

#### Tools Enabling Metabolic Parents LEarning

ADAPTED BY THE DIETITIANS GROUP

British Inherited Metabolic Diseases Group

BIMDG



BASED ON THE ORIGINAL TEMPLE WRITTEN BY BURGARD AND WENDEL

VERSION 2, FEBRUARY 2017

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# IVA

## Information for families following a positive newborn screening



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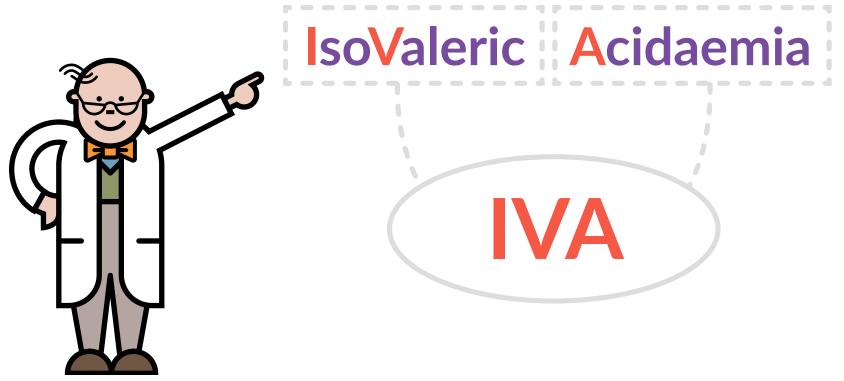
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#### What is IVA?

IVA stands for Isovaleric Acidaemia It is an inherited metabolic condition

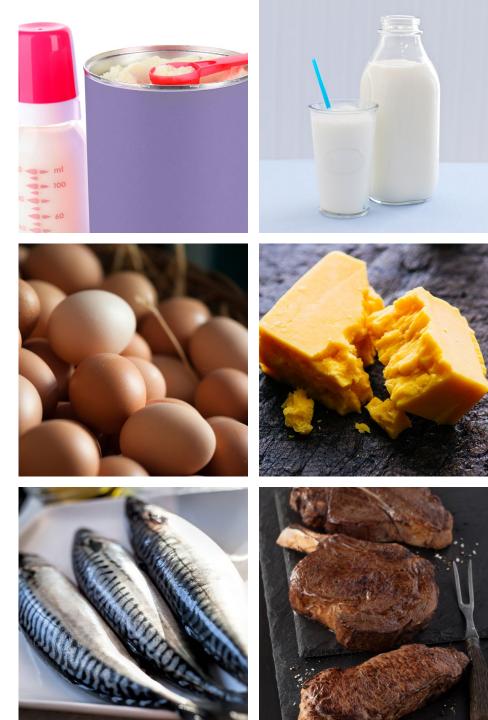


#### IVA and protein

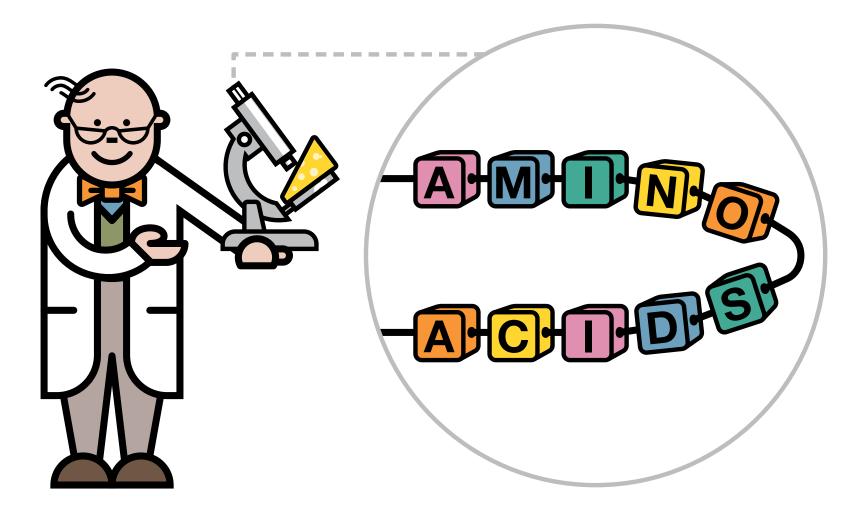
IVA affects the way your baby breaks down protein

Many foods contain protein

The body needs protein for growth and repair



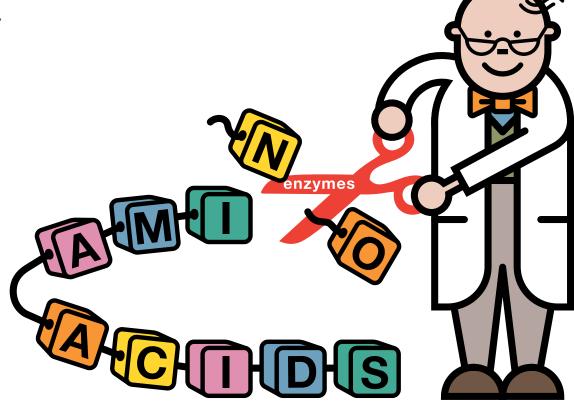
#### What is protein?



#### Protein and enzymes

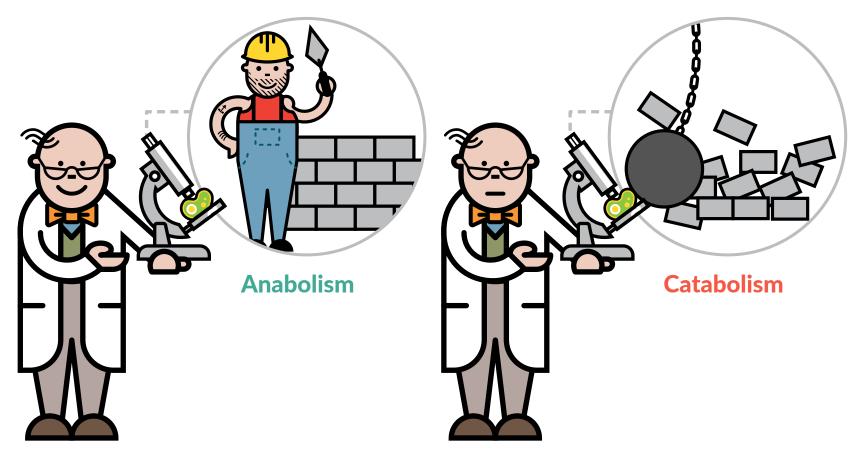
Protein is broken down into amino acids (building blocks of protein) by enzymes (which are like chemical scissors).

Enzymes then further break the amino acids into smaller parts.



#### Protein metabolism

**Metabolism** refers to the chemical processes that occur inside the cells of the body.

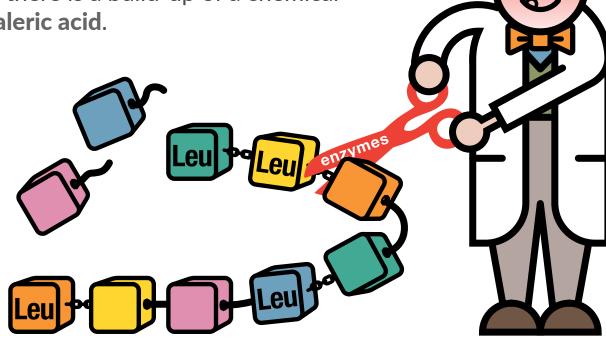


#### What happens in IVA?

In IVA, the body lacks an enzyme called **isovaleryl-CoA dehydrogenase**.

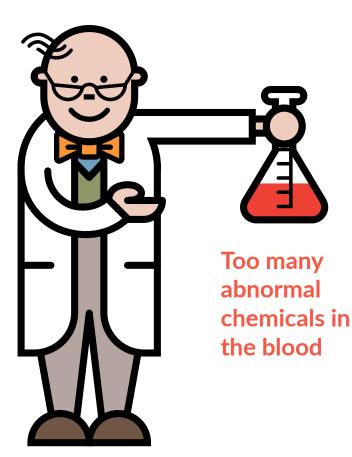
This means that the body is unable to break down an amino acid called leucine.

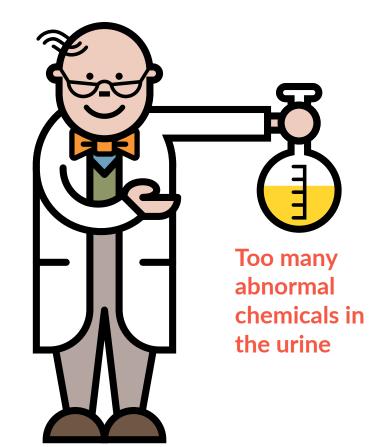
As a result, there is a build-up of a chemical called **isovaleric acid**.



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#### What does this cause?





#### How is IVA diagnosed?

IVA is diagnosed by newborn screening. High levels of isovaleric acid are found in the blood.



#### What are the symptoms in IVA?

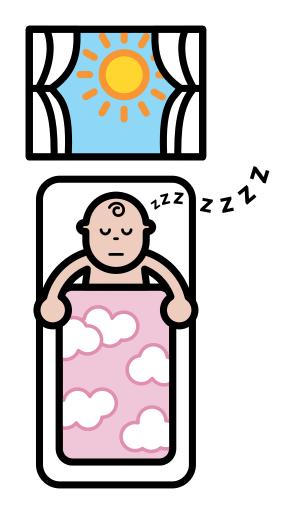
Some babies with IVA become ill in the first few days of life.

Symptoms include:

- poor feeding
- vomiting
- dehydration (lack of body fluids)
- floppy baby
- excessively sleepy
- rapid breathing
- seizures

### The effects of IVA quickly become life-threatening if untreated

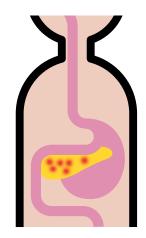
Some children may not develop early symptoms but present when they are a little older with learning difficulties.



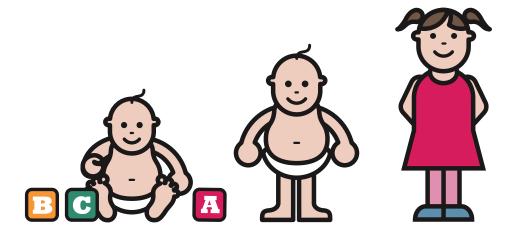
#### What can go wrong in IVA?

The build-up of harmful chemicals can damage the brain and other organs.





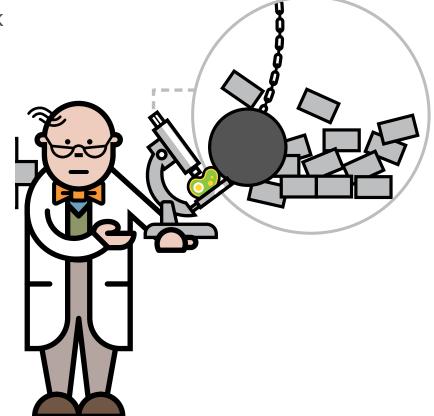
It may cause delays to normal development like walking and talking.



#### What else happens in IVA?

If the body does not receive enough food e.g. during illness, there may be a shortage of energy supply.

This causes **catabolism** which is a break down of body protein and can lead to a metabolic crisis.



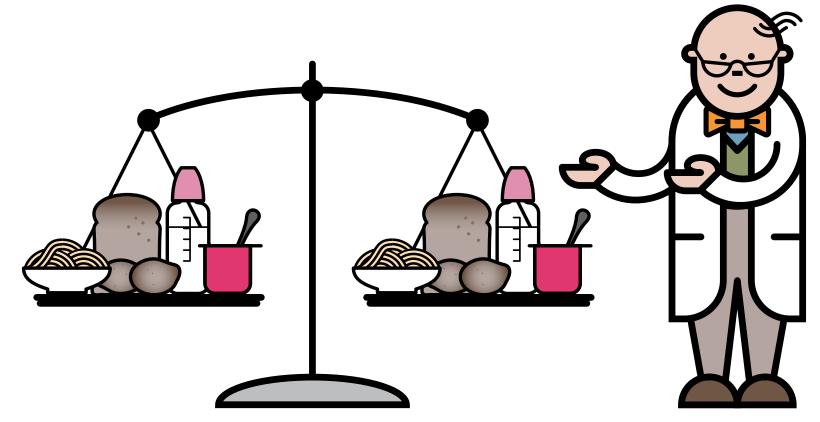
#### Metabolic crisis

- In a **metabolic crisis** there is a build up of methylmalonic acid and other toxic chemicals such as ammonia
- It is usually triggered by childhood illnesses e.g. vomiting and diarrhoea, fasting for too long or not having enough energy from food
- There should be no delay in treatment
- Avoidance of a metabolic crisis is essential

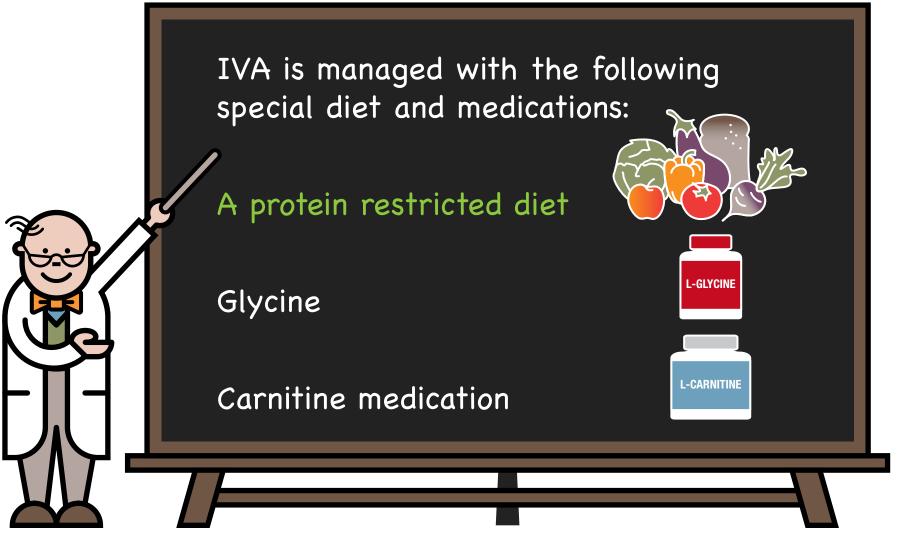


#### Protein balance is needed in IVA

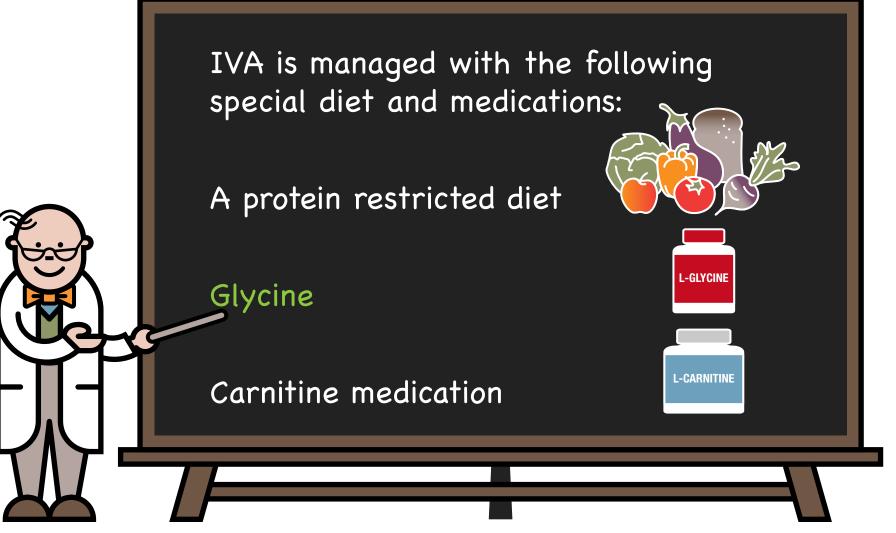
In IVA, it is important that enough protein is given for growth ...but not too much as toxic chemicals will be made.



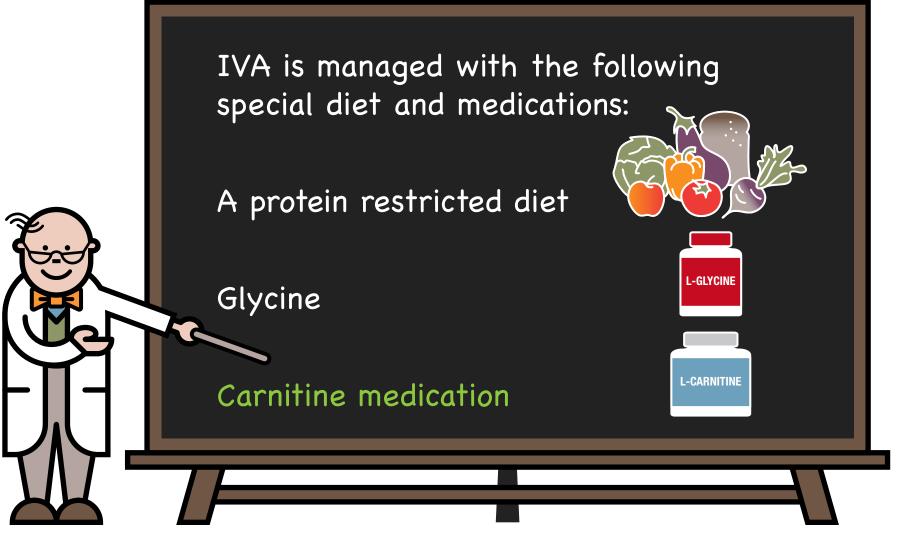
#### How is IVA managed day to day?



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- During any childhood illness, an emergency regimen is given
- This is to avoid a lack of energy supply and build-up of harmful chemicals that cause a metabolic crisis



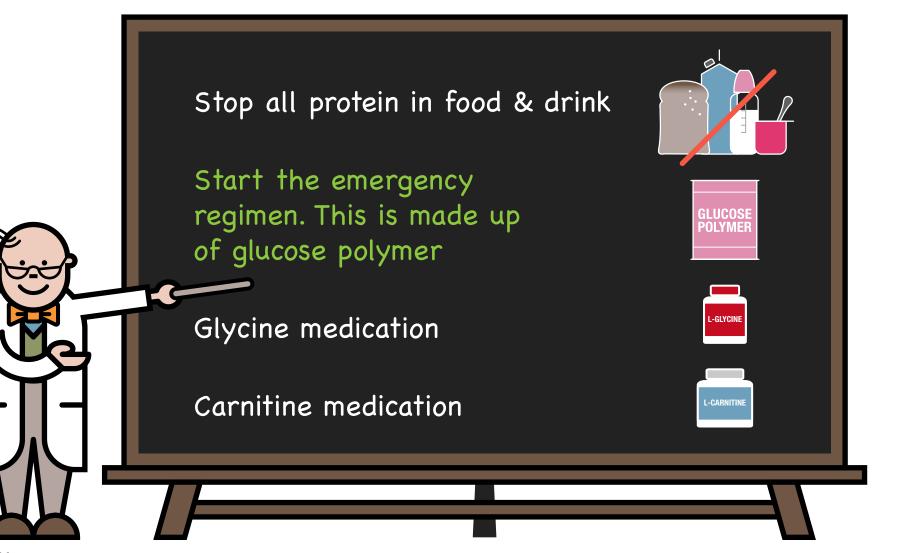


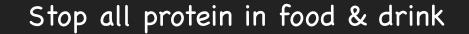
Start the emergency regimen. This is made up of glucose polymer

Glycine medication

Carnitine medication





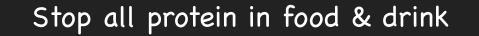


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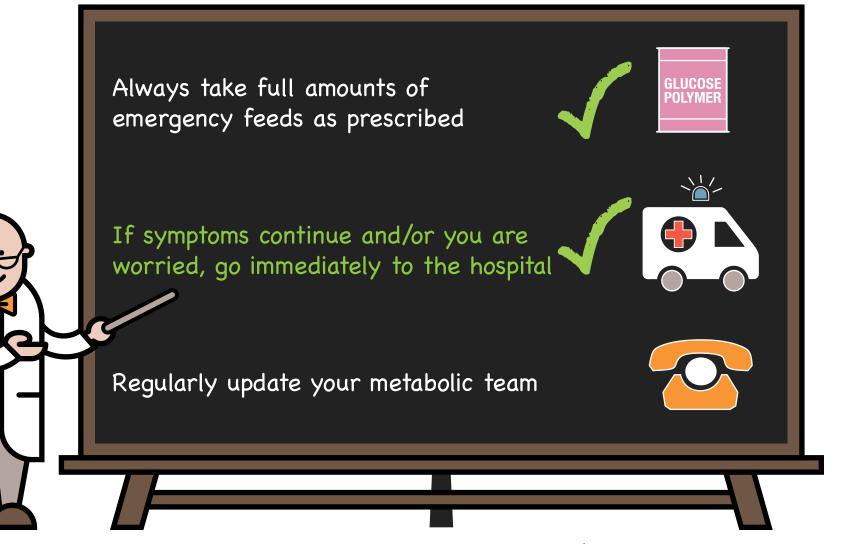
Carnitine medication



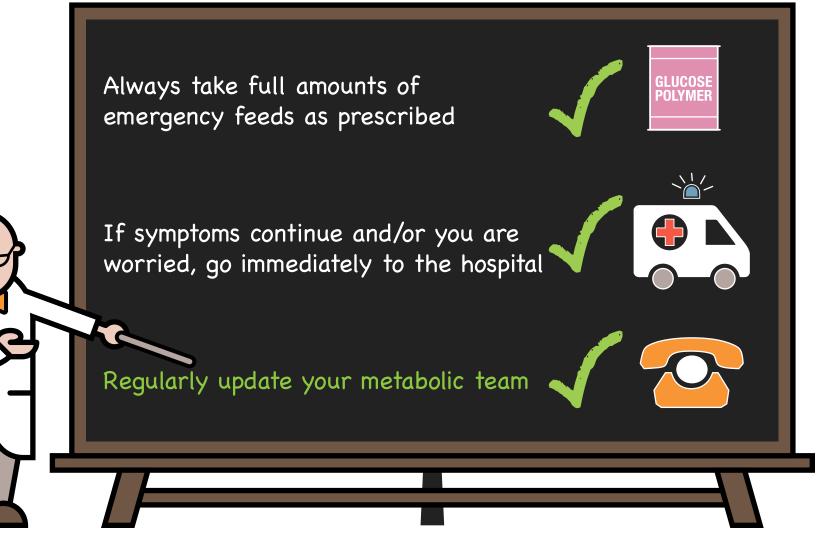
#### Checklist for illness



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#### Checklist for illness



#### Key message



Frequent blood tests to check amino acids, nutrients and chemicals

Height and weight

Developmental checks

Diet and medications are adjusted according to age, weight and blood chemical levels

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The word mutation means a change or error in the genetic instruction



We inherit particular chromosomes from the egg of the mother and sperm of the father



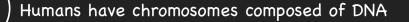
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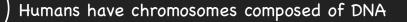


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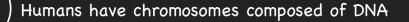


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IVA is an inherited condition. There is nothing that could have been done to prevent your baby from having IVA

Everyone has a pair of genes that make the isovaleryl-CoA dehydrogenase enzyme. In children with IVA, neither of these genes works correctly. These children inherit one non-working IVA gene from each parent

Parents of children with IVA are carriers of the condition

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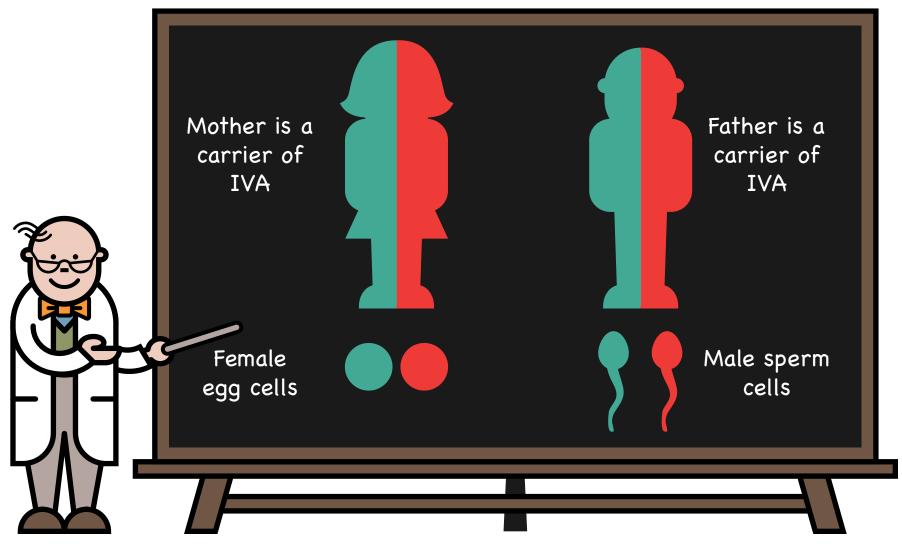
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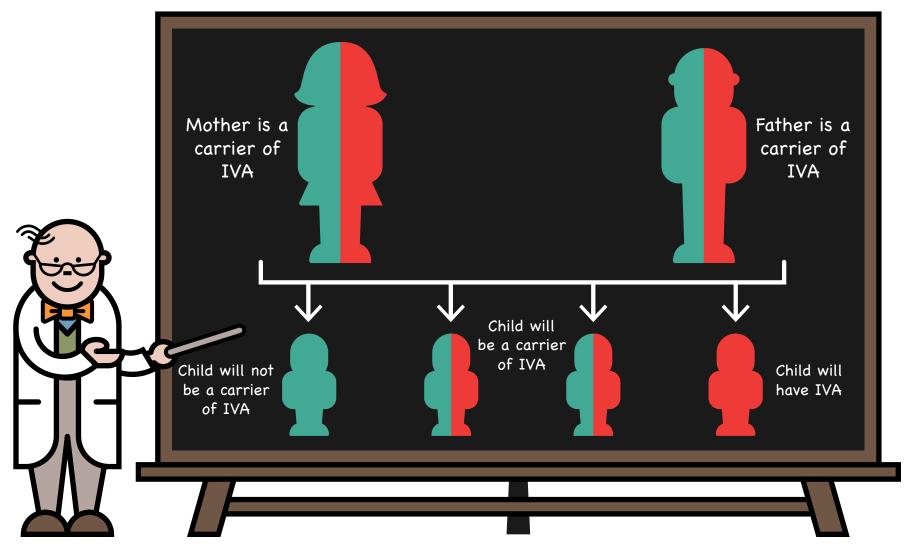
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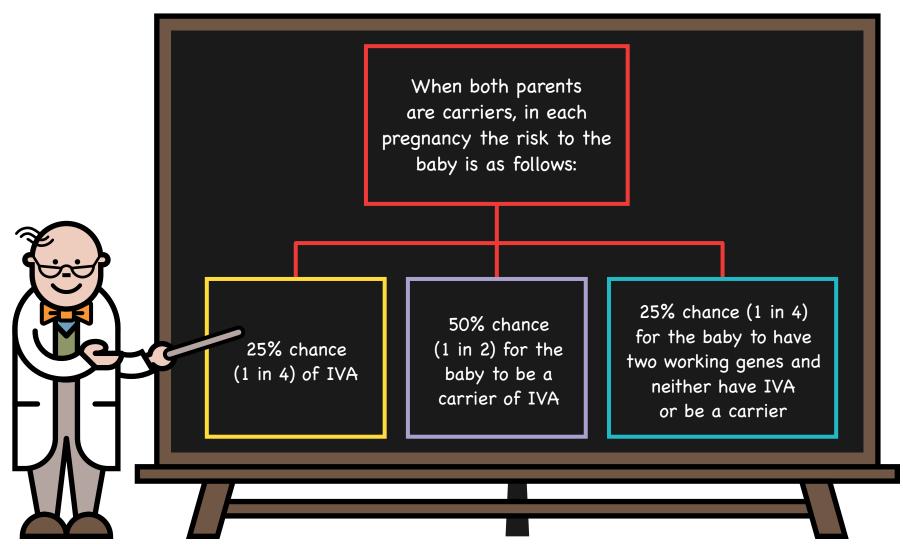
#### Inheritance – Autosomal recessive (carriers of IVA)



#### Inheritance – Autosomal recessive – possible combinations



## Future pregnancies



## Take home messages



IVA is a serious inherited metabolic disorder that can lead to severe brain damage

The condition is managed with a protein restricted diet, glycine and carnitine

Remember, during illness, it is imperative that emergency feeds are started promptly, followed strictly and there are no delays in treatment

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# Who's who

• My dietitians

• My nurses

• My doctors

- Contact details, address, photos

Visit **www.lowproteinconnect.com** and register to get access to support and practical advice for those living on a low protein diet.

The site also provides information on upcoming events and personal stories from others on a low protein diet.







www.bimdg.org.uk





www.nutricia.co.uk



www.climb.org.uk