What is Familial Chylomicronemia Syndrome (FCS)

Familial chylomicronemia syndrome (FCS) prevents the body from breaking down fats. Eating even a little fat can be dangerous, and the condition can lead to potentially fatal pancreatitis.

Familial = Genetic
FCS is a genetic disorder passed down from parents.

Chylomicronemia = Buildup of Fats in the Blood
Lipoprotein lipase helps the body break down structures called chylomicrons, which contain triglycerides. People who have FCS either don’t have lipoprotein lipase, or it is broken. This causes a buildup of fats (and triglycerides) in their blood.

Syndrome = FCS Has a Group of Symptoms That Usually Occur Together, Including:
- Severe pain in the abdomen, often including back pain
- Acute or chronic pancreatitis
- Xanthomas, fatty deposits in the skin

Commonly Reported Symptoms of FCS Are:

Cognitive:
- Difficulty concentrating
- "Brain fog"
- Forgetfulness
- Impaired judgment
- Recent memory loss

Physical:
- Bloating
- Generalized abdominal pain
- Asthenia – weakness or lack of energy
- Fatigue
- Indigestion

Emotional:
- Uncertainty about experiencing an attack of pain or pancreatitis
- Anxiety, fear, worry about health due to FCS
- Feeling out of control/powerless about health due to FCS

Patients with FCS Also Experience:
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Blood, when drawn, appears “milky”
- Numbness in feet or legs
- Memory loss or “foggy-headedness”
- Feelings of depression and social isolation

Visit endocrine.org for more information.
A COMPLICATION OF FCS IS PANCREATITIS, OR PANCREAS INFLAMMATION, BECAUSE VERY HIGH LEVELS OF TRIGLYCERIDES ARE A MAJOR RISK FACTOR. A RECENT STUDY FOUND...

67% of patients with FCS experienced acute pancreatitis that required a hospital visit.

6% of FCS patients died from their pancreatitis.

While majority of patients with FCS experience pancreatitis, it is recurrent in 50% of patients.

IF FCS IS SUSPECTED:

1. DOCUMENT SYMPTOMS AND SHARE WITH YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.
2. FIND A PHYSICIAN WHO CAN DIAGNOSE YOU.
3. LEARN ABOUT FCS BY SEEKING PATIENT EDUCATION ON FCS NUTRITION AND LIFESTYLE.