

Trifunctional Protein Deficiency (TFP) (Try-funk-shun-all Pro-teen De-fish-n-see)

What is TFP?

Trifunctional Protein Deficiency (TFP) is a metabolic disorder. This means the body has a chemical imbalance. TFP is a condition that occurs when an enzyme is missing or not working properly. People with this condition cannot change fats in the diet to fuel for the body to use as energy. TFP is inherited. This means it is present at birth.

What type of problems occurs with TFP?

A baby who has this condition may have low blood sugar, not respond to you as usual, have poor eating habits, and have delay in growth and meeting milestones. These children often have muscle development problems and heart conditions. Early diagnosis and treatment will help prevent these problems.

What is the chance my baby will have TFP?

This condition occurs in about 1 in every 100,000 births. It is not limited to any specific ethnic group. Babies born with this condition have a changed gene from each parent. A person who has one changed gene is called a carrier. A person who is a carrier does not have symptoms. If both parents are carriers, either parent can pass on the changed gene to their baby. If both parents pass on the changed gene, the baby will have the condition. If both parents are carriers, for each pregnancy:

- There is a 25% chance that the baby will be born with this condition.
- There is a 50% chance that the baby will be a carrier for this condition.
- There is a 25% chance that the baby will not be born with this condition and will not be a carrier.

What is the treatment of TFP?

The treatment of this disorder usually consists of eating on a regular schedule. This means that your child should eat or drink nutritional supplements every 3-5 hours. Your baby's metabolic doctor will help you make sure that your baby gets the right diet and medical care.

Where in Virginia can I take my baby for care?

There are three different treatment centers in Virginia. The names of the centers and the metabolic doctor are listed below.

- Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, Dr. Arti Pandya
- Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, Virginia, Dr. Virginia Proud
- University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, Dr. Bill Wilson

If you want to know more about this condition, please contact Virginia Newborn Screening Services, Virginia Department of Health. The telephone number is 804-864-7714 or 804-864-7715. The Web site is <http://www.vahealth.org/genetics>.



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