

Tumor-induced Osteomalacia: A Comprehensive Review

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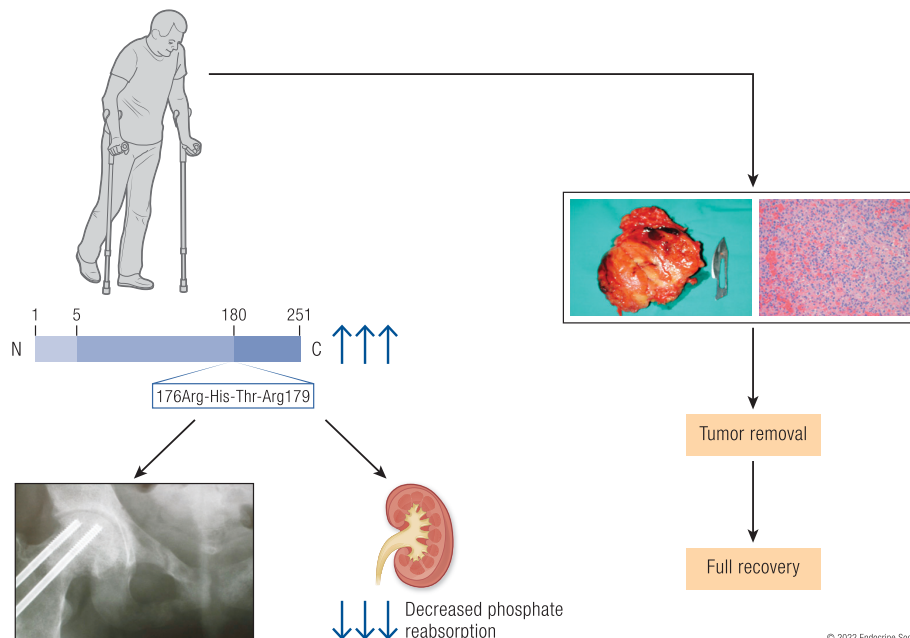
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Abstract

Tumor-induced osteomalacia (TIO) is an ultrarare paraneoplastic syndrome due to overproduction of fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), with profound effects on patient morbidity. TIO is an underdiagnosed disease, whose awareness should be increased among physicians for timely and proper management of patients. Symptoms reported by patients with TIO are usually nonspecific, thus rendering the diagnosis elusive, with an initial misdiagnosis rate of more than 95%. Biochemical features of TIO are represented by hypophosphatemia, increased or inappropriately normal levels of FGF23, and low to low normal circulating 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D (1,25(OH)₂D). Phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors are the pathological entities underlying TIO in most affected patients. There is now evidence that FN1-FGFR1 and FN1-FGF1 fusion genes are present in about half of tumors causing this paraneoplastic syndrome. Tumors causing TIO are small and grow slowly. They can occur in all parts of the body from head to toe with similar prevalence in soft tissue and bone. There are a number of functional and anatomical imaging techniques used for tumor localization; ⁶⁸Ga DOTA-based technologies have better sensitivity. Surgery is the treatment of choice; several medical treatments are now available in case of inability to locate the tumor or in case of incomplete excision.

Graphical Abstract



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Key Words: fibroblast growth factor, phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors, osteomalacia, fracture, DOTA-based imaging, burosumab

Abbreviations: 1,25(OH)₂D, 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D; 25(OH)D, 25-hydroxyvitamin D; ⁶⁸Ga, Gallium-68; ADHR, autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets; AE, adverse event; ARHR, autosomal recessive hypophosphatemic rickets; ALK, phosphatase; BMD, bone mineral density; CaSR, calcium-sensing receptor; CISH, chromogenic in situ hybridization; CSHS, cutaneous skeletal hypophosphatemia syndrome; CT, computed tomography; DMP1, dentin matrix acidic phosphoprotein 1; ECM, extracellular matrix; ELISA, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; ENPP1, ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase 1; ERK, extracellular signal-regulated kinase; FGF23, fibroblast growth factor 23; GH, growth hormone; HFTC, hyperphosphatemic familial tumoral calcinosis; HRRH, hereditary hypophosphatemic rickets with hypercalciuria; HRH, hypophosphatemic rickets with hyperparathyroidism; iFGF23, intact FGF23; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; mRNA, messenger RNA; NF, neurofibromatosis; OGD, osteoglophonic dysplasia; PAM, positive allosteric modulator; PET, positron emission tomography; PFD/MAS, polyostotic fibrous dysplasia/McCune-Albright syndrome; PHEX, phosphate-regulating endopeptidase homolog X-linked; PMT, phosphaturic mesenchymal tumor; PPRT, peptide receptor radionuclide therapy; PTH, parathyroid hormone; RT-PCR, reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction; SSA, somatostatin analogue; SSR, somatostatin receptor; TIO, tumor-induced osteomalacia; TmP/GFR, maximum tubular reabsorption of phosphate/glomerular filtration rate; TRP, tubular reabsorption of phosphate; XLH, X-linked hypophosphatemia.

ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Tumor-induced osteomalacia (TIO) is a paraneoplastic syndrome due to overproduction of fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), which can severely impair morbidity of affected patients
- Phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors are the pathological entities underlying TIO in most affected patients
- Biochemical features of TIO are represented by hypophosphatemia, increased or inappropriately normal levels of FGF23, and low to low normal circulating 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D
- TIO is an underdiagnosed disease whose awareness should be increased among physicians for timely and proper management of patients
- There is now evidence that FN1-FGFR1 and FN1-FGF1 fusion genes are present in about half of tumors causing this paraneoplastic syndrome
- There are a number of functional and anatomical imaging techniques used for tumor localization; ⁶⁸Ga DOTA-based technologies have better sensitivity
- Surgery is the treatment of choice; several medical treatments are now available in case of inability to locate the tumor or in case of incomplete excision

Tumor-induced osteomalacia (TIO) is an ultrarare paraneoplastic syndrome characterized in the vast majority of cases by overproduction of fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), most commonly by small phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors (PMTs). FGF23 excess causes renal phosphate-wasting and hypophosphatemia. The consequent inefficient bone mineralization is associated with musculoskeletal pain, reduced bone mineral density (BMD), disrupted trabecular microarchitecture, and insufficiency fractures in the adulthood (1). In children, growth retardation and growth plates expansion are the main clinical hallmarks (1).

In this review, we will discuss various aspects of the disease, highlighting novel and consolidated aspects of epidemiology, pathophysiology, pathological findings, and clinical aspects. We will also describe the portfolio of therapies available from surgery to new molecules. Finally, we will present future research goals to fill in the gap we still have in many aspects of this disorder.

Epidemiology: Prevalence, Incidence, Morbidity, and Mortality

In recent years there has been an increasing number of publications on TIO. This probably reflects, among other things, a

better understanding of the pathophysiology of the disease, a raised awareness by clinicians and also the introduction on the market of new molecules to treat patients not amenable to surgery, or failing initial surgery or those in whom the disease recurs. In the face of this, the epidemiology of TIO has not been extensively investigated with a consequent paucity of papers in the literature. This is probably because TIO is, by definition; an ultrarare disease; in addition, the lack of a specific International Classification of Diseases diagnostic code further complicates the estimates both of incidence and prevalence.

There are 2 papers mainly addressing the issue of epidemiology of TIO. The first one is a survey carried out in Japanese hospitals (2). The incidence of new TIO cases in Japan was estimated to be roughly the same as newly diagnosed X-linked hypophosphatemic cases (0.04 per 100 000 persons per year). Even though this was the first paper trying to address the issue of epidemiology of TIO, there were some biases that could undermine the validity of estimates obtained. For example, it is not clear from the paper how the authors excluded that a patient could be double counted, because of admission in more than one hospital; then, it is unclear how sampling and calculation of incidence accounted for the difference in duration of X-linked hypophosphatemia (XLH) and TIO, since the first one is a chronic condition while the majority of patients with TIO are amenable to surgical cure. In the second paper, Abrahamsen and colleagues (3) carried out an observational study querying the national Danish health registers. They found that the incidence of TIO in Denmark was below 0.13 per 100 000 person-years for the total population investigated and 0.10 per 100 000 in adult-onset disease. The prevalence of TIO was estimated to be no more than 0.70 per 100 000 individuals for the total population and 0.43 per 100 000 in adults. This study also underlines the rarity of the disease, which represents one of the biggest obstacles to its early diagnosis.

Concerning sex, the study by Abrahamsen et al (3) showed that patients with a possible diagnosis of TIO who had advanced imaging procedures and were taking vitamin D derivative were 40% men and 60% women, out of a total population of 80 patients. Recently, Rendina and colleagues (4) carried out a systematic review and individual patient data analysis of 1725 patients with TIO. The diagnosis was made in 843 men (55%) and 689 women (45%). However, data regarding sex were missing in 193 TIO patients. Finally, TIO is very rare before age 18 years even though sporadic cases have been reported in children as young as age 3 years (5).

Recently there have been some attempts to better understand quality of life, morbidity, and mortality in patients

with TIO. Jerkovich and colleagues (6) evaluated the clinical disease burden in a small group of patients with TIO (sample size of 8 patients). They found that the fatigue experienced by patients with TIO was significantly higher compared to the general population ($P < .0001$). The physical summary measure of the Short Form-36 showed significantly lower values than those of the Argentinean control population with chronic conditions (mean 20.4 vs 45.9; $P < .001$). According to the Brief Pain Inventory short form, patients with TIO have moderate average pain and the pain interferes severely with walking, general activities, work, and mood. Seven patients had a diagnosis of sarcopenia, 4 of whom had severe sarcopenia. The conclusion was that patients affected by TIO have a poor health-related quality of life in comparison with the general population. These data are very similar to those found in patients suffering from XHL (7).

Very recently, Minisola et al (8), carried out a targeted literature review to describe the signs, symptoms, and effects of TIO and summarize the state of research on the burden of disease of this ultrarare condition. They found that patients with TIO experienced a combination of outcomes including chronic pain, weakness, skeletal-related manifestations, and limitations in mobility. Only a few studies ($n = 2/70$) analyzed the burden of TIO on the emotional well-being and on the work life of the patient. Patients with TIO present with a spectrum of signs and symptoms that impose a substantial burden. The effect on the psychosocial well-being of patients should be further investigated, as this has been poorly researched so far.

In conclusion, the studies carried out so far, together with the authors' personal experience, emphasize the low quality of life of patients with TIO in relation to the clinical consequences of excessive FGF23 secretion. However, studies with a high quality of evidence should be designed to further the understanding of the burden of disease of TIO from the patient's perspective (8). Similarly, there is a need for well-designed studies to explore the short- and long-term effect of the disease on mortality with respect to a control population. This investigation should be carried out both in patients surgically treated who completely recover from the disease as well as in those not cured by but on long-term medical treatment.

Pathophysiology

Control of Serum Phosphate Level

Mineralization of bones and teeth progresses by deposition of hydroxyapatite crystals on osteoid proteins produced by osteoblasts (9). Hydroxyapatite crystals are formed in matrix vesicles from calcium and phosphate ions. Chronic hypocalcemia and especially chronic hypophosphatemia can result in impaired mineralization causing osteomalacia. Serum phosphate level is regulated by intestinal phosphate absorption, glomerular filtration, renal tubular handling of phosphate, and equilibrium between blood phosphate and that in intracellular fluid or bone (10). Of these, renal handling of phosphate is the main determinant of serum phosphate levels in a chronic state.

Most of phosphate filtered through glomeruli is reabsorbed in proximal tubules. Several types of sodium-phosphate cotransporters are expressed in the brush border membrane of proximal tubules. Type 2a and 2c sodium-phosphate cotransporters are encoded by *SLC34A1* and *SLC34A3*, respectively, and PiT-2 encoded by *SLC20A2* are present in renal proximal tubules (11).

The expression of type 2a and 2c sodium-phosphate cotransporters are regulated by several factors including dietary phosphate, parathyroid hormone (PTH), and fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23) (12). PTH and FGF23 suppress the expression of these sodium-phosphate cotransporters and inhibit proximal tubular phosphate reabsorption. PTH suppresses the expression of *SCL34A1* and *SLC34A3* (13). In addition, PTH enhances the internalization of type 2a and 2c sodium-phosphate cotransporters. Specifically, PTH was shown to internalize type 2a sodium-phosphate cotransporter within minutes after administration (14). FGF23 was also shown to have genomic and posttranslational effects on the expression of these sodium-phosphate transporters (15, 16).

Actions of fibroblast growth factor 23

The human *FGF23* gene encodes a protein with 251 amino acids (17, 18). After the cleavage of a signal peptide of 24 amino acids, full-length FGF23 with 227 amino acids is secreted. A part of FGF23 protein is proteolytically processed between 179Arg and 180Ser. This processing is mediated by enzymes that recognize the 176Arg-177His-178Thr-179Arg (R-X-X-R) motif like furin (19). While the full-length of FGF23 shows the activities as shown later, the processed N-terminal and C-terminal fragments are inactive (20). This indicates that the serum level of full-length FGF23 reflects FGF23 activities. Therefore, the serum level of full-length FGF23 and FGF23 activities can be modulated by both *FGF23* transcription and posttranslational modification of FGF23 protein. The attachment of O-linked glycan to ¹⁷⁸Thr prevents the proteolytic processing of FGF23 and works to increase FGF23 levels (21, 22). This attachment of O-glycan to ¹⁷⁸Thr is initiated by UDP-N-acetyl-alpha-D-galactosamine: polypeptide N-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 3 encoded by *GALNT3* (21). In contrast, phosphorylation of 180Ser accelerates the processing of FGF23 protein (23).

Osteoblasts/osteocytes are considered to be physiological producing cells of FGF23 (24-28). Unlike other FGF family members, FGF19 subfamily members—FGF19, FGF21, and FGF23—have low affinity for heparin/heparan sulfate (29). Because of this characteristic, FGF23 is not trapped in extracellular matrix (ECM) around the producing cells and can enter systemic circulation. FGF23 binds to the KLOTHO-FGF receptor 1 (FGFR1) complex in target tissues and activates signal transduction systems (30, 31). Crystal structure of FGF23 and ectodomains of KLOTHO and FGFR1 indicate that KLOTHO is necessary for the binding of FGF23 to FGFR1 (32). FGF23 suppresses the expression of type 2a and 2c sodium-phosphate cotransporters in the proximal tubules (33). In addition, FGF23 inhibits the expression of *CYP27B1*, which encodes 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D)-1 α -hydroxylase and enhances that of *CYP24A1*, producing 25(OH)D-24-hydroxylase (33). By these actions on the expressions of vitamin D-metabolizing enzymes, FGF23 reduces serum level of 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D (1,25(OH)₂D). 1,25(OH)₂D is a hormone that enhances intestinal calcium and phosphate absorption. Overall, FGF23 reduces serum phosphate by suppressing proximal tubular phosphate reabsorption and intestinal phosphate absorption (Fig. 1).

These physiological actions of FGF23 have been confirmed by phenotypes of *Fgf23*-null mice and patients with hyperphosphatemic familial tumoral calcinosis (HFTC). HFTC is a rare genetic disease characterized by ectopic calcification especially

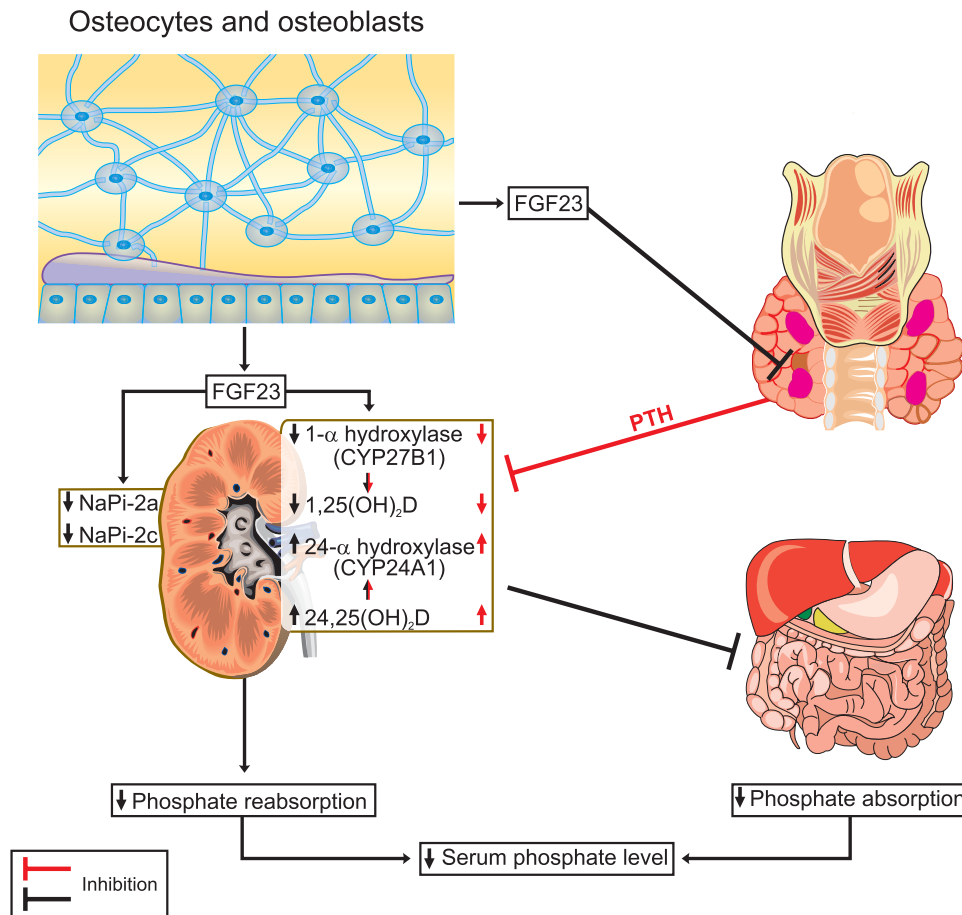


Figure 1. Interactions between fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), vitamin D, and parathyroid hormone (PTH). FGF23, produced by osteocytes and osteoblasts, exerts its effects on the kidney and negatively affects PTH secretion. As a consequence there is a decrease in Cyp27b1 activity and 1,25(OH)₂D production. The final cumulative net effect is a reduction of circulation serum phosphate values. NaPi-2a and 2c refer to sodium-dependent phosphate transport protein 2a and 2c, respectively. Red arrows refer to the actions of PTH. Values of PTH are not suppressed because there is also a stimulatory effect consequent to deficient calcium absorption.

around large joints. Three genes, *FGF23*, *GALNT3*, and *KLOTHO*, have been identified to be responsible for HFTC (25). The mutations in these genes induce impaired actions of FGF23. *Fgf23*-null mice and patients with HFTC show hyperphosphatemia with enhanced proximal tubular phosphate reabsorption and high 1,25(OH)₂D levels (25, 34, 35). In addition to hyperphosphatemia and high 1,25(OH)₂D levels, *Fgf23*-null mice also show hypercalcemia and suppressed PTH levels, all of which are considered to suppress the expression *Cyp27b1*. However, the expression of *Cyp27b1* is enhanced in *Fgf23*-null mice, indicating the potent suppressive effect of FGF23 on the expression of this gene (34).

Regulation of Fibroblast Growth Factor 23 Production

Because FGF23 is a hormone that reduces serum level of phosphate and 1,25(OH)₂D, it is plausible that phosphate and/or 1,25(OH)₂D affect FGF23 production and FGF23 levels. 1,25(OH)₂D was shown to enhance FGF23 production and increase FGF23 levels (36, 37). The genomic region near the *Fgf23* gene that mediates response to 1,25(OH)₂D was reported in the *Fgf23* gene (38). These results indicate that 1,25(OH)₂D transcriptionally enhances FGF23 production,

and there is a negative feedback loop between FGF23 and 1,25(OH)₂D.

A high phosphate diet is also reported to increase FGF23 levels both in humans and rodents (39–41). However, the mechanisms involved in phosphate-sensing by cells remain to be elucidated. Recently, it has been reported that the calcium-sensing receptor (CaSR), which binds to ionized calcium and activates downstream signal transduction systems (42), may also have a role in sensing changes in extracellular phosphate concentrations (43). Thus, increases in phosphate concentrations were found to significantly inhibit CaSR activity via noncompetitive antagonism and to be associated with rapid and reversible increases in PTH secretion from freshly isolated parathyroid cells from humans and wild-type mice, but not those from mutant mice lacking *Casr*. These findings indicate that the CaSR likely acts as a phosphate sensor in the parathyroid glands to mediate the stimulatory effect of phosphate on PTH secretion (43). Other reports have indicated the involvement of the FGFR—extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) pathway in response to phosphate. High extracellular phosphate induced phosphorylation of ERK and osteopontin expression in osteoblastic MC3T3-E1 cells (44). In addition, high extracellular phosphate induced phosphorylation of ERK and FGF receptor substrate 2 α

(FRS2 α) in HEK293 cells, which were prevented by silencing *Fgfr1* expression (45). High extracellular phosphate was also shown to induce phosphorylation of ERK and FRS2 α , and dentin matrix protein 1 (DMP1) expression in osteoblastic cells. The induction of DMP1 by high extracellular phosphate was inhibited by an FGFR inhibitor (46). These results suggest that phosphate can transduce signals into cells via FGFR and modulate gene expression.

The involvement of the FGFR-ERK pathway is also reported in the regulation of FGF23 production in posttranscriptional regulation. A high phosphate diet increasing serum FGF23 levels in mice and enhancing expression of *Galnt3*, but not *Fgf23*, was observed in femur of these mice (47). High extracellular phosphate induced *Galnt3* expression in osteoblastic UMR106 cells through the FGFR1-ERK pathway. Proteomic analysis of UMR106 cells stimulated by high extracellular phosphate identified FGFR1 as the only receptor tyrosine kinase that was activated by high extracellular phosphate (47). In addition, deletion of *Galnt3* using *osteocalcin*-Cre prevented the increase of FGF23 in response to a high phosphate diet (47, 48). These results suggest that FGFR1 mediates the effect of phosphate on FGF23 production.

PTH was also shown to stimulate FGF23 production (49). In addition to phosphate- and calcium-regulating hormones, many factors including inflammatory cytokines, erythropoietin, iron deficiency, calciprotein particle, lipocalin 2, sclerostin, aldosterone, and myostatin have been shown to enhance FGF23 production (50-57). In contrast, several others such as insulin, insulin-like growth factor 1, and retinoic acid were shown to suppress FGF23 production (58, 59). However, it is not established whether these factors have some role in the physiological regulation of serum phosphate and FGF23 levels. FGF23 was also reported to be produced by several extraskeletal tissues such as the heart, artery, liver, and kidney (60-63). Further studies are necessary to establish the physiological and pathophysiological significance of this extraskeletal FGF23 production.

Possible Mechanisms of FGF23 Overproduction in Tumors Responsible for Tumor-Induced Osteomalacia

TIO is biochemically characterized by hypophosphatemia with impaired proximal tubular phosphate reabsorption. While hypophosphatemia is one of stimulators of 25(OH)D-1 α -hydroxylase, serum 1,25(OH) $_2$ D levels are usually low to low normal in patients with TIO (64). These features are explained by excessive actions of FGF23 and mimicked by phenotypes of *FGF23*-transgenic mice (65). FGF23 has been identified as a causative factor for TIO, and FGF23 levels have been reported to be elevated in most patients with TIO (18, 66). There are reports of patients with typical features of TIO whose FGF23 levels are normal (67). In addition, several other factors such as matrix extracellular phosphoglycoprotein (MEPE), soluble frizzled-related 4, and FGF7 have been reported to be produced by tumors causing TIO and have phosphaturic actions (68-70). However, blood levels of none of these proteins, except FGF 7 (71), have been reported to be increased in patients with TIO. While it is possible that there are cases of hypophosphatemic osteomalacia caused by other factors than FGF23, these cases seem to be rare.

In addition to TIO, there are several hypophosphatemic diseases caused by excessive actions of FGF23 with similar

biochemical features to those of TIO. These include XLH and autosomal recessive hypophosphatemic rickets 1 (ARHR1) (72-75). XLH is caused by inactivating mutations in phosphate-regulating gene with homologies to endopeptidases on the X chromosome (*PHEX*), and ARHR1 is caused by inactivating mutations in *DMP1*. However, it is not clear how mutations in these genes result in high FGF23. Microarray analysis of bone obtained from a mouse model for XLH, referred to as *Hyp* and due to deletion of the 3' region of *Phex* (76), and *Dmp1*-null mice indicated that signals in the downstream of FGFR are stimulated in these mice (77). In addition, deletion of *Fgfr1* from *Hyp* mice decreased FGF23 production in bone and serum FGF23 level (78). These results suggest that FGFR1 is involved in the overproduction of FGF23 in genetic hypophosphatemic diseases.

There are also several reports suggesting the involvement of FGFR1 in the overproduction of FGF23 in tumors responsible for TIO. Lee et al (79) found 9 out of 15 PMTs responsible for TIO harbored the fibronectin (*FN1*)-*FGFR1* fusion gene by several methods including next-generation sequencing, reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), and fluorescence in situ hybridization. In a subsequent paper, they also identified the *FN1-FGF1* fusion gene (80). In these 2 papers, the frequency of the *FN1-FGFR1* and *FN1-FGF1* fusion genes were 42% (21/50) and 6% (3/50), respectively. The presence of these fusion genes was mutually exclusive. These results indicate that the fusion genes are present in about half of tumors responsible for TIO. The function of the fusion proteins has not been clearly demonstrated. However, FN1-FGFR1 protein is considered to facilitate the activation of FGFR1 (79). FN1-FGF1 fusion protein is proposed to be secreted and bind to FGFR1 as a ligand (80). If these fusion genes work to activate FGFR1, it is possible that the signals from FGFR1 are involved in the overproduction of FGF23 as discussed earlier (Fig. 2).

KLOTHO was reported to be expressed in a tumor responsible for TIO by RNA sequencing (81). Subsequent analysis by immunohistochemistry and/or RT-PCR indicated that *KLOTHO* was expressed in 69% of tumors (9/13) (81). These tumors were negative for *FN1-FGFR1* or *FN1-FGF1* fusion genes. FGFR1 was reported to be expressed in 82% (45/55) of PMTs (80). These results suggest that *KLOTHO*-FGFR1 complex is present in at least some tumors without the fusion genes and this complex is activated by FGF23. The phosphorylation and therefore activation of ERK were demonstrated in most tumors responsible for TIO, again suggesting the activation of signals from FGFR1 (81). The frequent expression of *KLOTHO* in PMTs without the fusion genes was confirmed by another study (82). They also found in some tumors the expression of β *KLOTHO*, which is a homologous protein to *KLOTHO* (82). β *KLOTHO* has been shown to work as a coreceptor for FGF19 and FGF21 together with FGFRs (83). It has not been shown that β *KLOTHO* can transduce signals from FGF23.

Taken together, FGFR1 was proposed to be involved in the regulation of FGF23 production in response to phosphate. In addition, FGFR1 is shown to be activated in bone of model mice of FGF23-related hypophosphatemic diseases. Furthermore, several reports suggest the activation of FGFR1 in tumors responsible for TIO. This activation of FGFR1 could be involved in the overexpression of FGF23 in these tumors. It is also possible that the activation of FGFR1 contributes to the growth of tumors because inhibitors of FGFRs have been developed for solid tumors (84). However, tumors causing TIO are usually slow-growing tumors.

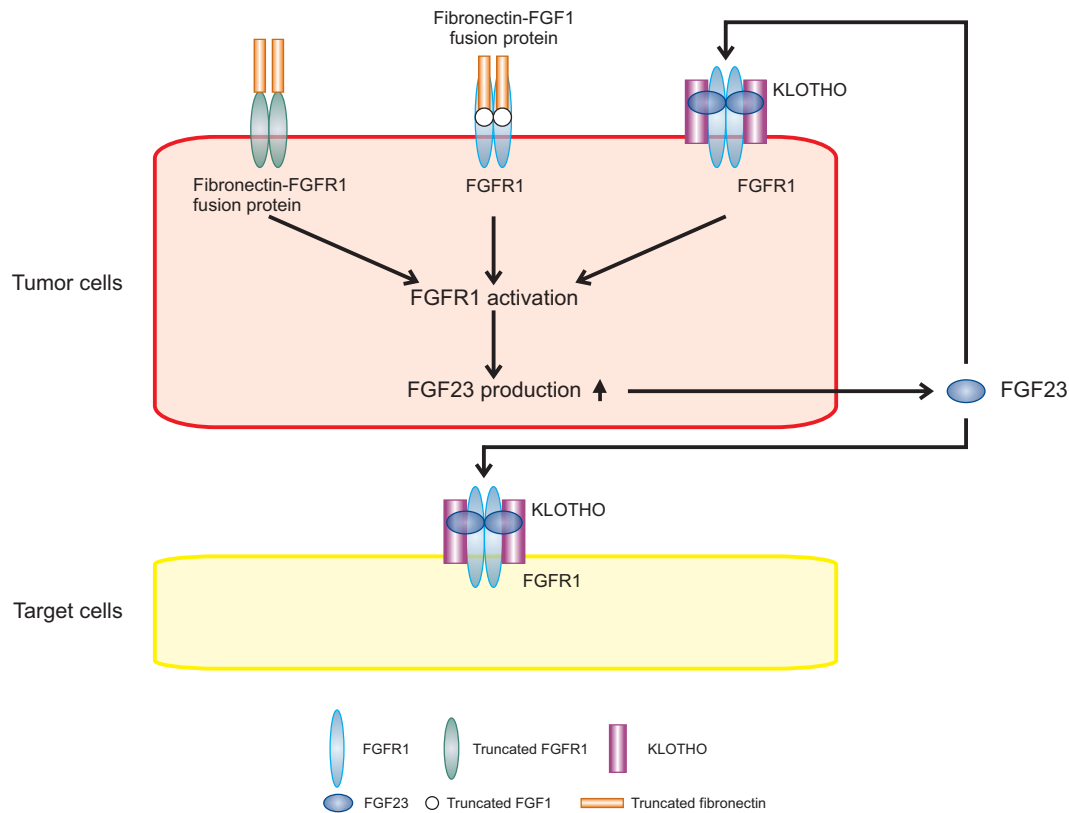


Figure 2. Proposed mechanisms of fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23) overproduction and actions of FGF23. Fibronectin (FN1)-FGFR1 or FN1-FGF1 fusion gene has been reported in tumors responsible for tumor-induced osteomalacia (TIO). FN1-FGF1 fusion protein is considered to facilitate the activation of FGFR1. FN1-FGF1 fusion protein is proposed to be secreted and bound to FGFR1. Ectopic expression of KLOTHO makes the cells responsive to FGF23. All these mechanisms lead to activation of FGFR1 and may be involved in the overproduction of FGF23. These 3 abnormalities have been reported to be mutually exclusive. FGF23 then binds to the KLOTHO-FGFR1 complex in target cells. FGF23 suppresses the expression of type 2a and 2c sodium-phosphate cotransporters and inhibits proximal tubular phosphate reabsorption. FGF23 also suppresses the expression of CYP27B1 and enhances that of CYP24A1, thereby reducing 1,25(OH)₂D level and intestinal phosphate absorption.

There is not enough evidence that shows the involvement of FGFR1 activation in the growth of tumors responsible for TIO.

In contrast, there are several questions to be answered in the future research works. First, it is not known whether the expression of fusion genes and KLOTHO is present in cells producing FGF23, while there are a variety of cells in tumors responsible for TIO. Second, the function of the fusion-gene products has not been clearly demonstrated. Third, even if FGFR1 is involved in the enhanced FGF23 production, fusion genes and expression of KLOTHO are not observed in all tumors causing TIO. There seem to be other mechanisms that result in FGF23 overproduction.

Pathological Features of Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumors

Prader and colleagues (85) were the first to appreciate a neoplasm, a putative “giant cell reparative granuloma of bone,” as the cause of osteomalacia. Since then, TIO was reported in association with different benign and malignant mesenchymal tumors including vascular tumors, chondroma, osteoblastoma, soft tissues, or sinonasal “hemangiopericytoma,” giant cell tumor of bone and osteosarcoma (67, 86-88). In 1972, Evans and Azzopardi (89) and Olefsky et al (90) were the first to note that TIO-associated tumors shared distinctive histological features that make them unique. This was made clear in 1987 by Weidner and Santa Cruz (91), who coined for these

tumors the term “*Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumor, mixed connective tissue variant*,” and definitely established in 2004 by Folpe and colleagues in their seminal study (87). Since 2013 PMTs have been recognized as a specific entity in the World Health Organization Classification of Tumors of Soft Tissue and Bone as “morphologically distinctive neoplasms that produce tumor-induced osteomalacia in most affected patients, usually through production of fibroblast growth factor 23” (92). The demonstration of fusion events involving the *FN1-FGFR1/FGF1* genes (79, 80) supports the nosologic identity of PMTs (see “Possible Mechanisms of FGF23 Overproduction in Tumors Responsible for Tumor-Induced Osteomalacia”). The pathological features of PMTs have been recently reviewed (88).

Histology, Immunohistochemistry and Ultrastructure of Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumors

PMTs most often involve the soft tissues of extremities and the appendicular skeleton and less frequently craniofacial bones and paranasal sinuses (1, 67, 86-88, 93-104). These tumors are evaluated through incisional biopsy because of the potential for tumor cell seeding (1, 105). When excised, their gross presentation is virtually not specific (Fig. 3). Calcifications and hemorrhages can be appreciated on the cut surface. Histologically (Figs. 4 and 5A and 5B), PMTs are composed

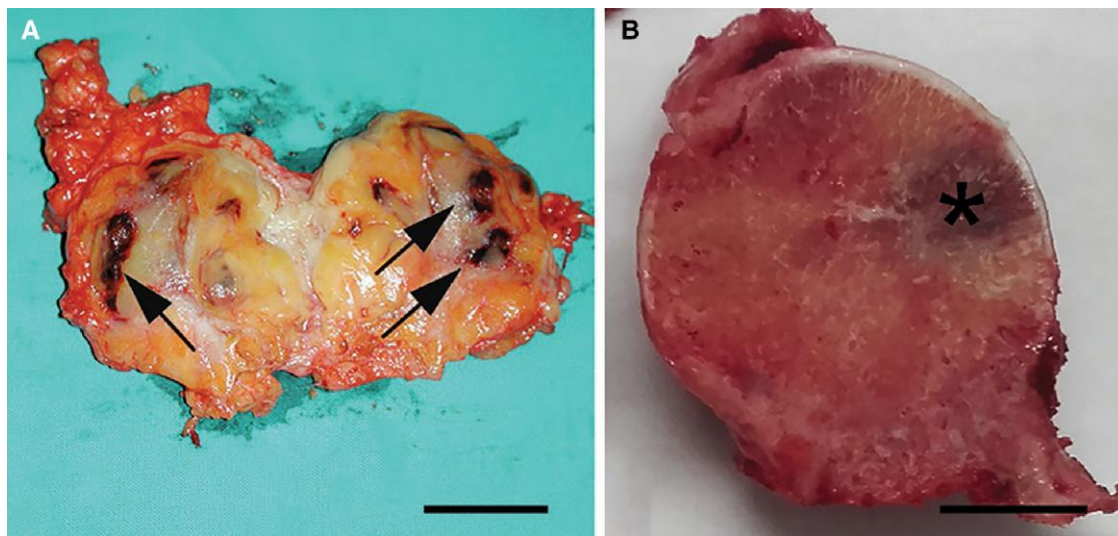


Figure 3. Two phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors (PMTs) involving the soft tissues of the left groin and the head of the right femur (106) are illustrated in A and B, respectively. Hemorrhages (arrows) are recognizable in the soft tissue tumor. The color of the bone tumor (asterisk) is brownish for the high vascularization. Bar in A and B: 2 cm. Reproduced with permission from Colangelo et al (106). © Springer Nature.

of bland, round-oval to spindle cells (ie, the source of FGF23 and other “phosphatonins”) associated with a florid vascularization consisting of small, arborizing capillaries, branching vessels (hemangiopericytoma-like) or dilated vascular spaces (cavernous hemangioma-like), and with an overt excess of ECM that typically calcifies in an unusual “grungy” manner. Osteoclast-like tartrate-resistant-acid-phosphatase (TRAP)-positive multinucleated giant-cells, “fibrohistiocytic” cells, microcystic spaces, myxoid, chondromyxoid, hyalinized ECM, also closely resembling primitive cartilage or osteoid, peritumoral woven bone formation (in particular in soft-tissue tumors), and mature adipocytes (in particular in sinonasal tumors) can also be detected (87, 88, 92). In the soft tissues, PMTs may be challenging to resect because of their tendency to infiltrate into surrounding tissues (88). In bone, PMTs may permeate the intertrabecular spaces and produce abundant osteoid-like matrix mimicking an osteosarcoma (88). Compared to PMTs involving soft tissues and bone, sinonasal PMTs commonly contain few, if any, calcified matrix and multinucleated giant cells and often show thick-walled vessels and fascicles of vaguely myoid-appearing spindle cells that may mimic other vascular or perivascular tumors (88, 101, 102, 104, 108). Overall, the relative proportions of neoplastic cells, blood vessels, matrix, dystrophic calcification, multinucleated giant cells, and fat are variable from case to case (67, 87, 88). In the jaws, an epithelial component may coexist (98, 103, 109) and for these tumors the terminology of “phosphaturic mesenchymal tumor, mixed epithelial, and connective tissue type” has been proposed (103). However, as FGF23 messenger RNA (mRNA) is not expressed in the epithelial component, it is reasonably interpretable as odontogenic epithelium entrapped within the tumor rather than a component of the neoplastic tissue (88, 97, 103).

Immunohistochemistry has limited value in the recognition of PMTs. Most studies have shown predominantly a “vimentin-only” phenotype (87, 88, 91). Indeed, neoplastic cells have been reported to be variably immunoreactive for alpha-smooth muscle actin, muscle specific actin, PGP9.5, S-100, CD34, NSE, CD68, synaptophysin, dentin matrix protein-1, somatostatin receptor-2A, D2-40, ERG, CD99,

Bcl2, SATB2, CD56, EMA, DOG1, Periostin, FGF23, Klotho, and FGFR1 (80, 87, 88, 96, 103, 104, 106, 109-121). None of these markers is both highly sensitive and specific. However, part of them may suggest some osteogenic differentiation of the neoplastic cells that in turn might reflect the physiological role of osteogenic cells in FGF23 production (25-28). In addition, the immunoreactivity of the neoplastic cells for somatostatin receptor-2A well accounts for the utility of somatostatin receptor (SSR)-targeted imaging in tumor localization (see section on “Tumor Localization”) (114, 122, 123). According to Houang and colleagues (114), immunoreactivity of the neoplastic cells for SSTR2A is highly sensitive but not specific for the diagnosis of PMT and that increased specificity may be obtained through the immunohistochemistry both for SSTR2A and FGF23. Additional immunophenotypic features were highlighted by Agaimy et al (118), according to which the coexpression of SATB2, SSTR2A, ERG, and CD56 may support the diagnosis of PMT, in particular when “difficult-to-diagnose” and not associated with TIO.

In a few studies, PMTs have been examined by transmission electron microscopy (91, 110, 113, 115, 124-126). In 2 cases, one from bone and the other from soft tissues (Fig. 5C-5E), we observed neoplastic cells showing irregular nuclei with inconspicuous nucleoli and with variable amounts of mitochondria, lysosomes, and lipid vacuoles, scattered cisternae of rough endoplasmic reticulum, and small vesicles. The ECM was composed of collagen fibrils and granular material and, in particular in the soft-tissue tumor, contained abundant calcifications. These findings overlapped with those previously described. Interestingly, as in some of the previously reported cases (110, 113, 115, 125), dense core, membrane bound neurosecretory-like granules were detected in the neoplastic cells of the soft-tissue PMT.

“Nonphosphaturic” Variant of Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumors

Tumors with morphological features overlapping those of “phosphaturic” PMTs and demonstrable expression of

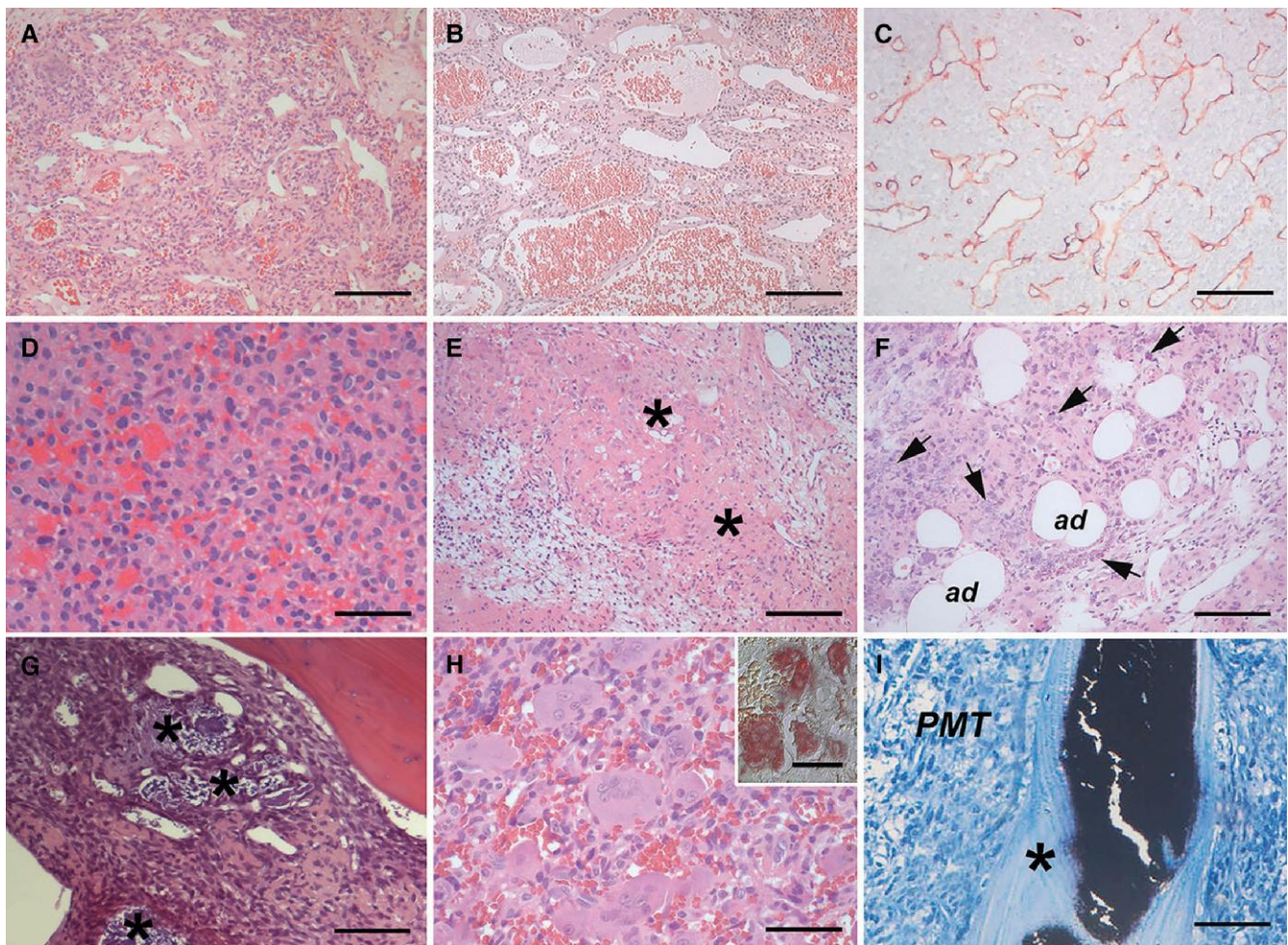


Figure 4. Representative histological images of phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors (PMTs). These tumors consist of bland, round-oval cells associated with florid vascularization that include variable sized blood-vessels ranging from A, slit “hemangiopericytoma-like” to B, large cavernous spaces. C, The florid vasculature is highlighted by CD34 immunostain. A more compact and densely cellular area is illustrated in D, while an area with an overt excess of extracellular matrix (ECM; asterisk) is shown in E. Calcifications of the ECM are shown in F (arrows) and G (asterisks). The amount of matrix calcification is commonly smaller in sinonasal PMTs compared to those occurring in soft tissues and bones. Mature adipocytes (ad in F) are more frequently found in PMTs involving the sinonasal region, while H, multinucleated giant cells, are virtually a constant finding in those involving soft tissues and bones. As osteoclasts, multinucleated giant cells are positive for TRAP (insert in H, red staining). The image in I illustrates a section obtained from a bone PMT processed for plastic embedding and stained with von Kossa (106). A thick osteoid seam (unstained in black with von Kossa, asterisk), indicating osteomalacia, is evident in an intratumoral bone trabecula. Panels A, B, and G through I, bone PMT; panels C and D, sinonasal PMT; panels E and F, soft-tissue PMT; panels A, B, and D through H, hematoxylin-eosin; panel C, CD34 immunostaining; insert in panel H, TRAP staining; panel I, von Kossa-methylene blue staining; bar in A through C, E, and F, 200 µm; bar in D and H, 100 µm; bar in G and I, 120 µm; bar in insert in H, 60 µm.

FGF23 have been also reported in the absence of TIO (67, 87, 88, 100, 117-120, 127). The *FN1-FGFR1* fusion has been demonstrated in some of these tumors (100, 117, 120). This variant may reflect tumors with clinically unrecognized TIO, tumors identified before any manifestation of osteomalacia, secretion of insufficient or inactive amount of FGF23 by neoplastic cells, or occurrence of the tumor in patients with some type of compensatory mechanism (67, 88, 119, 127). As observed by Florenzano et al (97), “FGF23 excess could eventually develop” if a recurrence occurs. For this reason, it is reasonable in these patients to monitor phosphatase levels after the histological diagnosis.

Multifocal and Malignant Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumors

Although commonly solitary and benign, PMTs may be either multiple or malignant (67, 87, 88, 99, 100, 119, 128-139).

Multiple tumors have been reported to show histology, immunophenotype, FGF23, and fusion-gene expression and invasion potential comparable to those of their solitary counterpart (119). As observed by Li et al (95), “there is no consensual histopathological criteria for nonmetastatic malignant PMTs.” Histologically malignant PMTs are recognized for high cellularity, high nuclear grade, necrosis, elevated mitotic activity, high Ki67 index and p53 expression, and are associated with recurrences, distant metastases, and adverse outcome (67, 87, 88, 99, 118, 119, 128-131, 134, 139). However, the identification of an otherwise typical benign PMT component is critical in the distinction of malignant PMTs from other sarcomas of soft tissues and bone (88). FGF23 expression has been demonstrated both in the primary tumor and in the metastasis (128). Metastasis from histological benign PMT (139, 140) and malignant “nonphosphaturic” variant of PMT (133) has been described as well.

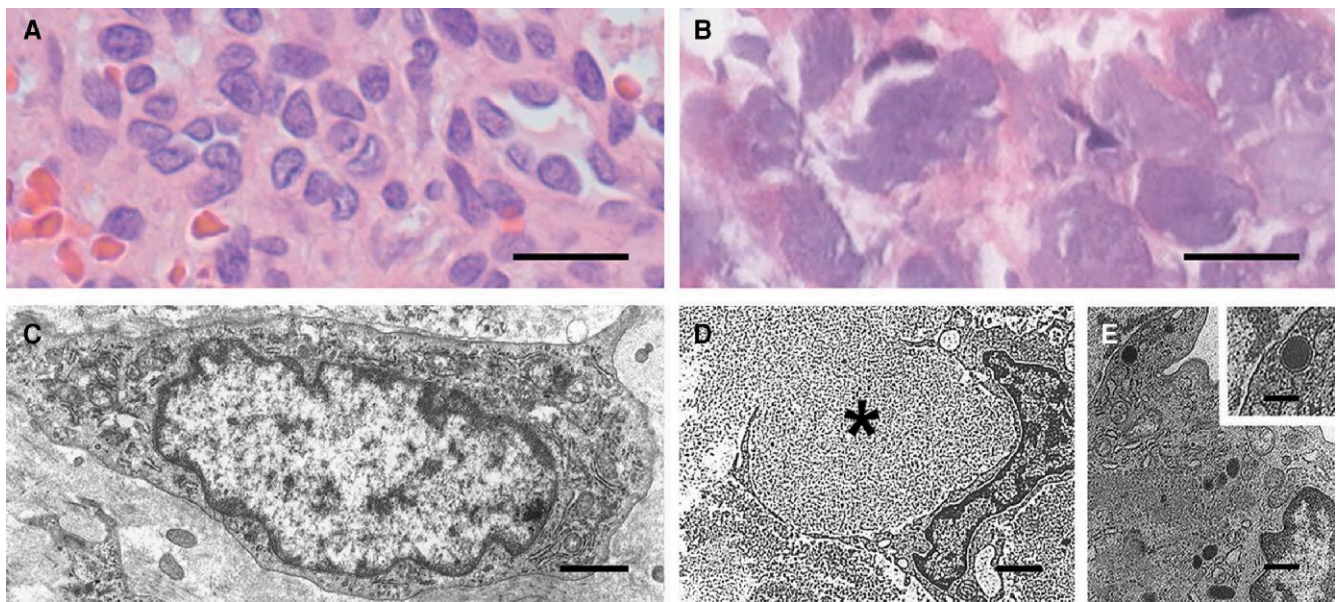


Figure 5. High-power histological images of phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors (PMT) cells and mineralization of the intratumoral extracellular matrix (ECM) are illustrated in A and B, respectively. Panels C through E were generated from samples of 2 PMTs, 1 in bone and the other in the soft tissues, processed for transmission electron microscopy (107). A typical PMT cell is shown in C, with irregular nucleus, inconspicuous nucleolus, some mitochondria, cisternae of rough endoplasmic reticulum, and small vesicles. The mineral deposits in the ECM are illustrated in D (asterisk). They appear to be in intimate association with an individual tumor cell. Panel E shows intracytoplasmic dense core membrane-bound neurosecretory-like granules, one of which is highlighted in the insert. Panels A and C, bone PMT; panels B, D, and E, soft-tissue PMT; panels A and B, hematoxylin-eosin; panels C through E, lead citrate-uranyl acetate; bar in A and B, 30 μ m; bar in C and D, 1 μ m; bar in E, 300 nm; bar in insert in E, 150 nm.

Pitfalls in the Pathologic Diagnosis of Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumors

Many different mesenchymal tumor types have been reported as the cause of TIO (67, 86-88). However, as clearly established by Boland and colleagues (67), “it seems quite clear that the overwhelming majority of these” tumors, if not all, “represent misdiagnosed PMT, which were not recognized owing to the rarity of these tumors and lack of familiarity by pathologists with their morphological spectrum.” Detailed criteria for the pathological differential diagnosis of PMT from other mesenchymal tumors have been previously reported (87, 88).

Most PMTs are resected for the treatment of clinically established TIO. Thus, the clinical scenario provides a robust contribution in the correct pathological diagnosis (ie, PMT). When clinically unsuspected, awareness of the unique heterogeneous histological spectrum and demonstration of either FGF23 expression (at mRNA or protein level or both) and/or molecular *FN1-FGFR1/FGF1* fusions should allow for the distinction of PMT from the wide variety of benign and malignant neoplasms with which PMTs may be confused (87, 88). However, some pitfalls have to be kept in mind. First, anti-FGF23 antibodies are not currently available in all pathology laboratories. In addition, they have been reported to have “questionable specificity” (88) and not to be “reliable enough” to diagnose PMT (94). Immunoreactivity for FGF23 has been observed in control conditions and often very focally “limiting its diagnostic utility particularly on small biopsies” (114). The definition of the positive staining is also crucial. In some studies (114, 116), only the dot-like pattern (ie, distinct punctate perinuclear staining), and not the diffuse cytoplasmic staining, has been considered as positive. For these reasons, FGF23 mRNA-based assays, as

RT-PCR or RNA scope chromogenic in situ hybridization (CISH), are preferred (67, 88, 99, 104, 117, 119, 120, 127, 128). Both assays are highly sensitive but, compared to RT-PCR, CISH shows greater specificity and allows preservation of tissue architecture and selective demonstration of FGF23 mRNA expression by the neoplastic cells (88, 128). This is extremely important in bone-located PMT for the identification of the specific FGF23-expressing cell population (neoplastic vs normal osteogenic cells) that cannot be unequivocally established through RT-PCR (67, 88, 127, 128). In addition, in the “phosphaturic mesenchymal tumor, mixed epithelial, and connective tissue type” of the jaw, the epithelial component has been reported to be immunoreactive for FGF23 but negative for FGF23 mRNA through CISH assay, thus suggesting that they represent entrapped dental remnants rather than a tumor cell component (88, 103). Second, even though very rarely, PMTs may be negative for FGF23 expression (67, 88, 128) and cases with typical PMT and osteomalacia and normal FGF23 serum levels have been also described (67, 128, 141). In these circumstances, other “phosphatonin” should be considered for the development of TIO (28, 67-70, 88, 97, 104, 142-145). Third, as *FN1-FGFR1/FGF1* fusions are lacking in about 50% of PMTs (67, 79, 80, 88), their absence is not sufficient to rule out PMT. Last, *FN1* rearrangements are not specific for PMT. For example, they have been recently reported in synovial chondromatosis and in soft-tissue chondromas (146). As a consequence, if fluorescent ISH (FISH) for *FN1* rearrangements is used in the pathologic workup, the results need to be integrated with the clinical, laboratory, imaging, and histological data. In addition, fluorescent ISH studies have demonstrated that the *FGFR1* rearrangement can be detected in a minority of tumor cells, reflecting the abundance of nonneoplastic cells within

the PMT and raising the possibility of a false-negative result (67, 79, 88).

Hypophosphatemia Caused by Increased *FGF23* in Clinicopathologic Settings Other Than Hereditary Hypophosphatemic Disorders and Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumor–related Tumor-Induced Osteomalacia

In addition to hereditary hypophosphatemic disorders (ADHR, XLH, ARHR types I, II, and III) (75), *FGF23*-related hypophosphatemia may also occur in completely different clinical-pathological settings including non-hematologic (67, 88, 128, 147-155) and hematologic (156-158) malignant tumors and genetic syndromes, namely neurofibromatosis (NF) (67, 88, 159-162), polyostotic fibrous dysplasia/McCune-Albright syndrome (PFD/MAS) (26, 67, 75, 88, 163-165), cutaneous skeletal hypophosphatemia syndrome (CSHS) (75, 165-169) and osteoglyphonic dysplasia (OGD) (75, 170). In some patients with malignancy, the neoplastic cells have been convincingly shown to be the source of *FGF23* based on their immunoreactivity for *FGF23* or expression of *FGF23* by RT-PCR (153, 154, 158). Interestingly, in one patient with disseminated ovarian serous carcinoma, osteomalacia, and elevated serum level of *FGF23*, neoplastic cells were reported to be negative for *FGF23* mRNA by CISH, thus suggesting alternative mechanisms for the development of the syndrome (67, 88, 128). Among the genetic syndromes, at least in type-I NF and in particular in PFD/MAS, the elevated *FGF23* serum level has been related to the disease burden (26, 88). As *RAS* mutations are detectable within the bone lesions (167), the Ras/mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway seems to have a strong effect on the production of *FGF23* (165) and bone is the usual source for *FGF23* (25-27), the bone lesions themselves have been thought to be the source of excess *FGF23* production in CSHS (167). In OGD, a rare skeletal dysplasia caused by activating mutation of the *FGFR1* gene and characterized by rhizomelic dwarfism, craniosynostosis, midfacial hypoplasia, prognathism, teeth abnormalities, and nonossifying fibroma-like bone lesions, elevated *FGF23* level leading to hypophosphatemia can occur, likely from local production within the bone lesions (75, 170). According to Florenzano and colleagues (97), these genetic conditions associated with excess of *FGF23* “should be designated by their underlying syndrome.”

A TIO-like syndrome has been described also in 2 children with extrahepatic biliary atresia (100) and associated with intravenous infusion of some forms of iron preparations (171-173) and, possibly, with chronic alcohol consumption (174). In the 2 patients with extrahepatic biliary atresia, the syndrome resolved after orthotopic liver transplantation and in one of them affected hepatocytes were immunoreactive for *FGF23*. In iron infusion–induced *FGF23*-related hypophosphatemia, it has been clarified that the final rate-limiting step to determine the serum intact *FGF23* level is the posttranslational O-glycosylation initiated by *N*-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 3 (21, 47). Further studies are in progress to confirm the association of TIO-like syndrome and chronic alcohol consumption (174).

Histological Aspects of Skeletal Tissue in Tumor-Induced Osteomalacia

Bone biopsy after sequential administration of tetracyclines and its histomorphometric evaluation can be part of the

clinical workup in patients with suspected TIO (see section on “Distinctive Laboratory Findings”). As expected (175), in the cases in which it has been performed (176-178), light microscopy revealed an increase in osteoid parameters relative to mineralized bone including osteoid volume, surface, and thickness and fluorescence microscopy a range of severity from reduced or undetectable distance between double labels to no tetracycline uptake reflecting the defective bone matrix mineralization (ie, osteomalacia). Processing for plastic embedding (106, 179) of samples from a PMT involving bone (106) will demonstrate osteomalacia in the intratumoral and peritumoral bone trabeculae (Fig. 4I).

Clinical

Presentation: Symptoms and Signs

Skeletal symptoms

Symptoms reported by patients with TIO, such bone pain, are usually nonspecific thus rendering the diagnosis elusive, with an initial misdiagnosis rate of up to 95.1% (180). In any case, symptoms are rarely related to the tumor itself, wherever it is located, because of its small size. An exception might be the location in the head region when tumors are located within the nasal sinuses (97). In this circumstance about half of patients (44.1%) experience local symptoms (181) such as obstruction or bleeding.

Symptoms are often present for months or years before the diagnosis and surgical cure of the disease. Generally, the longer the putative disease duration, the worse the bone involvement (180, 182), often confining the patient to a wheelchair. As a consequence of the delay in diagnosis, patients frequently have severe disability, including thoracic and spinal deformities at time of diagnosis, as pectus carinatum and kyphosis (97). Furthermore, hip fractures have been reported in retrospective analysis as a complication of the disease in 34 out of 144 patients (23.6%) (180). Height loss is a quite common finding; an average height loss reduction of 7.8 ± 4.7 cm has been reported (180). Occasionally, due to severe thoracic deformities respiratory insufficiency may occur.

In adults, the most frequent symptom is bone pain. A retrospective study of 144 patients with TIO (180) reported that 99% of them suffered skeletal pain. The pain may derive from the location of the tumor in the skeletal tissue or as a consequence of fractures (80% of patients) or may be related to the underlying malacic condition. In the few cases of TIO reported during childhood, rickets was the predominant clinical manifestation together with growth retardation (1).

Clinical and radiological presentation of patients with TIO often overlap with those of patients with spondyloarthritis or other rheumatologic disorders, such as disc herniation or vertebral deformities. Lack of specificity underlies the high misdiagnosis rate (183); for example, a total of 240 case-times of misdiagnoses occurred in the 144 TIO patients (180). Patients are often seen also at oncological and psychiatric centers.

The skeletal manifestations of TIO are almost the same as those described in osteomalacia due to other causes. X-rays usually show osteopenia, coarse trabeculae, Looser zones, insufficiency fractures, and bowing of long bones (184, 185). Looser zones or “pseudo fractures” represent the radiological hallmark of osteomalacia and reflect skeletal fragility; they occur late in the natural history of the disease (185). Typically,

they are transverse lucencies with sclerotic borders traversing partway through a bone, usually perpendicular to the involved cortex (with a width range of 1 mm to 1 cm) with symmetrical distribution. Contrary to what is generally believed, they are often located in non-weight-bearing bone, following and corresponding to blood vessels in contact with bone (186). Although interindividual differences exist, they are usually found at the ischiopubic area, iliac wings, tibia, radius, fibula, or lateral scapula (186). From a clinical point of view, they are usually painful (185). X-ray images may appear as “poor quality” radiographs. This is due to the large amount of unmineralized osteoid that appears as indistinct and poorly defined from trabecular bone (185).

Stress fractures may be part of the skeletal involvement in TIO; they have often been characterized as “slow-healing” in this context (187). However, these lesions do not deserve further investigation because of spontaneous healing following tumor resection. Indeed, 1 year following successful removal, the disappearance of the lesion with its replacement by a sclerotic area deforming the cortical profile of the bone was described in a long-term-follow up study (188).

Bone densitometric values are severely reduced especially in patients with long-standing TIO (182). Following the cure of the disease, a striking increase of BMD is observed. From the histological point of view, this is due to the huge mineralization of the osteoid tissue accumulated, particularly in those with the long-standing unrecognized disease (106). Recently an assessment of bone microstructure and density in the axial and peripheral skeleton by high-resolution peripheral computed tomography (CT), trabecular bone score in addition to BMD was reported for the first time in a large cohort of patients with TIO (189). The authors concluded that disease duration, mobility, history of fracture, and biochemical variables were correlated with bone microarchitecture deterioration. Impaired bone microarchitecture evaluated by high-resolution peripheral CT was also previously documented in a small series of 6 (190) and 10 (191) TIO patients, respectively.

Nonskeletal symptoms

Regardless of the site of tumor development, there are common symptoms related to severe hypophosphatemia and not related to the presence of tumor itself (1). In fact, weakness is a presenting symptom both in cases of tumors originating from skeletal regions (192), as well as in those originating from extraskeletal sites. In particular, muscular weakness due to the reduction of intracellular adenosine triphosphate has been reported in 65% to 77% of patients (180, 181). As a result, considering both the muscle and the skeletal involvement, patients may develop severe disability and difficulty in walking by the time the disease is identified (106).

In some cases, a subcutaneous mass may be detectable through a diligent physical examination when the tumor originates from musculoskeletal region. Patients therefore should be asked about the occurrence of new “lumps” or “bumps” (193) to identify the culprit tumor. In a retrospective case series, in 21 out of 144 patients (14.6%) a local lump was responsible of the disease (180).

A number of studies have been published focusing on the pathophysiological consequences of FGF23 excess in renal function. Increased urinary phosphate excretion is an independent risk factor for the development of nephrocalcinosis, defined as the deposition of calcium crystals in the renal parenchyma and

tubules, or nephrolithiasis, that is, kidney stones. Although nephrocalcinosis has been reported in 30% to 70% of pediatric patients with XLH (194) (a congenital disorder analogous to TIO), there are no published data regarding the prevalence of nephrocalcinosis or kidney stones in TIO patients.

However, long-term conventional treatment with active vitamin D metabolites and oral inorganic phosphate salts, in combination with long-standing hyperphosphaturia, may cause adverse events (AEs) in the kidney such as hypercalciuria, nephrocalcinosis, and nephrolithiasis. Furthermore, the development of secondary or tertiary hyperparathyroidism is a well-known complication of long-standing treatment with oral phosphate. Indeed, an increasing number of reports have been published reporting the coexistence of hyperparathyroidism and oncogenic osteomalacia (195, 196).

In recent years, FGF23 has been reported as an independent risk factor for mortality and cardiovascular disease. In particular, FGF23 levels were independently associated with left ventricular hypertrophy in a chronic kidney disease cohort (197). In this context, a study evaluated the potential role of FGF 23 in patients with FGF23-related hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia (198) as an etiologic factor of hypertrophy, using the Sokolow-Lyon or Cornell criteria on electrocardiogram, or the left ventricular mass index by means of echocardiogram. The overall group was composed of 24 patients, of whom 13 had TIO. Mean values of ventricular mass index, Sokolow-Lyon voltage, and Cornell product were all within the reference ranges. Concerning ventricular mass index, only 2 male patients with TIO had higher values than the reference range. Their Sokolow-Lyon voltage and Cornell criteria were all within the reference ranges and they did not have chronic kidney disease. It is therefore unlikely that in patients with TIO, the heart may represent a target organ of excess FGF23 secretion (198).

Although TIO is an extremely rare disease, the possibility of malignant PMTs must be recognized. In these clinical situations, symptoms depend on the localization of metastasis, determining, for example, respiratory failure as a consequence of lung metastasis (134).

Distinctive Laboratory Findings

The hallmark biochemical features of TIO are represented by persistent low serum phosphate levels, due to renal phosphate wasting, and inappropriately normal or low 1,25(OH)₂D values (1).

The normal level of serum phosphate ranges from 2.5 to 4.5 mg/dL in adults (0.8-1.45 mmol/L; to transform mg in mmol divide by 0.0259); thus, a serum phosphate level below 2.5 mg/dL is considered a condition of hypophosphatemia and should be investigated. In particular, a moderate hypophosphatemia is defined when serum phosphate level is within 1.0 to 1.7 mg/dL (0.4-0.5 mmol/L), while severe hypophosphatemia is considered when serum phosphate is lower than 0.9 mg/dL (0.3 mmol/L). Another point that should be emphasized derives from the observation that the normal ranges for phosphate and renal phosphate handling are different in children from adults (199). This should be taken into account when investigating children younger than 18 years. Recently reported case series of TIO patients, diagnosed at tertiary care, academic centers, or following national surveys consistently show reduced values of serum phosphate. For example, mean serum phosphate levels of 1.3 ± 0.4 mg/dL have been

reported in a case series from Italy (200) and the median serum phosphate level was 1.4 mg/dL (range, 1.2–1.6 mg/dL) in patients from South America (201). Mean serum phosphate levels were 0.50 ± 0.13 mmol/L (202), 1.74 ± 0.35 mg/dL (2), and 0.48 ± 0.13 mmol/L (180) in patients from India, Japan, and China, respectively.

Although moderate hypophosphatemia should be considered the distinctive laboratory hallmark of TIO, the finding of renal phosphate wasting is fundamental for establishing the diagnosis. The most accurate way to evaluate renal phosphate wasting is given by the calculation of the tubular maximum phosphate reabsorption per glomerular filtration rate (TmP/GFR), as explained in the diagnosis section. Normal values TmP/GFR are 2.5 to 4.5 mg/dL; in TIO patients the values are always below the reference range (203). To calculate the TmP/GFR, urinary phosphate and creatinine should be measured as well as serum creatinine and phosphate levels. In particular, the second morning urine collection in patients fasting for 12 hours should be over 2 hours, with blood drawn at any time during this collection while the patient continues to fast. Another possibility is to calculate the percentage tubular reabsorption of phosphate from a random simultaneous sample of blood and urine (% TRP). This value should also be below the normal range for supporting the diagnosis of TIO. When serum phosphate levels are normal, the TRP normal range is 85% to 95%. In conditions of reduced serum phosphate values, the expected physiological response is an increase in tubular reabsorption of phosphate to values higher than 85% to 95%, which are not seen in patients affected by TIO. The value of TmP/GFR can be calculated using a nomogram (203), while % TRP can be calculated with the following formula $TRP = 1 - (\text{serum creatinine} \times \text{urine phosphate}) / (\text{urine creatinine} \times \text{serum phosphate})$. Both TmP/GFR and % TRP can be calculated using an online free calculator.

In patients with TIO, renal phosphate wasting is caused by the high levels of FGF23, which could be considered another distinctive laboratory finding in TIO. The pathogenetic role of FGF23 was associated with TIO approximately 50 years after the description of first case of TIO described in 1947 (204). The best laboratory method to measure FGF23 still remains a matter of debate.

In humans, part of the full-length FGF23 (intact FGF23; iFGF23) undergoes a posttranscriptional cleavage thus generating N-terminal and C-terminal FGF23 fragments with presumably no physiologic function, while intact FGF23 is considered the biologically active form of the hormone (20). Laboratory measurements are usually classified into those measuring the intact molecule and those detecting the carboxy-terminal (C-terminal) fragment of FGF23. Indeed, FGF23 could be measured in 2 formats of enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs): a C-terminal assay measuring both full-length and cleaved C-terminal fragment of FGF-23 (205) and intact assays of FGF23 (66) (iFGF23) requiring the N-terminal and C-terminal portion of the processing sites of FGF23 to detect only full-length uncleaved FGF23. Imel et al (206) reported a higher sensitivity of iFGF23 in TIO patients compared with C-terminal assay of the hormone. As no international standard for iFGF23 and cFGF23 are available, it is currently not possible to standardize the assays, thus nowadays it is impossible to assess the best FGF23 method to detect TIO patients.

Whichever method is used, an elevated or unsuppressed level of serum FGF23 is reported in TIO patients (207–209). In

the literature, there are methods that report different normal ranges that are not always comparable (2, 66, 210, 211). For example, a new chemiluminescence enzyme method to detect FGF23 was compared to one of the most used that detects iFGF23 with an ELISA kit (KAINOS Laboratories) (66). This new kit yielded lower FGF23 values when compared with the previous assay (212).

Although most reported patients with TIO have clearly elevated serum FGF23 levels, approximately 16 TIO patients with normal FGF23 levels have been described since the first observation of the disease in the literature (2, 141, 201, 212–220). A number of possible explanations have been put forward for this finding of apparently “normal values.” First, it is possible that in these patients, FGF23 levels could have been misinterpreted because of the use of incorrect reference values. Another hypothesis, although less likely, is that another phosphaturic hormone could be involved in the development of hypophosphatemia. However, in case of hypophosphatemia unrelated to FGF23, the level of the hormone should be low range. Therefore, the finding of FGF23 values in the upper normal range should be considered “inappropriately normal” and thus not affecting the diagnosis of TIO. A similar situation can be seen in hypercalcemic patients with PTH values in the upper third of normal range. Considering all of the aforementioned issues, head-to-head studies for improving the diagnostic accuracy of FGF23 in patients with TIO, comparing C-terminal with iFGF23 assays, are needed.

Concerning other parameters of mineral metabolism, serum calcium levels are within the normal range, as well as 25(OH) D provided there is an adequate supply of the vitamin. PTH levels are within the normal range or sometimes higher due to low 1,25(OH)₂D. Serum alkaline phosphatase levels as well as other markers of bone remodeling are generally elevated; the degree of increase generally correlates with the degree of bone involvement.

Metabolomics

Recently, together with the well-known biochemical features of the disease, metabolomics has also been studied in patients affected by TIO (221). Metabolomics refers to a large-scale study of metabolites that are directly involved in the biochemical activity of a specific disease. The goal of metabolomics study is not only to optimize the diagnosis, but also to characterize the pathogenesis of the disease and possibly to find new targets for therapy.

In TIO patients, the first global metabolomics analysis was carried out in a sample of 24 male and 8 female patients with a mean age of 43.6 years (221). By means of liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry–based metabolomics, these patients were studied at different time points. Specifically, they were assayed at initial diagnosis and after tumor resection (1–3 days after successful surgery) and were matched with 32 healthy control individuals. The novelty of this study is the discovery of a metabolic pathway found perturbed in patients with TIO. This pathway mainly included arachidonic acid metabolism, fatty acid and lipid metabolism, as well as sphingosine and sphingosine 1 phosphate metabolism. In particular, 5 oxylipins, 4-hydroxydocosahexaenoic acid (4-HDoHE), leukotriene B₄ (LTB₄), 5-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid (5-HETE), 17-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid (17-HETE) and 9,10,13-trihydroxy-octadecenoic acid (9,10,13-TriHOME) were the top ranked metabolites able

to discriminate TIO patients from healthy controls. Thus, the authors suggested that the combination of these oxylipins may help diagnosis. As shown by receiver operating characteristic curve analysis, this panel of oxylipins reached a high sensitivity and specificity for TIO prediction (221) (area under the curve = 0.95; 95% CI, 0.82-1). After tumor resection, the expression of these biomarkers tended to decrease toward the levels found in healthy controls, but only the differences in 5-HETE and 17-HETE were statistically significant ($P < .05$). It is important to emphasize that the aim of metabolomics analysis is not only to improve the diagnosis but also to describe the metabolite pathways involved in a specific disease to better understand the disease development. In this context, an interpretation of these data is that the role of these oxylipins in TIO pathogenesis is mainly related to chronic inflammation. However, it is not certain if the tumor-induced chronic inflammation, and thus a dysregulation of the oxylipins, could be considered as an epiphenomenon, or a dysregulation of the oxylipins related to chronic inflammation is a contributor of the development of the tumor (222). In particular, both 5-HETE and LTB₄ have been reported to play essential roles in inflammation (223, 224) which is a significant risk factor for others tumor development (225). In addition, LTB₄ and 5-HETE can stimulate proliferation and suppress apoptosis in several types of cells (226-229). More specific might be the role of LTB₄. Indeed, it induces vascular endothelial growth factor-mediated angiogenesis in vivo and high vascularization is one of the histological features found in TIO (230, 231). Thus, upregulation of LTB₄ might partially explain the enhanced angiogenesis that exists in TIO tumors. Of interest, the DHA derivative 4-HDoHE was accumulated in TIO patients that were previously demonstrated to inhibit angiogenesis, tumor growth, and metastasis (232). This finding of higher levels of 4-HDoHE, compared to controls, might possibly result from feedback regulation levels.

These new metabolomics findings should be interpreted with caution because the possible influence of inflammation cannot be ruled out as a potential confounding factor that links the oxylipins pathway and TIO pathogenesis. Moreover, the presence of fractures in TIO due to osteomalacia could initiate an acute inflammatory response and could also be considered as a bias in analyzing the data (233). Timing of analysis could also be important in this setting, and it is possible that the study of metabolomics, not only in the short-term postoperative (1-3 days) period, but also a few months after surgery, could provide more information. Because this is the first comprehensive study of metabolomics in patients with TIO, other metabolomics studies are needed in the future.

Tumor Localization

Tumors causing TIO are often of small size and grow slowly. They can be localized in all parts of the body from head to toe with similar prevalence in soft tissue and bone (4) and in particular in the head, neck, and extremities (4, 93, 187). The most common tumor localizations were the lower extremities (59.6%) followed by head and neck (24.0%), torso (9.4%), and upper extremities (6.9%) in a study in which data of 287 patients with TIO were analyzed (234). Asking the patient for the occurrence of new lumps or bumps along with an accurate physical examination with particular attention to the oral cavity and extremities could allow the

identification of the small tumors. Indeed, in this way, the identification of the tumor in 14.6% of a Chinese series (180) and in a recent review in 6.7% has been reported (4).

After accurate physical examination, a stepwise approach has been recommended using different imaging techniques, first employing functional imaging then anatomical ones. Since such tumors are commonly of small size and often occur in sites that are not included in the standard field of functional (eg, FDG-PET/CT, octreo-SPECT-CT, Gallium-68 PET-TC) or anatomical studies (eg, CT, MRI), searching for these tumors should include the whole human body from vertex to toe, paying attention also to upper limbs.

Functional imaging

The main functional techniques take advantage of the expression with variable degrees of SSRs (SSTRs, mainly SSTR subtype 2) on the membrane of cells of tumors that allow, with SSTR scintigraphy imaging, the identification of the tumors using SSR analogues (122, 123). However, the expression of these receptors is not specific for tumors causing TIO since they are also expressed from other neuroendocrine tumors as well as nonneuroendocrine neoplasms (eg, lymphomas, breast cancer, thyroid cancer). Radiolabeled SSTR analogues can be used with single photon emission CT (SPECT) or positron emission tomography (PET) for identifying tumors.

Octreotide, a synthetic octapeptide analogue of somatostatin with a special binding affinity to SSTR2 has been conjugated with ¹¹¹In; typically, scans using such substance are commonly referred as *octreoscan*. It can be combined with SPECT, thereby providing 3-dimensional information, and eventually also combined with a coregistered CT (SPECT-CT) to produce a better anatomical picture. Whole-body octreoscan SPECT-CT should include the head, neck, and limbs, sites that are commonly excluded; however, this combination is time-consuming so the acquisition of tomographic images is often restricted to areas of tracer uptake on planar imaging (235). ^{99m}Tc-hydrazinonicotinamide (*HYNIC*)-*octreotide* is a ^{99m}Tc labeled somatostatin analogue (SSA) that has been used for performing whole-body SPECT-CT scan for localizing tumors causing TIO. It has been reported to have a sensitivity of 86.3% and a specificity of 99.1% for detecting tumors (149) and is less time-consuming than octreoscan. Pitfalls of both these tracers are mainly represented by the uptake of inflammatory tissues and, for example, a cold octreoscan in patients may show the uptake by nasal mucosa a site where tumor causing TIO is not infrequently discovered (235).

Gallium-68 (⁶⁸Ga) is a positron-emitting radionuclide that can be linked to a chelator (DOTA) that can link an SSA peptide such as Tyr-3-octreotate (TATE) or 1-Nal3-octreotide (NOC) or Tyr-3-octreotide (TOC). These peptides have a different affinity profile for the SSTR receptors. Although DOTATATE, DOTANOC, and DOTATOC have been successfully used for localizing tumors causing TIO, DOTATATE is preferred for its higher affinity for SSTR2, which are mainly expressed on the cell surface of tumors causing TIO. The ⁶⁸GaDOTATATE can be combined with PET and eventually also combined with a coregistered CT. Whole-body ⁶⁸GaDOTATATE PET-CT has been reported to have a sensitivity of 100% (even though other authors have reported slightly lower values, discussed later) and high specificity (91%) with an accuracy for localizing tumors causing

TIO of 97.7% (236); it has been reported to be superior to octreo SPECT-CT in localizing tumors (216). This can be explained by the higher affinity of ^{68}Ga DOTATATE for SSTR2 than octreotide (237) and for the better spatial resolution of PET with respect to SPECT. Since the expression of SSTRs is not specific for tumors, but can be expressed for example on inflammatory cells (238) or in sites of fractures (239), the tracer uptake observed with octreoscan as well as ^{68}Ga DOTATATE should also be characterized by anatomical imaging such as CT or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (235).

Fluorine-18 (^{18}F)-AIF-NOTA-octreotide (^{18}F -OC) combined with PET and CT, ^{18}F -OC PET/CT is a useful technique in detecting SSTR-expressing tumors. It has been used for localizing tumors causing TIO with promising results (240).

^{18}F -fluorodeoxyglucose (^{18}F -FDG) is not considered a specific tracer; it enters the cells expressing glucose transporters. ^{18}F -FDG uptake in the cells is linked to their metabolic activity. Contrast-enhanced ^{18}F -FDG PET-CT is a technique often used for oncological indications based on the metabolic activity of tumors and has shown a relatively high sensitivity for localization of tumors causing TIO (241). Pitfalls due to false-positive uptake should be taken into account; for example, infections (242) and also insufficiency fractures often seen in patients with osteomalacia can show detectable ^{18}F -FDG uptake (243). The sensitivity of ^{18}F -FDG PET-CT is about 67% and lower than octreoscan (83%) or ^{68}Ga DOTATATE (90%) (199, 234). The lower performance of ^{18}F -FDG PET-CT could be due to the low metabolic activity of tumors causing TIO (234), while ^{68}Ga DOTATATE after binding to the SSTR receptors is internalized thus causing higher accumulation in tumor cells (199). However, although ^{18}F -FDG PET-CT has a lower sensitivity in identifying tumors than octreoscan or ^{68}Ga DOTATATE (205, 214), it can be complementary to SSA imaging since sometimes tumors causing TIO are identified with ^{18}F -FDG PET-CT and not with SSA imaging (187). Moreover, ^{18}F -FDG PET-CT has been suggested to have a role in predicting possible recurrence of TIO (244).

$^{99\text{mTc}}$ -sestamibi scintigraphy (MIBI) with SPECT and also with SPECT-CT modalities have been suggested for localizing tumors causing TIO (245). However, they are considered the least accurate technique among the functional ones in localizing such tumors (1).

In conclusion, ^{68}Ga DOTA SSTR PET/CT having better sensitivity detecting culprit tumors in TIO should be used as a first-line functional imaging technique (199).

Anatomical imaging

Contrast-enhanced MRI is indicated for confirming the presence and the extension of a tumor already suspected after functional techniques (235) and also to plan subsequent surgery (1, 105). Contrast-enhanced CT has the same indications of MRI. Although in general inferior to MRI, because MRI better characterizes soft tissue and bone (235), CT could be useful in specific situations, such as defining bone tumors causing TIO (1).

Venous sampling

The sequence of functional and subsequent anatomical imaging is in general able to localize the tumor causing TIO. However, there are some cases where other modalities are indicated to increase the degree of diagnostic certainty (ie, multiple suspected lesions are found; the suspected lesion is

located in a region where surgical treatment can be associated with a high degree of potential morbidity). In these cases, selective venous sampling with plasma (or serum, depending on the assay) FGF23 measurement has been used for confirming the tumor causing TIO (246). Recently, a case report has been described in which intraoperative FGF23 assay was used to confirm tumor resection in a case of possible double localization of the tumor (106).

Fine-needle aspiration

Some authors have suggested performing aspiration of the lesion with measurement of FGF23 on eluate and eventually cytological exam (246, 247) in suspected lesions localized with functional and anatomical imaging techniques. However, this technique has been discouraged because of potential tumor cell seeding (1, 105).

Finally, there are patients in whom the tumor cannot be localized even after an extensive diagnostic workup. In a retrospective survey recently carried out in Japan, the percentage of patients in whom the tumor was not identified was as high as 37.5% (248). In these particular cases, periodic follow-up is recommended.

Diagnostic approach and differential diagnosis

Diagnosis of TIO is based on the clinical evaluation of patients, laboratory findings, and imaging studies for tumor localization. As for many rare disorders, one of the critical points is to consider TIO in the differential diagnosis in a patient with typical clinical presentation, namely a progressive musculoskeletal disorder characterized by pain, insufficiency fractures, and eventually disability. As the first clinical presentation is often nonspecific, diagnosis may be delayed and patients could be treated for other musculoskeletal disease, as well as rheumatological, neurological, or psychiatric disorders. Misdiagnosis at presentation is reported in 87.5% to 95% of cases (179, 248).

Assessment of the patient's medical history should focus on the onset of symptoms that could date back several years (1). Musculoskeletal pain that is progressively worsening and unresponsive to common analgesics could be associated with fractures or pseudofractures, height loss, and skeletal deformities (249). Muscle weakness is commonly observed and disabling. Walking impairment may result and lead to progressive patient disability with the use of a wheelchair and eventually being bedridden (248). Table 1 summarizes the main disorders to consider in the differential diagnosis of TIO.

The hallmark of diagnosis that allows us to differentiate TIO from many other conditions is the measurement of serum phosphate levels (see Table 1). Hypophosphatemia is defined as serum phosphate levels less than 2.5 mg/dL (0.8 mmol/L) (250). In the setting of hypophosphatemia and progressively worsening musculoskeletal ailment, patient interviews allow us to infer much important information. It should focus on past medical history, dietary and lifestyles habits, family history, and drug exposure. The proposed diagnostic algorithm to implement in clinical practice for the evaluation of patients with suspected TIO is as follows (Fig. 6). The presence of clinical manifestation (eg, diarrhea, constipation, abdominal pain, weight loss) and/or laboratory findings of malabsorption syndrome should be carefully investigated (see Table 1) (251). Other causes of hypophosphatemia, such as nutritional

Table 1. Differential diagnosis of tumor-induced osteomalacia

Condition	Common clinical features	Common laboratory findings	Determinants of differential diagnosis
TIO	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty walking, disability, fractures	Hypophosphatemia; TRP < 85%-95%, low TmP/GFR	—Clinical: age, family history, exclusion iatrogenic causes —Laboratory: high FGF23
—Other musculoskeletal disorders (eg, Paget, myopathy) —Rheumatological, neurological, and psychiatric disease	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty walking, disability, fractures	—Paget: elevated serum ALK	Normal phosphate levels
Malabsorption syndrome	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, height loss, difficulty walking, fractures	Hypocalcemia, hypophosphatemia, low serum 25(OH)D, elevated serum PTH and alkaline phosphatase	—Clinical: diarrhea, constipation, abdominal pain, weight loss, etc —Laboratory: anemia, hypoalbuminemia, low ferritin; TRP ≥ 85%-95%, normal TmP/GFR
—Nutritional phosphate deficiency —Vitamin D deficiency	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty walking, disability, fractures	Hypocalcemia, hypophosphatemia, low serum 25(OH)D, elevated serum PTH and alkaline phosphatase	—Low dietary phosphate intake —Low or absent sun exposure —Laboratory: TRP ≥ 85%-95%, normal TmP/GFR
Fanconi syndrome	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, height loss, difficulty walking, fractures	Hypophosphatemia; TRP < 85%-95%, low TmP/GFR	—Clinical: exposure to heavy metals, infections, light chain deposition disease, amyloidosis or other cause of acute tubular necrosis —Laboratory: low FGF23; metabolic acidosis; increased urinary bicarbonate, uric acid, glucose, amino acid, sodium, potassium, β ₂ -microglobulin and immunoglobulin
HHRH	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty walking, disability, fractures	Hypophosphatemia; TRP < 85%-95%, low TmP/GFR	—Clinical: young age; positive family history —Laboratory: high urinary calcium; low FGF23 —Genetic testing: <i>SLC34A3</i>
XLH, ADHR, and ARHR	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty walking, disability, fractures	Hypophosphatemia; TRP < 85%-95%, low TmP/GFR	—Clinical: young age; growth retardation, bowing, dental and ear abnormalities; positive family history —Genetic testing: PHEX (XLH), FGF23 (ADHR), DMP1 (ARHR type 1), ENPP1 (ARHR type 2)
PFD/MAS	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, fractures	Hypophosphatemia; TRP < 85%-95%, low TmP/GFR	—Clinical: typical bone lesions; coxa vara, scoliosis, facial deformity, vision or hearing loss; in MAS: café-au-lait spots, precocious puberty, Leydig cell hyperplasia, thyroid abnormalities, GH excess —Radiology (x-ray, CT, MRI): focal lytic, mixed (ground-glass) or sclerotic lesions —Genetic testing: <i>GNAS1</i>
CSHS, OGD, and HRH	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty walking, disability, fractures	Hypophosphatemia; TRP < 85%-95%, low TmP/GFR	—Clinical: young age (all); diffuse epidermal or melanocytic nevi (CSHS); craniofacial and teeth abnormalities, dwarfism (OGD) —Laboratory: high Klotho and PTH —Genetic testing: RAS (CSHS), <i>FGFR1</i> (OGD)

Abbreviations: 25(OH)D, 25-hydroxyvitamin D; ADHR, autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets; ARHR, autosomal recessive hypophosphatemic rickets; ALK, phosphatase; CSHS, cutaneous skeletal hypophosphatemia syndrome; CT, computed tomography; DMP1, dentin matrix acidic phosphoprotein 1; ENPP1, ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase 1; FGF23, fibroblast growth factor 23; GH, growth hormone; HHRH, hereditary hypophosphatemic rickets with hypercalciuria; HRH, hypophosphatemic rickets with hyperparathyroidism; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; OGD, osteoglyphonic dysplasia; PFD/MAS: polyostotic fibrous dysplasia/McCune-Albright syndrome; PHEX, phosphate-regulating endopeptidase homolog X-linked; PTH, parathyroid hormone; TIO, tumor-induced osteomalacia; TmP/GFR, maximum tubular reabsorption of phosphate/glomerular filtration rate; TRP, tubular reabsorption of phosphate; XLH, X-linked hypophosphatemia.

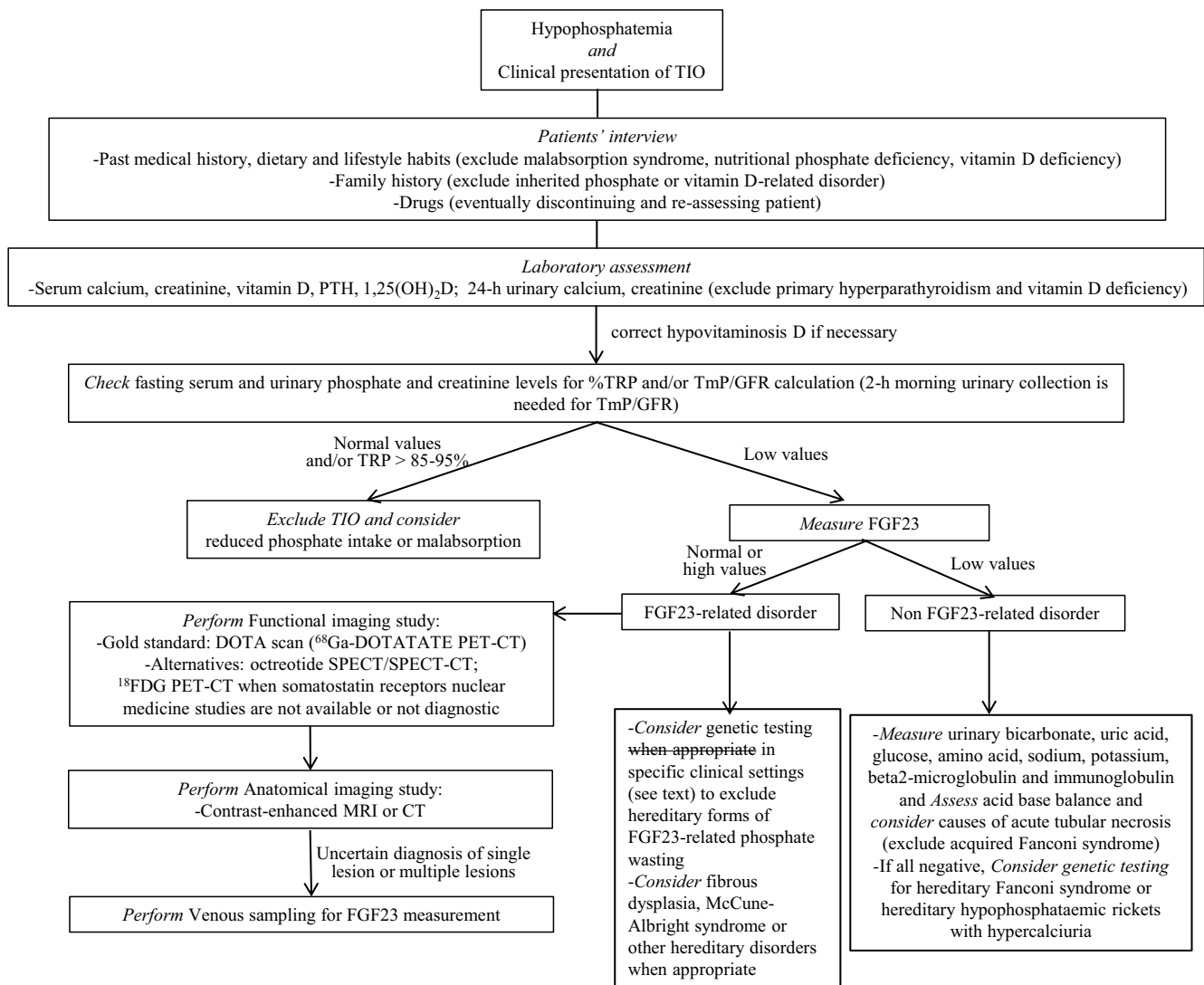


Figure 6. Diagnostic algorithm of the evaluation of suspected tumor-induced osteomalacia (TIO). CT, computed tomography; DOTA, 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid; ^{18}F FDG PET-CT, fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography–CT; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; SPECT, single-photon emission computed tomography.

deficiencies or low or absent sun exposure (eg, patients with skin cancer, institutionalized individuals, use of clothes covering a significant skin area for cultural or religious tradition) should be investigated.

Assessment of family history should focus on the presence of inherited forms of phosphate or vitamin D–related disorders. As far as medications causing hypophosphatemia (intravenous iron, cisplatin, ifosfamide, azathioprine, tenofovir, adefovir, and valproic acid) (250), it is important to consider the opportunity of discontinuing the drug with the involvement of the specialists in charge of the patient and identify alternative therapies.

Routine laboratory assessment should include serum albumin–adjusted calcium (where available, serum ionized calcium), creatinine, PTH, $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$, $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$, 24-hour urinary calcium, and creatinine to exclude primary hyperparathyroidism and vitamin D deficiency. If all these are negative, the next step is to calculate the TRP and/or the TmP/GFR. Such evaluation assesses renal phosphate wasting that is highly increased in TIO. Hypovitaminosis D should be corrected before TRP and TmP/GFR evaluation. Phosphate and

creatinine are measured from random blood sample and urinary collection for TRP and the following formula is applied: $100 \times [1 - (\text{urinary phosphate/urinary creatinine}) \times (\text{serum creatinine/serum phosphate})]$. TRP values range from 85% to 95% in healthy individuals (250). Fasting blood sample and 2-hour morning urinary collection are needed for TmP/GFR calculation. The Walton and Bijvoet nomogram or an algorithm may be applied (203, 252). Normal TmP/GFR values are age and sex dependent (252). Both TRP and TmP/GFR are reduced in TIO; hence, normal findings and/or increased TRP (> 85%–95%) exclude the diagnosis of TIO. In the last case, focus should be on the reduction of phosphate intake or malabsorption (250).

If TRP is less than 85% to 95% and/or TmP/GFR values are reduced for age and sex, an FGF23-related disorder is likely and FGF23 levels should be measured. Commercially available immunoassays use chemiluminescence, chemiluminescence enzyme, or 1- and 2-step ELISA methods (253). They measure iFGF23 or the sum of iFGF23 and C-terminal FGF23 and are used in most countries only in the research setting, Japan being an exception (250, 253). Absolute reference

intervals for FGF23 levels are not available; notwithstanding, it has been determined that FGF23 levels are not influenced by sex nor by age in adults, but rather by dietary phosphate intake and renal function (253). Assay-specific reference values for FGF23 are provided by the manufacturers (253). Additionally, specific cutoff serum phosphate and FGF23 values for the diagnosis of FGF23-related hypophosphatemia have been established for 2 assays (253).

Low FGF23 levels in the setting of increased phosphate wasting exclude TIO and indicate the presence of a non-FGF23-related disorder (see Fig. 6). In this situation, Fanconi syndrome should be considered by assessing urinary wasting of electrolytes, uric acid, amino acid, bicarbonate, glucose, and other substances and blood gas analysis to exclude metabolic acidosis (see Fig. 6). When Fanconi syndrome is suspected, causes of the acquired form should be investigated, such as all the possible causes of acute tubular necrosis (eg, exposure to heavy metals, infections, such as *Legionella Pneumoniae*, light chain deposition disease, and amyloidosis) (see Table 1) (211). When negative, the hereditary forms of FGF23-independent renal phosphate wasting, such as hereditary Fanconi syndrome or HHRH should be excluded by genetic testing (250).

Normal or elevated FGF23 levels are diagnostic of an FGF23-related disorder causing hypophosphatemia. In this context, it is important to consider the presence of chronic kidney disease when evaluating serum FGF23, whose levels may increase even in mild stages. Hereditary forms of FGF23-related phosphate wasting should be excluded by genetic testing in specific clinical settings.

Young age at the onset of symptoms, growth retardation, bowing, and dental and ear abnormalities reported by the patient or family members are typical determinants of hereditary disorders (250, 252). The mutations to be investigated, according to the specific clinical suspicion, are those in the phosphate-regulating endopeptidase homolog X-linked (PHEX, XLH), FGF23 (autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets, ADHR), DMP1, autosomal recessive hypophosphatemic rickets, ARHR, type 1), and ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase 1 (ENPP1, ARHR, type 2) genes (250, 252). Other genetic disorders to be considered in the differential diagnosis of FGF23-related hypophosphatemia include PFD/MAS (see Table 1), a noninherited disease caused by postzygotic activating mutations of the alpha subunit of the stimulatory G protein encoded by the *GNAS* gene (26, 165). In MAS, café-au-lait spots and the autonomous hyperfunction of various endocrine organs with precocious puberty, Leydig cell hyperplasia, thyroid abnormalities, and GH excess are associated with FD lesions of bone (see Table 1) (165, 254). Apart from MAS cases with very early neonatal onset (255), FD lesions represent the most severe phenotypic expression of the disease because of bone pain, fractures, and deformities (165, 254, 256-258).

The radiological evidence of focal lytic, mixed, or sclerotic lesion with internal ground-glass matrix is essential to suspect the diagnosis (254, 259).

Finally, other rare hereditary diseases causing hypophosphatemia and rickets are CSHS, characterized by diffuse epidermal or melanocytic nevi; OGD, characterized by abnormal bone growth causing craniofacial abnormalities, dwarfism, and multiple teeth abnormalities; and hypophosphatemic rickets with hyperparathyroidism, characterized by elevated Klotho, FGF23, and PTH levels (see Table 1) (211, 250).

In the context of the typical clinical features and hypophosphatemia associated with low (or low normal) 1,25(OH)₂D concentrations and elevated FGF23 levels, the absence of the aforementioned clinical phenotypes and negative family history orienting toward the diagnosis of TIO (see Fig. 6), the next step should be tumor localization. Again, past medical history and physical examination may be determinant in some cases. A positive medical history for tumors potentially associated with TIO, such as prostate adenocarcinoma and colon cancer, should be considered in the evaluation of screening tests for possible tumor relapse. Clinical examination may detect the presence of painful or unpainful masses.

Functional and anatomical imaging studies are important in the localization of the tumor. The first step is to perform a DOTA scan (⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE PET-CT) if available (see Fig. 6). Other approaches include a total body nuclear medicine study, preferably a SPECT, a SPECT-CT, a PET, or PET-CT (1, 249). SSAs, such as octreotide, pentetreotide, diethylenetriaminepentaacetic conjugate of octreotide, or other derivatives of octreotide bound to radionuclides (¹¹¹In-octreoscans, or ⁶⁸Ga) are employed in these studies (1, 249). The DOTA scan uses the DOTA (1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid), DOTATATE and DOTANOC as bifunctional chelators linking the ⁶⁸Ga to the SSA and may be considered the gold standard for PMTs localization (260). In particular, the ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE PET-CT, that is successfully employed in the diagnosis and staging of tumors expressing SSRs, such as pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors, demonstrated high sensitivity in the detection of PMTs owing to its affinity to SSR type 2 (SSTR2) (249, 261). It is superior to octreoscans and to the fluorodeoxyglucose (¹⁸F-FDG) PET-CT (1, 249). The last technology represents an alternative when the SSR nuclear medicine studies are not available or a complementary study when the octreoscans are not conclusive (1).

The algorithm for localization of the tumor sustaining TIO integrates the use of anatomical imaging technologies in association with functional tests. The contrast-enhanced MRI or CT allow us to obtain anatomical details of the lesion and its contact with the surrounding structures, thus providing a valid guide for surgical resection.

Rarely, venous sampling of the areas where the tumor has been localized by functional and/or anatomical imaging studies may be needed for confirming the diagnosis of PMTs or characterize multiple lesions (1, 249). Blood is collected via a catheter and FGF23 levels are measured (1).

Therapy

The majority of TIO tumors are benign and single foci, and the surgical resection of PMT is the first choice once the tumor is accurately located by functional and anatomical images. In case the tumor is not localized, multifocal, unresectable, or malignant, then other alternative or adjuvant therapies besides surgery are recommended. Conventional medicines are neutral phosphate and active vitamin D preparations (eg, alfacalcidol and calcitriol). Although this replacement therapy does not cure the disease, it may nevertheless alleviate the symptoms and help in the search for opportunities for other treatments. Recently other targeted therapies have emerged, such as the anti-FGF23 monoclonal antibody, burosumab, which is reported to be safe and effective in improving objective indicators and symptoms of TIO (Table 2).

Table 2. Present and future therapies for tumor-induced osteomalacia

Treatment	Specific methods	Suitable group	Treatment outcome	Challenges
Surgery	Resection, curettage, injection of bone cement, joint arthroplasty	Patient with specific culprit tumor and complete resection possible	Complete tumor resection only definitive treatment Serum phosphate and FGF23 concentrations usually normalized in several days BMD significantly increases within 2-4 y	Incidence of refractory varies, 0%-57% (9-22). Outcome of surgical treatment largely depends on site of culprit tumor and surgeon experience. Loss of some limb function and prosthesis related problems. Hungry bone disease (52).
Conventional medical treatment	20-40 mg/kg/d for element phosphate (1-3 g/d for adults) and 20-30 ng/kg/d for calcitriol (0.5-1.5 µg/d for adults) (6)	When causative tumors are unresectable, multifocal, unlocalized, or complete resection not possible	Partially restore phosphate and vitamin D homeostasis, alleviate symptoms and normalize bone mineralization	Several complications including nephrolithiasis, nephrocalcinosis, reduced kidney function, and hyperparathyroidism (9, 49, 55). Achieving balance between optimizing clinical improvement and minimizing treatment complications
FGF23 antibodies	Burosumab (0.3-2.0 mg/kg every 4 wk) (63-67)	Uncertain	Serum phosphate and Tmp/GFR level rapidly increased above lower limit of normal and remained through study course for 144 wk Bone histomorphometry parameters and self-reported symptoms improved ~50% of fractures/pseudofractures at least partially healed by wk 96	Potential effect on tumor progression is of concern
FGFR inhibitors	BGJ398 (71, 72)	Uncertain	Normalization of FGF23 and phosphorus levels and tumor differentiation and osseous metaplasia	Tyrosine kinase inhibitor-related side effects
Other treatment	Radiotherapy, image-guided ablation, PPRT, cinacalcet (18, 41, 59, 60), octreotide (61, 62)	Uncertain	Symptoms and biochemical abnormalities resolved completely or partially according to limited case reports	Long-term effectiveness uncertain

Abbreviations: FGF23, fibroblast growth factor 23; FGFR, FGF receptor; PPRT, peptide receptor radionuclide therapy; Tmp/GFR, maximum tubular reabsorption of phosphate/glomerular filtration rate.

Surgical Treatment

Surgical principle

Compared with other types of hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia that need long-term medical therapy, TIO is a curable disease in most cases. Complete tumor resection is the only definitive treatment, so surgery should always be the first-line therapy when possible (1, 97). Although most culprit tumors are benign, TIO can persist or recur when residual tumor tissue exists, which could also happen due to the undetectable dissemination of tumor cells during biopsies (1, 105, 200). Thus, complete tumor resection requires wide margins, and tumor biopsy should be performed with more caution in the diagnostic workup.

Evidence about specific resection margin distance is deficient. In a recent study of 5 patients having soft-tissue tumors with irregular borders, which are suspected to be infiltrative, recurrence did not occur in all patients who were treated with 1-cm-wide margin resection, but in one who underwent exact marginal tumor excision (262). Since the infiltration depth was approximately 0.5 to 2 mm for these tumors, the preferred surgical margin for

irregular soft tumors is at least 1 cm (262). On the other side, for tumors with regular boundaries and fibrous capsules, marginal resection seems to be sufficient (262-264). Special attention should be paid to the identification and protection of local nerves, blood vessels, muscles, fascia, ligaments, and other important anatomical structures to avoid secondary damage in the context of complete resection (264). For tumors located in the bones, orthopedic surgical protocols reported in the literature mostly include tumor resection, tumor curettage, and intraosseous injection of bone cement (263, 265). Although there is no head-to-head trial, bone tumor resection appeared to be more effective than curettage (263). So, tumor resection combined with total joint arthroplasty (266) or prosthesis reconstruction may be the optimal surgical method to cure TIO caused by bone tumors. However, these surgical approaches are often associated with greater morbidity attributed to dysfunction of extremities and prosthesis-related problems (263). In general, the operative principle is to resect the culprit tumor completely with the least damage. Since the causative tumor can be located at any site in the body, the optimal resection margin distance in different situations needs to be clarified in future studies.

Surgical outcome

The outcome of surgical treatment largely depends on the site of the culprit tumor and the surgeon's experience. Based on published data, refractory cases, including both persistent and recurred ones, have been reported with a combined incidence of 0% to 57% (87, 93, 118, 132, 135, 181, 187, 192, 202, 267-271). In most cases, the residual or recurrent tumors were located at the original site, suggesting that the initial resections were incomplete, even if the surgeries followed the recommended protocol by removing all visible tumors with wide margins (263). In a recent study of 230 patients with TIO, 24 patients did not have immediate remission and 18 patients relapsed after the primary surgery, representing a non-response rate of 10.4%, a recurrence rate of 7.8%, and a combined refractory rate of 18.2% (95). Female sex, tumors on bone, spine tumors, malignant tumor, lower preoperative serum phosphate level, and higher preoperative serum FGF23 level are risk factors of refractory disease (95). To our knowledge, there is no well-established method to predict postoperative outcome. Since there are emerging promising alternative treatments to surgery, in the future studies it will be important to classify the patients who are suitable for surgery to minimize the risk of an undesirable prognosis.

The diagnosis of TIO should be reassessed if persistent or recurrent diseases arise, especially if the histological analysis revealed a non-PMT appearance of the excised tumor. If TIO is still suspected, the stepwise localization technique should be repeated to relocalize the causative tumor in the same way of newly diagnosed TIO. In a retrospective study of 18 patients, ^{99m}Tc -HYNIC-TOC had a sensitivity of 86.7% for detecting recurring tumors (272), and ^{68}Ga -DOTATATE-PET/CT may detect culprit recurrent tumors when octreotide scintigraphy fails (273). The culprit tumors could be identified in approximately 80% of refractory patients, and reoperations were still beneficial to these patients (95, 263). It is noteworthy that repeated operations appear to achieve lower remission rates than first operations, by around 50% (95). Therefore, the indication of operation should be prudently determined in refractory patients, since the best operation procedure is still uncertain.

Treatments for patients with multifocal tumors (136, 137), malignant PMTs (95), metastatic diseases (133, 139, 140, 147, 155, 274-278), childhood onset (279-283), and rare causes of TIO (eg, secondary to malignant tumors instead of PMTs, such as prostate cancer (147), lung cancer (284), colon adenocarcinoma (150), renal carcinoma (151), ovarian cancer (152), lymphoma (285)) are often not successful, and in these cases controlling the primary disease should take priority if TIO is secondary to malignant tumors.

Postoperative recovery

Once the TIO-causing tumor is successfully removed, the circulating level of FGF23 drops rapidly in hours, while the phosphate and $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ concentrations gradually increase, and typically returns to the normal level within 5 (2-16) days (93). Patients' symptoms begin to improve within a few days or weeks (93, 179, 218), but complete relief may take several months (182). BMD could also increase in response, revealed by the PUMCH study, in which the BMD of total hip and lumbar spine increased by 30.9% and 49.3% respectively after surgery, whereas these increased by only 12.9% and 8.7% in conventional drug-treated patients after a

6-month follow-up (94). Following total tumor resections, Minisola et al (1) observed a considerable increase in BMD within 2 to 4 years, and the BMD values peaked at 26.7 ± 6.5 months and then leveled off with no further fractures in the study by Colangelo et al (182). Hungry bone syndrome manifested by hypocalcemia and bone pain is the main postoperative complication, and calcium plus vitamin D supplementation is necessary in this case (286).

Medical Treatment

Although surgery is the only established, definitive treatment for TIO patients, medical treatments are critical when the causative tumors are not localized, multifocal, or unresectable. If the serum phosphate level is not normalized immediately or permanently after the surgery, alternative medical therapy is recommended. Long-term medical therapies are essential for individuals with recurrence, and should not cease until the tumor is relocalized (Fig. 7).

Conventional treatment

Conventional medical treatment is mainly composed of phosphate supplements and active vitamin D preparations (eg, alfacalcidol and calcitriol) (287). Conventional medical treatment aims to restore phosphate and vitamin D homeostasis, alleviate symptoms (weakness, bone pain) and normalize bone mineralization, to prevent further deterioration in mobility and bone fractures (1, 264). It should be recognized that the complete normalization of serum phosphate usually represents an overdose treatment, which may increase the risk of secondary and eventually tertiary hyperparathyroidism (264), and it is better to barely reach the lower limit of normal range for serum phosphate level.

There is a scarcity of information from randomized controlled or prospective research on the optimal dosage of phosphate supplements and active vitamin D preparations. The most recent consensus on the clinical management of TIO recommend a dose of 20 to 40 mg/kg/day (1-3 g/day for adults) for element phosphate divided into 4 to 6 doses, and 20 to 30 ng/kg/day (0.5-1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{day}$ for adults) for calcitriol (264). The equivalent dosage of alfacalcidol is 1.5 to 2 times that of calcitriol. The dose of medical treatment needs to be adjusted according to clinical symptoms and biochemical examination results (1, 94, 97). Several researchers have advocated the use of a vitamin D analogue (eg, 1 α -hydroxyvitamin D₃, ie, alfacalcidol) alone in clinical practice. Peacock et al (288) conducted a study on 10 patients with hypophosphatemic osteomalacia, and the results showed that a high dosage of 1 α -hydroxyvitamin D₃ without additional phosphate supplements relieved symptoms rapidly. However, more studies are still needed to determine whether active vitamin D therapy alone could be employed in clinical practice, especially in severe cases of TIO with low levels of serum phosphate.

It is important to note that conventional medical therapy may lead to several complications including nephrolithiasis, nephrocalcinosis, impaired kidney function, secondary and even tertiary hyperparathyroidism (93, 218, 289). The mechanisms underlying the emergence of hyperparathyroidism appear to be multifaceted. In addition to the natural response to the lowering of $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ caused by increased levels of FGF23 (290), long-term use of phosphate supplements can result in subsequent parathyroid gland hyperplasia (1, 291). In a cross-sectional study of patients with XLH, 10% of the

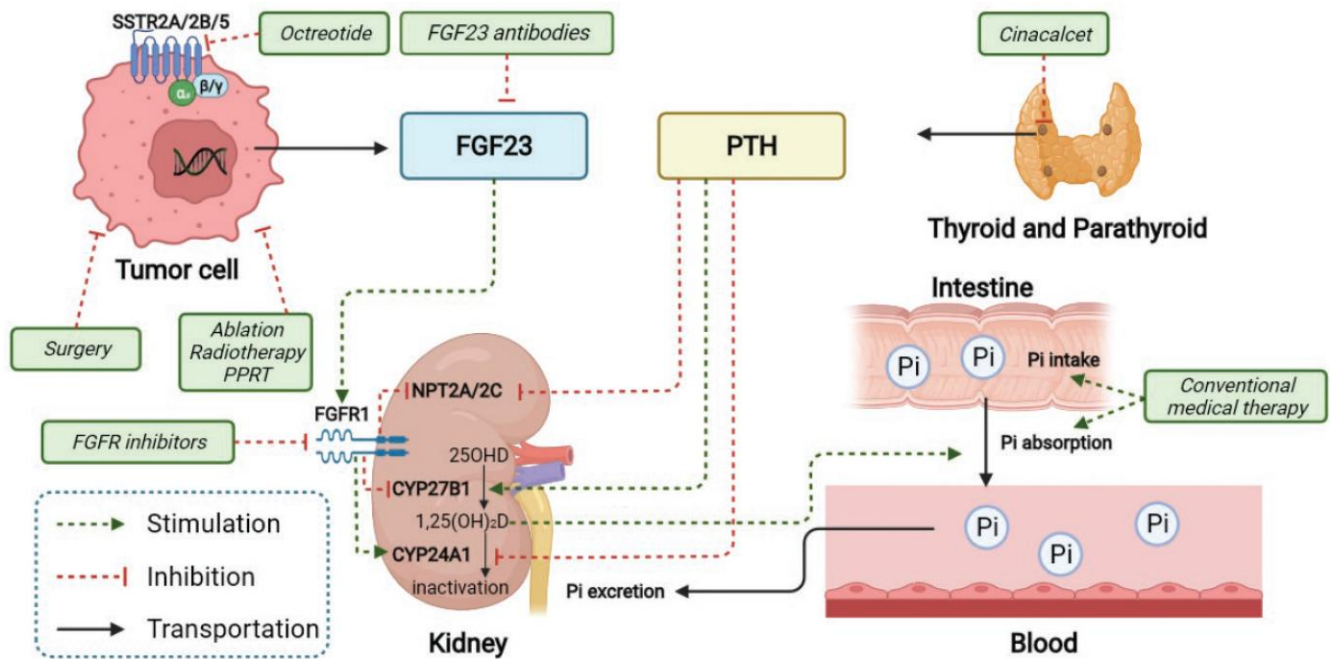


Figure 7. Mechanism of actions for the existing and potential novel therapies. The tumor cell secretes fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), which promotes renal phosphate excretion and reduces 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D (1,25(OH)₂D) concentrations by inhibiting sodium-dependent phosphate transport protein 2A and 2C (NPT2A and NPT2C) and cytochrome P450 family 24 subfamily A member 1 (CYP24A1) on tubule cells, via fibroblast growth factor receptor 1 (FGFR1). On the other side, parathyroids secrete parathyroid hormone (PTH), which also downregulates NPT2A and NPT2C, but has opposite effects on CYP27B1 and CYP24A1 compared with FGF23. 1,25(OH)₂D stimulates phosphate absorption in the intestine. Surgery, ablation, radiotherapy, and PPRT aim to eliminate tumor cells. Octreotide binds to somatostatin 2A, 2B, and 5 (SSTR2A/2B/5) on the tumor cell, thereby reducing the secretion of FGF23 in some cases. Novel therapies including FGF23 antibodies and FGFR inhibitors suppress the effect of FGF23 by binding to FGF23 itself or FGFR1, respectively. Cinacalcet, a positive allosteric modulator (PAM) of the calcium-sensing receptor (CaSR), acts on parathyroid to reduce the release of PTH. Conventional medical therapy comprises oral preparations of phosphate and an active vitamin preparation (eg, calcitriol or alfacalcidol).

patients developed hypercalcemic hyperparathyroidism with the treatment of oral phosphate supplements and active vitamin D for more than 10 years (291).

Though higher doses of active vitamin D could help to decrease the elevated level of PTH preventing secondary/tertiary hyperparathyroidism, in the meantime it increases the risk of hypercalciuria leading to nephrolithiasis and nephrocalcinosis. Urine calcium concentration should be measured during follow-up (249). Therefore, both the biochemical indicators and imaging performances need to be closely monitored every 3 to 6 months to balance the optimal clinical improvement and limited treatment complications (249, 264).

Cinacalcet

Cinacalcet, a positive allosteric modulator (PAM) of the CaSR, has been advocated as an adjuvant treatment for patients intolerant of phosphate supplementation (292). The net effect of cinacalcet treatment was a remarkable increase in serum phosphate level and decrease in PTH level, thereby reducing the dose of phosphate supplements. In a clinical study, the administration of cinacalcet to TIO patients led to a sustained increase in phosphate level and TRP while decreasing serum PTH and calcium levels. The resultant low PTH level was associated with an apparently weakened phosphaturic effect of FGF23, as FGF23 function was found to be partly mediated by PTH (292). However, cinacalcet does not directly annihilate the tumor tissues, and cinacalcet-related hypercalciuria developed frequently. Furthermore, lowering PTH escalates already compromised 1 α -hydroxylase activity. Owing to

the scarce and inconsistent evidence on cinacalcet (187, 282, 293), additional studies are needed to confirm the efficacy and safety of cinacalcet, which has restricted its application in many countries based on the grounds of cost and indication.

Somatostatin

The culprit tumors of TIO are reported to overexpress SSTR, mainly subtype 2, and, therefore, some centers advocate use of SSAs for therapy in TIO patients. However, the efficacy of SSA therapy is controversial. The present literature includes mostly case reports or case series. Seufert et al (294) reported a 50-year-old patient with TIO treated with octreotide injections for the first time, and the phosphate level was normalized impressively, whereas in another case series of 5 TIO patients, there were no significant changes in serum FGF23, 1,25(OH)₂D₃, or TRP during the 3 days of octreotide treatment (295). Thus, although SSTRs are widely present in PMTs, octreotide is not an effective therapy to suppress FGF23 production in TIO based on existing work. Inadequate expressions of SSTRs by the culprit tumors and different pathogenic types may partly explain the unsatisfied outcomes.

Novel Therapies in Development or Under Investigation

Fibroblast growth factor 23 antibodies

Burosumab (KRN23) is a fully human monoclonal antibody against FGF23, approved for the treatment of XLH. It can

efficaciously normalize phosphate metabolism, ameliorate bone deformity, and relieve symptoms in XLH patients, rendering it a promising drug for TIO, another FGF23-excess phosphate-wasting disease. The effects of the anti-FGF23 antibody were examined in a murine model to address if muscle weakness improved after its use (296). Indeed, the depletion of adenosine triphosphate and phosphodiesterases, as a consequence of hypophosphatemia, has been considered responsible for muscle weakness. The authors showed that the inhibition of excess FGF23 through antibodies was able to ameliorate both grip strength and spontaneous movement (296).

In 2 phase 2 open-label trials for TIO conducted in the United States (297) and Asia (298), respectively, promising results were obtained when assessing the efficacy and safety of burosumab in treating patients with TIO. Patients in both studies were subcutaneously treated with burosumab every 4 weeks at an initial dose of 0.3 mg/kg, which was then titrated according to serum phosphate level at following visits, to a maximum of 2.0 mg/kg. In 112 to 144 weeks of use, the mean serum phosphate as well as TmP/GFR level rapidly increased above the lower limit of normal and remained so through the study course without additional supplementation of oral phosphate (297, 298). Bone histomorphometry parameters, including osteoid volume/bone, osteoid thickness, and mineralization lag time, improved and self-reported pain and fatigue were alleviated (297). Furthermore, approximately 50% of fractures/pseudofractures observed by whole-body bone scintigraphy were completely or partially healed by week 96 (297, 298). Serious burosumab-related AEs were reported in neither study. The interim analyses revealed that treating TIO with burosumab was associated with normalization of phosphate homeostasis, restored histomorphometric measures, enhanced fracture/pseudofractures healing, relief of symptoms, and long-term safety.

Because of the challenge in diagnosis, localization, and surgical resection of the causative tumor and postsurgery recurrence, burosumab was progressively regarded as an alternative medical option. Cases of TIO due to unresectable tumors (299), or undetectable tumors (300), and of multiple recurrences after repeated surgeries (301) have been reported to be successfully treated with burosumab. Notably, burosumab at a dose of 0.3 mg/kg exhibited evident therapeutic effects in the recurrent case (301), while the mean final dose in trials above was 0.7 mg/kg to 1.0 mg/kg. The discrepancy of burosumab dose was possibly attributed to baseline serum FGF23 level, which was only 56 pg/mL in this case, not even fulfilling the inclusion criteria of the aforementioned phase 2 studies, suggesting a theoretical FGF23-independent dosage effect of burosumab.

The safety of burosumab, especially in relation to progression of the underlying tumor, has been monitored. One patient in each study discontinued treatment owing to tumor progression (297, 298) and the other 5 patients had an AE of tumor progression, although most of them had a history of tumor progression before enrollment (297). Notwithstanding the acceptable safety profiles demonstrated by burosumab in these trials, long-term studies are warranted to elucidate the potential role that burosumab plays in tumor progression. Burosumab has been approved in Japan by the US Food and Drug Administration to treat patients aged 2 and older with TIO. Very recently, the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use of the European

Medicines Agency has recommended that burosumab be approved for the treatment of FGF23-related hypophosphatemia in TIO associated with phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors that cannot be curatively resected or localized in children and adolescents aged 1 to 17 years and in adults.

Fibroblast growth factor inhibitors

It was hypothesized that the FGF1-FGFR1 signaling pathway remarkably contributed to the pathogenesis of PMTs, given the prevalent expression of FGFR1 in tumor tissues (80). The identification of the fibronectin1 (*FN1*)-*FGFR1* fusion gene leading to an overactivation of the FGFR1 kinase domain (79, 80) further strengthened the hypothesis, and naturally aroused interest in the direct blockade of FGFR to obstruct TIO tumorigenesis. A pan-FGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor, BGJ398/infgratinib, which was found able to abrogate robust FGF23 signaling and normalize phosphate metabolism in Hyp and *DMP1-null* mice (302), therefore, was tested in clinical trials (NCT02160041 and NCT03510455) for its efficacy and safety on TIO treatment. Although the overall data have not been published yet, cases of patients enrolled demonstrated appreciable therapeutic effects, but there are safety concerns of BGJ398. A patient with TIO due to an unidentifiable tumor also underwent a distinct decline in FGF23 level by day 8 of BGJ398 (303). Another TIO patient with extensive metastasis responded dramatically to the initiation of BGJ398 treatment, as the FGF23 level dropped to nearly one-tenth of baseline level within 24 hours and normalized after 2 weeks (304). Metastatic lesions regressed on ¹⁸F-FDG-PET-CT scans, and biopsies of one mass showed that the sarcomatous tumor had differentiated into mature lamellar bone. The second round of BGJ398 treatment achieved similar outcomes, including confirmed partial response, normalization of FGF23 and phosphorus levels, and tumor differentiation and osseous metaplasia (303). However, it is noteworthy that BGJ398 treatment in this case was compelled to cease after 18 months because of tyrosine kinase inhibitor-related side effects, despite dose adjustments. The clinical trial (NCT03510455), which planned to enroll 10 patients, terminated the recruitment prematurely because of a greater than expected incidence of ocular AEs and analysis of the data from the first 4 participants indicated that the likelihood of permanent remission with BGJ398 was low. In spite of promising therapeutic implications evidenced by sporadic cases, clinical practice would probably be limited by its unspecific toxicity, such as stomatitis, diarrhea, anemia, fatigue, renal and liver dysfunction, corneal ulcer, and serious retinopathy (303). The second generation of pan-FGFR inhibitor drugs with higher specificity or FGFR1-specific inhibitors may be prospective solutions worth development and expectation.

Other Treatments

Ablative therapy is another treatment option for TIO patients with tumors for which complete resection is challenging because of inaccessible anatomical location, threat to vital nearby structures, or severe comorbidities. It destroys individual tumors with heat (microwave, ultrasound, radiofrequency, or laser ablation), cold (cryoablation), or chemicals (percutaneous ethanol instillation), less traumatically than surgeries, and has certain strengths in the management of soft tissues. Hesse et al (305) innovatively used radiofrequency ablation for TIO and achieved success based on the 1-year follow-up

results. Since then, 19 cases in which TIO was treated with ablation have been successively reported (305-314), and among them radiofrequency ablation and cryoablation are predominant with only one exception adopting the ethanol-cryoablation combination (314). This technique relies on the guidance of one or multimodality imaging, such as ultrasound and CT augmented by fusion of MRI, ^{18}F FDG-PET/CT, or ^{68}Ga -DOTATATE PET/CT. The strategy depends on which modality best defines the tumor margins. Many considerations, including the size and vascularity of the tumor, local resource availability, and other factors, influence the procedure or combination of procedures to use in a given case. Most cases achieved biochemical restoration and physical improvement, in one of exceptionally large size (5.6×6.5 cm), irregular margins, and loculations were proposed to account for the incomplete remission despite increased sessions of radiofrequency ablation (311). The follow-up times were all shorter than 2 years, far from enough to assess the long-term efficacy of ablative therapy, and case-control studies or cohort studies are in deficiency to provide higher-grade evidence on its efficacy and safety.

Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PPRT) is an established therapy for neuroendocrine tumors with high SSR expression (315). After SSA, a component of PPRT, binds to its receptor on the surface of tumor cells, the peptides are internalized and the degradation products in lysosomes mediate radioactivity-induced local damage (315). Since a proportion of PMTs also expresses SSR, PPRT has a potential therapeutic effect on TIO tumors showing Krenning III/V uptake on ^{68}Ga -DOTATE PET/CT, a recommended sensitive modality to select patients for PPRT (315, 316). PPRT has been used repeatedly in patients with TIO due to recurrent cranial tumors (315, 316), and a patient with rare malignant PMT (276). After 1 to 4 cycles, the uptake level on ^{68}Ga -DOTATE PET/CT declined, indicating a partial remission in 2 of 3 cases. Unfortunately, the authors do not report a full time-course of main biochemical parameters of interest (276, 316).

The role of radiotherapy in the multidisciplinary treatment of TIO is not clarified because of the inconsistency of published cases. Massaccesi et al summarized 4 cases of successful radiotherapy use for TIO, among which partial resections of tumors located in the head region without tumor-free margins are the dominant indications (115, 130, 317, 318), while in some cases radiation failed to obtain favorable responses (319, 320). Different from other therapies, the effect of radiation therapy is not instant, and it may take years to wean off supplementation of phosphate and calcitriol; therefore, longer follow-up time is required to monitor the disease and possible radiation-related complications.

Conclusions and Future Prospects

Progress has been made in studying the epidemiology, diagnosis, and management of TIO. Thus, studies of this rare disorder have revealed important insights about the biology of phosphate homeostasis and identified drugs that can be used for the treatment of this disorder for patient benefit. However, many important questions remain unanswered, and some of these, which represent avenues to explore by future research studies, are detailed next.

Epidemiology of Tumor-Induced Osteomalacia

1. The epidemiology of TIO needs to be established, and to facilitate this a specific International Classification of Diseases diagnostic code is required. The incidence and prevalence of TIO, together with its age of occurrence and patient sex, need to be determined at global and regional levels as these may vary in different populations. Identification of such factors may provide insight into the etiology of TIO.
2. Well-designed studies exploring the short- and long-term effect of TIO on mortality, in patients having curative surgery vs those without surgery, failed surgery, and/or long-term medical treatment, are required.
3. Studies with high quality of evidence should be designed to further the understanding of the burden of disease of TIO from the patient's perspective, and these should include a combination of outcomes including chronic pain, weakness, skeletal-related manifestations, and limitations in mobility.
4. The design of a dedicated health-related quality of life questionnaire will be required to increase the analytical effectiveness of any given treatment in TIO.
5. International registries and biobanks of tumors and blood samples are required for collaborative investigations aimed at understanding the underlying biological processes that would facilitate preclinical and translational studies.

Molecular and Pathophysiological Aspects

1. The regulation of FGF23 production is complex and not fully understood. Thus, the transcription factors regulating FGF23 expression and the mechanisms involved in its posttranslational modification (eg, cleavage) remain to be fully elucidated.
2. The expression and functions of KLOTHO, FGFR1, and the *FN1-FGFR1/FGF1* fusion gene in TIO cells and in enhancing FGF23 production require further exploration. Also, the mechanisms that result in FGF23 overproduction in those approximately 50% of PMTs causing TIO that do not express the *FN1-FGFR1/FGF1* fusion gene or KLOTHO, need to be characterized.
3. The presence of other "phosphatonins" occurring in patients with typical PMT and osteomalacia, but normal serum FGF23 concentrations, and/or PMTs negative for FGF23 expression, requires study.
4. The roles of *PHEX* and *DMP1* mutations, which are associated with increased FGF23 concentrations, remain to be defined. *PHEX*, a peptidase expressed in bone, does not cleave FGF23, and *PHEX* and *DMP1* need to interact to lower total plasma FGF23. In addition, the physiological interactions between these local factors and systemic factors (eg, PTH, $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$, erythropoietin, iron, and alcohol) that regulate FGF23 production, and the pathophysiological consequences stemming from the *PHEX* and *DMP1*, mutations need to be fully elucidated.
5. Metabolomic studies in patients with TIO have revealed potential roles for the oxylipins pathway and TIO

pathogenesis. However, these findings need to be confirmed and the effects of confounding factors, such as postoperative inflammation, excluded. These represent important studies as they may potentially identify new targets for therapy.

6. The report that the CaSR likely acts as a phosphate sensor in the parathyroid glands to mediate the stimulatory effect of phosphate on PTH secretion opens a new target for drugs. Indeed, cinacalcet treatment in TIO patients has been shown to result in a sustained increase in phosphate levels and TRP while decreasing serum PTH and calcium levels. However, cinacalcet may be associated with gastrointestinal side effects in some patients, and trials with other PAMs could be proposed.
7. A search for other phosphate sensors may help to identify novel homeostatic mechanisms and targets for drugs.
8. Some tumors associated with TIO express SSTR2, and it would be important for diagnostic and therapeutic uses to assess expression of other SSTRs (SSTR1, 3, 4, and 5).

Imaging Techniques for Tumor Localization

1. Current imaging modalities to localize the tumor include total body nuclear medicine study (eg, radio-labeled scans [eg, octreoscans or DOTA scans], SPECT, SPECT-CT, PET, PET-CT) with MRI (or CT) scans, and these may need to be repeated many times over several years, as the tumors can be very small. However, tumor localization is of paramount importance for facilitating a successful surgical outcome and better imaging modalities are required.
2. Seven Tesla (7 T) MRI scanners yield higher-resolution images than 3 T MRI scanners, which are routinely used in clinical imaging. Thus, 7 T MRI scanners are able to provide much more detail and to detect smaller structures, and may be ideally suited for earlier detection of smaller tumors in patients with TIO; their utility for this purpose needs to be assessed.
3. Octreotide binds with high affinity to SSTR2, and PMTs expressing SSTR2 can be detected by an octreotide scan. However, it is possible that some PMTs may express other SSTRs and targeting these may be of potential use. For example, pasireotide is a multiple-receptor-targeted SSA that acts via SSTR1, 2, 3, and 5, and generating ^{111}In or ^{68}Ga -labeled pasireotide may be of possible use in detecting some PMTs.
4. Owing to peculiar characteristics of burosumab and assuming that they could be labeled with ^{99}Tc , it could potentially be used as a specific diagnostic tool to localize the tumor. Furthermore, if a dose of labeled burosumab were administered preoperatively or perioperatively, it could be used to help the surgeon identify the precise location of the tumor with the aid of a hand-held gamma camera.

Medical Treatments in Tumor-Induced Osteomalacia Patients With Undetectable, Inoperable, or Metastatic Tumors

1. Treatment with the FGFR1-3 tyrosine kinase inhibitor, BGJ398/infigratinib, in TIO resulted in marked

biochemical and structural improvements, but was associated with multiple AEs. Hence, the use of second-generation pan-FGFR inhibitor drugs with higher specificity or FGFR1-specific inhibitors require development and evaluation for the treatment of TIO.

2. Burosumab (KRN23), a human monoclonal antibody against FGF23, is reported to be effective in ameliorating the metabolic and skeletal abnormalities of TIO in patients, although tumor progression was observed in some patients. However, long-term studies are required to assess the consequences of such tumor progression in relation to burosumab treatment in TIO, as well as the development and evaluation of other human monoclonal antibodies against FGF23. On a theoretical basis, if busosunmab could be linked to a suitable cytotoxic agent (chemical or radiotherapeutic), it could potentially be used as a therapeutic agent against tumors that are either inoperable because this would involve unacceptable damage to surrounding tissue, or if the tumor is recurrent or if multiple.
3. The effectiveness of multiple-receptor-targeted SSAs, eg, pasireotide, in treating tumors that express different types of SSTRs needs to be evaluated.
4. The effectiveness of PRRT, which is an established therapy for treating neuroendocrine tumors, for treating PMTs with high SSTR expression, needs to be evaluated.
5. Long follow-up periods will be required to monitor the effectiveness of radiation therapy and possible radiation-related complications.

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