



GLB1-Related Disorders

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Summary

Clinical characteristics

GLB1-related disorders comprise two phenotypically distinct lysosomal storage disorders: GM1 gangliosidosis and mucopolysaccharidosis type IVB (MPS IVB).

The phenotype of GM1 gangliosidosis constitutes a spectrum ranging from severe (infantile) to intermediate (late-infantile and juvenile) to mild (chronic/adult).

- Type I (infantile) GM1 gangliosidosis begins before age 12 months. Prenatal manifestations may include nonimmune hydrops fetalis, intrauterine growth restriction, and placental vacuolization; congenital dermal melanocytosis (Mongolian spots) may be observed. Macular cherry-red spot is detected on eye exam. Progressive central nervous system dysfunction leads to spasticity and rapid regression; blindness, deafness, decerebrate rigidity, seizures, feeding difficulties, and oral secretions are observed. Life expectancy is two to three years.
- Type II can be subdivided into the late-infantile (onset age 1-3 years) and juvenile (onset age 3-10 years) phenotypes. Central nervous system dysfunction manifests as progressive cognitive, motor, and speech decline as measured by psychometric testing. There may be mild corneal clouding, hepatosplenomegaly, and/or cardiomyopathy; the typical course is characterized by progressive neurologic decline, progressive skeletal disease in some individuals (including kyphosis and avascular necrosis of the femoral heads), and progressive feeding difficulties leading to aspiration risk.
- Type III begins in late childhood to the third decade with generalized dystonia leading to unsteady gait and speech disturbance followed by extrapyramidal signs including akinetic-rigid parkinsonism. Cardiomyopathy develops in some and skeletal involvement occurs in most. Intellectual impairment is common late in the disease with prognosis directly related to the degree of neurologic impairment.

MPS IVB is characterized by skeletal dysplasia with specific findings of axial and appendicular dysostosis multiplex, short stature (below 15th centile in adults), kyphoscoliosis, coxa/genu valgus, joint laxity,

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platyspondyly, and odontoid hypoplasia. First signs and symptoms may be apparent at birth. Bony involvement is progressive, with more than 84% of adults requiring ambulation aids; life span does not appear to be limited. Corneal clouding is detected in some individuals and cardiac valvular disease may develop.

Diagnosis/testing

The diagnosis of a *GLB1*-related disorder is established in a proband with suggestive clinical findings by identification of biallelic pathogenic (or likely pathogenic) variants in *GLB1* by molecular genetic testing, or of significantly reduced activity of the beta-galactosidase enzyme activity in peripheral blood leukocytes or fibroblasts.

Management

Treatment of manifestations: Best provided by specialists in biochemical genetics, cardiology, orthopedics, and neurology and therapists knowledgeable about *GLB1*-related disorders; surgery is best performed in centers with surgeons and anesthesiologists experienced in the care of individuals with lysosomal storage disorders; early and ongoing interventions to optimize comfort, mobility, educational and social outcomes. Anesthetic expertise and precautions are necessary to anticipate and manage complications relating to skeletal involvement and airway compromise.

Surveillance:

- **GM1 gangliosidosis.** Assess yearly: quality of life by neurologist, physiotherapist and nutritionist; seizure risk by a neurologist; cervical spine stability; and hip dislocation risk. Perform every one to three years: electrocardiogram, echocardiogram, and eye examination.
- **MPS IVB.** Yearly: ocular exam; assess lower extremities for malalignment, hips for dysplasia/subluxation, thoracolumbar spine for kyphosis, and cervical spine for instability; assessment by physiotherapist to optimize ambulation; perform endurance tests to evaluate functional status of the cardiovascular, pulmonary, musculoskeletal, and nervous systems. Perform electrocardiogram and echocardiogram every one to three years.

Agents/circumstances to avoid: Unplanned anesthesia management due to increased risk for complications; psychotropic medications because of the risk of worsening neurologic disease; positioning that increases aspiration risk during feedings, seizure medication dosages that result in excessive sedation, and circumstances that exacerbate fall risk for those with GM1 gangliosidosis; excessive weight gain in those with MPS IVB.

Genetic counseling

GLB1-related disorders are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. If both parents are known to be heterozygous for a *GLB1* pathogenic variant, each sib of an affected individual has at conception a 25% chance of being affected, a 50% chance of being an asymptomatic carrier, and a 25% chance of being unaffected and not a carrier. Once the *GLB1* pathogenic variants have been identified in an affected family member, carrier testing for at-risk relatives and prenatal and preimplantation genetic testing are possible.

GeneReview Scope

GLB1-Related Disorders: Included Phenotypes ¹

- GM1 gangliosidosis
 - Type I (infantile)
 - Type II (late infantile and juvenile)
 - Type III (chronic/adult)
- Mucopolysaccharidosis type IVB (Morquio B disease)

For synonyms and outdated names see Nomenclature.

1. For other genetic causes of these phenotypes see Differential Diagnosis.

Diagnosis

GLB1-related disorders comprise two phenotypically unique disorders, GM1 gangliosidosis and mucopolysaccharidosis type IVB (MPS IVB). Based on age of presentation, three types of GM1 gangliosidosis have been described: type I (infantile), type II (late infantile and juvenile) and type III (chronic/adult).

Suggestive Findings

A **GLB1-related disorder is suspected** in individuals with the following clinical, radiographic, neuroimaging, and laboratory findings and family history.

Clinical Findings

Type I (infantile; onset age <1 year) GM1 gangliosidosis should be suspected in infants with the following clinical findings:

- Macular cherry-red spots
- Developmental delay
- Developmental regression generally observed by age six months
- Hepatosplenomegaly
- Hypertrophic or dilated cardiomyopathy
- Coarse facial features
- Generalized skeletal dysplasia of varying severity
- Congenital dermal melanocytosis (Mongolian spots)
- Elevated serum concentrations of AST with normal ALT, and increased serum chitotriosidase activity
- Vacuolated lymphocytes and abnormally granulated eosinophils in peripheral blood smear

Type II GM1 gangliosidosis should be suspected in individuals with the following clinical findings:

- Late infantile (onset age 1-3 years)
 - Developmental arrest followed by regression
 - Corneal clouding (Figure 1)
 - Motor abnormalities
 - Progressive and diffuse atrophy on brain imaging
 - Possible hepatosplenomegaly, cardiomyopathy, and/or skeletal abnormalities
 - Elevated serum concentrations of AST with normal ALT, and increased serum chitotriosidase activity
- Juvenile (onset age 3-10 years)
 - Ataxia and progressive impairment of gross and fine motor skills
 - Progressive dysarthria
 - Brain MRI findings of progressive atrophy

Type III (chronic/adult) GM1 gangliosidosis should be suspected in individuals with the following clinical findings:

- Dystonia leading to gait and speech/swallowing difficulty
- Cognitive/intellectual impairment, behavioral/psychiatric disorders, short stature, and below-normal weight [Giugliani et al 2019]
- Auditory startle (rare clinical finding; may or may not be present) [Pillai et al 2018]

Mucopolysaccharidosis type IVB (MPS IVB) should be suspected in individuals with the following clinical findings:

- Corneal clouding (rare)
- Cardiac valvular disease
- Severe skeletal abnormalities
- Short stature
- Normal developmental milestones, cognitive function, and neurologic function
- Abnormal pulmonary function, including obstructive or restrictive lung disease

Radiographic Findings

GM1 gangliosidosis (Figure 2)

- **Type I.** Findings observed in many (but not all) persons include vertebral beaking, kyphosis, scoliosis, hip dislocation, and osteoporosis [Jarnes Utz et al 2017].
- **Type II.** Odontoid hypoplasia is only observed in the late-infantile subtype, while irregularity and central indentation of endplates of vertebral bodies is only seen in the juvenile subtype. The finding of pear-shaped vertebral bodies favors a diagnosis of late-infantile disease, while squared and flat vertebral bodies is suggestive of juvenile disease. Other findings include scoliosis, anterior lumbar vertebral hypoplasia, lower ileum and fossa acetabulae hypoplasia, femoral head subluxation, coxa valga, and short femoral necks. Significantly decreased bone mineral density is typical, while bone age and tubular bones may remain unaffected [Ferreira et al 2020].
- **Type III.** Beaked and/or flattened vertebrae, hip dysplasia, osteopenia, J-shaped sella turcica, scoliosis, kyphosis, pectus carinatum, and odontoid hypoplasia may be observed in some affected persons [Giugliani et al 2019].

MPS IVB. See Note. Findings on skeletal survey that suggest the diagnosis of MPS IVB include the following:

- Odontoid hypoplasia with subsequent risk for cervical instability
- Kyphosis (curving of the spine that causes a bowing or rounding of the back, which leads to a hunchback or slouching posture)
- Gibbus (structural kyphosis due to wedging of one or more adjacent vertebrae)
- Scoliosis
- Pectus carinatum or excavatum

Note: (1) Based on wide variations and subtleties of the radiographic findings in MPS IV, multiple body regions should be evaluated. (2) While the radiographic findings in MPS IVA (caused by biallelic *GALNS* pathogenic variants) and MPS IVB are extensive and can be diagnostic, they cannot distinguish MPS IVA from MPS IVB. (See [Mucopolysaccharidosis Type IVA](#) for a detailed discussion of the radiographic findings.)

Neuroimaging Findings

GM1 gangliosidosis. Brain MRI can show the following:



Figure 1. Image obtained with a slit lamp demonstrating mild-to-moderate corneal clouding in an adolescent with the juvenile form of GM1 gangliosidosis

Picture courtesy of Dr Wahdi Zein, National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

- **Type I.** Increase in ventricular and total brain tissue volume, atrophy of cerebellar white matter, and atrophy of the caudate, putamen, corpus callosum, and basal ganglia [Nestrasil et al 2018]
- **Type II.** Decrease in total brain tissue volume with increase in ventricular volume, diffuse hypomyelination and white matter abnormalities, atrophy of caudate, putamen, corpus callosum, and basal ganglia, and T₂-weighted hypointensity in the basal ganglia/globus pallidus that is not specific (Figure 3) [Deodato et al 2017, Feng et al 2018, Lee et al 2018, Nestrasil et al 2018, King et al 2020, Uchino et al 2020]
- **Type III.** General brain atrophy, subcortical white matter changes, ventriculomegaly, atrophy of the basal ganglia, hypomyelination, hyperintensity in the putamen, mild cerebral atrophy, and/or a "wish bone" pattern of iron accumulation [Pillai et al 2018, Giugliani et al 2019]

Laboratory Findings

GM1 gangliosidosis. A specific glycosaminoglycan pattern in urine noted in persons with GM1 gangliosidosis raises suspicion – but is not diagnostic – for this disorder. A characteristic urinary oligosaccharide profile can also be detected in urine and dried urine spots via UHPLC-MS/MS analysis [Semeraro et al 2021].

Elevated glycan biomarkers may be detectable via MS/MS in dried blood spots of newborns with GM1 gangliosidosis [Su et al 2021].

MPS IVB. Excretion of keratan sulfate in the urine can be diagnostic of MPS IV; however, the presence of keratan sulfate in the urine does not distinguish MPS IVA from MPS IVB; thus, additional studies are warranted (see Establishing the Diagnosis).

Note: A glycosaminoglycan screen can be falsely negative; thus, negative results should not deter the clinician from additional testing in an individual with a suspected diagnosis of a *GLB1*-related disorder on the basis of clinical and imaging findings.

Family History

Family history is consistent with autosomal recessive inheritance (e.g., affected sibs and/or parental consanguinity). Absence of a known family history does not preclude the diagnosis.

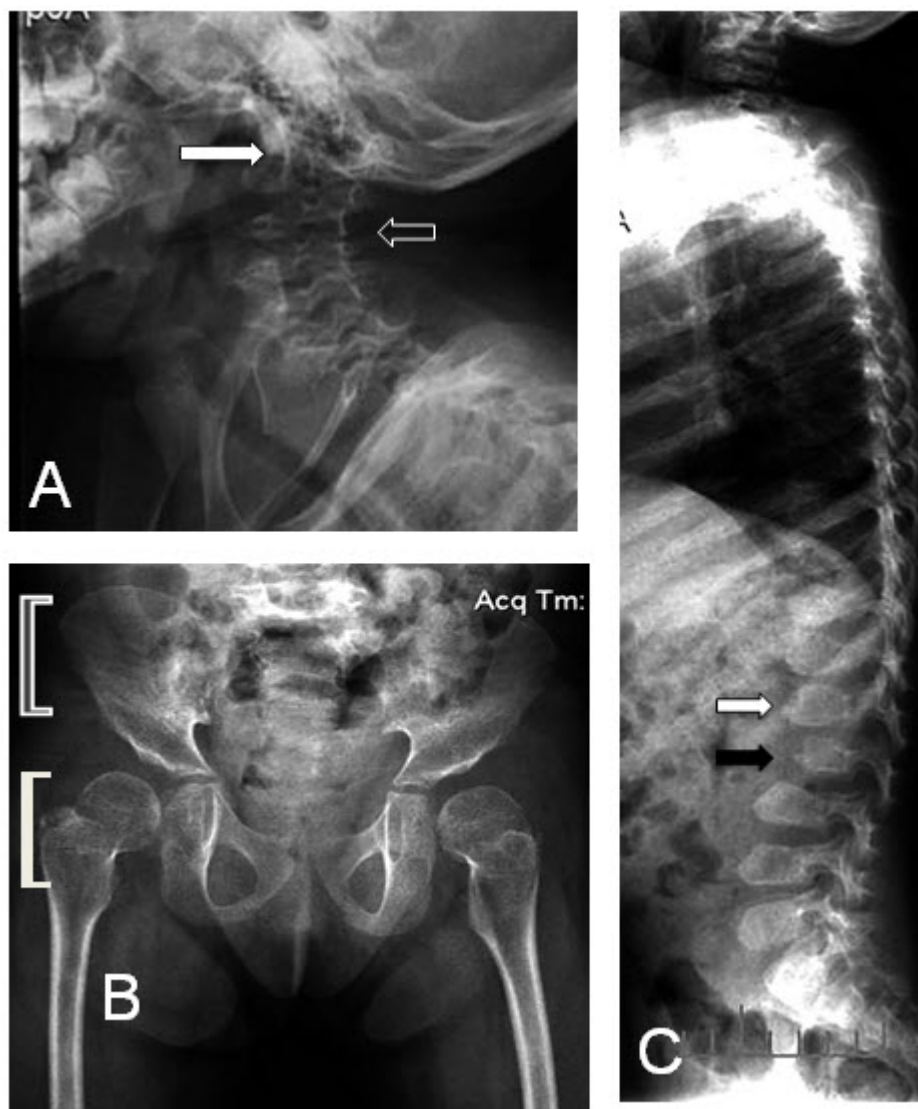


Figure 2. Radiographs of the late-infantile form of GM1 gangliosidosis

A. The odontoid process is under-ossified (white arrow). The vertebral bodies are flattened (black arrow).

B. Hip radiographs showing dysostosis multiplex. The infero-lateral portions of the ilia are not formed, leading to slanting of their lower margins (gray bracket). The capital femoral epiphyses are well-rounded, slightly larger and shorter than normal, and in valgus position (white bracket).

C. The vertebral bodies are more severely flattened dorsally than anteriorly (white arrow) and pear-shaped (black arrow). Defective ossification of the anterior portions of the vertebral bodies in the thoraco-lumbar junction results in a hook shape (black arrow).

Establishing the Diagnosis

The diagnosis of a *GLB1*-related disorder **is established** in a proband with suggestive clinical findings by identification of (a) biallelic pathogenic (or likely pathogenic) variants in *GLB1* by molecular genetic testing (see Table 1) or (b) significantly reduced activity of the beta-galactosidase enzyme activity in peripheral blood leukocytes or fibroblasts. Although only one method is required to establish the diagnosis, the other may be used in tandem to confirm the diagnosis or in some cases, to identify a genotype-phenotype correlation.

Note: (1) Per ACMG/AMP variant interpretation guidelines, the terms "pathogenic variant" and "likely pathogenic variant" are synonymous in a clinical setting, meaning that both are considered diagnostic and can be used for clinical decision making [Richards et al 2015]. Reference to "pathogenic variants" in this *GeneReview*



Figure 3. Brain MRI findings in a child with the late-infantile form of GM1 gangliosidosis

A. At age 3 years 6 months: T₂-weighted axial view showing minimal atrophy

B and C. At age 6 years 10 months: T₂-weighted axial view showing progressive atrophy as evidenced by enlarged ventricles (black arrows) and T₂-weighted axial view showing extensive brain iron accumulation within the globus pallidus (white arrows)

is understood to include any likely pathogenic variants. (2) Identification of biallelic *GLB1* variants of uncertain significance (or of one known *GLB1* pathogenic variant and one *GLB1* variant of uncertain significance) does not establish or rule out the diagnosis.

Molecular genetic testing approaches can include a combination of **gene-targeted testing** (single-gene testing, multigene panel) and **comprehensive genomic testing** (exome sequencing, genome sequencing) depending on the phenotype.

Gene-targeted testing requires that the clinician determine which gene(s) are likely involved, whereas genomic testing does not. Individuals with the distinctive findings described in Suggestive Findings are likely to be diagnosed using gene-targeted testing (see Option 1), whereas those with a phenotype indistinguishable from many other lysosomal storage disorders are more likely to be diagnosed using comprehensive genomic testing (see Option 2).

Option 1

Single-gene testing. Sequence analysis of *GLB1* is performed first to detect missense, nonsense, and splice site variants and small intragenic deletions/insertions. Note: Depending on the sequencing method used, single-exon, multiexon, or whole-gene deletions/duplications may not be detected. If only one or no variant is detected by the sequencing method used, the next step is to perform gene-targeted deletion/duplication analysis to detect exon and whole-gene deletions or duplications.

A lysosomal storage disorder multigene panel that includes *GLB1* and other genes of interest (see Differential Diagnosis) is most likely to identify the genetic cause of the condition while limiting identification of variants of uncertain significance and pathogenic variants in genes that do not explain the underlying phenotype. Note: (1) The genes included in the panel and the diagnostic sensitivity of the testing used for each gene vary by laboratory and are likely to change over time. (2) Some multigene panels may include genes not associated with the condition discussed in this *GeneReview*. (3) In some laboratories, panel options may include a custom laboratory-designed panel and/or custom phenotype-focused exome analysis that includes genes specified by the clinician. (4) Methods used in a panel may include sequence analysis, deletion/duplication analysis, and/or other non-sequencing-based tests.

For an introduction to multigene panels click [here](#). More detailed information for clinicians ordering genetic tests can be found [here](#).

Option 2

Comprehensive genomic testing does not require the clinician to determine which gene is likely involved. **Exome sequencing** is most commonly used; **genome sequencing** is also possible.

For an introduction to comprehensive genomic testing click [here](#). More detailed information for clinicians ordering genomic testing can be found [here](#).

Table 1. Molecular Genetic Testing Used in *GLB1*-Related Disorders

Gene ¹	Method	Proportion of Pathogenic Variants ² Detectable by Method
<i>GLB1</i>	Sequence analysis ³	>99% ⁴
	Gene-targeted deletion/duplication analysis ⁵	<1% ⁴

1. See Table A. Genes and Databases for chromosome locus and protein.

2. See Molecular Genetics for information on variants detected in this gene.

3. Sequence analysis detects variants that are benign, likely benign, of uncertain significance, likely pathogenic, or pathogenic. Variants may include missense, nonsense, and splice site variants and small intragenic deletions/insertions; typically, exon or whole-gene deletions/duplications are not detected. For issues to consider in interpretation of sequence analysis results, click [here](#).

4. Data derived from the subscription-based professional view of Human Gene Mutation Database [Stenson et al 2020]

5. Gene-targeted deletion/duplication analysis detects intragenic deletions or duplications. Methods used may include a range of techniques such as quantitative PCR, long-range PCR, multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification (MLPA), and a gene-targeted microarray designed to detect single-exon deletions or duplications.

Beta-Galactosidase Enzyme Analysis

The definitive diagnosis of a *GLB1*-related disorder can also be made by measuring beta-galactosidase enzyme activity in peripheral blood leukocytes or fibroblasts.

The diagnosis of MPS IVB can be confirmed by the combination of keratan sulfate in the urine and decreased enzyme activity for beta-galactosidase enzyme activity in peripheral blood leukocytes or fibroblasts in the absence of intellectual disability.

Table 2. Beta-Galactosidase Enzyme Activity in *GLB1*-Related Disorders by Phenotype

	GM1 Gangliosidosis				MPS IVB
	Type I	Type II		Type III	
	Infantile	Late infantile	Juvenile	Chronic/Adult	
Beta-galactosidase enzyme activity ^{1, 2}	Negligible	~1%-5%	~3%-10%	5%-10%	2%-12%

1. Relative values (% of normal activity)

2. Although the percent of residual enzyme activity correlates generally with phenotype, it cannot predict the type of GM1 gangliosidosis. The lack of direct correlation between enzyme activity and disease severity may be due to the use of artificial substrates in the in vitro enzyme assay, which may not exactly replicate in vivo enzyme activity with natural substrates. Modifier genes could theoretically alter enzyme activity and thus, disease severity.

Clinical Characteristics

Clinical Description

GLB1-related disorders comprise two phenotypically distinct disorders: GM1 gangliosidosis and mucopolysaccharidosis type IVB (MPS IVB).

To date, more than 200 individuals have been identified with GM1 gangliosidosis [Suzuki et al 2014, Regier et al 2016, Jarnes Utz et al 2017] and approximately 60 individuals have been described with MPS IVB [Bleier et al 2018, Abumansour et al 2019]. The following description of the phenotypic features associated with each GLB1-related disorder is based on these reports.

Table 3. Clinical, Skeletal, Neuroimaging, and Biochemical Findings in GLB1-Related Disorders

Finding	GM1 Gangliosidosis				MPS IVB
	Type I	Type II		Type III	
	Infantile	Late infantile	Juvenile	Chronic/Adult	
Onset of symptoms	<1 yr	1-3 yrs	3-10 yrs	10+ yrs	3-5 yrs
Eye findings	CRS	CC	CC	± CC	CC
Motor abnormalities	+	+	+	Extrapyramidal	See footnote 1.
Hepatosplenomegaly	+	±	±	–	–
Cardiac involvement	±	±	±	±	+
Coarse facial features	±	–	–	–	See footnote 1.
Skeletal findings	+	±	±	±	+
Neuroimaging abnormality	PA	PA	PA	± mild atrophy	See footnote 1.
Urine glycosaminoglycans	See footnote 2.	See footnote 2.	See footnote 2.	See footnote 2.	Keratan sulfate ³

– = negative finding; + = positive finding; ± = variable finding among individuals with the disorder; CC = corneal clouding; CRS = cherry-red spot; PA = progressive atrophy

1. Secondary to bony changes

2. Oligosaccharide with terminal galactose sugar

3. False negative results can be observed.

GM1 Gangliosidosis

The phenotype of GM1 gangliosidosis constitutes a spectrum ranging from severe (infantile) to intermediate (late infantile and juvenile) to mild (chronic/adult). While classification into these types is arbitrary, it is helpful in understanding the variation observed in the timing of disease onset, symptoms, rate of progression, and longevity.

Type I (infantile) GM1 gangliosidosis

- **Onset** of symptoms is before age 12 months. In some infants, prenatal manifestations include nonimmune hydrops fetalis (6%), intrauterine growth restriction (1%), and placental vacuolization [Brunetti-Pierri & Scaglia 2008, Jarnes Utz et al 2017, Lang et al 2020]. Congenital dermal melanocytosis (Mongolian spots) may be observed [Mishra et al 2021].
- Laboratory findings can include elevated serum concentrations of AST with normal ALT, and increased serum chitotriosidase activity [Arash-Kaps et al 2019] and vacuolated lymphocytes and abnormally granulated eosinophils in the peripheral blood smear [Lynch & Czuchlewski 2016].
- **Eye findings.** Macular cherry-red spot is detected.

- **Central nervous system dysfunction** manifests as:
 - Early developmental delay with hypotonia;
 - Exaggerated startle response, followed by spasticity and rapid regression;
 - Severe central nervous system dysfunction by the end of the first year leading to blindness and deafness; decerebrate rigidity; seizures; and poor feeding, difficulties in swallowing, excess secretions, and risk of aspiration.
- **Hepatosplenomegaly** occurs in high prevalence (85%) and is typically observed within the first 7.5-10 months of life, but may not always be present at the time of diagnosis [Lang et al 2020].
- **Cardiac involvement** manifests as hypertrophic or dilated cardiomyopathy, cardiomegaly, and/or hypertension [Jarnes Utz et al 2017, Lang et al 2020].
- **Coarsened facial appearance** may include frontal bossing, depressed nasal bridge with a broad nasal tip, long philtrum, large low-set ears, gingival hypertrophy with macroglossia, coarse thickened skin, and hirsutism.
- **Skeletal dysplasia** can be seen at the time of diagnosis and may result in scoliosis, kyphosis, and restrictive lung disease.
- **Prognosis.** Progression is rapid with death by age two to three years, frequently secondary to aspiration pneumonia.

Type II (late-infantile and juvenile) GM1 gangliosidosis

- **Onset** of the late-infantile form is typically between ages one and three years with life expectancy until ages five to ten years; onset of the juvenile form is typically between ages three and ten years with life expectancy well into the second decade. Laboratory findings can include elevated serum concentrations of AST with normal ALT, and increased serum chitotriosidase activity [Lee et al 2018, Arash-Kaps et al 2019].
- **Eye findings.** Mild corneal clouding
- **Central nervous system dysfunction** manifests as progressive cognitive, motor, and speech decline, as measured by the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale and other age-appropriate psychometric testing.
- **Hepatosplenomegaly** and/or **cardiac involvement** (manifesting as dilated or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy) is variably present [Arash-Kaps et al 2019].
- **Coarsened facial appearance** is not observed in this subtype of GM1 gangliosidosis.
- **Skeletal dysplasia** may or may not be present.
- **Prognosis.** The typical course is characterized by progressive neurologic decline, progressive skeletal disease in some individuals (including kyphosis and avascular necrosis of the femoral heads), and progressive feeding difficulties leading to aspiration risk. Aspiration pneumonia and resulting respiratory complications may necessitate artificial respiratory support [Uchino et al 2020]. Life expectancy of the late-infantile subtype is up to age 9-10 years, while individuals with the juvenile form may survive until early adulthood.

Type III (chronic/adult) GM1 gangliosidosis

- **Onset** of symptoms is between age ten and 30 years.
- **Eye findings.** Cloudy corneas may or may not be present.
- **Central nervous system dysfunction**
 - Typically presents with generalized dystonia leading to unsteady gait and speech disturbance
 - Shortly thereafter, most will develop extrapyramidal signs including akinetic-rigid parkinsonism.
 - Intellectual impairment is common in late stages of the disease.
 - Behavioral/psychiatric disorders may occur.
- **Cardiac involvement** in the form of cardiomyopathy develops in some individuals.

- **Hepatosplenomegaly** and **coarse facial features** are not typically observed in this subtype of GM1 gangliosidosis [Giugliani et al 2019].
- **Skeletal abnormalities**, found in 95% of individuals, are most commonly short stature, kyphosis, hip dysplasia, and scoliosis of varying severity.
- **Prognosis** is directly related to the degree of neurologic impairment. Most affected individuals have a shorter life span than their unaffected relatives [Suzuki et al 2014].

Mucopolysaccharidosis Type IVB

Onset of first signs and symptoms occurs as early as birth.

Eye findings. Corneal clouding is detected in some individuals.

Central nervous system dysfunction, hepatosplenomegaly and **coarsened facial appearance** are not typically present in this disorder.

Cardiac involvement manifests as valvular disease. Although previously considered a frequent finding, a study of 60 individuals with MPS IVB showed infrequency of cardiac valve pathology and no reports of cardiomyopathy [Abumansour et al 2019].

Skeletal dysplasia is the main feature of this disorder with specific findings of axial and appendicular dysostosis multiplex [Abumansour et al 2019], short stature (below 15th centile in adults) [Bleier et al 2018], kyphoscoliosis, coxa/genu valga, joint laxity, platyspondyly, and odontoid hypoplasia. Structural abnormalities of the chest may cause restrictive lung disease. Spinal cord compression is a common complication of spinal dysostosis.

Dental findings including small and widely spaced teeth, caries, and tooth enamel abnormalities occur in a minority of individuals.

Auditory findings. Although not well documented in MPS IVB, sensorineural and/or conductive hearing loss is common in MPS IVA and may occur in MPS IVB through a similar mechanism.

Prognosis. Neurologic symptoms such as pain, bladder incontinence, and spasticity may occur secondary to spinal cord compression in some individuals, with a reported frequency of approximately 10%. Bony involvement is progressive, with more than 84% of adults requiring ambulation aids [Bleier et al 2018]. Based on current data, life span is not limited by this condition. More than two thirds of participants in a survey of the natural history of MPS IVB were between ages 30 and 64 years [Bleier et al 2018].

Genotype-Phenotype Correlations

Due to extensive molecular heterogeneity, no clear genotype-phenotype correlations have been identified in GM1 gangliosidosis. Generally, pathogenic variants that affect the surface of the beta-galactosidase enzyme tend to result in a less severe phenotype and are associated with type III (adult/chronic) GM1 gangliosidosis, while pathogenic variants that affect the protein core or enzyme active site are associated with the more severe type I (infantile) form of the disease [Ohto et al 2012, Feng et al 2018, Arash-Kaps et al 2019].

MPS IVB is associated with pathogenic variants of *GLB1* that impair the catalytic degradation of keratan sulfate bound oligosaccharides while GM1 gangliosidosis is associated with pathogenic variants that impair the degradation of gangliosides.

However, some pathogenic variants are associated with both MPS IVB and GM1 gangliosidosis. In the homozygous state, a pathogenic variant typically associated with MPS IVB, when present in compound heterozygosity with another *GLB1* pathogenic variant, may manifest as type II or type III GM1 gangliosidosis or

as a blended MPSIVB/GM1 gangliosidosis phenotype, including dysostosis as well as neurodegenerative manifestations.

Nomenclature

In the past GM1 gangliosidosis was referred to as beta-galactosidase-1 deficiency or beta-galactosidosis; mucopolysaccharidosis type IVB was referred to as Morquio syndrome type B. These terms should be used when searching for older literature on GM1 gangliosidosis.

Prevalence

GM1 gangliosidosis of all types is estimated to occur in one in 100,000 to 300,000 [Suzuki et al 2014]. The most common is the infantile form. The prevalence in Brazil (1:17,000), in persons of Roma ancestry (1:10,000), and in the Maltese Islands (1:3,700) is much higher than in other areas and likely represents founder effects (reviewed in Brunetti-Pierri & Scaglia [2008]).

The prevalence of chronic/adult GM1 gangliosidosis is higher in the Japanese population, likely due both to a founder effect and possibly a greater awareness of the disorder among Japanese healthcare providers [Higaki et al 2011].

MPS IVB. Before 1980, MPS IVA and IVB were indistinguishable. The overall prevalence of MPS IV was reported as 1:75,000 to 1:640,000 (reviewed in Ohto et al [2012]). Subsequently the prevalence of MPS IVB has been reported as 1:250,000-1:1,000,000 (reviewed in Bleier et al [2018]).

Genetically Related (Allelic) Disorders

No phenotypes other than those described in this *GeneReview* are known to be associated with germline pathogenic variants in *GLB1*.

Differential Diagnosis

GM1 Gangliosidosis

Type I (infantile) GM1 gangliosidosis. See Table 4.

Table 4. Genetic Disorders of Interest in the Differential Diagnosis of Type I (Infantile) GM1 Gangliosidosis

Gene(s)	DiffDx Disorder ¹	Features of DiffDx Disorder			
		Cherry-red spot (≤12 mos)	Onset of neurologic regression	Other features / Comment	Distinguishing it from type I (infantile) GM1 gangliosidosis
<i>ASPA</i>	Canavan disease	–	≤6 mos	Macrocephaly, head lag, hypotonia, seizures	Leukoencephalopathy, ↑ N-acetyl aspartate in CSF
<i>CLN5</i> <i>CLN6</i> <i>CLN8</i> <i>CTSD</i> <i>MFSD8</i> <i>PPT1</i> <i>TPP1</i>	Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses, infantile & late-infantile (OMIM PS256730)	–	≤6 mos	Visual deficits, seizures	Abnormal ERG
<i>CTSA</i>	Galactosialidosis ² (OMIM 256540)	+	≤6 mos	Seizures	Corneal clouding

Table 4. continued from previous page.

Gene(s)	DiffDx Disorder ¹	Features of DiffDx Disorder			
		Cherry-red spot (≤ 12 mos)	Onset of neurologic regression	Other features / Comment	Distinguishing it from type I (infantile) GM1 gangliosidosis
<i>GALC</i>	Krabbe disease	–	≤ 6 mos	Seizures	Leukodystrophy, peripheral neuropathy, irritability
<i>GBA1</i> (<i>GBA</i>)	Gaucher disease type 2	–	≤ 6 mos	Seizures in some persons	Oculomotor abnormalities, hypertonia, opisthotonos
<i>GFAP</i>	Alexander disease, infantile form	–	≤ 6 mos	Macrocephaly, seizures	Leukodystrophy
<i>GM2A</i>	Activator-deficient TSD ³ (GM2 gangliosidosis, AB variant) (See GM2 Activator Deficiency .)	+	≤ 6 mos	Phenotype identical to classic TSD; ⁴ extremely rare disorder	Lack of coarse features & skeletal disease
<i>GNPTAB</i>	Mucopolipidosis II (I-cell disease) (See GNPTAB Disorders .)	–	≤ 12 mos		Absence of seizures
<i>HEXA</i>	Tay-Sachs disease (See HEXA Disorders .)	+	≤ 6 mos	Macrocephaly, head lag, hypotonia, seizures	Lack of skeletal disease
<i>HEXB</i>	Sandhoff disease ⁵	+	≤ 6 mos	Seizures	Lack of skeletal disease
<i>NEU1</i>	Sialidosis type II ⁶ (neuraminidase deficiency) (OMIM 256550)	+	≤ 12 mos	Seizures	Hydrops fetalis, epiphyseal stippling, facial edema
<i>SMPD1</i>	Niemann-Pick disease type A (See Acid Sphingomyelinase Deficiency .)	+	≤ 12 mos		Feeding difficulties, severe failure to thrive, xanthomas, absence of seizures

CSF = cerebrospinal fluid; DiffDx = differential diagnosis; ERG = electroretinogram; TSD = Tay-Sachs disease

1. The disorders included in Table 4 are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner, with the exception of Alexander disease, which is an autosomal dominant disorder.
2. Galactosialidosis and sialidosis are caused by deficiencies in enzymes that form a complex with beta-galactosidase. This high molecular-weight complex includes beta-galactosidase (GM1 gangliosidosis), cathepsin A encoded by *CTSA* (galactosialidosis), and neuraminidase 1 encoded by *NEU1* (sialidosis/mucopolipidosis I). Note that in galactosialidosis the activity of the enzymes beta-galactosidase and neuraminidase 1 is reduced, respectively, to about 15% and less than 1% of normal values secondary to a primary deficiency of the protective protein/cathepsin A. Therefore, the activity of cathepsin A and of neuraminidase 1 in fibroblasts should be measured to definitively rule out galactosialidosis in an individual with partial deficiency of beta-galactosidase.
3. In activator-deficient TSD, enzymatic activity of both beta-hexosaminidase (HEX A) and hexosaminidase B (HEX B) is normal, but GM2 ganglioside accumulation occurs because of a deficit of the intralysosomal glycoprotein ("GM2 activator") that is required for the degradation of GM2 ganglioside.
4. Progressive weakness and loss of motor skills between ages six and 12 months, associated with an increased startle response, a cherry-red spot of the macula of the retina, and normal-size liver and spleen
5. In Sandhoff disease, the activity of HEX A is deficient, as is the activity of HEX B, since both enzymes lack the common beta subunit.
6. The features of sialidosis II more closely resemble GM1 gangliosidosis than sialidosis I. Sialidosis type I is also known as cherry-red spot myoclonus syndrome. Onset is in the teens and twenties. Gait disturbances and reduced visual acuity are the most common presenting symptoms. With time, myoclonus, ataxia, and reduced vision worsen, but are not life threatening. Intellect is normal.

Type II (late-infantile and juvenile) GM1 gangliosidosis. See Table 5.

Table 5. Genetic Disorders of Interest in the Differential Diagnosis of Type II (Late-Infantile and Juvenile) GM1 Gangliosidosis

Gene	DiffDx Disorder ¹	Features of DiffDx Disorder			
		Cherry-red spot (≤ 12 mos)	Onset of neurologic regression	Other features / Comment	Distinguishing it from late-infantile & juvenile GM1 gangliosidosis
<i>ASPA</i>	Canavan disease	-	≤ 6 mos	Macrocephaly, head lag, hypotonia, seizures	Leukoencephalopathy, \uparrow N-acetyl aspartate in CSF
<i>CLN3</i>	CLN3 disease (Batten disease) (OMIM 204200)	-	9-18 yrs	Seizures	Progressive visual loss (onset age 4-5 yrs), retinitis pigmentosa, cataracts, myoclonus, parkinsonism, abnormal ERG, ultrastructural abnormalities in lymphocytes, skin & other tissues
<i>CTSA</i>	Galactosialidosis ² (OMIM 256540)	+	> 12 mos	Seizures	Hepatosplenomegaly w/coarse features, more severe skeletal disease
<i>GBA1</i> (<i>GBA</i>)	Gaucher disease type 3	-	≥ 12 mos	Seizures	Characteristic looping of saccadic eye movements
<i>HEXA</i>	Tay-Sachs disease (See HEXA Disorders.)	+	3-5 yrs		Lack of skeletal disease
<i>HEXB</i>	Sandhoff disease ³	+	3-5 yrs		Lack of skeletal disease

CSF = cerebrospinal fluid; DiffDx = differential diagnosis; ERG = electroretinogram

1. The disorders included in Table 5 are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner.

2. Galactosialidosis and sialidosis are caused by deficiencies in enzymes that form a complex with beta-galactosidase. This high molecular-weight complex includes beta-galactosidase (GM1 gangliosidosis), cathepsin A encoded by *CTSA* (galactosialidosis), and neuramidase 1 encoded by *NEU1* (sialidosis/mucopolipidosis I). Note that in galactosialidosis the activity of the enzymes beta-galactosidase and neuramidase 1 is reduced, respectively, to about 15% and less than 1% of normal values secondary to a primary deficiency of the protective protein/cathepsin A. Therefore, the activity of cathepsin A and of neuraminidase 1 in fibroblasts should be measured to definitively rule out galactosialidosis in an individual with partial deficiency of beta-galactosidase.

3. In Sandhoff disease, the activity of HEX A is deficient, as is the activity of HEX B, since both enzymes lack the common beta subunit.

Some **spinocerebellar ataxia syndromes** (e.g., ataxia caused by mutation of *FGF14*, *MTCL1*, or *TXN2* or *SCA7* with extreme anticipation) may be associated with early onset and can be considered in the differential diagnosis of type II (late-infantile and juvenile) GM1 gangliosidosis (see [Hereditary Ataxia Overview](#)).

Type III (chronic/adult) GM1 gangliosidosis. See Table 6.

Table 6. Genetic Disorders of Interest in the Differential Diagnosis of Type III (Chronic/Adult) GM1 Gangliosidosis

Gene(s)	DiffDx Disorder	MOI	Features of DiffDx Disorder	
			Overlapping features	Distinguishing it from chronic/adult GM1 gangliosidosis
~40 genes	AD spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA) (See Hereditary Ataxia Overview.)	AD	Progressive ataxia	Less skeletal disease, typically later onset than type III GM1 gangliosidosis (but early onset may be seen in some AD SCAs) ¹
AR	Spinal & bulbar muscular atrophy	XL	Neurogenic weakness, tremor, cramps & fasciculations, slow progression	Tongue atrophy, facial weakness, androgen insensitivity, gynecomastia, glucose intolerance
ATP7B	Wilson disease	AR	Tremor, poor motor coordination & weakness, dysphagia, dysarthria, dystonia	Liver cirrhosis, liver failure, hypoparathyroidism, ↑ urinary copper, ↓ serum ceruloplasmin
C9orf72 FUS SOD1 TARDBP (>30 genes) ²	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	AD AR XL	Progressive neurogenic atrophy, cramps & fasciculations, spasticity	Neurogenic atrophy is often asymmetric; bulbar onset (in some persons), absence of cerebellar deficits
CHCHD10 TFG VAPB	Late onset SMA (See CHCHD10-Related Disorders.) & SMA-like disorder (OMIM 604484, 182980)	AD	Neurogenic atrophy	Large kindreds, no cerebellar deficits, ↑ CPK in some affected persons
CLN6 CTSF DNAJC5	Adult-onset neuronal ceroid-lipofuscinosis (OMIM 204300, 615362, 162350)	AR AD	Ataxia	Seizures, myoclonus, early intellectual deterioration
DNAJC6 FBXO7 PARK7 PINK1 PRKN SYNJ1 VPS13C	Early-onset Parkinson disease	AR	Dystonia, tremor, rigidity	May involve cognitive dysfunction
FXN	Friedreich ataxia	AR	Ataxia, dysarthria, neurogenic weakness & long tract findings, slow progression, scoliosis	Cardiomyopathy, EKG conduction defects, diabetes, <i>pes cavus</i> , slow sensory nerve conduction velocity, optic atrophy, hearing loss, neurogenic bladder
HEXA	Tay-Sachs disease (See HEXA disorders.)	AR	Progressive motor weakness beginning in lower extremities	Dysarthria w/pressured speech, characteristic pattern of anti-gravity muscle weakness/atrophy, absence of skeletal involvement
HEXB	Sandhoff disease ³	AR	Progressive motor weakness beginning in lower extremities	Sensory neuropathy
HTT	Juvenile Huntington disease	AD	Ataxia, rigidity	Depression, personality change, seizures

Table 6. continued from previous page.

Gene(s)	DiffDx Disorder	MOI	Features of DiffDx Disorder	
			Overlapping features	Distinguishing it from chronic/adult GM1 gangliosidosis
<i>SMN1</i>	Later-onset spinal muscular atrophy (SMA types III & IV)	AR	Tremor, fasciculations, atrophy, cramps, proximal muscle involvement, scoliosis	Tongue fasciculations, progressive ↓ in pulmonary function, absence of ataxia

AD = autosomal dominant; AR = autosomal recessive; CPK = creatinine phosphokinase; DiffDx = differential diagnosis; EKG = electrocardiogram; MOI = mode of inheritance; XL = X-linked

1. See Sun et al [2016], Table 1. Clinical and genetics features of SCAs subtypes.

2. *C9orf72*, *FUS*, *SOD1*, and *TARDBP* are the most commonly involved genes; for other genes associated with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis see OMIM Phenotypic Series: [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis](#).

3. In Sandhoff disease, the activity of HEX A is deficient, as is the activity of HEX B, since both enzymes lack the common beta subunit.

Note: A positive test for anti-GM1 ganglioside antibodies is not indicative of a diagnosis of GM1 gangliosidosis. These test results are associated with multifocal motor neuropathy or Guillain-Barré syndrome [Hasan et al 2021].

Mucopolysaccharidosis Type IVB (MPS IVB)

Mucopolysaccharidosis IVA (MPS IVA) and MPS IVB are clinically indistinguishable. Of individuals with the MPS IV phenotype, MPS IVA accounts for more than 95% of affected individuals and MPS IVB accounts for fewer than 5% of affected individuals. The diagnosis of MPS IVA is confirmed by detection either of deficient N-acetylgalactosamine 6-sulfatase (GALNS) enzyme activity or of biallelic *GALNS* pathogenic variants.

Management

No clinical practice guidelines for *GLB1*-related disorders (GM1 gangliosidosis and MPS IVB) have been published.

It is important to note that all *GLB1*-related disorders may be associated with anesthetic risks.

Evaluations Following Initial Diagnosis

To establish the extent of disease and needs in an individual diagnosed with a *GLB1*-related disorder, the evaluations summarized in Tables 7, 8, 9, and 10 (if not performed as part of the evaluation that led to the diagnosis) are recommended.

Table 7. Recommended Evaluations Following Initial Diagnosis in Individuals with Type I (Infantile) GM1 Gangliosidosis

System/Concern	Evaluation	Comment
Eye findings	Ophthalmologic exam	Evaluate for cherry-red spot of the macula, vision impairment, strabismus, & nystagmus.
Neurologic	Neurology eval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuroimaging to incl brain MRI • Consider EEG if seizures a concern.
Musculoskeletal system	Physical medicine & rehab / PT & OT eval	To incl assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross motor & fine motor skills • Need for adaptive devices • Need for PT (to prevent deformities)

Table 7. continued from previous page.

System/Concern	Evaluation	Comment
Developmental delay/regression	Developmental history & assessment	Document past & current developmental milestone acquisition &/or loss.
Gastrointestinal/ Feeding	Gastroenterology / nutrition / feeding team eval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To incl swallow study for eval of aspiration risk & nutritional status Consider eval for gastrostomy tube placement in those w/dysphagia &/or aspiration risk. Assess for constipation.
Respiratory	Evaluate aspiration risk.	
Hepatosplenomegaly	Physical exam	Baseline
Cardiac involvement	Eval by pediatric cardiologist (incl EKG & echocardiogram)	
Skeletal findings	Skeletal survey	To determine extent of skeletal involvement
	Lateral cervical spine radiographs in flexion & extension	To assess for atlanto-axial instability
Genetic counseling	By genetics professionals ¹	To inform affected persons & their families re nature, MOI, & implications of a <i>GLB1</i> -related disorder in order to facilitate medical & personal decision making
Family support & resources	Assess need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community or online resources such as Parent to Parent; Social work involvement for parental support; Home nursing referral. 	

MOI = mode of inheritance; OT = occupational therapy; PT = physical therapy

1. Medical geneticist, certified genetic counselor, certified advanced genetic nurse

Table 8. Recommended Evaluations Following Initial Diagnosis in Individuals with Type II (Late-Infantile and Juvenile) GM1 Gangliosidosis

System/Concern	Evaluation	Comment
Eye findings	Ophthalmologic exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate for corneal clouding. Assess visual acuity.
Neurologic	Neurology eval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neuroimaging to incl brain MRI Consider EEG if seizures a concern. Evaluate for spasticity.
Musculoskeletal system	Physical medicine & rehab / PT & OT eval	To incl assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross motor & fine motor skills Mobility, independence in ADL, & need for adaptive devices Need for PT (to prevent deformities)
Developmental delay/regression	Developmental history & assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document past & current motor & cognitive function as a baseline. To incl motor, adaptive, cognitive, & speech-language eval Eval for IEP

Table 8. continued from previous page.

System/Concern	Evaluation	Comment
Gastrointestinal/ Feeding	Gastroenterology / nutrition / feeding team eval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To incl swallow study for eval of aspiration risk & nutritional status Consider eval for gastrostomy tube placement in those w/dysphagia &/or aspiration risk. Assess for constipation.
Respiratory	Evaluate aspiration risk.	
Hepatosplenomegaly	Physical exam	Baseline
Cardiac involvement	Eval by pediatric cardiologist (incl EKG & echocardiogram)	
Skeletal findings	Skeletal survey	To determine extent of skeletal involvement
	Lateral cervical spine radiographs in flexion & extension	To assess for atlanto-axial stability
Genetic counseling	By genetics professionals ¹	To inform affected persons & their families re nature, MOI, & implications of a <i>GLBI</i> -related disorder in order to facilitate medical & personal decision making
Family support & resources	Assess need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community or online resources such as Parent to Parent; Social work involvement for parental support. 	

ADL = activities of daily living; IEP = individualized education program; MOI = mode of inheritance; OT = occupational therapy; PT = physical therapy

1. Medical geneticist, certified genetic counselor, or certified advanced genetic nurse

Table 9. Recommended Evaluations Following Initial Diagnosis in Individuals with Type III (Chronic/Adult) GM1 Gangliosidosis

System/Concern	Evaluation	Comment
Eye findings	Ophthalmologic exam	Evaluate for corneal clouding.
Neurologic	Neurology eval	Assess for spasticity, weakness, & tremor.
Musculoskeletal system	Physical medicine & rehab / PT & OT eval	To incl assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross motor & fine motor skills Mobility, ADL, & need for adaptive devices Need for PT (to prevent falls & pressure wounds) &/or OT to maximize independence in ADL
Dysarthria	Speech eval	
Psychiatric	Neuropsychiatric eval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess for psychiatric &/or behavioral disorders incl ADHD, learning disability, depression, anxiety, aggression, OCD. Evaluate for baseline cognitive skills.
Cardiac involvement	Eval by cardiologist (incl EKG & echocardiogram)	
Skeletal findings	Skeletal survey	To determine the extent of skeletal involvement

Table 9. continued from previous page.

System/Concern	Evaluation	Comment
Genetic counseling	By genetics professionals ¹	To inform affected persons & their families re nature, MOI, & implications of a <i>GLB1</i> -related disorder in order to facilitate medical & personal decision making
Family support & resources	Assess need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community or online resources; • Social work involvement for support; • Home nursing referral. 	

ADL = activities of daily living; IEP = individualized education program; MOI = mode of inheritance; OCD = obsessive/compulsive disorder; OT = occupational therapy; PT = physical therapy

1. Medical geneticist, certified genetic counselor, or certified advanced genetic nurse

Table 10. Recommended Evaluations Following Initial Diagnosis in Individuals with MPS IVB

System/Concern	Evaluation	Comment
Eye findings	Ophthalmologic exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate for corneal clouding. • Assess visual acuity.
Neurologic	Neurology eval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline exam • Evaluate for clinical signs of spinal cord compression.
Skeletal	Skeletal radiographs	Baseline radiographs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cervical spine (AP, neutral lateral, flexion-extension views) • Entire spine (AP, lateral) • Pelvis (AP, frog leg lateral) • Lower extremities (AP standing) • Lower extremity alignment from hip to ankle if signs of lower extremity misalignment
	MRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline MRI of entire spine w/focus on occipitocervical, cervicothoracic, thoracolumbar regions to assess for spinal cord compression • Flexion-extension MRI of cervical spine
Musculoskeletal system	Physical medicine & rehab / PT & OT eval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess mobility, autonomy, joint range of motion, ADL, upper extremity strength • Baseline endurance w/6-min walk test
Respiratory issues	Pulmonology eval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline pulmonary function testing, polysomnography • Evaluate for airway obstruction & assess inspiratory/expiratory lung volume changes.
Cardiac involvement	Eval by cardiologist (incl EKG & echocardiogram)	Evaluate for cardiac valve pathology.
Genetic counseling	By genetics professionals ¹	To inform affected persons & their families re nature, MOI, & implications of a <i>GLB1</i> -related disorder in order to facilitate medical & personal decision making

Table 10. continued from previous page.

System/Concern	Evaluation	Comment
Family support & resources	Assess need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community or online resources; • Social work involvement for support. 	

ADL = activities of daily living; MOI = mode of inheritance; OT = occupational therapy; PT = physical therapy

I. Medical geneticist, certified genetic counselor, or certified advanced genetic nurse

Treatment of Manifestations

Treatment and quality of life can be optimized when care is provided by specialists in biochemical genetics, cardiology, orthopedics, and neurology and therapists knowledgeable about *GLB1*-related disorders.

- Surgery is best performed in centers with surgeons and anesthesiologists experienced in the care of individuals with lysosomal storage disorders.
- Early and ongoing interventions to optimize comfort, mobility, educational and social outcomes are recommended.

Table 11. Treatment of Manifestations in Individuals with Type I (Infantile) GM1 Gangliosidosis

Manifestation/Concern	Treatment	Considerations/Other
Seizures	Standardized treatment w/ASM by experienced neurologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seizures are often progressive & refractory. • Many ASMs may be effective; none has been demonstrated effective specifically for this disorder. • Complete seizure control is seldom achieved & requires balancing w/sedative side effects of ASMs. • Education of parents/caregivers ¹
Abnormal tone / Mobility issues	Orthopedics / physical medicine & rehab / PT & OT	Consider need for position & mobility devices.
DD/ID	See Developmental Delay / Intellectual Disability Management Issues.	
Maintenance of adequate hydration & calories for growth	Feeding therapy; gastrostomy tube placement may be required for persistent feeding issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ↑ longevity but not preserve developmental function • Low threshold for clinical feeding eval &/or radiographic swallowing study if clinical signs or symptoms of dysphagia
Bowel dysfunction	Monitor for constipation.	Stool softeners, prokinetics, osmotic agents, or laxatives as needed
Aspiration risks / Excess secretion	Gastrostomy tube, vibrator vest, improved pulmonary toilet, suppression of saliva production	Will ↓ aspiration & improve longevity but not developmental function
Cardiac involvement	Standard care as directed by pediatric cardiologist	

Table 11. continued from previous page.

Manifestation/ Concern	Treatment	Considerations/Other
Anesthetic risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preoperative eval incl history of complications w/previous anesthetics & any ongoing issues w/airway obstruction, heart, & respiratory function • Fiber-optic bronchoscopy & smaller-than-expected endotracheal tubes may be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review flexion/extension radiographs of lateral cervical spine prior to anesthesia. • Cervical spine stabilization & care by experienced pediatric anesthesiologist whenever possible
Family support	In-home nursing & respite care	Support for health & quality of life of caregivers & sibs

ASM = anti-seizure medication; DD/ID = developmental delay / intellectual disability; OT = occupational therapy; PT = physical therapy

1. Education of parents/caregivers regarding common seizure presentations is appropriate. For information on non-medical interventions and coping strategies for children diagnosed with epilepsy, see [Epilepsy Foundation Toolbox](#).

Table 12. Treatment of Manifestations in Individuals with Type II (Late-Infantile and Juvenile) GM1 Gangliosidosis

Manifestation/ Concern	Treatment	Considerations/Other
Cloudy corneas	Keratoplasty if corneal clouding is severe enough to cause vision impairment (not typical)	Results may be temporary.
Seizures	Standardized treatment w/ASM by experienced neurologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seizures are often progressive & refractory. • Many ASMs may be effective; none has been demonstrated effective specifically for this disorder. • Complete seizure control is seldom achieved & requires balancing w/sedative side effects of ASMs. • Education of parents/caregivers ¹
Abnormal tone / Mobility issues	Orthopedics / physical medicine & rehab / PT & OT	Consider need for position & mobility devices, stretching, splints, pharmacologic treatment.
DD/ID	See Developmental Delay / Intellectual Disability Management Issues.	Develop an IEP.
Difficulty maintaining adequate hydration & calories for growth	Feeding therapy; gastrostomy tube placement may be required for persistent feeding issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ↑ longevity but not preserve developmental function • Low threshold for clinical feeding eval &/or radiographic swallowing study if clinical signs or symptoms of dysphagia
Bowel dysfunction	Monitor for constipation.	Stool softeners, prokinetics, osmotic agents, or laxatives as needed
Aspiration risks / Excess secretion	Gastrostomy tube, vibrator vest, improved pulmonary toilet, suppression of saliva production	Will ↓ aspiration & improve longevity but not developmental function
	Botulinum toxin (Botox [®]) to salivary glands; topical anticholinergic agents can be used to ↓ saliva pooling / drooling.	Botox [®] may spread to adjacent bulbar muscles, worsening dysphagia.
Cardiac involvement	Standard care as directed by pediatric cardiologist	

Table 12. continued from previous page.

Manifestation/Concern	Treatment	Considerations/Other
Anesthetic risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preoperative eval incl history of complications w/previous anesthetics & any ongoing issues w/airway obstruction, heart, & respiratory function Fiber-optic bronchoscopy & smaller-than-expected endotracheal tubes may often be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review flexion/extension radiographs of lateral cervical spine prior to anesthesia. Cervical spine stabilization & care by experienced pediatric anesthesiologist whenever possible
Family support	In-home nursing & respite care as needed w/progression of disease	Support for health & quality of life of caregivers & sibs

ASM = anti-seizure medication; DD/ID = developmental delay / intellectual disability; IEP = individualized education program; OT = occupational therapy; PT = physical therapy

1. Education of parents/caregivers regarding common seizure presentations is appropriate. For information on non-medical interventions and coping strategies for children diagnosed with epilepsy, see [Epilepsy Foundation Toolbox](#).

Table 13. Treatment of Manifestations in Individuals with Type III (Adult/Chronic) GM1 Gangliosidosis

Manifestation/Concern	Treatment	Considerations/Other
Cloudy corneas	Keratoplasty if corneal clouding is severe enough to cause vision impairment	Results may be temporary.
Spasticity/Tremor	Symptom-targeted pharmacotherapy by experienced neurologist	
Weakness / Impaired mobility	PT/OT	Consider need for adaptive equipment & mobility devices.
Communication needs	Voice therapy	Focus on strategies to slow speech rate.
DD/ID	See Developmental Delay / Intellectual Disability Management Issues.	Develop an IEP if in school.
	Occupational counseling	Assistance w/job accommodations if already in the work force
Psychiatric issues	Cognitive behavioral therapy to improve coping skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individualize treatment. Avoid tricyclic antidepressants, antipsychotics, & electroconvulsive therapy if possible as they may contribute to neurologic worsening.
Cardiac involvement	Standard care as directed by cardiologist	
Anesthetic risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preoperative eval incl history of complications w/previous anesthetics & any ongoing issues w/airway obstruction, heart, & respiratory function Fiber-optic bronchoscopy & smaller-than-expected endotracheal tubes may be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review flexion/extension radiographs of lateral cervical spine prior to anesthesia. If clinical or radiographic findings pose concern for cervical spine instability, cervical spine stabilization & care by experienced anesthesiologist
Family support	In-home nursing & respite care	May be beneficial for persons w/advanced disease

DD/ID = developmental delay / intellectual disability; IEP = individualized education program; OT = occupational therapy; PT = physical therapy

MPS IVB. Since **MPS IVA** and IVB are clinically indistinguishable; details of interventions are based on those recommended for MPS in general or specifically for MPS IVA.

Table 14. Treatment of Manifestations in Individuals with MPS IVB

Manifestation/ Concern	Treatment	Considerations/Other
Cloudy corneas	Keratoplasty when corneal clouding causes vision impairment	Results may be temporary.
Mobility	Orthopedics / physical medicine & rehab / PT & OT	To optimize mobility & autonomy
Upper-extremity disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External wrist splints Wrist fusion to stabilize wrist range of motion 	
Lower-extremity misalignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realignment osteotomies Surgical tethering of growth plate if detected before growth plate closure Distal femoral & proximal tibial osteotomies if misalignment detected after growth plate closure Distal tibial osteotomy for ankle misalignment 	
Hip dysplasia	Hip reconstruction to optimize mobility & ↓ pain	Consider intervention if refractory pain, ↓ walking or endurance.
Odontoid hypoplasia	Occipitocervical decompression & fusion may be indicated if upper cervical spine instability or cervical cord compression	Decompression vs spinal stabilization w/cervical or occipital-cervical fusion should be considered based on imaging.
Kyphosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bracing to delay surgical intervention Spinal fusion if stenosis occurs 	Consider surgical intervention if intractable pain.
Respiratory	Adenoidectomy & tonsillectomy to treat upper-airway obstruction	Adenoidectomy & tonsillectomy are recommended as early as possible after diagnosis for persons w/otitis media, snoring, &/or OSA.
	Tracheostomy, CPAP, BiPAP if diffuse airway narrowing	Consider early sleep study to determine if CPAP or BiPAP is appropriate.
	Bronchodilators to manage lower-airway obstruction	
Cardiac involvement	Standard care as directed by cardiologist	Valve replacement if clinically necessary
Anesthetic risk¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preoperative eval to incl: history of complications w/ previous anesthetics; assessment of upper & lower airway anatomy; cardiac & respiratory function Use preoperative sedative premedication w/caution & appropriate monitoring, due to risk of upper-airway obstruction. Anterior tongue placement, intubation w/video laryngoscope or fiber-optic bronchoscopy, & smaller-than-expected endotracheal tubes are often required. For procedures lasting >45 min, intraoperative spinal cord monitoring may be needed to detect exacerbation of preexisting spinal stenosis. Post-operative management may be complicated by preexisting sleep apnea &/or pulmonary edema. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review flexion/extension radiographs of lateral cervical spine prior to anesthesia to evaluate for cervical spine instability. Maintain cervical spine stabilization & neutral neck position at all times during all surgeries. Maintain mean arterial pressure to ↓ risk of spinal cord injury. Care by experienced pediatric anesthesiologist capable of inspecting the airway before extubation & performing reintubation if necessary

Table 14. continued from previous page.

Manifestation/ Concern	Treatment	Considerations/Other
Psychosocial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational supports to optimize learning (See Developmental Delay / Intellectual Disability Management Issues.) • Psychological support to optimize coping skills & quality of life • Occupational counseling 	
Family support	Home care for those w/multiple medical equipment needs	

OSA = obstructive sleep apnea; OT = occupational therapy; PT = physical therapy

1. Akyol et al [2019]

Developmental Delay / Intellectual Disability Management Issues

The following information represents typical management recommendations for individuals with developmental delay / intellectual disability in the United States; standard recommendations may vary from country to country.

Ages 0-3 years. Referral to an early intervention program is recommended for access to occupational, physical, speech, and feeding therapy as well as infant mental health services, special educators, and sensory impairment specialists. In the US, early intervention is a federally funded program available in all states that provides in-home services to target individual therapy needs.

Ages 3-5 years. In the US, developmental preschool through the local public school district is recommended. Before placement, an evaluation is made to determine needed services and therapies and an individualized education plan (IEP) is developed for those who qualify based on established motor, language, social, or cognitive delay. The early intervention program typically assists with this transition. Developmental preschool is center based; for children too medically unstable to attend, home-based services are provided.

All ages. Consultation with a developmental pediatrician is recommended to ensure the involvement of appropriate community, state, and educational agencies (US) and to support parents in maximizing quality of life. Some issues to consider:

- IEP services:
 - An IEP provides specially designed instruction and related services to children who qualify.
 - IEP services will be reviewed annually to determine whether any changes are needed.
 - Special education law requires that children participating in an IEP be in the least restrictive environment feasible at school and included in general education as much as possible, when and where appropriate.
 - Vision and hearing consultants should be a part of the child's IEP team to support access to academic material.
 - PT, OT, and speech services will be provided in the IEP to the extent that the need affects the child's access to academic material. Beyond that, private supportive therapies based on the affected individual's needs may be considered. Specific recommendations regarding type of therapy can be made by a developmental pediatrician.
 - As a child enters the teen years, a transition plan should be discussed and incorporated in the IEP. For those receiving IEP services, the public school district is required to provide services until age 21.
- A 504 plan (Section 504: a US federal statute that prohibits discrimination based on disability) can be considered for those who require accommodations or modifications such as front-of-class seating,

assistive technology devices, classroom scribes, extra time between classes, modified assignments, and enlarged text.

- Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) enrollment is recommended. DDA is a US public agency that provides services and support to qualified individuals. Eligibility differs by state but is typically determined by diagnosis and/or associated cognitive/adaptive disabilities.
- Families with limited income and resources may also qualify for supplemental security income (SSI) for their child with a disability.
- An estate plan should be carefully drafted with the support of a special needs estate attorney, to ensure that the individual with special needs remains qualified for government and state benefits. The plan must include a special needs trust; non-profit organizations may be helpful by serving as the trustee and/or managing the trust [Carney 2021].
- Eligibility and plans for guardianship will be established at age 18. Special needs attorneys and social workers may be helpful in navigating guardianship decisions. Depending on the individual's cognitive status and decision-making abilities, the family may elect guardianship, a durable power of attorney for medical purposes, and/or supported decision making. If the affected individual has sibs, a simple will should be drafted at this time to protect the child against disqualification for government benefits [Carney 2021].

Motor Dysfunction

Gross motor dysfunction

- Physical therapy is recommended to maximize mobility and to reduce the risk for later-onset orthopedic complications (e.g., contractures, scoliosis, hip dislocation).
- Consider use of durable medical equipment and positioning devices as needed (e.g., wheelchairs, walkers, bath chairs, orthotics, adaptive strollers).
- For muscle tone abnormalities including hypertonia or dystonia, consider involving appropriate specialists to aid in management of baclofen, tizanidine, Botox[®], anti-parkinsonian medications, or orthopedic procedures.

Fine motor dysfunction. Occupational therapy is recommended for difficulty with fine motor skills that affect adaptive function such as feeding, grooming, dressing, and writing.

Oral motor dysfunction should be assessed at each visit and clinical feeding evaluations and/or radiographic swallowing studies should be obtained for choking/gagging during feeds, poor weight gain, frequent respiratory illnesses, or feeding refusal that is not otherwise explained. Assuming that the child is safe to eat by mouth, feeding therapy (typically from an occupational or speech therapist) is recommended to help improve coordination or sensory-related feeding issues. Feeds can be thickened or chilled for safety. When feeding dysfunction is severe, an NG-tube or G-tube may be necessary.

Communication issues. Consider evaluation for alternative means of communication (e.g., [augmentative and alternative communication](#) [AAC]) for individuals who have expressive language difficulties. An AAC evaluation can be completed by a speech-language pathologist who has expertise in the area. The evaluation will consider cognitive abilities and sensory impairments to determine the most appropriate form of communication. AAC devices can range from low-tech, such as picture exchange communication, to high-tech, such as voice-generating devices. Contrary to popular belief, AAC devices do not hinder verbal development of speech, but rather support optimal speech and language development.

Surveillance

Table 15. Recommended Surveillance for Individuals with GM1 Gangliosidosis

System/Concern	Evaluation	Frequency
Eye findings	Eye exam for visual acuity & corneal clouding	Every 1-3 yrs
Quality of life assoc with developmental delay / regression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eval by neurologist • Consider EEG if acute change in mental status, sudden decline in activity/ milestones, or abnormal movements. 	Annually
	Assessment by physiotherapist	Annually & before/after major medical events
	Assessment of growth & nutrition by nutritionist w/knowledge of neurodegenerative or metabolic disease	At each visit
Cardiac involvement	EKG & echocardiogram	Every 1-3 yrs
Skeletal findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical exam to evaluate for new skeletal abnormalities • Physical exam & assessment for new neurologic findings, followed by imaging to evaluate cervical spine instability if indicated 	Annually
	Skeletal radiograph to monitor for cervical spine instability	Every 2 yrs if normal at diagnosis; more frequently if clinically indicated
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor hip joint stability re risk of hip dislocation. • Obtain straight & frog-leg imaging if pain w/movement or change in mobility (which in neurologically compromised persons can present as inability to ambulate, unexplained crying, or pain). 	During each visit

Table 16. Recommended Surveillance for Individuals with MPS IVB

System/Concern	Evaluation	Frequency
Eye findings	Complete ocular exam incl visual acuity	Annually
Cardiac involvement	EKG & echocardiogram	Every 1-2 yrs as advised by cardiologist
Skeletal issues	Eval of lower extremity alignment	Annually
	Hip radiographs to assess for dysplasia or subluxation	As clinically indicated
	Radiographs of thoracolumbar spine (AP & lateral)	Every 2-3 yrs
	MRI of whole spine (in neutral position)	Annually
Cervical vertebral issues / Odontoid hypoplasia	MRI of cervical spine (in flexion/extension)	Every 1-3 yrs
	Radiographs of cervical spine (AP, lateral, neutral, & flexion/extension)	Annually if not able to perform annual MRI
Quality of life assoc w/skeletal changes	Assessment by PT to track progress & optimize ambulation	Annually
	Endurance tests incl 6-min walk test & 3-min stair climb test to evaluate functional status of cardiovascular, pulmonary, musculoskeletal, & nervous systems	Annually, before/after surgical procedures, & as clinically indicated
Respiratory issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess for sleep apnea. • Evaluate pulmonary function. 	Annually
Hearing loss	Audiogram	
Dental issues	Eval	Every 6 mos

AP = anteroposterior; PT = physical therapist

Agents/Circumstances to Avoid

The following should be avoided:

- **Unplanned anesthesia management.** Because children with MPS IVB and those with GM1 gangliosidosis with skeletal involvement (spine anomalies, short neck, large head, and risk for atlantoaxial instability due to odontoid hypoplasia) are at increased risk for complications of anesthesia [Walker et al 2013] anesthesia is best done with advanced planning by experienced specialists whenever possible.
- **Psychotropic medications.** Because psychotropic medications have been associated with worsening neurologic disease in adults with Tay-Sachs disease (which is caused by deficiency of the second enzyme in the beta-galactosidase pathway) [Shapiro et al 2006], use of these medications in individuals with a *GLB1*-related disorder should be avoided whenever possible.
- **For individuals with type I (infantile) GM1 gangliosidosis**
 - Positioning that increases aspiration risk during feedings
 - Seizure medication dosages that result in excessive sedation
- **For individuals with types II and III (juvenile and adult) GM1 gangliosidosis.** Circumstances that exacerbate fall risk
- **For persons with MPS IVB.** Excessive weight gain, which causes undue stress on the axial skeleton and may decrease the ability to ambulate independently. It is important that nutrition optimize growth while maintaining a lean habitus.

Evaluation of Relatives at Risk

See Genetic Counseling for issues related to testing of at-risk relatives for genetic counseling purposes.

Therapies Under Investigation

There are currently several therapies under investigation that offer some promise in altering the outcome for individuals with GM1 gangliosidosis:

- Intracisternal injection of AAVrh.10 carrying *GLB1* for the treatment of type I (infantile) GM1 gangliosidosis (NCT04273269)
- Intra-cisterna magna injection of AAVhu68 carrying *GLB1* for the treatment of types I and II (infantile and late-infantile) GM1 gangliosidosis (NCT04713475)
- Intravenous administration of AAV9 carrying *GLB1* for the treatment of type I and type II GM1 gangliosidosis (NCT03952637)
- "Syner-G" regimen (combination of miglustat and the ketogenic diet) for improved outcomes in individuals with types I and II (infantile and juvenile) GM1 gangliosidosis (NCT02030015)

Search [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) in the US and [EU Clinical Trials Register](https://clinicaltrialsregister.eu) in Europe for access to information on clinical studies for a wide range of diseases and conditions.

Genetic Counseling

Genetic counseling is the process of providing individuals and families with information on the nature, mode(s) of inheritance, and implications of genetic disorders to help them make informed medical and personal decisions. The following section deals with genetic risk assessment and the use of family history and genetic testing to clarify genetic status for family members; it is not meant to address all personal, cultural, or ethical issues that may arise or to substitute for consultation with a genetics professional. —ED.

Mode of Inheritance

GLB1-related disorders (GM1 gangliosidosis and mucopolysaccharidosis type IVB) are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner.

Risk to Family Members

Parents of a proband

- The parents of an affected child are obligate heterozygotes (i.e., presumed to be carriers of one *GLB1* pathogenic variant based on family history).
- Molecular genetic testing is recommended for the parents of a proband to confirm that both parents are heterozygous for a *GLB1* pathogenic variant and to allow reliable recurrence risk assessment. If a pathogenic variant is detected in only one parent, the following possibilities should be considered:
 - One of the pathogenic variants identified in the proband occurred as a *de novo* event in the proband or as a postzygotic *de novo* event in a mosaic parent [Jónsson et al 2017].
 - Uniparental isodisomy for the parental chromosome with the pathogenic variant resulted in homozygosity for the pathogenic variant in the proband.
- Heterozygotes (carriers) are asymptomatic and are not at risk of developing the disorder.

Sibs of a proband

- If both parents are known to be heterozygous for a *GLB1* pathogenic variant, each sib of an affected individual has at conception a 25% chance of being affected, a 50% chance of being an asymptomatic carrier, and a 25% chance of being unaffected and not a carrier.
- Sibs who inherit biallelic *GLB1* pathogenic variants may exhibit variability in both the severity of disease manifestations and age of onset.
- Heterozygotes (carriers) are asymptomatic and are not at risk of developing the disorder.

Offspring of a proband

- Individuals with a severe *GLB1*-related disorder do not reproduce.
- The offspring of an individual with a mild *GLB1*-related disorder are obligate heterozygotes (carriers) for a pathogenic variant in *GLB1*.

Note: No studies addressing fertility in individuals with a mild *GLB1*-related disorder have been published.

Other family members. Each sib of the proband's parents is at a 50% risk of being a carrier of a *GLB1* pathogenic variant.

Carrier Detection

Molecular genetic testing. Carrier testing for at-risk relatives requires prior identification of the *GLB1* pathogenic variants in the family.

Biochemical testing. Enzyme activity may not be predictive of carrier status in family members of individuals with a *GLB1*-related disorder.

Related Genetic Counseling Issues

Family planning

- The optimal time for determination of genetic risk and discussion of the availability of prenatal/preimplantation genetic testing is before pregnancy.
- It is appropriate to offer genetic counseling (including discussion of potential risks to offspring and reproductive options) to young adults who are carriers or are at risk of being carriers.

Prenatal Testing and Preimplantation Genetic Testing

Once the *GLB1* pathogenic variants have been identified in an affected family member, prenatal and preimplantation genetic testing are possible.

Differences in perspective may exist among medical professionals and within families regarding the use of prenatal testing. While most centers would consider use of prenatal testing to be a personal decision, discussion of these issues may be helpful.

Resources

GeneReviews staff has selected the following disease-specific and/or umbrella support organizations and/or registries for the benefit of individuals with this disorder and their families. GeneReviews is not responsible for the information provided by other organizations. For information on selection criteria, click [here](#).

- **Cure GM1 Foundation**
PO Box 6890
Albany 94706
Phone: 510-560-6164
Email: info@curegm1.org
www.curegm1.org
- **National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association, Inc. (NTSAD)**
Phone: 617-277-4463
Email: info@ntsad.org
www.ntsad.org
- **Canadian Society for Mucopolysaccharide and Related Diseases**
Canada
Phone: 800-667-1846
Email: info@mpssociety.ca
mpssociety.ca
- **MedlinePlus**
[Mucopolysaccharidosis type IV](#)
- **MedlinePlus**
[GM1 Gangliosidosis](#)
- **Metabolic Support UK**
United Kingdom
Phone: 0845 241 2173
metabolicsupportuk.org
- **MPS Society**
United Kingdom
Phone: 0345 389 9901
Email: mps@mpssociety.org.uk

mpssociety.org.uk

- **National MPS Society**
Phone: 877-MPS-1001
mpssociety.org

Molecular Genetics

Information in the Molecular Genetics and OMIM tables may differ from that elsewhere in the GeneReview: tables may contain more recent information. —ED.

Table A. GLB1-Related Disorders: Genes and Databases

Gene	Chromosome Locus	Protein	Locus-Specific Databases	HGMD	ClinVar
<i>GLB1</i>	3p22.3	Beta-galactosidase	GLB1 database	GLB1	GLB1

Data are compiled from the following standard references: gene from [HGNC](#); chromosome locus from [OMIM](#); protein from [UniProt](#). For a description of databases (Locus Specific, HGMD, ClinVar) to which links are provided, click [here](#).

Table B. OMIM Entries for GLB1-Related Disorders ([View All in OMIM](#))

230500	GM1-GANGLIOSIDOSIS, TYPE I; GM1G1
230600	GM1-GANGLIOSIDOSIS, TYPE II; GM1G2
230650	GM1-GANGLIOSIDOSIS, TYPE III; GM1G3
253010	MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS, TYPE IVB; MPS4B
611458	GALACTOSIDASE, BETA-1; GLB1

Molecular Pathogenesis

GLB1-related disorders comprise two phenotypically distinct disorders: GM1 gangliosidosis with varying degrees of neurologic involvement and mucopolysaccharidosis type IVB (MPS IVB), a progressive skeletal dysplasia.

Both disorders are caused by pathogenic variants in *GLB1* leading to decreased activity of beta-galactosidase, a lysosomal enzyme involved in the metabolism of the sphingolipid, GM1 ganglioside, and the glycosaminoglycan, keratan sulfate.

GM1 gangliosidosis is caused by pathogenic variants that lead to accumulation of sphingolipid intermediates in the lysosome and, thus, interfere with appropriate functioning of the organelle. A hallmark of GM1 gangliosidosis is degeneration of the CNS, where ganglioside synthesis is the highest. An inverse ratio of enzyme activity and substrate storage has been observed, with the lowest amounts of enzyme activity and highest amounts of storage material noted in neural tissue from individuals with the most severe form: infantile GM1 gangliosidosis [Brunetti-Pierri & Scaglia 2008].

MPS IVB is caused by pathogenic variants that impair the catabolism of keratan sulfate and have little effect on GM1 ganglioside accumulation. Keratan sulfate accumulation is thought to be the cause of severe skeletal abnormalities.

The mechanism by which GM1 ganglioside or keratan sulfate primarily accumulates has been explored but not yet established. It is hypothesized that the protein structure coded by *GLB1* has specific binding sites for the

degradation of keratan sulfate and GM1 ganglioside. For example, genetic changes that affect the binding site for keratan sulfate (e.g., Trp273Leu) lead to the MPS IVB presentation [Yuskiv et al 2020].

Mechanism of disease causation. *GLB1*-related disorders occur via a loss-of-function mechanism.

Table 17. Notable *GLB1* Pathogenic Variants

Reference Sequences	DNA Nucleotide Change (Alias ¹)	Predicted Protein Change	Comment [Reference]
NM_000404.4 NP_000395.3	c.1577dupG ² (1622_1627insG)	p.Trp527LeufsTer5	High prevalence in Brazilian population; assoc w/GM1 infantile form [Baiotto et al 2011]
	c.176G>A	p.Arg59His	High prevalence in Roma & Brazilian populations; assoc w/GM1 infantile & juvenile forms (reviewed in Baiotto et al [2011])
	c.495_497delTCT	p.Leu166del	High prevalence in Chinese population; assoc w/GM1 infantile & late-infantile form [Feng et al 2018]
	c.152T>C	p.Ile15Thr	High prevalence in Japan; assoc w/GM1 adult form (reviewed in Feng et al [2018])
	c.1343A>T	p.Asp448Val	Most common pathogenic variant in persons of Korean ancestry w/late-infantile GM1 gangliosidosis; also documented in persons of Chinese & Turkish ancestry w/infantile GM1 gangliosidosis [Lee et al 2018]
	c.817_818delTGinsCT (851-852TG>CT)	p.Trp273Leu	Most frequent variant in MPS IVB, located in highly conserved region of ligand-binding pocket; causes skeletal dysostosis w/o neurologic involvement [Yuskiv et al 2020].

Variants listed in the table have been provided by the authors. *GeneReviews* staff have not independently verified the classification of variants.

GeneReviews follows the standard naming conventions of the Human Genome Variation Society (varnomen.hgvs.org). See [Quick Reference](#) for an explanation of nomenclature.

1. Variant designation that does not conform to current naming conventions
2. Duplication results in the addition of another G to a series of six G nucleotides.

Chapter Notes

Author Notes

The Medical Genetics Branch of the National Human Genome Research Institute continues to study the natural history of patients with GM1. Careful phenotyping and advanced imaging facilitate the characterization of disease progression necessary to evaluate the efficacy of therapeutic interventions. The laboratory is also engaged in studying biomarkers of disease progression in clinical samples, particularly CSF. Careful, repeated observations especially in later-onset patients have identified significantly decreased bone density and an increased incidence of odontoid hypoplasia, particularly in juvenile patients [Author, unpublished observations]. These findings may impact surgical decision making and the activities of daily living. A Phase I/II clinical trial investigating the safety and efficacy of intravenous administration of AAV9-GLB1 vector into individuals with type I and type II GM1 gangliosidosis, sponsored by the National Human Genome Research Institute, is currently underway.

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Revision History

- 22 April 2021 (ha) Comprehensive update posted live
- 29 August 2019 (aa) Revision: Clinical Characteristics [Regier et al 2016] and Management (miglustat) [Deodato et al 2017, Jarnes Utz et al 2017]
- 17 October 2013 (me) Review posted live
- 24 January 2013 (ct) Original submission

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