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1 **TUMOR-INDUCED OSTEOMALACIA: A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW**

2

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61

62 **ABSTRACT**

63

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

82 excision.

83

84 **1) Definition**

85

86 Tumor-induced osteomalacia (TIO) is an ultra-rare paraneoplastic syndrome
87 characterized in the vast majority of cases by overproduction of fibroblast
88 growth factor 23 (FGF23), most commonly by small phosphaturic
89 mesenchymal tumors. FGF23 excess causes renal phosphate wasting and
90 hypophosphatemia. The consequent inefficient bone mineralization is
91 associated with musculoskeletal pain, reduced bone mineral density,
92 disrupted trabecular microarchitecture and insufficiency fractures in the
93 adulthood¹. In children, growth retardation and growth plates expansion are
94 the main clinical hallmarks ¹.

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

101

102 **2) Epidemiology: Prevalence, Incidence, Morbidity and Mortality**

103

104 In recent years there has been an increasing number of publications on TIO.

105 This probably reflects, among other things, a better understanding of the
106 pathophysiology of the disease, a raised awareness by clinicians and also the
107 introduction on the market of new molecules to treat patients not amenable
108 to surgery, or failing initial surgery or those in whom the disease recurs. In
109 the face of this, the epidemiology of TIO has not been extensively investigated
110 with a consequent paucity of papers in the literature. This is probably due to
111 the fact that TIO is, by definition; an ultra-rare disease; in addition, the lack of
112 a specific International Classification of Diseases diagnostic code further
113 complicates the estimates of both incidence and prevalence.

114 There are two papers mainly addressing the issue of epidemiology of
115 TIO. The first one is a survey carried out in Japanese hospitals ². The incidence
116 of new TIO cases in Japan was estimated to be roughly the same as newly
117 diagnosed X-linked hypophosphatemic cases (0.04 per 100.000 persons per
118 year). Even though this was the first paper trying to address the issue of
119 epidemiology of TIO, there were some biases that could undermine the validity
120 of estimates obtained. For example, it is not clear from the paper how the
121 Authors excluded that a patient could be double counted, because admission
122 in more than one hospital; then, it is unclear how sampling and calculation of
123 incidence accounted for the difference in duration of X-linked
124 hypophosphatemia (XLH) and TIO, since the first one is a chronic condition
125 while the majority of patients with TIO are amenable of surgical cure. In the

126 second paper, Abrahamsen and co-workers carried out an observational study
127 querying the national Danish health registers. They found that the incidence
128 of TIO in Denmark was below 0.13 per 100.000 person years for the total
129 population investigated and 0.10 per 100.000 in adult-onset disease. The
130 prevalence of TIO was estimated to be no more than 0.70 per 100.000 persons
131 for the total population and 0.43 per 100.000 in adults. This study also
132 underlines the rarity of the disease, that represents one of the biggest
133 obstacles to its early diagnosis ³.

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

143 Recently there have been some attempts to better understand quality
144 of life, morbidity and mortality in patients with TIO. Jerkovich and colleagues
145 evaluated the clinical disease burden in a small group of patients with TIO
146 (sample size of 8 patients) ⁶. They found that the fatigue experienced by

147 patients with TIO was significantly higher compared to the general population
148 ($p < .0001$). The physical summary measure of the SF-36 showed significantly
149 lower values than those of the Argentinean control population with chronic
150 conditions (mean 20.4 versus 45.9, $p < 0001$). According to the Brief Pain
151 Inventory short form, patients with TIO have moderate average pain and the
152 pain interferes severely with walking, general activities, work, and mood.
153 Seven patients had a diagnosis of sarcopenia, four of which had severe
154 sarcopenia. The conclusion was that patients affected by TIO have a poor
155 Health Related Quality of Life in comparison with the general population.
156 These data are very similar to those found in patients suffering from XHL ⁷.

157 Very recently, Minisola and coworkers ⁸, carried out a targeted
158 literature review to describe the signs, symptoms and impacts of TIO and
159 summarize the state of research on the burden of disease of this ultra-rare
160 condition. They found that patients with TIO experienced a combination of
161 outcomes including chronic pain, weakness, skeletal-related manifestations
162 and limitations in mobility. Only a few studies ($n = 2/70$) analyzed the burden
163 of TIO on the emotional wellbeing and on the work life of the patient. Patients
164 with TIO present with a spectrum of signs and symptoms that impose a
165 significant burden. The impact on the psychosocial wellbeing of patients
166 should be further investigated, as this has been poorly researched so far.

167 In conclusion, the studies carried out so far, together with personal

168 authors' experience, point to emphasize the low quality of life of patients with
169 TIO in relation to the clinical consequences of excessive FGF23 secretion.
170 However, studies with high quality of evidence should be designed to further
171 the understanding of the burden of disease of TIO from the patient's
172 perspective ⁸. Similarly, there is a need of well-designed studies to explore the
173 short- and long-term impact of the disease on mortality, in respect to a control
174 population. This investigation should be carried out both in patients surgically
175 treated that completely recover from the disease and also in those not cured
176 by but on long term medical treatment.

177

178 **3) Pathophysiology**

179 *i. Control of serum phosphate level*

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

189 Most of phosphate filtered through glomeruli is reabsorbed in
190 proximal tubules. Several types of sodium-phosphate cotransporters are
191 expressed in the brush border membrane of proximal tubules. Type 2a and 2c
192 sodium-phosphate cotransporters are encoded by *SLC34A1* and *SLC34A3*,
193 respectively, and PiT-2 encoded by *SLC20A2* are present in renal proximal
194 tubules ¹¹. The expression of type 2a and 2c sodium-phosphate cotransporters
195 are regulated by several factors including dietary phosphate, PTH and FGF23
196 ¹². PTH and FGF23 suppress the expression of these sodium-phosphate
197 cotransporters and inhibit proximal tubular phosphate reabsorption. PTH
198 suppresses the expression of *SCL34A1* and *SLC34A3* ¹³. In addition, PTH
199 enhances the internalization of type 2a and 2c sodium-phosphate
200 cotransporters. Especially, PTH was shown to internalize type 2a sodium-
201 phosphate cotransporter within minutes after administration ¹⁴. FGF23 was
202 also shown to have genomic and posttranslational effects on the expression
203 of these sodium-phosphate transporters ^{15,16}.

204

205 *Actions of FGF23*

206 Human *FGF23* gene encodes a protein with 251 amino acids ^{17, 18}. After the
207 cleavage of a signal peptide of twenty-four amino acids, full-length FGF23 with
208 227 amino acids is secreted. A part of FGF23 protein is proteolytically
209 processed between 179Arg and 180Ser. This processing is mediated by

210 enzymes that recognize 176Arg-177His-178Thr-179Arg (R-X-X-R) motif like
211 furin ¹⁹. While the full-length of FGF23 shows the activities as shown below,
212 the processed N-terminal and C-terminal fragments are inactive ²⁰. This
213 indicates that the serum level of full-length FGF23 reflects FGF23 activities.
214 Therefore, the serum level of full-length FGF23 and FGF23 activities can be
215 modulated by both *FGF23* transcription and posttranslational modification of
216 FGF23 protein. The attachment of O-linked glycan to 178Thr prevents the
217 proteolytic processing of FGF23 and works to increase FGF23 levels ^{21,22}. This
218 attachment of O-glycan to 178Thr is initiated by UDP-N-acetyl-alpha-D-
219 galactosamine: polypeptide N-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 3 encoded by
220 *GALNT3* ²¹. In contrast, phosphorylation of 180Ser accelerates the processing
221 of FGF23 protein ²³.

222 Osteoblasts/osteocytes are considered to be physiological producing
223 cells of FGF23 ²⁴⁻²⁸. Unlike other FGF family members, FGF19 subfamily
224 members, FGF19, FGF21 and FGF23, has low affinity for heparin/heparan
225 sulfate ²⁹. Because of this characteristic, FGF23 is not trapped in extracellular
226 matrix around the producing cells and can enter systemic circulation. FGF23
227 binds to KLOTHO-FGF receptor 1 (FGFR1) complex in target tissues and
228 activates signal transduction systems ^{30, 31}. Crystal structure of FGF23 and
229 ectodomains of KLOTHO and FGFR1 indicates that KLOTHO is necessary for
230 the binding of FGF23 to FGFR1 ³². FGF23 suppresses the expression of type 2a

231 and 2c sodium-phosphate cotransporters in the proximal tubules ³³. In
232 addition, FGF23 inhibits the expression of *CYP27B1* which encodes 25-
233 hydroxyvitamin D [25(OH)D]-1 α -hydroxylase and enhances that of *CYP24A1*
234 producing 25(OH)D-24-hydroxylase ³³. By these actions on the expressions of
235 vitamin D-metabolizing enzymes, FGF23 reduces serum level of 1,25-
236 dihydroxyvitamin D [1,25(OH)₂D]. 1,25(OH)₂D is a hormone that enhances
237 intestinal calcium and phosphate absorption. Overall, FGF23 reduces serum
238 phosphate by suppressing proximal tubular phosphate reabsorption and
239 intestinal phosphate absorption (**Figure 1**).

240 These physiological actions of FGF23 have been confirmed by
241 phenotypes of *Fgf23*-null mice and patients with hyperphosphatemic familial
242 tumoral calcinosis (HFTC). HFTC is a rare genetic disease characterized by
243 ectopic calcification especially around large joints. Three genes, *FGF23*,
244 *GALNT3* and *KLOTHO*, have been identified to be responsible for HFTC ²⁵. The
245 mutations in these genes induce impaired actions of FGF23. *Fgf23*-null mice
246 and patients with HFTC show hyperphosphatemia with enhanced proximal
247 tubular phosphate reabsorption and high 1,25(OH)₂D levels ^{25, 34, 35}. In addition
248 to hyperphosphatemia and high 1,25(OH)₂D levels, *Fgf23*-null mice also show
249 hypercalcemia and suppressed PTH levels all of which are considered to
250 suppress the expression *Cyp27b1*. However, the expression of *Cyp27b1* is
251 enhanced in *Fgf23*-null mice indicating the potent suppressive effect of FGF23

252 on the expression of this gene ³⁴.

253

254 *ii. Regulation of FGF23 production*

255 Because FGF23 is a hormone that reduces serum level of phosphate and
256 1,25(OH)₂D, it is plausible that phosphate and/or 1,25(OH)₂D affect FGF23
257 production and FGF23 levels. 1,25(OH)₂D was shown to enhance FGF23
258 production and increase FGF23 levels ^{36, 37}. Genomic region near *Fgf23* gene
259 which mediates response to 1,25(OH)₂D was reported in *Fgf23* gene ³⁸. These
260 results indicate that 1,25(OH)₂D transcriptionally enhances FGF23 production
261 and there is a negative feedback loop between FGF23 and 1,25(OH)₂D.

262 High phosphate diet is also reported to increase FGF23 levels both in
263 human and rodents ³⁹⁻⁴¹. However, the mechanisms involved in phosphate-
264 sensing by cells remain to be elucidated. Recently, it has been reported that
265 the calcium-sensing receptor (CaSR), which binds to ionized calcium and
266 activates downstream signal transduction systems ⁴², may also have a role in
267 sensing changes in extracellular phosphate concentrations ⁴³. Thus, increases
268 in phosphate concentrations were found to significantly inhibit CaSR activity
269 via non-competitive antagonism and to be associated with rapid and reversible
270 increases in PTH secretion from freshly-isolated parathyroid cells from
271 humans and wild-type mice, but not those from mutant mice lacking the *Casr*.
272 These findings indicate that the CaSR likely acts as a phosphate sensor in the

273 parathyroid glands to mediate the stimulatory effect of phosphate on PTH
274 secretion ⁴³. Other reports have indicated the involvement of the FGFR -
275 extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) pathway in response to phosphate.
276 High extracellular phosphate induced phosphorylation of ERK and
277 osteopontin expression in osteoblastic MC3T3-E1 cells ⁴⁴. In addition, high
278 extracellular phosphate induced phosphorylation of ERK and FGF receptor
279 substrate 2 α (FRS2 α) in HEK293 cells which were prevented by silencing *Fgfr1*
280 expression ⁴⁵. High extracellular phosphate was also shown to induce
281 phosphorylation of ERK and FRS2 α , and dentin matrix protein 1 (DMP1)
282 expression in osteoblastic cells. The induction of DMP1 by high extracellular
283 phosphate was inhibited by an FGFR inhibitor ⁴⁶. These results suggested that
284 phosphate can transduce signals into cells via FGFR and modulate gene
285 expression.

286 The involvement of FGFR - ERK pathway is also reported in the
287 regulation of FGF23 production in the posttranscriptional regulation. High
288 phosphate diet increased serum FGF23 levels in mice and enhanced
289 expression of *Galnt3*, but not *Fgf23*, was observed in femur of these mice ⁴⁷.
290 High extracellular phosphate induced *Galnt3* expression in osteoblastic
291 UMR106 cells through FGFR1 - ERK pathway. Proteomic analysis of UMR106
292 cells stimulated by high extracellular phosphate identified FGFR1 as the only
293 one receptor tyrosine kinase that was activated by high extracellular

294 phosphate⁴⁷. In addition, deletion of *Galnt3* using *osteocalcin-Cre* prevented
295 the increase of FGF23 in response to high phosphate diet ^{47, 48}. These results
296 suggested that FGFR1 mediates the effect of phosphate on FGF23 production.

297 PTH was also shown to stimulate FGF23 production ⁴⁹. In addition to
298 phosphate and calcium-regulating hormones, many factors including
299 inflammatory cytokines, erythropoietin, iron deficiency, calciprotein particle,
300 lipocalin 2, sclerostin, aldosterone and myostatin have been shown to enhance
301 FGF23 production ⁵⁰⁻⁵⁷. In contrast, several others such as insulin, insulin-like
302 growth factor 1 and retinoic acid were shown to suppress FGF23 production
303 ^{58, 59}. However, it is not established whether these factors have some role in the
304 physiological regulation of serum phosphate and FGF23 levels. In addition,
305 FGF23 was also reported to be produced by several extraskeletal tissues such
306 as heart, artery, liver, and kidney⁶⁰⁻⁶³. Further studies are necessary to establish
307 the physiological and pathophysiological significance of this extraskeletal
308 FGF23 production.

309

310 *iii. Possible mechanisms of FGF23 overproduction in tumors responsible for TIO*

311 TIO is biochemically characterized by hypophosphatemia with impaired
312 proximal tubular phosphate reabsorption. While hypophosphatemia is one of
313 stimulators of 25(OH)D-1 α -hydroxylase, serum 1,25(OH)₂D levels are usually
314 low - low normal in patients with TIO⁶⁴. These features are explained by

315 excessive actions of FGF23 and mimicked by phenotypes of *FGF23*-transgenic
316 mice ⁶⁵. FGF23 was identified as a causative factor for TIO and FGF23 levels
317 have been reported to be elevated in most patients with TIO ^{18, 66}. There are
318 reports of patients with typical features of TIO whose FGF23 levels are normal
319 ⁶⁷. In addition, several other factors such as matrix extracellular
320 phosphoglycoprotein (MEPE), soluble frizzled-related 4 and FGF7 have been
321 reported to be produced by tumors causing TIO and have phosphaturic
322 actions ⁶⁸⁻⁷⁰. However, blood levels of none of these proteins, except FGF 7 ⁷¹,
323 have been reported to be increased in patients with TIO. While it is possible
324 that there are cases of hypophosphatemic osteomalacia caused by other
325 factors than FGF23, these cases seem to be rare.

326 In addition to TIO, there are several hypophosphatemic diseases
327 caused by excessive actions of FGF23 with similar biochemical features to
328 those of TIO. These include X-linked hypophosphatemia (XLH) and autosomal
329 recessive hypophosphatemic rickets 1 (ARHR1) ⁷²⁻⁷⁵. XLH is caused by
330 inactivating mutations in *phosphate-regulating gene with homologies to*
331 *endopeptidases on the X chromosome (PHEX)*, and ARHR1 is caused by
332 inactivating mutations in *DMP1*. However, it is not clear how mutations in
333 these genes result in high FGF23. Microarray analysis of bone obtained from
334 a mouse model for XLH, referred to as *Hyp* and due to deletion of the 3' region
335 of *Phex* ⁷⁶, and *Dmp1*-null mice indicated that signals in the downstream of

336 FGFR are stimulated in these mice ⁷⁷. In addition, deletion of *Fgfr1* from *Hyp*
337 mice decreased FGF23 production in bone and serum FGF23 level ⁷⁸. These
338 results suggest that FGFR1 is involved in the overproduction of FGF23 in
339 genetic hypophosphatemic diseases.

340 There are also several reports suggesting the involvement of FGFR1 in
341 the overproduction of FGF23 in tumors responsible for TIO. Lee et al. found
342 nine out of fifteen phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors (PMTs) responsible for
343 TIO harbored *fibronectin (FN1)-FGFR1* fusion gene by several methods
344 including next generation sequencing, RT-PCR and fluorescence in situ
345 hybridization ⁷⁹. In a subsequent paper, they also identified *FN1-FGF1* fusion
346 gene ⁸⁰. In these two papers, the frequency of *FN1-FGFR1* and *FN1-FGF1* fusion
347 genes were 42 % (21/50) and 6 % (3/50), respectively. The presence of these
348 fusion genes was mutually exclusive. Therefore, these results indicate that the
349 fusion genes are present in about a half of tumors responsible for TIO. The
350 function of the fusion proteins has not been clearly demonstrated. However,
351 FN1-FGFR1 protein is considered to facilitate the activation of FGFR1 ⁷⁹. FN1-
352 FGF1 fusion protein is proposed to be secreted and bind to FGFR1 as a ligand
353 ⁸⁰. If these fusion genes work to activate FGFR1, it is possible that the signals
354 from FGFR1 is involved in the overproduction of FGF23 as discussed above
355 **(Figure 2).**

356 *KLOTHO* was reported to be expressed in a tumor responsible for TIO

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

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

378 usually slow-growing tumors. There is not enough evidence that shows the
379 involvement of FGFR1 activation in the growth of tumors responsible for TIO.

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

388

389 **4) Pathological features of Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumors**

390

391 Prader and colleagues were the first to appreciate a neoplasm, a putative
392 “giant cell reparative granuloma of bone”, as the cause of osteomalacia⁸⁵. Since
393 then, TIO was reported in association with different benign and malignant
394 mesenchymal tumors including vascular tumors, chondroma, osteoblastoma,
395 soft tissues or sinonasal “hemangiopericytoma”, giant cell tumor of bone and
396 osteosarcoma^{67, 86-88}. In 1972, Evans and Azzopardi⁸⁹ and Olefsky and
397 colleagues⁹⁰ were the first to note that TIO-associated tumors shared
398 distinctive histological features that make them unique. This was made clear

399 in 1987 by Weidner and Santa Cruz ⁹¹, who coined for these tumors the term
400 of “Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumor, mixed connective tissue variant”, and
401 definitely established in 2004 by Folpe and colleagues in their seminal study⁸⁷.
402 Since 2013 Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumors (PMTs) are recognized as
403 specific entity in the WHO Classification of Tumors of Soft Tissue and Bone
404 as “morphologically distinctive neoplasms that produce tumor-induced
405 osteomalacia in most affected patients, usually through production of
406 fibroblast growth factor 23” ⁹². The demonstration of fusion events involving
407 the *FN1-FGFR1/FGF1* genes ^{79, 80} supports the nosologic identity of PMTs (see
408 section on *Possible mechanisms of FGF23 overproduction in tumors responsible*
409 *for TIO*). The pathological features of PMTs have been recently reviewed ⁸⁸.

410

411 *i. Histology, immunohistochemistry and ultrastructure of PMT*

412 PMTs most often involve the soft tissues of extremities and the appendicular
413 skeleton and less frequently craniofacial bones and paranasal sinuses ^{1, 67, 86-88,}
414 ⁹³⁻¹⁰⁴. Exceptionally these tumors are evaluated through incisional biopsy due
415 to the potential for tumor cell seeding ^{1, 105}. When excised, their gross
416 presentation is virtually not specific (**Figure 3**). Calcifications and
417 hemorrhages can be appreciated on cut surface. Histologically (**Figures 4 and**
418 **Figure 5 a and b**), PMTs are composed of bland, round-oval to spindle cells
419 (i.e., the source of FGF23 and other “phosphatonins”) associated with a florid

420 vascularization consisting of small, arborizing capillaries, branching vessels
421 (hemangiopericytoma-like) or dilated vascular spaces (cavernous
422 hemangioma-like) and with an overt excess of extracellular matrix that
423 typically calcifies in an unusual “grungy” manner. Osteoclast-like Tartrate-
424 Resistant-Acid-Phosphatase (TRAP)-positive multinucleated giant-cells, “fibro-
425 histiocytic” cells, microcystic spaces, myxoid, chondromyxoid, hyalinized
426 extracellular matrix, also closely resembling primitive cartilage or osteoid,
427 peri-tumoral woven bone formation (in particular in soft tissue tumors) and
428 mature adipocytes (in particular in sinonasal tumors) can also be detected ⁸⁷,
429 ^{88, 92}. In the soft tissues, PMTs may be challenging to resect for their tendency
430 to infiltrate into surrounding tissues ⁸⁸. In bone, PMTs may permeate the inter-
431 trabecular spaces and produce abundant osteoid-like matrix mimicking an
432 osteosarcoma ⁸⁸. Compared to PMTs involving soft tissues and bone, sinonasal
433 PMTs commonly contain few, if any, calcified matrix and multinucleated giant-
434 cells and often show thick-walled vessels and fascicles of vaguely myoid-
435 appearing spindle cells that may mimic other vascular or perivascular tumor
436 ^{88, 101, 102, 104, 106}. Overall, the relative proportions of neoplastic cells, blood vessels,
437 matrix, dystrophic calcification, multinucleated giant-cells and fat are variable
438 from case to case ^{67, 87, 88}. In the jaws, an epithelial component may coexist ^{98, 103},
439 ¹⁰⁷ and for these tumors the terminology of “phosphaturic mesenchymal
440 tumor, mixed epithelial, and connective tissue type” has been proposed ¹⁰³.

441 However, as FGF23 mRNA is not expressed in the epithelial component, it is
442 reasonably interpretable as odontogenic epithelium entrapped within the
443 tumor rather than a component of the neoplastic tissue^{88, 97, 103}.

444 Immunohistochemistry has limited value in the recognition of PMTs.
445 Most studies have shown predominantly a “vimentin-only” phenotype^{87, 88, 91}.
446 Indeed, neoplastic cells have been reported to be variably immunoreactive for
447 alpha-Smooth Muscle Actin, Muscle Specific Actin, PGP9.5, S-100, CD34, NSE,
448 CD68, Synaptophysin, Dentin Matrix Protein-1, Somatostatin Receptor-2A, D2-
449 40, ERG, CD99, Bcl2, SATB2, CD56, EMA, DOG1, Periostin, FGF23, Klotho and
450 FGFR1^{80, 87, 88, 96, 103, 104, 107-120}. None of these markers is both highly sensitive and
451 specific. However, part of them may suggest some osteogenic differentiation
452 of the neoplastic cells which in turn might reflect the physiological role of
453 osteogenic cells in FGF23 production²⁵⁻²⁸. In addition, the immunoreactivity of
454 the neoplastic cells for Somatostatin Receptor-2A well accounts for the utility
455 of somatostatin receptor-targeted imaging in tumor localization (*see section*
456 *on Localization studies*)^{112, 121, 122}. According to Houang and colleagues¹¹²,
457 immunoreactivity of the neoplastic cells for SSTR2A is highly sensitive but not
458 specific for the diagnosis of PMT and that increased specificity may be
459 obtained through the immunohistochemistry for both SSTR2A and FGF23.
460 Additional immunophenotypic features were highlighted by Agaimy and
461 colleagues¹¹⁶, according to which the co-expression of SATB2, SSTR2A, ERG

462 and CD56 may support the diagnosis of PMT, in particular when “difficult-to-
463 diagnose” and not associated with TIO.

464 In few studies, PMTs have been examined by Transmission Electron
465 Microscopy (TEM) ^{91, 108, 111, 113, 123-125}. In two cases, one from bone and the other
466 from soft tissues (**Figure 5 c-e**), we observed neoplastic cells showing irregular
467 nuclei with inconspicuous nucleoli and with variable amounts of mitochondria,
468 lysosomes and lipid vacuoles, scattered cisternae of rough endoplasmic
469 reticulum and small vesicles. The extra-cellular matrix was composed of
470 collagen fibrils and granular material and, in particular in the soft tissue
471 tumor, contained abundant calcifications. These findings overlapped those
472 previously described. Interestingly, as in some of the previously reported
473 cases ^{108, 111, 113, 124}, dense core, membrane bound neurosecretory-like granules
474 were detected in the neoplastic cells of the soft tissue PMT.

475

476 *ii. “Non-phosphaturic” variant of PMT*

477 Tumors with morphological features overlapping those of “phosphaturic”
478 PMTs and demonstrable expression of FGF23 have been also reported in the
479 absence of TIO ^{67, 87, 88, 100, 115, 116, 118, 119, 126}. The *FNI-FGFR1* fusion has been
480 demonstrated in some of these tumors ^{100, 115, 119}. This variant may reflect
481 tumors with clinically unrecognized TIO, tumors identified before any
482 manifestation of osteomalacia, secretion of insufficient or inactive amount of

483 FGF23 by neoplastic cells or occurrence of the tumor in patients with some
484 type of compensatory mechanism ^{67, 88, 118, 126}. As observed by Florenzano and
485 colleagues ⁹⁷, “FGF23 excess could eventually develop” if a recurrence occurs.
486 For this reason, it is reasonable in these patients to monitor phosphate levels
487 after the histological diagnosis.

488

489 *iii. Multifocal and malignant PMT*

490 Although commonly solitary and benign, PMTs may be either multiple or
491 malignant ^{67, 87, 88, 99, 100, 118, 127-138}. Multiple tumors have been reported to show
492 histology, immunophenotype, FGF23, and fusion gene expression and
493 invasion potential comparable to those of the solitary counterpart¹¹⁸. As
494 observed by Li et al ⁹⁵, “there is no consensual histopathological criteria for
495 nonmetastatic malignant PMTs.” Histologically malignant PMTs are
496 recognized for high cellularity, high nuclear grade, necrosis, elevated mitotic
497 activity, high Ki67 index and p53 expression and are associated with
498 recurrences, distant metastases and adverse outcome ^{67, 87, 88, 99, 116, 118, 127-130, 133, 138}.
499 However, the identification of an otherwise typical benign PMT component is
500 critical in the distinction of malignant PMTs from other sarcomas of soft
501 tissues and bone ⁸⁸. FGF23 expression has been demonstrated in both the
502 primary tumor and in the metastasis ¹²⁷. Metastasis from histological benign

503 PMT^{138, 139} and malignant “non-phosphaturic” variant of PMT¹³² have been
504 described as well.

505

506 *iv. Pitfalls in the pathologic diagnosis of PMT*

507 Many different mesenchymal tumor types have been reported as the cause of
508 TIO^{67, 86-88}. However, as clearly established by Boland and colleagues⁶⁷, “it
509 seems quite clear that the overwhelming majority of these” tumors, if not all,
510 “represent misdiagnosed PMT, which were not recognized owing to the rarity
511 of these tumors and lack of familiarity by pathologists with their
512 morphological spectrum”. Detailed criteria for the pathological differential
513 diagnosis of PMT from other mesenchymal tumors have been previously
514 reported^{87, 88}.

515 Most PMTs are resected for the treatment of clinically established TIO.
516 Thus, the clinical scenario provides a robust contribution in the correct
517 pathological diagnosis (i. e, PMT). When clinically unsuspected, awareness of
518 the unique heterogeneous histological spectrum and demonstration of either
519 FGF23 expression (at mRNA or protein level or both) and/or molecular *FN1-*
520 *FGFR1/FGF1* fusions should allow for the distinction of PMT from the wide
521 variety of benign and malignant neoplasms with which PMTs may be confused
522^{87, 88}. However, some pitfalls have to be kept in mind. First, anti-FGF23
523 antibodies are not currently available in all pathology laboratories. In addition,

524 they have been reported to have “questionable specificity”⁸⁸ and not to be
525 “reliable enough” to diagnose PMT⁹⁴. Immunoreactivity for FGF23 has been
526 observed in control conditions and often very focally “limiting its diagnostic
527 utility particularly on small biopsies”¹¹². The definition of the positive staining
528 is also crucial. In some studies^{112, 114}, only the dot-like pattern (i.e., distinct
529 punctate perinuclear staining), and not the diffuse cytoplasmic staining, has
530 been considered as positive. For these reasons, FGF23 mRNA-based assays, as
531 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) or RNA Scope
532 Chromogenic In Situ Hybridization (CISH), have to be preferred^{67, 88, 99, 104, 115, 118,}
533^{119, 126, 127}. Both assays are highly sensitive but, compared to RT-PCR, CISH shows
534 greater specificity and allows preservation of tissue architecture and
535 selective demonstration of FGF23 mRNA expression by the neoplastic cells^{88,}
536¹²⁷. This is extremely important in bone located PMT for the identification of
537 the specific FGF23-expressing cell population (neoplastic vs normal osteogenic
538 cells) that cannot be unequivocally established through RT-PCR^{67, 88, 126, 127}. In
539 addition, in the “phosphaturic mesenchymal tumor, mixed epithelial, and
540 connective tissue type” of the jaw, the epithelial component has been reported
541 to be immunoreactive for FGF23 but negative for FGF23 mRNA through CISH
542 assay thus suggesting that they represent entrapped dental remnants rather
543 than a tumor cell component^{88, 103}. Second, even though very rarely, PMTs may
544 be negative for FGF23 expression^{67, 88, 127} and cases with typical PMT and

545 osteomalacia and normal FGF23 serum levels have been also described^{67, 127, 140}.
546 In these circumstances, other “phosphatonins” should be considered for the
547 development of TIO^{28, 67-70, 88, 97, 104, 141-144}. Third, as *FNI-FGFR1/FGF1* fusions lack
548 in about 50 % of PMTs^{67, 79, 80, 88}, their absence is not sufficient to rule out PMT.
549 Last but not least, *FNI* rearrangements are not specific for PMT. For example,
550 they have been recently reported in synovial chondromatosis and in soft tissue
551 chondromas¹⁴⁵. As a consequence, if Fluorescent ISH (FISH) for *FNI*
552 rearrangements is used in the pathologic work-up, the results need to be
553 integrated with the clinical, laboratory, imaging and histological data. In
554 addition, FISH studies have demonstrated that the *FGFR1* rearrangement can
555 be detected in a minority of tumor cells, reflecting the abundance of non-
556 neoplastic cells within the PMT and raising the possibility of a false-negative
557 result^{67, 79, 88}.

558

559 *v. Hypophosphatemia caused by increased FGF23 in clinico-pathologic settings*
560 *other than hereditary hypophosphatemic disorders and PMT-related TIO*

561 In addition to hereditary hypophosphatemic disorders (ADHR, XLH, ARHR
562 types I, II and III)⁷⁵, FGF23-related hypophosphatemia may also occur in
563 completely different clinical-pathological settings including non-hematologic
564^{67, 88, 127, 146-154} and hematologic¹⁵⁵⁻¹⁵⁷ malignant tumors and genetic syndromes
565 namely Neurofibromatosis (NF)^{67, 88, 158-161}, Polyostotic Fibrous

566 Dysplasia/McCune-Albright Syndrome (PFD/MAS)^{26, 67, 75, 88, 162-164}, Cutaneous
567 Skeletal Hypophosphatemia Syndrome (CSHS)^{75, 164-168} and Osteoglophonic
568 Dysplasia (OGD)^{75, 169}. In some of the patients with malignancy, the neoplastic
569 cells have been convincingly shown to be the source of FGF23 based on their
570 immunoreactivity for FGF23 or expression of FGF23 by RT-PCR^{152, 153, 157}.
571 Interestingly, in one patient with disseminated ovarian serous carcinoma,
572 osteomalacia and elevated serum level of FGF23, neoplastic cells were
573 reported to be negative for FGF23 mRNA by CISH thus suggesting alternative
574 mechanisms for the development of the syndrome^{67, 88, 127}. Among the genetic
575 syndromes, at least in type-I NF and in particular in PFD/MAS, the elevated
576 FGF23 serum level has been related to the disease burden^{26, 88}. As *RAS*
577 mutations are detectable within the bone lesions¹⁶⁶, Ras/Mitogen-Activated
578 Protein Kinase pathway seems to have a strong effect on the production of
579 FGF23¹⁶⁴ and bone is the usual source for FGF23²⁵⁻²⁷, the bone lesions
580 themselves have been thought to be the source of excess FGF23 production in
581 CSHS¹⁶⁶. In OGD, a rare skeletal dysplasia caused by activating mutation of the
582 *FGFR1* gene and characterized by rhizomelic dwarfism, craniosynostosis,
583 midfacial hypoplasia, prognatism, teeth abnormalities and non-ossifying
584 fibroma-like bone lesions, elevated FGF23 level leading to hypophosphatemia
585 can occur, likely from local production within the bone lesions^{75, 169}. According
586 to Florenzano and colleagues⁹⁷, these genetic conditions associated with

587 excess of FGF23 “should be designated by their underlying syndrome”.

588 A TIO-like syndrome has been described also in two children with
589 extra-hepatic biliary atresia ¹⁰⁰ and associated with intravenous infusion of
590 some forms of iron preparations ¹⁷⁰⁻¹⁷² and, possibly, with chronic alcohol
591 consumption ¹⁷³. In the two patients with extra-hepatic biliary atresia, the
592 syndrome resolved after orthotopic liver transplantation and in one of them
593 affected hepatocytes were immunoreactive for FGF23. In iron infusion-
594 induced FGF23-related hypophosphatemia, it has been clarified that the final
595 rate-limiting step to determine the serum intact FGF23 level is the post-
596 translational O-glycosylation initiated by *N*-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 3
597 ^{21, 47}. Further studies are in progress to confirm the association of TIO-like
598 syndrome and chronic alcohol consumption ¹⁷³.

599

600 *vi. Histological aspects of skeletal tissue in TIO*

601 Bone biopsy after sequential administration of tetracyclines and its
602 histomorphometric evaluation can be part of the clinical work-up in the
603 patients with suspected TIO (*see section on Distinctive laboratory findings*). As
604 expected ¹⁷⁴, in the cases in which it has been performed ¹⁷⁵⁻¹⁷⁷, light microscopy
605 revealed increase in osteoid parameters relative to mineralized bone including
606 osteoid volume, surface and thickness and fluorescence microscopy a range
607 of severity from reduced or undetectable distance between double labels to

608 no tetracycline uptake reflecting the defective bone matrix mineralization (i.e.,
609 osteomalacia). Processing for plastic embedding ^{117, 178} of samples from a PMT
610 involving bone ¹¹⁷ will let to demonstrate osteomalacia in the intra- and peri-
611 tumoral bone trabeculae (**Figure 4 i**).

612

613 **5) Clinical**

614 *a) Presentation: symptoms and signs*

615

616 *i. Skeletal symptoms*

617 Symptoms reported by patients with TIO, such as for example bone pain, are
618 usually nonspecific thus rendering the diagnosis elusive, with an initial
619 misdiagnosis rate of up to 95.1 % ¹⁷⁹. In any case, symptoms are rarely related
620 to the tumor itself, wherever it is located, because of its small size. An
621 exception might be the location in the head region when tumors are located
622 within the nasal sinuses ⁹⁷. In this circumstance about half of the patients (44.1
623 %) experience local symptoms ¹⁸⁰ such as obstruction or bleeding.

624 Symptoms are often present for months or years before the diagnosis
625 and surgical cure of the disease. Generally, the longer the putative disease
626 duration, the worse the bone involvement ^{179, 181}, often confining the patient to
627 a wheelchair. As a consequence of the delay in diagnosis, patients frequently
628 have severe disability, including thoracic and spinal deformities at time of

629 diagnosis, as pectus carinatum and kyphosis ⁹⁷. Furthermore, hip fractures
630 have been reported in retrospective analysis as a complication of the disease
631 in 34 out of 144 patients (23.6 %) ¹⁷⁹. Height loss is a quite common finding;
632 an average height loss reduction of 7.8 ± 4.7 cm has been reported ¹⁷⁹.
633 Occasionally, due to severe thoracic deformities respiratory insufficiency may
634 occur.

635 In adults, the most frequent symptom is bone pain. A retrospective
636 study of 144 patients with TIO ¹⁷⁹, reported that 99 % of them suffered skeletal
637 pain. The pain may derive from the location of the tumor in the skeletal tissue
638 or as a consequence of fractures (80 % of patients) or may be related to the
639 underlying malacic condition.

640 In the few cases of TIO reported during childhood, rickets was the
641 predominant clinical manifestation together with growth retardation ¹.

642 Clinical and radiological presentation of patients with TIO often
643 overlap those of patients with spondyloarthritis or other rheumatologic
644 disorders, such as for example disc herniation or vertebral deformities. Lack
645 of specificity underlies the high misdiagnosis rate ¹⁸²; for example, a total of
646 240 case-times of misdiagnoses occurred in the 144 TIO patients ¹⁷⁹. Patients
647 are often seen also at oncological and psychiatric centers.

648 The skeletal manifestations of TIO are almost the same as those
649 described in osteomalacia due to other causes. X-rays usually show

650 osteopenia, coarse trabeculae, Looser's zones, insufficiency fractures and
651 bowing of long bones^{183,184}. Looser's zones or "pseudo fractures" represent the
652 radiological hallmark of osteomalacia and reflect skeletal fragility; they occur
653 late in the natural history of the disease¹⁸⁴. Typically, they are transverse
654 lucencies with sclerotic borders traversing partway through a bone, usually
655 perpendicular to the involved cortex, (with a width range of 1 mm to 1 cm)
656 with symmetrical distribution. Contrary to what is generally believed, they are
657 often located in non-weight-bearing bone, following and corresponding to
658 blood vessels in contact with bone¹⁸⁵. Although inter-individual differences
659 exist, they are usually found at the ischiopubic area, iliac wings, tibia, radius,
660 fibula or lateral scapula¹⁸⁵. From a clinical point of view, they are usually
661 painful¹⁸⁴. X-rays images may appear as "poor quality" radiographs. This is
662 due to the large amount of unmineralized osteoid that appears as indistinct
663 and poorly defined from trabecular bone¹⁸⁴.

664 Stress fractures may be part of the skeletal involvement in tumor-
665 induced osteomalacia; they were often characterized as "slow-healing" in this
666 context¹⁸⁶. However, these lesions do not deserve further investigation
667 because of spontaneous healing following tumor resection. Indeed, one year
668 following successful removal, the disappearance of the lesion with its
669 replacement by a sclerotic area deforming the cortical profile of the bone was
670 described in a long term-follow up¹⁸⁷.

671 Bone densitometric values are severely reduced especially in patients
672 with long standing TIO¹⁸¹. Following the cure of the disease a striking increase
673 of bone mineral density is observed. From the histological point of view, this
674 is due to the huge mineralization of the osteoid tissue accumulated,
675 particularly in those with the long-standing unrecognized disease¹¹⁷. Recently
676 an assessment of bone microstructure and density in the axial and peripheral
677 skeleton by high resolution peripheral computed tomography, trabecular
678 bone score in addition to bone mineral density was reported for the first time
679 in a large cohort of patients with TIO¹⁸⁸. The Authors concluded that disease
680 duration, mobility, history of fracture, and biochemical variables were
681 correlated with bone microarchitecture deterioration. Impaired bone
682 microarchitecture evaluated by high resolution peripheral computed
683 tomography was also previously documented in a small series of 6¹⁸⁹ and 10
684¹⁹⁰ TIO patients, respectively.

685

686 *ii. Non-skeletal symptoms*

687 Regardless of the site of tumor development, there are common symptoms
688 related to severe hypophosphatemia and not related to the presence of tumor
689 itself¹. In fact, weakness is a presenting symptom both in cases of tumors
690 originating from skeletal regions¹⁹¹, as well as in those originating from
691 extraskeletal sites. In particular, muscular weakness due to the reduction of

692 intracellular adenosine triphosphate, has been reported in 65 % to 77 % of
693 patients ^{179, 180}. As a result, considering both the muscle and the skeletal
694 involvement, the patients may develop severe disability and difficulty in
695 walking by the time the disease is identified ¹¹⁷.

696 In some cases, a subcutaneous mass may be detectable through a
697 diligent physical examination when tumor originates from musculoskeletal
698 region. Patients therefore should be asked about the occurrence of new
699 “lumps” or “bumps” ¹⁹² to identify the culprit tumor. In a retrospective case
700 series, in 21 out of 144 patients (14.6 %) a local lump was responsible of the
701 disease ¹⁷⁹.

702 A number of studies have been published focusing on the
703 pathophysiological consequences of FGF23 excess in renal function. Increased
704 urinary phosphate excretion is an independent risk factor for the development
705 of nephrocalcinosis, defined as the deposition of calcium crystals in the renal
706 parenchyma and tubules, or nephrolithiasis i.e., kidney stones. Although
707 nephrocalcinosis has been reported in 30 -70 % of pediatric patients with X-
708 linked hypophosphatemia ¹⁹⁴ (a congenital disorder that is analogous to TIO),
709 there are no published data regarding the prevalence of nephrocalcinosis or
710 kidney stones in TIO patients.

711 However, the long-term conventional treatment with active vitamin D
712 metabolites and oral inorganic phosphate salts, in combination with

713 longstanding hyperphosphaturia, may cause adverse events in the kidney as
714 hypercalciuria, nephrocalcinosis, and nephrolithiasis. Furthermore, the
715 development of secondary or tertiary hyperparathyroidism is a well-known
716 complication of long-standing treatment with oral phosphate. Indeed, an
717 increasing number of reports have been published reporting the coexistence
718 of hyperparathyroidism and oncogenic osteomalacia ^{195, 196}.

719 In the past years, FGF23 has been reported as an independent risk
720 factor for mortality and cardiovascular disease. In particular, FGF23 levels
721 were independently associated with left ventricular hypertrophy in a chronic
722 kidney disease cohort ¹⁹⁷. In this context, a study evaluated the potential role
723 of FGF 23 in patients with FGF23-related hypophosphatemic
724 rickets/osteomalacia ¹⁹⁸ as an etiologic factor of hypertrophy, using the
725 Sokolow-Lyon or Cornell criteria on electrocardiogram, or the left ventricular
726 mass index by means of echocardiogram. The overall group was composed of
727 24 patients, of which 13 had TIO. Mean values of ventricular mass index,
728 Sokolow-Lyon voltage, and Cornell product were all within the reference
729 ranges. Concerning ventricular mass index, only two male patients with TIO
730 had higher values than the reference range. Their Sokolow-Lyon voltage, and
731 Cornell criteria were all within the reference ranges and they did not have
732 chronic kidney disease. It is therefore unlikely that in patients with TIO, the
733 heart may represent a target organ of excess FGF23 secretion ¹⁹⁸.

734 Although TIO is an extremely rare disease, the possibility of malignant
735 PMTs must be recognized. In these clinical situations, symptoms depend on
736 the localization of metastasis, determining, for example, respiratory failure as
737 a consequence of lung metastasis ¹³³.

738

739 *b) Distinctive laboratory findings*

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

743 The normal level of serum phosphate ranges from 2.5–4.5 mg/dL in
744 adults (0.8 mmol/L to 1.45 mmol/L; to transform mg in mmol divide by
745 0.0259); thus, a serum phosphate level below 2.5 mg/dL is considered a
746 condition of hypophosphatemia and should be investigated. In particular, a
747 moderate hypophosphatemia is defined when serum phosphate level is within
748 1.0–1.7 mg/dL (0.4–0.5 mmol/L), while severe hypophosphatemia is
749 considered when serum phosphate is lower than 0.9 mg/dL (0.3 mmol/L).
750 Another point that should be emphasized derives from the observation that
751 the normal ranges for phosphate and renal phosphate handling are different
752 in children from adults¹⁹⁹. This should be taken into account when
753 investigating children under 18 years of age. Recently reported case series of
754 TIO patients, diagnosed at tertiary care, academic centers or following

755 national surveys consistently show reduced values of serum phosphate. For
756 example, mean serum phosphate levels of 1.3 ± 0.4 mg/dL have been reported
757 in a case series from Italy²⁰⁰ and median serum phosphate levels was 1.4
758 mg/dL (range from 1.2 to 1.6) in patients from South America ²⁰¹. Mean serum
759 phosphate levels were 0.50 ± 0.13 mmol/L ²⁰², 1.74 ± 0.35 mg/dL ², 0.48 ± 0.13
760 mmol/L ¹⁷⁹ in patients from India, Japan and China, respectively.

761 Although moderate hypophosphatemia should be considered the
762 distinctive laboratory hallmark of TIO, the finding of renal phosphate wasting
763 is fundamental for establish the diagnosis. The most accurate way to evaluate
764 the renal phosphate wasting is given by the calculation of the tubular
765 maximum phosphate reabsorption per glomerular filtration rate (TmP/GFR),
766 as explained in the diagnosis section. Normal values TmP/GFR are 2.5-4.5
767 mg/dL; in TIO patients the values are always below the reference range ²⁰³. To
768 calculate the TmP/GFR, urinary phosphate and creatinine should be measured
769 as well as serum creatinine and phosphate levels. In particular, the second
770 morning urine collection in patients fasting for 12 hours should be over 2
771 hours, with blood drawn at any time during this collection while the patient
772 continues to fast. Another possibility is to calculate the percent tubular
773 reabsorption of phosphate from a random simultaneous sample of blood and
774 urine (% TRP). This value should also below the normal range for supporting
775 the diagnosis of TIO. When serum phosphate levels are normal, the TRP

776 normal range is 85–95 %. In conditions of reduced serum phosphate values,
777 the expected physiological response is an increase in tubular reabsorption of
778 phosphate to values higher than 85–95 %, which are not seen in patients
779 affected by TIO. The value of TmP/GFR can be calculated using a nomogram
780 ²⁰³, while % TRP can be calculated with the following formula $TRP = 1 - \frac{(\text{Serum creatinine} \times \text{Urine phosphate})}{(\text{Urine creatinine} \times \text{Serum phosphate})}$. Both
781 TmP/GFR and % TRP can be calculated also using an online free calculator.
782

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

789 In humans, part of the full-length FGF23 (intact FGF23: iFGF23)
790 undergoes a post-transcriptional cleavage thus generating, N-terminal and C-
791 terminal FGF23 fragments with presumably no physiologic function, while
792 intact FGF23 is considered the biologically active form of the hormone ²⁰.
793 Laboratory measurements are usually classified into those measuring the
794 intact molecule and those detecting the carboxy-terminal (C-terminal)
795 fragment of FGF23. Indeed, FGF23 could be measured in 2 formats of enzyme-
796 linked immunosorbent assays: a C-terminal assay measuring both full-length

797 and cleaved C-terminal fragment of FGF-23 ²⁰⁵ and intact assays of FGF23 ⁶⁶
798 (iFGF23) requiring the N-terminal and C-terminal portion of the processing
799 sites of FGF23 to detect only full-length uncleaved FGF23. Imel et al. reported
800 a higher sensitivity of iFGF23 in TIO patients compared with C-terminal assay
801 of the hormone ²⁰⁶. As no international standard for iFGF23 and cFGF23 are
802 available, it is currently not possible to standardize the assays, thus nowadays
803 it impossible to assess the best FGF 23 method to detect TIO patients.

804 Whichever method is used, an elevated or unsuppressed level of serum
805 FGF23 is reported in TIO patients ²⁰⁷⁻²⁰⁹. In the literature, there are methods
806 that report different normal ranges that are not always comparable ^{2, 66, 210, 211}.
807 For example, a new chemiluminescence enzyme (CLEIA) method to detect
808 FGF23 was compared to one of the most used that detects iFGF23 with an
809 enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit (KAINOS Laboratories, Tokyo,
810 Japan) ⁶⁶; This new kit yielded lower FGF23 values when compared with the
811 previous assay ²¹².

812 Although most reported patients with TIO have clearly elevated serum
813 FGF23 levels, approximately sixteen TIO patients with normal FGF23 levels
814 have been described since the first observation of the disease in the literature
815 ^{2, 140, 201, 212-220}. A number of possible explanations have been put forward for this
816 finding of apparently “normal values”. Firstly, it is possible that in these
817 patients, FGF23 levels could have been misinterpreted due to the use of

818 incorrect reference values. Another hypothesis, although less likely, is that
819 another phosphaturic hormone could be involved in the development of
820 hypophosphatemia. However, in case of hypophosphatemia unrelated to
821 FGF23, the level of the hormone should be low range. Therefore, the finding
822 of FGF23 values in the upper normal range should be considered
823 “inappropriately normal” and thus not affecting the diagnosis of TIO. A
824 similar situation can be seen in hypercalcemic patients with PTH values in the
825 upper third of normal range. Considering all of the above issues, head- to-
826 head studies for improving the diagnostic accuracy of FGF23 in patients with
827 TIO, comparing C- terminal with iFGF23 assays, are needed.

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

834

835 *c) Metabolomics*

836 Recently, together with the well-known biochemical features of the disease,
837 metabolomics has also been studied in patients affected by TIO ²²¹.
838 Metabolomics refers to a large-scale study of metabolites that are directly

839 involved in the biochemical activity of a specific disease. The goal of
840 metabolomics study is not only to optimize the diagnosis, but also to
841 characterize the pathogenesis of the disease and possibly to find new targets
842 for therapy.

843 In TIO patients, the first global metabolomics analysis was carried out
844 in a sample of 24 male and 8 female patients with a mean age of 43.6 years ²²¹.
845 By means of liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry-based
846 metabolomics, these patients were studied at different time points.
847 Specifically, they were assayed at initial diagnosis and after tumor resection
848 (1 to 3 days after successful surgery) and were matched with 32 healthy
849 control subjects. The novelty of this study is the discovery of a metabolic
850 pathway found perturbed in patients with TIO. This pathway mainly included
851 arachidonic acid metabolism, fatty acid and lipid metabolism, as well as
852 sphingosine and sphingosine 1 phosphate metabolism. In particular, five
853 oxylipins, 4-hydroxydocosahexaenoic acid (4-HDoHE), leukotriene B4 (LTB4),
854 5-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid (5-HETE), 17-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid (17-
855 HETE) and 9,10,13-trihydroxy-octadecenoic acid (9,10,13-TriHOME) were the
856 top ranked metabolites able to discriminate TIO patients from healthy
857 controls. Thus, the authors suggested that the combination of these oxylipins
858 may help for diagnosis. As shown by receiver operator curve analysis, this
859 panel of oxylipins reached a high sensitivity and specificity for TIO prediction

860 ²²¹ (AUC = 0.95, CI = 0.82-1). After tumor resection, the expression of these
861 biomarkers tended to decrease toward the levels found in healthy controls,
862 but only the differences of 5-HETE and 17-HETE, were statistically significant
863 ($p < 0.05$).

864 It is important to emphasize that the aim of metabolomics analysis is
865 not only to improve the diagnosis but also to describe the metabolite
866 pathways involved in a specific disease in order to promote a better
867 understanding of the disease development. In this context, an interpretation
868 of these data is that the role of these oxylipins in TIO pathogenesis, is mainly
869 related to chronic inflammation. However, it is not certain if the tumor
870 induced chronic inflammation, and thus a dysregulation of the oxylipins,
871 could be considered as an epiphenomenon, or a dysregulation of the oxylipins
872 related to chronic inflammation is a contributor of the development of the
873 tumor ²²². In particular, both 5-HETE and LTB4 have been reported to play
874 essential roles in the inflammation ^{223, 224} which is a significant risk factor for
875 others tumor development ²²⁵. In addition, LTB4 and 5-HETE can stimulate
876 proliferation and suppress apoptosis in several types of cells ²²⁶⁻²²⁹. More
877 specific might be the role of LTB4. Indeed, it induces VEGF-mediated
878 angiogenesis in vivo and high vascularization is one of the histological
879 features found in TIO ^{230, 231}. Thus, upregulation of LTB4 might partially explain
880 the enhanced angiogenesis that exists in TIO tumors. Of interest, the DHA

881 derivative 4-HDoHE was accumulated in TIO patients that were previously
882 demonstrated to inhibit angiogenesis, tumor growth, and metastasis ²³². This
883 finding of higher levels of 4-HDoHE, compared to controls, might possibly be
884 the result from feedback regulation levels.

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

896

897 *d) Tumor Localization*

898 Tumors causing TIO are often of small size and grow slowly. They can be
899 localized in all parts of the body from head to toe with similar prevalence in
900 soft tissue and bone ⁴ and in particular in head and neck and extremities ^{4, 93,}
901 ¹⁸⁶. The commonest tumor localizations were lower extremities (59.6 %)

902 followed by head and neck (24.0 %), torso (9.4 %) and upper extremities (6.9 %)
903 in a study where data of 287 patients with TIO were analyzed ²³⁴. Asking the
904 patient for the occurrence of new lumps or bumps along with an accurate
905 physical examination with particular attention to the oral cavity and
906 extremities, could allow the identification of the small tumors. Indeed, in this
907 way, the identification of the tumor in 14.6 % of a Chinese series ¹⁷⁹ and in a
908 recent review in 6.7 % has been reported ⁴.

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

917

918 *i. Functional imaging*

919 The main functional techniques take advantage of the expression with variable
920 degrees of somatostatin receptors (SSTRs, mainly SSTR subtype 2) on the
921 membrane of cells of tumors which allow, with SSTR scintigraphy imaging, the
922 identification of the tumors using somatostatin receptor analogs ^{121, 122}.

923 However, the expression of these receptors is not specific for tumors causing
924 TIO since they are expressed also from other neuroendocrine tumors as well
925 as non-neuroendocrine neoplasms (e. g. lymphomas, breast cancer, thyroid
926 cancer). Radiolabeled SSTR analogs can be used with single photon emission
927 computed tomography (SPECT) or positron emission tomography (PET) for
928 identifying tumors.

929 Octreotide, a synthetic octapeptide analog of somatostatin with a
930 special binding affinity to SSTR2 has been conjugated with ^{111}In ; typically,
931 scans using such substance are commonly referred as *octreoscan*. It can be
932 combined with SPECT, so providing 3D information, and eventually also
933 combined with a co-registered computed tomography (SPECT-CT) in order to
934 produce a better anatomical picture. Whole-body octreoscan SPECT-CT should
935 include head, neck and limbs, sites that are commonly excluded; however, this
936 combination is time consuming so that the acquisition of tomographic images
937 is often restricted to areas of tracer uptake on planar imaging ²³⁵. $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -
938 hydrazinonicotinamide (*HYNIC*)-*octreotide* is a $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ labeled somatostatin
939 analog that has been utilized for performing whole-body SPECT-CT scan for
940 localizing tumors causing TIO. It has been reported to have a sensitivity of
941 86.3 % and a specificity of 99.1 % for detecting tumors ¹⁴⁸ and is less time
942 consuming than octreoscan. Pitfalls of both these tracers are mainly
943 represented by the uptake of inflammatory tissues and, for example, a cold,

944 octreoscan in patients may show the uptake by nasal mucosa a site where
945 tumor causing TIO is not infrequently discovered ²³⁵.

946 Gallium-68 (⁶⁸Ga) is a positron-emitting radionuclide that can be linked
947 to a chelator (DOTA) that can link a somatostatin analog peptide such as Tyr-
948 3-octreotate (TATE) or 1-Nal3-octreotide (NOC) or Tyr-3-octreotide (TOC).
949 These peptides have a different affinity profile for the SSTR receptors.
950 Although, DOTATATE, DOTANOC and DOTATOC have been successfully
951 utilized for localizing tumors causing TIO, DOTATATE is the preferred one for
952 the higher affinity for the SSTR2 which are mainly expressed on the cell
953 surface of tumors causing TIO. The ⁶⁸GaDOTATATE can be combined with
954 positron emission tomography and eventually also combined with a co-
955 registered CT. Whole-body ⁶⁸GaDOTATATE PET-CT has been reported to have
956 a sensitivity of 100 % (even though, other Authors have reported slightly lower
957 values, see below) and high specificity (91 %) with an accuracy for localizing
958 tumors causing TIO of 97.7 % ²³⁶; it has been reported to be superior to octreo
959 SPECT-CT in localizing the tumor ²¹⁶. This can be explained by the higher
960 affinity of ⁶⁸GaDOTATATE for SSTR2 than octreotide ²³⁷ and for the better
961 spatial resolution of PET in respect to SPECT. Since the expression of SSTRs is
962 not specific for tumors, but can be expressed for example on inflammatory
963 cells ²³⁸ or in sites of fractures ²³⁹, the tracer uptake observed with octreoscan
964 as well as ⁶⁸GaDOTATATE should also be characterized by anatomical imaging

965 such as CT or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) ²³⁵.

966 Fluorine-18 (¹⁸F)-AIF-NOTA-octreotide (¹⁸F-OC) combined with PET and
967 CT, ¹⁸F-OC PET/CT is a useful technique in detecting the SSTR-expressing
968 tumors. It has been utilized for localizing tumors causing TIO with promising
969 results ²⁴⁰.

970 ¹⁸F-fluorodeoxyglucose (¹⁸F-FDG) is not considered a specific tracer; it
971 enters the cells expressing glucose transporters. ¹⁸F-FDG uptake in the cells is
972 linked to their metabolic activity. Contrast-enhanced ¹⁸F-FDG PET-CT is a
973 technique often used for oncological indications based on the metabolic
974 activity of tumors and has shown a relatively high sensitivity for localization
975 of tumors causing TIO ²⁴¹. Pitfalls due to false positive uptake should be taken
976 into account; for example, infections ²⁴² and also insufficiency fractures often
977 seen in patients with osteomalacia can show detectable ¹⁸F-FDG uptake ²⁴³. The
978 sensitivity of ¹⁸F-FDG PET-CT is about 67 % and lower than octreoscan (83 %)
979 or ⁶⁸GaDOTATATE (90 %) ^{199, 234}. The lower performance of ¹⁸F-FDG PET-CT could
980 be due to the low metabolic activity of tumors causing TIO ²³⁴, while
981 ⁶⁸GaDOTATATE after binding to the SSTR receptors is internalized thus
982 causing higher accumulation in tumor cells ¹⁹⁹. However, although ¹⁸F-FDG PET-
983 CT has a lower sensitivity in identifying tumors than octreoscan or
984 ⁶⁸GaDOTATATE ^{205, 214}, it can be complementary to somatostatin analog imaging
985 since sometimes tumors causing TIO are identified with ¹⁸F-FDG PET-CT and

986 not with somatostatin analog imaging ¹⁸⁶. Moreover, ¹⁸F-FDG PET-CT has been
987 suggested to have a role in predicting possible recurrence of TIO ²⁴⁴.

988 ⁹⁹mTc-sestamibi scintigraphy (MIBI) with SPECT and also with SPECT-CT
989 modalities have been suggested for localizing tumors causing TIO ²⁴⁵. However,
990 they are considered the least accurate technique among the functional ones in
991 localizing such tumors ¹.

992 In conclusion, ⁶⁸GaDOTA SSTR PET/CT having the better sensitivity for
993 detection of culprit tumors in TIO should be used as first line functional
994 imaging technique ¹⁹⁹.

995

996 *ii. Anatomical imaging*

997 Contrast enhanced MRI is indicated for confirming the presence and the
998 extension of the tumor, already suspected after functional techniques ²³⁵ and
999 also to plan subsequent surgery ^{1, 105}. Contrast enhanced CT has the same
1000 indications of MRI. Although in general inferior to MRI, because MRI better
1001 characterizes soft tissue and bone ²³⁵, CT could be useful in specific situations,
1002 i. e., in defining bone tumors causing TIO ¹.

1003

1004 *iii. Venous sampling*

1005 The sequence of functional and subsequent anatomical imaging is in general
1006 able to localize the tumor causing TIO. However, there are some cases where

1007 other modalities are indicated to increase the degree of diagnostic certainty (i.
1008 e., multiple suspected lesions are found; the suspected lesion is located in a
1009 region where the surgical treatment can be associated with a high degree of
1010 potential morbidity). In these cases, selective venous sampling with plasma
1011 (or serum, depending on the assay) FGF23 measurement has been utilized for
1012 confirming the tumor causing TIO²⁴⁶. Recently, a case report has been
1013 described in which intraoperative FGF23 assay has been utilized, to confirm
1014 tumor resection in a case of possible double localization of the tumor¹¹⁷.

1015

1016 *iv. Fine needle aspiration*

1017 Some authors suggested to perform aspiration of the lesion with
1018 measurement of FGF23 on eluate and eventually cytological exam^{246, 247} in
1019 suspected lesions localized with functional and anatomical imaging
1020 techniques. However, this technique has been discouraged for the potential
1021 tumor cell seeding^{1, 105}.

1022 Finally, there are patients in whom, the tumor cannot be localized even
1023 after an extensive diagnostic work-up. In a retrospective survey recently
1024 carried out in Japan, the percentage of patients in whom the tumor was not
1025 identified was as high as 37.5 %²⁴⁸. In these particular cases, a periodic follow-
1026 up is recommended.

1027

1028 *v. Diagnostic approach and differential diagnosis*

1029 Diagnosis of TIO is based on the clinical evaluation of patients, laboratory
1030 findings and imaging studies for tumor localization. As for many rare
1031 disorders, one of the critical points is to consider TIO in the differential
1032 diagnosis in a patient with the typical clinical presentation, namely a
1033 progressive musculoskeletal disorder characterized by pain, insufficiency
1034 fractures, and eventually disability. As the first clinical presentation is often
1035 nonspecific, diagnosis may be delayed and patients could be treated for other
1036 musculoskeletal disease, as well as rheumatological, neurological or
1037 psychiatric disorders. Misdiagnosis at presentation is reported in 87.5-95 % of
1038 cases ^{248, 249}.

1039 Assessment of patient's medical history should focus on the onset of
1040 symptoms that could date back to several years before ¹. Musculoskeletal pain
1041 is progressively worsening and unresponsive to common analgesics; it could
1042 be associated with fractures or pseudofractures, height loss, and skeletal
1043 deformities ²⁵⁰. Muscle weakness is commonly observed and disabling. Walking
1044 impairment may result and lead patient to progressive disability with the use
1045 of wheelchair and eventually to be bedridden²⁴⁸. Table 1 summarizes the main
1046 disorders to consider in the differential diagnosis of TIO.

1047 The hallmark of diagnosis that allows to differentiate TIO from many
1048 other conditions is the measurement of serum phosphate levels (Table 1).

1049 Hypophosphatemia is defined as serum phosphate levels < 2.5 mg/dL (0.8
1050 mmol/L) ²⁵¹. In the setting of hypophosphatemia and progressively worsening
1051 musculoskeletal ailment, patients' interview allows to infer many important
1052 information. It should be focused on past medical history, dietary and
1053 lifestyles habits, family history, and drug exposure. The proposed diagnostic
1054 algorithm to be implemented in clinical practice for the evaluation of patients
1055 with suspected TIO is as follows (**Figure 6**). The presence of clinical
1056 manifestation (diarrhea, constipation, abdominal pain, weight loss, etc.)
1057 and/or laboratory findings of malabsorption syndrome should be carefully
1058 investigated (Table 1) ²⁵². Other causes of hypophosphatemia, such as
1059 nutritional deficiencies or low or absent sun exposure (e. g., patients with skin
1060 cancer, institutionalized subjects, use of clothes covering a significant skin
1061 area for cultural or religious tradition, etc.) should be investigated.

1062 Assessment of family history should focus on the presence of inherited
1063 forms of phosphate or vitamin D-related disorders. As far as medications
1064 causing hypophosphatemia (intravenous iron, cisplatin, ifosfamide,
1065 azathioprine, tenofovir, adefovir, and valproic acid) ²⁵¹, it is important to
1066 consider the opportunity of discontinuing the drug with the involvement of
1067 the specialist/s in charge of the patient and identify alternative therapies.

1068 Routine laboratory assessment should include serum albumin adjusted
1069 calcium (where available, serum ionized calcium), creatinine, PTH, 25(OH)D,

1070 1,25(OH)₂D, 24-hour urinary calcium and creatinine to exclude primary
1071 hyperparathyroidism and vitamin D deficiency. If all these were negative, the
1072 next step is to calculate the tubular reabsorption of phosphate (TRP) and/or
1073 the maximum tubular reabsorption rate for phosphate (TmP)/glomerular
1074 filtration rate (TmP/GFR). Such evaluation is determinant to assess renal
1075 phosphate wasting that is highly increased in TIO. Hypovitaminosis D should
1076 be corrected before TRP and TmP/GFR evaluation. Phosphate and creatinine
1077 are measured from random blood sample and urinary collection for TRP and
1078 the following formula is applied: $100 \times [1 - (\text{urinary phosphate/urinary creatinine}) \times (\text{serum creatinine/serum phosphate})]$. Tubular reabsorption of
1079 phosphate values range from 85% to 95 % in normal subjects ²⁵¹. Fasting blood
1080 sample and 2-hour morning urinary collection are needed for TmP/GFR
1081 calculation. The Walton & Bijvoet nomogram or an algorithm may be applied
1082 ^{203, 253}. Normal TmP/GFR values are age and gender-dependent ²⁵³. Both TRP and
1083 TmP/GFR are reduced in TIO; hence, normal findings and/or increased TRP (>
1084 85-95%) exclude the diagnosis of TIO. In the last case, focus should be posed
1085 on reduction in phosphate intake or malabsorption ²⁵¹.

1087 If TRP is < 85-95 % and/or TmP/GFR values are reduced for age and sex,
1088 an FGF23-related disorder is likely and FGF23 levels should be measured.
1089 Commercially available immunoassays use chemiluminescence (CLIA), CLEIA,
1090 or one- and two-steps enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) methods

1091 ²⁵⁴. They measure intact FGF23 (iFGF23) or the sum of iFGF23 and C-terminal
1092 FGF23 and are used in most countries only in the research setting, an
1093 exception being, for example, represented by Japan ^{251, 254}. Absolute reference
1094 interval of FGF23 levels are not available; notwithstanding, it has been
1095 determined that FGF23 levels are not influenced by sex nor by age in adults,
1096 but rather by dietary phosphate intake and renal function²⁵⁴. Assay specific
1097 reference values for FGF23 are provided by the manufactures ²⁵⁴. Additionally,
1098 specific cut-off serum phosphate and FGF23 values for the diagnosis of FGF23-
1099 related hypophosphatemia have been established for two assays²⁵⁴.

1100 Low FGF23 levels in the setting of increased phosphate wasting exclude
1101 TIO and indicate the presence of a non FGF23-related disorder (**Figure 6**). In
1102 this situation, the Fanconi syndrome should be considered by assessing
1103 urinary wasting of electrolytes, uric acid, amino acid, bicarbonate, glucose and
1104 other substances and blood gas analysis to exclude metabolic acidosis (**Figure**
1105 **6**). When the Fanconi syndrome is suspected, causes of the acquired form
1106 should be investigated, such as all the possible causes of acute tubular
1107 necrosis (e. g. exposure to heavy metals, infections, such as Legionella
1108 Pneumoniae, light chain deposition disease, amyloidosis) (Table 1) ²¹¹. When
1109 negative, the hereditary forms of FGF23-independent renal phosphate wasting,
1110 such as the hereditary Fanconi syndrome or the hereditary hypophosphatemic
1111 rickets with hypercalciuria should be excluded by genetic testing ²⁵¹.

1112 Normal or elevated FGF23 levels are diagnostic of an FGF23-related
1113 disorder causing hypophosphatemia. In this context, it is important to
1114 consider the presence of chronic kidney disease when evaluating serum FGF23,
1115 whose levels may increase even in mild stages. Hereditary forms of FGF23-
1116 related phosphate wasting should be excluded by genetic testing in specific
1117 clinical settings.

1118 Young age at the onset of symptoms, growth retardation, bowing, dental and
1119 ear abnormalities reported by the patient or family members are typical
1120 determinants of hereditary disorders^{251, 253}. The mutations to be investigated,
1121 according to the specific clinical suspicious, are those in the phosphate-
1122 regulating endopeptidase homolog X-linked (PHEX, X-Linked
1123 hypophosphatemia, XLH), FGF23 (autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic
1124 rickets, ADHR), dentin matrix acidic phosphoprotein 1 (DMP1, autosomal
1125 recessive hypophosphatemic rickets, ARHR, type 1), and ectonucleotide
1126 pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase 1 (ENPP1, ARHR, type 2) genes^{251, 253}.

1127 Other genetic disorders to be considered in the differential diagnosis of
1128 FGF23-related hypophosphatemia include PFD/MAS (Table 1), a non-inherited
1129 disease caused by post-zygotic activating mutations of the alpha subunit of
1130 the stimulatory G protein encoded by the *GNAS* gene^{26, 164}. In MAS, *café-au-*
1131 *lait* spots and the autonomous hyperfunction of various endocrine organs
1132 with precocious puberty, Leydig cell hyperplasia, thyroid abnormalities, and

1133 GH excess are associated with FD lesions of bone (Table 1)^{164, 255}. Apart MAS
1134 cases with very early neonatal onset²⁵⁶, FD lesions represent the most severe
1135 phenotypic expression of the disease because of bone pain, fractures, and
1136 deformities^{164, 255, 257-259}.

1137 The radiological evidence of focal lytic, mixed or sclerotic lesion with internal
1138 ground-glass matrix is essential to suspect the diagnosis^{255, 260}.

1139 Finally, other rare hereditary diseases causing hypophosphatemia and
1140 rickets are: CSHS, characterized by diffuse epidermal or melanocytic nevi;
1141 OGD, characterized by abnormal bone growth causing craniofacial
1142 abnormalities, dwarfism, and multiple teeth abnormalities;
1143 hypophosphatemic rickets with hyperparathyroidism, characterized by
1144 elevated Klotho, FGF23, and PTH levels (Table 1)^{211, 251}.

1145 In the context of the typical clinical features and hypophosphatemia
1146 associated with low (or low normal) 1,25(OH)₂D concentrations and elevated
1147 FGF23 levels, the absence of the aforementioned clinical phenotypes and
1148 negative family history orient towards the diagnosis of TIO (**Figure 6**), the next
1149 step should be tumor localization. Again, past medical history and physical
1150 examination may be determinant in some cases. A positive medical history for
1151 tumors potentially associated with TIO, such as prostate adenocarcinoma and
1152 colon cancer, should be considered in the evaluation of screening tests for
1153 possible tumor relapse. Clinical examination may detect the presence of

1154 painful or unpainful masses.

1155 Functional and anatomical imaging studies are important in the
1156 localization of the tumor. The first step is to perform a DOTA scan (⁶⁸Ga-
1157 DOTATATE PET-CT) if available (Figure 6). Other approaches include a total
1158 body nuclear medicine study, preferably a single-photon emission computed
1159 tomography (SPECT), a SPECT-CT, a positron emission tomography (PET), or
1160 PET-CT ^{1, 250}. Somatostatin analogs, such as octreotide, pentetreotide,
1161 diethylenetriaminepentaacetic conjugate of octreotide, or other derivatives of
1162 octreotide bound to radionuclides (¹¹¹In - octreoscans, or ⁶⁸Ga) are employed
1163 in these studies ^{1, 250}. The DOTA-scan use the DOTA
1164 (1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid), DOTATATE and
1165 DOTANOC as bifunctional chelators linking the ⁶⁸Ga to the somatostatin
1166 analogue and may be considered the gold standard for PMTs localization ²⁶¹.
1167 In particular, the ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE PET-CT, that is successfully employed in the
1168 diagnosis and staging of tumors expressing somatostatin receptors, such as
1169 pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors, demonstrated high sensitivity in the
1170 detection of PMTs owing to its affinity to the somatostatin receptors type 2
1171 (SSTR2) ^{250, 262}. It is superior to octreoscans and to the fluorodeoxyglucose
1172 (¹⁸FDG) PET-CT ^{1, 250}. The last technology represents an alternative when the
1173 somatostatin receptor nuclear medicine studies are not available or a
1174 complementary study when the octreoscans are not conclusive ¹.

1175 The algorithm for localization of the tumor sustaining TIO integrates
1176 the use of anatomical imaging technologies in association with functional
1177 tests. The contrast-enhanced MRI or CT allow to obtain anatomical details of
1178 the lesion and its contacts with the surrounding structures thus providing a
1179 valid guide for surgical resection.

1180 Rarely, venous sampling of the area/s where the tumor has been
1181 localized by functional and/or anatomical imaging studies may be needed for
1182 confirming the diagnosis of PMTs or characterize multiple lesions ^{1, 250}. Blood
1183 is collected via a catheter and FGF23 levels are measured ¹.

1184

1185 **6) Therapy**

1186

1187 The majority of TIO tumors are benign and single foci, and the surgical
1188 resection of PMT is the first choice once the tumor is accurately located by
1189 functional and anatomical images. In case the tumor is not localized,
1190 multifocal, unresectable, or malignant, then other alternative or adjuvant
1191 therapies besides surgery are recommended. The conventional medicines are
1192 neutral phosphate and active vitamin D preparations (e.g., alfacalcidol and
1193 calcitriol). Although this replacement therapy does not cure the disease, it may
1194 nevertheless alleviate the symptoms and help to seek opportunities for other
1195 treatments. Recently other targeted therapies have emerged, such as the anti-

1196 FGF23 monoclonal antibody, burosumab, which is reported to be safe and
1197 effective in improving objective indicators and symptoms of TIO (Table 2).

1198

1199 a. Surgical treatment

1200

1201 *i. Surgical principle*

1202 Compared with other types of hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia which
1203 need long-term medical therapy, TIO is a curable disease in most cases.

1204 Complete tumor resection is the only definitive treatment, so surgery should

1205 always be the first-line therapy when possible ^{1, 97}. Although most culprit

1206 tumors are benign, TIO can persist or recur when residual tumor tissue exists,

1207 which could also happen due to the undetectable dissemination of tumor cells

1208 during biopsies ^{1, 105, 200}. Thus, complete tumor resection requires wide margins,

1209 and tumor biopsy should be performed with more caution in the diagnostic

1210 workup.

1211 The evidence about the specific resection margin distance is deficient. In

1212 a recent study of 5 patients having soft tissue tumors with irregular borders,

1213 which are suspected to be infiltrative, recurrence did not occur in all patients

1214 who were treated with 1-cm-wide margin resection, but in one who underwent

1215 exact marginal tumor excision ²⁶³. Since the infiltration depth was

1216 approximately 0.5-2 mm for these tumors, the preferred surgical margin for

1217 irregular soft tumors is at least 1 cm ²⁶³. On the other side, for tumors with
1218 regular boundaries and fibrous capsules, marginal resection seems to be
1219 sufficient ²⁶³⁻²⁶⁵. Special attention should be paid to the identification and
1220 protection of local nerves, blood vessels, muscles, fascia, ligaments, and other
1221 important anatomical structures to avoid secondary damage in the context of
1222 complete resection ²⁶⁵. For tumors located in the bones, orthopedic surgical
1223 protocols reported in the literature mostly include tumor resection, tumor
1224 curettage, and intraosseous injection of bone cement ^{264, 266}. Although there is
1225 no head-to-head trial, bone tumor resection appeared to be more effective
1226 than curettage ²⁶⁴. So, tumor resection combined with total joint arthroplasty
1227 ²⁶⁷ or prosthesis reconstruction may be the optimal surgical method to cure
1228 TIO caused by bone tumors. However, these surgical approaches are often
1229 associated with greater morbidity attributed to dysfunction of extremities and
1230 prosthesis-related problems ²⁶⁴. In general, the operative principle is to resect
1231 the culprit tumor completely with the fewest damages. Since the causative
1232 tumor can be located at any sites of the whole body, the optimal resection
1233 margin distance in different situations needs to be clarified in future studies.

1234

1235 *ii Surgical outcome*

1236 The outcome of surgical treatment largely depends on the site of the culprit
1237 tumor and the surgeon's experience. Based on published data, refractory cases,

1238 including both persistent and recurred ones, have been reported with a
1239 combined incidence of 0-57 %^{87, 93, 116, 131, 134, 180, 186, 191, 202, 268-272}. In most cases, the
1240 residual or recurrent tumors were located at the original site, suggesting that
1241 the initial resections were incomplete, even if the surgeries were obedient to
1242 the recommended protocol by removing all visible tumors with wide margins
1243²⁶⁴. In a recent study of 230 patients with TIO, 24 patients did not have
1244 immediate remission and 18 patients relapsed after the primary surgery,
1245 representing a non-response rate of 10.4 %, a recurrence rate of 7.8 %, and a
1246 combined refractory rate of 18.2 %⁹⁵. Female, tumors on bone, spine tumors,
1247 malignant tumor, lower preoperative serum phosphate level, and higher
1248 preoperative serum FGF23 level are risk factors of refractory disease⁹⁵. To our
1249 knowledge, there is no well-established method to predict the postoperative
1250 outcome. Since there are emerging promising alternative treatments to the
1251 surgery, in the future studies, it is important to classify the patients who are
1252 suitable for surgery to minimize the risk of undesirable prognosis.

1253 The diagnosis of TIO should be reassessed if persistent or recurrent
1254 diseases arise, especially if the histological analysis revealed a non-PMT
1255 appearance of the excised tumor. If TIO is still suspected, the stepwise
1256 localization technique should be repeated to re-localize the causative tumor
1257 in the same way of newly diagnosed TIO. In a retrospective study of 18
1258 patients, ^{99m}Tc-HYNIC-TOC had a sensitivity of 86.7 % for detecting recurring

1259 tumors ²⁷³, and ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE-PET/CT may detect culprit recurrent tumors
1260 when octreotide scintigraphy failed ²⁷⁴. The culprit tumors could be identified
1261 in approximately 80 % of refractory patients, and reoperations were still
1262 beneficial to these patients ^{95, 264}. It's noteworthy that repeated operations
1263 appear to achieve lower remission rates than first operations, by around 50 %
1264 ⁹⁵. Therefore, the indication of operation should be prudently determined in
1265 refractory patients, since the best operation procedure is still uncertain.

1266 Treatments for patients with multifocal tumors ^{135, 136}, malignant PMTs
1267 ⁹⁵, metastatic diseases ^{132, 138, 139, 146, 154, 275-279}, childhood onset ²⁸⁰⁻²⁸⁴, and rare causes
1268 of TIO (e.g., secondary to malignant tumors instead of PMTs, such as prostate
1269 cancer ¹⁴⁶, lung cancer ²⁸⁵, colon adenocarcinoma ¹⁴⁹, renal carcinoma ¹⁵⁰, ovarian
1270 cancer ¹⁵¹, lymphoma ²⁸⁶) are often not successful, and in these cases
1271 controlling the primary disease should take priority if TIO is secondary to
1272 malignant tumours.

1273

1274 *iii Postoperative recovery*

1275 Once the TIO-causing tumor is successfully removed, the circulating level of
1276 FGF23 drops rapidly in hours, while the phosphate and 1,25(OH)₂D
1277 concentrations gradually increase, and typically returns to the normal level
1278 within 5 (2-16) days ⁹³. Patients' symptoms begin to improve within a few days
1279 or weeks ^{93, 218, 287}, but the complete relief may take several months ¹⁸¹. Bone

1280 mineral density could also increase in response, revealed by the study of
1281 PUMCH, in which the BMD of total hip and lumbar spine increased by 30.9 %
1282 and 49.3 % respectively after surgeries, whereas only increased by 12.9 % and
1283 8.7 % in conventional drug-treated patients after a 6-month follow-up ⁹⁴.
1284 Following total tumor resections, Minisola *et al* ¹ observed a considerable
1285 increase in bone mineral density within 2-4 years, and the BMD values peaked
1286 at 26.7 ± 6.5 months and then leveled off with no further fractures in the study
1287 of Colangelo *et al* ¹⁸¹. Hungry bone syndrome manifested by hypocalcemia and
1288 bone pain is the main postoperative complication, and calcium plus vitamin D
1289 supplementation is of necessity in this case ²⁸⁸.

1290

1291 b. Medical treatment

1292 Although surgery is the only established, definitive treatment for TIO patients,
1293 medical treatments are critical when the causative tumors are not localized,
1294 multifocal, or unresectable. If the serum phosphate level is not normalized
1295 immediately or permanently after the surgery, the alternative medical therapy
1296 is recommended. Long-term medical therapies are essential for individuals
1297 with recurrence, and should not cease until the tumor is re-localized.

1298

1299 *i. Conventional treatment*

1300 Conventional medical treatment is mainly composed of phosphate

1301 supplements and active vitamin D preparations (e.g. alfacalcidol and calcitriol)
1302 ²⁸⁹. Conventional medical treatment aims to restore phosphate and vitamin D
1303 homeostasis, alleviate the symptoms (weakness, bone pain) and normalize
1304 bone mineralization, in order to prevent further deterioration in mobility and
1305 bone fractures ^{1, 265}. It should be recognized that the complete normalization
1306 of serum phosphate usually represents an overdose treatment, which may
1307 increase the risk of secondary and eventually tertiary hyperparathyroidism ²⁶⁵,
1308 and the serum phosphate level has better to barely reach the lower limit of
1309 the normal range.

1310 There is a scarcity of information from randomized controlled or
1311 prospective research on the optimal dosage of phosphate supplements and
1312 active vitamin D preparations. The most recent consensus on the clinical
1313 management of TIO recommend a dose of 20-40 mg/kg/d (1-3 g/d for adults)
1314 for element phosphate divided into 4-6 doses, and 20-30 ng/kg/d (0.5-1.5µg/d
1315 for adults) for calcitriol ²⁶⁵. The equivalent dosage of alfacalcidol is 1.5 to 2
1316 times that of calcitriol. The dose of medical treatment needs to be adjusted
1317 according to the clinical symptoms and biochemical examination results ^{1, 94, 97}.
1318 Several researchers have advocated the use of a vitamin D analogue (e.g.
1319 1alpha-hydroxyvitamin D₃ i.e. alfacalcidol) alone in clinical practice. Peacock
1320 and colleagues ²⁹⁰ conducted a study on ten patients with hypophosphatemic
1321 osteomalacia, and the results showed that a high dosage of 1alpha-

1322 hydroxyvitamin D₃ without additional phosphate supplements could relieve
1323 symptoms rapidly. However, more studies are still needed to determine
1324 whether active vitamin D therapy alone could be employed in clinical practice,
1325 especially in severe cases of TIO with quite low levels of serum phosphate.

1326 It is important to note that conventional medical therapy may lead to
1327 several complications including nephrolithiasis, nephrocalcinosis, impaired
1328 kidney function, secondary and even tertiary hyperparathyroidism^{93, 218, 291}. The
1329 mechanisms underlying the emergence of hyperparathyroidism appear to be
1330 multifaceted. In addition to the natural response to the lowering of
1331 1,25(OH)₂D₃ caused by increased levels of FGF23²⁹², long-term use of
1332 phosphate supplements can result in subsequent parathyroid gland
1333 hyperplasia^{1, 293}. In a cross-sectional study of patients with X-linked
1334 hypophosphatemia, 10 % of the patients developed hypercalcemic
1335 hyperparathyroidism with the treatment of oral phosphate supplements and
1336 active vitamin D for more than 10 years²⁹³.

1337 Though higher doses of active vitamin D could help to decrease the
1338 elevated level of PTH preventing secondary/tertiary hyperparathyroidism, it
1339 increases the risk of hypercalciuria leading to nephrolithiasis and
1340 nephrocalcinosis in the mean while. Urine calcium concentration should be
1341 measured during the follow-up²⁹⁴. Therefore, both the biochemical indicators
1342 and imaging performances need to be closely monitored every 3 to 6 months

1343 to balance the optimal clinical improvement and limited treatment
1344 complications ^{265, 294}.

1345

1346 *ii. Cinacalcet*

1347 Cinacalcet, a positive allosteric modulator (PAM) of the calcium-sensing
1348 receptor, has been advocated as an adjuvant treatment for patient intolerant
1349 of phosphate supplementation ²⁹⁵. The net effect of cinacalcet treatment was
1350 a remarkable increase in serum phosphate level and decrease in PTH level,
1351 thereby reducing the dose of phosphate supplements. In a clinical study, the
1352 administration of cinacalcet to TIO patients led to a sustained increase in
1353 phosphate level and TRP while decreasing serum PTH and calcium levels. The
1354 resultant low PTH level was associated with an apparently weakened
1355 phosphaturic impact of FGF23, as FGF23 function was found to be partly
1356 mediated by PTH ²⁹⁵. However, cinacalcet doesn't directly annihilate the tumor
1357 tissues, and cinacalcet-related hypercalciuria developed frequently.
1358 Furthermore, lowering PTH escalates already compromised 1α -hydroxylase
1359 activity. Owing to the scarce and inconsistent evidence on cinacalcet ^{186, 283, 296},
1360 additional studies are needed to confirm the efficacy and safety of cinacalcet
1361 which has restricted its application in many countries based on the grounds
1362 of cost and indication.

1363

1364 *iii. Somatostatin*

1365 The culprit tumors of TIO are reported to overexpress SSTR, mainly subtype
1366 2, and, therefore, some centers advocate use of somatostatin analogues (SSAs)
1367 for the therapy in TIO patients. However, the efficacy of SSA therapy is
1368 controversial. The present literature are mostly case reports or case series.
1369 Seufert *et al* ²⁹⁷ reported a 50-year-old patient with TIO was treated with
1370 octreotide injections for the first time, and the phosphate level was
1371 normalized impressively. While in another case series of 5 TIO patients, there
1372 were no significant changes in serum FGF23, 1,25(OH)₂D₃, or TRP during the 3
1373 days of octreotide treatment ²⁹⁸. Thus, although SSTRs are widely present in
1374 PMTs, octreotide is not an effective therapy to suppress FGF23 production in
1375 TIO based on existing works. Inadequate expressions of SSTRs by the culprit
1376 tumors and different pathogenic types may partly explain the unsatisfied
1377 outcomes.

1378

1379 c. Novel therapies in development or under investigation

1380

1381 *i. FGF23 Antibodies*

1382 Burosumab (KRN23) is a fully human monoclonal antibody against
1383 FGF23, approved for the treatment of X-linked hypophosphatemia (XLH). It
1384 could efficaciously normalize phosphate metabolism, ameliorate bone

1385 deformity, and relieve symptoms in XLH patients, rendering it a promising
1386 drug for TIO, another FGF23-excess phosphate-wasting disease. The effects of
1387 the anti-FGF23 antibody were examined in a murine model, to address if
1388 muscle weakness could improve after its use¹⁹³. Indeed, the depletion of ATP
1389 and phosphodiesterases, as a consequence of hypophosphatemia, has been
1390 considered responsible of muscle weakness. The Authors showed that the
1391 inhibition of excess FGF23 through antibodies was able to ameliorate both grip
1392 strength and spontaneous movement¹⁹³.

1393 In two phase 2 open-label trials for TIO conducted in the United States²⁹⁹ and
1394 Asia³⁰⁰ respectively, promising results were obtained when assessing the
1395 efficacy and safety of burosumab in treating patients with TIO. Patients in
1396 both studies were subcutaneously treated with burosumab every 4 weeks at
1397 an initial dose of 0.3 mg/kg, which was then titrated according to the serum
1398 phosphate level at following visits, to a maximum of 2.0 mg/kg. In 112-144
1399 weeks of use, the mean serum phosphate as well as TmP/GFR level rapidly
1400 increased above the lower limit of normal and remained through the study
1401 course without additional supplementation of oral phosphate^{299, 300}. Bone
1402 histomorphometry parameters, including osteoid volume/bone, osteoid
1403 thickness, and mineralization lag time, were improved and self-reported pain
1404 and fatigue were alleviated²⁹⁹. Furthermore, approximately 50 % of
1405 fractures/pseudofractures observed by whole-body bone scintigraphy were

1406 completely or partially healed by week 96 ^{299, 300}. Serious burosumab-related
1407 adverse events were reported in neither study. In conclusion, the interim
1408 analyses revealed that treating TIO with burosumab was associated with
1409 normalization of phosphate homeostasis, restored histomorphometric
1410 measures, enhanced fracture/pseudofractures healing, relief of symptoms
1411 and long-term safety.

1412 Because of the challenge in diagnosis, localization and surgical resection
1413 of the causative tumor and post-surgery recurrence, burosumab was
1414 progressively regarded as an alternative medical option. Cases of TIO due to
1415 unresectable tumors ³⁰¹, or undetectable tumors ³⁰², and of multiple
1416 recurrences after repeated surgeries ³⁰³ have been reported to be successfully
1417 treated with burosumab. Notably, burosumab at a dose of 0.3 mg/kg exhibited
1418 evident therapeutic effects in the recurrent case ³⁰³, while the mean final dose
1419 in trials above was 0.7 mg/kg -1.0 mg/kg. The discrepancy of burosumab dose
1420 was possibly attributed to baseline serum FGF23 level, which was only 56
1421 pg/ml in this case, not even fulfilling the inclusion criteria of the phase 2
1422 studies above, suggesting a theoretical FGF23-independent dosage effect of
1423 burosumab.

1424 The safety of burosumab, especially in relation to progression of the
1425 underlying tumor, has been monitored. One patient in each study
1426 discontinued treatment owing to tumor progression ^{299, 300} and the other 5

1427 patients had an adverse event of tumor progression, although most of them
1428 had a history of tumor progression before enrollment ²⁹⁹. Notwithstanding the
1429 acceptable safety profiles demonstrated by burosumab in these trials, long-
1430 term studies are warranted to elucidate the potential role that burosumab
1431 plays in tumor progression. Burosumab has been approved in Japan by the
1432 U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat patients age two and older with
1433 tumor-induced osteomalacia. Very recently, the Committee for Medicinal
1434 Products for Human Use of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has
1435 recommended that burosumab be approved for the treatment of FGF23-
1436 related hypophosphatemia in TIO associated with phosphaturic mesenchymal
1437 tumors that cannot be curatively resected or localized in children and
1438 adolescents aged 1 to 17 years and in adults.

1439

1440 *ii. FGFR Inhibitors*

1441

1442 It was hypothesized that the FGF1-FGFR1 signaling pathway remarkably
1443 contributed to the pathogenesis of phosphaturic mesenchymal tumor (PMT),
1444 given the prevalent expression of FGFR1 in tumor tissues ⁸⁰. The identification
1445 of *fibronectin1(FN1)-FGFR1* fusion gene leading to an overactivation of the
1446 FGFR1 kinase domain ^{79, 80} further strengthened the hypothesis, and naturally
1447 arouse interest in the direct blockade of FGFR to obstruct TIO tumorigenesis.

1448 A pan-FGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor, BGJ398/infigratinib, which was found
1449 able to abrogate robust FGF23 signaling and normalize phosphate metabolism
1450 in Hyp and *DMP1-null* mice ³⁰⁴, therefore, was tested in clinical trials
1451 (NCT02160041 and NCT03510455) for its efficacy and safety on TIO
1452 treatment. Although the overall data has not been published yet, cases of
1453 patients enrolled demonstrated appreciable therapeutic effects, but there are
1454 safety concerns of BGJ398. A patient with TIO due to an unidentifiable tumor
1455 also underwent a distinct decline in FGF23 level by day 8 of BGJ398 ³⁰⁵. Another
1456 TIO patient with extensive metastasis responded dramatically to the initiation
1457 of BGJ398 treatment, as the FGF23 level dropped to nearly 1/10 of baseline
1458 level within 24 hours and became normal after 2 weeks ³⁰⁶. Metastatic lesions
1459 regressed on ¹⁸F-FDG-PET-CT scans, and biopsies of one mass showed that the
1460 sarcomatous tumor had differentiated into mature lamellar bone. The second
1461 round of BGJ398 treatment achieved similar outcomes, including confirmed
1462 partial response, normalization of FGF23 and phosphorus levels and tumor
1463 differentiation and osseous metaplasia ³⁰⁵. However, it is noteworthy that
1464 BGJ398 treatment in this case was compelled to cease after 18 months because
1465 of tyrosine kinase inhibitor-related side effects, despite dose adjustments. The
1466 clinical trial (NCT03510455), which planned to enroll 10 patients, terminated
1467 the recruitment prematurely, because of a greater than expected incidence of
1468 ocular adverse events (AEs) and analysis of the data from the first 4 subjects

1469 indicated that the likelihood of permanent remission with BGJ398 was low. In
1470 spite of promising therapeutic implications evidenced by sporadic cases, the
1471 clinical practice would probably be limited by its unspecific toxicity, such as
1472 stomatitis, diarrhea, anemia, fatigue, renal and liver dysfunction, corneal ulcer
1473 and serious retinopathy³⁰⁵. The second generation of pan-FGFR inhibitor drugs
1474 with higher specificity or FGFR1-specific inhibitors may be prospective
1475 solutions worth development and expectation.

1476

1477 *d) Other Treatments*

1478

1479 Ablative therapy is another treatment option for TIO patients with tumors of
1480 which complete resection is challenging due to inaccessible anatomical
1481 location, threat to vital nearby structures, or severe comorbidities. It destroys
1482 individual tumors with heat (microwave, ultrasound, radiofrequency, or laser
1483 ablation), cold (cryoablation), or chemicals (percutaneous ethanol instillation),
1484 less traumatically than surgeries, and has certain strengths in the
1485 management of soft tissues. Hesse et al innovatively used radiofrequency
1486 ablation for TIO and achieved success based on the 1-year follow-up results
1487³⁰⁷. Since then, 19 cases in which TIO was treated with ablation have been
1488 successively reported³⁰⁷⁻³¹⁶, and among them radiofrequency ablation and
1489 cryoablation are predominant with only one exception adopting the ethanol-

1490 cryoablation combination ³¹⁶. This technique relies on the guidance of one or
1491 multimodality imaging, such as ultrasound and CT augmented by fusion of
1492 MRI, ¹⁸F-DG-PET/CT or ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE PET/CT. The strategy depends upon
1493 which modality best defines the tumor margins. Many considerations,
1494 including the size and vascularity of the tumor, local resource availability, and
1495 other factors, would influence the procedure or combination of procedures to
1496 use in a given case. Most cases achieved biochemical restoration and physical
1497 improvement. While in the exceptional one large size (5.6×6.5cm) and irregular
1498 margins and loculations were proposed to account for the incomplete
1499 remission despite increased sessions of radiofrequency ablation ³¹³. The
1500 follow-up times are all shorter than 2 years, far from enough to assess the
1501 long-term efficacy of ablative therapy, and case-control studies or cohort
1502 studies are in deficiency to provide higher grade evidence on its efficacy and
1503 safety.

1504 Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PPRT) is an established therapy for
1505 neuroendocrine tumors with high somatostatin receptor (SSR) expression ³¹⁷.
1506 After the somatostatin analog, a component of PPRT, binding to its receptor
1507 on the surface of tumor cells, the peptides are internalized and the
1508 degradation products in lysosomes mediate radioactivity-induced local
1509 damage ³¹⁷. Since a proportion of PMTs also expresses SSR, PPRT has a
1510 potential therapeutic effect on TIO tumors showing Krenning III/V uptake on

1511 ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATE PET/CT, a recommended sensitive modality to select patients
1512 for PRRT ^{317, 318}. PRRT has been used for repeatedly in patients with TIO due to
1513 recurrent cranial tumors ^{317, 318}, and a patient with rare malignant PMT ²⁷⁷. After
1514 1-4 cycles, the uptake level on ⁶⁸Ga- DOTATE PET/CT declined, indicating a
1515 partial remission in 2/3 cases. Unfortunately, the authors do not report a full
1516 time-course of main biochemical parameters of interest ^{277, 318}.

1517 The role of radiotherapy in the multidisciplinary treatment of TIO is not
1518 clarified due to the inconsistency of published cases. Massaccesi et al
1519 summarized 4 cases of successful radiotherapy use for TIO, among which
1520 partial resections of tumors located in the head region without tumor-free
1521 margins are the dominant indications ^{113, 129, 319, 320}, while in some cases radiation
1522 failed to obtain favorable responses ^{321, 322}. Different from other therapies, the
1523 effect of radiation therapy is not instant, and it may take years to wean off
1524 supplementation of phosphate and calcitriol, therefore longer follow-up time
1525 is required to monitor the disease and possible radiation-related
1526 complications.

1527

1528 **7) Conclusions and Future Prospects**

1529

1530 Progress has been made in studying the epidemiology, diagnosis, and
1531 management of TIO. Thus, studies of this rare disorder have revealed

1532 important insights about the biology of phosphate homeostasis and identified
1533 drugs that can be used for the treatment of this disorder for patient benefit.
1534 However, many important questions remain unanswered, and some of these,
1535 which represent avenues to explore by future research studies, are detailed
1536 below.

1537

1538 a. Epidemiology of TIO

1539

1540 1. The epidemiology of TIO needs to be established, and to facilitate this
1541 a specific International Classification of Diseases diagnostic code is
1542 required. The incidence and prevalence of TIO, together with its age of
1543 occurrence and different genders, needs to be determined at global
1544 and regional levels as, these may vary in different populations.

1545 Identification of such factors may provide insight into the aetiology of
1546 TIO.

1547

1548 2. Well-designed studies exploring the short- and long-term impact of
1549 TIO on mortality, in patients having curative surgery versus those
1550 without surgery, failed surgery, and/or long-term medical treatment,
1551 are required.

- 1552 3. Studies with high quality of evidence should be designed to further the
1553 understanding of the burden of disease of TIO from the patient's
1554 perspective, and these should include a combination of outcomes
1555 including chronic pain, weakness, skeletal-related manifestations and
1556 limitations in mobility.
- 1557 4. The design of a dedicated HRQoL questionnaire will be required to
1558 increase the analytical effectiveness of any given treatment in TIO.
- 1559 5. International registries and biobanks of tumors and blood samples are
1560 required for collaborative investigations aimed at understanding the
1561 underlying biological processes that would facilitate pre-clinical and
1562 translational studies.

1563

1564 b. Molecular and Pathophysiological aspects

1565

- 1566 1. The regulation of FGF23 production is complex and not fully
1567 understood. Thus, the transcription factors regulating FGF23
1568 expression and the mechanisms involved in its post-translational
1569 modification (e.g., cleavage) remain to be fully elucidated.
- 1570 2. The expression and functions of KLOTHO, FGFR1 and the *FN1-*
1571 *FGFR1/FGF1* fusion gene, in TIO cells and in enhancing FGF23
1572 production require further exploration. Also, the mechanisms that

1573 result in FGF23 overproduction in those ~50% of PMTs causing TIO,
1574 that do not express the *FN1-FGFR1/FGF1* fusion gene or KLOTHO,
1575 need to be characterised.

1576 3. The presence of other “phosphatonins” occurring in patients with
1577 typical PMT and osteomalacia, but normal serum FGF23
1578 concentrations, and/or PMTs negative for FGF23 expression, requires
1579 study.

1580 4. The roles of *PHEX* and *DMP1* mutations, which are associated with
1581 increased FGF23 concentrations, remain to be defined. *PHEX*, a
1582 peptidase expressed in bone, does not cleave FGF23, and *PHEX* and
1583 *DMP1* need to interact to lower total plasma FGF23. In addition, the
1584 physiological interactions between these local factors and systemic
1585 factors (e.g., PTH, 1,25(OH)₂D, erythropoietin, iron and alcohol), that
1586 regulate FGF23 production, and the pathophysiological consequences
1587 stemming from the *PHEX* and *DMP1* mutations need to be fully
1588 elucidated.

1589 5. Metabolomic studies in patients with TIO, have revealed potential roles
1590 for the oxylipins pathway and TIO pathogenesis. However, these
1591 findings need to be confirmed and the effects of confounding factors
1592 such as postoperative inflammation, excluded. These represent

1593 important studies as they may potentially identify new targets for
1594 therapy.

1595 6. The report that the CaSR likely acts as a phosphate sensor in the
1596 parathyroid glands to mediate the stimulatory effect of phosphate on
1597 PTH secretion, opens a new target for drugs. Indeed, cinacalcet
1598 treatment in TIO patients has been shown to result in a sustained
1599 increase in phosphate levels and TRP while decreasing serum PTH and
1600 calcium levels. However, cinacalcet may be associated with
1601 gastrointestinal side effects in some patients, and trials with other
1602 PAMs could be proposed.

1603 7. A search for other phosphate sensors may help to identify novel
1604 homeostatic mechanisms and targets for drugs.

1605 8. Some tumors associated with TIO express SSTR2, and it would be
1606 important for diagnostic and therapeutic uses to assess expression of
1607 other SSTRs (SSTR1, 3, 4 and 5).

1608

1609 c. Imaging techniques for Tumor Localization

1610

1611 1. Current imaging modalities to localize the tumor include a total body
1612 nuclear medicine study [e.g., radio-labelled scans (e.g., octreoscans or
1613 DOTA scans), SPECT, SPECT-CT, PET, PET-CT] with MRI (or CT) scans,

1614 and these may need to be repeated many times over several years, as
1615 the tumors can be very small. However, tumor localization is of
1616 paramount importance for facilitating a successful surgical outcome
1617 and better imaging modalities are required.

1618 2. Seven Tesla (7T) MRI scanners yield higher resolution images than 3T
1619 MRI scanners, which are routinely used in clinical imaging. Thus, 7T
1620 MRI scanners are able to provide much more detail and to detect
1621 smaller structures. Thus, 7T MRI scanners may be ideally suited for
1622 earlier detection of smaller tumors in patients with TIO, and their
1623 utility for this purpose needs to be assessed.

1624 3. Octreotide, binds with high affinity to the SSTR2, and PMTs expressing
1625 SSTR2 and can be detected by an octreotide scan. However, it is
1626 possible that some PMTs may express other SSTRs and targeting these
1627 may be of potential use. For example, Pasireotide is a multiple-
1628 receptor-targeted SSA that acts via SSTR1, 2, 3, and 5, and generating
1629 ^{111}In or ^{68}Ga - labelled pasireotide may be of possible use in detecting
1630 some PMTs.

1631 4. Owing to peculiar characteristics of burosumab and assuming that
1632 could be labelled with ^{99}Tc , it could potentially be used as a specific
1633 diagnostic tool to localise the tumour. Furthermore, if a dose of
1634 labelled burosumab were administered pre- or per-operative, it could

1635 be used to help the surgeon identify the precise location of the tumour
1636 with the aid of a hand-held gamma camera.

1637 d. Medical treatments in TIO patients with undetectable, inoperable or
1638 metastatic tumours

1639 1. Treatment with the FGFR1-3 tyrosine kinase inhibitor, BGJ398/infigratinib,
1640 in TIO, resulted in marked biochemical and structural improvements, but was
1641 associated with multiple AEs. Hence, the use of second generation of pan-FGFR
1642 inhibitor drugs with higher specificity or FGFR1-specific inhibitors require
1643 development and evaluation for the treatment of TIO.

1644 2. Burosumab (KRN23), a human monoclonal antibody against FGF23, is
1645 reported to be effective in ameliorating the metabolic and skeletal
1646 abnormalities of TIO in patients, although tumor progression was observed in
1647 some patients. However, long-term studies are required to assess the
1648 consequences of such tumor progression in relation to burosumab treatment
1649 in TIO, as well as the development and evaluation of other human monoclonal
1650 antibodies against FGF23. On a theoretical basis, if busosunmab could be
1651 linked to a suitable cytotoxic agent (chemical or radiotherapeutic), it could
1652 potentially be used as a therapeutic agent against tumours that are either
1653 inoperable because this would involve unacceptable damage to surrounding
1654 tissue, or if the tumour is recurrent or if multiple.

1655 3. Effectiveness of multiple-receptor-targeted SSAs, e.g., pasireotide, in
1656 treating tumors that express different types of SSTRs needs to be evaluated.

1657 4. Effectiveness of PRRT, which is an established therapy for treating
1658 neuroendocrine tumors, for treating PMTs with high SSTR expression, needs
1659 to be evaluated.

1660 5. Long follow-up periods will be required to monitor the effectiveness of
1661 radiation therapy and possible radiation-related complications.

1662

1663

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1667

1668

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2508

2509

2510 LEGENDS TO FIGURES

2511

2512 **Figure 1. Interactions between FGF23, vitamin D and parathyroid hormone.**

2513 Fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), produced by osteocytes and osteoblasts

2514 exerts its effects on the kidney and negatively affects parathyroid hormone

2515 (PTH) secretion. As a consequence there is a decrease in Cyp27b1 activity and

2516 1,25(OH)₂D production. The final cumulative net effect is a reduction of

2517 circulation serum phosphate values. NaPi-2a and 2c refer to sodium

2518 dependent phosphate transport protein 2a and 2c, respectively. Red arrows

2519 refer to the actions of PTH. Values of PTH are not suppressed, because there

2520 is also a stimulatory effect consequent to deficient calcium absorption.

2521

2522 **Figure 2. Proposed mechanisms of FGF23 overproduction and actions of**

2523 **FGF23**

2524 *Fibronectin (FN1)-FGFR1* or *FN1-FGF1* fusion gene has been reported in tumors

2525 responsible for TIO. FN1-FGFR1 fusion protein is considered to facilitate the

2526 activation of FGFR1. FN1-FGF1 fusion protein is proposed to be secreted and

2527 bind to FGFR1. Ectopic expression of KLOTHO makes the cells responsive to

2528 FGF23. All these mechanisms lead to activation of FGFR1 and may be involved

2529 in the overproduction of FGF23. These three abnormalities have been reported

2530 to be mutually exclusive. FGF23 then binds to KLOTHO-FGFR1 complex in

2531 target cells. FGF23 suppresses the expression of type 2a and 2c sodium-
2532 phosphate cotransporters and inhibits proximal tubular phosphate
2533 reabsorption. FGF23 also suppresses the expression of *CYP27B1* and enhances
2534 that of *CYP24A1* thereby reducing 1,25(OH)₂D level and intestinal phosphate
2535 absorption.

2536

2537 **Figure 3.** Two PMTs involving the soft tissues of the left groin and the head of
2538 the right femur ¹¹⁷ are illustrated in a and b, respectively. Hemorrhages
2539 (arrows) are recognizable in the soft tissue tumor. The color of the bone tumor
2540 (asterisk) is brownish for the high vascularization. Bar in a and b: cm 2.

2541

2542 **Figure 4.** Representative histological images of PMTs. These tumors consist of
2543 bland, round-ovoidal cells associated with florid vascularization which include
2544 variable sized blood-vessels ranging from slit “hemangiopericytoma-like” (a)
2545 to large cavernous spaces (b). The florid vasculature is highlighted by CD34
2546 immunostain (c). A more compact and densely cellular area is illustrated in d
2547 while an area with an overt excess of extracellular matrix (asterisk) is shown
2548 in e. Calcifications of the extracellular matrix are shown in f (arrows) and g
2549 (asterisks). The amount of matrix calcification is commonly smaller in
2550 sinonasal PMTs compared to those occurring in soft tissues and bones. Mature
2551 adipocytes (*ad* in f) are more frequently found in PMTs involving the sinonasal

2552 region while multinucleated giant-cells (h) are virtually a constant finding in
2553 those involving soft tissues and bones. As osteoclasts, multinucleated giant-
2554 cells are positive for TRAP (insert in h, red staining). The image in i illustrates
2555 a section obtained from a bone PMT processed for plastic embedding and
2556 stained with von Kossa ¹¹⁷. A thick osteoid seam (unstained in black with von
2557 Kossa, asterisk), indicating osteomalacia, is evident in an intra-tumoral bone
2558 trabecula. Panels a, b, and g-i: bone PMT. Panels c and d; sinonasal PMT. Panels
2559 e and f: soft tissue PMT. Panels a, b and d-h: haematoxylin-eosin. Panel c: CD34
2560 immunostaining. Insert in panel h: TRAP staining. Panel i: von Kossa-
2561 methylene blue staining. Bar in a-c, e and f: 200 μm . Bar in d and h: 100 μm .
2562 Bar in g and i: 120 μm . Bar in the insert in h: 60 μm . In i, PMT is for
2563 Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumor.

2564

2565 **Figure 5.** High power histological images of PMT-cells and mineralization of
2566 the intra-tumoral extracellular matrix are illustrated in a and b, respectively.
2567 Panels c-e were generated from samples of two PMTs, one in bone and the
2568 other in the soft tissues, processed for Transmission Electron Microscopy ³²³.
2569 A typical PMT cell is shown in c. It shows irregular nucleus, inconspicuous
2570 nucleolus, some mitochondria, cisternae of rough endoplasmic reticulum and
2571 small vesicles. The mineral deposits in the extracellular matrix are illustrated
2572 in d (asterisk). They appear to be in intimate association with an individual

2573 tumor cell. The panel e shows intra-cytoplasmic dense core membrane bound
2574 neurosecretory-like granules, one of which is highlighted in the insert. Panels
2575 a and c: bone PMT. Panels b, d and e; soft tissue PMT. Panels a and b:
2576 hematoxylin-eosin. Panels c-e: lead citrate-uranyl acetate. Bar in a and b: 30
2577 μm . Bar in c and d: 1 μm . Bar in e: 300 nm. Bar in the insert in e: 150 nm.

2578

2579 **Figure 6.** Diagnostic algorithm of the evaluation of suspected TIO. SPECT,
2580 single-photon emission computed tomography; CT, computed tomography;
2581 DOTA, 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid; ^{18}F FDG PET-CT,
2582 fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography-CT; MRI, magnetic
2583 resonance imaging

2584

2585 **Figure 7.** Mechanism of actions for the existing and potential novel therapies.
2586 The tumor cell secretes fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), which promotes
2587 renal phosphate excretion and reduces $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$ concentrations, by
2588 inhibiting sodium-dependent phosphate transport protein 2A and 2C (NPT2A
2589 and NPT2C) and cytochrome P450 family 27 subfamily B member 1 (CYP27B1),
2590 while stimulating cytochrome P450 family 24 subfamily A member 1
2591 (CYP24A1) on tubule cells, via fibroblast growth factor receptor 1 (FGFR1). On
2592 the other side, parathyroids secrete parathyroid hormone (PTH), which also
2593 downregulates NPT2A and NPT2C, but has opposite effects on CYP27B1 and

2594 CYP24A1 compared with FGF23. 1,25(OH)₂D stimulates phosphate absorption
2595 in the intestine. Surgery, ablation, radiotherapy and peptide receptor
2596 radionuclide therapy (PPRT) are therapies aiming to eliminate tumor cells.
2597 Octreotide binds to somatostatin 2A, 2B and 5 (SSTR2A/2B/5) on the tumor
2598 cell, thereby reduces the secretion of FGF23 in some cases. The novel therapies
2599 including FGF23 antibodies and FGFR inhibitors suppress the effect of FGF23
2600 by binding to FGF23 itself or FGFR1, respectively. Cinacalcet, a positive
2601 allosteric modulator (PAM) of the calcium-sensing receptor (CaSR), acts on
2602 parathyroid to reduce the release of PTH. Conventional medical therapy
2603 comprises oral preparations of phosphate and an active vitamin preparation
2604 (e.g., calcitriol or alfacalcidol).
2605

2606

2607 **Table 1. Differential diagnosis of TIO**

Condition	Common clinical features	Common laboratory findings	Determinants of the differential diagnosis
TIO	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty to walking, disability, fractures	Hypophosphatemia; TRP < 85-95%, low TmP/GFR	-Clinical: age, family history, exclusion iatrogenic causes -Laboratory: high FGF 23
-Other musculoskeletal disorders (eg Paget, myopathy, etc) -Rheumatological, neurological and psychiatric disease	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty to walking, disability, fractures	-Paget: elevated serum ALK	Normal phosphate levels
Malabsorption syndrome	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, height loss, difficulty to 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 to 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 to 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,

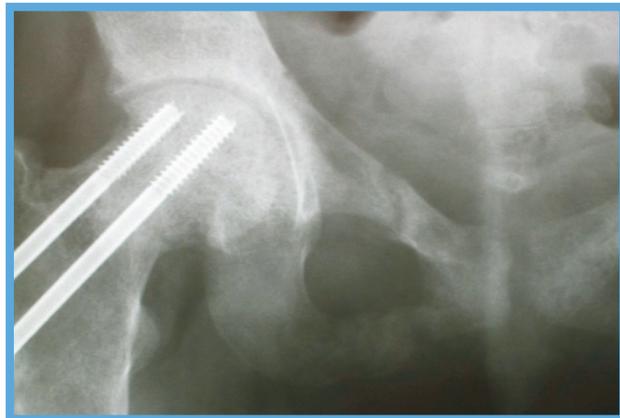
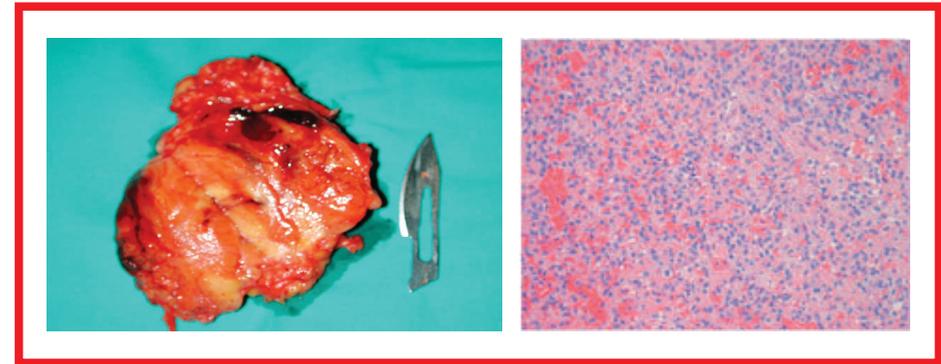
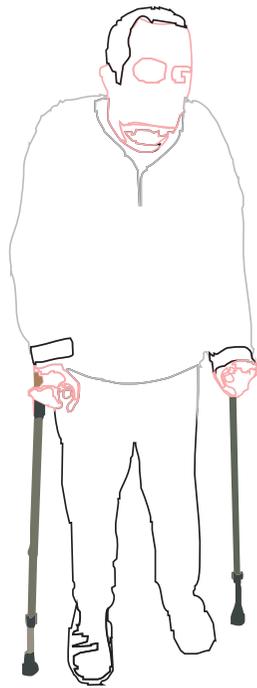
			glucose, amino acid, sodium, potassium, beta2-microglobulin and immunoglobulin
HHRH	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty to walking, disability, fractures	Hypophosphatemia; TRP < 85-95%, low TmP/GFR	-Clinical: young age; positive family history -Laboratory: high urinary calcium; low FGF23 -Genetic testing: SLC34A3
XLH, ADHR and ARHR	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty to 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: cafe'-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: GNAS1
CSHS, OGD and HRH	Musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, skeletal deformities, height loss, difficulty to 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), FGFR1 (OGD)

2608

2609 TIO, tumor-induced osteomalacia; TRP , tubular reabsorption of phosphate; TmP/GFR, maximum tubular reabsorption of
2610 phosphate/glomerular filtration rate; FGF 23, fibroblast growth factor 23; ALK, phosphatase; 25(OH)D, 25-hydroxy-vitamin
2611 D; PTH, parathyroid hormone; HHRH, Hereditary hypophosphatemic rickets with hypercalciuria; XLH, X-Linked
2612 hypophosphatemia, ADHR autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets; ARHR, autosomal recessive hypophosphatemic
2613 rickets; PHEX, phosphate-regulating endopeptidase homolog X-linked; DMP1, dentin matrix acidic phosphoprotein 1;

- 2614 ENPP1, ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase 1; CT, computed tomography; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging;
- 2615 PFD/MAS: Polyostotic Fibrous Dysplasia/McCune-Albright Syndrome; GH, growth hormone; CSHS, cutaneous skeletal
- 2616 hypophosphatemia syndrome; OGD, osteoglophonic dysplasia; HRH, hypophosphatemic rickets with hyperparathyroidism
- 2617

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 is possible.	Complete tumor resection is the only definitive treatment. Serum phosphate and FGF23 concentrations usually normalized in several days. BMD significant increases within 2 -4 years.	The incidence of refractory varies from 0% to 57 % [9,22]. The outcome of surgical treatment largely depends on the site of culprit tumor and experience of the surgeon. Loss of some limb function and prosthesis related problems. Hungry bone disease [52].
Conventional medical treatment	20-40mg/kg/d for element phosphate (1 -3 g/d for adults) and 20 - 30ng/kg/d for calcitriol (0.5-1.5µg/d for adults) [6].	When the causative tumors are unresectable, multifocal, unlocalized, or complete resection is not possible.	Partially restore phosphate and vitamin D homeostasis, alleviate the symptoms and normalize bone mineralization	Several complications including nephrolithiasis, nephrocalcinosis, reduced kidney function, and hyperparathyroidism [9,49,55]. Achieving the balance between optimizing clinical improvement and minimizing treatment complications.
FGF23 antibodies	Burosumab (0.3mg/kg to 2.0mg/kg every 4 weeks) [63-67].	Uncertain	Serum phosphate and TmP/GFR level rapidly increased above the lower limit of normal and remained through the study course for 144 weeks. Bone histomorphometry parameters and self-reported symptoms improved. Approximately 50% of fractures/pseudofractures were at least partially healed by week 96.	The potential impact 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.	The long-term effectiveness is uncertain.



↓↓↓ **Decreased Phosphate Reabsorption**

Tumor removal

Full recovery

Figure 1

Osteocytes and osteoblasts

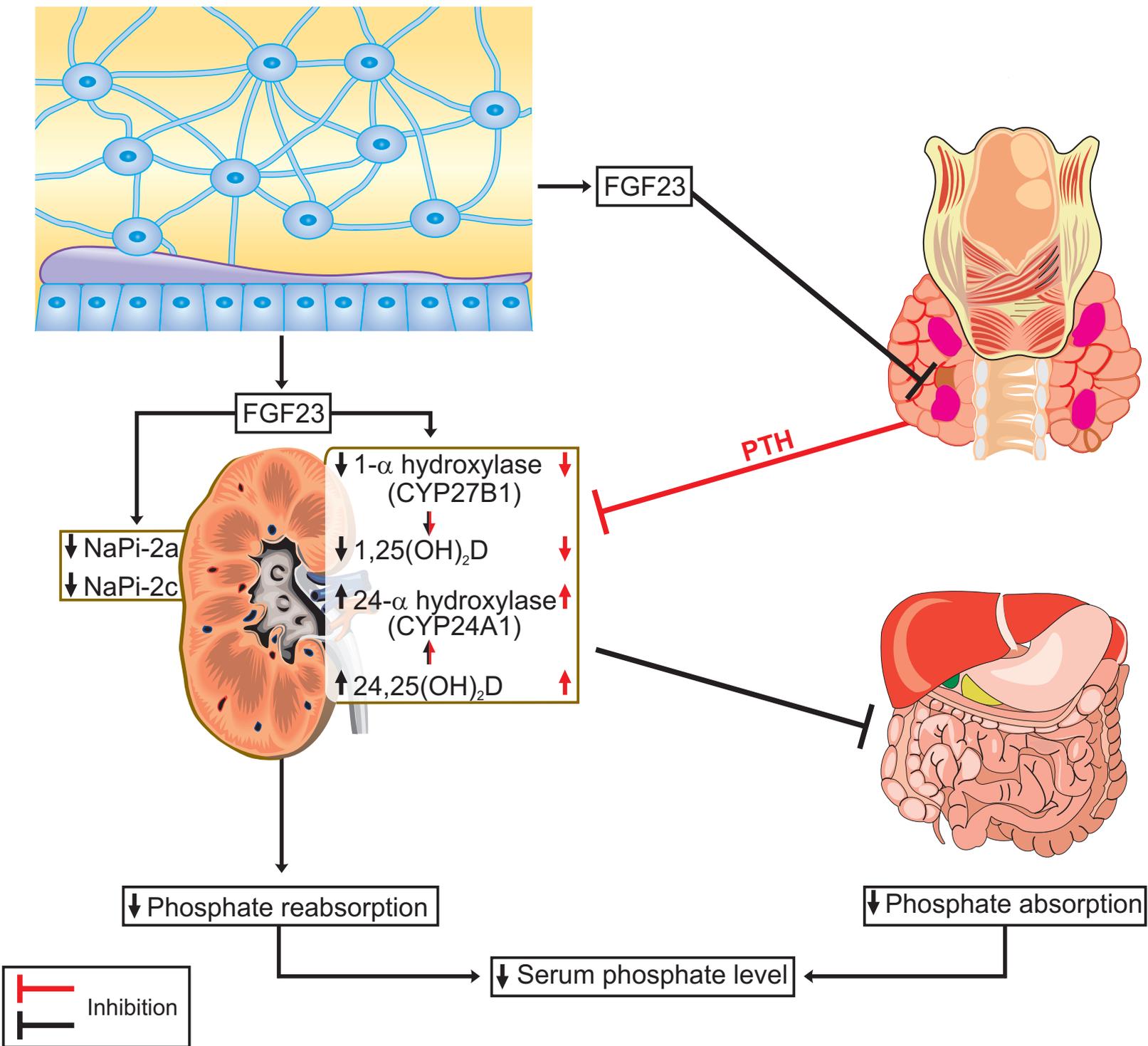


Figure 2

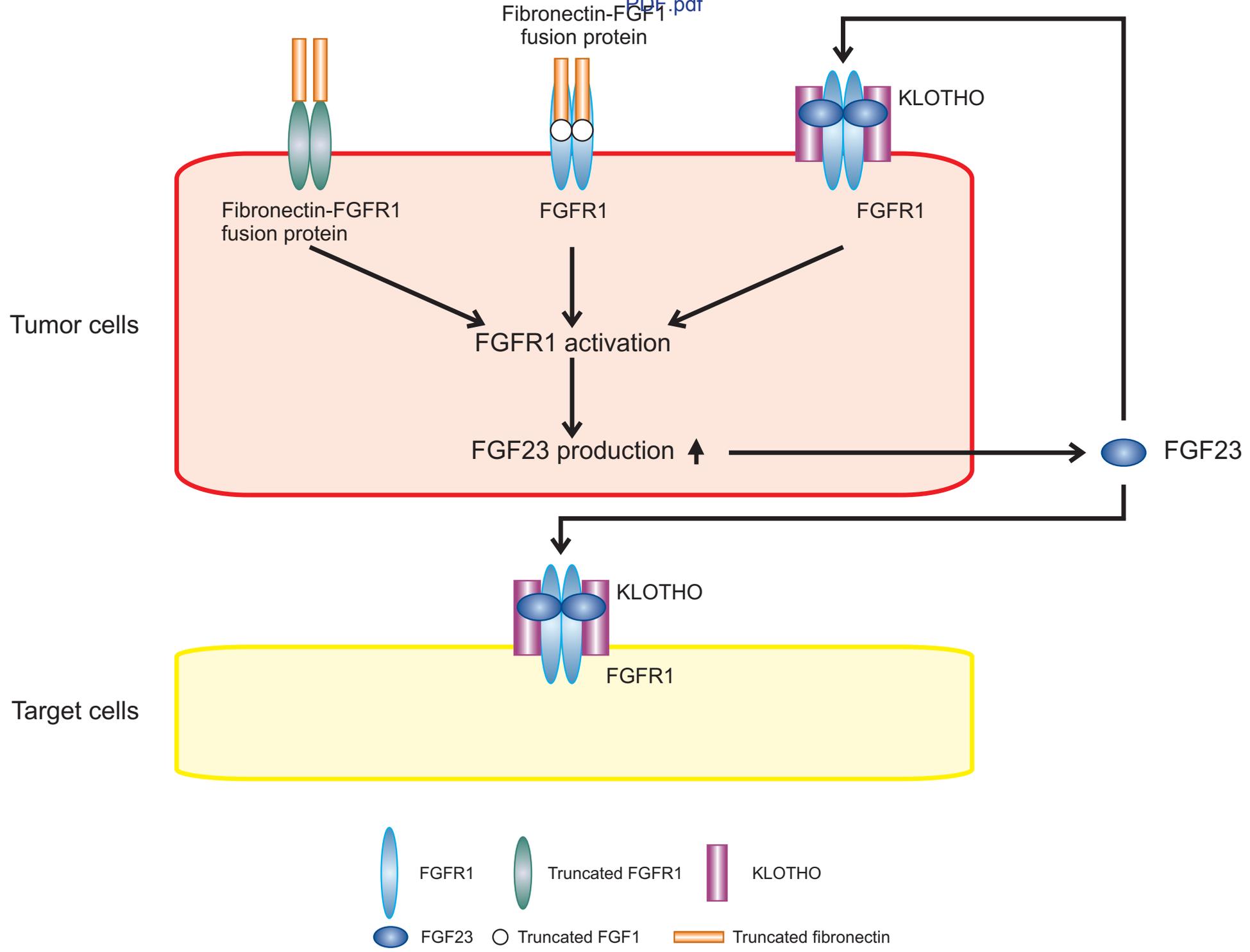


Figure 3

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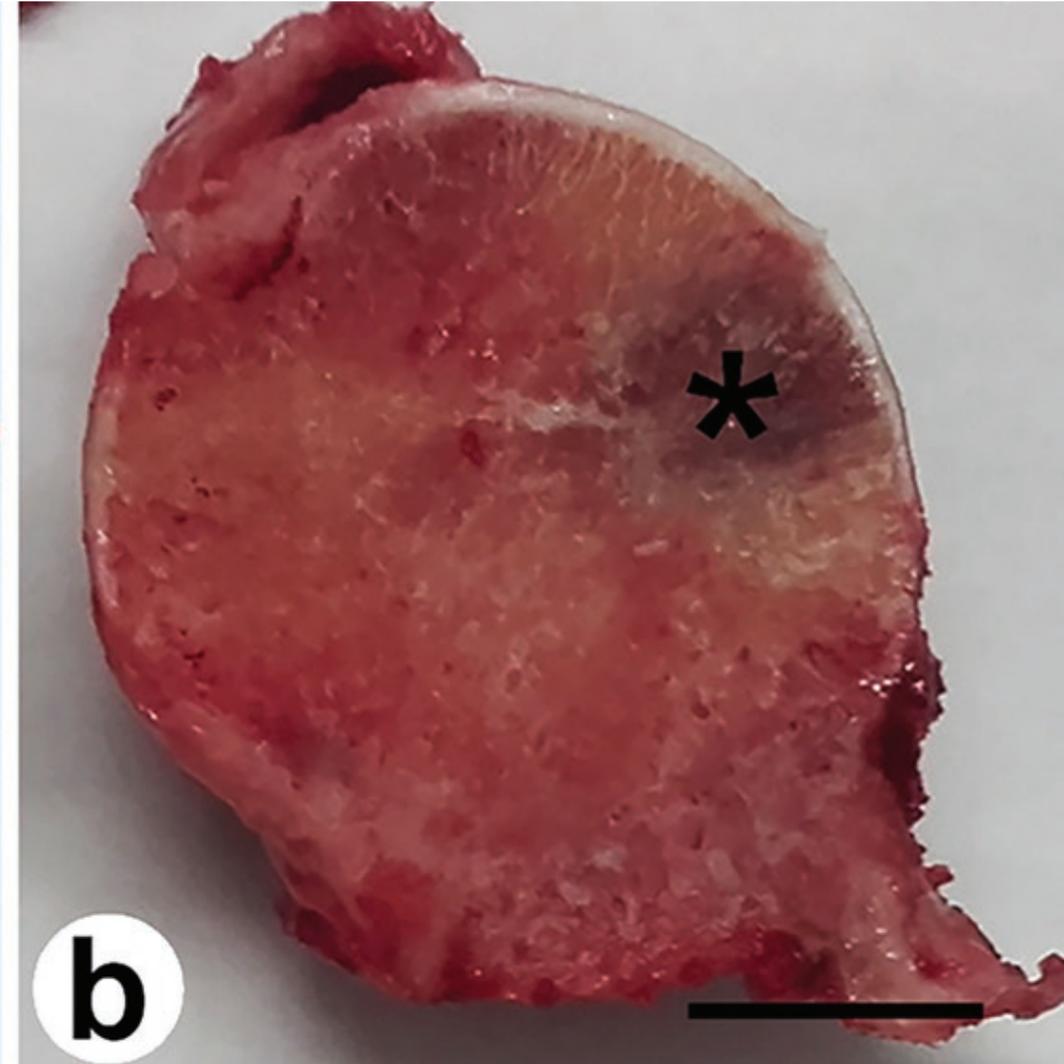
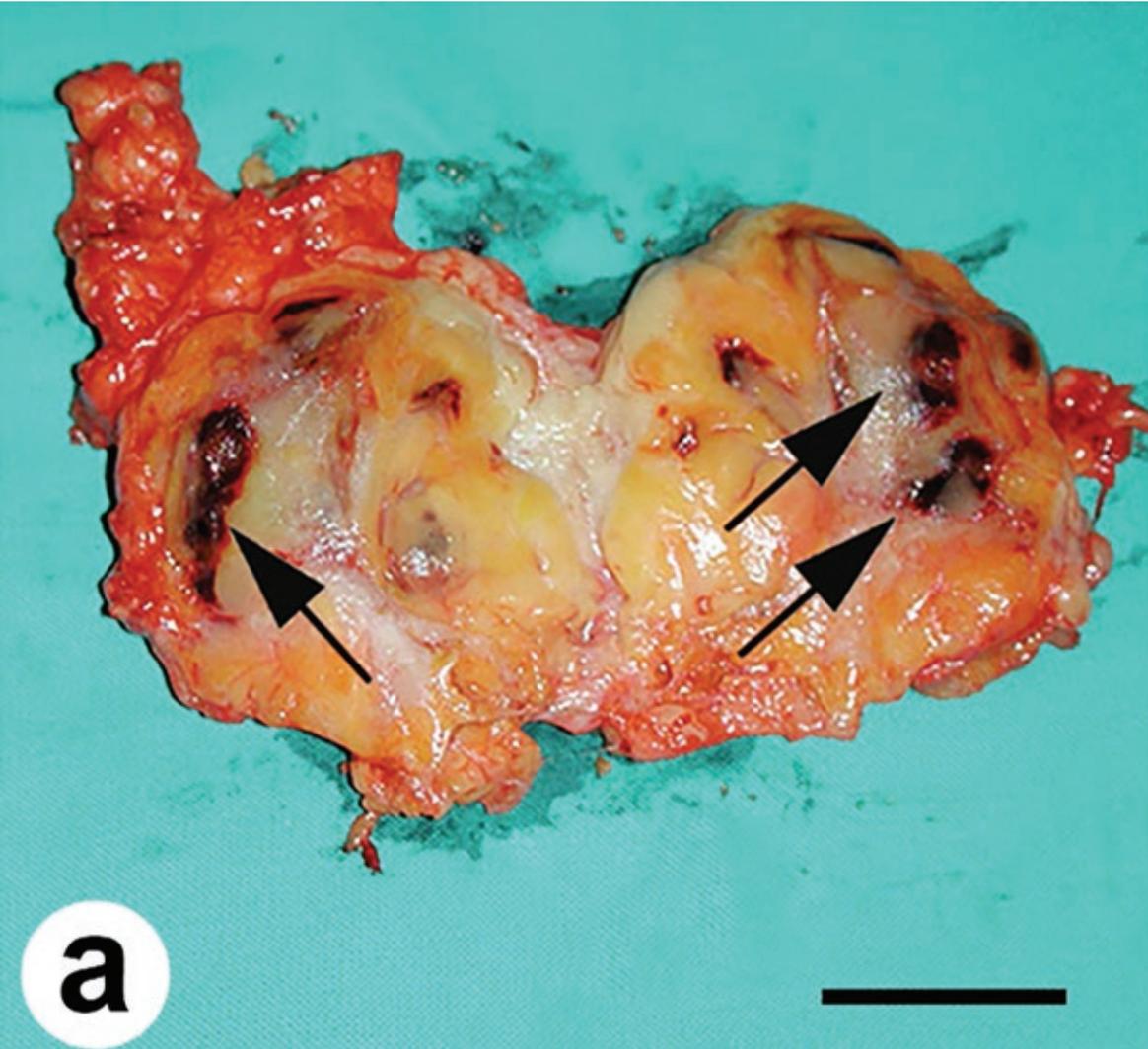


Figure 4

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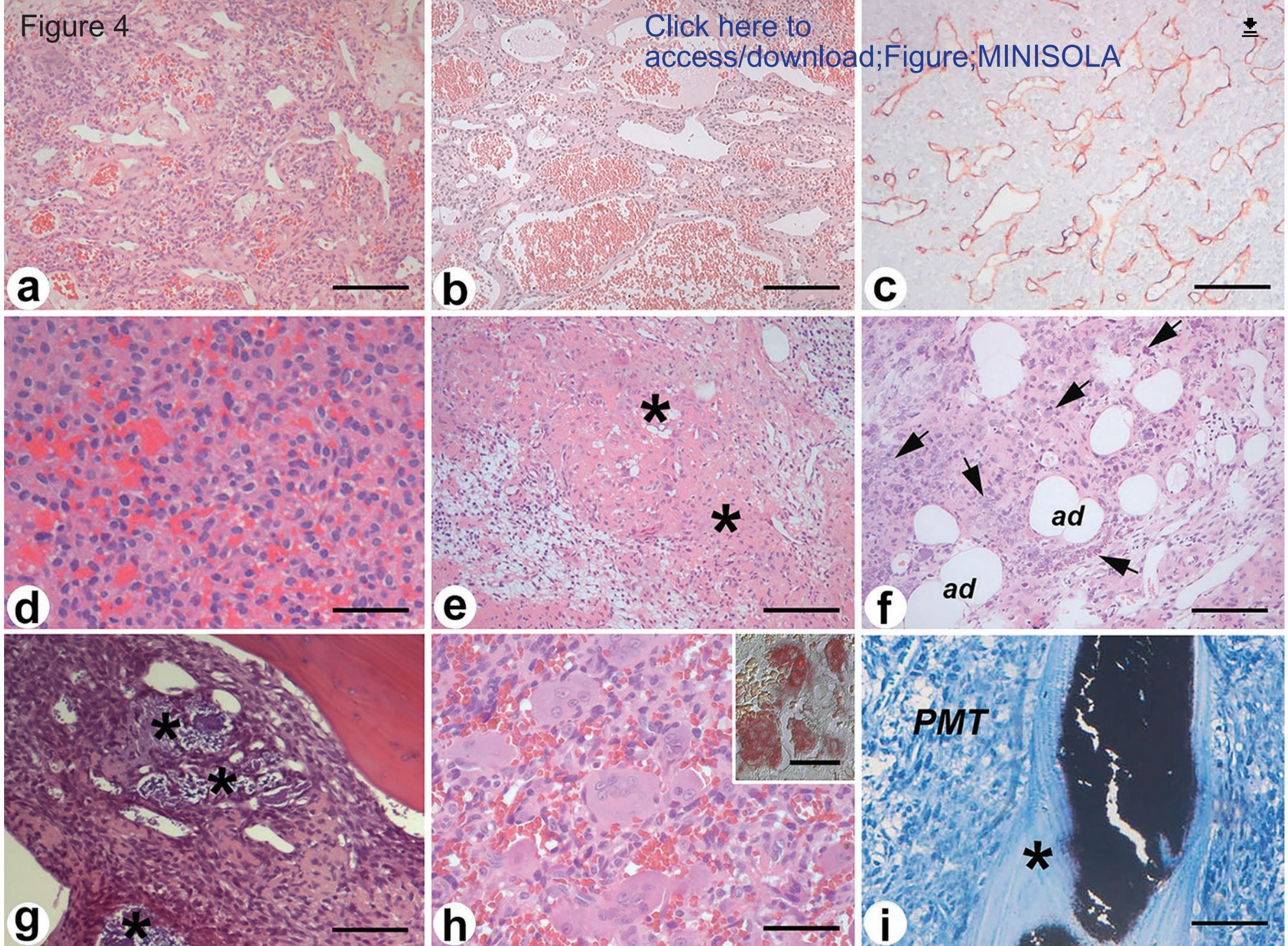


Figure 5

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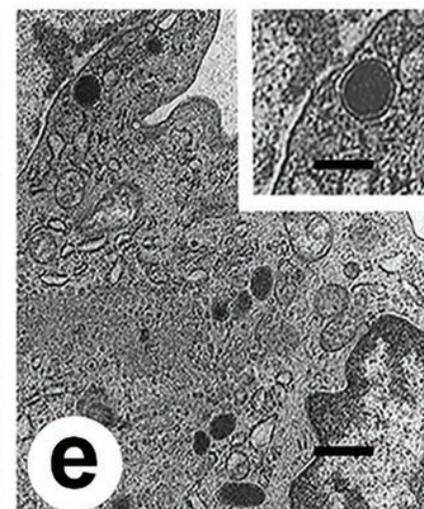
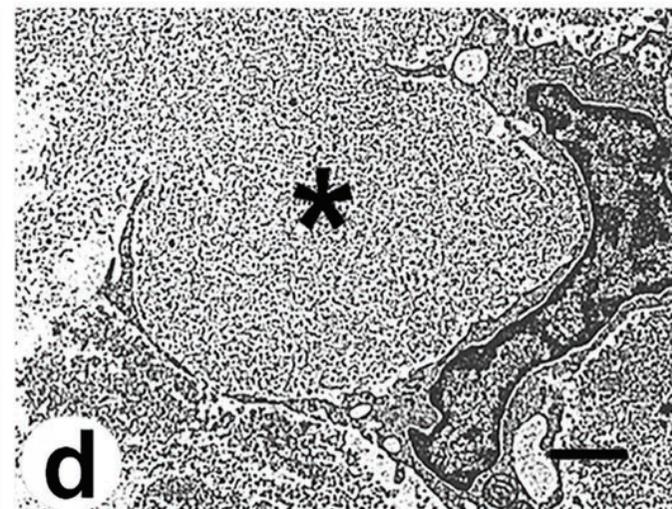
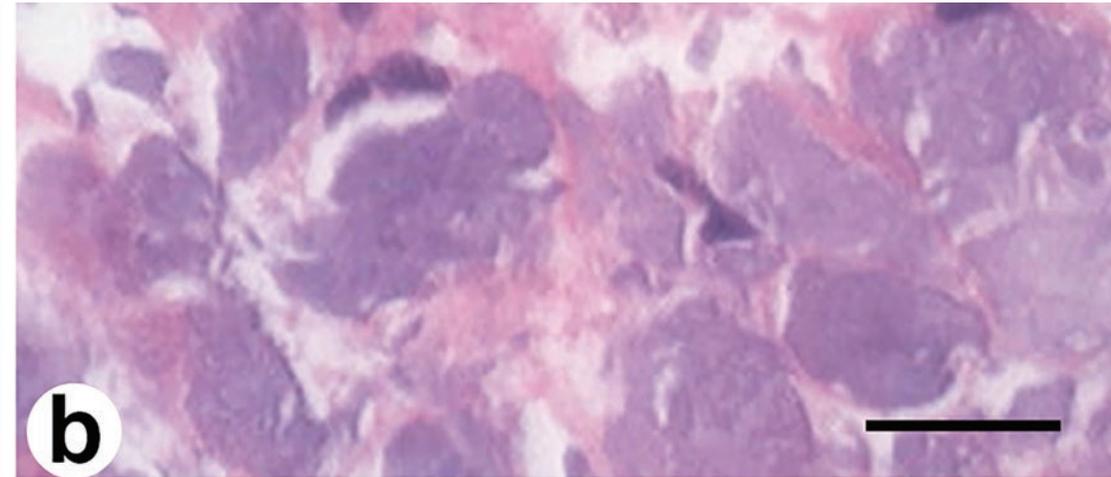
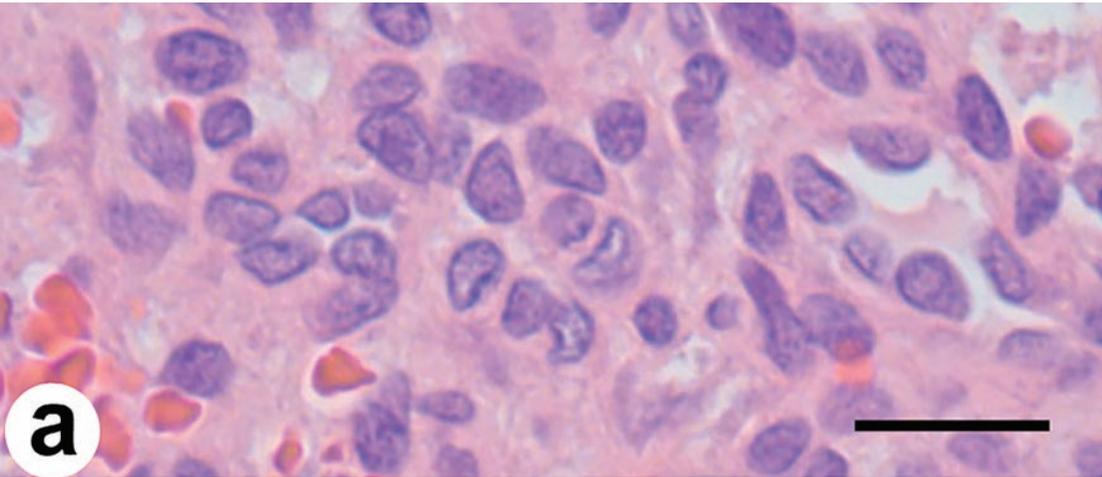


Figure 6

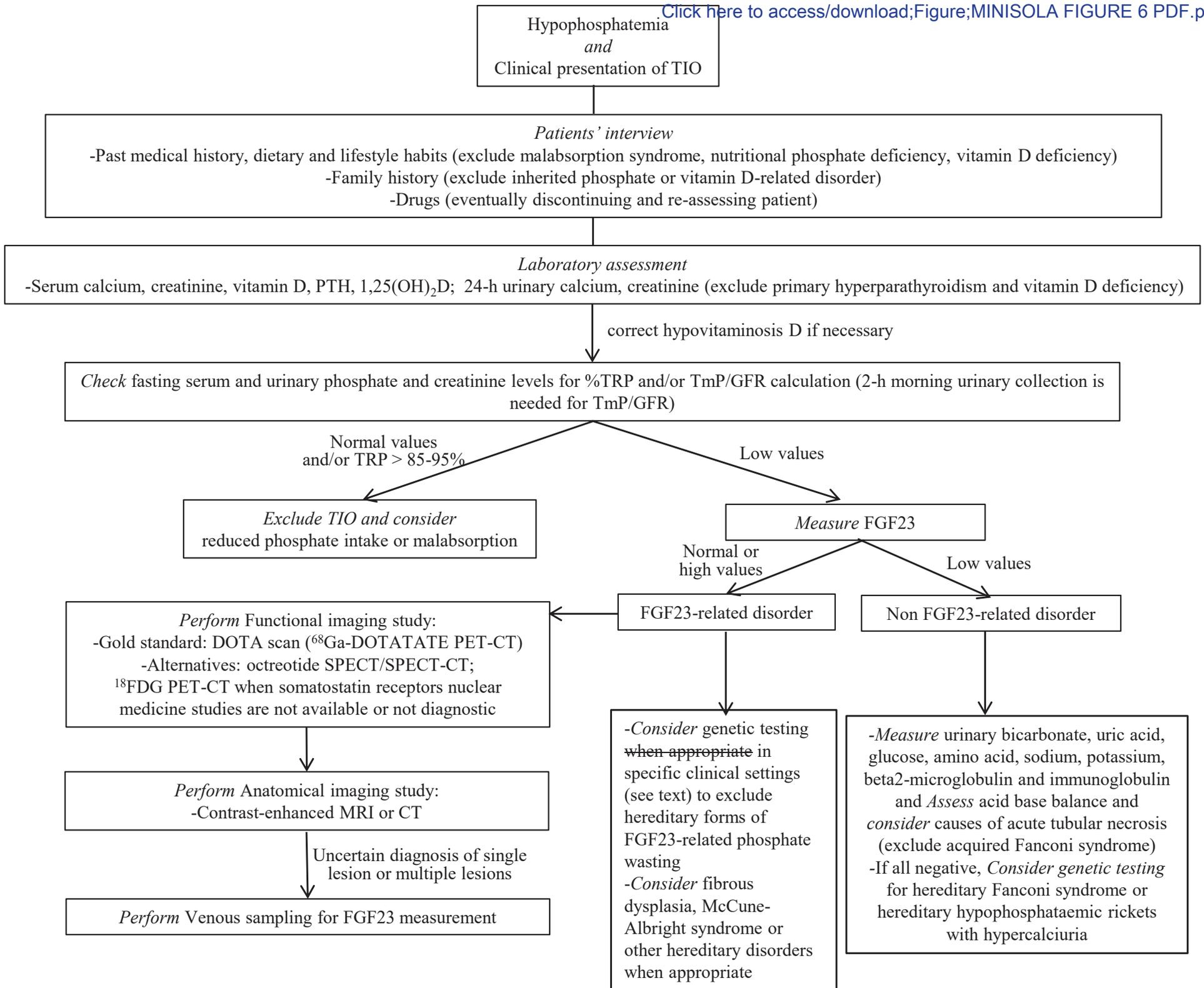
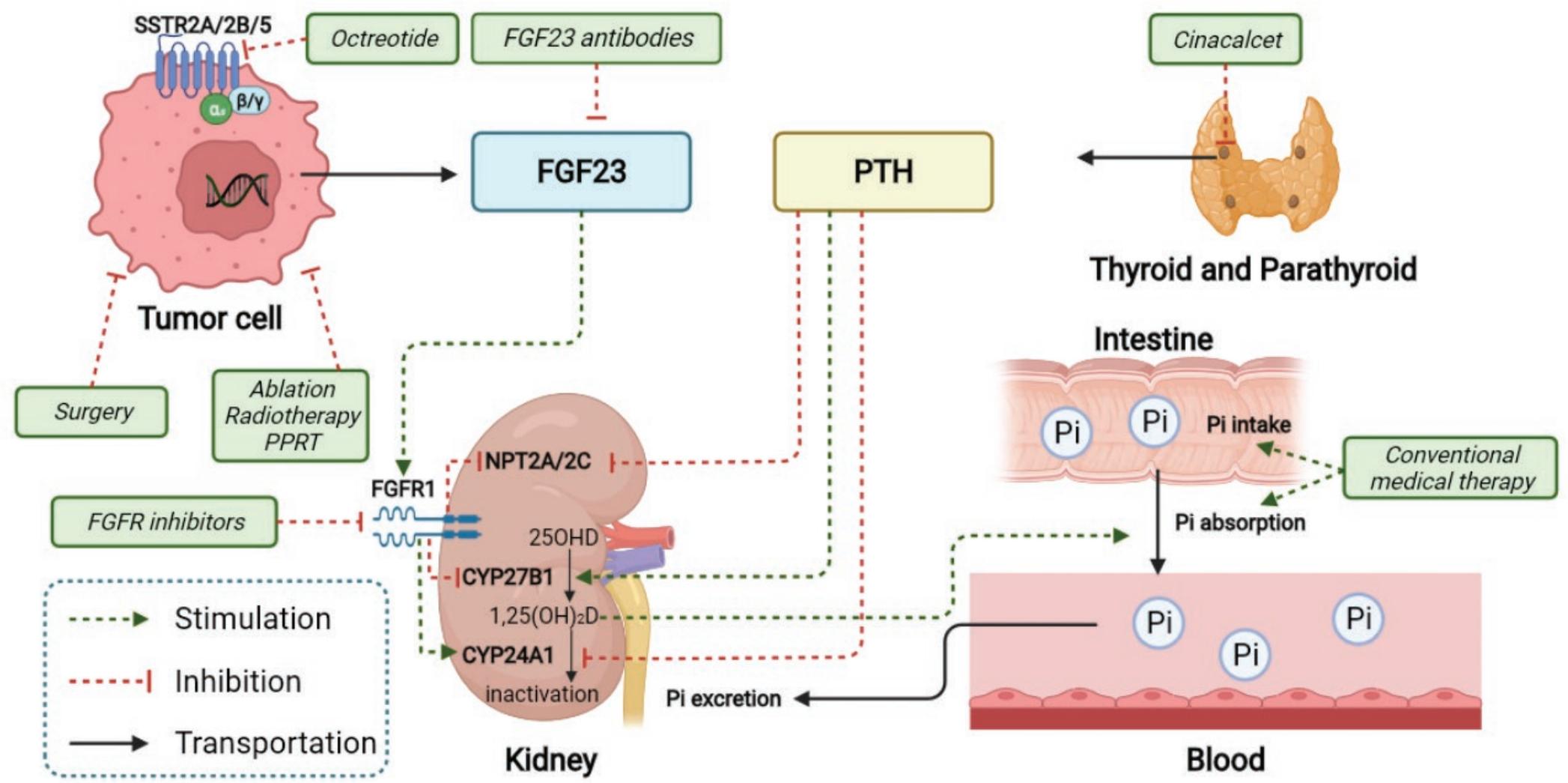


Figure 7

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ESSENTIAL POINTS

- 1) Tumor induced osteomalacia is a paraneoplastic syndrome due to overproduction of fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), which can severely impair morbidity of the affected patients.
- 2) Phosphaturic mesenchymal tumors are the pathological entities underlying tumor induced osteomalacia in most affected patients.
- 3) Biochemical features of tumor induced osteomalacia are represented by hypophosphatemia, increased or inappropriately normal levels of FGF23 and low to low normal circulating 1,25(OH)₂D.
- 4) Tumor induced osteomalacia is an underdiagnosed disease, whose awareness should be increased among physicians, for timely and proper management of the patients
- 5) There is now evidence that FN1-FGFR1 and FN1-FGF1 fusion genes are present in about half of tumors causing this paraneoplastic syndrome.
- 6) There are a number of function and anatomical imaging techniques utilized for tumor localization; ⁶⁸Ga DOTA based technologies have the better sensitivity.
- 7) 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.