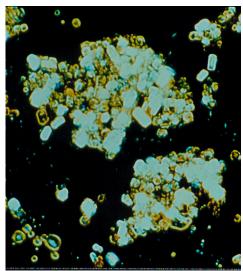
## Cysteamine Eyedrops for Cystinosis

### William A. Gahl, MD, PhD Clinical Director, NHGRI NIH, DHHS





## CYSTINOSIS

- AR; 1 in 200,000 births
- Storage of cystine in cells because of genetic defect in transport of cystine out of lysosomes.
- Crystals form in cells and destroy tissues.

## **CYSTINOSIS NATURAL HISTORY**

Age	<b>Clinical Manifestation</b>
Birth	None
Infancy	Renal tubular Fanconi syndrome
	Growth retardation
Early childhood	Photophobia
Late childhood	Renal failure
Adolescence and	Cerebral calcifications, diabetes
adulthood	mellitus, retinal blindness,
	myopathy, swallowing difficulty

## **Treatment of Cystinosis**



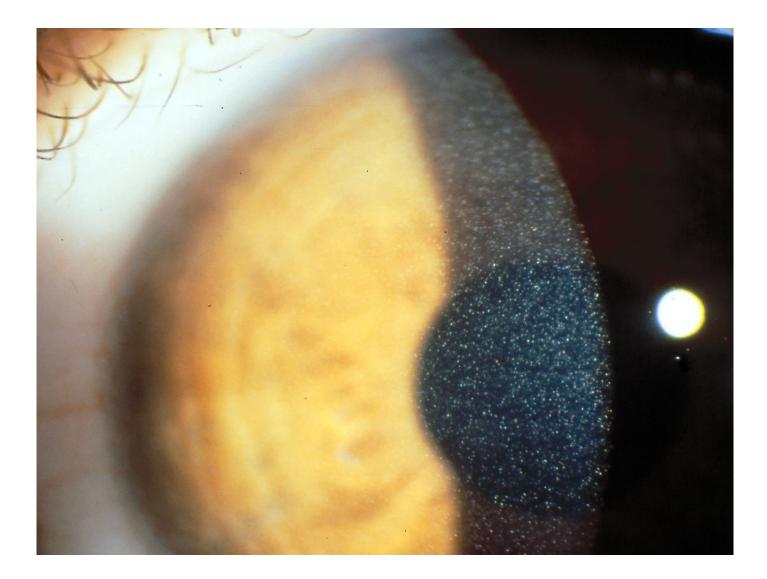
#### CYSTEAMINE

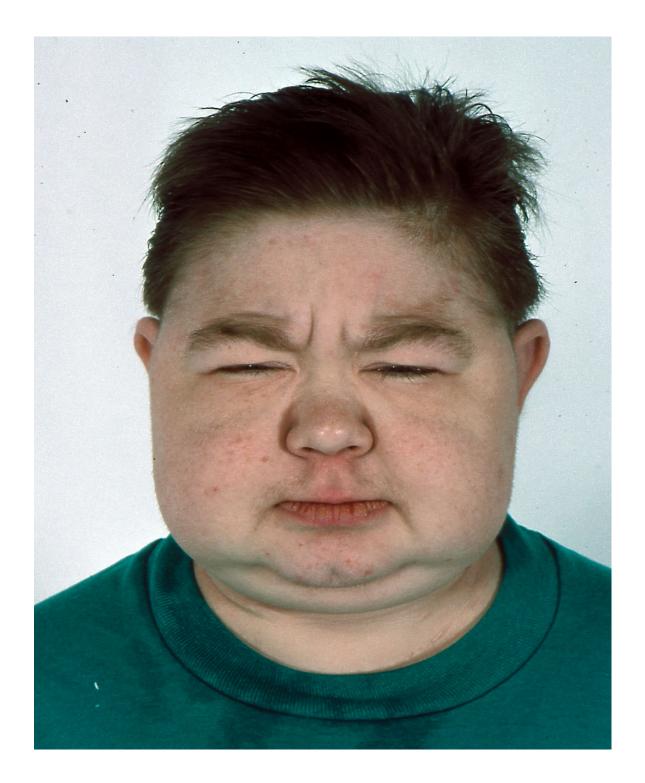
Chemically reacts with cystine to form products that can exit the lysosome and the cell.

## **Effects of Oral Cysteamine**

Lowers cystine content of cells and tissues by 90%.
Retards renal deterioration.
Enhances growth.
Prevents late complications of cystinosis.

# Oral cysteamine does not dissolve corneal cystine crystals.

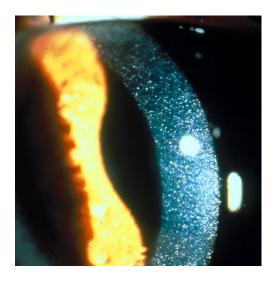




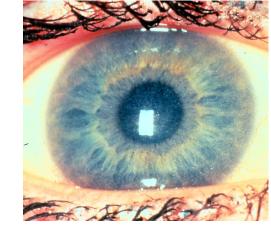
# Cysteamine eyedrops do dissolve corneal crystals.

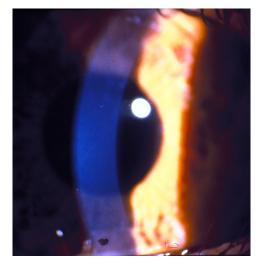
#### Untreated

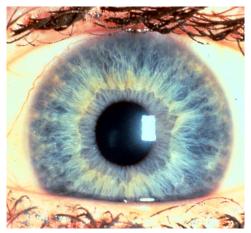
#### Treated









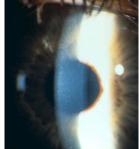


#### 20-year old

### **Library of Corneal Crystal Densities**

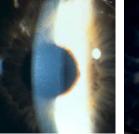






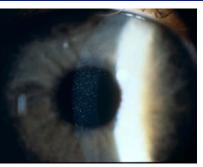
0.25





0.50





0.75



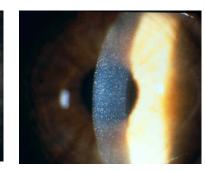


1.25



1.50

1.75



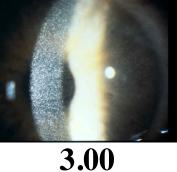
2.00

2.25

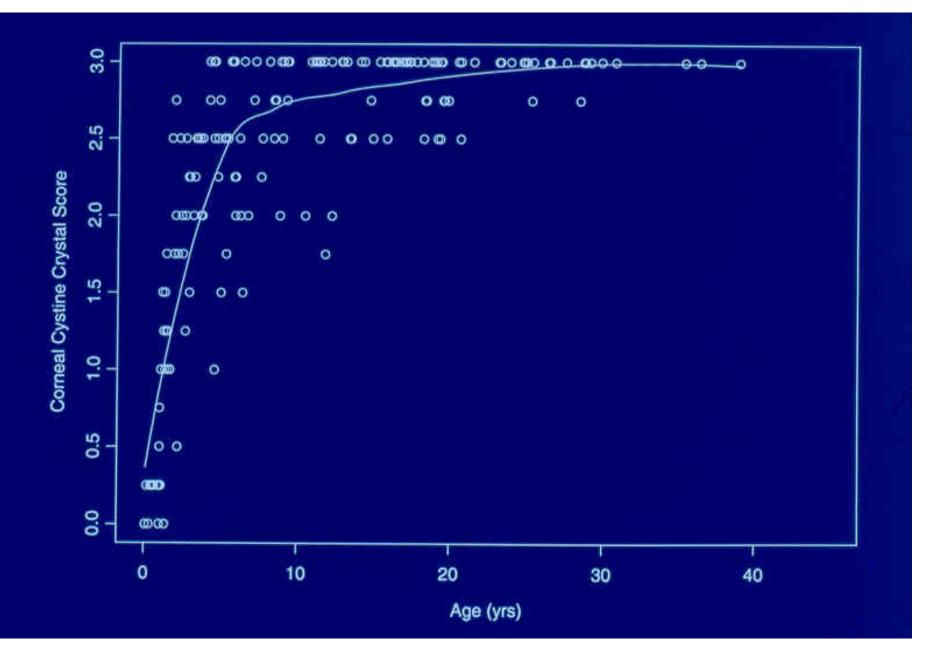


2.50

2.75



## **Corneal Crystal Accumulation**

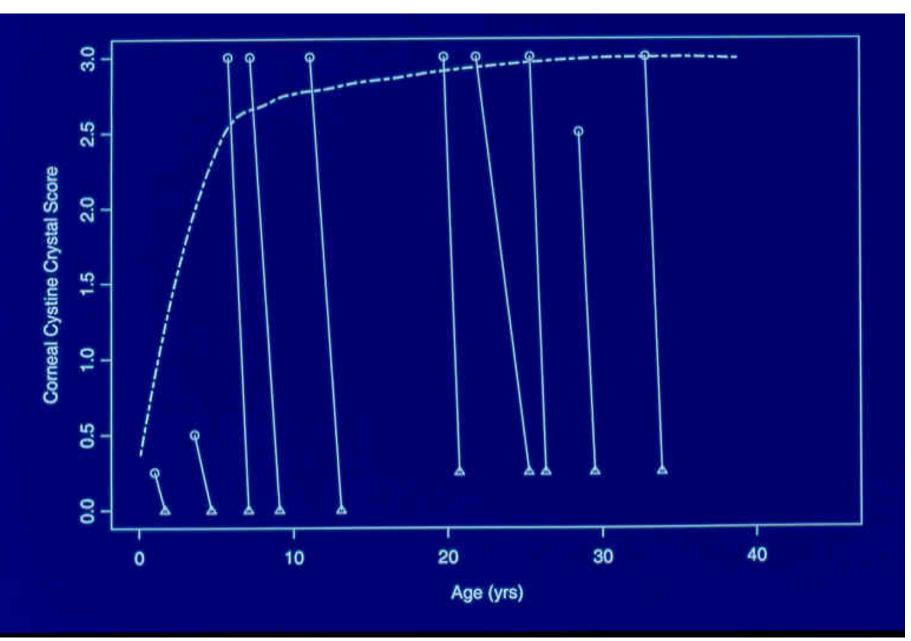


#### **Cysteamine Eyedrop Therapy** 20 mo 32 mo *12 mo* 57 mo 0.00 0.00 2.00 0.25 <u>43 mo</u> <u>15 mo</u> 40 mo 56 mo 0.00 1.00 0.50 0.00

#### **Cysteamine Eyedrop Therapy** 85 mo 157 mo 69 mo 133 то 0.00 3.00 3.00 0.00 86 mo 109 mo 249 mo 237 mo 0.00 0.25 3.00 3.00

#### **Cysteamine Eyedrop Therapy** 303 mo 354 mo 262 mo 342 mo 0.25 3.00 2.50 0.25 3<u>04 mo</u> 316 mo 394 mo 406 mo 3.00 0.25 3.00 0.25

## **Cysteamine Eyedrop Therapy**



## **Cysteamine Eyedrops: Timeline**

1986: NEI/NICHD show safety and efficacy of cysteamine eyedrops in two children (NEJM).
1986-present: NIH physicians provide eyedrops to cystinosis patients under protocol and IND.
1995-present: Sigma-Tau Pharmaceuticals sponsors drug development.

- Provides human-use drug to NIH for patients.
- Prepares NIH clinical data for FDA.

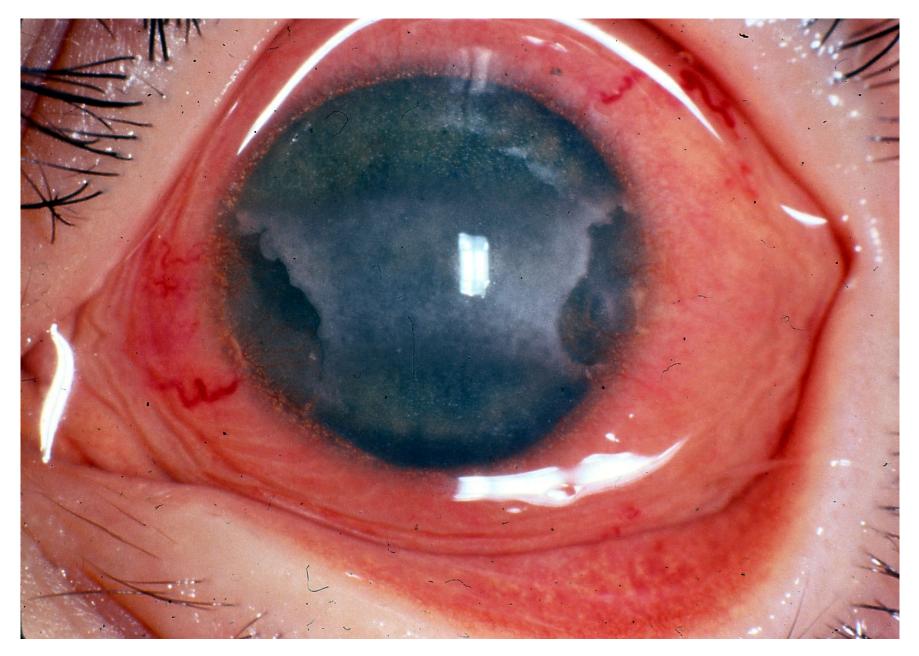
 Large investment in personnel and money.
 2000: NIH publishes natural history of eye crystals.
 2010: Sigma-Tau submits IND; FDA fast-tracks it. NIH records now being inspected.

#### Lessons

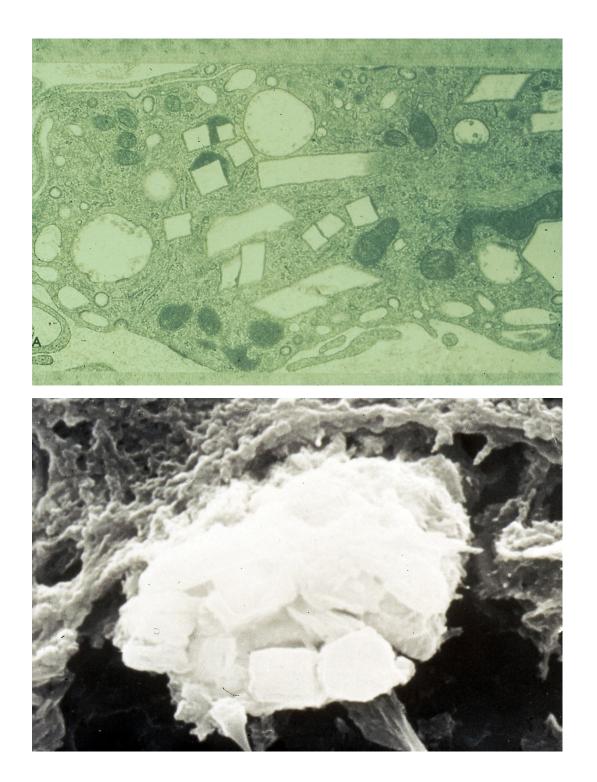
- Clinical research is a partnership of investigators, patients, and pharmaceutical companies.
- The FDA cannot approve a drug unless a New Drug Application is filed.
- Knowing the natural history of a disease is an integral part of obtaining approval for a drug.
- There do exist pharmaceutical companies that address the niche market of rare or orphan diseases.

## **Cysteamine Eyedrops**

- Dissolve corneal crystals if begun at any age.
- Cannot treat the band keratopathy once it occurs.
- Relieves the photophobia of cystinosis.
- Moving to New Drug Approval.

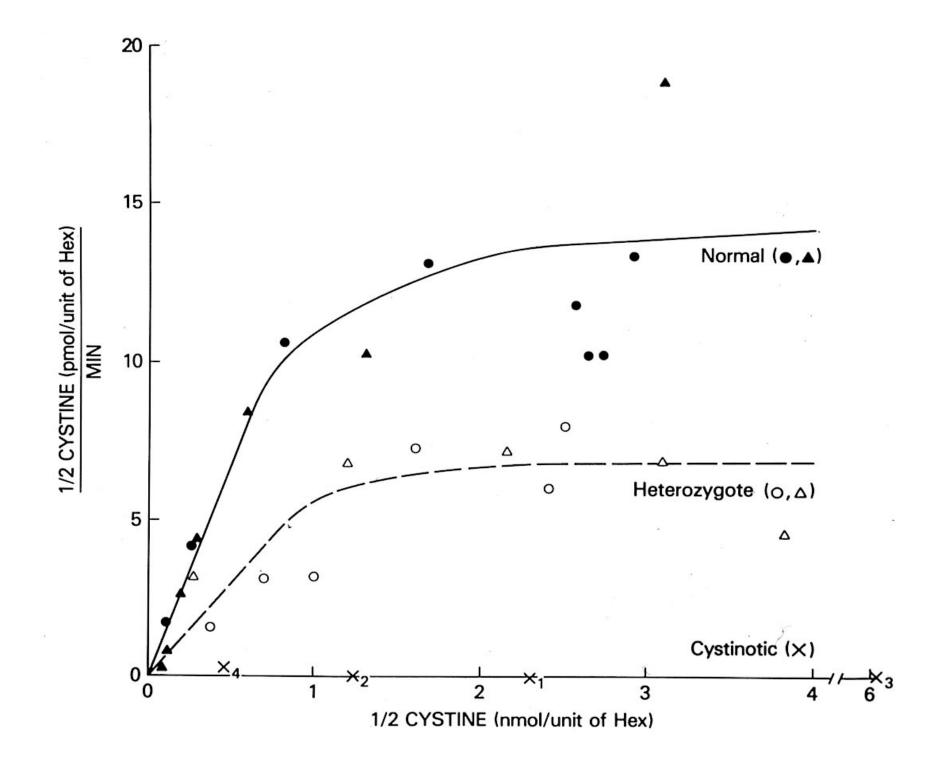


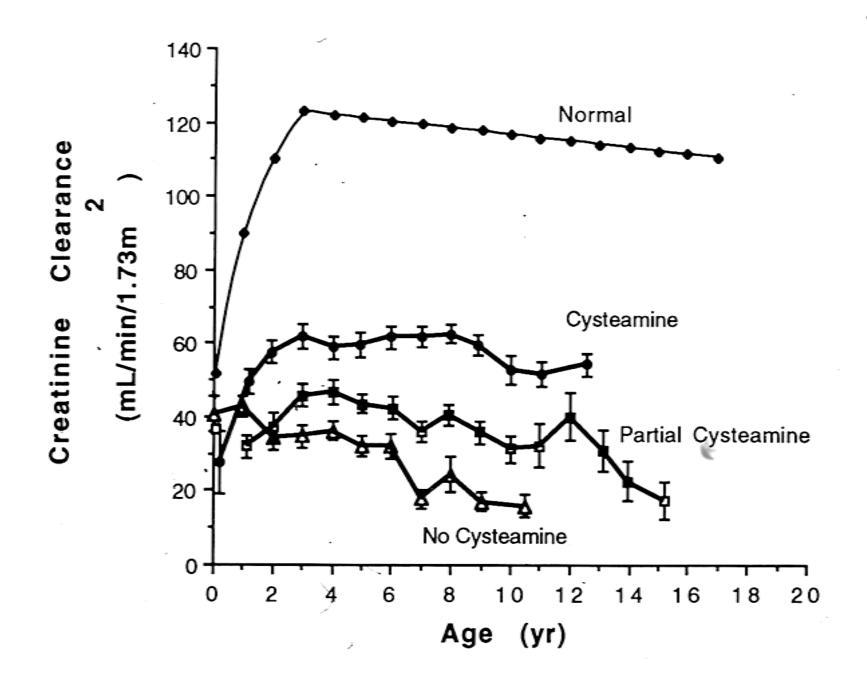
Band keratopathy in a 14-year old girl



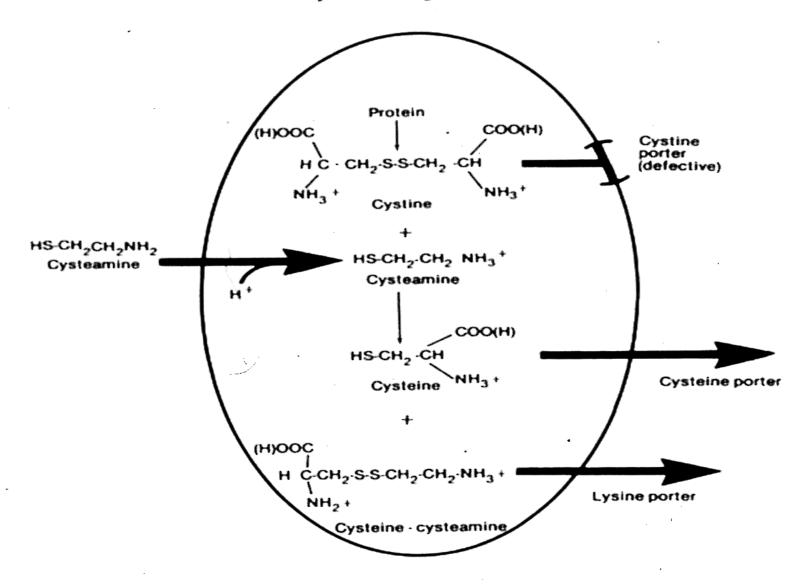
#### Transmission EM of conjunctival cell (Dr. T. Kuwabara)

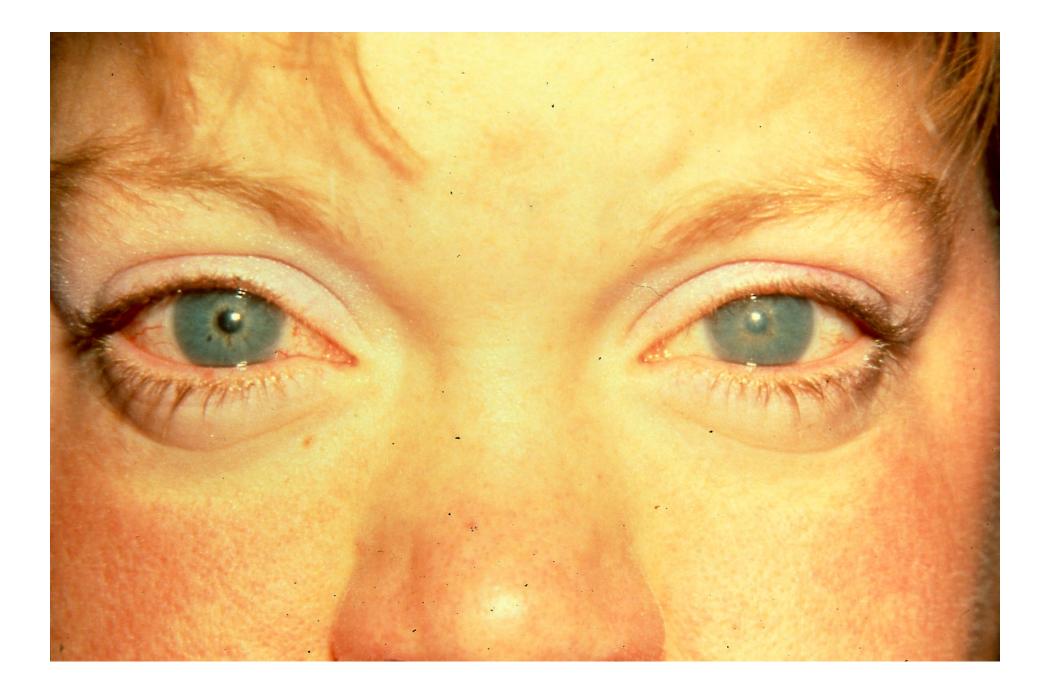
Scanning EM of liver Kupfer cell (Dr. Kamal Ishak)





Cystinotic Lysosome







#### Approved August 15, 1994