

Developed and funded by BioMarin  
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# PROTEIN, PHE AND PKU



B:OMARIN®

BioMarin has a

20

year track record of developing  
first-in-class therapies that make a big  
difference for small patient populations.



# Phenylketonuria (PKU) is

RARE

1

in every

**10,000**

newborn babies  
across Europe<sup>1</sup>

A GENETIC  
CONDITION

where the phenylalanine  
hydroxylase (PAH)  
is either missing or not  
working properly,  
resulting in a neurotoxic  
accumulation of  
phenylalanine (Phe)  
in the blood<sup>2</sup>

**Phe is an amino acid  
found in all protein  
containing foods<sup>3</sup>**

To maintain Phe levels between  
**120-360  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ,**  
management includes:<sup>4</sup>

1

**Reducing  
natural Phe  
intake with a  
restricted diet**



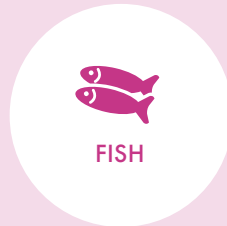
2

**Increasing Phe  
metabolism  
with medical  
treatment**





**Phe levels and must be excluded from the diet<sup>3</sup>**





**Phe levels and can be included in the diet, in very small amounts<sup>3</sup>**



**FRUITS**



**VEGETABLES**



**BREADS**



**PASTAS**



**High or  
unstable**

blood Phe levels  
can lead to <sup>3,5</sup>





Slow processing of information

Behavioural or social problems

Intellectual disability

Problems with memory

Seizures and tremors

Inattention

Anxiety & depression

Irritability

Difficulty in decision making, problem solving & planning

# PKU requires lifelong management<sup>5</sup>



Findings from recent online surveys\* and studies<sup>6,7</sup> reveal pressing unmet needs related to diet and impact on quality of life

# 73%

of adults & caregivers of children  
find **dietary management** difficult<sup>6</sup>



# 42%

follow a **low-Phe**  
**nutritional plan**<sup>7</sup>



## The **top 5** issues affecting the ability to follow diet<sup>6</sup>

- Limited food choices
- Unpleasant protein substitutes
- Inconvenience
- Unpleasant food choices
- Diet is too time consuming to manage



## Adherence to diet can be impacted by<sup>7</sup>

**56%**

Socializing

**39%**

Palatability

**36%**

Consumption in a  
working environment

**35%**


Feelings of  
embarrassment

**34%**

Travelling

**33%**

Low ease of use



**Sticking to the diet all the time requires a tremendous amount of discipline and self-control. If Phe levels are raised, then your ability to stick to the diet is diminished leading to a vicious circle scenario.**

Verbatim extracts from survey<sup>6</sup>





**Patients  
regularly  
report...<sup>6,7</sup>**

**(twice per week  
and even daily)**





**DIFFICULTY  
CONCENTRATING**



54%

**FATIGUE**



53%

**DEPRESSION  
& ANXIETY**



52%

**DIGESTIVE  
PROBLEMS**



34%

**HEADACHES**



32%

**IRRITABILITY**



14%

**EATING DISORDER**



14%

**MOOD SWINGS**



13%




feel guilt and self-blame<sup>6</sup>



have relationship difficulties  
with friends, family or partners<sup>6</sup>



Many expressed frustration that their  
symptoms were not always taken  
seriously by health professionals<sup>6</sup>



[...] I have blank moments where I can't think or get my words out that I am trying to say. I experience anxiety and I get paranoid. All this impacts my work life as my job is very fast paced. I get "brain fog" tend to become irritable and uneasy in social settings.

Verbatim extracts from survey<sup>6</sup>



# PKU is diagnosed through a heel prick test<sup>8</sup>

PKU was the  
prototype disorder  
for newborn  
screening (NBS)  
in the

**1960s**



Leading to early  
dietary treatment  
and vastly

**improving  
patient  
outcomes**



## Screening was promoted to **reduce overcrowding in psychiatric institutions**

In 1962, the Children's Bureau Census found

**399 children with PKU**

admitted during the preceding 5 years<sup>9</sup>

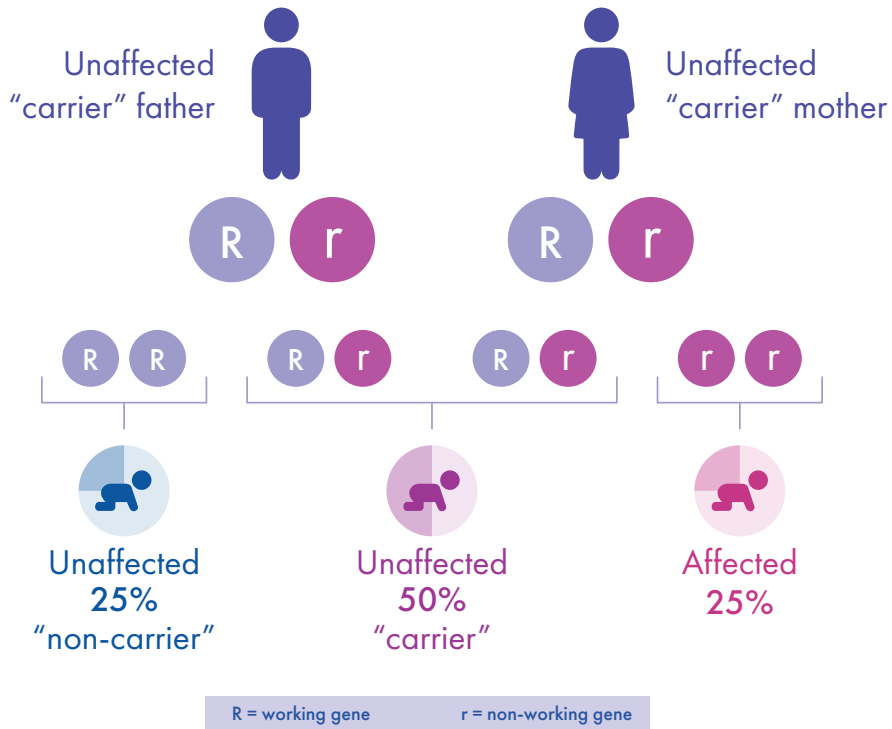


**Laboratory tests** in infants with PKU typically confirm plasma levels of Phe

**10-60 x**  
above normal<sup>10</sup>



PKU is an inherited autosomal recessive disease, where two copies of an abnormal gene are inherited from the two carrier parents<sup>10</sup>



## References

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\* An online questionnaire was voluntarily completed and submitted by 631 adults with PKU or parents/caregivers of children or adults unable to complete the survey themselves from across the UK. The questionnaire was placed on the UK NSPKU website, Facebook and Twitter accounts between 9th November 2017 and 31st January 2018. In 2017, 116 adult PKU patients aged between 19–30 years took part in a study across 5 Italian centres.

Today and every other day for the past 17 years – BioMarin has shared an unmatched commitment to the PKU community, from patients, to scientists, to healthcare professionals. Our dedication to discovering and advancing new therapies that lessen the burden on patients' lives continues. Join us in spreading awareness and advocating for those affected by this rare, genetic condition.

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