4 months, when they presented with failure to thrive, respiratory distress, arterial hypertension or heart failure.

Presence of arterial and periarticular calcifications

GACI was suspected during pregnancy in 6 cases (11%), when early arterial calcifications were detected by sonography. Increased echogenicity of the great vessels was detected as early as in the 20th gestational week in a fetus. After birth, arterial calcifications were
demonstrated predominantly in the aorta and in coronary arteries by imaging studies such as sonography and computed tomography (suppl. table 1). Additionally, autopsy, performed in 22 cases (40%), confirmed calcification of pulmonary and renal arteries in 15 deceased patients. In a subset of 16 patients (29%), periarticular calcifications were noted prenatally or in infancy (table 1). Periarticular calcifications were present in surviving patients more frequently than in deceased patients.

**ENPP1 mutations in GACI patients**

In 41 (75%) of the patients studied, we detected homozygous or compound heterozygous mutations in ENPP1. In total, 40 different mutations were detected, including 30 missense mutations, 7 nonsense and 3 splice site mutations (c.430+2T>C, c.505-2A>G, c.1164+2T>A). Mutation c.1164+2T>A leads to skipping of exon 11 causing the frameshift P365fsX15.21 The mutations were scattered over the whole coding region of the gene (figure 2), but most concentrated in exons encoding the catalytic and the nuclease like domain. We detected 16 novel mutations (three nonsense mutations, eleven missense mutations and two splice site mutations, see figure 2). In 14 cases (25%), no ENPP1 coding region mutations were found. These patients did not show any obvious difference regarding the distribution of the calcifications compared to the patients with proven ENPP1 mutations (data not shown).

Twenty-nine (71%) of the 41 ENPP1 mutation positive patients died in infancy (median survival: 30 days), whereas 7 of the 14 patients (50%) without ENPP1 mutations died in infancy (median survival: 9 days).

The mutation c.913C>A (p.P305T) in exon 8 was detected most frequently (figure 2, insert). This mutation was present on both alleles in 5 unrelated patients, who all died in infancy. On the other hand, the homozygous mutation c.2320C>T (p.R774C) was associated with a relatively mild phenotype in one patient. This mutation was found on 6 alleles in 5 patients
from unrelated 4 families of Caucasian origin. Apart from the four mutations c.1412A>G (p.Y471C), c.1709A>G (p.Y570C), c.2375A>G (p.N792S), and c.2713-2717delAAAGA (p.K905fsX15), which were present in the affected patients of two unrelated families, all other mutations were private mutations and presented only in single patients.

**Course of GACI in the Study Cohort**

Of the 55 patients in this cohort, 6 cases (11%) presented as stillborns and a total of 30 patients (55%) died within the first 6 months of life despite intensive care therapy, including ventilatory support. Death was attributed to congestive heart failure, persistent arterial hypertension, multiorgan failure or myocardial infarction. After the age of 6 months, only one patient (case #40) died at the age of 7 months within the observation period (**figure 3, panel A**), the eldest living patients being 21 years old now.

**Hypophosphatemia and renal phosphate loss is associated with survival in GACI**

Data on serum Pi levels were available from 13 of 19 surviving patients, additional data on maximal renal tubular phosphate reabsorption were available from 11 of 19 surviving patients with clinically proven GACI (**figure 4**). In 8 of these patients, serum phosphate levels and TmP/GFR levels were measured beyond infancy. All these patients showed hypophosphatemia and hyperphosphaturia, which was noted first between the second and third year of life (**figure 4**). In 4 of these children, the urine was also checked for the presence of microglobulinuria or hyperaminoaciduria, but these tests yielded normal results. Five patients (cases #8, #15, #16, #43, #45) were supplemented with phosphate and calcitriol for signs of hypophosphatemic rickets becoming apparent between 8 months and 11 years of age, including bone pain, bowed femora and short stature. In one of these patients (case #8), phosphate and calcitriol supplementation was associated with worsening of the arterial stenoses, therefore treatment for hypophosphatemic rickets was discontinued in this case.
In those patients with hyperphosphaturia, we amplified all 22 PHEX and 3 FGF23 exons by PCR using intronic primers. PCR products were sequenced bidirectionally. No pathogenic PHEX or FGF23 mutations were found. Intact FGF23 plasma levels were measured by ELISA in all patients with hyperphosphaturia, and were found highly elevated in two patients at 1540 pg/ml and 3890 pg/ml, respectively, while on treatment with phosphate and calcitriol, (normal range 10-50pg/ml).\textsuperscript{25} After a two week cessation of calcitriol treatment, FGF23 levels were only moderately elevated in one patient (93 pg/ml, case #15), but still highly elevated in the other patient (560 pg/ml, case #45).

Bisphosphonate treatment is associated with survival in GACI

In 17 patients, who survived their first day of life, therapy with bisphosphonates was instituted (\textbf{figure 3 panel B}), as etidronate (10-20 mg/kg body weight per day p.o.), pamidronate (0.1mg/kg per week up to 5 mg/kg per day i.v.), etidronate or risedronate. Bisphosphonate treatment was associated with survival beyond infancy in 11 cases (65%), whereas 18 of 26 patients (69%) not treated with bisphosphonates died in infancy (\textbf{figure 3 panel B}).

\textbf{Discussion}

GACI was initially held to be a universally fatal disease,\textsuperscript{1} but within the last 20 years, anecdotal cases of survival beyond infancy have been reported.\textsuperscript{26,27} Though bisphosphonate therapy has been advocated, it has remained unclear to what extent such therapy is effective, and predictors of disease outcome have not previously been defined. This study, albeit a cross-sectional analysis of subjects referred to a single international study group, rather than prospective analysis, clearly indicates GACI to not be an inevitably fatal condition. Specifically, whereas 36 patients died in utero or within the critical period of infancy, 19
patients survived beyond infancy and none of the survivors died within the observational period of 1-6 years.

Despite the limitations of the cross-sectional and retrospective analyses, several factors appeared to be predictive of a favorable prognosis and survival beyond infancy. First, with respect to sites of pathologic calcifications, subjects who died in infancy had been reported to suffer from pulmonary, renal and coronary involvement more frequently than surviving patients. However, this finding could have been biased by a higher detection rate of calcifications in these vessels in autopsy studies rather than in imaging studies performed in living patients. Taken this bias into account, one cannot conclude whether the mortality risk depends on specific sites of calcification or whether it is more related to the general degree of calcification.

GACI was observed to be caused by coding region mutations of ENPP1 in 41 (~75%) of the cases studied. We did not exclude ENPP1 deletions or intronic mutations by our approach. Importantly, GACI survival was not associated with the presence or absence of ENPP1 mutations per se, but the presence of the c.913C>A (p.P305T) in exon 8 mutation on both alleles was always associated with death in infancy despite any treatment efforts. This mutation affects the catalytic region of the protein and is conserved across species. In our study cohort, the p.P305T mutation was the single most frequently detected mutation, present on 19 alleles of 14 patients (25%) from 10 families. The families carrying this mutation originated from an Anglo-American background, suggesting a common founder. Our results suggest the value of screening specifically for this mutation by PCR in clinical testing for GACI in the Anglo-American population. On the other hand, if present on both alleles, the mutation c.2320C>T (p.R774C) was associated with a relatively mild phenotype in one patient. This mutation affecting the nuclease-like domain of NPP1 was previously shown to
be associated with residual enzyme activity. Interestingly, the p.R774C mutation was also present on both alleles in the father of the proband. While the proband was affected by GACI, the father did not present arterial calcifications in infancy, but suffered from severe hypophosphatemic rickets since early childhood.

Stimulated by observations in one human kindred and by conclusive findings in NPP1 and extracellular PP i-deficient mice, for a protective/compensatory effect of hypophosphatemia for clinical phenotype of pathologic soft tissue calcifications in GACI, we focused on available data on phosphate metabolism in 13 surviving GACI patients. In all surviving patients tested, serum Pi levels in infancy were normal, but we noted a decrease of serum Pi levels within the second year of life, which did not increase as subjects aged. Decrease of serum Pi levels was associated with a decrease of renal tubular phosphate reabsorption (TmPi/GFR) in these patients. This effect was not caused by additional PHEX or FGF23 mutations in these patients. However, in two patients we detected elevated FGF23 levels (560 pg/ml and 93 pg/ml, respectively), which might at least partially mediate renal phosphate loss.

Hypophosphatemic rickets was documented here in five survivors of GACI. Our collective findings suggest that clinical investigation of the application of a phosphate poor diet or a phosphate binding agent (e.g., lanthanum carbonate, sevelamer hydrochloride) would be of interest with respect to early intervention in GACI. NPP1 is not universally expressed but is present in renal proximal tubule epithelial cells, with unclear functional consequences. We speculate that NPP1 modulates renal proximal tubule epithelial cell function. In this context, NPP1 nucleotide pyrophosphatase activity (E.C. 3.6.1.9) modulates protein glycosylation and secretion (e.g., IgA in plasma cells), plays a major role in proteoglycans sulfation, and modulates insulin receptor signalling. Hence, deficient NPP1 expression in renal proximal
tubule epithelial cells could modulate the function of these cells by PP\textsubscript{i}-independent or PP\textsubscript{i}-dependent means. With respect to the latter, PP\textsubscript{i} appears to antagonize several functions of P\textsubscript{i} and vice versa, including hydroxyapatite crystal growth in vitro, and architecture and chondrocyte differentiation of the endochondral growth plate in vivo, and pathologic soft tissue calcification including arterial involvement.\cite{13,14} In this context, it should be noted that tissue and serum levels of PP\textsubscript{i} are in the low micromolar range, whereas serum P\textsubscript{i} concentration is normally \~2 mM in humans and \~8 mM in mice.\cite{14} Moreover, a rationale for bisphosphonate therapy becomes evident for GACI, since bisphosphonates function in part as non-hydrolyzeable analogues of PP\textsubscript{i}.

In previous, limited case reports, bisphosphonate treatment has had variable success in GACI.\cite{17,34} In the current study cohort, bisphosphonate therapy was associated with survival in 11 (65%) of 17 treated patients, whereas 69% of the patients not treated with bisphosphonates died. In any retrospective study a comparison of these figures with respect to survival is limited, since the clinical phenotype of the untreated group was most likely more severe than in the treatment group. Also, several patients in this study died in utero or immediately after birth before diagnosis or treatment could be assigned. On the other hand, 7 patients receiving bisphosphonates died within infancy, and also, radiographic resolution of the calcifications did not prevent the subsequent development of arterial hypertension. Arterial hypertension might be caused by microcalcifications not visible on X-ray studies causing artery wall stiffness. However, we believe that bisphosphonates promote resolution of calcifications, but fail to alleviate the associated and often severe myointimal proliferation that plays a major role in vascular stenoses. Given that the extent of vascular occlusion has not appeared to grossly correlate with the extent of calcification in GACI in the literature,\cite{26} and also in some patients included in our study (patients #8, #32, #33, #40), direct therapeutic attention to this aspect of the disorder might improve outcome.
Among the limitations of this study was the inability to examine serum and urine \( \text{PP}_1 \) levels or serum NPP1 protein levels and associated NPP1 enzyme specific activity, as well as affected tissue NPP1 mRNA and protein expression. We did not study other genes encoding mediators of NPP1 expression such as carminerin,\(^{35}\) and regulators of \( \text{PP}_1 \) levels such as ANKH,\(^{14}\) or \( \text{P}_1 \) levels such as TNAP,\(^{13}\) or secondary determinants of \( \text{PP}_1 \) effects on chondro-osseous differentiation of SMCs such as vanin-1 pantetheinase.\(^{11}\) Nevertheless, results of this relatively large GACI observational study indicated that the p.P305T mutation of \( \text{ENPP1} \) might serve as a potential tool for genotyping and prognosis. Furthermore, hyperphosphaturia and hypophosphatemia developed in some GACI subjects and were associated with survival beyond infancy, as also was bisphosphonate treatment. Further prospective, controlled studies of bisphosphonates and low phosphate dietary or phosphate binding treatment appear indicated for GACI.

**Conflicts of interest**

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

**Funding Sources**

FR was supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Sonderforschungsbereich 492, subproject A12). RT was supported by the Veterans Administration Research Service and awards from the NIH (HL077360, HL087252).
Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the patients and their families who participated in the study. The authors also thank Ulrike Botschen for expert technical assistance in ENPP1 mutation analysis.
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Figure legends

Figure 1. Characteristic manifestations of generalized arterial calcification of infancy.

Panel A-E: Patient #6 in his first week of age. A. Echocardiogram showing bright echogenic walls of the aortic arch and descending aorta (arrows), consistent with aortic calcifications. B. Increased echogenicity of the aortic root (arrowhead), left (LCA) and right (RCA) coronary artery (arrows) and C. Increased echogenicity of abdominal aorta (arrows) and celiac trunc (CT) of the same patient. D. Periarticular calcifications (arrows) of the carpal joint and around carpal bones of the left hand. E. Chest X-ray showing moderate cardiomegaly and periarticular calcifications (arrows) of both shoulders. Panel F: Cross section through the aorta from patient #41, who died at the age of 6 weeks, showing calcification at the level of the internal elastic lamina (arrows) and marked intima proliferation (arrowheads) (hematoxylin – eosin, 20X).

Figure 2. Schematic representation of the human ENPP1 gene and protein with mutations identified in 55 GACI patients. Numbered boxes represent the 25 exons, patterned boxes represent functional domains. SO Domain – Somatomedin B-like domain. Novel mutations are depicted in bold face. *The splice site mutations c.430+2T>C and 556-2A>G result most likely in exon skipping and hence in frameshifts. †The mutation P365fsX15 was previously shown to result from skipping of exon 11 caused by the mutation c.1164+2T>A.21

Insert at the left top of the figure: allele frequency of most common ENPP1 mutations in our study cohort.
**Figure 3.** Cumulative survival in GACI patients of our study cohort. Overall survival in all 55 patients including 12 patients, who presented as stillbirths or died before the age of one day, panel A. Survival beyond infancy in 43 patients, who survived their first day of life, including 17 patients treated with bisphosphonates compared to 26 patients, who did not receive bisphosphonate therapy, panel B. Patients treated with bisphosphonates show significantly increased likelihood of survival ($p = 0.026$, Log Rank test).

**Figure 4.** Serum phosphate levels and maximal renal tubular phosphate reabsorption in patients with GACI surviving beyond infancy. Panel A, serum phosphate levels, available from 13 surviving patients. Panel B, TmP/GFR levels, available from 11 surviving patients. Normal serum phosphate levels in children between 1 and 3 years: 1.00-1.95 mmol/l, between 4 and 6 years: 1.05-1.80 mmol/l, between 7 and 9 years: 0.95-1.75 mmol/l)\(^2,22\) TmP/GFR was calculated according to Brodehl et al.\(^2,23\) employing the formula

$$\frac{TmP}{GFR} = S_p \times U_p \times S_{crea} \times U_{crea}$$

Normal TmP/GFR in children between 2 and 15 years: 1.15-2.44 mmol/l\(^2,24\) Note: The means of serum phosphate levels and the means of TmP/GFR levels of each surviving patient were significantly lower than the lowest reference values in patients older than three years of age ($p=0.031$ for serum phosphate and $p=0.004$ for TmP/GFR levels, Wilcoxon test for two paired samples).
Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site of calcification</th>
<th>Death (n=36)</th>
<th>Survival (n=19)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aorta</td>
<td>33 (92%)</td>
<td>18 (95%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary arteries</td>
<td>30 (83%)</td>
<td>8 (42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary arteries</td>
<td>25 (69%)</td>
<td>6 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal arteries</td>
<td>17 (47%)</td>
<td>5 (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periarticular tissue</td>
<td>6 (17%)</td>
<td>10 (53%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1.** Sites of calcifications associated with death and survival in 55 GACI patients.
B

Cumulative Survival

Age in Months

bisphosphonate therapy

untreated
Hypophosphatemia, Hyperphosphaturia and Bisphosphonate Treatment are Associated with Survival Beyond Infancy in Generalized Arterial Calcification of Infancy (GACI)
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_Circ Cardiovasc Genet._ published online December 9, 2008;
_Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics_ is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
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Print ISSN: 1942-325X. Online ISSN: 1942-3268

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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

APPENDIX

The GACI Study Group consists of the following physicians and geneticists who recruited patients:

Abbasi, Afshan, Department of Neonatology, Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Chikarmane, Rashmi, Institute of Medical Genetics, St. Peter’s University Hospital, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA

Chitayat, David, Molecular Genetics Laboratory, Department of Paediatric Laboratory, The Hospital for Sick Children, Medicine, Toronto, Canada

Ciana, Giovanni, Neonatology Center, IRCCS “Burlo Garofolo”, Trieste, Italy

Clark, Godfrey B, Paediatric Nephrology, King’s College London, Great Britain

Ferre, Merry M., Prenatal Diagnostic Center, Carilion Center for Women and Children, Roanoke, VA, USA

Ferrero, Giovanni Battista, Department of Pediatrics, University of Torino, Torino, Italy

Filippone, Marco, Dipartimento di Pediatria, Padova University Hospital, Padova, Italy

Fox, Michelle, Div. of Pediatrics, UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Gardiner, Carol, Department of Clinical Genetics, Nottingham City Hospital, Nottingham, Great Britain

Gibson, James B., Department of Pediatrics, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR, USA

Gruskin, Daniel, Human Genetics and Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine, Decatur, Georgia, USA

Hinrichs, Bernd, Hamburg University Children’s Hospital, Hamburg, Germany

Inwald, David, Paediatric Critical Care Medicine, St Mary’s Hospital, London, Great Britain

Kahler, Stephen G., Division of Medical Genetics, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Little Rock, AR, USA

Kimber-Foster, Judith, Center for Medicine and Prenatal Genetics, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

Kivirikko, Sirpa, Department of Clinical Genetics, Helsinki University Hospital, Helsinki, Finland

Librizzi, Ronald J, Virtua Antenatal Unit, Voorhees, NJ, USA

Lin, Shuan-Pei, Division of Genetics, Department of Pediatrics, MacKay Memorial Hospital, Taipei 10449, Taiwan

Lynch, Sally-Ann, National Center for Medical Genetics, OLHSC, Dublin, Ireland

Martinovic, Jelena, Unit of Fetal Pathology, Department of Histo-Embryology and Cytogenetics Hospital Necker-Enfants Malades, Paris, France
McGaughran, Julie, Queensland Clinical Genetics Service, Royal Children’s Hospital and Health District, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Newman, William, Academic and Regional Department of Clinical Genetics, St Mary’s Hospital, Manchester, Great Britain

Quarrell, Oliver, Department of Clinical Genetics, Sheffield Children’s Hospital, Sheffield, Great Britain

Reardon, Willie, National Center for Medical Genetics, OLHSC, Dublin, Ireland

Roscioli, Tony, Department of Clinical and Molecular Genetics, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia

Roux, Jean-Jacques, Service d’Anatomie et Cytologie Pathologiques. Centre Hospitalier, Chambéry Cedex, France

Sinaiko, Alan R., Department of Pediatrics, University of MN Medical School, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Smith, Wendy E., Division of Genetics, Pediatric Specialty Group, Barbara Bush Childrens’ Hospital, Maine Medical, Portland, USA

Stavis, Robert, Neonatal ICU, Bryn Mawr Hospital, Bryn Mawr, PA, USA

Vallance, Hillary, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Children’s & Women’s Health Centre of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Van de Laar, Ingrid, Department of Clinical Genetics, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Van Reempts, Patrick, Department of Neonatology, University Hospital Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

Wraige, Elizabeth, Paediatric Neurology, Guy’s Hospital, London, Great Britain

Yee, Harris, Specialist in Medical Genetics, Calgary, Canada
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<th>Sex</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<th>Peri-articular calcifications</th>
<th>Bisphosphonate treatment</th>
<th>Resolution of calcifications</th>
<th>Age at data collection</th>
<th>Age at death</th>
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<td>34</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<td>3 3/4 years</td>
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<td>spontaneous</td>
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Supplemental table 1. Clinical and mutational data on 55 individual patients with generalized arterial calcification of infancy.  
m= male, f=female, a=aorta, c=coronary arteries, p=pulmonary artery, r=renal artery, v=heart valves, d= diverse arteries throughout the body. "\"= no data available.  
Novel mutations are noted in bold face.  
*Hypophosphatemia was diagnosed if serum phosphate levels were below the reference range (between 1 and 3 years: 1.00-1.95 mmol/l, between 4 and 6 years: 1.05-1.80 mmol/l, between 7 and 9 years: 0.95-1.75 mmol/l).  
†Hyperphosphaturia: TmP/GFR was calculated according to the formula TmP/GFR = \( \frac{P_p - U_p \times P_{crea}}{U_{crea}} \).  
Hyperphosphaturia was diagnosed if TmP/GFR was below 1.15 mmol/l in patients between 1 and 12 years.  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Age (weeks)</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th># of Siblings</th>
<th>Site(s)</th>
<th>Hypophosphatemia</th>
<th>Hyperphosphaturia</th>
<th>Type of Mutation</th>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
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<td>42</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>a,c,p,r</td>
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<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>America</td>
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<td>a,c,p</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>m</td>
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<td>no</td>
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<td>f</td>
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<td>a,v</td>
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<td>etidronate</td>
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CICULATIONAHA2008/797704/R6
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
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<th>Neonatal period</th>
<th>Infancy</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall Death</td>
<td>Overall Survival</td>
<td>Overall Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=36)</td>
<td>(n=19)</td>
<td>(n=36)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pleural effusion</td>
<td>4 (11%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>2 (5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ascites</td>
<td>5 (14%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>2 (5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pericardial effusion</td>
<td>8 (22%)</td>
<td>3 (16%)</td>
<td>3 (8%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fetal hydrops</td>
<td>7 (19%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>3 (8%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decreased fetal movements</td>
<td>3 (8%)</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
<td>/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fetal distress</td>
<td>8 (22%)</td>
<td>6 (31,5%)</td>
<td>/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polyhydramnios</td>
<td>10 (28%)</td>
<td>2 (10,5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respiratory distress</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>15 (42%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac insufficiency</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>22 (61%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arterial hypertension</td>
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<td>10 (28%)</td>
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<td>Impalpable pulses</td>
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<td>3 (8%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Supplemental table 2.** Symptoms recorded in utero, within the neonatal period and later in infancy associated with death and survival in 55 patients with GACI. Prenatal symptoms were detected by sonography during pregnancy.
Supplemental References


