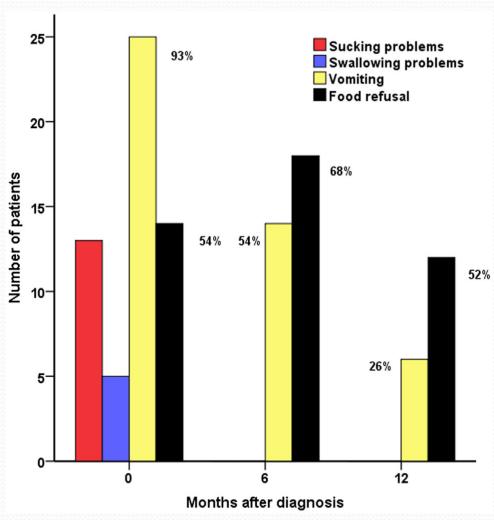
# Hyperinsulinism and Feeding

Sherri Shubin Cohen, MD, MPH Medical Director, Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Center Program Director, Nutrition Fellowship The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

## Do children with HI have feeding difficulties?

- 34% of children with congenital hyperinsulinism were identified as having a feeding disorder at diagnosis
  - 93% treated for gastroesophageal reflux
  - 75% received tube feeding



## Why do children with HI have feeding difficulties?

#### Disease severity

 Insulin reduces appetite and feeding through signaling mechanisms in the brain

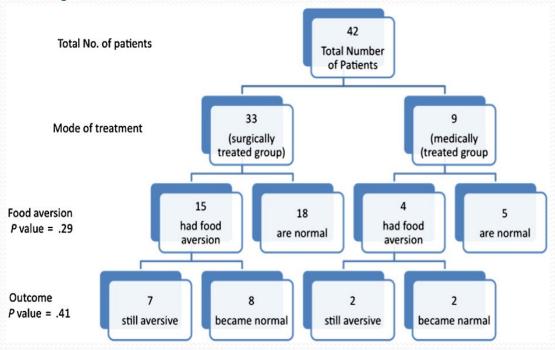
#### Glucose stability

- Need for frequent meals
  - Stressful mealtimes
  - Tube feeds

#### Medications

- Diazoxide
  - Unpleasant taste
- Octreotide
  - Gastrointestinal dysmotility

## Does type of treatment influence development of food aversion?



- 45% had food aversion
- Mode of treatment did not impact likelihood of developing food aversion

#### **Feeding Paradigm**

#### **Medical Disorders**

(Physicians, Nurse Practitioners)
Endocrinologic
Gastrointestinal
Respiratory
ENT
Cardiac
Neurodevelopmental

### SOCIAL

(Social Worker)

#### **Behavioral**

(Psychologists)
Mealtime structure
Refusal behaviors
Parent-child interaction

#### **Developmental/Mechanical**

(Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists) Chewing & swallowing Posture & positioning Sensory defensiveness Self-feeding

### Nutrition (Dietitians)

#### **ABC** paradigm

- Antecedent
  - What precedes or triggers the behavior
- Behavior
  - What is the behavior of interest
- Consequence
  - What happens after the behavior to ultimately change the frequency of the behavior



**Antecedent**: what precedes or triggers the behavior

- Factors that can disrupt the typical progression of feeding development
  - Discomfort associated with chronic medical condition
    - Endocrinologic, Gastrointestinal, Respiratory, Cardiac, Neurologic
  - Developmental
    - Delayed feeding skill acquisition
  - Anatomical
    - Unrepaired tracheoesophageal fistula
  - Limited appetite
    - Organic, temperamental, learned
  - Inconsistent mealtime routine
    - Difficult to develop a typical hunger/satiety cycle
  - Inappropriate presentation of food
    - Bite size, texture





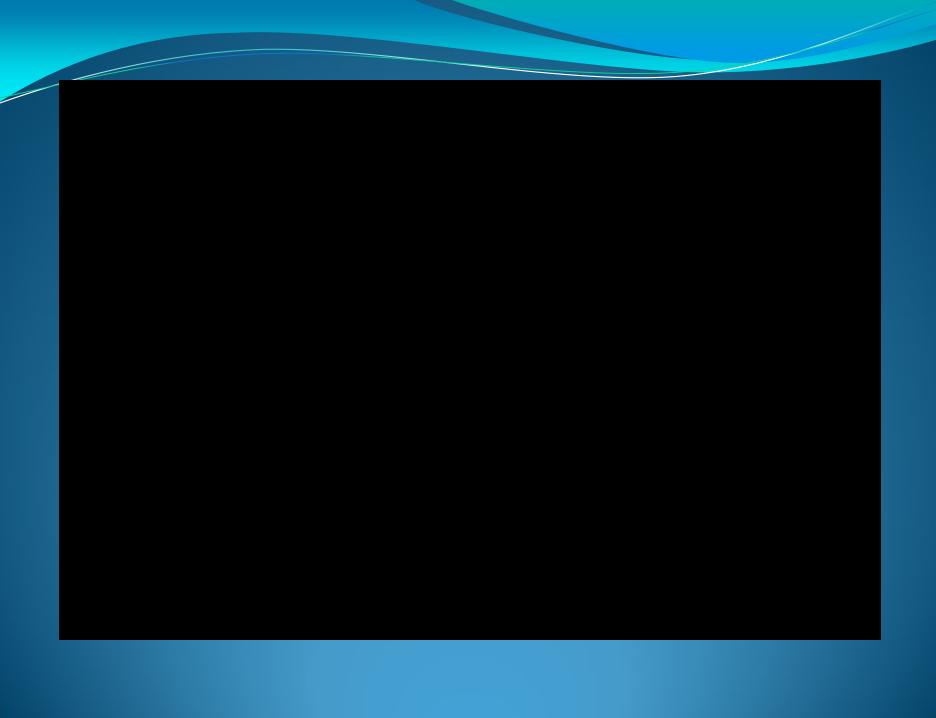


**Behavior**: what is the target behavior

- Increase the consumption of food
  - Volume
  - Variety
  - Texture
- Decrease disruptive behavior







**Consequence**: feeding problem is maintained by environmental factors (inadvertent reinforcement)

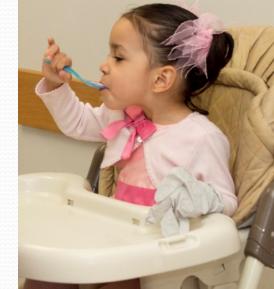
- The consequence affects the likelihood of the behavior occurring in the future
  - Negative reinforcement
    - Child behaves inappropriately, parent removes the food, increases the likelihood the behavior will occur in the future
  - Positive reinforcement
    - Child behaves inappropriately, parent provides attention, increases the likelihood the behavior will occur in the future
- Parents have difficulty responding effectively to negative mealtime behavior
- Caregivers focus more on maladaptive eating behavior than appropriate eating behavior

## **Behavior Shaping**

- Change the antecedent
  - Cannot have active physical discomfort for behavioral therapy to be successful
  - Mealtime structure: develop hunger and satiety cycle
    - 3 meals, 2-3 snacks
    - Limit meals to 20-30 minutes
    - Minimize grazing
  - Feed in developmentally appropriate supportive seating
  - Limit distractions
  - Texture progression
    - Gradual transition from baby food to pureed then mashed table foods
    - Avoid stage 3 baby foods
    - Avoid mixing crunchy foods into pureed foods

## **Behavior Shaping**

- Change the consequence
  - Use rewards instead of distractions
  - Alternate bites of preferred and non-preferred foods
  - Repeated introduction of new foods is needed before acceptance is established
  - Consistent approach across all caregivers





### **Contact information**

Sherri Cohen, MD, MPH cohens@email.chop.edu

Website:

http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/pediatric-feeding-and-swallowing-center

