

PHOSPHATE MANAGEMENT in PAEDIATRIC CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE:

Principles and practice



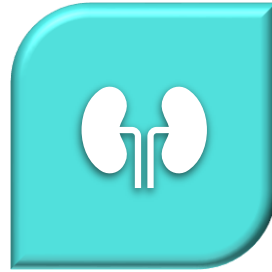
Louise McAlister

Highly Specialised paediatric kidney dietitian
GOSH, London, UK

Plan



WHAT IS PHOSPHATE?



**WHAT HAPPENS IN
CHRONIC KIDNEY
DISEASE?**



**DIETETIC ADVICE FOR
PAEDIATRIC CKD?**



**WHAT ARE THE
CHALLENGES?**

Paediatric – blood phosphate reference ranges

Age group	Reference range (mmol/L)*
<5 days	1.5 - 2.6
5 days-3 yrs	1.2 - 2.1
Child 3-10 yrs	1.2 - 1.8
Adolescent 10-15 yrs	1.1 - 1.75
Adults	0.8 - 1.45

*SI units

GOSH; Lockitch 1988

P (mg/dL) = phosphate (mmol/L) x 3.1

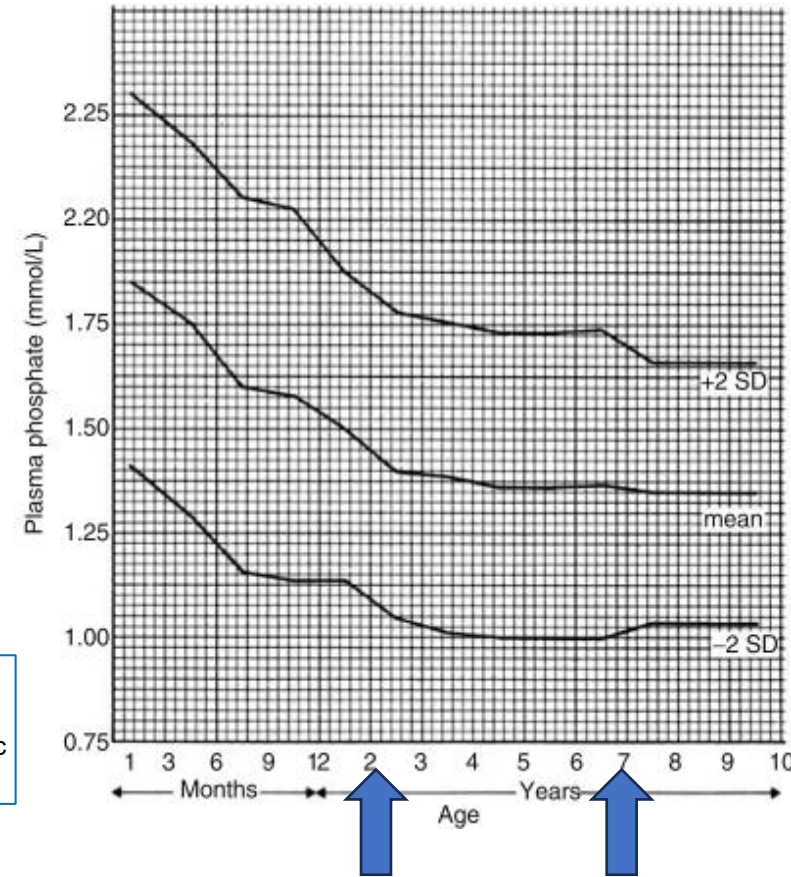
UK hospital published 2022

Age group	Reference range (mmol/L)
Neonate	1.0 - 2.7
Infant	1.3 - 2.4
Child	0.8 - 1.9
Adults	0.8 - 1.5

CALIPER 



SickKids (Toronto)
~15,000 healthy children
Community based/multiethnic
Different analysers



Clayton BE, Jenkins P, Round JM (1980)
Paediatric chemical pathology: clinical tests and references ranges.
Oxford: Blackwell Scientific

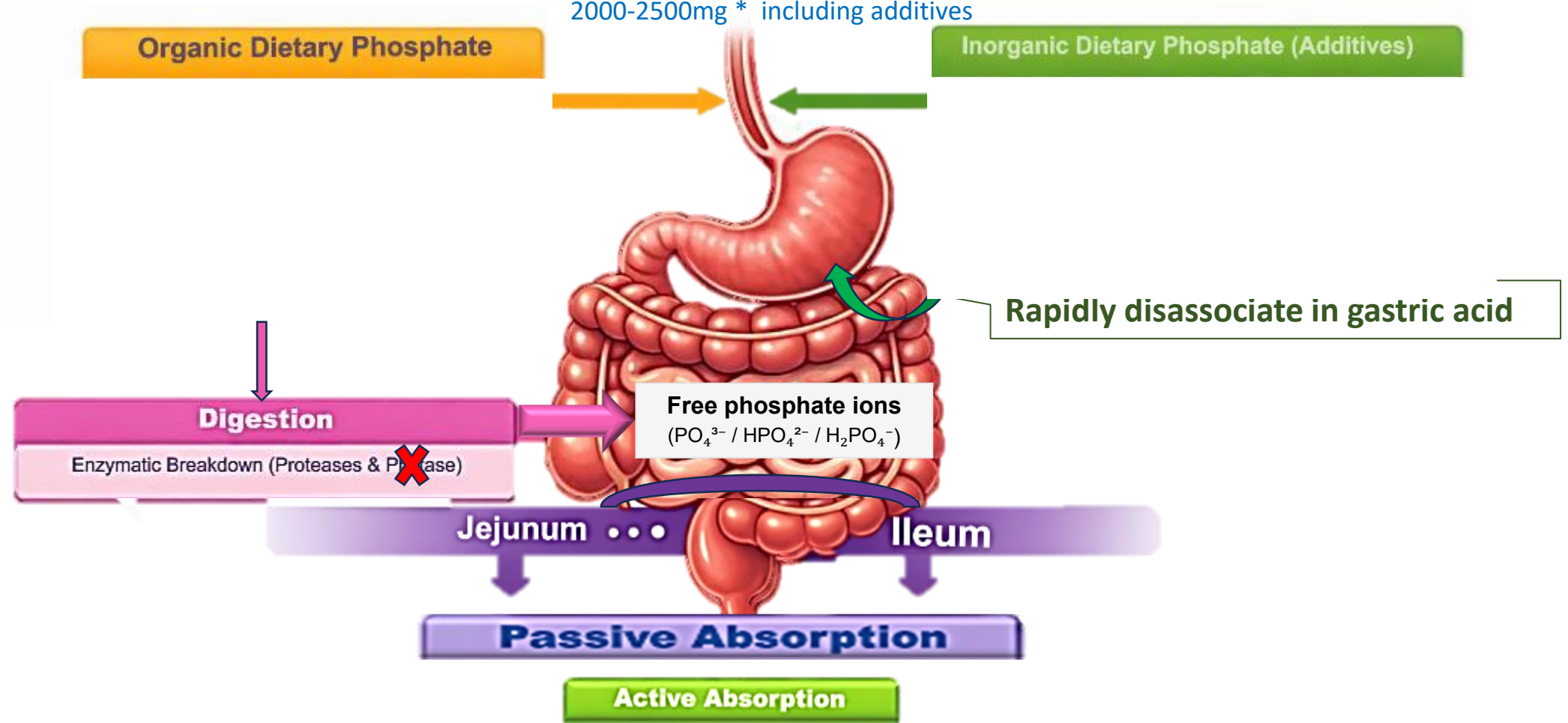
- Trends rather than single values
- Not interpreted in isolation
- Haemolysis can increase level (+0.3-0.5mmol/L)

PHOSPHATE DIGESTION AND ABSORPTION



DIETARY PHOSPHATE

1200-1400mg (adults) NDNS
2000-2500mg * including additives



*Barretto 2019

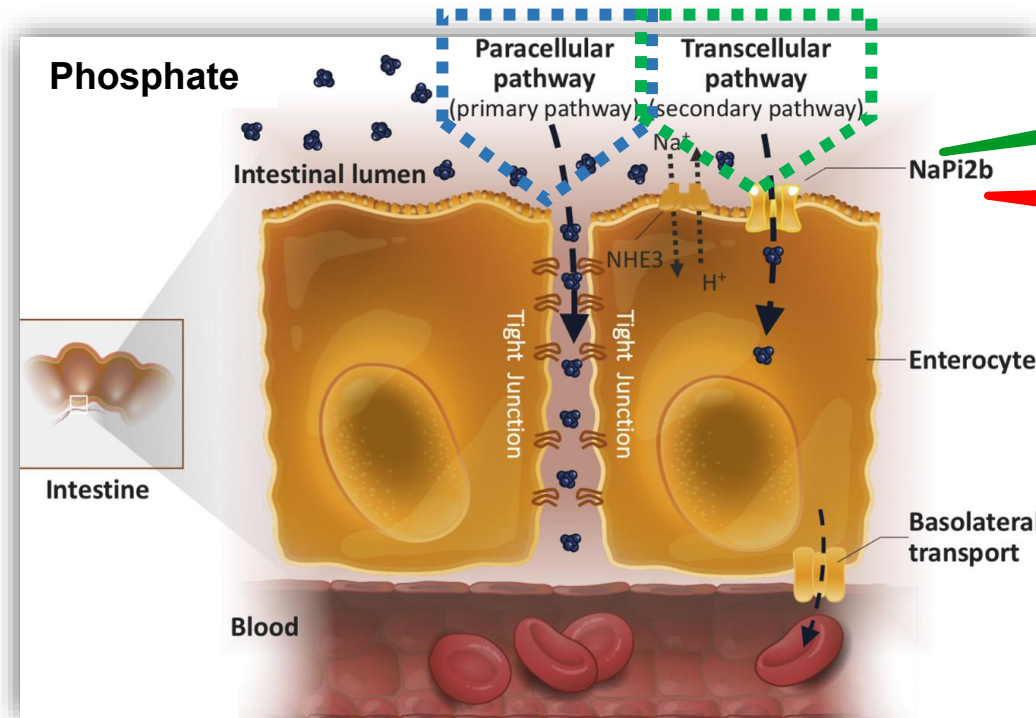
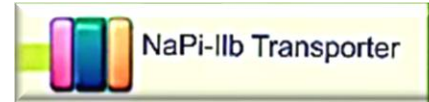
PHOSPHATE ABSORPTION

Passive Absorption

Paracellular 70-80% (*concentration-dependent*)

Active Absorption

Transcellular 20-30% (*active, regulated*)



Upregulated by 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D

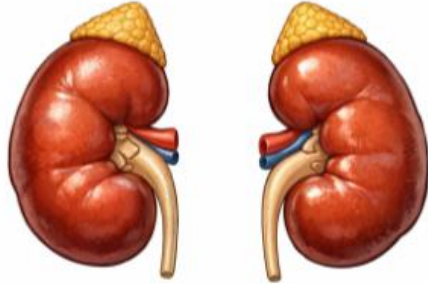
Downregulated by high phosphate intake, FGF23 & (indirectly) PTH



- Serum phosphate can rise **despite maximal hormonal suppression**
- Phosphate binders are effective (they reduce luminal phosphate → ↓ **paracellular flux**)

REGULATION OF PHOSPHATE (and calcium) BALANCE

“GATEKEEPERS OF P
BALANCE”



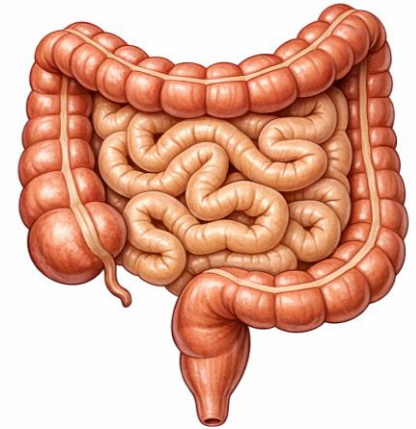
ACTIVE
VITAMIN D



PTH



FGF 23



Nephrol Dial Transplant, 2024, 39, 190–201

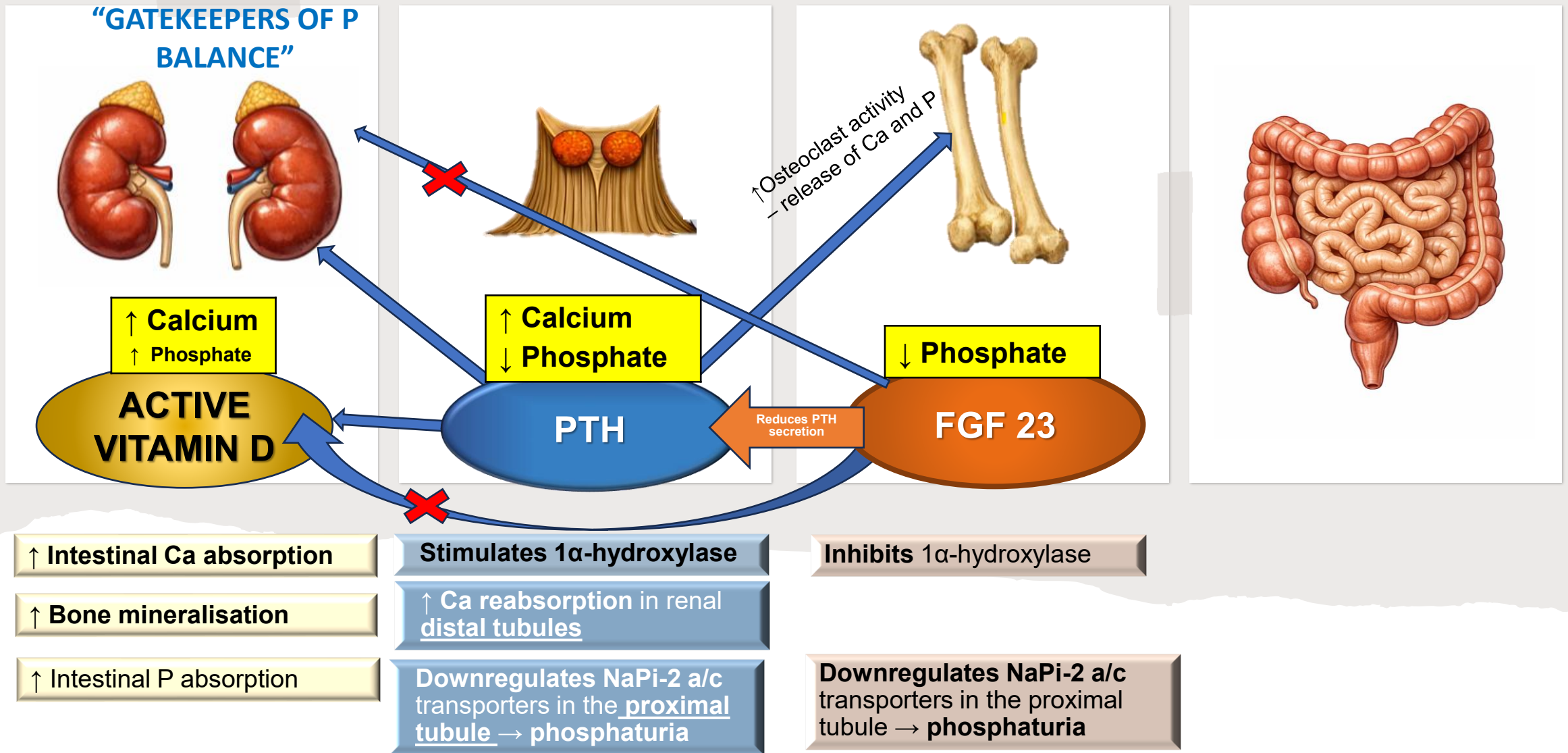
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ndt/gfad188>

Advance access publication date: 2 September 2023

The basics of phosphate metabolism

Carsten A. Wagner 

REGULATION OF PHOSPHATE (and calcium) BALANCE

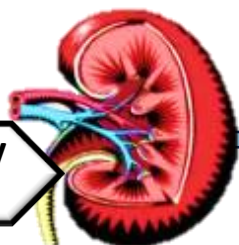


Response to Low Calcium Levels



↑ Parathyroid Hormone (PTH)

WHAT HAPPENS in CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE?



Declining kidney function

↓ phosphate excretion

↑ serum phosphate
↑ FGF23 (early)

↓ 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D

↓ calcium absorption
± hypocalcaemia

↑ PTH
(2° hyperparathyroidism)

CKD-MBD

LABORATORY
ABNORMALITIES



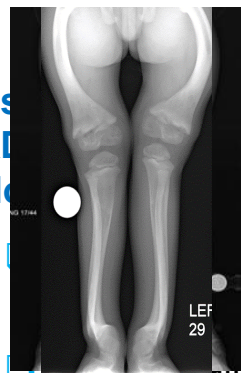
BONE
ABNORMALITIES



CKD-MBD



VASCULAR
CALCIFICATION



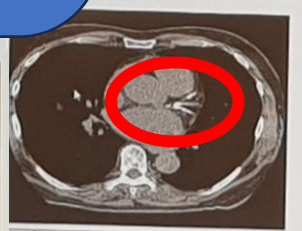
CKD-MBD

Disorder of mineral and bone metabolism due to abnormalities in bone turnover, mineralisation, volume, linear growth and strength

due to abnormalities of calcium, phosphorus, PTH & vitamin D

Abnormalities in bone turnover, mineralisation, volume, linear growth and strength

"Vascular and other soft tissue calcification"



BLOOD CHEMISTRY CHANGES with DECLINING KIDNEY FUNCTION



Symptoms of Hyperphosphatemia

- Muscle cramps
- Tingling, numbness
- Itch
- Fatigue
- Calcification of soft tissues over time



Serum P levels

Determine progression of coronary calcification

Goodman WG, et al. N Engl J Med 2000;342:1473–83;
Civilibal M, et al. Pediatr Nephrol 2009;24:555–63.



Home > Pediatric Nephrology > Article

Progression of coronary calcification in pediatric chronic kidney disease stage 5

Original Article | Published: 01 March 2009
Volume 24, pages 555–563 (2009) Cite this article



Serum P > 1.97mmol/L

Independently associated with ↑fracture risk

Barrera-Baena, P. et al. Nephrol Dial Transplant 2024
Vol. 39 I(4): 618-626



Nephrol Dial Transplant, 2024, 39, 618–626
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ndt/gfa4190>
Advance access publication date: 2 September 2023

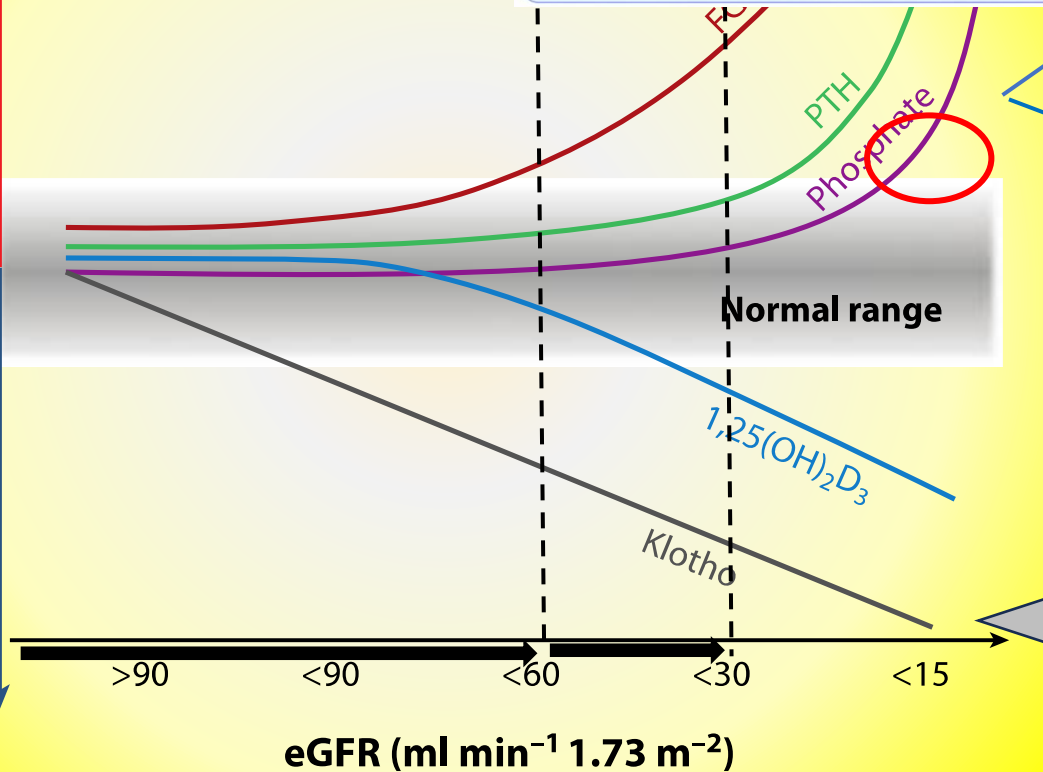
Serum phosphate is associated with increased risk of bone fragility fractures in haemodialysis patients

Pedro Barrera-Baena^{1,2,3}, Minerva Rodríguez-García^{1,2,3}, Enrique Rodríguez-Rubio¹, Lucía González-Llorente¹, Alberto Ortiz^{1,3,4,5,6}, Ferrnino Zoccali⁷, Francesco Locatelli⁸, Jürgen Floege⁹, Martine Cohen-Solal^{10,11}, Manuel Anibal Ferreira^{12,13}, Markus Ketteler¹⁴

Change in plasma parameter

Increase

Decrease



KLOTHO

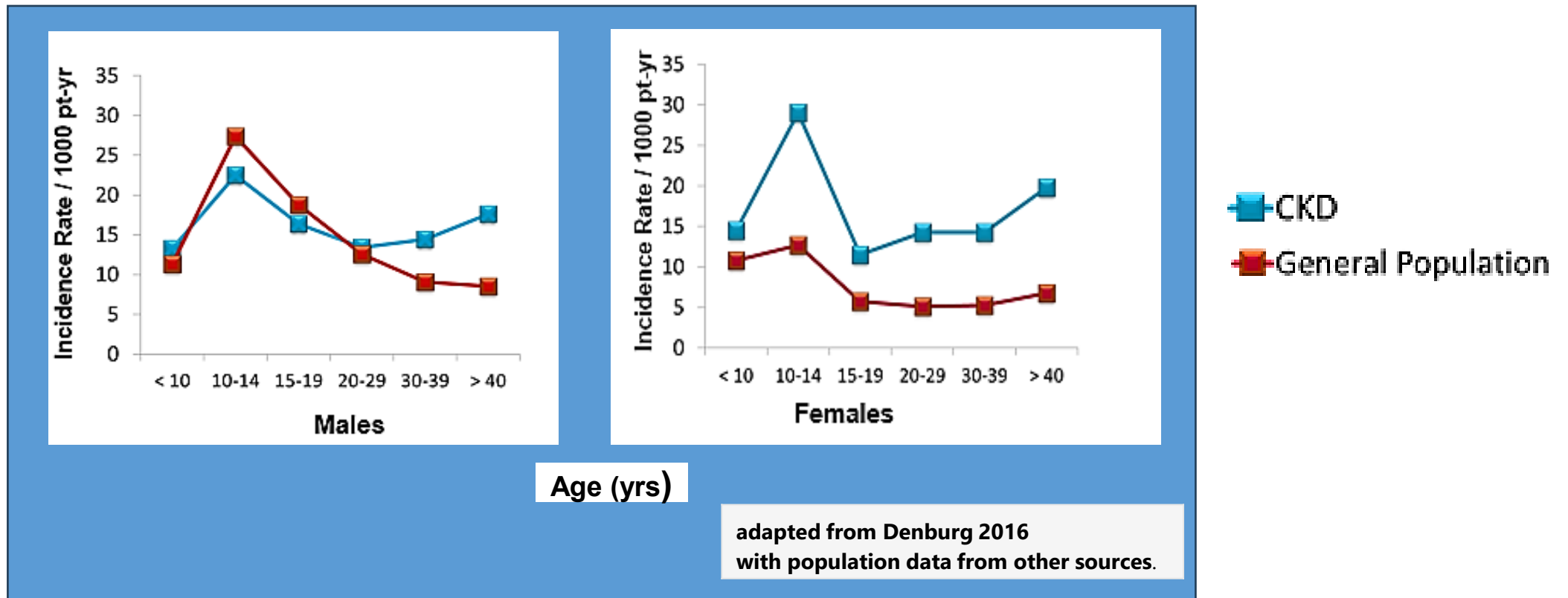
- Co-receptor for FGF23
- Mainly produced by kidney
- ↓ → ↑ FGF23 resistance

Adapted from: Chang Hu et al, Annu Rev Physiol 2013



Fracture rate: 2-3 x higher v general population Peak in puberty

CKD n = 2000 Controls n = 1 million



FRACTURES IN CHILDREN with CKD - risk factors



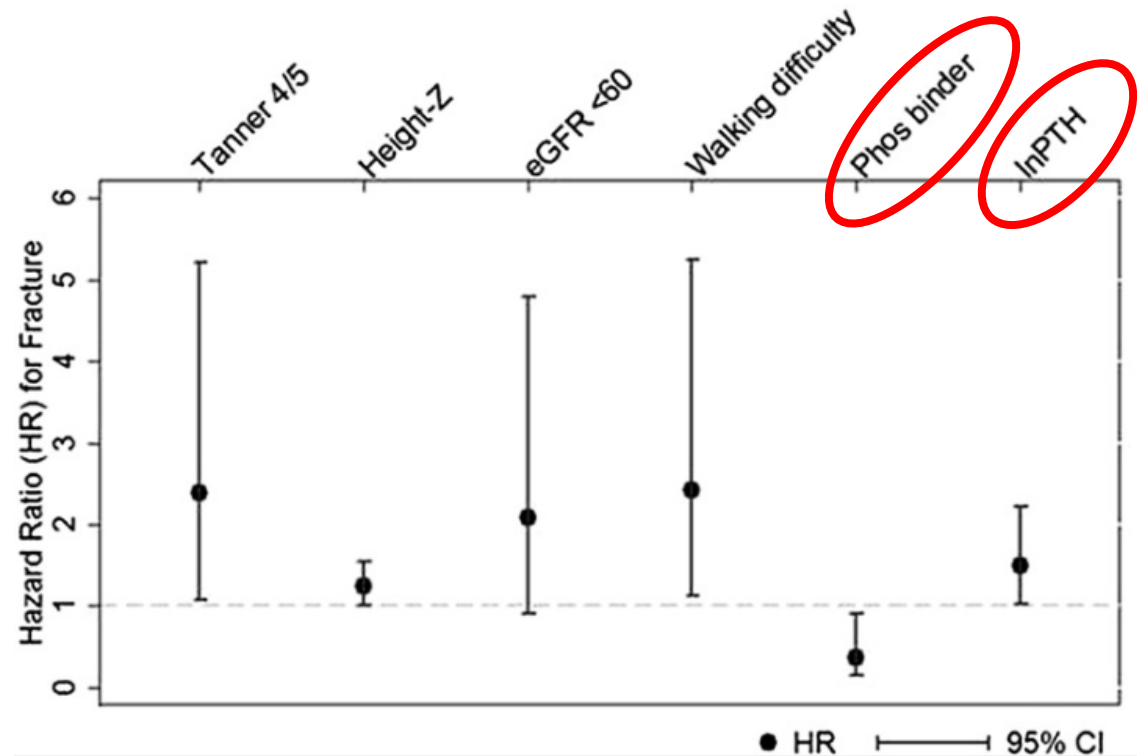
► J Am Soc Nephrol. 2015 Jul 2;27(2):543–550. doi: [10.1681/ASN.2015020152](https://doi.org/10.1681/ASN.2015020152)

Fracture Burden and Risk Factors in Childhood CKD: Results from the CKiD Cohort Study

Denburg, et al. 2016

- 537 children
- Mild - moderate CKD (83% in CKD stages 2-3)
- Median age 11 years
- ~4-year follow-up

Risk for fractures





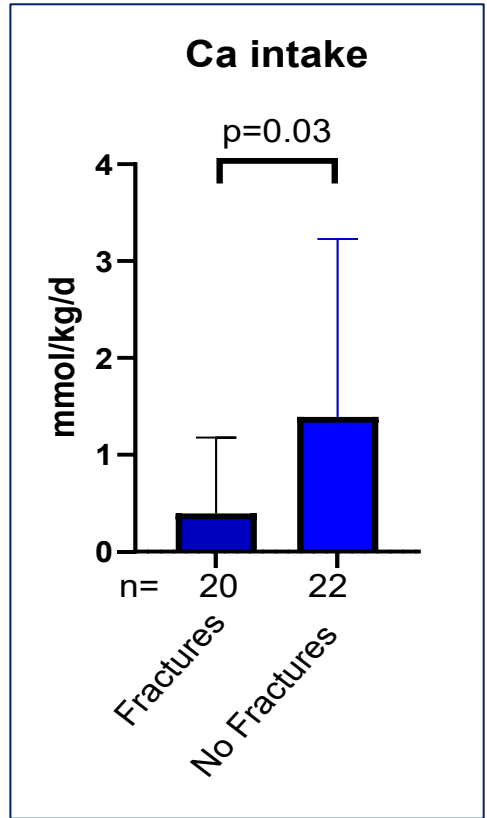
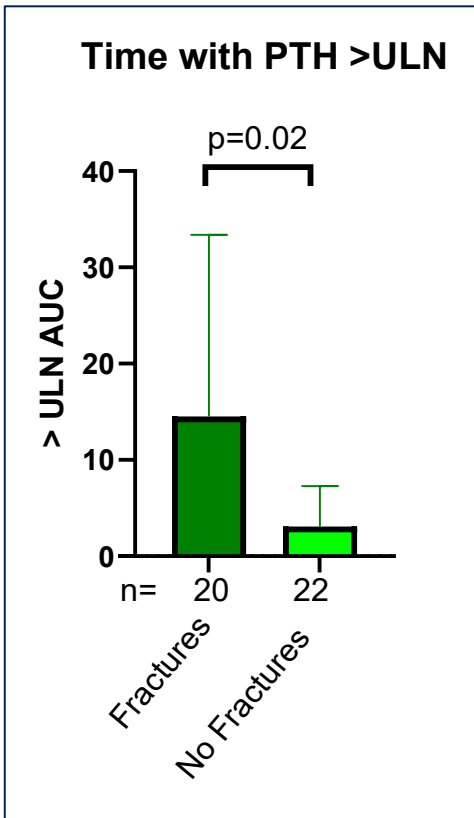
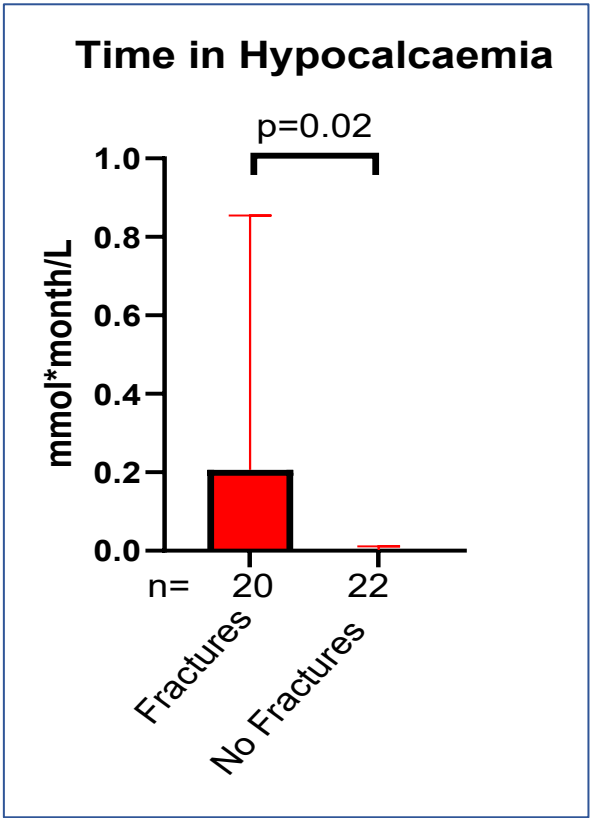
Retrospective data (questionnaire)
Lalayiannis et al (unpublished)

Fractures linked to hypocalcaemia, high PTH and low Ca intake

Age at fracture	
4.9 yrs (2, 11.2)	

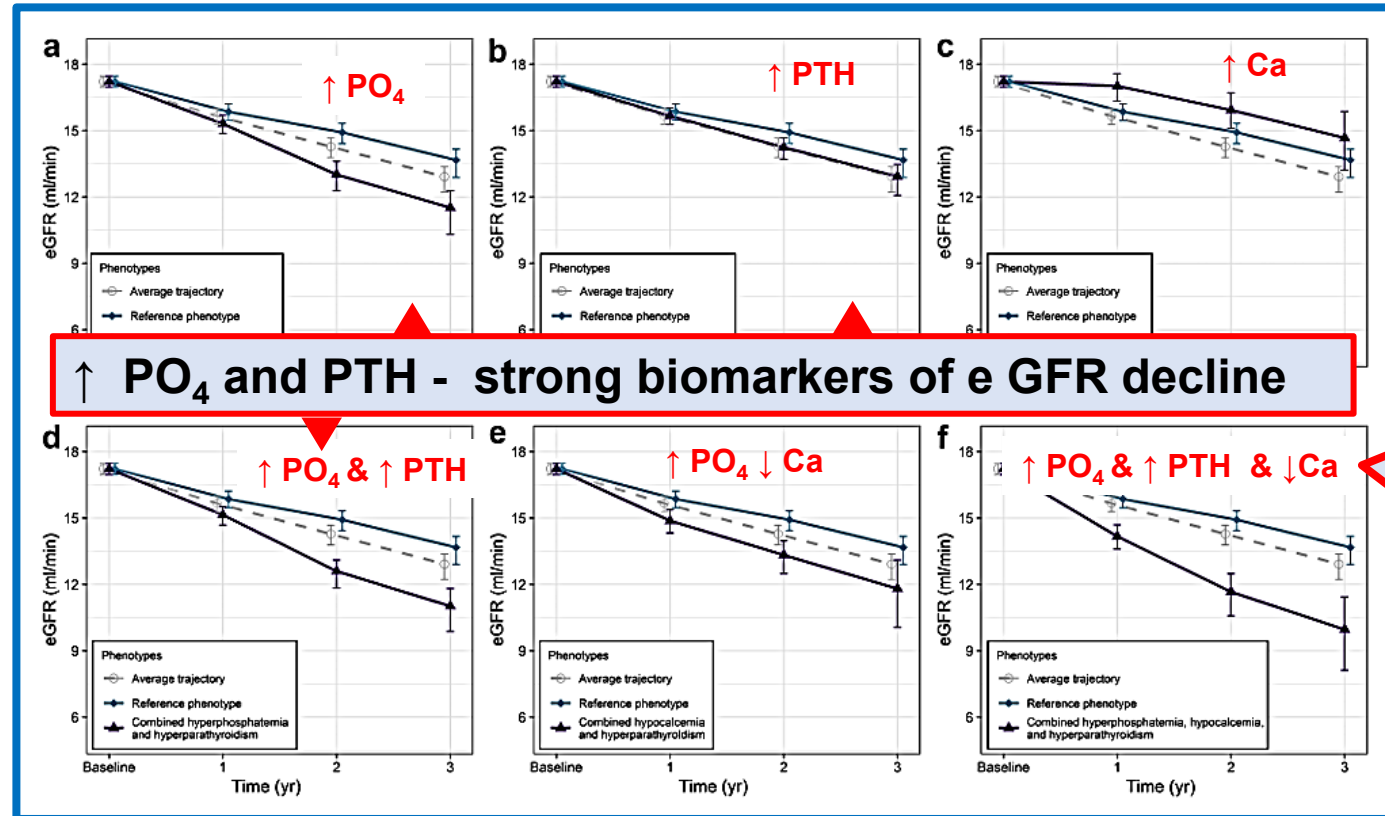
How happened	
Falling from standing/tripping	53%

Consequences	
Deformity	37%
Restricted range of movement	27%



1709 adults

- Ongoing, prospective, observational cohort study
- > 65 years **GFR < 20ml/min/1.73m²**
- **3 years data**



Combined:
 ↑ PO₄ ↑ PTH & ↓ Ca
 -3.71 ml/min ↓ in eGFR in 3 years
 75% higher risk of starting dialysis

 Average trajectory of decline

▲ ▲
 Abnormal biochemistry (P, PTH and Ca)

CKD GUIDELINES RECOMMENDATIONS: Phosphate



KDIGO 2017 Clinical Practice Guideline Update for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, Prevention, and Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease–Mineral and Bone Disorder (CKD-MBD)



Pediatric Nephrology (2023) 38:3163–3181
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00467-022-05825-4>

GUIDELINES



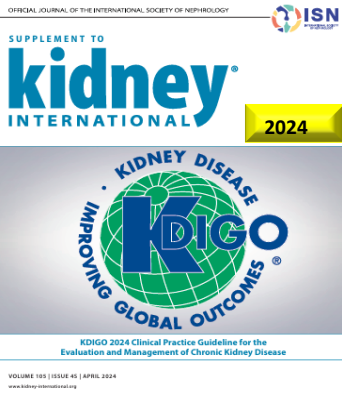
2023



Diagnosis and management of mineral and bone disorders in infants with CKD: clinical practice points from the ESPN CKD-MBD and Dialysis working groups and the Paediatric Renal Nutrition Taskforce

Justine Bacchetta^{1,2,3} · Claus Peter Schmitt⁴ · Sevcan A. Bakkaloglu⁵ · Shelley Cleghorn⁶ · Maren Leifheit-Nestler⁷ · Agnieszka Prytula⁸ · Bruno Ranchin¹ · Anne Schön⁷ · Stella Stabouli⁹ · Johan Van de Walle⁸ · Enrico Vidal^{10,11} · Dieter Haffner⁷ · Rukshana Shrc

Received: 5 August 2022 / Revised: 19 October 2023 / Accepted: 20 October 2023
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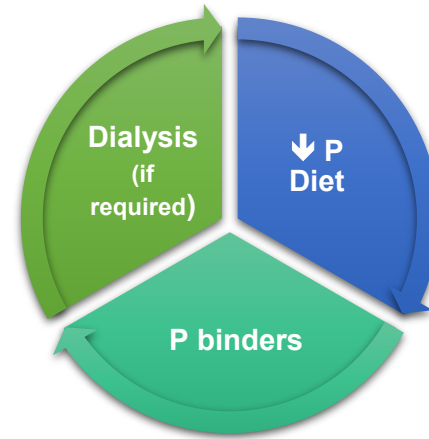


2024

2025

Chronic kidney disease–mineral and bone disorder: conclusions from a Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Controversies Conference

Kidney International (2025) 107, 405–423; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.kint.2024.11.013>



There are no universally defined paediatric P reference ranges in CKD guidelines

No absolute biochemical cut offs for P, Ca, PTH

Use local age-specific reference ranges; interpret biochemistry dynamically

Serial monitoring/trends

Integrated interpretation (Ca, P, PTH)

P “within range” is not sufficient

A phosphate value in the upper normal range or rising – will require intervention

EVOLUTION OF DIETARY PHOSPHATE MANAGEMENT IN CKD

'Phos'tering a clear message: the evolution of dietary phosphorus management in chronic kidney disease

Biruete, A., et al. *J Ren Nutr*, 2023

Quantative
(mg/100g
or per serving)

P density
(mg/kcal)

P:Protein
ratio

Phosphatemic index
(Narasaki, 2020)

Research-based

- **BIOACCESSIBILITY**
Released from food matrix
- **BIOAVAILABILITY**
Actually absorbed

Table 4 A guide to the phosphate (P) content of various foods

Food	Phosphate mg per portion
Dairy and dairy products	
Human breast milk (maternal)	30
Standard whey based infant formula	50-160
Cow's milk	30
Yoghurt	30
Fromage frais	30
Ice cream	30
Cheese, hard (cheddar, edam, gouda)	30
Cheese, soft (camembert, mozzarella)	30
Processed cheese	30
Cottage cheese	30
Egg	30
Egg white	30
Soya products	
Soya milk (not calcium-enriched)	100-50
Soya milk (calcium-enriched)	100-100
Tofu (depending on production and cooking method)	2 tablespoons (50 g) 50-135
Meat and meat products	
Lamb, pork, beef, fish, burgers, chicken	100 130-220
Beefburger	1 100
Beef mince	3 tablespoons (75 g) 100
Sausage	1 (or 2 chipolatas) 100
Chicken-drumstick	1 100
- Breast	1/2 100
- Nuggets	6 100
Cold meat (ham, chicken roll)	1 slice (25 g) 80
Fish filet (small)	50 g 100
Fish fingers	2 100
Prawns	10 100
Salmon	1/3 salmon steak 100
Scampi	3 pieces 100
Pulses (beans/legumes) and nuts	
Baked beans	2 tablespoons (80 g) 70
Nuts	1 small bag (25 g) 120
Dahl	2 tablespoons (80 g) 60
Cereal (grain) and cereal products	
Bread - white	1 slice (30 g) 30
Bread - wholemeal	1 slice (30 g) 60
Bran type breakfast cereals	1 small bowl (30 g) 100-200
Wheat based breakfast cereals (wheat biscuits/cookies)	1 biscuit/cookie (20 g) 50
Confectionary and drinks	
Milk chocolate	1 bar (50 g) 110
Chocolate covered biscuit/cookie	1 biscuit/cookie (18-22 g) 20-40
Cola drink	1 can (330 ml) 100

- **Inadequate protein**
- **Protein-energy wasting**
- **Avoidance of nuts, seeds, legumes**
- **Ignores absorption**

PHOSPHATE DENSITY GUIDE

Phosphate (mg) per kilocalorie (kcal)
Helps choose foods that give more energy for less phosphate.

Category	Food	P Density (mg/kcal)
LOW PHOSPHATE DENSITY (<0.7 mg/kcal)	White Bread	-0.4-0.6 mg/kcal
	Fruit / Veg	-0.2-0.6 mg/kcal
	Refined Grains	-0.3-0.6 mg/kcal
	Meat	-1.0-1.4 mg/kcal
MODERATE PHOSPHATE DENSITY (-0.7-1.5 mg/kcal)	Eggs	-1.0-1.4 mg/kcal
	Cheese	-1.0-1.5 mg/kcal
	Oats	-1.0-1.3 mg/kcal
	Some Legumes	-1.5-2.0 mg/kcal
HIGHER PHOSPHATE DENSITY (>1.5 mg/kcal)	Dairy (Milk, Yoghurt)	-1.5-2.0+ mg/kcal
	Bran / Wholegrain Concentrates	>2.0 mg/kcal
	Processed Foods	>2.0 mg/kcal
	Nuts	>2.0 mg/kcal

P-to-protein ratio	Serving	P (mg)	Protein (g)	P : Protein ratio (mg/g)
Low (<5mg/g)				
Egg white	1 large	5	3.6	1.4
5-<10 mg/g)				
Meat (eg lamb)	90g	170	27	6.3
Tuna (tinned)	90g	139	21.7	6.4
10-15 (mg/g)				
Salmon	90g	235	23.2	10.1
Whole egg	1	84	6.3	13.3
15-25 (mg/g)				
Peanuts	30g	101	6.7	15.1
Kidney beans	70g	125	7.7	16.2
Cheddar cheese	30g	145	7.1	20.4
25 (mg/g)				
Low fat milk	240ml	229	8.1	28.3
Cashews	30g	139	4.3	32.3
Sunflower seeds	25g	370	6.2	59.7

Adapted from: Kalantar-Zade, K et al 2010

Aiming for low P:protein ratio to ensure adequate protein

Read ingredient labels



Types of phosphate

Added phosphate

High bioavailability (up to 100%)



Processed foods

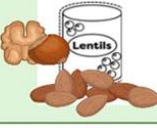
Animal-based

Medium bioavailability (40-60%)



Plant-based

Low bioavailability (20-40%)



Polderman, N. et al, *Clinical Kidney Journal*, 2026

- E338 Phosphoric acid
- E339 Sodium phosphate
- E340 Potassium phosphate
- E341 Calcium phosphate
- E343 Magnesium phosphate
- E450 Diphosphate
- E451 Triphosphate
- E452 Polyphosphate

Or "PHOS"

DIETARY PHOSPHATE MANAGEMENT IN CKD



Pediatric Nephrology (2020) 35:501–518
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00467-019-04370-z>

GUIDELINES

The dietary management of calcium and phosphate in children with CKD stages 2-5 and on dialysis—clinical practice recommendation from the Pediatric Renal Nutrition Taskforce

Louise McAlister¹ · Pearl Pugh² · Laurence Greenbaum³ · Dieter Haffner⁴ · Lesley Rees¹ · Caroline Anderson⁵ · An Desloovere⁶ · Christina Nelms⁷ · Michiel Oosterveld⁸ · Fabio Paglialonga⁹ · Nonnie Polderman¹⁰ · Leila Qizalbash¹¹ · José Renken-Terhaerd¹² · Jetta Tuokkola¹³ · Bradley Warady¹⁴ · Johan Vande Walle⁶ · Vanessa Shaw^{1,15} · Rukshana Shroff¹



<https://www.espn-online.org/nutrition-taskforce/>

Practical guides
Health care professionals

The dietary management of Calcium and Phosphate in children with CKD stages 2-5 and on dialysis

www.vitaflo-VIA.com

www.vitaflo-VIA.com

High in phosphate additives
 These foods and drinks may contain phosphate additives. Check the label and avoid or limit your intake of these foods and drinks.

Meat	Bakery
Takeaway foods	Crumpets

High in natural phosphate
 These foods and drinks are high in natural phosphate. While some of these foods contain important nutrients that are good for you, the amount you have may need to be reduced.

Plant-based protein	Bakery
Plant-based protein powders	Croissants
Protein/energy bars	Plain cakes
Pulses/beans/soy products	Pain au chocolat
Breakfast cereals	Wholesome bran flakes
Eggs	Wholemeal bread/biscuits
Spreads & dips	Cream crackers
Drinks	Starchy foods
	Fresh potatoes
	Homemade chips/wedgie/fresh potatoes
	White/homemade pasta
	Rice/noodles
	Dairy
	Crème fraîche/soft cheese
	Cheddar/cream
	Crème fraîche

Don't forget to include fruit and vegetables in your diet!

Patient resources

www.myrenalnutrition.com

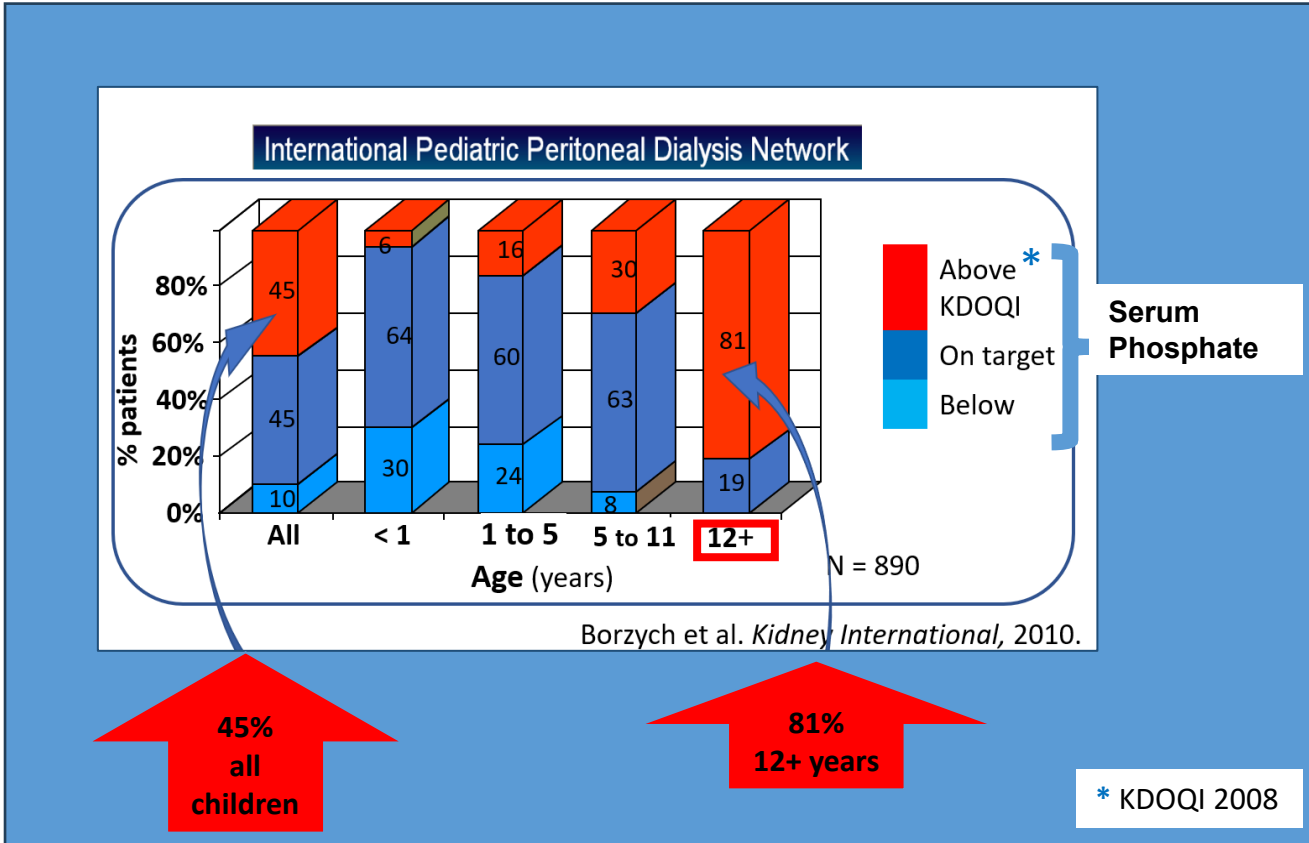
Kidney Care UK



High serum P is common in children with CKD



Adherence is under 50%



Karamanidou	2008
Lambert	2017
Apostolou	2014

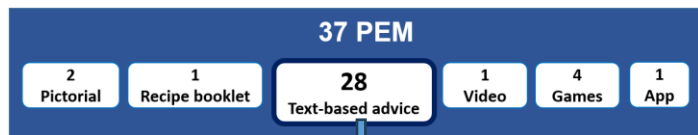


ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Dietary Phosphate Educational Materials for Pediatric Chronic Kidney Disease: Are Confused Messages Reducing Their Impact?

Louise McAlister, BSc, RD, MBDA,* Vanessa Shaw, MA, PG Diploma Dietetics, RD, FBDA,† and Rukshana Shroff, MD, FRCPCH, PhD‡

Journal of Renal Nutrition 2024



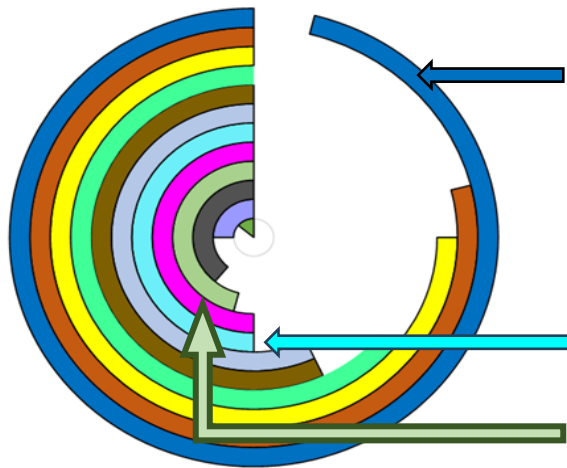
- Reading age / ease
- Date of production
- Validated tools for: **Understandability/actionability**
 “SAM” Doak, Doak 1996
 “PEMAT-P” Shoemaker 2014

- Content analysis
Compared to PRNT
- Inconsistencies + inaccuracies





CONTENT



	PEMs (%)
↓ Milk	96
↓ Nuts	79
↓ Dairy	75
↓ Eggs	64
↓ "High protein foods"	57
↓ Fish with bones	57
↓ P raising agents	50
↓ Seeds	50
↓ Legumes	46
↓ Wholegrains	39
Consider special products	25
↑ Plant based	14

~ 20% >5 years



KEY
PRNT

- LIMIT
- REDUCE (high P)
- Low P
- No recommendation

INCONSISTENCIES / INACCURACIES (36%)

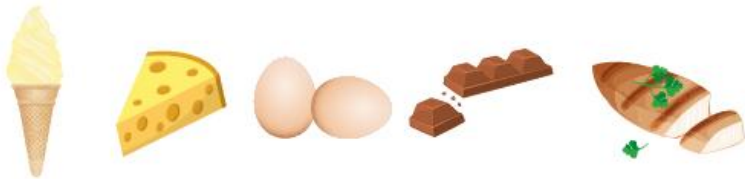
- Advice to avoid foods that are not high in phosphate
- Advice to encourage high fat foods such as cheese
(which would increase phosphate intake)
- Conflicting advice on certain fruits and vegetables
- Inclusion of alcohol advice despite designed for children
- Inclusion of advice about potassium restriction
- Foods on both allowed and forbidden list within same PEM
- Confusing / inaccurate colour coding
- Spelling mistakes

Step 1 Limit phosphate additives

Choose fresh foods rather than processed foods



Step 2 Reduce intake of some foods naturally high in phosphate



Step 3 Replace some of the naturally occurring animal-based phosphate foods with plant-based foods



Promote home-cooked foods
Minimise intake of low nutritional value foods

Phosphate additives

Roles: preservatives, raising agent, enhance colour / moisture / flavour

E-Number	Phosphate Additive
E338	Phosphoric acid
E339	Sodium phosphate
E340	Potassium phosphate
E341	Calcium phosphate
E343	Magnesium phosphate
E450	Diphosphates
E451	Triphosphates
E452	Polyphosphates
E541	Sodium aluminium phosphates

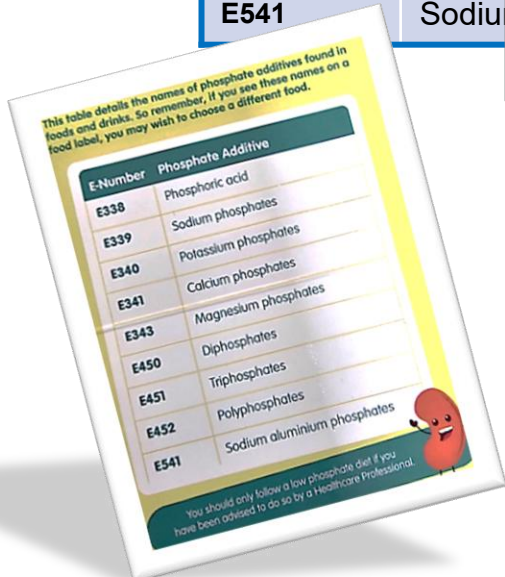
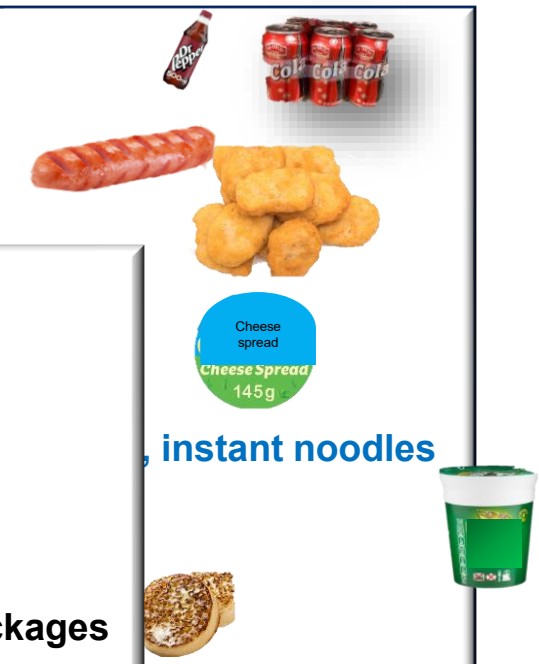
- Absorption >90%**
- Can increase P content by >50%**
EFSA 2019 quotes exposure levels from international surveys [6-30%]
- Manufacturers are not legally required to list the total P content**
- Not included in nutrient databases / dietary assessment software packages**

Cola & dark fizzy drinks

phosphoric acid as acidulant

Processed meats:

ham, bacon, sausages, burgers



Ingredients:

- Raising Agents**
E 450 (Diphosphates)
E 500 (Sodium Carbonates)
Maize Starch



Ingredients:

- Wheat Flour (Wheat Flour, Calcium Carbonate, Iron, Thiamine, Niacin), Sugar, Palm Oil, Glucose Syrup, Colours: Safflower Concentrate, Radish Concentrate, Apple Concentrate, Blackcurrant Concentrate, Carrot Concentrate, Hibiscus Concentrate, Salt, Partially Inverted Refiners Syrup, Raising Agents: Sodium Bicarbonate, Ammonium Bicarbonate, Disodium Diphosphate, Glycerine, Flavouring, Emulsifier: Soya Lecithin, Hydrolysed Wheat Gluten, Acidity Regulators: Citric Acid**



Phosphate portions



Portions

1 egg	150g crème fraiche
100ml milk	½ pot natural yogurt (60g)
80ml cheese sauce (5 tablespoons)	1 pot custard or rice pudding (125g)
1 thin slice or 1 heaped table-spoon cheddar cheese (20g)	2 scoops ice cream (120g)
1 small portion camembert or brie (30g)	1 small chocolate covered biscuit bar (50g)
1 pot fromage frais (85g) or fruit yogurt (120g) or soya yogurt (120g)	½ mini pizza (50g)

- Bread
- Fortified non dairy milk products
- Ca fortified orange juice
- Fish with bones
- Kale
- Baked beans
- Phosphate binders
- Ca fortified cereals

Calcium

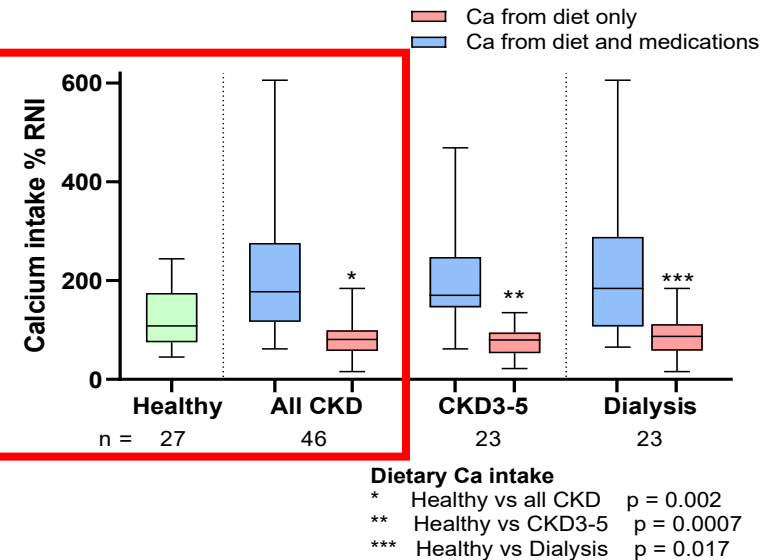
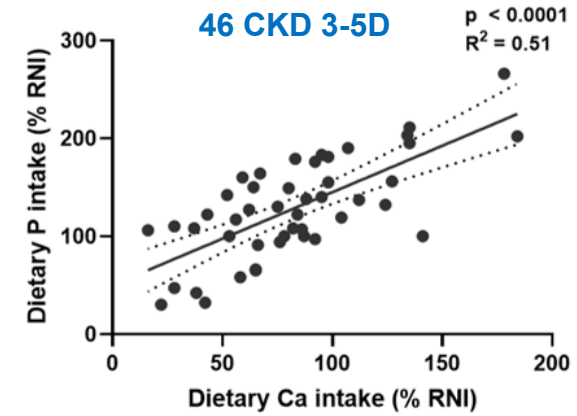
Reduce animal- ba

Ca intake

- 81% RNI in CKD vs 108% for healthy (p=0.002)
- 76% CKD had an intake <100%RNI

Dietary Ca & P intake (%RNI)

McAlister et al (2020) Pediatric Nephrology 35: 1915-1923



ods

Step 3

Replace some of the naturally occurring animal-based phosphate foods with plant-based foods



↑ **Availability:** phytic acid (seeds, wholegrains, nuts and legumes)
Processing—refine grains, boiling, soaking, fermenting, gut microbiome

Plant P
less bioavailable



Moe et al
Clin J Am Soc Nephrol. 2011;6(2):257-264.

- Randomised crossover trial
- 9 adults with CKD 3-4 (mean eGFR 32)
- 7-day vegetarian diet v 7 day meat-based (same protein, energy, Ca and P intake)
- Lower serum phosphate levels & FGF-23

Less P additives
From processed foods



Plant-based diets: a fad or the future of medical nutrition therapy for children with chronic kidney disease?

Educational Review | Published: 14 February 2023

No paediatric data to support link to ↓CKD progression.
Including CKiD 2022

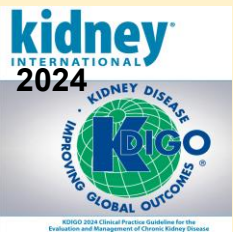
↑ **Fibre**
Alter gut microbiome
→ ↑ anti-inflammatory compounds
↓ uraemic toxins

↓ **Renal acid load**

Plant Slant diet



ACIDOSIS
Growth failure
Supresses the GH-IGF-1 axis
Bone disease
↑ Bone resorption & impaired mineralisation
Muscle wasting
↑ Muscle protein breakdown
Faster CKD progression



3.3 Diet Practice Point:
Advise people with CKD**higher consumption of plant-based foods** compared to animal-based foods

KDOQI
KIDNEY DISEASE OUTCOMES QUALITY INITIATIVE
National Kidney Foundation

eat right
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

KDOQI CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR NUTRITION IN CKD: 2020 UPDATE

T. Ajp Madler, Jennifer D. Burrows, Laura D. Byham-Gray, Katrina L. Campbell, Juan-Jesus Carrero, Winnie Chan, Denis Fouque, Allan H. Friedman, Sara Ghadimi, D. Josef Goldstein-Fuchs, George A. Rayson, Joel D. Kopple, Daniel Kote, Angela Yee-Moon Wang, and Lillian Cooper



Published in final edited form as:
Pediatr Nephrol. 2022 July ; 37(7): 1647–1655. doi:10.1007/s00467-021-05334-y.

Low variability of plant protein intake in the CKiD cohort does not demonstrate changes in estimated GFR nor electrolyte balance

Lokesh N. Shah^{1,2}, Matthew B. Matheson³, Susan L. Furth^{4,5}, George J. Schwartz⁶, Bradley A. Warady^{7,8}, Cynthia J. Wong^{1,2}

Plant-Protein Intake in CKiD: Effect on eGFR and Electrolyte Profile Graphical Abstract

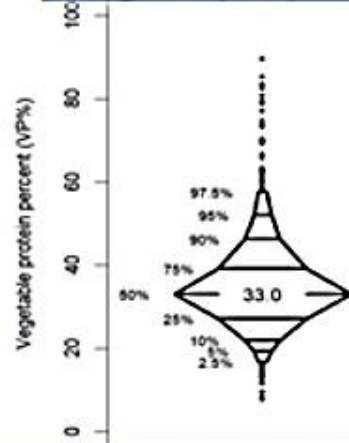
HYPOTHESIS: Greater plant-protein intake would have beneficial effect on eGFR with a favorable electrolyte balance

DESIGN & OUTCOMES:



**631 subjects with FFQs
2000 visits**

Right-Skewed Distribution of Vegetable (Plant) Protein



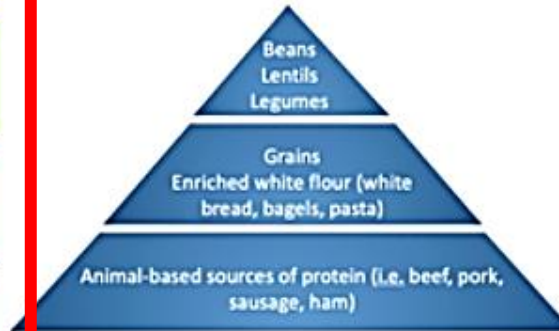
No Change in eGFR (U25 Equations)

No Effect on Hyperkalemia

No Effect on Metabolic Acidosis

No Effect on Hyperphosphatemia

Standard Pediatric CKD Dietary Sources of Protein



CONCLUSION: Children in CKiD have a narrow and homogenous intake of vegetable protein. Due to the low variability of plant-based protein in the cohort, there were no associations between the percentage of plant-protein intake and changes in eGFR nor electrolyte balance.

Shah et al. 2021

Step 3 Eat more plant-based foods

Plant-based foods provide important vitamins, minerals and fiber and the phosphate in these foods is less well absorbed. Here are some ideas to increase the plant-based foods in your child's diet:



Replace some of the meat in Bolognese sauce, chilli con carne, burgers and burritos with lentils or beans



Add extra fresh, frozen or canned vegetables to pasta sauces, curries and stews and cut down on the amount of meat, chicken or fish you give



Reduce the amount of meat, fish, eggs or cheese in your child's sandwich filling and replace with hummus or mashed avocado; add some salad items such as cucumber or lettuce

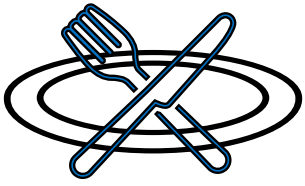


Pack some raw vegetables into your child's lunch box, or give as a snack e.g. carrots, bell peppers, broccoli or cauliflower



Include a side salad with your child's meals e.g. bulgar wheat, quinoa, couscous or rice with added seeds, nuts, celery, radishes, spring onions or sweetcorn

	Step 1. Limit phosphate additives	Step 2. Reduce intake of some foods naturally high in phosphate	Step 3. Give more plant-based foods and choose lower phosphate alternatives
	High in phosphate ADDITIVES	High in NATURAL phosphate	Lower phosphate alternatives
Milks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultra-high temperature (UHT) milk products Non-dairy creamer Plant-based milks containing a phosphate additive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cow's milk - whole and semi-skimmed, condensed and powdered milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dilute cow's milk with water (50:50) Milk substitutes, including some plant-based milks such as oat milk and almond milk¹
Dairy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processed cheese slices/strips/cheese spread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard cheese e.g. cheddar, edam Yogurt Ice cream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cottage, cream or ricotta cheese Plant-based cheeses Vegan, coconut or soya oil cheese Cream, soured cream Jelly, sorbet, fruit lollies
Bakery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baked goods or puddings with phosphate-containing raising agents e.g. crumpets, muffins, scones, pastries, naan bread and tortillas/wraps Baked savoury foods e.g. meat pastries, cheese bread, pizza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foods containing chocolate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baked goods without phosphate-containing raising agents* e.g. croissants, English muffins and hot cross buns Plain or jam/cream-filled biscuits, plain cakes, teacake, cream cakes and doughnuts Cream crackers, wholemeal or white bread, pitta bread, chapattis, rice cakes



Wake up:

1 glass of semi-skimmed milk.

Breakfast:

Scrambled egg + tomato on toast

Morning snack:

Peach
Packet of potato crisps

Lunch:

Fish fingers, chips and peas/corn
or salami and cheese sandwich

Afternoon Snack:

Chocolate digestive biscuit
100ml orange juice

Evening Meal:

Home-cooked Caribbean stew with potatoes or rice
Yogurt

Nutritional supplement:

Oral nutritional supplement – 200ml

1) Dilute whole milk
2) Reduce quantity/frequency
3) Swap to oat milk

1 x egg + 1 x egg white to make scrambled eggs

Check label for phosphate additives

? Choose **cold meat**

Lower PO4 cheese eg: mozzarella, cream cheese or vegan cheese

Plain digestives or NICE, Rich Tea or jam biscuits

Or replace with nuts

Check portion size of meat – can this be reduced?
Can they have more carbohydrates / veg at this meal?

Lower phosphate supplement



Kidney Kitchen Recipes Family Favourites

20 Delicious kidney-friendly lunches, dinners and snacks for the whole family

APPROVED BY KIDNEY DIETITIANS

















RECIPES SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

EXCITING RECIPES TO Inspire YOU

FOUR AND FIVE PIE PIZZA, RAINBOW PASTAS, STICKY CHICKEN RICE, CELEBRATION CAKE

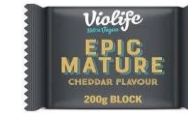
Phosphate Swaps

The best way to reduce your intake of phosphate is to cook at home using fresh ingredients rather than having ready meals and takeaways. Check the labels on processed foods and choose items which do not contain phosphate additives. The table below shows other swaps that you can make to your diet to help reduce your phosphate intake.

High phosphate foods	Alternative lower phosphate foods
 Cow's milk; evaporated, condensed, UHT and powdered milk; plant-based milks fortified with phosphate additives	 Dilute cow's milk 50:50 with water; plant-based milks with no phosphate additives, low protein milk alternatives*
 Takeaway or packaged beef burgers, chicken nuggets, popcorn chicken, sausages, bacon, ham, salami, meat paste or pate	 Most fresh, unprocessed beef, lamb, chicken, pork, duck and turkey; homemade sausages freshly made in the butcher's shop; homemade beef burgers and meatballs; replace some meat with beans, lentils, tofu or tempeh
 Fish fingers, fish cakes, battered or crumbed fish, fish paste	 Unprocessed fresh, frozen or canned cod, haddock, salmon, tuna, mackerel, sardines, pilchards
 Frozen, chilled and dried potato products such as potato waffles and chips	 Fresh potatoes, homemade chips and wedges, roast potatoes, rice, couscous, noodles, pasta, bulgar wheat, quinoa
 Shop bought naan bread, tortillas	 Granary, wholemeal or white bread and rolls; pitta bread, chapattis, wraps, bagels, breadsticks, crumpets, brioche, croissants - check for phosphate additives
 Breakfast cereals with chocolate	 Porridge oats, rice and wheat-based cereals, multigrain cereals
 Packet sauces, instant pasta, noodle dishes, dried cheese or white sauce mixes	 Pasta, rice, noodles with homemade sauces/flavourings
 Biscuits, muffins, scones, pastries with chocolate	 Plain or jam/cream filled biscuits, teacakes, cream crackers, rice cakes, unsalted popcorn

*Low protein milk alternatives need to be recommended by your Doctor or Dietitian

Plant-based foods



Ingredients

Spring Water, Almonds (2%), Calcium Carbonate, Sea Salt, Emulsifier (Sunflower Lecithin), Stabiliser (Gellan Gum), Natural Flavouring, Vitamins (D2, E, B12)

Infant feeding

Per 100ml (standard dilution)	Calcium (mg) *	Phosphate (mg)	Potassium (mg) *
Mature breast milk	34	15	58
Infant formula:			
Whey dominant	45	24-39	85
Casein dominant– “hungry baby”	56	44	73
Follow-on (whey dominant)	66	40	75
Cow’s milk	120	96	157

Extended use of infant formulas (> 1 year)

Solids



“Cow’s milk based foods such as yogurt, cheese, custard and rice pudding naturally contain high levels of PHOSPHATE. Discuss with your dietitian when would be a good time to start introducing these foods”.



* Values considering a range of formula in the UK

Phosphate Binder Medication

Chronic kidney disease: assessment and management

NICE guideline | NG203 | Published: 25 August 2021 | Last updated: 24 November 2021

Phosphate binders for children and young people

1.11.9 Offer children and young people with CKD stage 4 or 5 and hyperphosphataemia a calcium-based phosphate binder to control serum phosphate levels. [2021]

In August 2021, this was an off-label use of some calcium-based phosphate binders in people not on dialysis. See [NICE's information on prescribing medicines](#).

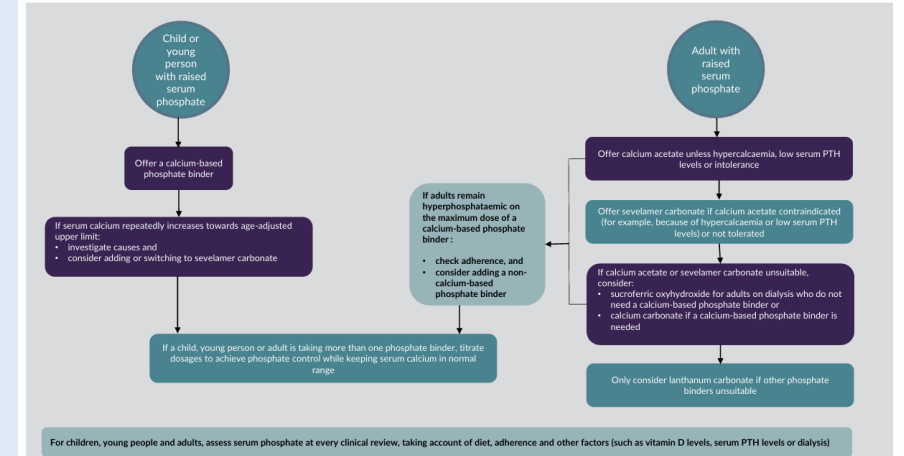
1.11.10 If serum calcium increases towards, or above, the age-adjusted upper normal limit:

- investigate possible causes other than the phosphate binder
- consider reducing the dose of the calcium-based phosphate binder and adding sevelamer carbonate or switching to sevelamer carbonate alone. [2021]

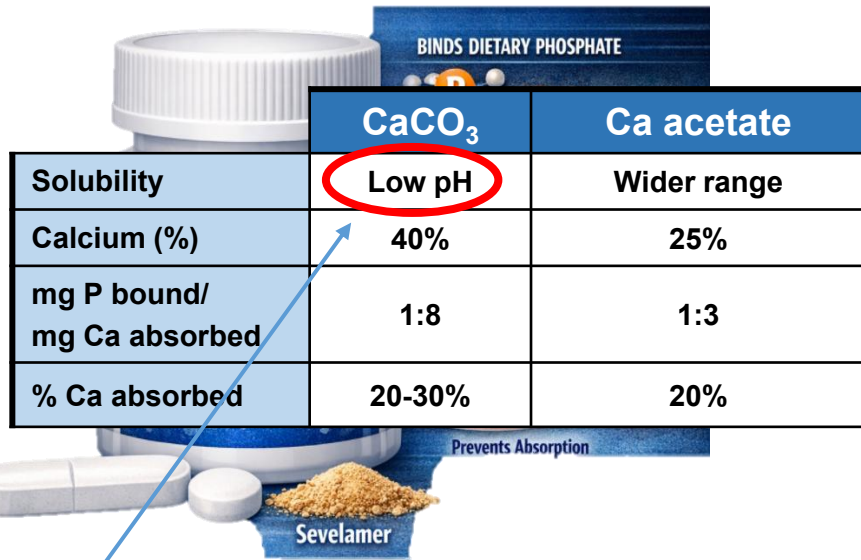
In August 2021, this was an off-label use of sevelamer carbonate. See [NICE's information on prescribing medicines](#).

1.11.11 For all children and young people who are taking more than 1 phosphate binder, titrate the dosage to achieve the best possible control of serum phosphate while keeping serum calcium levels below the upper normal limit. [2021]

Chronic kidney disease stages 4 and 5: phosphate binders



PHOSPHATE BINDER MEDICATION



	CaCO ₃	Ca acetate
Solubility	Low pH	Wider range
Calcium (%)	40%	25%
mg P bound/ mg Ca absorbed	1:8	1:3
% Ca absorbed	20-30%	20%

Prevents Absorption

Sevelamer

Calcium based

Non calcium based

Better just before food
Less effective in Jejunum



Phosphate binder	Formulation	Cost per unit (NHS)
Calcium carbonate	500 mg chewable tablet	1 - 3 pence per tablet
Calcium acetate (Renacet®)	475 mg tablet	9 pence per tablet
Sevelamer carbonate	800 mg tablet	14 pence per tablet
Sevelamer carbonate	2.4 g sachet	~£2.80 per sachet




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Clinical | 11 June 2025

Phosphate management in adults with chronic kidney disease

Author: Bruno Matrici | AUTHORS INFO & AFFILIATIONS

Publication: Journal of Kidney Care • Volume 10, Number 3 • <https://doi.org/10.12968/jkcr.2025.10.3.112>

*Fathallah-Shaykh, 2018

**Schiller, 1989

***McAlister, 2025



Online Focus Groups

3 overarching concepts

“Difficult to understand safe foods”
 “Need something quick and easy to see”
 “Rely on dietitian to take lead”
 “Want relevant information”
 “Want trustworthy information”

mother of 10-year-old boy
 mother of 16-year-old girl
 mother of 13-year-old boy
 mother of 16-year-old girl
 16-year-old girl



Navigating practical and informational support

Practical advice and support are valued

“Rigid” mother of 9-year-old boy
 “Don’t eat out” mother of 14-year-old girl
 “Bewildered” father of 16-year-old girl
 “Annoyed” 14-year-old girl
 “Images too childish” 13-year-old girl

Personalised strategies are preferred to facilitate

“Break it down”
 “Set a timer on my phone”
 “Constantly rattling”
 “It was a big thing to listen to what the doctors said”

13-year-old



Living with social and emotional disruption

The social environment of the child and family is disrupted

“Feel isolated” mother of 13-year-old girl
 “Don’t eat when out with friends” 16-year-old boy
 “Child eats separately to family” father of 24-year-old girl
 “Family moan that food is disgusting” 16-year-old boy
 “Can’t go to grandparents’ house” mother of 13-year-old

Education and self-management skills can influence

“Drives you nuts”
 “Walking a tightrope”
 “On autopilot,”
 “Rules changed a few times”
 “Not always positive experiences with medical team”
 “Now just get on with it”



Adapting to a lifelong journey

The journey requires acceptance, adaptation and perseverance

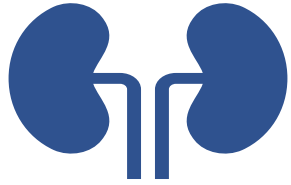
Suggested strategies



More effective
PHOSPHATE
management



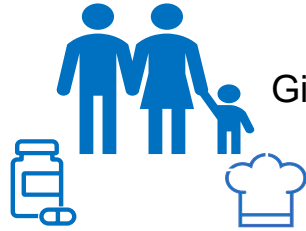
CONCLUSIONS



Management of hyperphosphataemia is essential to prevent **CKD-MBD**



Start **early** management of P intake – before serum P rises



Give practical support for **families for diet and phosphate binders**

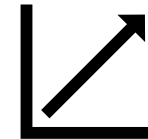


Management together with **MDT**

Q and A



Louise.mcalister@gosh.nhs.uk



Regular reviews

Check not limiting nutrition and growth