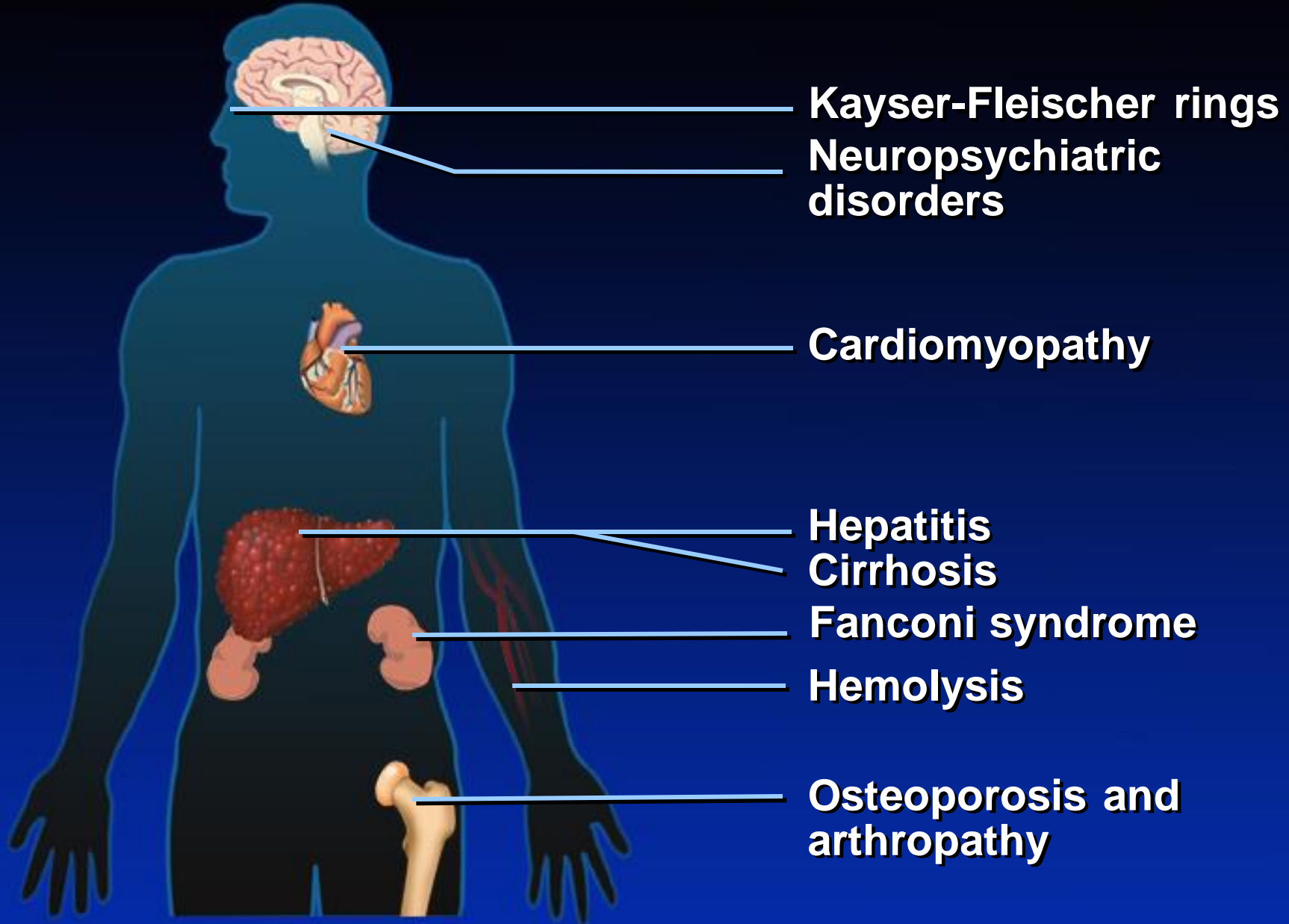


Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease



Copper Overload Disorders

Primary

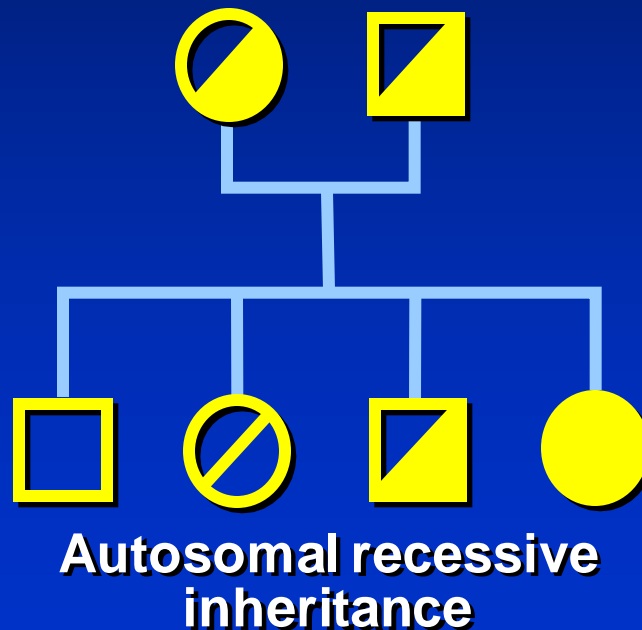


Wilson's Disease

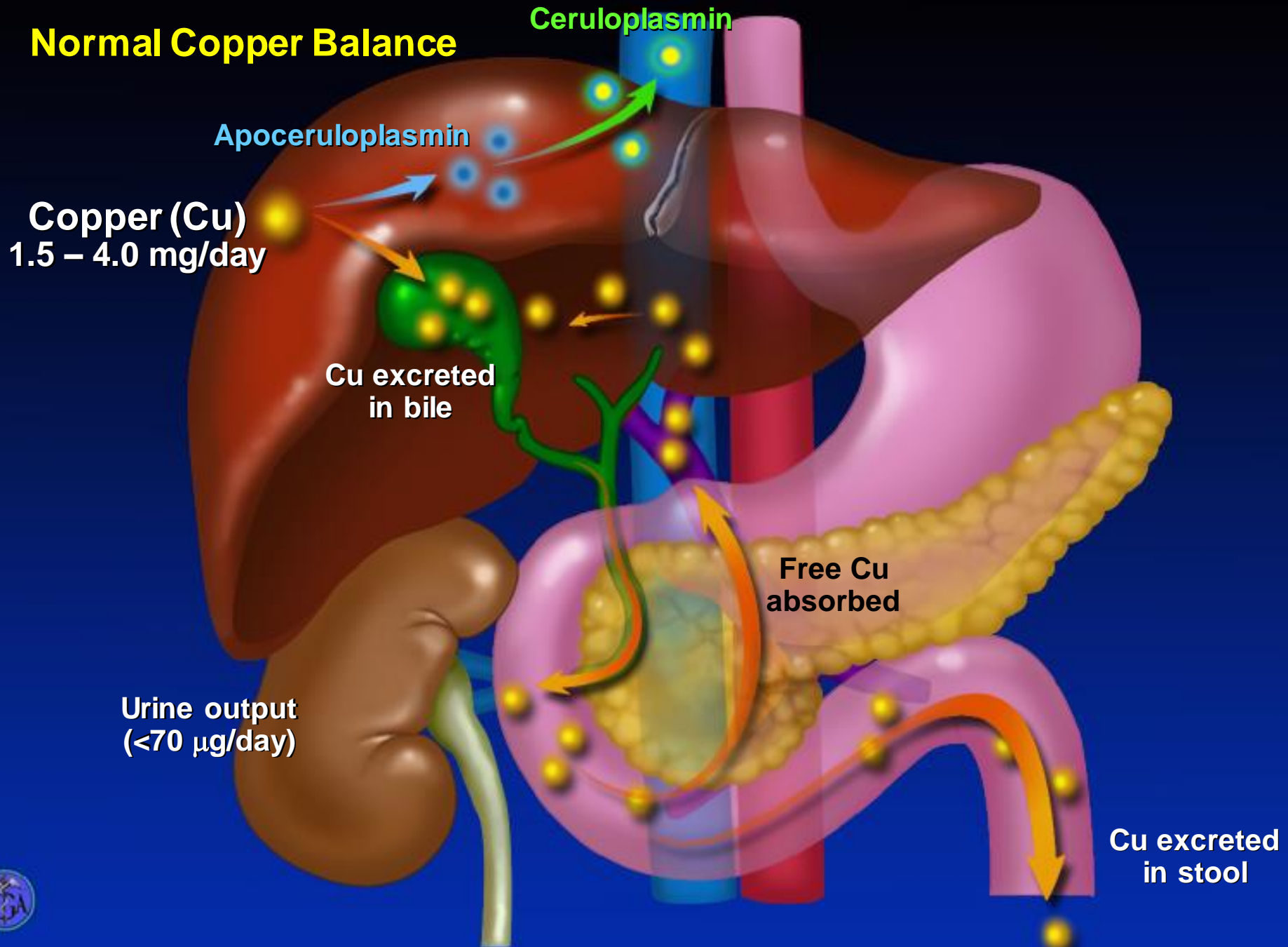
Secondary

Chronic cholestasis

- Primary biliary cirrhosis
- Byler's syndrome



Normal Copper Balance



Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease

Ceruloplasmin

A blue α_2 globulin

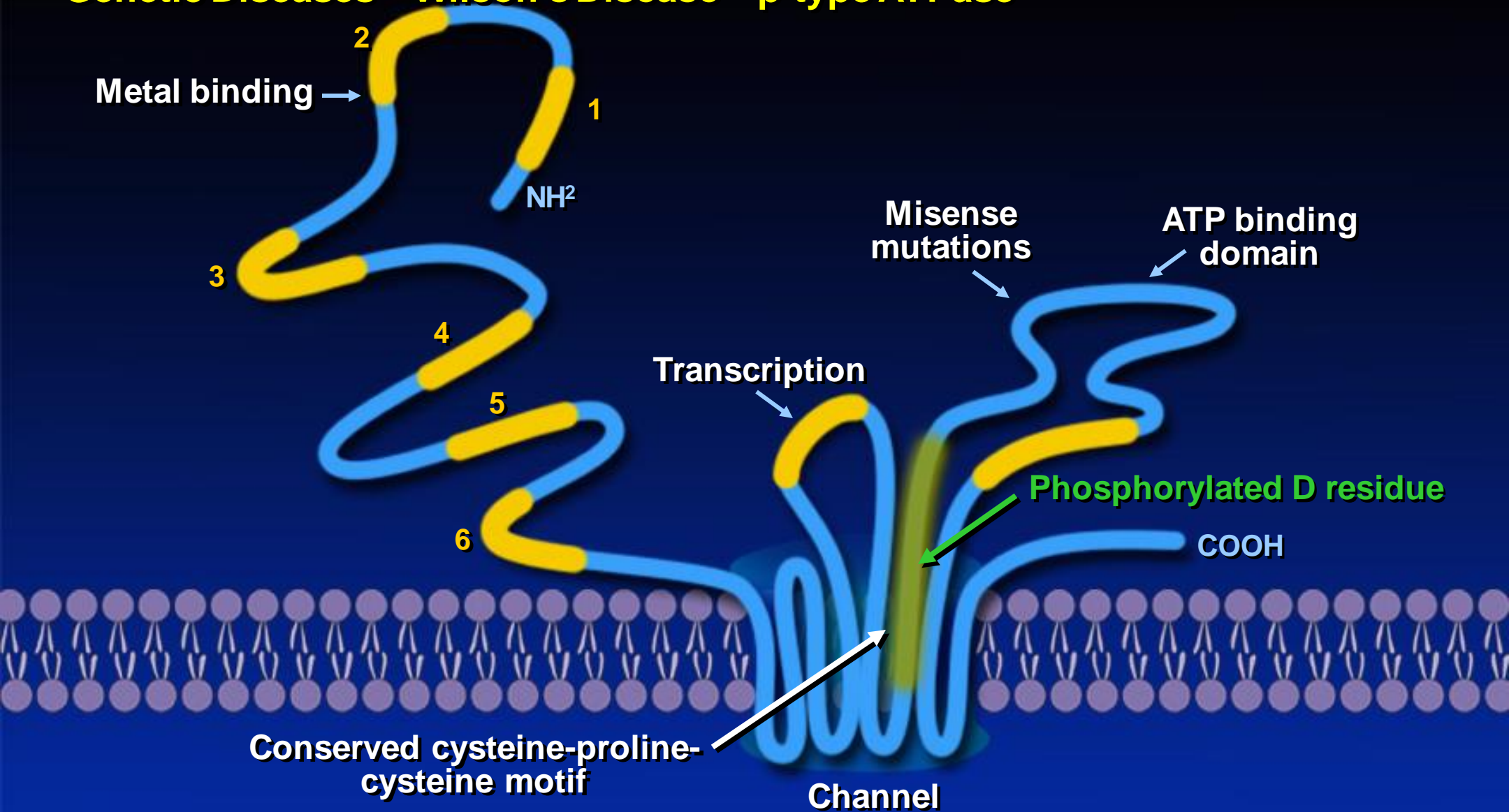
Binds copper irreversibly

Normal serum level = 20-40 mg/dL

**Decreased serum ceruloplasmin is
seen in:**

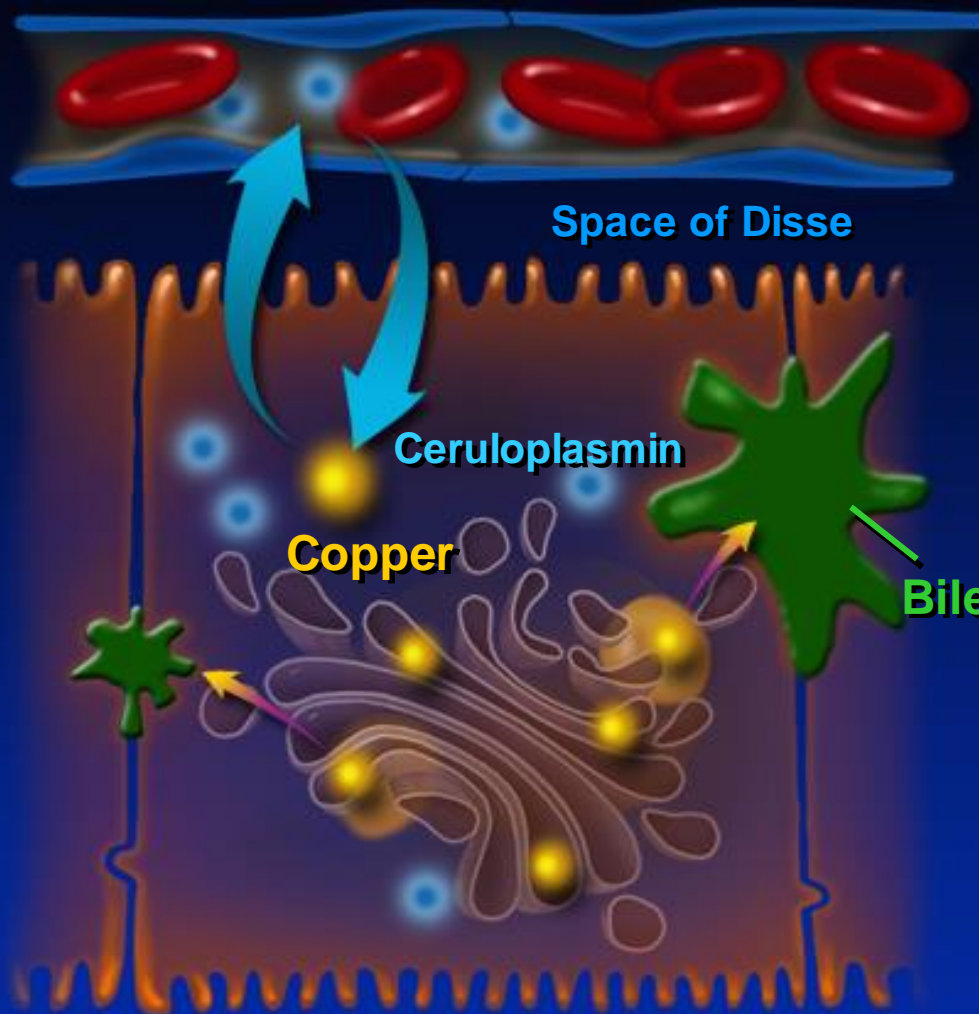
- **Wilson's disease**
 - 95% of homozygotes
 - 20% of heterozygotes
- **Protein loss**
- **Hepatic failure**
- **Menkes syndrome**

Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease – p-type ATPase

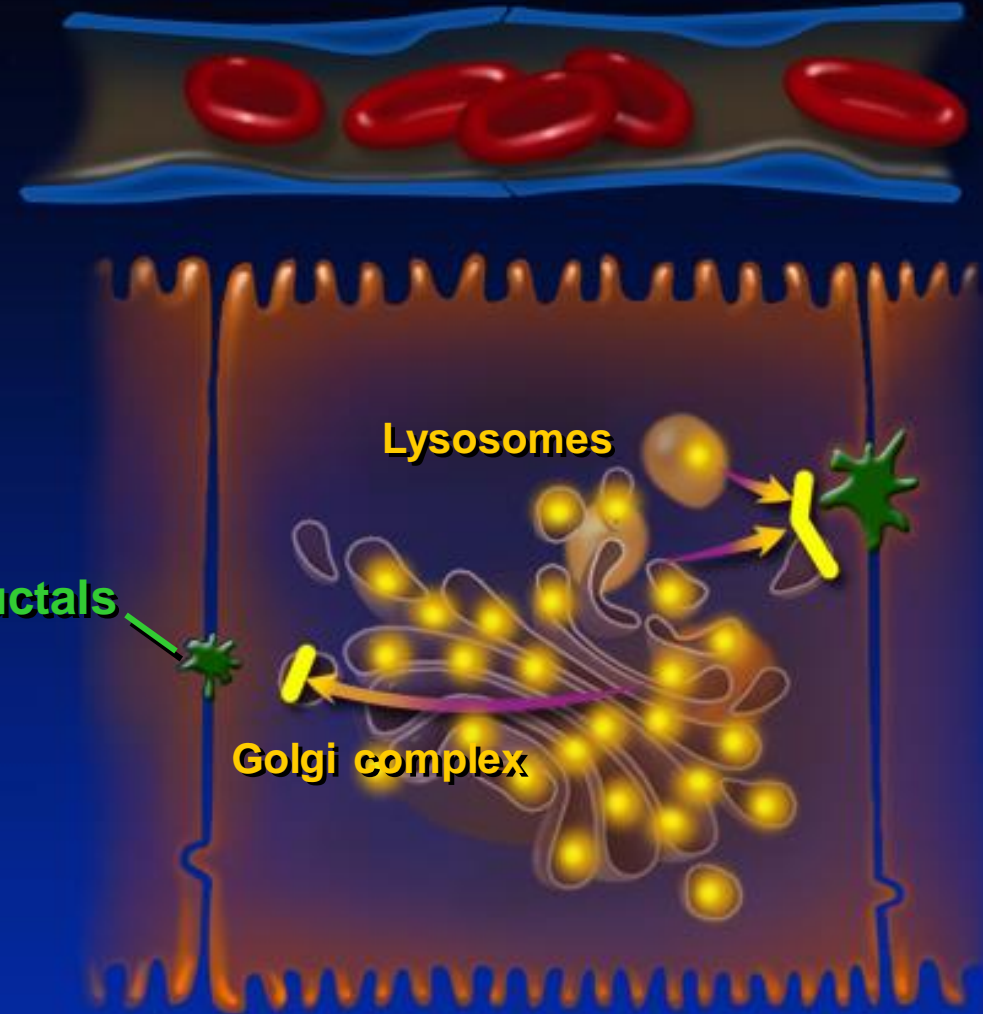


Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease

Normal Copper Balance



Abnormal Copper Balance



Copper build-up leads to cell stress and death

Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease

Usual Features in Homozygotes

Usual Features in Heterozygotes

Ceruloplasmin <20 mg/dl

Rarely

Urine copper >100 mg/day

Rarely

Kayser-Fleischer rings

Never

Hepatic histology abnormal

Never

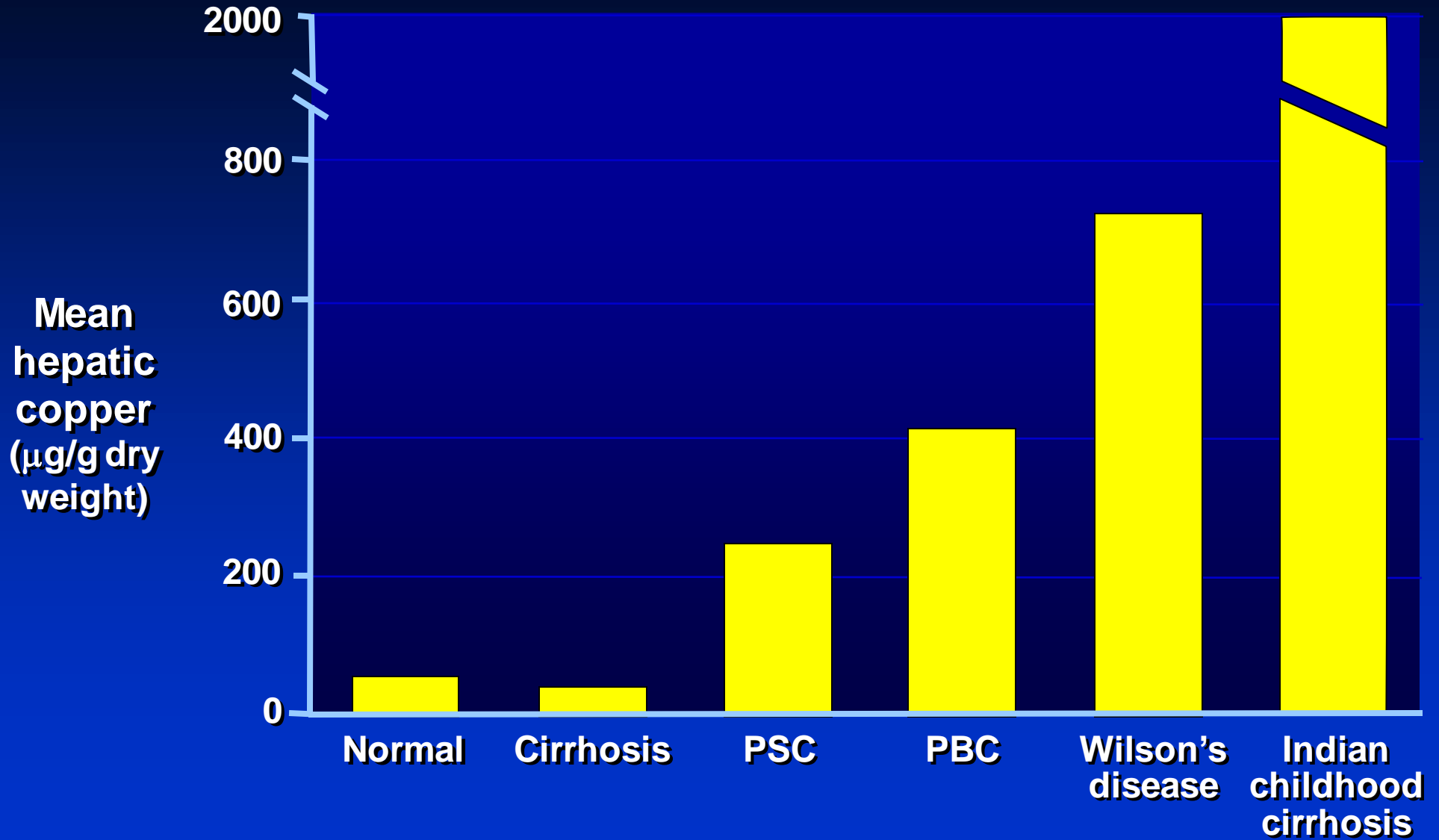
Hepatic copper >250 mg/g

Rarely

Indications for Testing

- Liver disease in children, adolescents, young adults
- Hemolysis with liver disease
- Neurologic disease in the young
 - Parkinsonian tremor
 - Gait disturbance
 - Psychosis or other mental disorders
- Fanconi syndrome
- Hypouricemia
- Kayser-Fleischer rings
- Sunflower cataracts
- Siblings of affected patients

Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease



Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease

Presentations

Liver

Abnormal liver tests

Acute hepatitis

Acute hepatic failure

Liver disease with hemolysis

Chronic hepatitis

Cryptogenic cirrhosis

CNS

Parkinson-like disorders

Psychiatric disorders

Eye

Kayser-Fleischer rings

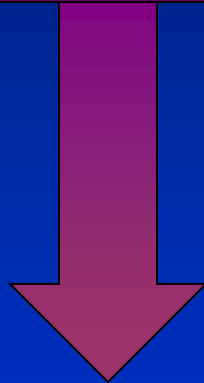
Sunflower cataracts

Kidney

Fanconi syndrome with hypouricemia

Diagnostic Testing

**Ceruloplasmin
Slit lamp examination
Urine copper**



**Ceruloplasmin <20 mg/dL
(5% of Wilson's patients have normal
ceruloplasmin levels)**

Kayser-Fleischer rings

Urine copper >100 μ g/24 hr

**Liver biopsy with
quantitative copper
determination
confirms diagnosis**

Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease

Management

Therapy

Chelation + pyridoxine
Zinc
Avoid high copper foods
Transplantation in selected cases
Family screening

Monitoring

Urine copper
Non-ceruloplasmin copper
Do NOT monitor Kayser-Fleischer rings

Results

Treatment prevents disease
Improves liver and CNS disease
Prolongs life

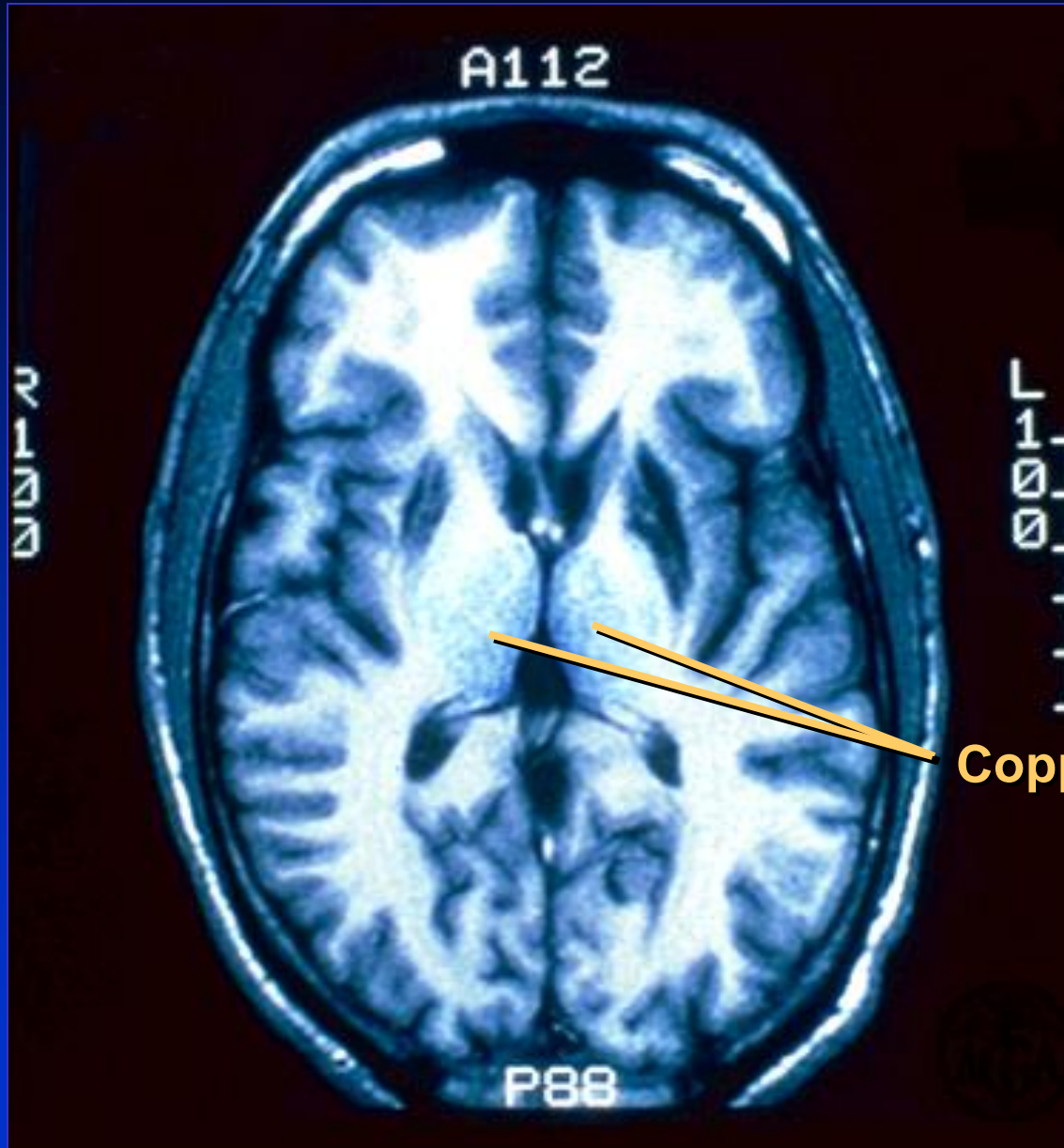
Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease



Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease



Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease

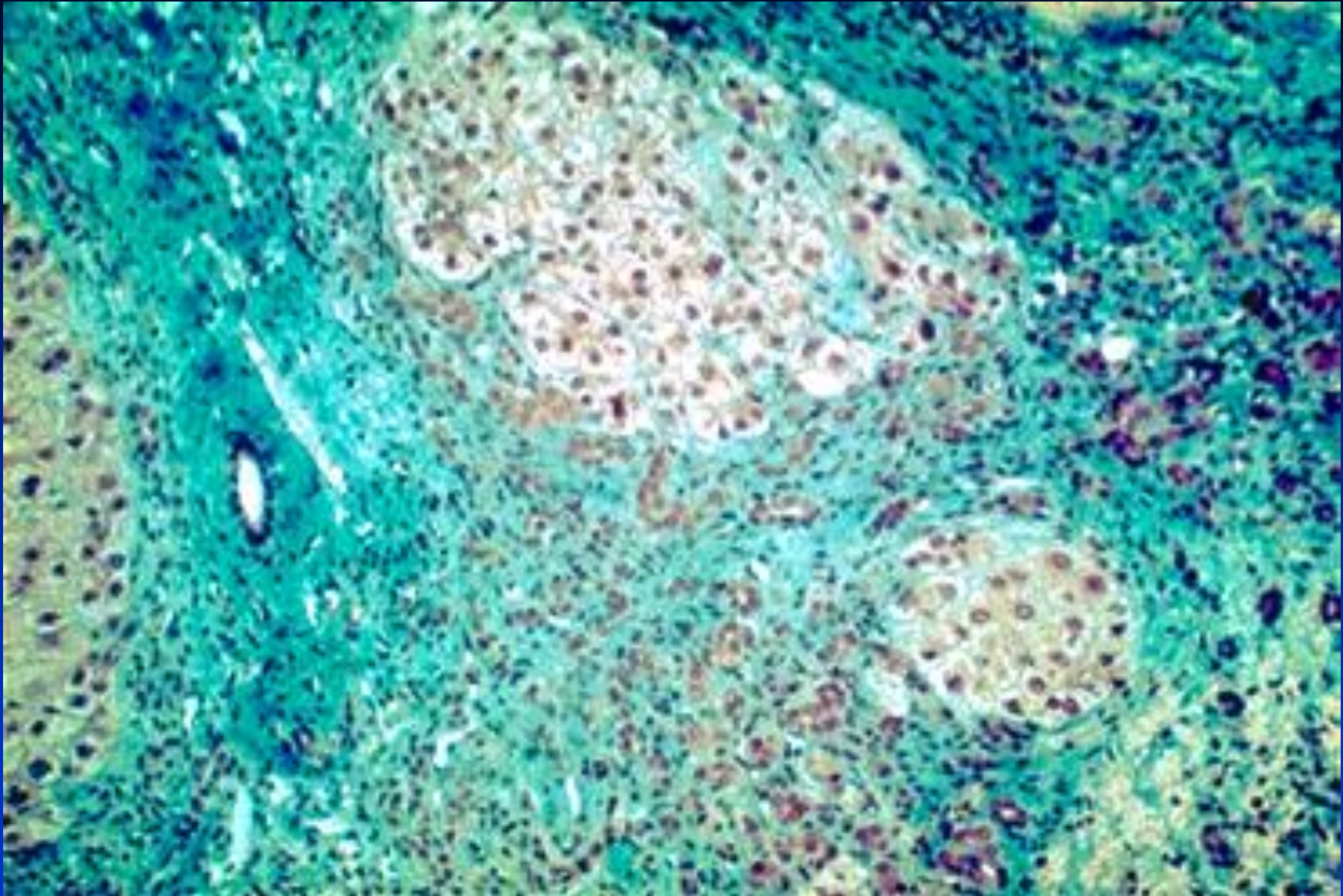


Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease



Resnick, 1998

Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease



Genetic Diseases – Wilson's Disease

