Hepatic Lipase Deficiency

Other names that may be used for this disorder are:
- HL Deficiency

Hepatic Lipase is an enzyme that is found in cells in the liver (hepatocytes), adrenal glands and ovaries. Its role is to decompose both triglycerides and phospholipids by reaction with water. Triglycerides are the chemical form in which most fat exists in food as well as in the body and phospholipids are phosphorous-containing fats (lipids). As a result of this decomposition, the Hepatic Lipase enzyme converts Intermediate Density Lipoproteins (IDL) into Low Density Lipoproteins (LDL) and High Density Lipoprotein (HDL)² into High Density Lipoprotein (HDL)³. These lipoproteins are forms of cholesterol, high density lipoprotein (HDL) is good for the body and low density lipoprotein (LDL) is bad for the body, it is a build up of this form of cholesterol that can cause cardiovascular diseases, fatty obstruction of the blood vessels (arteriosclerosis), heart attack and stroke.

Treatment involves a low total fat diet. In some cases lovastatin may improve dyslipidaemia, however, gemfibrozil does not appear to help.

This information is fully sourced and referenced, for more detailed information and references please contact CLIMB by email, letter or telephone.

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