

# WHEN KIDNEY STONES MAY BE A SIGN OF SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS<sup>1,2</sup>



**Primary hyperoxaluria type 1 (PH1):**  
a metabolic stone disease with  
potentially devastating consequences.<sup>2-4</sup>

 **Alylam**<sup>®</sup>  
PHARMACEUTICALS

# When patients present with kidney stones, a metabolic stone disease may be the cause<sup>1,2</sup>

ANY UNUSUAL PRESENTATION AMONG STONE FORMERS MERITS FURTHER INVESTIGATION:<sup>1</sup>

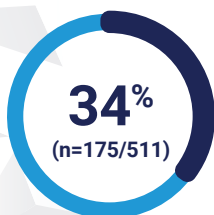
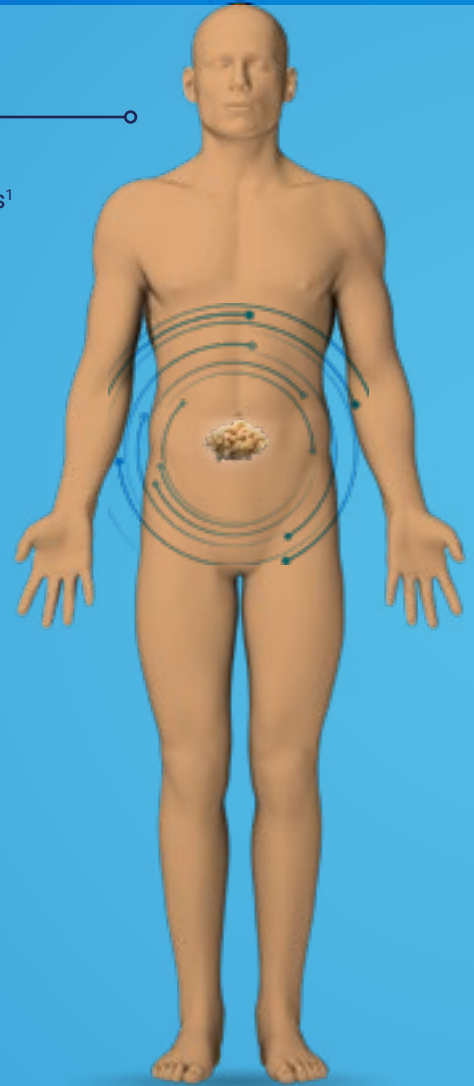
## CHILD OR ADOLESCENT

- Any renal and bladder stone<sup>1,5</sup>
- Family history of stones<sup>1</sup>

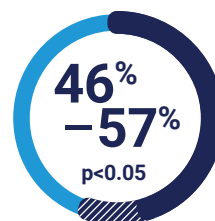


## ADULT

- Recurring stones<sup>1</sup>
- Multiple or bilateral stones<sup>1</sup>
- Stones may be larger on average, such as staghorn stones<sup>1,6-9</sup>
- Family history of stones<sup>1</sup>
- Biochemical composition (e.g., high proportion of calcium oxalate monohydrate, cystine, xanthine, uric acid)<sup>1,10</sup>



of paediatric stones in a retrospective study were linked to a metabolic condition<sup>11</sup>



is the heritability of the risk for kidney stone formation<sup>\*,12</sup>

\*As estimated based on twin studies.<sup>12</sup>

# Almost 100% of children and 10% of adults who receive renal replacement therapy have an inherited kidney disease<sup>1,3</sup>

There are additional clinical red flags that, when also present, likely indicate a stone-forming, systemic condition:<sup>1,3,14-16</sup>

- Abnormal urinary chemistry on 24-hour urine test (e.g., high oxalate, low citrate, high magnesium, high calcium, high glycolate)<sup>3,14-16</sup>
- Impaired kidney function<sup>1,3</sup>
- End-stage renal disease (ESRD)<sup>1,3</sup>
- Nephrocalcinosis<sup>1,3</sup>
- Failure to thrive (infants)<sup>1,3</sup>
- Tubular dysfunction and related manifestations (mostly in children) (statural growth deficit, polyuria, bone disorders)<sup>1</sup>
- Extrarenal manifestations (mostly in children) (sensorineural hearing defects, ocular abnormalities, neurological disorders)<sup>1</sup>



**Genetic Testing:** In the workup of such patients, genetic testing may identify a mutation associated with kidney stone formation.<sup>1,14</sup>

## EXAMPLES OF METABOLIC STONE DISEASES<sup>1,10,17</sup>

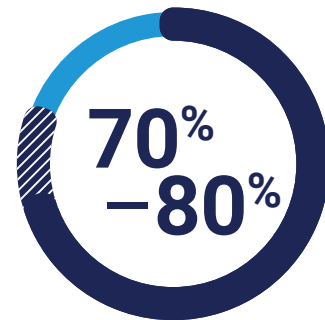
Primary hyperoxaluria	Cystinuria
Absorptive hypercalciuria	Xanthinuria
Dent disease	Renal hypouricaemia
Renal hypomagnesaemia	Distal renal tubular acidosis

Kidney stones are the most common clinical manifestation that lead to a diagnosis of primary hyperoxaluria type 1 (PH1)<sup>18</sup>

thinkPH1

# PH1: a potentially life-threatening and progressive genetic disease that often presents with kidney stones<sup>2-4</sup>

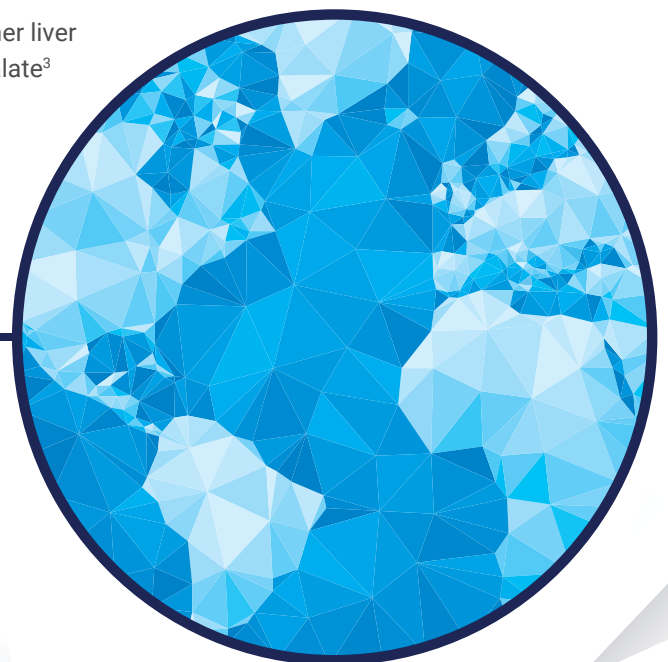
Primary hyperoxalurias (PHs) are a group of genetic diseases that lead to overproduction of oxalate in the liver<sup>4</sup>



of all PH cases are the most severe type: PH1<sup>2,4,19</sup>

**Although renal damage is a primary consequence, a genetic defect in the liver causes PH1<sup>3,4</sup>**

- PH1 is caused by mutations in the *AGXT* gene which render the liver enzyme alanine:glyoxylate aminotransferase (AGT) dysfunctional<sup>4,20</sup>
  - In the absence of functional AGT, glyoxylate—made by another liver enzyme, glycolate oxidase (GO)—is instead converted to oxalate<sup>3</sup>
- One of the most devastating aspects of PH1 is that it results in a progressive decline in kidney function, typically culminating in ESRD<sup>2,4</sup>
  - Moreover, there is the potential risk of systemic oxalosis<sup>4</sup>



PH1 is rare, affecting approximately **1–3 OUT OF EVERY MILLION PEOPLE IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA,** and has a higher prevalence in the Middle East and North Africa region<sup>4,21</sup>

# Regardless of renal status, acute decline can occur suddenly, even in previously stable disease<sup>9,22</sup>

## PH1 has heterogeneous clinical manifestations<sup>2,3</sup>

- Clinical manifestations can present at any age<sup>3</sup>
- PH1 patients with identical genotypes, and even members of the same family, can have variable disease presentations and different rates of progression<sup>2</sup>

### PH1 PATIENTS MAY PRESENT WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS:



Recurrent urolithiasis<sup>2</sup>



Kidney stone in a child<sup>3</sup>



Nephrocalcinosis<sup>2,4,20</sup>



Failure to thrive in infancy<sup>3</sup>



Progressive kidney function decline of unknown cause that commonly progresses to ESRD<sup>2,4,20</sup>



Family history of stones<sup>20</sup>



**Though kidney stones are the most common clinical manifestation, there may be PH1 patients who are not stone formers<sup>8,23</sup>**

## PH1 is defined by a progressive decline in renal function with eventual advancement towards ESRD, though the rate is variable<sup>3,8,24</sup>

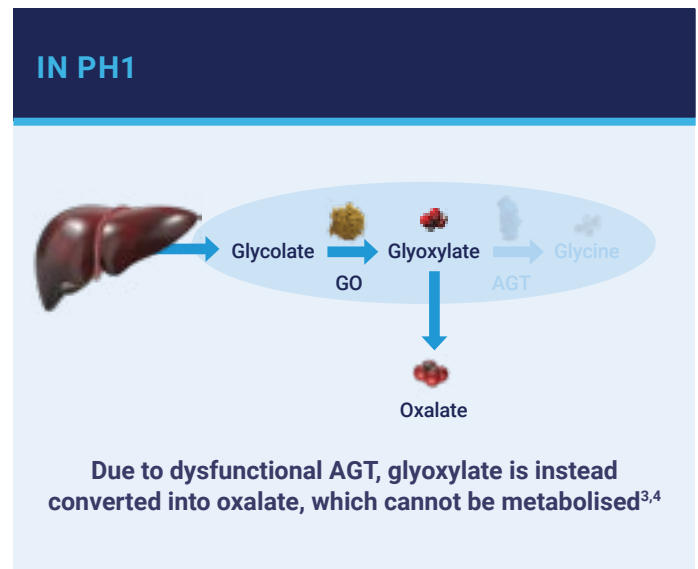
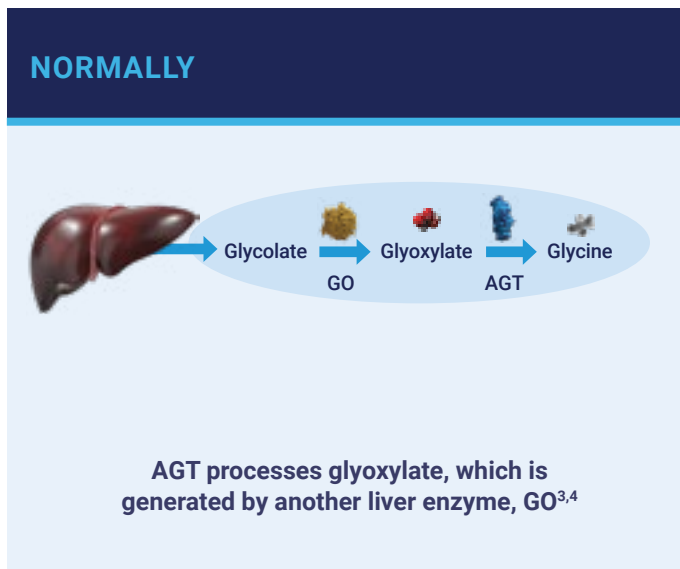
- In some instances, renal function can decline after a single incident of dehydration due to acute illness or intense physical activity<sup>9,20,22,24-26</sup>
  - This can occur even in patients with previously stable disease<sup>22</sup>



# Continuous oxalate overproduction may cause progressive damage in the kidneys and other organs<sup>8</sup>

PH1 is an autosomal-recessive genetic disease that is caused by mutations in the *AGXT* gene<sup>3,4</sup>

- Mutations in the *AGXT* gene lead to a disruption in the pathway of the liver-specific enzyme AGT, which is normally involved in glyoxylate processing<sup>3,4</sup>
- The inability of AGT to process glyoxylate made by GO causes oxalate overproduction<sup>3</sup>



## PH1 CRYSTAL FORMATION FOLLOWS OXALATE OVERPRODUCTION<sup>3,8</sup>



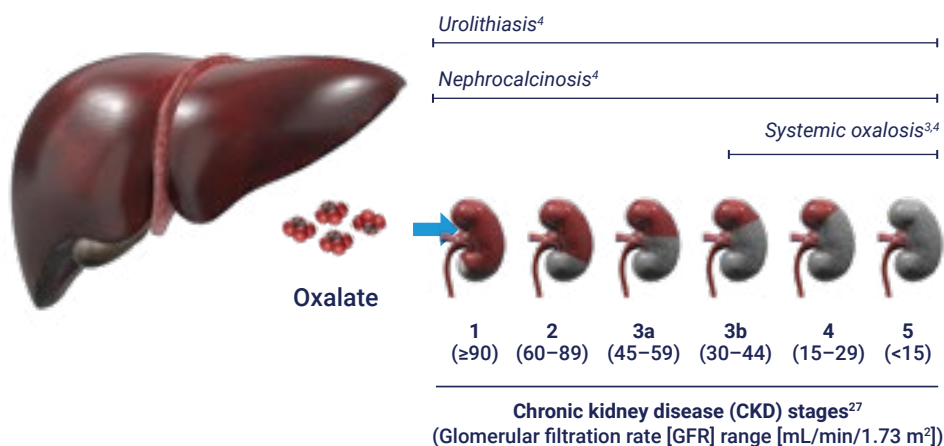
In the kidneys, oxalate combines with calcium, creating insoluble calcium oxalate crystals.<sup>3</sup>

These crystals attach to renal tissues, where they can aggregate to form kidney stones or lead to nephrocalcinosis.<sup>8</sup>

# PH1 can be fatal, often due to complications of ESRD and/or systemic oxalosis<sup>3,8</sup>

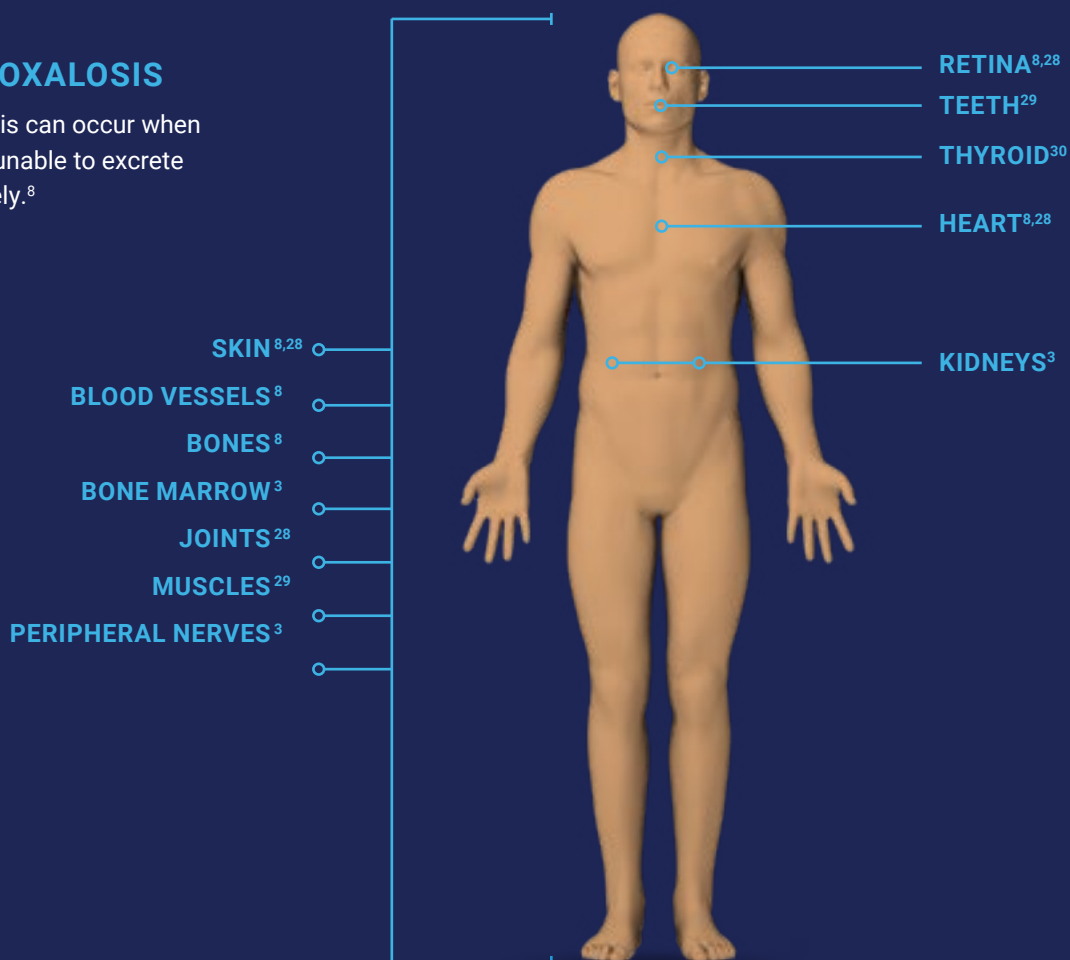
## LIVER OXALATE OVERPRODUCTION

Liver oxalate overproduction and subsequent accumulation may lead to inflammation and progressive kidney function decline.<sup>8</sup>



## SYSTEMIC OXALOSIS

Systemic oxalosis can occur when the kidneys are unable to excrete oxalate effectively.<sup>8</sup>



As kidney function declines, oxalate excretion is compromised and calcium oxalate crystals deposit into tissues throughout the body<sup>8</sup>

thinkPH1

# PH1 remains underdiagnosed in clinical practice<sup>8,31-34</sup>

- Historically, PH1 has a low index of suspicion due to:<sup>8,31,32,34</sup>
  - symptomatology that is nonspecific or shared with other diseases<sup>32</sup>
  - initially progressing without symptoms<sup>8</sup>
- 5.5 years is the median delay** in adults between onset of clinical manifestations and diagnosis<sup>33</sup>



of PH1 patients may be undiagnosed<sup>\*,34</sup>

\*Prevalence data are limited

**Clinical manifestations may not be recognised.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, they may not be considered as indicative of PH1, delaying diagnosis until ESRD.<sup>31,35-38</sup>**

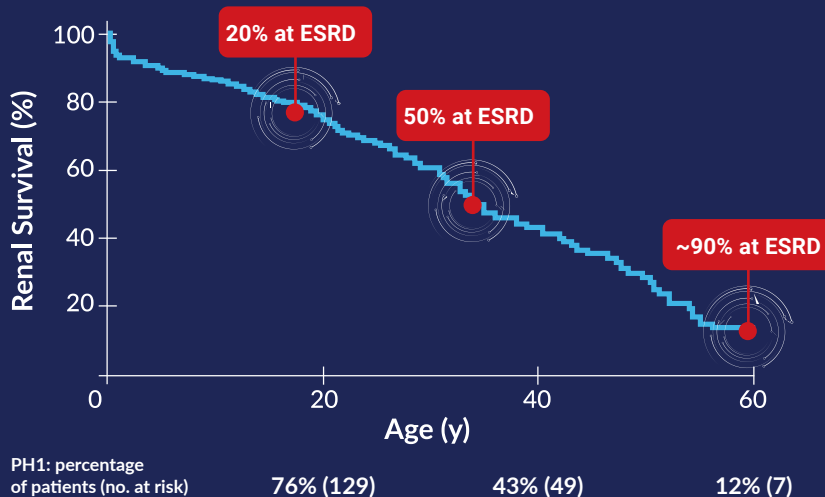
- Frequently, PH1 patients are already suffering from irreparable kidney damage when diagnosed, with **up to 70% of diagnoses in adults occurring after progression to ESRD<sup>31,35-38</sup>**
- Recurrent disease after kidney transplantation (or graft loss) may even occur before a conclusive diagnosis<sup>34</sup>

## Progressive decline to ESRD occurs over time<sup>\*,34</sup>

- By adulthood (18 years old), 20% of patients will have progressed to ESRD<sup>34</sup>**
- Before the fourth decade of life, 50% of patients will have progressed to ESRD<sup>34</sup>**
- By age 60, nearly all patients will have progressed to ESRD<sup>34</sup>**

\*Poor renal survival in PH1 as demonstrated in a retrospective study that included 247 patients with PH1 from the Rare Kidney Stone Consortium Registry.<sup>34</sup>

Figure adapted from Hopp K, et al. *J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2015;26:2559-2570.



Given the progressive nature of the disease, early diagnosis and disease management are critical in PH1<sup>3,8</sup>



# Diagnosing PH1 can be straightforward if you know what to look for<sup>20,30</sup>

Evaluating a patient's family and medical history is helpful in identifying PH1<sup>20,23</sup>



Given the inherited nature of the disease, it is critical to screen all immediate relatives of a PH1 patient<sup>8,20</sup>

## PH1 DIAGNOSIS

### IN PATIENTS WITH PRESERVED RENAL FUNCTION

- A 24-hour urine test can raise suspicion of primary hyperoxaluria by measuring elevated oxalate levels, a biochemical hallmark of the disease<sup>14,20,30</sup>
- Normal urinary oxalate level (all ages):<sup>2</sup> <0.50 mmol (<45 mg)/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>/day

### IN PATIENTS WITH COMPROMISED RENAL FUNCTION

- Diagnostic workup for PH1 includes plasma oxalate measurement, a different approach than for patients with preserved renal function<sup>8,20,39</sup>
- Normal plasma oxalate level: <1.6 µmol/L<sup>\*,40</sup>

\*Reference values have not been established for patients under 21 or greater than 81 years of age.<sup>40</sup>

### REGARDLESS OF RENAL STATUS



- Genetic testing is important as it can establish a PH1 diagnosis with high sensitivity and specificity<sup>20,41</sup>
- Identifying **AGXT** gene mutations confirms PH1<sup>20</sup>

Genetic testing to confirm a PH1 diagnosis is recommended by the European Hyperoxaluria Consortium OxalEurope and the American Urological Association (AUA)<sup>14,20</sup>

think **PH1**

# Medical management options aim to delay progressive renal function decline<sup>4</sup>

Disease-mitigating strategies can lessen damage by reducing stone formation and renal deposition of calcium oxalate crystals, underscoring the importance of early diagnosis and intervention.<sup>2,4,39</sup>

## MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS



### Hyperhydration<sup>4</sup>

- More than 2 to 3 litres per square metre of body surface area is the recommended daily fluid intake<sup>4</sup>
- To ensure constant urine dilution in infants, a gastrostomy tube may be necessary<sup>4</sup>



### High dose pyridoxine (vitamin B6) therapy and calcium oxalate crystallisation inhibitors such as alkali citrate<sup>4,20</sup>

- Very few PH1 patients are complete responders to vitamin B6 and a subset of patients show a partial response, although data are limited, with only one prospective trial published to date (n=12)<sup>3,20,42</sup>



### Intensive dialysis strategies beyond conventional methods<sup>3</sup>

- Dialysis either serves as a bridge to transplantation or as an adjunct therapy after dual liver-kidney transplantation<sup>3</sup>
- To reduce plasma oxalate levels, PH1 patients with compromised renal function may require up to 6 haemodialysis sessions per week, which may need to be combined with continuous peritoneal dialysis<sup>3,20,43,44</sup>
- Intensive dialysis is inadequate to consistently lower plasma oxalate<sup>4,43</sup>

***The above medical management options rarely address the underlying pathophysiology of PH1 and most are inadequate at overcoming oxalate overproduction.<sup>3,20,43</sup>***



### Liver or dual liver-kidney transplant: Only liver transplantation resolves the underlying metabolic defect<sup>20</sup>

When a patient is diagnosed with PH1, they may have already progressed to ESRD and require a dual liver-kidney transplant. This procedure carries significant morbidity and mortality risks.<sup>3,4,20</sup>

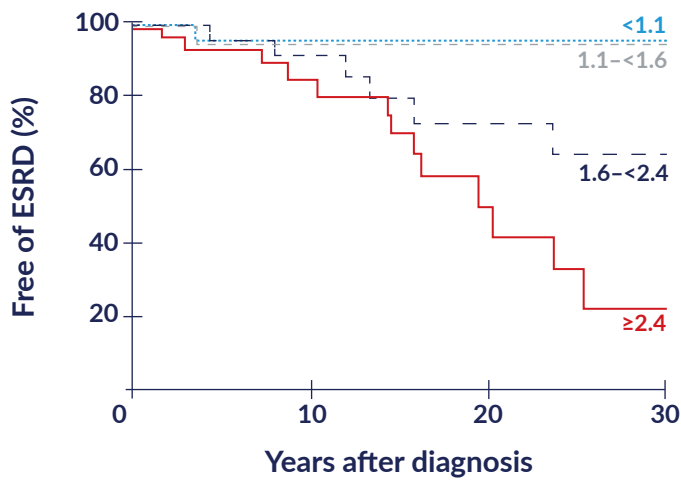
**There is an urgent need for new treatment options<sup>45,46</sup>**

# Additional treatment options that reduce liver oxalate overproduction in PH1 are needed<sup>46</sup>



Lower urinary oxalate (UOx) excretion predicted improved renal survival in a retrospective study that included 192 patients with PH1 from the Rare Kidney Stone Consortium Registry.<sup>46</sup>

**HIGHER URINARY OXALATE LEVELS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH FASTER PROGRESSION TO ESRD<sup>\*,46</sup>**



Among patients who did not have ESRD at diagnosis, renal survival estimates were lowest for patients with UOx excretion  $\geq 2.4$  mmol/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>/24 hours (HR=3.4 [95% CI: 1.4-7.9]; p=0.005).<sup>46</sup>

Figure adapted from Zhao F, et al. Clin J Am Soc Nephrol. 2016;11:119-126.

UOx (mmol/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> /24 hours)	Survival estimate (no. at risk)			
<1.1	100 (42)	96 (7)	96 (1)	
1.1-1.6	100 (42)	95 (8)	95 (5)	95 (2)
1.6-2.4	100 (42)	91 (19)	73 (10)	65 (6)
$\geq 2.4$	100 (42)	85 (19)	42 (6)	23 (2)

## RESEARCH IS ONGOING

There are a number of investigational therapies in development for PH1.<sup>47-50</sup>

### Oxalate synthesis pathway inhibitors<sup>47,48</sup>

Prevent expression or activity of enzymes involved in oxalate production:<sup>47,48</sup>

- RNA interference (RNAi) therapeutics bind to messenger RNA of target enzymes, preventing their expression via the RNAi pathway<sup>47</sup>
- Enzyme inhibitors suppress enzymatic activity<sup>48</sup>

### Oxalate degraders<sup>49,50</sup>

Live biotherapeutic products and crystalline formulations degrade oxalate in the gastrointestinal tract.<sup>49,50</sup>



## CONSIDER GENETIC TESTING FOR YOUR PATIENTS

when you suspect a metabolic stone disease such as PH1<sup>2,4</sup>

For you: visit [thinkPH1.eu](https://thinkPH1.eu) for more information.

For your patients: direct them to [livingwithPH1.eu](https://livingwithPH1.eu) for support and information about PH1.

Please visit [alnylamconnect.eu](https://alnylamconnect.eu) to sign up to receive further information about primary hyperoxaluria type 1 (PH1) from Alnylam.

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