Reye's syndrome is defined by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

**acute, noninflammatory encephalopathy**\* and **liver dysfunction**\*\*

\* altered levels of consciousness.

\*\*either ***fatty metamorphosis of liver*** or at least ***3-fold increase in ALT / AST / serum ammonia***.

**Prodromal phase** (60-80% cases) - upper respiratory tract infection.

**Stage I** - abrupt unremitting vomiting; child becomes irritable and gradually lethargic; most patients recover from this stage.

**Stage 2** - restlessness and disorientation, dysautonomia (tachycardia, sweating, dilated pupils); seizures may develop.

**Stage 3** – coma without lateralizing signs of focal neurological damage; papilledema develops over 2-3 days; seizures in 50% patients.

**Stage 4** - cerebrate posturing, respiratory dysfunction.

**Stage 5** - flaccid unresponsive coma (e.g. brain stem reflexes are minimal or absent).

Prognosis

Mortality 30-35%

In those surviving, **hepatic recovery is full** but **CNS residua are many** (attention difficulties, retardation, aggressive impulsivity, paresis, dysarthria, cortical blindness, seizures).

N.B. even 34% full recovery cases had measurable deficits in school achievement, visuomotor integration, sequencing, and problem solving.