

Pediatric Endocrinology Reviews

Diabetes Nutrition Metabolism Genetics

Affiliated Journal of the Pediatric Endocrine Society (PES)

Recommended by ISPED and SIMA

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Pediatric Endocrinology Reviews

Diabetes Nutrition Metabolism Genetics

Affiliated Journal of the Pediatric Endocrine Society (PES-USA)
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Recommended by ISPED and SIMA

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Table of Contents

Message from the Editors

Zvi Laron, MD, PhD (h.c.), Mitchell E. Geffner, MD, Tatsuhiko Urakami, MD, PhD 1

In Memoriam - John Fielding Crigler, Jr, MD (1919-2018)

Joseph A. Majzoub, Chair, Thomas Carpenter, Joseph I. Wolfsdorf 2

Emerging Mechanisms of GH-Induced Lipolysis and Insulin Resistance

Vishva M. Sharma, PhD 4

FGF23 and Associated Disorders of Phosphate Wasting

Anisha Gohil, DO, Erik A. Imel, MD 17

Are We Aware that Hyperphosphatemia Affects Mortality and Morbidity as much as Hypophosphatemia in Pediatric Intensive Care Patients?

Yılmaz Akbaş, MD, Alper Koker, MD, Nilgün Erkek, MD 35

Growth Hormone Deficiency and Excessive Sleepiness: A Case Report and Review of the Literature

Anisha Gohil, DO, Erica Eugster, MD 41

Letters to the Editor - Central Nervous System Complications in Diabetic Ketoacidosis

Marta Baszyńska-Wilk, MD, Marta Wysocka-Mincewicz, MD, PhD, Małgorzata Wajda-Cuszlag, MD, Anna Świercz, MD, Mieczysław Szalecki, MD, PhD 47

Meeting Report:

2019 Annual Meeting of the Pediatric Endocrine Society: Selected Highlights

Baltimore, MD (April 26-29, 2019)

Danielle Guiffre, MD, Grace Kim, MD, Meenal B. Gupta, MD 50

Meetings of Interest 63

Subject-Index of Volume 16 65

Author-Index of Volume 16 68

Addresses of Pediatric Endocrine Societies 71

SI and Metric Units for Plasma, Serum or Blood 73

Acknowledgement to Referees of Articles in PER Volume 16 74

Forthcoming Articles

In Memoriam: Hans Akerblom, MD

Osteoclasts in Health and Disease

Ulf Lerner

Programing of the Autoimmune Diabetogenic Response in the Thymus during Fetal and Perinatal Life

Vincent Geenan, et al

Primary School Performance of Girls with Turner Syndrome: a Transcultural Assessment

Jan Lebl, et al

Endocrine Management of Ovotesticular DSD, an Index Case and Review of the Literature

Maria Vogiatzi, et al

Forthcoming Supplements

99 Years of Human Insulin

Guest Editors: Zvi Laron, Johnny Ludvigsson

Psychological Factors Influencing Clinical Management and Outcomes in People with Disorders/Differences of Sex Development (DSD)

Guest Editors: David E. Sandberg, Larry Mullins

Message from the Editors

To Our Readers,

Having received the previous issue you will certainly have observed that PER has become an Affiliated Journal to two large Pediatric Endocrine Societies: PES (USA) and JSPE (Japan). This will bring news from PER to an additional 2,200 colleagues.

In this issue, we remember John Crigler, an eminent pediatric endocrinologist and excellent teacher.

The articles range from metabolic actions of GH and FGF23 to the effect of GH on sleep, the genetics and physiology of osteoclasts, and hyperphosphatemia. The Meeting Report reviews selected lectures from the 2019 Endocrine Society Meeting.

We wish to acknowledge the receipt of an educational grant from Ascendis.

*We hope that you have had a pleasant summer vacation.
Enjoy the reading.*

*Zvi Laron, MD, PhD (h.c.)
and the Medical Media Team*

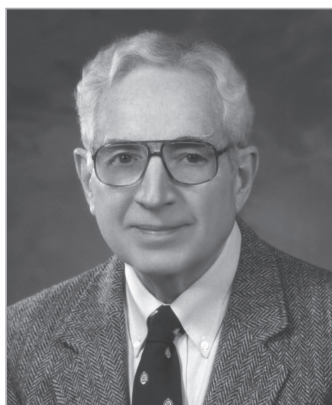
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John Fielding Crigler, Jr, MD (1919-2018)

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John Fielding Crigler, Jr, MD, who co-identified the eponymous Crigler-Najjar Syndrome and was one of the founders of the field of pediatric endocrinology, died on May 13, 2018 at his home in Needham, Mass. He was 98. Dr. Crigler retired in 2007 as Chief (Emeritus) of the Division of Endocrinology at

Boston Children's Hospital and Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Emeritus) at Harvard Medical School. He founded the Division in 1955, serving as its Chief for 34 years, and helped to establish the field of pediatric endocrinology nationally and internationally.

One of six children, Dr. Crigler was born in Charlotte, North Carolina on September 11, 1919. He was an accomplished cellist and was torn between choosing a career in music or medicine. His decision to pursue a career in medicine was no doubt heavily influenced by his relatives. His mother's sister was one of the three pediatric house staff in the first internship class of the Harriet Lane Home at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1912. Dr. Crigler's other maternal aunt attended nursing school at Hopkins. Thereafter, with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, she founded the School of Nursing at Peking Union Medical College in China, and upon her return to the United States successively became Head of Nursing at the University of Chicago, Cornell-NY Hospital, and Johns Hopkins, before retiring.

Dr. Crigler graduated from Duke University in 1939 and entered Johns Hopkins School of Medicine that same year. He met his future wife, Mary Adele Sippel, during his first days of medical school, a coincidence that he described throughout his life as "stumbling on happiness." After an internship at University Hospital in Boston in 1943, where Dr. Crigler and his fellow house staff oversaw the distribution of the entire world's

supply of penicillin, Dr. Crigler joined the U.S. Navy as a Medical Officer, seeing action in the amphibious forces of both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of World War II.

After completing his military service, Dr. Crigler pursued pediatric residency training at Hopkins between 1946 and 1950. As a resident, Dr. Crigler's meticulous attention to patients' histories and physical examinations, dogged perseverance and insatiable curiosity led to the discovery, with Victor Najjar, of the defect in bilirubin metabolism that bears their names. Throughout his career, his careful analysis of historical data and physical signs in comprehensive longitudinal studies became hallmarks of Dr. Crigler's clinical investigation, scholarship and teaching. He remained at Hopkins to receive training in pediatric endocrinology as the first Endocrine Fellow of Dr. Lawson Wilkins, the founder of the discipline of pediatric endocrinology. Working with Dr. Wilkins, Dr. Crigler defined the life-saving properties of glucocorticoids, which had just become available, in salt-losing congenital adrenal hyperplasia. This work, published in 1952, was chosen in 1998 by Pediatrics as the most important endocrinology paper published in the journal's first 50 years.

In 1955, after 3 years at MIT studying biophysical chemistry and molecular biology, Dr. Crigler, upon the request of Dr. Charles Janeway, joined the faculty of Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School as the founding Chief of the Division of Endocrinology. He was the first program director and principal investigator of the General Clinical Research Center at Children's Hospital from 1964-76 and Associate Director from 1976-89. During his tenure he established one of the first training programs in pediatric endocrinology through which he trained over 70 endocrinologists. Dr. Crigler attracted an impressive array of fellows, and his disciples became professors of departments of pediatrics or medicine, chairpersons, and deans, making significant contributions to the field. Dr. Crigler modestly reminisced towards the end of his career, "a few were destined to become leaders in their countries and have realized their goals."

He trained many of the current faculty of the Division of Endocrinology, including two of the authors of this Memorial Minute (JM and JW). Always the consummate teacher and scholar, Dr. Crigler's mentoring qualities included a unique blend of insight, humor, integrity, wisdom, passion, precision,

generosity, and pathos. Indeed, he relished and taught many the sheer joy of human interaction. Those who had the good fortune to work with and learn from Dr. Crigler were imbued with his uncompromising commitment to excellence. Indeed, being the student of one of Dr. Crigler's uncompromising lessons was not always pleasant. But as many of our senior current faculty can attest, Dr. Crigler elevated our standards and thereby contributed to our successes, and for this we are grateful.

After stepping down as Division Chief in 1989, Dr. and Mrs. Crigler took a six-month sabbatical at the Sydney Children's Hospital in Australia, both to enjoy a well-deserved respite from the hustle-bustle of Boston, and also to give the new Chief (JM) time to find his bearings. When he returned from sabbatical, Dr. Crigler worked actively until 1992, when he became a dynamic emeritus member of the Division, attending conferences and giving career advice to Fellows and faculty. To the new Division Chief, he was a constant supporter, not without suggestions and the gentlest of criticisms, which helped wisely guide the Division over the ensuing 25 years. In 2007, Dr. Crigler retired from Boston Children's Hospital.

In 1972 Dr. Crigler made a key observation which changed the way in which we think of disorders of metabolism: in patients with type 1 glycogen storage disease (von Gierke) whom he and Dr. Judah Folkman were preparing for portocaval shunt, then standard therapy for this disorder, he noted that the metabolic derangements improved markedly following parenteral hyperalimentation, which led to the concept that these derangements were but a futile attempt to compensate for the underlying disorder. These concepts form the basis for the current treatment of glycogen storage diseases as well as many of other metabolic diseases affecting glucose metabolism. His early studies changed glycogen storage disease from one of lethality in childhood, until today, when under the care of Dr. Crigler's students, Drs. Joseph Wolfsdorf and David Weinstein, these patients are now parents, and are on the cusp of being cured by gene therapy. Dr. Crigler authored over 70 clinical research papers and made important contributions to the pathophysiology and treatment of many other endocrine disorders throughout his career. Principal among these were long-term, cross-institutional studies of central precocious puberty using gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonists led by Dr. William Crowley (Massachusetts General Hospital) in collaboration with Drs. John Crawford (also at MGH) Robert Blizzard (University of Virginia) James Tanner (University College London) and their colleagues.

Dr. Crigler was a founding member of the Pediatric Endocrine Society as well as its 8th president, and was the recipient of the Judson Van Wyk Prize, given by the Pediatric Endocrine Society in recognition of outstanding career achievement in the field that he had helped establish. This award stands in tribute to an exceptional leader whose career is marked by scientific excellence, leadership, integrity, and dedication

to the health of children. In 2007, Boston Children's Hospital honored Dr. Crigler and his wife with the creation of the John Fielding Crigler, Jr. and Mary Adele Sippel Crigler Chair in Pediatric Endocrinology at Children's Hospital Boston. Dr. Crigler requested that the endowed chair bearing his name also honor his beloved wife and life partner. She died shortly after the awarding of this honor to her and her husband. This Chair was (and still is) the largest endowment bestowed upon the Division of Endocrinology. Dr. David Ludwig, Professor of Pediatrics at HMS and Professor of Nutrition at Harvard School of Public Health, has served brilliantly as the first incumbent since its inception.

More personally, John and Mary Adele Crigler were loving friends of many of the Division's families, supporting them through their personal lives by welcoming them into their home, offering wise advice, providing emotional support and inspiring them in so many other ways. Most importantly, Dr. Crigler was devoted to Mary Adele, his wife of 63 years, and his children. He is survived by his four children, Catherine Drury Crigler Greenwood of Brookline, MA, John Fielding Crigler III of Irvine, CA, Ann Norris Crigler of South Pasadena, CA, and Virginia Ijams Crigler Guenette of Lenox, MA; four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

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Emerging Mechanisms of GH-Induced Lipolysis and Insulin Resistance

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Abstract

Growth hormone (GH) is a pleiotropic hormone that coordinates an array of physiological processes including growth and metabolism. GH promotes anabolic action in all tissues except adipose, where it catabolizes stored fat to release energy for the promotion of growth in other tissues. However, chronic stimulation of lipolysis by GH results in an increased flux of free fatty acids (FFAs) into systemic circulation. Hence, a sustained release of high levels of GH contributes significantly to the development of insulin resistance by antagonizing the anti-lipolytic action of insulin. The molecular pathways associated with the lipolytic effect of GH in adipose tissue however, remain elusive. Recent studies have provided molecular insights into GH-induced lipolysis and impairment of insulin signaling. This review discusses the physiological and metabolic actions of GH on adipose tissue as well as GH-mediated deregulation of the FSP27-PPAR γ axis which alters adipose tissue homeostasis and contributes to the development of insulin resistance and Type 2 diabetes.

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Key words: Growth hormone, PPAR γ , FSP27, CIDEA, Lipid droplets, AKT, Insulin resistance, Fat metabolism, Metabolic disease, Type 2 diabetes

Introduction

Historically, elegant work by Evans and Long in 1922 was one of the first demonstrations that an intraperitoneal injection of fresh bovine anterior hypophyseal extract accelerated growth in rats (1). A series of experiments by Houssay, Biasotti, Young and others dating back to the 1930's and early 1940's established that either hypophyseal extracts or crude anterior pituitary extracts accelerate growth as well as diabetes in dogs and cats (2-5). In 1942, Houssay reported that these pituitary extracts induced histological changes in many tissues and damaged Langerhans islands in the pancreas, indicating their diabetogenic potential (6). In 1944, Li and colleagues successfully isolated growth hormone (GH) from the anterior pituitary (7). Afterwards, a series of studies by multiple groups reported that GH has the potential to induce growth, diabetes and hyperglycemia in animals (7-11).

The physiological actions of GH are pleiotropic and involve multiple organs and physiological systems. Kastin et al in the 1970's showed that lipid mobilizing substances present in the hypothalamus and pituitary of mammals are involved in central neuronal control of obesity (12). They further hypothesized that GH-releasing hormone (GH-RH) may influence lipolysis secondarily by regulating pituitary hormones (e.g GH) release. Pituitary GH is the major regulator of liver-produced IGF-I, which is transported via circulation to peripheral tissues where it acts in an endocrine manner. GH exerts many metabolic

effects that persist throughout life (13,14). Although GH acts in nearly every tissue of the body, its growth promoting effects on cartilage and bone are most notable, especially during the adolescent years. In addition to promoting growth, GH exerts profound anabolic actions during postnatal skeletal development, in-part through stimulating insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) (15). Multiple studies have shown that GH acts in two steps: GH directly activates growth hormone receptor (GHR) to stimulate IGF1 synthesis and then IGF-1 acts on target cells to exert physiological effect of GH (16-18). GH and IGF-1 exert their effect on osteogenic cells via binding to their cognate receptors [(GHR) and IGF-1 receptor (IGF-1R)] respectively, which activate an array of genes that mediate cellular differentiation and function (19). GH induces skeletal IGF-1 synthesis, sulfate uptake, osteoblast hypertrophy, proliferation of prechondrocytes, widening of epiphyseal plate, stimulation of cartilage growth, mineralization and bone remodeling (20,21). Alterations in the GH-GHR-IGF-1 signaling axis can cause growth failure and changes in body composition (22-25). Although GH promotes growth, it unevenly effects protein, lipid and carbohydrate metabolism. Recombinant human GH therapy in GH-deficient children results in decreased body fat and increased fat-free mass, including muscle and bone. Growth hormone induces a rapid loss of fat due to the stimulation of lipolysis and reciprocal antagonism of the lipogenic actions of insulin (26).

Recent studies have shown that GH destabilizes PPAR γ , the master transcriptional regulator of adipogenesis (27,28). This results in the deregulation of fat metabolism and promotes the progression of insulin resistance, a key precipitating factor for the development of Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular problems and metabolic diseases (29-32). This review provides an update on recent studies that involve human subjects, primary human adipocytes, and mouse 3T3-L1 differentiated adipocytes to reveal signaling pathways and molecular entities involved in GH-mediated development of insulin resistance, a pre-requisite for the progression of metabolic diseases.

Growth Hormone Action

Somatic growth was thought to be controlled by pituitary GH-mediated production of somatomedin-C, insulin like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) expressed exclusively in liver. Liver IGF-1 therefore, was considered to be the prime mediator of GH action (33). However, later studies showed that extra-hepatic tissues can also produce IGF-1 and exert autocrine/paracrine effects in the local environment to promote growth (13,34,35). GH regulates metabolically diverse processes by binding to the GHR, a member of the cytokine receptor superfamily that is abundantly expressed in various tissues (36-38). Upon stimulation by GH binding, GHR tyrosine phosphorylates Janus Kinase 2 (Jak2). Activated Jak2 then phosphorylates GHR on

tyrosine residues which in turn recruit members of the signal transducer and activator of transcription (STAT) family of transcription factors; of these, the STAT5 family has widely been associated with GH actions (39,40). Phosphorylation of STATs by Jak2 results in their dissociation from the GHR and subsequent homo/hetero-dimerization and translocation to the nucleus where they modulate transcription of an array of genes including IGF-1, acid labile subunit (ALS) and suppressor of cytokine signaling (SOCS) among others. IGF-1 then binds to its receptor on the cellular surface and activates intracellular signaling pathway, which results in the phosphorylation of various proteins leading to increased metabolism, anabolism, cellular replication and division (41). SOCS on the other hand acts as a negative regulator and terminates GH-induced signaling (42). In addition to JAK-STAT, GH action is also propagated via linkage of GHRs to several cellular effector systems, including Src/SBC, MAPK, PI3K-Akt, and PKC. Differential activation of these pathways under varied physiological conditions determines the anabolic versus catabolic actions of GH (43-49). Alterations in GH or GHR action is associated with Laron Syndrome and Acromegaly in humans.

Laron Syndrome

Laron syndrome (LS) was first described by an Israeli physician Dr. Zvi Laron in 1966. It is a rare genetic disorder inherited in an autosomal recessive manner that is caused by mutations which inactivate the GHR gene and leads to severely depressed GH/IGF-1 action. The serum of patients with LS have high GH and low IGF1 levels, thus, they are GH insensitive or resistant (50,51). Laron patients are characterized by dwarfism, facial phenotype, obesity and hypogenitalism (52,53). Interestingly, multiple studies have shown that Laron patients have a significantly reduced risk of cancer and insulin resistance compared to their unaffected relatives, despite having obesity, a risk factor for both cancer and type 2 diabetes (54-58).

Gigantism and Acromegaly

Gigantism and acromegaly are rare disorders that are caused by excessive GH secretion and/or high levels of its mediator, IGF-1. Gigantism occurs when excess GH or IGF-1 leads to an increase in linear growth, and epiphyseal growth plates are not fused before the end of puberty. Often children with GH secreting adenomas that are not treated display pituitary gigantism or acromegalic gigantism (59). However, most patients with acromegaly develop it in adult life which does not result in gigantism. Both disorders have common clinical manifestations since acromegals can be tall, and most giants

have acromegalic features. In both conditions, the primary cause is a benign GH-secreting pituitary tumor, and less likely a pituitary hyperplasia, ectopic GH or GH releasing hormone (GHRH) secretion (59). Interestingly, both disorders alter adipose tissue metabolism significantly. These patients despite having less fat and more lean mass, suffer from diabetes, cardiovascular and other metabolic problems (60-63).

Growth Hormone and Sexual Dimorphism

Neonatal as well as adult sex steroid environments in males and females influence the adult GH secretory pattern by modulating growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH) and somatostatin (SS). GHRH and SS mRNA levels can be altered by changes in testosterone levels suggesting that sex steroids in adults alter the GH secretory pattern and modulate sexual dimorphism ((64-66). In male rats, GH is secreted in pulses occurring at regular 3 to 4-hour intervals with high peaks and low plasma GH levels in between. Female rats produce lower GH pulses but maintain higher plasma GH levels between the pulses as compared to males (67). The continuous presence of testosterone in males appears to be necessary to maintain low basal GH levels (68). On the contrary, estrogen elevates basal plasma GH levels and suppress the GH pulses under some conditions. High amplitude GH pulses with low plasma GH levels (i.e. a masculine plasma GH pattern) promotes growth more effectively than a constant, intermediate level of plasma GH (i.e. a feminine plasma GH pattern) (67). Interestingly, serum GH concentrations are significantly higher in women than in men (69). Two studies in human subjects which employed different assays showed that females exhibited significantly greater irregularity in GH concentration than their male counterparts, implying that mass and mode of GH secretion are regulated differently in males and females (70,71). The consistency and statistical significance of these findings suggest that sexual dimorphism is broadly present in higher animals (69).

Physiological and Metabolic Effects of Growth Hormone on Adipose Tissue

In mammals, triglycerides (TGs) are stored in lipid droplets in the adipose tissue, where they serve as the primary source of energy during periods of food deprivation. Adipose tissue can be broadly divided into two main categories - white adipose tissue (WAT) and brown adipose tissue (BAT). WAT acts as an energy reservoir and is distributed throughout the body and can be further categorized into subcutaneous (subQ) or intra-abdominal WAT. SubQ WAT is located beneath the skin and accounts for approximately 80% of the total WAT while intra-abdominal

(visceral and non-visceral) fat accounts for about 20% of total WAT (72,73). Similarly, brown adipose tissue (BAT) is also located at multiple locations (intrascapular, supraclavicular, neck, para-aortic, paravertebral and suprarenal) in humans and is involved in thermogenesis (74-77). Whole-body energy homeostasis depends on the precisely regulated balance of lipid storage and mobilization. Lipolysis is the catabolic process of triglyceride breakdown mediated by lipolytic enzymes, which catabolize adipose TGs into glycerol and fatty acids (FAs) for release into systemic circulation. To date, there are three primary lipases known to carry out adipose-stored TG breakdown and act in a sequential manner. Adipose triglyceride lipase (ATGL) is the rate limiting lipase that cleaves the first fatty acid from the TG, while hormone sensitive lipase (HSL) and mono glyceride lipase (MGL) act to release the second and third fatty acid respectively finally releasing the glycerol backbone (78).

GH is required for the differentiation of adipocytes during development. However, GH contributes differentially to fat depot development at different anatomical locations. For example, GH's effect on the development of the subcutaneous fat depot is twice as pronounced as the internal (visceral) fat depots (79). Interestingly, after adulthood GH levels inversely correlate with the adipose tissue mass in both mice and human. In acromegaly, increased GH levels cause a decrease in the total body fat mass with most significant reduction in the visceral adipose depot (80). Similarly, bGH mice with elevated GH levels display much less body fat mass compared to the control littermates (81). This is consistent with the results in obese mice showing reductions in the inguinal and mesenteric fat depots upon GH treatment in a dose dependent manner (82). On the contrary, decreased GH action increases visceral as well as total adiposity as observed in LS patients (56,83). Interestingly, mouse models with reduced GH action (such as growth hormone receptor knockout (GHR $^{-/-}$), growth hormone antagonist (GHA) and Ames dwarf mice display increased whole body adiposity (84-90).

As discussed above, GH exerts anabolic effects directly and through stimulation of IGF-I, insulin, and free fatty acids (FFA). When subjects are well nourished, GH-induced stimulation of IGF-I and insulin is important for anabolic nutrient storage and growth of lean body mass (LBM), adipose tissue, and glycogen reserves. During fasting and other catabolic states, GH predominantly stimulates the release and oxidation of FFA, which leads to decreased glucose and protein oxidation and preservation of LBM and glycogen stores. During fasting and stress, the effects of GH on protein metabolism become more pronounced; lack of GH during fasting increases protein loss and urea production rates by approximately 50%, with a similar increase in muscle protein breakdown. GH is classified as a counter-regulatory hormone in that it antagonizes the hepatic and peripheral effects of insulin on glucose metabolism via

mechanisms involving a concomitant increase in FFA flux and uptake (24).

Studies have shown that nutritional state modulates the lipolytic responsiveness of cells by adjusting GH-induced intracellular signal transduction pathways. For example, under fed conditions GH in hepatocytes activated JAK-STAT, PI3K-Akt, and ERK pathways, whereas under fasting conditions it activated PLC/PKC and ERK pathways. Blocking PLC/PKC and ERK pathway inhibited GH-stimulated lipolysis in fasting state (91,92). In human subjects, fasting-induced changes in hormonal sensitivity are mediated in-part by GH, which is significantly elevated during prolonged fasting (93-95). Fasting has been found to be associated with increased GH levels in systemic circulation, enhanced lipolysis, decreased insulin sensitivity, reduced IGF-1 bioactivity and blunted activation of the JAK-STAT pathway (96). Diurnal fluctuations in serum FFA levels mirror the pulsatile secretion pattern of GH while the nocturnal increase in FFA during sleep is absent in GH-deficient patients, strongly linking lipolysis to GH (97). Fasting and exercise both induce lipolysis - elevated levels of GH are observed during fasting, resulting in a reduction of anti-lipolytic gene G0 switch 2 (G0S2) mRNA and protein expression but an induction of adipose triglyceride lipase (ATGL) protein expression with a concomitant rise in circulating fatty acids. Interestingly, both ATGL and G0S2 remain unchanged during exercise suggesting that the ATGL-G0S2 complex is an important long-term regulator of lipolysis under physiological conditions (such as fasting) in humans (98).

GH may mediate its actions in adipocytes via growth hormone receptors, or through the GH-mediated secretion of insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-I) in an autocrine/paracrine manner (99-102). GH-induced lipolysis of adipose tissue in combination with reduced triglyceride accumulation via inhibition of lipoprotein lipase activity appears to be the dominant mechanism in the reduction of visceral adipose fat mass. GH induces lipolysis to a lesser degree in subcutaneous adipose tissue in human subjects as well as in mouse models (80,81,99-103). Since GH levels are inversely related to adipose tissue mass in both mice and humans, one would expect that GH-mediated reduction of adipose tissue would have health benefits. However, mounting evidence suggests that despite a reduction in fat mass caused by GH, the metabolic health of mice or humans is compromised (60). In fact, patients with acromegaly have elevated levels of GH, and therefore have reduced body fat and increased lean body mass but still develop insulin resistance (22,24,25,104,105). bGH mice mimic acromegalic patients and have less total body fat mass with higher muscle mass than littermate controls and develop insulin resistance (81,106,107). Additionally, administration of GH to GH-deficient children is associated with a redistribution of adipose tissue from an abdominal (android) to a more peripheral (gynoid) distribution, a

significant reduction in abdominal adipocyte size, a significant reduction in overall basal rates of lipogenesis and a reduction in the anti-lipolytic actions of insulin (108).

Studies involving human subjects have shown that GH potentially stimulates adipose tissue lipolysis in a dose dependent manner (109,110). Additionally, GH increases lipolysis by increasing the activity of hormone sensitive lipase (HSL) in adipose tissue (111-114). Also, GH produces a pronounced inhibition of adipose tissue lipoprotein lipase activity (LPL). LPL hydrolyzes plasma triglycerides (TG) in adipose tissue and causes an accumulation of TG in adipocytes. GH receptor knockout mice (GHR-/-) are susceptible to obesity while GH overexpressing mice (bGH) have a leaner phenotype (81,115). Whether the observed lipolytic effect in bGH mice is a direct effect of GH or a consequence is currently unknown.

Transcriptional Regulation of Lipid Droplet (LD) Associated Proteins and GH-Induced Lipolysis

LDs are considered as intracellular TG storage organelles in adipocytes. These organelles are composed of a core of TGs and cholesterol esters that is surrounded by a phospholipid monolayer. Various proteins have been shown to be associated with LDs (116). The majority of LD-associated proteins in adipocytes are involved either in lipogenesis, lipolysis or in maintaining LD homeostasis. They are primarily regulated by a set of transcription factors called Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPARs), which have the ability to sense and interpret fatty acid signals derived from dietary lipids, pathogenic lipoproteins or essential fatty acid metabolites (117,118). PPARs belong to the nuclear hormone receptor family of transcription factors that are activated by ligands. PPARs consist of three members namely; PPAR α , PPAR β /PPAR δ and PPAR γ . They differ with respect to ligand specificity and their expression pattern in various tissues; however, all PPARs bind to a conserved sequence of DNA called the PPAR response element (PPRE) in the proximal promoter region of target genes and help recruit transcription machinery (119). Exogenous and endogenous lipid species as well as synthetic compounds such as thiazolidinediones (TZDs) can act as PPAR ligands. Therefore, alterations in the intracellular concentration of these lipid species or treatment with TZDs has a direct impact on PPAR-dependent gene regulation (120).

Several LD-associated proteins have been shown to be regulated by PPAR γ in adipocytes and therefore are direct transcriptional targets of PPAR γ (117). FSP27 (also known as CIDEC) is expressed at high levels in WAT where it regulates fat storage (121-123), lipid droplet dynamics (124,125) and lipolysis (126,127). siRNA-mediated silencing of

FSP27 in cultured white adipocytes leads to the formation of multilocular LD, increases in systemic FFA flux due to excessive lipolysis and decreases in triglyceride storage, while FSP27 overexpression suppresses lipolysis and increases LD size (122,126-128). Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) assays have confirmed that FSP27 is a direct transcriptional target of PPAR γ (129).

Recent studies in human subjects, primary human adipocytes and 3T3-L1 adipocytes have shown that GH treatment downregulates FSP27 expression, resulting in LD fragmentation and elevations in systemic flux of FFAs (27,28). Mechanistically, GH binding to its receptor activates multiple signaling pathways including the Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK1,2 pathway (43,92,130,131). MEK1 has been shown to interact with and phosphorylate PPAR γ leading to its nuclear export and degradation upon tetradecanoyl phorbol acetate or TNF- α stimulation (132,133). GH-mediated activation of MEK/ERK signaling lead to PPAR γ Ser273 phosphorylation and subsequent degradation, FSP27 downregulation, increased HSL phosphorylation and excessive lipolysis in human adipocytes (28). Enforced expression of FSP27 by adenoviral transfection or blocking MEK/ERK signaling with the MEK1 inhibitor U0126 stabilized PPAR γ in the nucleus, improved insulin signaling and restored GH-induced lipolysis to normal levels (27,28).

Counterintuitively, GH administration also results in FSP27 mRNA upregulation suggestive of an additional transcription regulation mechanism for FSP27 expression (27). Such a mechanism is physiologically obligatory in order to optimally regulate lipolysis and maintain adipose tissue homeostasis. Absence of a counter-regulatory mechanism would otherwise lead to sustained flux of FFAs causing lipotoxicity and insulin resistance as observed in mice overexpressing bGH. GH signaling phosphorylates STAT5 proteins which can homodimerize or heterodimerize with other STAT family members and translocate to the nucleus in a MEK- and PPAR γ -independent manner to regulate gene expression and mediate GH effects (43). A recent study by Sharma et al. elegantly demonstrated that inhibiting STAT5 phosphorylation with a subsequent GH stimulation nearly abolishes FSP27 mRNA expression in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. These results suggest that GH-mediated STAT5 phosphorylation upregulates FSP27 expression under physiological conditions to keep GH stimulated MEK/ERK signaling under check and maintain an optimal level of lipolysis. Furthermore, qPCR analysis of RNA isolated from subcutaneous and perigonadal fat of STAT5 $\Delta N/\Delta N$ -mutant mice, which express hypomorphic forms of both Stat5a and Stat5b, demonstrated that FSP27 is significantly reduced in the perigonadal fat and tends to be reduced in subcutaneous fat (27). These studies provide molecular insights into how GH-mediated activation of MEK/ERK causes destabilization of the transcription factor PPAR γ resulting in downregulation of FSP27, G0S2 and other lipid droplet associated genes

while simultaneously phosphorylating STAT5 to regulate LD homeostasis and prevent excessive lipolysis at the same time.

Growth Hormone and Insulin Resistance

Visceral WAT positively correlates with an increased risk of insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes (134-138), while subQ WAT has been suggested to be protective (73,139,140). Although GH contributes to the growth and development during adolescent years, IGF-I levels in boys and girls rise and fall in concert with the rise and fall of insulin resistance across the entire spectrum of normal puberty. This trend suggests that the GH/IGF-1 axis acts as a prime mediator of insulin resistance during puberty (141). Multiple cross-sectional and longitudinal studies have shown that insulin insensitivity during puberty is a common phenomenon in normal children which is exaggerated during adolescence with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) (142-145). The reduction in insulin sensitivity during puberty is therefore associated with a compensatory increase in insulin secretion (146). Diabetic adolescents often have poor glycemic control during puberty; as a result, an approximate 30% increase in insulin dosage is required for patients with insulin-dependent diabetes at the onset of puberty (142,147).

GH-induced insulin resistance is well documented despite the fact that low doses of GH-treatment in combination with diet restrictions reduce visceral adipose tissue mass, LDL cholesterol levels, triglycerides, free fatty acids and improve insulin sensitivity and muscle mass (99,148). However, molecular fingerprints that can tip the balance in favor of visceral fat loss without causing diabetogenic effects are still under investigation. GH suppresses the anti-lipolytic action of insulin and enhances adipose tissue lipolysis to induce insulin resistance (149). Chronic elevations in GH levels due to pituitary adenoma or other genetic alterations tip the balance in favor of fat catabolism resulting in lipotoxicity that leads to the development of insulin resistance and related metabolic diseases.

Adipose tissue displays significant depot differences with respect to hormonal responsiveness and metabolic activity. Body fat distribution varies between age, race and sex, with males having more visceral adiposity and females having more subcutaneous fat (150). Although both visceral and subcutaneous fat depots respond to lipolytic signals, visceral fat shows an enhanced response due to enhanced beta adrenergic response and reduced alpha adrenergic response (151-153). Additionally, lean subjects are metabolically flexible with respect to the anti-lipolytic effect of insulin compared to the metabolically inflexible subjects that display visceral adiposity (149).

Clinical studies have established that GH treatment reduces visceral fat mass and improves metabolic parameters in GH-deficient patients and patients with visceral obesity (108,154,155). On the contrary, multiple studies have consistently demonstrated that the diabetogenic effects of GH are primarily due to its lipolytic action (12,96,156,157). Additionally, GH-induced lipolysis leads to frequent hyperglycemic episodes in diabetic patients due to the dawn phenomenon (156,158-160). Dawn phenomenon describes a surge of hormones (including growth hormone and glucagon) produced by the body in early morning hours (approximately 4:00-7:00 AM) that results in an increase in glucose levels in healthy as well as diabetic patients. Diabetic patients however, display high levels of fasting blood glucose due to reduced insulin productivity/activity that compromises their ability to suppress GH-mediated lipolysis in response to the dawn phenomenon. Although the dawn phenomenon was originally described in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM), recent studies have demonstrated its occurrence in approximately 50% of patients with both T1DM and Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) (158-160). Dawn phenomenon increases HbA1c levels significantly and leads to frequent hyperglycemic episodes that can be entirely corrected by acipimox treatment, an anti-lipolytic compound that suppresses GH-induced lipolysis (24,156,161-163). Acromegalic patients have elevated levels of GH and embody clinical manifestations of the diabetogenic effects of GH since they display increased rates of insulin resistance, hyperinsulinemia and type 2 diabetes (164,165). Many studies have suggested that GH impairs insulin's ability to activate insulin signaling in insulin target cells/tissues (166-169) while others have questioned GH-induced impairment of insulin signaling in human subjects (170,171). Overall, these studies provide a solid foundation and framework to support that GH-mediated lipolysis is a critical regulator of insulin resistance in both healthy subjects and diabetic patients.

Concluding Remarks

Understanding the molecular mechanisms that underlie GH-induced insulin resistance is crucial for the development of pharmacological agents and treatment of a wide variety of patients. Although MEK inhibitors, PPAR γ agonists (TZDs) and anti-lipolytic agents (Acipimox) are in clinical use, recent studies have uncovered additional molecular targets for potential intervention of GH-induced insulin resistance and therefore, clearly have bench-to-bed side implications (**figure 1**) (27,28).

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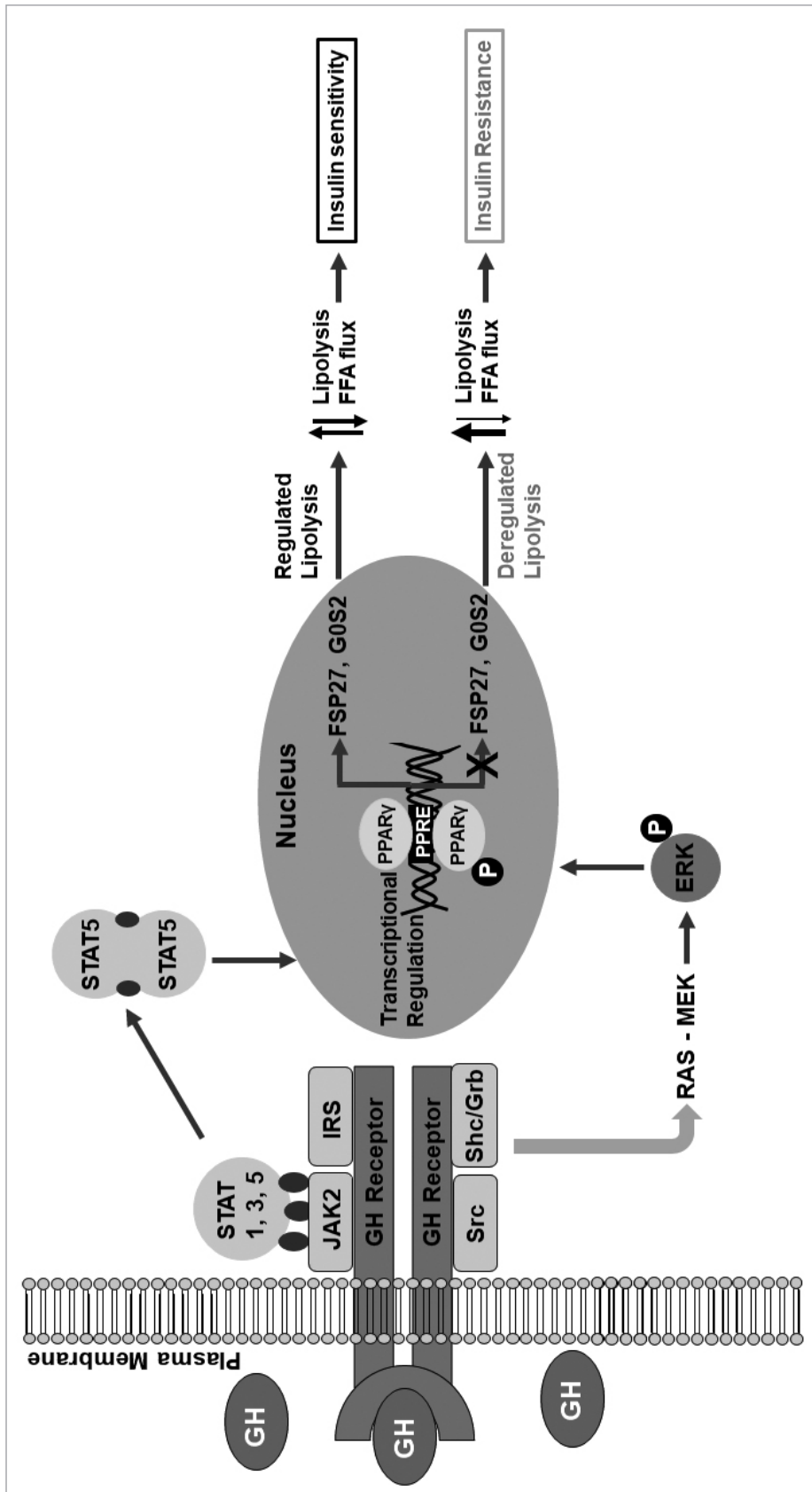


Figure 1. Model of GH signaling under normal and pathological conditions in Human adipocytes

Upon stimulation by GH binding, GHR activates Jak2. Activated Jak2 phosphorylates GHR on tyrosine residues which in turn recruit members of the STAT family of transcription factors. STATs homodimerize and translocate to nucleus to regulate an array of genes under physiological conditions. Coordinated action of STATs and other signaling pathways lead to a balanced state of lipolysis to provide energy for growth and development under normal as well as under fasting and starvation conditions.

However, chronically elevated GH levels as seen in acromegalic patients and/or other pathological conditions lead to the activation of multiple signaling pathways including Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK pathway. Phosphorylated ERK translocates to nucleus and phosphorylates PPAR γ . Phosphorylated PPAR γ is targeted for degradation leading to downregulation of anti-lipolytic genes such as FSP27 causing excessive lipolysis. Sustained levels of systemic FFAs as a result of deregulated lipolysis causes lipotoxicity and pave the way for the development of insulin resistance and related metabolic diseases.

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FGF23 and Associated Disorders of Phosphate Wasting

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Abstract

Fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), one of the endocrine fibroblast growth factors, is a principal regulator in the maintenance of serum phosphorus concentration. Binding to its cofactor α Klotho and a fibroblast growth factor receptor is essential for its activity. Its regulation and interaction with other factors in the bone-parathyroid-kidney axis is complex. FGF23 reduces serum phosphorus concentration through decreased reabsorption of phosphorus in the kidney and by decreasing 1,25 dihydroxyvitamin D (1,25(OH)₂D) concentrations. Various FGF23-mediated disorders of renal phosphate wasting share similar clinical and biochemical features. The most common of these is X-linked hypophosphatemia (XLH). Additional disorders of FGF23 excess include autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets, autosomal recessive hypophosphatemic rickets, fibrous dysplasia, and tumor-induced osteomalacia. Treatment is challenging, requiring careful monitoring and titration of dosages to optimize effectiveness and to balance side effects. Conventional therapy for XLH and other disorders of FGF23-mediated hypophosphatemia involves multiple daily doses of oral phosphate salts and active vitamin D analogs, such as calcitriol or alfacalcidol. Additional treatments may be used to help address side effects of conventional therapy such as thiazides to address hypercalciuria or nephrocalcinosis, and calcimimetics to manage

hyperparathyroidism. The recent development and approval of an anti-FGF23 antibody, burosumab, for use in XLH provides a novel treatment option.

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Key words: FGF23, Klotho, Phosphorus, 1,25(OH)₂D, XLH, Burosumab, Rickets

Introduction

Fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23) is part of a family of fibroblast growth factors (FGFs) which are secreted signaling proteins (1). Found in several tissues, they serve essential functions in development and metabolism through all stages of life, beginning in the embryo and continuing through adulthood (2). There are three types of FGFs, categorized based on their mechanism of action: autocrine, paracrine, and endocrine (1). FGFs require heparin sulfate for receptor binding and signaling, enabling autocrine and paracrine functions (3). However, the endocrine FGFs are distinguished by their poor affinity for heparin sulfate, allowing release from the local extracellular matrix to circulate as endocrine hormones and bind receptors on distant cells (4). The endocrine FGFs play an important part in bile acid (FGF19), carbohydrate (FGF21), lipid (FGF21), and phosphate metabolism (FGF23) (2).

The FGF23 gene is located on human chromosome 12 (5). FGF23 is primarily produced in bone by osteocytes and is a 32 kDa protein containing 251 amino acids (5). The N-terminus contains a FGF homology region which binds to the FGF receptor and the C-terminus binds to the co-receptor α Klotho, ultimately creating a FGF receptor complex necessary for signaling at the FGF receptor (6).

In 1989, Meyer et al. suggested the presence of a phosphaturic factor (referred to as a “phosphatonin”) in Hyp mice, a mouse model of X-linked hypophosphatemic rickets (XLH) (7). Hyp mice produced this phosphaturic factor which could be transferred to normal mice through parabiosis experiments, resulting in an XLH phenotype (7). FGF23 was discovered in 2000 due to mutations in the FGF23 gene found in a kindred with autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets (ADHR) (8), and was later identified as elevated in XLH and several other renal phosphate wasting disorders as the responsible phosphaturic factor. In our review, we explore the biological function and regulation of FGF23 and discuss hypophosphatemic disorders resulting from a state of FGF23 excess.

Cofactor and Receptors

The endocrine FGFs require a cofactor, α Klotho or BKlotho, in order to bind their respective receptors and provide tissue specificity (1). α Klotho or BKlotho are structurally related proteins consisting of approximately 1000 amino acids (2). FGF19 and FGF21 activate their receptor via BKlotho (1), while FGF23 activates its receptor via α Klotho (9). α Klotho binds to multiple fibroblast growth factor receptors (FGFR), forming a complex with greater affinity for FGF23 than α Klotho or the FGF receptor alone (10). Since many tissues express FGFR, the presence of klotho determines the target organs for the endocrine FGFs (11,12). The primary tissues expressing α klotho are the kidney's proximal and distal tubules, the parathyroid glands, and the brain's choroid plexus (13).

FGFRs are tyrosine kinases (2). Four of them are considered to be high-affinity receptors: FGFR1, FGFR2, FGFR3, and FGFR4. However, α Klotho does not bind strongly to FGFR2 (9,10). Alternative splicing creates different ‘b’ and ‘c’ isoforms of FGFR and α Klotho binds best to the ‘c’ isoform leading to signaling of FGF23 through FGFR1c, FGFR3c, or FGFR4c (9,10). FGF23 has the highest affinity for FGFR1c (9).

Regulation of FGF23

The regulation of FGF23 is complex, involving multiple components in the bone-parathyroid-kidney axis, including phosphorus, 1,25(OH)₂D, parathyroid hormone (PTH), and calcium. FGF23 concentrations are increased by 1,25(OH)₂D in humans and in animal models (14-20). In cell culture studies,

1,25(OH)₂D increased FGF23 gene expression (17). Even in XLH, therapeutic treatment with phosphate and calcitriol led to a further significant increase in already elevated FGF23 levels despite persistent hypophosphatemia (19). In 30 adult dialysis patients with baseline elevated levels of FGF23 and secondary hyperparathyroidism, FGF23 levels increased further after intravenous calcitriol (15). While phosphorus and 1,25(OH)₂D both independently regulate FGF23 (17,18), phosphate binders may be able to block 1,25(OH)₂D-induced FGF23 increases (16).

Phosphate intake increases FGF23 levels in studies of healthy adults and animal models (17,21-24). Dietary phosphate was shown to be a key regulator of serum FGF23 in healthy men and women (21,24). Oral phosphate loading significantly increased FGF23, while phosphate restriction led to a significant decrease (21,24). In healthy adult subjects, a diet high in both phosphate and calcium also significantly increased FGF23 levels (23).

The effect of PTH on FGF23 is not entirely clear. Animal models and cell culture studies indicate that PTH directly stimulates FGF23 production via the PTH/PTHrP receptor (25-29). However, human studies are conflicting. One study in healthy adults indicated after PTH (1-34) infusion, that FGF23 and phosphorus levels significantly decreased over 6 hours (30). In contrast, another study in healthy adult men receiving a PTH (1-34) infusion, found FGF23 increased significantly during an 18 hour period (31). In both studies, PTH (1-34) infusion increased 1,25(OH)₂D.

Low serum calcium may act as a “brake” on FGF23 production, which may be an adaptive response to prevent further hypocalcemia. Low calcium levels have been shown to decrease FGF23 levels, which subsequently removes FGF23 suppression of 1,25(OH)₂D (32,33). Using mutant mouse models, PTH and 1,25(OH)₂D were unable to stimulate FGF23 in the setting of hypocalcemia (33). This may also explain why it is often difficult to normalize serum phosphorus in hypoparathyroidism, despite elevated FGF23 (34). In adult patients with hypoparathyroidism, treatment with 1,25(OH)₂D increased serum calcium and FGF23 levels (20).

Additional regulation of FGF23 occurs through post-translational mechanisms. Proprotein convertases cleave FGF23 at the C-terminus between amino acids 179 and 180 (35). Mutations affecting this cleavage site result in excess FGF23 (36). FGF23 also requires O-glycosylation within the proprotein convertase cleavage site in order to secrete biologically active intact FGF23 (37). O-glycosylation is directed by the polypeptide N-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 3 (GALNT3) (37). Deficiency of GALNT3 activity prevents O-glycosylation, leading to increased cleavage and inactivation of FGF23 (37). Loss-of-function mutations in GALNT3 result in a deficiency of intact FGF23, and the resulting

phenotype of hyperphosphatemic familial tumoral calcinosis (38). A kinase from the family with sequence similarity 20, member C (FAM20C) phosphorylates FGF23, preventing O-glycosylation, allowing for cleavage by proprotein convertases, such as furin (39). Deficiency of FAM20C leads to FGF23 excess and hypophosphatemia. FGF23 cleavage may be regulated specifically to maintain appropriate concentrations and normophosphatemia. Gene expression increases in the setting of iron deficiency (40), but generally intact FGF23 concentrations remain normal unless a mutation specifically impairs FGF23 cleavage (41). Phosphate regulating endopeptidase homolog X-linked (PHEX) and dentin matrix protein 1 (DMP1) are genes whose deficiency results in upregulation of FGF23 (42, 43). FGFR signaling pathways also regulate FGF23 through Ras-mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK), extracellular signal related kinase (ERK), and tyrosine kinase activity (44). **Figure 1** lists positive and negative regulators of FGF23.

FGF23 Regulation of 1,25(OH)₂D, Phosphorus and PTH

FGF23 is the principal regulator in the maintenance of serum phosphorus levels (**figure 2**). Administration of FGF23 in animal models decreases serum phosphorus due to a combination

of effects on renal phosphate transport and vitamin D metabolism (45-48). Phosphorus is filtered by the glomerulus, but the vast majority is reabsorbed in the proximal convoluted tubule by renal sodium phosphate cotransporters type IIa (NaPi-IIa) and type IIc (NaPi-IIc) (49). FGF23 administration results in reduced brush border expression of the NaPi-IIa and NaPi-IIc (50,51). NaPi-IIa and NaPi-IIc are also down-regulated by PTH (52).

FGF23 decreases serum 1,25(OH)₂D levels via suppressed expression of CYP27B1, limiting protein expression of 1 α -hydroxylase (45,53), an enzyme necessary to convert 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) to its active form 1,25(OH)₂D (53). FGF23 also increases expression of CYP24A1, increasing vitamin D 24-hydroxylase (45), which catabolizes 25(OH)D and 1,25(OH)₂D into inactive metabolites (53). Since 1,25(OH)₂D upregulates intestinal phosphate transport, decreasing 1,25(OH)₂D also contributes to FGF23-mediated hypophosphatemia (50,51).

Conditions of FGF23 excess or deficiencies have expected effects on phosphorus and vitamin D metabolism. Transgenic mice expressing human FGF23 have reduced expression of NaPi-IIa, phosphaturia, and decreased serum 1,25(OH)₂D with resultant hypophosphatemia and rachitic bone (50). FGF23 null mice had the opposite biochemical findings with elevated serum phosphorus levels, elevated serum 1,25(OH)₂D, and increased renal phosphorus reabsorption (54). These

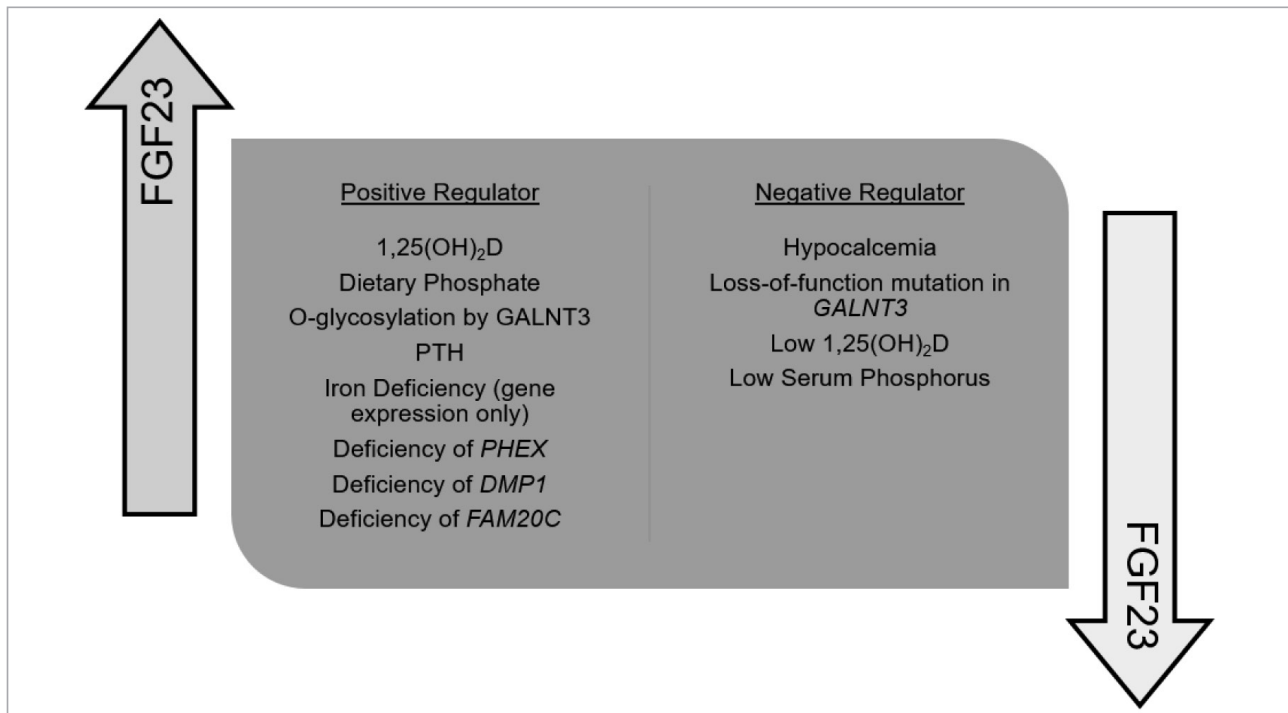


Figure 1. List of positive and negative regulators of FGF23

phenotypes are recapitulated in the human diseases of XLH and hyperphosphatemic tumoral calcinosis, respectively.

The effect of FGF23 on PTH is not well understood. Evidence in vitro and from animal models suggests that FGF23 has an inhibitory effect on PTH, at least during short-term studies (11,55). FGF23 suppressed PTH in rats, but in the setting of hypocalcemia, the inhibition of PTH is lost (56). However, in human diseases or animal models of chronic FGF23 excess, hyperparathyroidism is common (51,57).

Effect of Age and Gender on FGF23

Multiple enzyme linked immunosorbent assays are available for measuring FGF23 in serum or plasma. An assay targeting the C-terminal end of FGF23 (cFGF23) will detect both C-terminal fragments and full length FGF23 (58). However only the intact form is biologically active. Intact FGF23 assays measure only the full-length intact FGF23 (iFGF23) (59). The cFGF23 is best measured in plasma, as serum values will be systematically lower (60). However, the Kainos iFGF23 assay provides similar results in plasma and serum (60).

Table 1 describes reported ranges of FGF23 in healthy populations. In general studies indicate higher values of cFGF23 in newborns and young children than in adults (58,61-67). However, reported iFGF23 ranges are generally similar across studies at different ages in healthy children and adults, though one study suggested lower iFGF23 in cord blood (59,61-63,65-67). While cFGF23 were mostly similar between boys and girls, some studies suggested higher iFGF23 in girls (62,63).

In a study of 180 healthy adults, cFGF23 had lower intra-individual variability, but higher inter-individual variability (66). Since iFGF23 had less inter-individual

variability, it may be more clinically useful for diagnostic purposes (66), though currently the cFGF23 assay is more clinically available. Intact FGF23 levels >30 pg/mL using the Kainos intact assay (approximately the normal mean with this assay in some studies) during hypophosphatemia have been proposed as a cutoff for identifying FGF23-mediated hypophosphatemia (68). However, an analogous threshold with cFGF23 has not been determined.

FGF23-Mediated Disorders of Phosphate Wasting

The differential diagnosis for hypophosphatemia is quite broad, but etiologies largely include increased renal excretion (both FGF23-mediated and non-FGF23-mediated), impaired intake or intestinal absorption of phosphate, and transcellular shifts of phosphorus (69). This review concentrates on the FGF23-mediated causes, which include autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets (ADHR), X-linked hypophosphatemic rickets (XLH), autosomal recessive hypophosphatemic rickets (ARHR), fibrous dysplasia (FD), and tumor-induced osteomalacia (TIO) (**table 2**). These FGF23-mediated hypophosphatemic disorders share common features which may include rickets or osteomalacia, bony deformities, short stature, and bone pain (8). Biochemically these conditions are characterized by low serum phosphorus, increased urinary phosphorus excretion [or decreased ratio of the maximum rate of tubular phosphate reabsorption to glomerular filtration rate (TmP/GFR)], normal serum and urine calcium, high alkaline phosphatase (ALP), normal PTH, normal 25(OH)D, decreased or inappropriately normal 1,25(OH)₂D, and increased FGF23 (69).

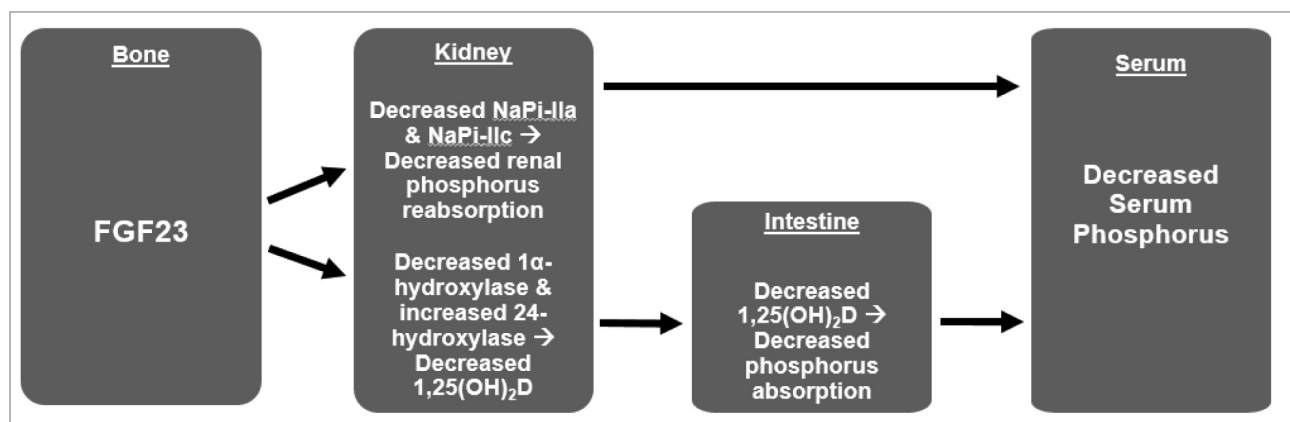


Figure 2. Schematic representation of the regulation of serum phosphorus by FGF23

Table 1. Reference values for cFGF23 and iFGF23 among age groups

Age	Study Sample	Plasma or Serum	cFGF23	cFGF23 Assay	iFGF23	iFGF23 Assay	Study/Year
Neonate	64-full term neonates	Plasma	Median 824 RU/mL (108-7508) Mean 1678 RU/mL (± 1857)	Immunotopics	Median <8.5 pg/mL (<8.5-135.4) Mean 16.7 pg/mL (± 24.2)	Immunotopics	Ali et al., 2016 (61)
	113 healthy infants	Cord blood serum at birth	Median Girls 536.2 RU/mL [731.7] Median Boys 605.9 RU/mL [842.9]	Immunotopics	Median Girls 3.0 pg/mL [10.7] Median Boys 3.0 pg/mL [2.3]	Kainos	Holmlund-Suila et al., 2016 (62)
3 months old	113 healthy infants	Serum	Mean Girls 106.9 RU/mL (± 64.0) Mean Boys 105.4 RU/mL (± 52.1)	Immunotopics	Median Girls 51.4 pg/mL [30.0] Median Boys 25.9 pg/mL [48]	Kainos	Holmlund-Suila et al., 2016 (62)
1 year old	721 healthy children	Plasma	Median Girls 2.9 pmol/L [2.2-3.7] Median Boys 2.8 pmol/L [2.1-3.7]	Biomedica Medizinprodukte GmbH & Co KG	Median Girls 44.4 pg/mL [36.8-51.9] Median Boys 40.9 pg/mL [34.5-49.0]	Kainos	Holmlund-Suila et al., 2017 (63)
Childhood	424 healthy youth and young adults (ages 0.1-21 years)	Plasma	Age ≤ 1 Median 105 RU/mL [75-153] Age 5 Median 68 RU/mL [53-89] Age 10 Median 71 RU/mL [56-88] Age 15 Median 76 RU/mL [59-95] Age ≥ 19 Median 50 RU/mL [39-61]	Immunotopics			Fischer et al., 2012 (64)
	159 healthy children (mean age 8.78 ± 3.47 years)	Serum	Mean 51.14 RU/mL (± 12.79)	Immunotopics	Median 35 pg/mL (8.8-120)	Kainos	Gkentzi et al., 2014 (65)
Adulthood	180 healthy adults	Plasma	Median 53.7 RU/mL (range not provided)	Immunotopics	Median 24.7 pg/mL (range not provided)	Immunotopics	Smith et al., 2012 (66)
	147 healthy adults	Plasma or serum	Mean Women 52.9 RU/mL (± 20.8) Mean Men 42.0 RU/mL (± 15.8)	Immunotopics			Jonsson et al., 2003 (58)
	55 healthy adults	Plasma	Mean 61.0 RU/mL (± 28.6)	Immunotopics	Mean 44.7 pg/mL (± 14.9)	Kainos	Imel et al., 2007 (67)
	104 healthy adults	Serum			Mean 28.9 ng/L (8.2-54.3)	Kainos	Yamazaki et al., 2002 (59)

Table 2. Summary of FGF23-Mediated disorders of phosphate wasting and associated genetic & somatic mutations

Disorder	Genetic Mutation
X-linked Hypophosphatemic Rickets	PHEX
Autosomal Recessive Hypophosphatemic Rickets	DMP1, ENPP1, FAM20C
Autosomal Dominant Hypophosphatemic Rickets	FGF23
Fibrous Dysplasia (FD)/McCune-Albright Syndrome	GNAS
Tumor Induced Osteomalacia	FN1-FGFR1 fusion gene
Linear Nevus Sebaceous Syndrome	HRAS, KRAS, NRAS somatic mutations
Jansen's Metaphyseal Chondrodysplasia	PTH/PTHrP receptor
Osteoglophonic Dysplasia	FGFR1

FGF23 Effect on Bone

FGF23 has both direct and indirect effects (through hypophosphatemia) on bone. Hypophosphatemia, secondary to excess FGF23, causes rickets due to arrested apoptosis of the hypertrophic chondrocytes of the growth plate and osteomalacia due to delayed mineral apposition rate of osteoid (70). In growing youth, prior to epiphyseal fusion, rickets and osteomalacia both occur, while in the adult, only osteomalacia occurs (70).

In mouse models, Murali et al. has recently shown that increased FGF23 also has direct autocrine and paracrine effects on the osteocyte, which occur independently of klotho and lead to suppression of osteocyte tissue nonspecific alkaline phosphatase (TNAP), contributing to impaired bone mineralization (71,72). Bone specific alkaline phosphatase hydrolyzes inorganic pyrophosphate (an inhibitor of mineralization) releasing inorganic phosphate, subsequently allowing for synthesis of hydroxyapatite (73). Its deficiency leads to impaired mineralization as seen in hypophosphatasia, while conversely, insufficient inorganic phosphate at the mineralization surface tends to increase alkaline phosphatase activity. In the Hyp mouse model of XLH, while the TNAP activity in the Hyp osteocyte is impaired secondary to increased FGF23 secretion, osteoblast TNAP is increased sufficient to lead to elevated serum ALP (72). ALP activity is also increased within growth plate cartilage during chondrocyte differentiation (74). Increased serum ALP activity is generally seen in human disease states of FGF23-mediated hypophosphatemia (69).

Autosomal Dominant Hypophosphatemic Rickets (ADHR)

In the year 2000, FGF23 was discovered due to the presence of missense mutations in kindreds with ADHR (8). These missense mutations decrease FGF23's susceptibility to proteolytic cleavage, preventing its degradation, hence resulting in elevated circulating levels and hypophosphatemia (75). ADHR is a rare hypophosphatemic disorder with autosomal dominant inheritance pattern, but incomplete penetrance (76).

In fact, disease activity fluctuates according to FGF23 levels in this condition, and there is waxing and waning of the biochemical and symptomatic phenotypes (36). Those with an onset in childhood develop hypophosphatemia, phosphate wasting, rickets, and lower extremity deformities. However, a large subgroup of patients has documented normal phosphate values for age in childhood, grows normally without rickets or leg deformities, and only later as adolescents or adults develops elevated iFGF23 and hypophosphatemia (36,41,76,77).

Those with late-onset of disease in adolescence or adulthood developed significant bone pain, weakness, and insufficiency fractures. Some of those with childhood-onset disease achieve spontaneous resolution of their renal phosphate-wasting defect. Similarly some with late-onset hypophosphatemia also spontaneously normalize their FGF23 and serum phosphorus concentrations, with associated resolution of symptoms (36,41).

Interestingly the FGF23 phenotype of ADHR appears to be driven by the consequences of iron deficiency. In the

setting of iron deficiency, FGF23 gene expression increases (40). In healthy controls or wild type mice, this leads to elevated circulating concentrations of fragments (cFGF23), but biologically active iFGF23 remains normal, with normophosphatemia (40,41). However, in the setting of ADHR mutations, iFGF23 concentrations also become elevated during iron deficiency due to the effect of impaired FGF23 cleavage, and hypophosphatemia results (40,41). The observed waxing and waning of the ADHR biochemical phenotype corresponded to changes in iron status (41). We would propose that if a patient never became iron deficient, clinical features of ADHR might never manifest. In contrast, in XLH patients, iFGF23 is not related to serum iron (78).

The iron story is made somewhat more complicated by adverse effects of intravenous iron administration. In the setting of iron deficiency, patients without ADHR can sometimes be triggered by certain forms of intravenous iron to undergo sudden acute increases in iFGF23, even while their cFGF23 is normalizing (79, 80). This phenomenon can be severe enough to cause hypophosphatemia, and if repeated doses are necessary due to persistent iron deficiency, osteomalacia and insufficiency fractures may result. The mechanism is not certain but appears to involve a transient inability to effectively cleave iFGF23, even in patients without ADHR. This has been mainly reported with intravenous iron carboxymaltose and iron polymaltose (79-81). Thus, patients undergoing iron infusions should have serum phosphorus monitored.

X-Linked Hypophosphatemic Rickets (XLH)

The most common heritable form of rickets is XLH, with an estimated prevalence of 1 in 20,000 and accounting for about 80% of familial cases of hypophosphatemia (57). The inheritance pattern is X-linked dominant, indicating that a single allele will cause phenotypic expression in both males and females. Careful family history should identify the inheritance pattern and guide assessment of a genetic cause, as there are autosomal dominant and recessive disorders that clinically mimic XLH. A mutation in the PHEX gene causes XLH in humans (82), and in the Hyp mouse model as well (83). The PHEX gene is expressed in bone (osteocyte) and teeth (odontoblasts) (57). PHEX deficiency results in increased expression of FGF23, and consequent hypophosphatemia.

XLH has high penetrance, but clinical findings and severity vary widely among individuals, even within a kindred. Clinical features include short stature, lower-extremity deformities, osteomalacia, rickets, and bone pain (57). Features typically manifest around the time of walking, after age 1 to 2 years, when short stature and limb deformities become

apparent (57). Frequent limb deformities include genu varum or valgum, tibial torsion, bowing of the tibia and femur, or windswept deformity (84). While rickets is a classic and common feature, its location and presence are variable among individuals (85). A distinctive histologic feature is hypomineralized periosteocytic lesions in cortical bone (86). In XLH, FGF23 is generally elevated. However, some patients may have high-normal levels which are still indicative of an FGF23-mediated cause of their hypophosphatemia (58,59,68).

Dental disease is very common including dental abscesses, caries, periodontal disease, and tooth loss (87-89). PHEX and FGF23 are expressed in teeth, and patients with XLH have impaired mineralization of dentin and cementum layers (90-93). Osteopontin is involved in the intrinsic dental abnormalities (91), however hypophosphatemia likely plays a role as well, since treatment with calcitriol and phosphate is associated with fewer tooth abscesses, though they remain common despite treatment (88,89,92).

Osteoarthritis, enthesopathies, and residual lower-extremity long bone curvature are common in adults with XLH (94). Enthesopathies occur in several locations and are commonly found in the hands, feet, spine, hips, and sacroiliac joints and can become quite severe (95,96). These features greatly limit mobility and quality of life. Adults with PHEX mutations often need orthopedic procedures including joint replacement and spinal surgeries (87). With a mean age of 50 at the time of surgery, total knee and hip arthroplasties may benefit adult XLH patients with degenerative osteoarthritis (97). Up to half of adult patients may have pseudofractures (98-100), which are also a source of pain and decreased mobility, which often result in orthopedic procedures for stabilization.

Monitoring for neurologic symptoms is necessary throughout life as patients with XLH can develop neurologic complications due to several disease features. Skull malformations are common in patients with rickets which may sometimes be associated with neurologic consequences. In a study of 44 children with XLH, craniosynostosis, especially sagittal suture fusion, occurred in 59%, and Chiari type 1 malformation was found in 25%, 2 of which had neurological symptoms, and 4 required neurosurgical intervention (101). Hearing loss has been reported in 28.6% of XLH patients compared to 9.8% of unaffected family members (102), in 9% of children and in 48-82% of adults (103,104). Hearing loss is often sensorineural (104). The etiology may involve osteomalacia of the otic capsule bone, but in the PHEX mutant mouse model, treatment with calcitriol and phosphate improved mineralization of the capsule bone, but did not prevent sensorineural hearing loss (105).

One study indicated that 12% of adults experience spinal complications including spinal stenosis, cord compression, and myelopathy (87), although lifetime rates may be higher, given the prominent involvement of the spine in enthesopathy,

both at the anterior and posterior longitudinal ligament. Decompressive laminectomy may be needed. These features can contribute to disability. It is important to note that none of the medical treatments discussed below have ever been shown to alter the course of enthesopathy.

Autosomal Recessive Hypophosphatemic Rickets (ARHR)

Autosomal recessive hypophosphatemic rickets (ARHR) is another rare FGF23-mediated condition of renal phosphate wasting with multiple genetic causes. DMP1 mutations cause ARHR type 1 and FGF23 levels are elevated in these individuals and in the DMP1 null mouse (106,107), resulting in hypophosphatemia, severe rickets, and diffuse osteomalacia (43). Mutations in ecto-nucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase 1 (ENPP1) cause ARHR type 2 (108). ENPP1 mutations are also known to cause generalized arterial calcification of infancy (GACI) which causes calcification and stenosis of medium and large-sized arteries (109,110) and is frequently lethal (111). In some individuals with GACI, hypophosphatemia due to renal phosphate wasting developed and was associated with survival past infancy (111), suggesting hypophosphatemia as a protective mechanism seen in milder phenotypes (109). However, in three individuals in a family with ARHR, ENPP1 mutations may also cause ARHR, without GACI (112). Rafaelsen et al. identified a nonlethal variant of Raine syndrome caused by a FAM20C mutation in 2 siblings with elevated FGF23 levels and hypophosphatemia, representing a third genetic form of ARHR (113).

Case reports of individuals with ARHR caused by DMP1 or ENPP1 mutations show a clinical phenotype of short stature, and skeletal deformities starting in early childhood, dental abnormalities such as hypoplasia, caries, and early tooth loss, bone and joint pain, contractures, ligamentary calcification, enthesopathies, rickets, and osteomalacia similar to XLH (112,114-118). The siblings with a FAM20C mutation developed tooth decay, osteosclerosis of the long bones, ectopic brain calcifications, and mild facial and acral dysmorphic features (113).

Fibrous Dysplasia (FD)/McCune-Albright Syndrome (MAS)

Fibrous dysplasia (FD) of bone is characterized by replacement of normal bone and bone marrow by abnormal fibro-osseous tissue (119,120). Its occurrence is seen in individuals with McCune-Albright Syndrome (MAS), classically defined as the triad of fibrous dysplasia, café-au-lait macules, and precocious

puberty, but can include other endocrinopathies such as hyperthyroidism, growth hormone excess, and Cushing syndrome (121). MAS is rare with an estimated prevalence between 1 in 100,000 and 1 in 1,000,000 (121). It is caused by a post-zygotic mutation in the guanine nucleotide binding protein, alpha stimulating (GNAS) gene, resulting in constitutive activation of the adenylyl cyclase system in affected cells (121,122). FD may also occur in individuals without other features of MAS.

Approximately 50% of individuals with MAS and FD have renal phosphate wasting (120,123), which correlates significantly with the degree of bone involvement (120). However, hypophosphatemic rickets is not common (124). FD lesions locally produce FGF23 and blood cFGF23 levels are increased in FD/MAS compared to normal controls and are significantly higher in FD/MAS with renal phosphate wasting compared to FD/MAS without renal phosphate wasting (123,125). Bone marrow stromal cells with the GNAS mutation have lower GALNT3, but higher furin activity, which ultimately leads to increased FGF23 cleavage causing a larger proportion of the increased FGF23 level being cFGF23, the non-biologically active form, which may explain why classic hypophosphatemic rickets may be less common in FD (126).

Tumor Induced Osteomalacia (TIO)

Tumor induced osteomalacia (TIO) is a rare, sporadic disorder that occurs in children and adults. The tumors are often small and slow growing, of mesenchymal origin, and located in the bone or soft tissue (127). They abundantly express FGF23 (48,128) resulting in elevated blood levels (58,59). Other factors, such as secreted frizzled-related-protein-4 (sFRP-4), fibroblast growth factor 7 (FGF7), and matrix extracellular phosphoglycoprotein (MEPE) are also produced by TIO-associated tumors (129-131), but have not clearly been linked to phosphate pathology. An FN1-FGFR1 fusion gene appears to cause some of these tumors (132). However, as ADHR can also cause late-onset hypophosphatemia, it should be considered in the differential diagnosis of TIO.

Patients often present with vague and long-standing symptoms of bone pain, muscle weakness, fractures, and fatigue (133). Localization of the tumor can be quite difficult, and multiple imaging modalities may need to be employed including ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (133), ¹¹¹In-octreotide scan, and fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) positron emission tomography (PET)/computed tomography (CT) (134). More recently, Dotatate PET/CT has been used. Selective venous sampling can sometimes detect local elevations in serum FGF-23 levels, allowing for localization of the responsible tumor (135-138). Complete tumor resection is the most effective approach (139)

resulting in resolution of hypophosphatemia and a good prognosis in most (140). Post-operative recurrence can occur even many years later, especially when complete resection is not possible, so ongoing surveillance is necessary (139,140).

Other FGF23-Mediated Disorders of Phosphate Wasting

Other extremely rare causes of FGF23-mediated phosphate wasting include linear nevus sebaceous syndrome (or epidermal nevus syndrome), Jansen's metaphyseal chondrodysplasia, and osteoglophonic dysplasia. Linear nevus sebaceous syndrome (LNSS) is a neurocutaneous disorder affecting multiple organ systems, but mainly the skeletal and central nervous systems (141,142). Postzygotic somatic mutations in HRAS, KRAS, and NRAS are described in LNSS (143,144). Hypophosphatemic rickets may occur with elevated FGF23 levels (145,146). Although some early reports suggested that excision of the nevus corrected the hypophosphatemia (145,147), there is growing evidence that the source is actually the skeleton and that excising these lesions is not beneficial (148,149).

Jansen's metaphyseal chondrodysplasia is a rare form of short limbed dwarfism due to severe growth plate abnormalities with biochemical features similar to primary hyperparathyroidism with hypercalcemia and hypophosphatemia, however PTH is low or undetectable (150). This dysplasia occurs secondary to an activating mutation in the receptor for PTH and PTH-related peptide (PTHrP) (151). Elevated serum FGF23 levels were described in a case report of Jansen's metaphyseal dysplasia and osteocyte expression of this mutation causes elevating FGF23 levels (29,152).

Osteoglophonic dysplasia (OD) is a rare skeletal dysplasia with findings of disproportionate dwarfism, craniofacial defects, and non-ossifying bone lesions caused by an activating mutation in the FGFR1 receptor (153-155). Hypophosphatemia can be seen associated with an elevated FGF23 level, perhaps from local production within bone lesions (155).

Treatment

Conventional therapy for XLH involves multiple daily dosing of oral phosphate supplementation and active vitamin D analogs, such as calcitriol or alfacalcidol (156). Phosphate salts should never be given without an active form of Vitamin D in XLH both because of a lack of effectiveness as monotherapy and due to the effect of phosphate to induce development of secondary and tertiary hyperparathyroidism (157). Conversely some patients can be managed with calcitriol alone (158).

There is no consensus on the optimal doses, and given the extreme variability between patients with XLH, doses

need to be individualized (159). Typically published dose recommendations range from 20-60 mg/kg/day of oral phosphate divided into three to five doses per day, and either calcitriol 20-30 ng/kg/day divided into two to three doses per day or alfacalcidol 40-60 ng/kg/day (57,156,160,161). Doses up to 80 mg/kg/day of phosphate and 60 ng/kg/day of calcitriol or higher have also been described in various studies (57,160-162). To our knowledge no systematic study has compared different doses to define an optimal dose level, and most trials typically just report the doses that were administered and are underpowered to compare magnitude of effectiveness of different dose regimens. However, given variability in response, with some patients responding well to lower doses, while others requiring higher doses to achieve effect, it is important to individualize therapy.

Laboratory monitoring, especially of calcium, phosphorus, creatinine, alkaline phosphatase and PTH, as well as of urine calcium and urine creatinine, should be conducted every 3-6 months. Overall, doses should be carefully titrated to achieve a decrease in serum ALP activity while paying careful attention to serum and urine calcium concentrations and serum PTH (160). It is important to know that the primary goal of conventional therapy is not to normalize the serum phosphorus, but rather to improve skeletal outcomes including growth and deformity. In this regard, normalizing the alkaline phosphatase as a marker of osteomalacia is an important goal of therapy and failure to normalize alkaline phosphatase indicates a need to modify therapy and confirm compliance.

However, careful monitoring is also necessary to avoid or manage the clinically important complications of therapy. Gastrointestinal symptoms from the laxative effects of phosphate can often be managed by titrating the dose slowly, but these can be limiting for some patients and complicate adherence. Other clinical complications of conventional therapy include hypercalciuria, nephrocalcinosis, and secondary (or often tertiary) hyperparathyroidism (57,163), which may be related to higher doses (164-166). Consequently, limiting doses or adding adjunctive therapies may be required in some individuals to minimize risk or address occurrence of complications. In particular high doses of phosphate >100 mg/kg/day are associated with higher risk for tertiary hyperparathyroidism (164), though this also is observed with lower doses, especially if accompanied by insufficient dosing of active form of vitamin D.

PTH should be monitored every 3-6 months in children and every 6 months in adults receiving therapy for XLH (57,159). Increasing doses of the active form of vitamin D can ameliorate or normalize the PTH in secondary hyperparathyroidism, though lowering phosphate doses can sometimes be necessary (57,159). Secondary hyperparathyroidism is common, occurring in 83.3% of patients with XLH, leading to tertiary hyperparathyroidism in 16.7%,

including some adolescents (167). There is little data on the outcomes of treatment for tertiary hyperparathyroidism in XLH, which is mostly based on case reports and series. In a recent case series, 75% of XLH patients having parathyroidectomy had recurrence or persistence of tertiary hyperparathyroidism (167).

In a well done study in children with XLH, short term treatment with cinacalcet increased TmP/GFR and serum phosphate, while decreasing PTH levels (168). In an interesting case report, a single patient with XLH was managed with cinacalcet, calcitriol, and hydrochlorothiazide without phosphate salts, demonstrating improvement of rickets (169). Of note cinacalcet use in children is off-label. Several authors have reported success managing the secondary or tertiary hyperparathyroidism of XLH patients with the calcimimetic, cinacalcet (167,170-172). However the responses are variable and patients often still require parathyroidectomy (167).

Nephrocalcinosis is very common on conventional therapy. At baseline, prior to randomization, nephrocalcinosis was present in 23% of the children and 54% of the adults recruited into the recent burosumab clinical trials (98,162). Some studies have found associations of nephrocalcinosis with higher doses of conventional therapy (165,166), while others did not (173). However, these studies also indicated that episodes of hypercalciuria may be associated with nephrocalcinosis risk in XLH. Thus, monitoring urine calcium excretion is important. The long-term consequences of nephrocalcinosis in XLH are uncertain regarding renal function, though CKD is reported in about 8-9 % of patients with XLH (167,174), and end stage renal disease has been reported (167). Renal ultrasounds are recommended every 1-2 years during treatment of XLH with either conventional therapy or burosumab (159).

Thiazides have been used to decrease urinary calcium excretion in XLH patients with hypercalciuria or nephrocalcinosis. In 11 children with XLH on therapy with calcitriol and phosphate, adding the thiazide diuretic, hydrochlorothiazide decreased urinary calcium excretion and while nephrocalcinosis did not resolve, further progression was prevented (175). In another series, the use of thiazides resulted in resolution of nephrocalcinosis in two patients with XLH (176).

Treatment of XLH is required in children to allow for growth and adequate bone mineralization (156), and outcomes are improved when initiated in infancy as opposed to later in childhood (177). However, despite treatment, and even with good adherence, many children have suboptimal growth, and persistent leg deformities with need for surgical correction (177). In particular, Zivicnjak et al. highlight the growth deficits that worsen during puberty even during conventional therapy (178). Therapy has often been stopped at the end of growth in an attempt to balance risks versus

benefits of ongoing therapy. During this time period many XLH patients are lost to follow-up until a time when symptoms lead to seeking additional care. However, in adult patients, therapy is typically restarted or continued in symptomatic adults having bone pain or fractures due to osteomalacia. ADHR and ARHR, like XLH, are also treated with oral phosphate and active vitamin D analogs. However, emerging evidence suggests ADHR could be treated with oral iron (41,179) instead of with phosphate and vitamin D, though this approach would be ineffective for XLH (78).

Several studies have evaluated the use of recombinant human growth hormone (GH) in XLH. Uncontrolled studies noted improvement in linear growth in children with short stature and XLH (180-182). Two years of treatment with growth hormone (GH) improved height SDS, with a better response in prepubertal compared to pubertal children (181). GH monotherapy also improved the serum phosphate and 1,25(OH)₂D while normalizing PTH in a study of 10 children with XLH (180). A randomized controlled trial in children with XLH and short stature suggested benefit of adding GH to conventional therapy as linear growth significantly improved, although mean height SDS did not differ compared to controls at 3 years (183). However, when these same subjects were followed to final adult height, there was no difference in height between GH-treated patients and controls with XLH, although the sample size was small (184). Another important finding of the controlled study was that GH did not appear to worsen the body disproportion that is seen in XLH.

Recent advances in XLH therapy include regulatory approval of burosumab, an anti-FGF23 antibody, as monotherapy by the Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency. Anti-FGF23 antibodies corrected hypophosphatemia and improved rickets and bone length in Hyp mice (185). Burosumab (previously termed KRN23) is a human anti-FGF23 monoclonal antibody and has been shown to significantly increase serum phosphorus, TmP/GFR, and 1,25(OH)₂D in adults and children (186-189). The biochemical pattern after injections results in peak and trough effects over a 4-week dosing cycle in adults, with peak 1,25(OH)₂D about 3-7 days after injection and peak phosphorus about 7 days after injection (186). In an adult randomized controlled trial, 134 adults randomized to burosumab every 4 weeks for 24 weeks, demonstrated clear improvements in serum phosphorus versus placebo (98). In this trial the burosumab group demonstrated greater healing of fractures/pseudofractures (43.1% vs 7.7%) during this time period, and improved stiffness scores.

Open label dose-finding phase 2 clinical trials also demonstrated improvements in phosphorus, alkaline phosphatase and rickets severity in 52 children ages 5-12 years (188) and in 13 children ages 1-4 years (189). Children age 5-12 years demonstrated improvements in physical

function as well (188). Modest improvements in height Z-score ($+0.15 \pm 0.04$) were noted (188).

Only one randomized controlled trial has directly compared conventional therapy to burosumab. This phase 3 open-label randomized controlled trial was conducted in 61 children ages 1-12 years with XLH (162). Children who had persistent rickets despite a mean of 3.3-4.3 years of prior conventional therapy were randomized to switch to burosumab (0.8 mg/kg every 2 weeks) or continue conventional therapy (oral phosphate 20-60 mg/kg/day, and calcitriol 20-30 ng/kg/day or alfacalcidol 40-60 ng/kg/day, titrated based on clinical parameters). By the end of the study most burosumab patients were still receiving 0.8 mg/kg burosumab, though some increased to 1.2 mg/kg, while the control group's mean phosphate dose was 46 mg/kg/day, calcitriol 27 mg/kg/day and alfacalcidol 86.5 ng/kg/day (162). Clinical improvements in rickets were seen in both groups as rated by radiologists blinded to treatment group using a radiographic global impression of change scale (190), where negative scores indicated worsening, 0 indicated no change +1 minimal healing +2 substantial healing and + 3 complete healing. This study demonstrated superior improvements with burosumab. At the primary outcome of 40 weeks (72.4% of those in the burosumab group achieved substantial healing of rickets by RGI-C of $\geq +2$ versus only 6.3% in the conventional therapy group). At 64 weeks the mean RGI-C score after burosumab was +2.1 compared to a compared to +1 in the conventional therapy arm. Other statistically significant improvements were seen in serum phosphorus, TmP/GFR, alkaline phosphatase, linear growth, and mobility in the burosumab group compared to the conventional therapy group.

These trials also show a favorable safety profile, with the most common side effects being transient injection site reactions (186-188). There were no signals of increased risk for nephrocalcinosis. However, some subjects in the adult burosumab trial did require dose reductions due to hyperphosphatemia. Consequently, monitoring serum phosphorus remains important to avoid hyperphosphatemia, which could carry a risk of nephrocalcinosis or other ectopic calcifications. Tooth abscesses were numerically higher in the burosumab group for the controlled trials. It is not clear what the long-term impact of burosumab on tooth abscesses, nephrocalcinosis or hyperparathyroidism will be.

Burosumab was approved as monotherapy with dosing in adults of 1 mg/kg every 4 weeks subcutaneously and in children 0.8 to 1.2 mg/kg every 2 weeks, with a maximum dose of 90 mg. Serum phosphorus is targeted within the low-normal range at trough, and we would recommend avoiding high or high-normal values anywhere in the dose cycle. However, clinical monitoring for safety remains important, including monitoring phosphorus, calcium, creatinine, PTH, urine calcium excretion, and renal ultrasounds. Monitoring for efficacy includes measures of ALP

and radiographic imaging to monitor rachitic changes and lower limb deformities, or to monitor healing of pseudofractures. It is as yet unknown what the impact of burosumab will be on the need for corrective leg surgeries, final adult height, enthesopathy, or other long-term XLH complications.

Children in the randomized controlled trial were those that had persistent evidence of significant rickets despite prior conventional therapy. Out of 122 screened, 55 (45%) were ineligible due to lesser rickets severity, consistent with the known benefits of conventional therapy. Persistent rickets in these patients could be due to prior compliance or dosing or inherent underlying resistance of their disease to therapy (191,192). Compliance is challenging for patients with multiple daily dosing of medications and patients often find conventional therapy burdensome (192). Furthermore, compliant patients are highly variable in the response to conventional therapy, with some recovering completely and some persisting with severe deformities. These concerns also highlight the difficulties and challenges managing patients with conventional therapy (191). Thus, patients who are responding well to conventional therapy may continue to do well on conventional therapy, while patients with persistent rickets clearly benefited from switching to burosumab.

One commentary raised a concern that patients on higher doses of conventional therapy might have responded better, acknowledging that higher doses of phosphate might also lead to elevated PTH levels which can also contribute to phosphaturia (191). The recent guideline has recommended a somewhat higher dose range for conventional therapy, as cited above (159). A subanalysis of the responses by either pre-trial or on-trial dose range has not been conducted, but patients in the upper quartile of dosing during the trial were within ranges similar to these new guidelines, and in some individuals much higher. However, it is not clear that the very large magnitude of differences in rickets responses in this randomized controlled trial can be explained solely by differences in the conventional therapy dose (at week 40: 72% burosumab vs 6 % conventional therapy having substantial healing or greater with RGI-C of $\geq +2$; and at week 64: 87% vs 19%).

While a Hyp mouse study comparing a different FGF23 antibody to enormous doses of calcitriol monotherapy found greater improvements in bone parameters with calcitriol (193,194), we would recommend caution in this comparison. That mouse study used doses of calcitriol that were several fold higher than the highest doses recommended in humans even from recent guidelines (159), raising concern for risks of hypercalciuria and nephrocalcinosis. However, a clinical trial is underway (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03748966) which will provide useful information on calcitriol monotherapy but does not include comparison with other treatment regimens.

One proposed approach, given the expense of burosumab is to initiate patients on conventional therapy and advance to burosumab if inadequate skeletal outcomes are seen (191,192). However, there may also be benefit to initiating burosumab early in severely affected patients (191), while the randomized controlled trial would indicate that patients who have been on conventional therapy for years with insufficient improvement are less likely to improve further remaining on conventional therapy (162). Those with pseudofractures, especially while on conventional therapy are also likely to benefit from burosumab (98). As with conventional therapy, decisions regarding burosumab treatment for children and adults should be individualized, taking into account the risks and benefits of therapy, and both approaches require careful monitoring.

Corrective Surgery

Conventional therapy improves limb deformities in most patients, though not necessarily with complete correction. The benefits of therapy on skeletal deformities are likely greatest when therapy is started early (177). Children do frequently still require orthopedic surgery to correct long bone deformities to straighten the lower limbs. Such procedures include osteotomies with internal fixation or external fixation to address bowing and torsional abnormalities, and guided growth procedures using plate across the medial or lateral physis (of the distal femur for example) to limit growth on that side of the physis, while allowing the opposite side to grow, to straighten the deformity (159,195). The timing of surgery is variable. One retrospective study found that patients having initial surgery at younger ages had more total surgeries than those having their first surgery later (195). Though this may have been confounded by severity of the initial deformity, it remains an important consideration and supports that osteotomies may be better performed at later ages when growth is complete or near complete. However, guided growth procedures must be completed while the patient still has at least 2 years of growth remaining in order for the desired effect (159). The optimal timing of surgery must be individualized based on several factors including the severity of the deformity and its functional impact on the developing child, which may indicate earlier surgery. Prior to elective skeletal surgery, medical therapy should be optimized. There is also a risk of overcorrection of a deformity after surgery, or of recurrence of the original deformity, thus patients require continued monitoring. Continued medical therapy is important to promote bone healing after surgery and with a goal of decreasing risk for new additional deformities and optimizing growth. It should be noted that whether burosumab will alter the need for corrective surgery or not has not yet been established in clinical trials.

Conclusion

FGF23 functions as an endocrine factor with its cofactor α Klotho and is a principal regulator in phosphorus homeostasis, its primary action being reduction of phosphorus levels and regulation of vitamin D metabolism. It is one of multiple factors involved in the bone-parathyroid-kidney axis and its interaction with these factors is quite complex. FGF23-mediated disorders of phosphate wasting share similar clinical and biochemical features. Conventional treatment involves multiple daily doses of oral phosphate salts and active vitamin D analogs. Recent development of an anti-FGF23 antibody, burosumab, for use in XLH has shown promising results, but more research is needed, especially regarding long-term outcomes.

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Are We Aware that Hyperphosphatemia Affects Mortality and Morbidity as much as Hypophosphatemia in Pediatric Intensive Care Patients?

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Abstract

Objective
Hypophosphatemia was previously shown to affect the duration of admission, mechanical ventilator requirements, mortality and morbidity during pediatric intensive care. Different from previous studies, our study was planned with the aim of showing whether hyperphosphatemia affects morbidity and mortality in pediatric intensive care patients as much as hypophosphatemia.

Method

Patients' ages, genders, reason for admission, underlying diseases, phosphorus levels examined on admission and on the 1-4th and 5-10th-days, duration on mechanical ventilation, duration of admission, final status and PRISM and PELOD scores calculated in the first 24 hours of admission were recorded.

Results

Mortality was distinctly higher for those who were hypophosphatemic and hyperphosphatemic compared to

those who were normophosphatemic. The highest mortality was identified in those who were hyperphosphatemic on the 5-10th-days. PELOD scores were only significantly different according to admission phosphorus levels ($p:0.04$).

Conclusion

In our study, we identified that hyperphosphatemia is a serious problem as hypophosphatemia for patients who admitted to the PICU. Patients identified to be hyperphosphatemic on admission had a significantly higher PELOD score. The significant difference of hyperphosphatemia in terms of PELOD score is one of the important points shown in our study. It should not be forgotten that like hypophosphatemia, hyperphosphatemia may cause serious problems in pediatric intensive care patients.

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Key words: Pediatric intensive care, Hyperphosphatemia, Hypophosphatemia, PELOD, Mortality

Introduction

Phosphorus is an essential mineral generally found combined with oxygen in phosphate form in the body. Compounds containing phosphorus function in cell structures, cell metabolism, ensuring intercell regulation and maintaining the acid-base balance.

Though hypophosphatemia is commonly observed, diagnosis is rarely placed due to patients being generally asymptomatic. The incidence of hypophosphatemia among patients applying to the hospital for any reason is 1-5% but reaches 80% among those treated in intensive care units (1-3). The tendency toward hypophosphatemic increases in situations like malnutrition, refeeding syndrome, total parenteral nutrition, insufficient phosphorus intake, sepsis, burns, in the period after surgical operations, and with antiacid, diuretic or steroid use (4). Severe clinical findings are generally observed when serum phosphorus levels are below 1 mg/dl (5). It may cause problems related to the central nervous system (paresthesia, convulsions), respiratory system (acute respiratory failure, insufficient diaphragm spasm), muscle and skeletal system (osteomalacia, rhabdomyolysis), and hematologic system (hemolysis, platelet function disorder) (2). Hypophosphatemia in patients with mechanical ventilation may cause difficulty weaning from the mechanical ventilator, and lengthened duration on mechanical ventilation and in the intensive care unit (6). Finally, it negatively affects morbidity and mortality.

In clinical practice, the most common cause of hyperphosphatemia is renal failure. In mild or moderate renal failure, increasing parathormone levels and reducing tubular phosphorus reabsorption may prevent the development of hyperphosphatemia. In severe renal failure, this compensation mechanism cannot prevent the development of hyperphosphatemia. Hyperphosphatemia affects the nervous system and cardiovascular system most. Central nervous system findings occur with disrupted mental status, delirium, coma, convulsion, muscle cramps or tetany, and paresthesia, while hypotension and lengthened QT may be observed in the cardiovascular system.

This study, different from previous studies, was planned with the aim of showing whether hyperphosphatemia affects morbidity and mortality in pediatric intensive care patients as much as hypophosphatemia.

Patients and Methods

This study was approved by Ankara Dr. Sami Ulus Maternity and Children's Training and Research Hospital Ethical Committee, and all parents signed the informed consent prior to enrollment.

Our study included patients admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit of an education and research hospital from 01/01/2008-31/12/2010. Data were collected from patient archive files and monitoring and treatment records of PICU patients.

The study included patients aged from 1 month to 18 years admitted to the PICU for at least 72 hours. Patients with chronic disease affecting phosphorus metabolism (primary hyperparathyroidism, X linked hypophosphatemia, rickets linked to vitamin D deficiency, chronic renal disease), with anorexia nervosa, with diabetic ketoacidosis coma, admitted for less than 72 hours, and re-admitted patients were excluded from the study.

Patient ages, gender, disease-causing admission (primary), underlying diseases (secondary), phosphorus levels on admission to PICU and on the 1-4th and 5-10th days if known, admission examination findings, clinical status (respiratory failure, heart failure, sepsis and septic shock) on the first day of PICU admission, weight on admission and age-adapted weight z-scores, laboratory findings (arterial blood gases, serum calcium, alkaline phosphatase, magnesium, potassium, total protein, albumin, creatine kinase (CK), CK-MB, lactate dehydrogenase, hemoglobin levels, white blood cell and platelet counts) on admission, day patients began feeding, day patients reached calculated target calories, days they reached calculated target protein intake, use of antacids, diuretics, steroids and inotrope, duration on mechanical ventilation (MV) in PICU, duration of PICU admission, final status, and PRISM (Pediatric Risk of Mortality) and PELOD (Pediatric Logistic Organ Dysfunction) scores calculated in the first 24 hours of admission were recorded (7,8). Reasons for admission to PICU were classified as respiratory system diseases, cardiovascular system diseases, central nervous system diseases, intoxication, sepsis and metabolic diseases.

Serum phosphorus levels examined on admission to PICU and on the 1-4th and 5-10th days if known were recorded in mg/dl form. Definition of hypophosphatemia and hyperphosphatemia were determined according to age based on normal serum phosphorus level limits (1 month-3 yrs: 3.8-6.5 mg/dl, 3-11 yrs: 3.7-5.6 mg/dl, 11-15 yrs: 2.9-5.4 mg/dl, 15-19 yrs: 2.7- 4.7 mg/dl) (9). Patients were divided into two groups based on days feeding was begun as the first three days and after the first three days. Those beginning nutrition in the first three days formed the early nutrition group, while those beginning nutrition after the 3rd day formed the late nutrition group. Times to reach target calorie and target protein intake were examined in 2 groups as early (0-5 days) and late (after 5 days).

Statistical Assessment

Statistical analyses were performed with the SPSS for Windows Version 15.0 program. Numerical variables are shown as mean±standard deviation (SD) or median (min-max) values.

Qualitative variables are given as number and percentage. For differences between groups in terms of numerical variables, one-way analysis of variance was used for those abiding by parametric test assumptions and with the Kruskal Wallis test used for those not abiding by parametric test assumptions. The chi-square test was used to determine whether there were differences in terms of qualitative variables. Correlations between numerical variables were examined with the Pearson correlation coefficient. Whether variation in mean serum phosphorus levels was significant or not was examined with the repeated measures variance analysis. The McNemar test was used to investigate whether the variation in patient numbers when grouped according to serum phosphorus levels were significant or not. The significance level was taken as $p < 0.05$.

Results

Patient information from files of 277 patients admitted to the PICU from 01/01/2008-31/12/2010 that could be accessed was evaluated. Of these, 103 were admitted for less than 3 days, 7 patients had repeated admission, 20 patients had insufficient data, 8 patients had chronic renal disease and 23 patients had diabetic ketoacidosis and were removed from the study. Thus, the study included 117 patients. When admission diagnoses are investigated, more than half (52.1%, 61/117 patients) were observed to be respiratory system diseases and intoxication.

Mean age was 5.13 years (1 month-18 years) with 61 females (52.1%) and 56 males (47.9%) out of 117 patients. Of patients, 51.3% (60) were under the age of 2. With the aim of assessing malnutrition, the weight z-score calculation was performed according to age for 114 patients with data accessible. Of patients, 64% (73/114) were within -2 SD and normal limits, while 36% (44/114) were malnourished below -2 SD. The distribution of phosphorus level groups according to calculated weight z-scores based on admission weights found no significant difference in phosphorus level group distribution when examined for those who were malnourished on admission.

Time of beginning feeding information was reached for 107 of 117 patients. Of patients, 93/107 (86.9%) began feeding in the early period and 14/107 (13.1%) began in the late

period. When group distributions according to phosphorus levels are examined in terms of beginning nutrition, there was a statistically significant difference between the early nutrition group and the 1-4th day patient rates ($p:0.003$) with no difference for the group beginning nutrition late ($p:0.135$). This difference appeared to be primarily due to patients with hyperphosphatemic status.

The phosphorus levels of all 117 patients were examined on admission to PICU and from 1-4th days, while the levels of 56 patients were examined from 5-10th days. The mean phosphorus levels of patients were 4.97 ± 1.61 mg/dl on admission, 4.57 ± 1.11 mg/dl on 1-4th days and 4.65 ± 1.41 mg/dl on the 5-10th days. When the variation in mean phosphorus levels are compared according to repeated phosphorus measurements, there was a significant difference between admission and 1-4th day mean phosphorus levels with no statistically significant differences between admission and 5-10th day and between 1-4th and 5-10th day mean phosphorus levels.

Data about the antacid, diuretic, steroid or catecholamine use were reached for 86 patients. Of patients, 40.6% (35/86) used antacids, 47.6% (41/86) used diuretics, 24.4% (21/86) used steroids and 58.1% (50/86) used catecholamine. There was no significant difference between patients using antacid, diuretics or steroid treatment in terms of admission, 1-4th day and 5-10th day mean phosphorus levels or patient rates according to phosphorus levels. Patients receiving catecholamine treatment had a significant difference in patient rates according to 5-10th day phosphorus levels ($p:0.025$). Patients receiving catecholamine treatment had higher rates in the hypophosphatemic group based on 5-10th day values.

Of patients, 37.6% (44/117) used a mechanical ventilator. There was a significant difference in patients requiring mechanical ventilator according to admission phosphorus levels (table 1) ($p:0.023$). Those with hypophosphatemic and hyperphosphatemic admission phosphorus levels required more mechanical ventilation than those who were normophosphatemic; however, there was no statistically significant difference between duration on mechanical ventilator based on admission, 1-4th day and 5-10th day phosphorus levels.

Table 1. Distribution of serum phosphorus levels according to mechanical ventilation requirements of PICU patients

Serum Phosphorus Levels On Admission		Hypophosphatemia N (%)	Normophosphatemia N (%)	Hyperphosphatemia N (%)
*p:0.023	Needs mechanical ventilator (N:43)	10(23.2)	20(46.5)	13(30.3)
	No need of mechanical ventilator (N:73)	10(13.6)	53(72.6)	10(13.8)

Mean admission duration of patients was significantly different according to phosphorus levels examined on the 1-4th days ($p:0.024$). Those who were hypophosphatemic on the 1-4th day had longer mean admission durations (**table 2**); however, there was no significant difference in mean admission durations according to admission and 5-10th day phosphorus levels.

There was a statistically significant difference for mortality according to admission, 1-4th day and 5-10th day phosphorus levels. Mortality was distinctly higher for those who were hypophosphatemic and hyperphosphatemic compared to those who were normophosphatemic. The highest mortality (75%) was identified in patients who were hyperphosphatemic on the 5-10th days (**table 3**).

PRISM and PELOD scores were calculated to assess the seriousness of the patient's clinical status. Mean PRISM score was 10.7 ± 13.2 (min-max:0-75, median:5) and mean PELOD

score was 9.9 ± 14 (min-max:0-50, median:3). When PRISM and PELOD scores calculated in the first 24 hours were compared according to admission phosphorus levels, only PELOD scores were significantly different according to admission phosphorus levels ($p:0.04$). Patients who were hypophosphatemic and hyperphosphatemic had higher PELOD scores compared to those who were normophosphatemic (**table 4**).

When patient admission phosphorus levels are compared according to the presence of heart, respiratory failure and sepsis in the clinical tableau on admission, there was a significant difference identified for the presence of sepsis and cardiac failure with admission phosphorus levels with no difference identified for respiratory failure. The presence of sepsis and cardiac failure was higher in those who were hyperphosphatemic (**table 5**).

Table 2. Distribution of serum phosphorus levels according to mean admission duration to the PICU

Serum Phosphorus Levels	Admission N (%)			1-4 th day N (%)			5-10 th day N (%)		
	Hypo phosph	Normo phosph	Hyper phosph	Hypo phosph	Normo phosph	Hyper phosph	Hypo phosph	Normo phosph	Hyper phosph
Mean Admission Duration (day,mean \pm SD)	11,05 \pm 7,22	9,75 \pm 19,86	14,56 \pm 18,13	12,24 \pm 11,56	10,55 \pm 19,21	10,66 \pm 22,38	15,25 \pm 10,96	18,72 \pm 24,96	22,25 \pm 31,85
p	0.08			0.024			0.5		

Table 3. Distribution of serum phosphorus levels according to final status of PICU patients

Serum Phosphorus Levels		Admission N (%)			1-4 th day N (%)			5-10 th day N (%)		
		Hypo phosph	Normo phosph	Hyper phosph	Hypo phosph	Normo phosph	Hyper phosph	Hypo phosph	Normo phosph	Hyper phosph
Final Status	Died N:18	4(22,2)	7(38,9)	7(38,9)	5(27,8)	9(50)	4(22,2)	4(30,8)	6(46,2)	3(23,1)
	Alive N:98	16(16,3)	67(68,4)	15(15,3)	20(20,4)	73(74,5)	5(5,1)	4(9,5)	37(88,1)	1(2,4)
P		0.04			0.05			0.007		

Table 4. Distribution of serum phosphorus levels according to PELOD scores of PICU patients

Serum Phosphorus Levels	Admission N (%)			1-4 th day N (%)			5-10 th day N (%)		
	Hypo phosph	Normo phosph	Hyper phosph	Hypo phosph	Normo phosph	Hyper phosph	Hypo phosph	Normo phosph	Hyper phosph
PELOD scores (mean \pm SD)	11,5 \pm 16	7,6 \pm 12,1	7,6 \pm 12,1	10,9 \pm 15,1	9,1 \pm 13,2	14,6 \pm 15,9	17,3 \pm 18,2	8,2 \pm 10,4	18,1 \pm 14,3
p	0.04			0,22			0,4		

Table 5. Distribution of serum phosphorus levels according to presence of sepsis, cardiac and respiratory failure in PICU patients

Serum Phosphorus Levels on admission		Hypophosphatemia N (%)	Normophosphatemia N (%)	Hyperphosphatemia N (%)	p
Clinical Status	Sepsis N:30	5(16.7)	13(43.3)	12(40)	0,02
	Respiratory Failure N:62	14(22.6)	37(59.7)	11(17.7)	0,26
	Cardiac Failure N: 33	7(21.2)	13(39.4)	13(39.4)	0,01

Discussion

Variations in phosphorus levels, especially hypophosphatemia, do not have clear or specific symptoms and findings reflecting the clinical tableau making it difficult to monitor the clinical importance of phosphorus. Literature scans observed very few studies about phosphorus levels in pediatric intensive care units, with assessments only of single phosphorus level measured during admission or assessment of a classification of whether patients are hypophosphatemic are not (1,10,11). This study was performed in pediatric patients and has the feature of multipurpose assessment in terms of progression and hypo-normo-hyperphosphatemic formation with admission and repeated measurements during monitoring. When PRISM and PELOD scores are examined, they appear to be a heterogeneous group.

According to repeated phosphorus measurements of patients, phosphorus levels fell on the 1-4th day and increased again on the 5-10th days. When mean phosphorus levels are compared, a statistically significant difference was only found between admission (4.97 ± 1.61 mg/dl) and 1-4th day (4.57 ± 1.11 mg/dl) ($p:0.034$).

A study published by Menezes in 2009 prospectively observed 82 children under the age of 7, and reported no significant difference in mean phosphorus values in 3 measurements repeated within the first 10 days (12). During measurements during the admission duration, with any value, 26.4% of our patients were hypophosphatemic and 22.2% were hyperphosphatemic. The study published by Menezes in 2006 identified that 76% of patients were hypophosphatemic. The reason for this rate is higher than our study is that in Menezes' study a single phosphorus value was examined on the 3rd day and the age groups were different. Additionally, children assessed in this study had distinctly higher rates of malnutrition (83% <-2SD) compared to our study group (36%), which may have affected results as it is a significant risk factor for hypophosphatemia. Menezes reported they found a significant correlation between malnutrition and hypophosphatemia in this study (13). The prospective study by

Menezes in 2009 found a positive correlation between weight z-scores of patients on admission and phosphorus levels and showed that mean phosphorus levels of malnourished patients were significantly low (12). In our study, malnourished patients with weight z-score (<-2SD) had higher hypophosphatemia on admission compared to those who were not malnourished (31.1% compared to 12.3%). Additionally, this difference was not statistically significant ($p:0.09$).

The use of antiacid, steroids and diuretics which can affect phosphorus levels in patients did not affect mean admission, 1-4th day and 5-10th-day phosphorus levels ($p:0.73, 0.38, 0.49$, respectively). The 2006 study by Menezes did not show a significant correlation between steroid and diuretic use with hypophosphatemia, which appears to comply with our study results (13). The 2009 Menezes study showed a correlation between diuretic use above 2 mg/kg and any dose of dopamine with hypophosphatemia (12). In our study, patients receiving catecholamine support appeared to have significantly high hypophosphatemia rates in the 5-10th day values ($p:0.025$).

Phosphorus levels may be associated with hunger and time beginning feeding. It is known that with the increased anabolic activity at cellular levels with the beginning of the feeding and ATP synthesis and the intake of phosphorus into cells, especially in malnourished patients, may cause falls in phosphorus levels leading to serious outcomes (12,14). The majority of our patients began early feeding in the first three days. When early feeding patients are compared with admission, the 1-4th day hyperphosphatemic group clearly reduced and the hypophosphatemic group increased and this was statistically significant ($p:0.003$).

In our study when the difference in phosphorus levels are compared with scores showing the severity of clinical disease and organ dysfunction status of patients, mean PELOD scores were observed to differ according to admission phosphorus levels ($p:0.04$). The PELOD scores of patients who were hyperphosphatemic on admission were higher. A retrospective study in Turkey by Kılıç *et al.* in 2008 reported being hypophosphatemic did not cause a significant difference in terms of PELOD scores. However, this study only assessed patients as being hypophosphatemic or not (15). The

significant difference in PELOD score with hyperphosphatemia is one of the important points shown in our study.

Patients with sepsis and cardiac failure on admission were found to have significantly high rates of hyperphosphatemia ($p:0.02$ and 0.01). Patients with respiratory failure did not show different patient rates according to serum phosphorus levels ($p:0.26$). Hyperphosphatemia may have developed due to organ dysfunction that may accompany sepsis and cardiac failure. However, though the mechanism is not clear, studies of septic adults and animal studies reported hyperphosphatemia development linked to sepsis-associated multiple organ failure and increased parathormone (16-18).

Of our patients, 37.6% received MV support and hypophosphatemic and hyperphosphatemic patients according to admission values had significantly high rates of MV requirements. However, the duration on mechanical ventilator did not differ according to phosphorus levels. The 2009 study by Menezes reported 13 of 16 patients requiring mechanical ventilation were hypophosphatemic (12). However, patients in this study were only classified as hypophosphatemic and normophosphatemic. The significantly higher rates of mechanical ventilation requirements in hyperphosphatemic patients is associated with more pronounced accompanying organ dysfunctions.

The mean admission duration of patients in our study was 10.9 ± 17.9 days, with durations significantly longer for patients who were hypophosphatemic on 1-4th day values. Hypophosphatemia developing in patients admitted to the PICU lengthens the duration of stay. In our study group, 15.4% of 117 patients died. Mortality was significantly high in patients who were hyperphosphatemic and hypophosphatemic on admission, 1-4th day and 5-10th day values ($p: 0.04, 0.05, 0.007$). The highest mortality (75%) occurred among patients who were hyperphosphatemic on the 5-10th days. Though hypophosphatemia did not reach serious levels in patients admitted to the PICU, it increased MV requirements, morbidity and mortality.

In our study, like hypophosphatemia, hyperphosphatemia was identified to be a severe problem for patients admitted to the PICU. Patients identified to have hyperphosphatemia on admission had a higher PELOD score. Additionally, the hyperphosphatemic rates in patients with sepsis and cardiac failure were significantly high. Especially the higher mortality in patients who were hyperphosphatemic on the 5-10th day may be linked to this.

Just like hypophosphatemia, it should not be forgotten that hyperphosphatemia may cause severe problems in pediatric intensive care patients.

Disclosure

The authors have nothing to disclose

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Growth Hormone Deficiency and Excessive Sleepiness: A Case Report and Review of the Literature

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Abstract

The somatotrophic axis is intricately involved in normal sleep, as evidenced by the fact that hypothalamic growth hormone-releasing hormone (GHRH) has sleep promoting effects and pituitary growth hormone (GH) release is strongly associated with slow-wave sleep (SWS). Abnormalities in the somatotrophic axis, such as GH deficiency of hypothalamic or pituitary origin, result in an alteration of normal sleep patterns which may explain the fatigue reported in these individuals. Sleep disorders such as narcolepsy, in which individuals abnormally enter rapid eye movement (REM) sleep at sleep onset are also associated with an altered GHRH circadian rhythm and abnormal GH secretion. While few studies are available, this review explores what is known about sleep abnormalities in GH deficiency, the effect of treatment on sleep in patients with GH deficiency, and GH secretion in narcolepsy. Emerging evidence suggests a hypothalamic link between narcolepsy and GH secretion. We also describe the unique constellation of isolated idiopathic GH deficiency and severe excessive sleepiness in adopted Nicaraguan siblings, one of which has narcolepsy and the other idiopathic hypersomnia.

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Key words: Growth Hormone Deficiency, Narcolepsy, Idiopathic Hypersomnia, Slow-wave Sleep

Background: Somatotrophic Axis and Sleep

Normal sleep consists of two stages: REM and non-REM sleep which alternate cyclically (1). Non-REM sleep consists of stages 1, 2, 3, and 4, each of which has its own unique brain activity (2). Stages 3 and 4, which predominantly happen during the first third of nightly sleep, are known as SWS and are considered the deep stages of sleep (3). Non-REM begins first, progresses through its stages, and subsequently REM sleep occurs (1).

It is well known that pituitary GH is secreted in a pulsatile fashion primarily during sleep and reaches its highest amplitude during SWS (4-6). This release occurs secondary to stimulation by hypothalamic GHRH which results in significantly increased GH secretion (7). GHRH given during SWS, as opposed to during REM sleep or an awakened state, results in a larger GH response (8). GHRH itself has sleep promoting effects (9) and in healthy young adult males its episodic rather than continuous administration increases SWS duration (7,10). In the rodent model, this sleep promoting effect has been shown to occur independent of GH (11). While GHRH's effect on GH release and promotion of SWS occur through distinct hypothalamic neurons, these processes are not completely independent, but instead are quite interconnected (12,13).

Some have hypothesized that in pituitary GH deficiency, the lack of negative feedback inhibition of GH on GHRH leads to increased activity of GHRH and the subsequent promotion of excessive SWS (14). In contrast, patients with a hypothalamic origin may have deficient SWS and REM sleep due to the combination of GHRH and GH deficiencies (15).

Indeed, subjects with isolated GH deficiency have been shown to have decreased duration of SWS (16) and REM sleep (17) which corrects with appropriate GH replacement (18,19). In a study with 18 healthy young adults, GH administration decreased SWS, but increased REM sleep (20).

These studies suggest that since the somatotrophic axis is intricately involved in normal sleep, abnormalities may contribute to the fatigue reported in individuals with GH deficiency (21,22). With the paucity of data, further studies are needed to clarify this potential relationship.

Case Report

An 8 4/12 year old Hispanic boy and his 6 6/12 year old sister were referred for pediatric endocrinology evaluation due to poor growth. Both had been adopted from a Nicaraguan orphanage 2 years earlier where they had been placed due to emotional and physical neglect. Both had a history of severe malnutrition which had resolved by the time of our evaluation. Additional history consisted of debilitating fatigue and a pattern of sleeping ~18 hours a day, rendering it impossible for them to attend school or have a normal life.

On physical exam, heights were at -2.17 SD (boy) and -3.25 SD (girl) with BMIs at -1.38 SD (boy) and -1.04 SD (girl). Evaluation revealed low serum IGF-1 levels of 20 ng/ml and 15 ng/ml and stimulation testing demonstrated peak GH levels of 2.39 ng/dl and 4.31 ng/dl in the boy and girl, respectively. Pituitary MRIs were normal. Bone age xrays were delayed at ~3 SD in the boy and -4 SD in the girl. Thyroid function tests and AM cortisol were normal. GH therapy was started at 0.3 mg/kg/wk and growth velocity improved from 0 to 7.92 cm/yr (boy), and from 2 to 5.56 cm/yr (girl) during the first 6 months of therapy. IGF-1 levels normalized in both.

Both entered puberty spontaneously at age 11 11/12 years (boy) and 10 8/12 years (girl). GH therapy was weight-adjusted and most recent growth parameters have improved with height -1.33 SD, BMI of -0.12 SD, growth velocity of 11.2 cm/yr, and bone age consistent with chronological age at -0.25 SD in the boy and height -1.02 SD, BMI of -0.05 SD, growth velocity of 14.8 cm/yr, and a delayed bone age of -3SD in the girl. The children's growth charts are shown in **figure 1**.

While on GH therapy, the mother reported worsening hypersomnia prompting referral to sleep medicine where the boy was diagnosed with narcolepsy and the girl with idiopathic

hypersomnia. Both were started on modafinil, transitioned to armodafinil, and finally sodium oxybate due to poor response. With this most recent regimen, their excessive sleepiness has improved.

Genetic testing has been inconclusive. Whole exome sequencing revealed a previously unreported variant in one of two copies of the CPA1 gene [c.497 G>T (p.G166V)] of uncertain significance in both siblings. Other variants in this gene have been associated with pancreatic disease, but there is no evidence of pancreatic issues in these siblings. Mitochondrial DNA sequencing and metabolic evaluation were negative. Interestingly, testing did reveal that they are half-siblings.

Discussion

Sleep Abnormalities in GH Deficiency

There are few human studies that have examined sleep quality in individuals with GH deficiency. In one, 30 untreated adult subjects with GH deficiency were compared to 30 matched controls (14). Compared with controls, subjects with GH deficiency had poorer sleep quality determined by the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index and also had lower quality of life scores. Those with pituitary GH deficiency had a longer duration and more intense SWS, while those with hypothalamic GH deficiency had lower intensity SWS. A sleep study using wrist actigraphy and polysomnography in 9 adults with GH deficiency showed decreased sleep duration and increased sleep fragmentation compared to 9 healthy controls (13). Children with GH deficiency also have different sleep characteristics. In a study of 10 children with GH deficiency compared with 20 matched controls, those with GH deficiency had abnormal sleep macrostructure (decreased sleep duration, sleep efficiency, movement time, stage 2 non-REM sleep, and percent REM sleep) and altered sleep microstructure (reduced arousal instability) (23).

Effect of Treatment on Sleep in GH Deficiency

In 13 adults with GH deficiency of confirmed or likely pituitary origin, after 4 months of GH replacement therapy, there was a significant decrease in sleep duration primarily due to decreased SWS intensity and an earlier wake time (24). Several had panhypopituitarism with and without surgery or radiotherapy and etiologies of GH deficiency varied among subjects and included idiopathic, as well as organic causes. A significant decrease in stage 3 of SWS was also seen after GH therapy in 6 of 7 children with GH deficiency (25). Five of these children had idiopathic, isolated GH deficiency, one had septo-optic dysplasia, and one developed hypopituitarism after resection and radiation therapy for craniopharyngioma. Both of these studies suggest that GH replacement decreases SWS, adding support for the hypothesis that in pituitary

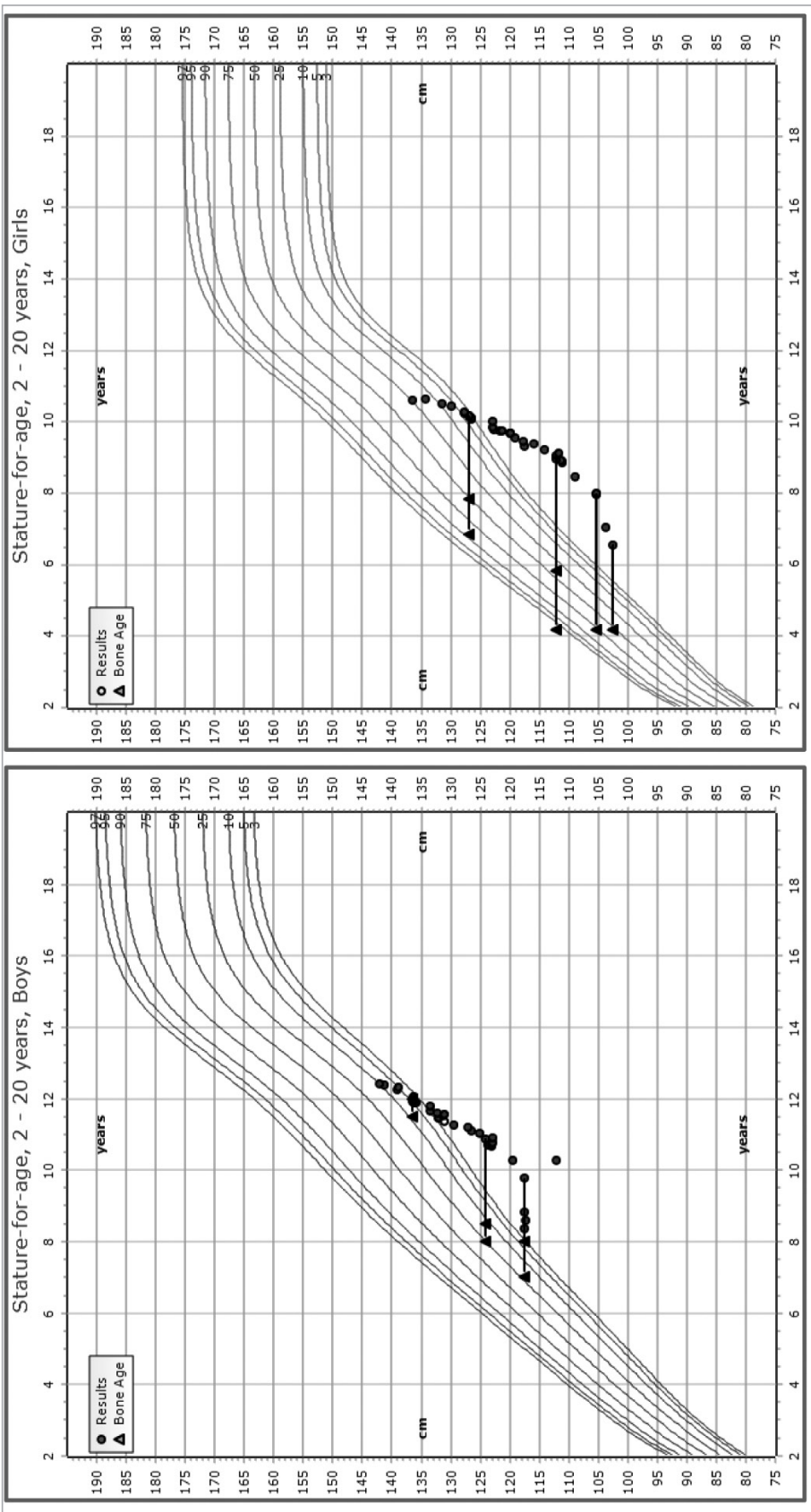


Figure 1. Growth charts for boy (left) and girl (right)
Δ indicates bone ages

GH deficiency, lack of negative feedback of GH results in unopposed GHRH with consequent SWS excess.

However, other studies have found no difference in sleep in treated subjects with GH deficiency (26,27). In a randomized double-blinded placebo controlled trial over 6 months, day and nighttime sleep EEG recordings and a multiple sleep latency test were performed at baseline and after 6 months of GH therapy in 17 adults with GH deficiency and no sleep effect of therapy was found (26). The etiology in the majority of subjects was a pituitary adenoma with subsequent pituitary surgery and occasionally radiation therapy. Thus, it is difficult to draw clear conclusions regarding the impact of GH treatment on sleep.

Narcolepsy and Growth Hormone Secretion

Narcolepsy is a sleep disorder characterized by excessive daytime sleepiness, abnormal REM sleep including episodes with loss of muscle tone (cataplexy), sleep paralysis, and hypnagogic hallucinations (28). Type 1 narcolepsy is defined by cataplexy and results from extensive loss of the hypothalamic neurons that secrete the neurotransmitter hypocretin (also known as orexin) (29-31). Type 2 lacks cataplexy and the cause is unknown (28). While non-REM sleep normally occurs first, those with narcolepsy enter directly into REM sleep at sleep onset (32). Idiopathic hypersomnia is considered a diagnosis of exclusion once other causes of excessive daytime sleepiness have been ruled out (33). Features of idiopathic hypersomnia include extreme fatigue after awakening from sleep, high sleep efficiency (time spent in bed asleep), and shortened sleep latency (length of time from awakened state to sleep onset) (33,34).

While the presence of GH deficiency in narcolepsy has not been investigated, there are a few small studies that have explored 24-hour GH secretion in this condition. In 4 adult subjects with narcolepsy, the GH peak during SWS was absent or greatly decreased (35) compared with the substantial GH peak within 60 minutes of sleep onset that was observed in 4 healthy controls. Other studies have demonstrated that people with narcolepsy do not have deficient, but rather dysregulated GH secretion that is not clearly linked with sleep stages (36). GH secretion and sleep patterns were assessed over 24 hours in 7 adult individuals with narcolepsy with confirmed hypocretin deficiency and compared to matched controls (37). Basal and

pulsatile GH secretion and GHRH-induced GH secretion were similar between subjects with narcolepsy and controls, but those with narcolepsy secreted about 50% of their total daily GH during the day vs only 25% in the controls.

Short stature and GH deficiency are not known features of narcolepsy. One study has described anthropometric and endocrine data in 72 pediatric subjects with type 1 narcolepsy over a 1-year follow up period (38). In the 39 subjects who underwent GH stimulation testing with arginine and clonidine, 23 had a blunted GH concentration defined by a peak level below 8 ng/mL on at least one of the two provocative tests. All had normal IGF-1 z-scores and all children were of normal height (mean z-score 0.72 +/- 1.07) and appropriate for their genetic potential, suggesting a normal functioning GH axis. Growth velocity was low only in the subgroup close to completion of puberty which is expected for this pubertal stage. While linear growth appears normal, other endocrinopathies that have been reported in the setting of narcolepsy are precocious puberty and obesity (38,39).

Table 1 summarizes features of the somatotrophic axis as it relates to GH deficiency, narcolepsy, and the normal state.

Hypothalamic Link

While there appears to be a link between abnormalities in the somatotrophic axis and sleep regulation, evidence supporting a hypothalamic link between narcolepsy and GH deficiency is beginning to emerge. The hypocretin, orexin-A, was shown in rat models of GH deficiency (hypophysectomized and Lewis dwarf rat) to decrease GHRH expression in the paraventricular nuclei (40). Another study using adult male rats demonstrated that administration of orexin-A decreased spontaneous GH secretion (41). Hypothalamic somatostatin is well-known to inhibit GH release as part of normal physiology (42) and orexin-A stimulated somatostatin release in male rats (43). These studies may explain the disrupted circadian rhythm of GHRH (37) and abnormal GH secretion in humans with narcolepsy (35,44). Considering the complexity of the GH system, additional cross-connections involving hypocretins or other modulators of the somatotrophic axis likely exist.

Conclusion

To the best of our knowledge, our siblings represent the first report of GH deficiency in the setting of narcolepsy

Table 1. Established and proposed relationships between the somatotrophic axis and sleep in normal physiology, GH deficiency, and narcolepsy

Normal Sleep	GH Deficiency	Narcolepsy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •GHRH increases SWS duration •GH primarily secreted during SWS (Stages 3 & 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hypothalamic origin •Deficient SWS and REM sleep •Pituitary origin •Lack of negative feedback of GH on GHRH → increased GHRH → promotion of SWS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •GH peak during SWS absent or decreased •24-hour secretion not deficient •Not clearly linked with sleep stages •Greater percentage of secretion during daytime than controls

and idiopathic hypersomnia. We propose that hypothalamic dysfunction may be the link between GH deficiency and sleep disorders in these children. It is unclear why the siblings developed increased sleepiness following initiation of GH therapy as existing reports have found no effect or an improvement in sleep in subjects receiving GH treatment, albeit none of these studies included cases of narcolepsy or idiopathic hypersomnia. Further studies, particularly in humans are needed to clarify the relationship between GH, narcolepsy, and sleep disorders.

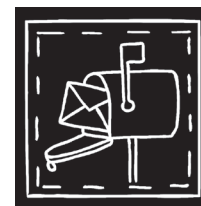
Disclosure

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Central Nervous System Complications in Diabetic Ketoacidosis

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Commentary to: Paediatric T1DM: DKA is Still a Problem by Martinez E. et al, PER 16(2):233-239

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Dear Editor,

We have read the article entitled "Paediatric T1DM: DKA is Still a Problem" by Martinez E. et al published in *Pediatric Endocrinology Reviews*. We want to congratulate the authors for this successful article, and make some contributions about neurological complications of diabetic ketoacidosis.

It is estimated that approximately 30% of new onset diabetes mellitus type 1 cases are diagnosed with a concomitant ketoacidosis (DKA) (1-3). Its neurological complications are not very frequent, however they can have a serious consequences.

Cerebral edema is the most common neurological complication of DKA. It is estimated that it occurs in 0,5-1% of DKA cases (4,5). It is a serious and life-threatening condition with the approximate 20% mortality rate. The pathomechanism of brain edema remains unknown however several hypotheses are considered. One of them is a change in the osmotic gradient that occurs between the brain cells and the extracellular

fluid. As a result of the high level of glucose in the blood, the water moves from the intracellular to the extracellular fluid. After initiating inadequate DKA treatment (too rapid glucose level reduction, intensive hydration, therapy with bicarbonates) the osmotic gradient changes excessively. Decrease in extracellular osmolality results in a shift of fluid into brain cells and causes osmotic brain edema. Nevertheless clinical studies do not confirm that sudden changes in the osmolality are the main cause of cerebral edema (5-7). The hypothesis is also questioned by the fact that radiological tests performed in children before the DKA treatment can also show the presence of cerebral edema (6). Another potential cause of this complication is a brain hypoperfusion. Hypocapnia-induced cerebral vasoconstriction and coexisting large dehydration lead to hypoxia followed by cytotoxic edema at presentation. Cerebral hypoperfusion results also in releasing vasoactive substances and inflammatory mediators. This causes the blood-brain barrier impairment and development of vasogenic edema (6). Clinical research indicate that initially low partial pressure of carbon dioxide, low pH, high concentration of serum urea nitrogen, and a therapy with bicarbonates are the potential risk factors for cerebral edema (7,8). Alarm symptoms that may suggest the development of cerebral edema are headache, reduction in heart rate and increase in

blood pressure. Other signs include a change in the patient's neurological status, e.g. anxiety, irritability, increased drowsiness, urinary and fecal incontinence and the presence of specific neurological symptoms, e.g. cranial nerve palsy (9). The treatment of choice is an intravenous infusion of mannitol in a dose of 0.5-1 g / kg within 20 minutes (10). In addition, the volume of fluid infusion should be reduced by about 1/3 as well as the elevation of the patient's head is advisable.

Ischemic and haemorrhagic strokes account for approximately 10% of intracranial complications of DKA (11). It is worth noting that not all of them coexist with cerebral edema. However, it is not excluded that its presence predisposes to the development of other neurological complications (11). DKA is a procoagulant state in which reduction of protein C, increase in von Willebrand factor, disruption of fibrinolytic mechanisms associated with increase in plasminogen activator inhibitor (PAI-1) are seen (12). DKA is also a pro-inflammatory condition, and oxidative stress induced by hyperglycemia contributes to the growth of CRP, IL-1 beta, IL-6 or TNF alpha (13). The procoagulant, and proinflammatory status may lead to the development of multifocal thrombotic or hemorrhagic lesions in the CNS. Clinically, a stroke may be manifested by focal signs, but the symptoms can also be nonspecific (like in the brain edema or resulting from ketoacidosis itself) which makes differential diagnosis difficult. When a stroke is diagnosed one should strive for a quick and effective treatment of possibly occurring conditions such as fever, infection, seizures. Due to the insufficient amount of evidence for the safety and efficacy of thrombolysis in the treatment of an ischemic stroke in the pediatric population, most international guidelines do not recommend such treatment. However, a few cases of a good therapeutic effect of this method were described in children (14,15). There is also a case report of a successful thrombolysis in a 10-year-old female patient with DKA and cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (16). Early start-up and rehabilitation are recommended in every type of a stroke (13).

In our clinical practice we experienced several neurological complications of DKA in our patients such as brain edema or vasogenic brain lesions (figure 1).

In the end we would like to highlight that patients with DKA require careful monitoring of neurological functions and early diagnosis and treatment can improve the patient's outcomes.

Disclosure

All authors have nothing to disclose.

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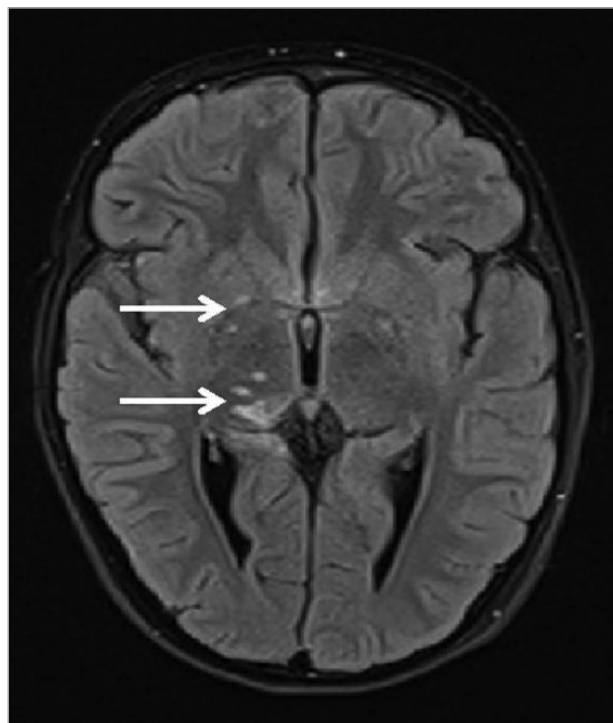


Figure 1. Brain MRI, FLAIR seq. Vasogenic lesions in the right thalamus and lenticular nuclei

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2019 Annual Meeting of the Pediatric Endocrine Society: Selected Highlights Baltimore, MD (April 26-29, 2019)

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Key words: Hypothyroidism, Thyromimetics, Hypertriglyceridemia, Hyperchylomicronemia, Familial hypercholesterolemia, Mixed dyslipidemia, Turner syndrome

The Hot Topic/Topic Symposium entitled: "Alternative Therapies for Hypothyroidism and Thyromimetics" was presented by Jacqueline Jonklaas, MD (Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA). Dr. Jonklaas reviewed the standard-of-care treatment for hypothyroidism, and discussed the knowledge gap remaining in therapies for hypothyroidism as well as potential roles for thyromimetics.

Standard-of-Care Treatment for Hypothyroidism

Dr. Jonklaas began by describing the history of treatment of hypothyroidism, including that prior to the 1980s, when thyroid extract was largely used followed by the increasing use of synthetic levothyroxine. She highlighted that, currently,

levothyroxine prescriptions in the US have reached over 120 million per year, overtaking many other commonly prescribed medications, including acetaminophen/hydrocodone, Lisinopril, and atorvastatin. The preference for levothyroxine monotherapy has been based on its efficacy, favorable side-effect profile, ease of administration, good intestinal absorption, long half-life, and low cost.

Dr. Jonklaas then pointed out that, despite all of these supporting reasons to use levothyroxine monotherapy, there is a continued struggle to maintain TSH within the normal range in many patients. Each individual person may have a slightly different TSH set-point at which normal T4/T3 levels are maintained. As evidenced by multiple studies conducted between 1990-2009, only between 40-60% of patients on levothyroxine therapy achieve a TSH level in the desired range.

Knowledge Gaps

Dr. Jonklaas then touched on the current knowledge gaps in treatment of hypothyroidism that could lead to the difficulties in maintaining the serum TSH within the desired

range. She highlighted a study done in 2002 by Saravanan *et al* (1), who distributed satisfaction surveys to patients taking levothyroxine comparing those on levothyroxine with well-controlled TSH levels to euthyroid controls. The survey results suggested that patients on levothyroxine replacement even with a normal TSH report more dissatisfaction than the controls. A second study by Peterson *et al.* in 2016 (2) used the NHANES database to examine levothyroxine users compared to matched controls for age, sex, race, and TSH level. Those on levothyroxine treatment had significantly higher body mass index, beta-blocker use, statin use, and anti-depressant use. She particularly noted that these differences were not associated with T3/FT4 ratios, removing any possible confounder effect. She further described a study done in 2015 by Jorgensen *et al* (3) that surveyed hypothyroid individuals on self-reported health status. She highlighted a specific difference between those that knew that they were diagnosed with hypothyroidism at baseline versus those who did not know they had hypothyroidism at baseline (those that did not report having the diagnosis, but had laboratory results consistent with hypothyroidism). The majority of those that had no knowledge of their condition reported good baseline health (83%), compared to 49% that were aware. Dr. Jonklaas used this example to illustrate that self-reported patient measures can be difficult to interpret. She used another study done by Boesen *et al* in 2018 (4) to help confirm this. They used a survey to assess quality of life in patients with hyperthyroidism. In respect to measures of anxiety and tiredness, retrospective scores were both higher than momentary (present) scores. Of note, all of these surveys carry an inherent reporter bias, as those who feel unwell are more likely to participate in surveys. To begin to investigate a possible etiology for why patients with normal TSH levels on levothyroxine still do not feel well, she conducted a study in 2008 (5) of 50 euthyroid patients who underwent thyroidectomy (for diagnoses of euthyroid goiter, benign nodular disease, or suspected thyroid cancer) and required levothyroxine placement afterwards. As compared to when they had native euthyroidism, both the free T4 and free T4/T3 ratio were significantly higher on treatment with levothyroxine to maintain the same TSH. A similar cross-sectional study in 2011 (6) showed that 15% of patients on levothyroxine post-thyroidectomy with TSH levels that were similar to their prior (native euthyroid) level, had low free T3 levels.

Alternative Therapies: Combination Therapy

Dr. Jonklaas then attempted to summarize the current evidence for and against “combination” T4/T3-containing products. Relevant studies [14 in total (7-16)] on this topic are very different in terms of types of patients, study design,

dosing regimens, outcomes measures, and durations of treatment. This makes it difficult for an accurate meta-analysis to be performed. Additionally, the studies took place between 1999-2016. Most of them used TSH, free T4, and T3 as endpoints; however, in some studies, the TSH achieved in the combination group was lower than normal and in some higher than normal, further highlighting the variability between the different studies. Additionally, quality of life was a measure in the majority of the 14 studies; however, only two of the 14 studies showed superiority of the combination therapy compared to monotherapy in this regard. A similar heterogeneity was found for neurocognitive functioning. One trial showed superior neurocognitive functioning on combination therapy, while the rest did not. Finally, Dr. Jonklaas highlighted the fact that patient preference was studied in five of the cross-over trials and in two of the parallel trials. Combination therapy was actually the preferred treatment in four of the five cross-over trials and in one of the two parallel trials.

Alternative Therapies: Thyroid Extract

Dr. Jonklaas next reviewed a randomized controlled cross-over trial performed by Hoang *et al* in 2013 (17) over 16 weeks comparing levothyroxine to thyroid extract therapy. Using thyroid extract did not result in any significant improvement in quality of life; however, it was associated with a very modest weight loss, which resulted in a greater patient preference for its use.

Alternative Therapies: T3 Monotherapy

Dr. Jonklaas next described a double-blind, cross-over, randomized, controlled trial (RCT) reported in 2010 by Celi *et al* (18) in which T3 monotherapy was compared to T4 monotherapy. The study showed comparable maintenance of TSH levels, but with a small decrease in weight and LDL in the group on T3 monotherapy. As part of the study, both treatments were given thrice daily, which Dr. Jonklaas suggested is less feasible for many patients. Despite the possible benefits found in the studies described above, there remain many risks of combination therapy including T3 thyrotoxicosis, cardiac arrhythmias, and decreased bone mineral density. The full degree of risk is not known, as long-term trials have not been performed. There also is insufficient information about the use of combination therapy in the elderly and pediatric populations. In fact, it is known that endogenous serum T3 levels are fairly consistent throughout the day, without large peaks or troughs, compared to the levels achieved through daily or twice-daily dosing of T3,

which yields high peaks not seen with endogenous secretion, possibly increasing the risk for the above complications.

Alternative Therapies: Combination Therapy with Sustained-Release T3

Dr. Jonklaas next reviewed another alternative therapy, sustained-release T3, which is still under development. She reviewed a study from 2004 (19) that tested an early-phase preparation of a sustained-release formulation of T3 combined with T4. The group that received the combination showed a steadier secretion of T3 compared to that seen with T4 monotherapy and the current T3/T4 combination therapy. However, no further development has occurred to bring this preparation to the market. In 2014, Santini *et al* (20) used a sustained-release T3 sulfate preparation and measured T3 concentrations over 48 hours. The serum levels showed a fairly extended duration of the serum T3 concentration, peaking at an average of 25 ng/dL ~5 hours after ingestion and remaining above 20 ng/dL for 48 hours. Although this preparation showed promise, there has been no further development.

Combination Therapy: Physician Consideration Towards Prescription

One unique consideration that could influence physicians to prescribe combination therapy is whether or not there is a polymorphism present in the genes that alter thyroid hormone synthesis. The presence of one specific polymorphism, called the Thr92Ala polymorphism, has been hypothesized to influence the enzymatic function of the deiodinase-2 gene (D2). This gene encodes the enzyme that converts the prohormone T4 to active T3. A retrospective study done in 2009 (21) of 552 patients on thyroid hormone replacement therapy with known genotyping information, found that 16% of patients had the Thr92A1a polymorphism. While this did not impact circulating thyroid hormone levels, this polymorphism conferred significantly worse health questionnaire scores compared to those without the polymorphism, as well as a better response to combination therapy. The results of this study showed marginal statistical significance and should be interpreted with caution given that these findings have not been replicated prospectively. In fact, a study in 2017 by Wouters *et al* (22) looked at how the presence of the Thr92Ala polymorphism of D2 affects health-related quality of life and cognitive function by comparing levothyroxine users to the general population. They found no difference in either measure or thyroid function parameters between those on levothyroxine therapy and the general population. A third study in 2017 by Castagna *et al* (23) compared Free T3, Free T4, and TSH, and D2 (Thr92A1a) polymorphism status

in patients who underwent thyroidectomy. They did not find any difference in either baseline or post-thyroidectomy TSH, Free T4, or T3/T4 levels between those without and without the D2 polymorphism. However, they did find a significantly lower Free T3 in those with the polymorphism, which they hypothesize, could indicate an area of opportunity for use of combination therapy. As part of a study that Dr. Jonklaas conducted in 2017 (24), a survey was distributed to members of the American Thyroid Association (ATA) to assess their willingness to prescribe combination therapy based on various patient factors. A case was presented which described a 29-year old female with Hashimoto thyroiditis receiving 100 mcg/day of Levothyroxine. The patient requested combination therapy despite being clinically and biochemically euthyroid. The survey revealed that about half of the respondents would add T3 to her regimen. A similar case was presented in which the patient also had participated in a study that revealed a genetic polymorphism "that showed she had a genetic problem converting T4 to T3" and even more ATA members were willing to add T3 therapy to her regimen (70%).

Combination Therapy: Pediatrics

Dr. Jonklaas next summarized studies of the use of T3 in children. Only one was an RCT that included patients with congenital hypothyroidism treated with levothyroxine monotherapy and a comparator group receiving combination therapy [Cassio, *et al* 2003 (25)]. Fourteen patients were enrolled, without any significant difference in thyroid hormone analytes or psychomotor outcomes between the treatment and control group after study completion. Another study done by Paone *et al* in 2016 (26) compared patients with congenital hypothyroidism treated with levothyroxine monotherapy to those with T3 added due to persistent TSH elevation. They were able to show that combination therapy is able to lower the TSH effectively and raise T3 levels in the treatment group, suggesting that combination therapy may be beneficial in cases of apparent TSH resistance to T4.

Combination Therapy: Future Trials

Dr. Jonklaas suggested that all of the factors discussed in this symposium may need to be taken into account when developing future trials assessing the validity of combination therapy.

Thyromimetics

Dr. Jonklaas lastly touched on the current and potential future uses of thyromimetics in clinical application. She reviewed the concept of tissue-specific thyroid hormone action including

thyroid hormone- α receptors located in the brain, heart, and skeletal muscle versus thyroid hormone- β receptors in the liver and brain. Given their predominance in the liver, potential uses of thyroid hormone- β receptor agonists include treatment of hyperlipidemia, atherosclerosis, weight reduction, diabetes, NASH/NAFLD, and pre-neoplastic liver lesions. She listed the medications currently being studied, including Sobetirome and Eprotirome, two thyroid hormone- β receptor agonists that have gone through phase 1 trials with some improvements seen in body fat percentage and LDL (27). However, both trials were terminated due to adverse effects in animal models. Two other compounds (MGL-3196 and VK2809) are currently in phase 2 trials and show promising reductions in liver fibrosis, LDL, and liver fat by MRI without any major side effects.

The Meet-the-Professor session entitled: "Lipid Disorders in Children - Complex Cases" was presented by Ambika Ashraf, MD (University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL USA). Dr. Ashraf presented various cases of complex lipid disorders in pediatric patients and discussed how to approach and manage the different types.

Approach to Hypertriglyceridemia

Dr. Ashraf's first objective was to explain how to approach elevated serum triglycerides (TG). She began with a published case presentation of a 10-year-old female, with a body mass index (BMI) of 13.7 kg/m² and a history of three episodes of pancreatitis in the previous year, with a waxing-and-waning course of hypertriglyceridemia (28). The patient did not have hepatosplenomegaly or xanthomata. The family history was positive for lupus and multiple sclerosis. The child's total cholesterol (TC) was 209 mg/dL and TG were 4,784 mg/dL. The patient's blood sample was lipemic and, after sitting out overnight, had a creamy floating chylomicron layer on top, diagnostic of hyperchylomicronemia.

Dr. Ashraf then went through the differential diagnosis of hyperchylomicronemia. Monogenic mutations in the gene encoding lipoprotein lipase (LPL), the main clearance mechanism for TG, or in those encoding cofactors for LPL should be considered as the basis for severe hypertriglyceridemia that presents in the pediatric population. At least five monogenic gene mutations have been identified: LPL, APOC2, APOA5, LMF1, and GPIHBP1 (29). These mutations typically present in infancy, although some (APOC2, APOA5, and LMF1) may rarely present later in life (30). Other causes considered were polygenic mutations, namely a group of several minor gene variations that collectively lead to hypertriglyceridemia. However, they tend to manifest in the setting of secondary factors such as obesity, weight gain, or diabetes, or are drug-induced. Lipodystrophy and von Gierke

disease were also mentioned as possible causes, each with specific phenotypic characteristics. The last etiology examined was autoantibodies to components or cofactors of LPL (31). Two autoantibodies are known to inhibit LPL activity: LPL and GPIHBP1 antibodies (28,32,33). Older patients can present with an oscillating course and may have a family history of autoimmune disease, consistent with that of the presented patient. Autoantibodies against LPL can be associated with other systemic diseases (e.g. lupus, Sjogren syndrome, or Hodgkin lymphoma) and may require immunosuppressive therapy. Also noted was that hypertriglyceridemia may be the first autoimmune clinical manifestation. The presented clinical patient was found to have LPL autoantibodies.

She then reviewed TG metabolism and how to identify the predominantly elevated TG-rich lipoprotein, which facilitates the treatment plan. The serum TG concentration is determined by its rates of synthesis and clearance. TG are synthesized either in response to dietary fat absorption and packaged into chylomicrons or endogenously produced in the liver and packaged into very-low-density lipoproteins (VLDL). Accordingly, postprandial concentrations of TG are transported mostly by chylomicrons, and fasting TG (for at least 8-12 hours) concentrations are represented by VLDL. Moreover, the liver generally produces <500 mg/dL of VLDL. If the serum TG is >500 mg/dL, most likely dietary fat is being transported by chylomicrons and, thus, it is important to repeat the testing with fasting levels. Next, the clearance of TG is primarily mediated via LPL. LPL is stimulated by apolipoprotein C-II and insulin. In states of insulin resistance or deficiency, the clearance activity of LPL will be decreased, leading to elevated levels of chylomicrons and TG. If LPL is temporarily defective, such as with diabetes, insulin can be given to activate the LPL, whereas, if it is completely defective, such as occurs with some genetic mutations, insulin or other medications will not be effective. Therefore, if TG is >500 mg/dL, any additional dietary fat will exponentially increase TG. Hence, fasting is the primary way to initially decrease elevated levels of TG caused by elevated chylomicrons. There are other emerging targeted therapies, including inhibition of the APOC3, ANGPTL3, ANGPTL4, MTP and DGAT-1 proteins, directed at improving the activity of LPL for clearance or targeting TG-rich lipoprotein synthesis (34).

The management of a patient with very severe hypertriglyceridemia (>2000 mg/dL) was then reviewed (30). First-line treatment is fasting for at least the first 48-72 hours, as it is likely that much of the elevated TG is composed of chylomicrons. Patients with severe cases presenting with end-organ damage, shock, or severe pancreatitis may need plasmapheresis. Insulin can be used if there is residual LPL activity, such as occurs in diabetes, to help stimulate clearance of TG. Fibrates and omega-3 fatty acids will not work acutely in the absence of LPL activity, but can be

considered when TG levels are lower. It is also essential to exclude secondary causes and to control metabolic risk factors. If TG remain elevated after fasting, the next step is to initiate a stringent dietary restriction of fat to <10-15% of the total daily energy intake. Patients need to be educated about the strict low-fat diet as a vital part of long-term management. For genetic causes of hypertriglyceridemia, the TG target is <500 mg/dL in order to decrease the risk of developing pancreatitis. For secondary causes of hypertriglyceridemia, if the TG is <1000 mg/dL, the initially recommended significant restriction of fat may be relaxed slowly to less stringent criteria to maintain target TG levels. For rare autoimmune etiologies, immunosuppressive therapy may be needed.

To further expand upon management of more common forms of hypertriglyceridemia, a second case was presented, i.e. that of a 16-year-old obese female with a BMI of 44 kg/m² and type 2 diabetes who presented in diabetic ketoacidosis. Lab testing showed: HbA1c 11.4%, glucose 343 mg/dL, and bicarbonate 14 mmol/L. TC was 545 mg/dL, TG 7,200 mg/dL, and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) 26 mg/dL. In the blood sample tube, there was a creamy top layer of chylomicrons and, just below it, was a more dense brown layer of VLDL lipoproteins. VLDL contains many atherogenic particles. Due to having high levels of chylomicrons, the patient was made NPO and started on an insulin drip. Afterwards, her TC level decreased to 318 mg/dL, TG decreased to 1985 mg/dL, and HDL-C increased to 34 mg/dL. The next step was deciding which medication to add.

Before considering further management, Dr. Ashraf suggested another means to determine if there are more TG or VLDL present in the blood. TG are present in four lipoproteins (chylomicrons, chylomicron remnant, VLDL, and VLDL remnants). The most TG-rich lipoprotein are chylomicrons, for which the TG/TC ratio is >8:1. This is followed by chylomicron remnants, VLDL with a TG/TC ratio of 5:1, and finally VLDL remnants for which the TG/TC ratio is close to 1:1. Therefore, the ratio of TG to TC can be calculated to determine the predominant lipoprotein. Dr. Ashraf again stressed the importance of repeating fasting lipid profiles once patients are euglycemic. If there are mostly chylomicrons present (i.e., ratio TG/TC is >8:1), treatment should start with being made NPO. If there are more VLDL, (i.e., ratio of TG /TC is <8:1), then one should treat with a fibrate or a statin (30).

Another important factor to consider in evaluating lipid profiles is the non-HDL-C concentration. Non-HDL-C is TC minus HDL-C. As a result, non-HDL-C represents all atherogenic particles [low-density lipoprotein (LDL), intermediate-density lipoproteins (IDL), VLDL, and chylomicron remnants]. Most of these particles contain apolipoprotein-B100 (apoB-100). Accordingly, apoB-100 is a non-HDL-C substitute. VLDL and IDL are TG-rich lipoproteins with a substantial content of

cholesterol. If TG is >200 mg/dL, one can use non-HDL-C as an alternate therapeutic target as per national guidelines (35,36).

Dr. Ashraf then discussed the long-term medical management of hypertriglyceridemia. In general, data on management of hypertriglyceridemia in children are sparse (29,30). Data on adults show that fibrates may decrease TG by 40-60% (34). Fibrates activate PPAR- α , reduce synthesis of VLDL, and augment the activity of LPL (if not completely defective or saturated). However, there are side effects from fibrates that include dyspepsia, diarrhea, cholelithiasis, and transaminitis. Additionally, fibrates should be used with caution in patients with renal dysfunction and gall bladder disease.

Another triglyceride-lowering medication is omega-3 fatty acids. This effect depends on the content of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA). This approach also largely reduces the production of VLDL and, to some extent, activates LPL. It additionally prevents lipolysis of adipose tissue. Data in adults have shown that four prescription-strength capsules daily (465 mg/375 mg of EPA/DHA per capsule = 3360 mg) reduces TG by 20-30% (37,38). However, over-the-counter omega-3 fatty acids have much less EPA and DHA (39). Data in children have failed to show a significant lowering effect by omega-3 fatty acids on TG.

In summary, the management of chronic hypertriglyceridemia includes reducing the intake of dietary fat, eating low-glycemic foods, eliminating sugar-sweetened beverages (as dietary glucose can be converted to acetyl CoA, which can be used to make free fatty acids and then TG), restricting the intake of excess calories, and incorporating one hour per day of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. Weight loss is critical, as it improves insulin sensitivity, reduces release of free fatty acids from adipose tissue, and enhances activity of LPL. Medications, such as fibrates, omega-3 fatty acids, and statins, may also be needed to reduce overall production of VLDL.

Approach to Elevated LDL-C

The next case presentation was that of an 18-year-old female with numerous tendinous and tuberous xanthomata in her antecubital and popliteal fossae, axillae, elbows, knees, hands, and feet, since 6 years of age. The family history was significant for early coronary artery disease (CAD) in the father at 34 years of age, in a maternal aunt in her 40's, and in the maternal grandmother who died suddenly at 45 years of age. The lipid profile in this patient showed TC 694 mg/dL, LDL-C 542 mg/dL, TG 80 mg/dL, and HDL-C 40 mg/dL. The patient had homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH), the hallmark being LDL-C >400 mg/dL and development of tendinous xanthomata prior to age 10 years.

Dr. Ashraf then compared the differences between HoFH and heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HeFH). HoFH is

rare, with a prevalence of 1:1,000,000, and characterized by extremely high levels of TC and LDL-C. Commonly LDL-C is >400 mg/dL, with presence of tendon xanthomata prior to age 10 years of age. Early diagnosis and treatment for HoFH is critical because it is associated with very early CAD within the first two decades of life. Management is aggressive and involves administration of several medications and adjuvants. HeFH is relatively common, with a prevalence of 1:250-500. It is associated with LDL-C >160 mg/dL and non-HDL-C >190 mg/dL, and may have no physical examination findings in childhood. CAD is not seen until the 4th or 5th decade of life, which is why universal screening in children is recommended as per the Expert Panel Guidelines (35). Treatment involves diet, lifestyle changes, and usually statin therapy, with or without other medications.

She then reviewed uptake and metabolism of LDL. LDL attaches to the LDL receptor (LDLR) on hepatic cells, which then undergoes endocytosis via clathrin-coated pits and the LDL-adaptor protein. Then there is LDLR-ligand dissociation, LDL is degraded, cholesterol is metabolized, and LDLR is recycled to the cell surface to undergo further uptake of LDL from the blood stream. Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9) regulates degradation of LDLR. Uptake of LDL by hepatic cells decreases HMG CoA reductase activity, leading to decreased synthesis of endogenous hepatic cholesterol. Dr. Ashraf stated that the LDL clearance system is normally very efficient and protects against very high levels of LDL-C. Even with a high-fat diet and obesity, LDL-C levels are generally <160 mg/dL.

Familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) is composed of a group of conditions with elevated LDL-C caused by defects in the uptake and metabolism of LDL, clinically presents starting in childhood, and is associated with premature cardiovascular disease (CVD). There are three autosomal dominantly inherited etiologies for FH: deleterious mutations in the LDLR, mutations in APOB gene (resulting in a defective apo-B100 protein that poorly recognizes LDLR for clearance), and gain-of-function mutations of PCSK9 (which degrades and reduces LDLR). An autosomal recessive form also exists and involves mutations in LDLRAP1 (which leads to a defective adaptor protein).

Treatment involves administration of various lipid-lowering medications that have different sites of action. Statins are classically first-line medications and inhibit production of endogenous cholesterol. Ezetimibe inhibits intestinal absorption of dietary cholesterol. Bile-acid sequestrants also inhibit absorption of dietary fat. PCSK9 inhibitors, a newer class of medications, inhibit the degradation of LDLR, thus increasing LDLR for increased clearance of LDL.

Genetic testing is not needed to distinguish HoFH from HeFH, as clinical management is not changed by knowing this information. The probability of FH is 80% if LDL >190 mg/dL.

Also, negative testing does not exclude FH, as a mutation may not be found in up to 20% of cases. FH should be considered in a patient with LDL-C >160 mg/dL or non-HDL-C >190 mg/dL, and a positive family history (two or more affected first-degree relatives) of increased LDL-C/premature CVD.

To treat children with elevated LDL-C, it is necessary to evaluate the risk factors for CVD and the family history in relation to the LDL-C concentrations as per Expert Panel Guidelines (35). Treatment starts with the CHILD-2 diet and lifestyle intervention with or without statin therapy, depending on levels and risk factors.

Approach to Mixed Dyslipidemia

The final case was a 10-year-old obese male with BMI in the 99th percentile, who had been trying to diet and exercise. He had fluctuating lipid panels since 7 years of age. His TG concentrations ranged from 196 to 277 mg/dL, LDL-C 133 to 154 mg/dL, and non-HDL-C 178 to 192 mg/dL. At 10 years of age, he had lost weight and his lipid panel improved, with TG 91 mg/dL, LDL-C 103 mg/dL, and non-HDL 132 mg/dL. He had not met any criteria to start medication therapy. However, when he had repeat levels performed at 13 years of age, his TG increased to 384 mg/dL, LDL-C increased to 163 mg/dL, and non-HDL-C increased to 240 mg/dL.

His laboratory results before age 10 years, along with an improved lipid profile with weight loss, were consistent with metabolic syndrome at that time. However, lab results in subsequent years showed significantly elevated non-HDL >190 mg/dL and LDL-C >160 mg/dL, plus one risk factor (obesity), meeting criteria to start statin therapy (35). Dr. Ashraf pointed out that there is a normal physiological 10-20% reduction in levels of lipids in early puberty, and that lifestyle changes can contribute potentially to another 10% reduction. These results can give false reassurance if not continually monitored.

This clinical picture of mixed dyslipidemia (elevated LDL-C, non-HDL-C, and/or TG) can be acquired or genetic. Causes of the acquired form include metabolic syndrome, type 1 or type 2 diabetes, or secondary dyslipidemia (drugs, systemic disorders, etc.). Genetic causes include familial combined hyperlipidemia (FCHL), dysbetalipoproteinemia (which is rare, usually both TC and TG are elevated to 300-500 mg/dL and presents with palmar xanthomata as adults), and lysosomal acid lipase deficiency (which is associated with elevated transaminases).

FCHL is the most common genetic hyperlipidemia, with a prevalence of 1:100. It is autosomal dominant, with incomplete penetrance (may have several defects from several genes). The pathophysiology involves uncontrolled overproduction of apoB-100 relative to LDL-C. Consequently, non-HDL-C is elevated and the apoB-100/LDL-C ratio is >1.

This finding frequently is not manifested until after physiologic pubertal insulin resistance occurs. Diagnosis of FCHL is important, as it leads to premature CVD; FCHL has been reported in 40% of all survivors of myocardial infarctions (40). Patients and relatives have marked variability in lipid profiles, as well as increased levels of cholesterol (LDL-C/non-HDL-C), TG, or both. Additionally, the affected lipoproteins may shift from only one abnormality to the other over time. Manifestation of FCHL commonly requires secondary factors (metabolic syndrome, insulin resistance, diabetes, drugs, etc.), as the gene-environment interaction triggers clinical expression. There is considerable overlap between the lipid profiles of FCHL and metabolic syndrome, and differences were distinguished. In metabolic syndrome, LDL-C typically does not exceed 160 mg/dL, and lipid profiles tend to improve with lifestyle and weight changes. In FCHL, non-HDL-C will be increased, and there is frequently a family history of dyslipidemia and premature CVD.

Dr. Ashraf concluded with a simplified overview of dyslipidemia in pediatrics (table 1, 35,41,42). She emphasized that medical nutritional therapy and lifestyle changes are integral components of treatment of all causes of dyslipidemia.

Overall dyslipidemia in pediatrics requires a systematic approach; one must take into account genetics, underlying conditions, diet, and lifestyle, and treat this young generation of patients for life to potentially prevent CVD. Pharmacological options may be instituted after all the factors that can lead to dyslipidemia have been addressed, taking into account that pharmacological interventions will likely be lifelong.

The PES Meet the Professor session entitled: "Update on Turner Syndrome" was presented by Karen Klein, MD (Rady Children's Hospital/University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA). The objectives of this interactive presentation included discussions on growth, puberty induction, fertility options,

cardiac monitoring, and general screening recommendations for patients with Turner Syndrome (TS) based on the most recent clinical practice guidelines (43). Dr. Klein began by thanking the committee members of the 2016 International Turner Syndrome consensus meeting and subcommittee members who were co-authors on her paper on estrogen replacement in TS published in 2018 (44). She also highlighted the 'family-friendly' version of these guidelines available on the Turner Syndrome Society website for patients and families (45).

Describing the classic phenotype of patients with TS including a list of characteristic features, Dr. Klein emphasized the importance of care by a multi-disciplinary team. She then discussed the type and frequency of chromosomal abnormalities in TS with 45,X being the most common-40-50%. She also pointed out that, although karyotypes, 46,XXdel(q24), 46,Xidic(X) (q24) are not considered TS, they are associated with premature ovarian failure (POF) (43).

Growth Hormone Therapy

Starting with the section on growth hormone (GH) therapy in patients with TS, Dr. Klein explained that, if the patient is short, treatment should be initiated by 4 years of age or at diagnosis (when diagnosed after 4 years age). She also highlighted the importance of initiating GH prior to estrogen therapy whenever possible. The starting dose for GH is 0.35 mg/kg/week. Oxandrolone, at a dose of 0.03 mg/kg/day, should be added to therapy after 10 years of age only when the patient is extremely short or if GH therapy is delayed without enough time for catch-up growth. It is not routinely recommended in all patients due to the risks of delayed breast development and virilization. The adult height of untreated TS patients is, on average, 8 inches (20 cm) shorter compared to the average female population. This unfavorable outcome

Table 1. Summary of Management of Pediatric Dyslipidemia

Diagnosis	Treatment
Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL)	LDL >190 mg/dL → statin LDL 160-189 mg/dL + risk factor → statin
Mixed dyslipidemia	TG 200-499 mg/dL 1 st target: LDL-C to <130 mg/dL 2 nd target: Non-HDL-C > 145 mg/dL → statin
Triglycerides (TG)	TG >500 mg/dL → Fibrate/omega-3 fatty acid TG >2000 mg/dL → NPO, insulin (if diabetes)
Type 1 or type 2 diabetes mellitus	Type 1 diabetes LDL > 160 mg/dL → statin LDL > 130 mg/dL + 1 risk factor → statin Type 2 diabetes LDL > 130 mg/dL → statin TG > 400 mg/dL → fibrate
For all	Medical nutrition therapy and lifestyle changes are integral components

underscores the need for early GH therapy initiation in these patients. Dr. Klein cautioned that height varies widely among individual patients and current TS percentiles give us the best prediction of adult height without treatment. The main factors affecting predicted adult height (PAH) are pre-treatment height; mid-parental height (MPH); age and pubertal status at treatment initiation; dose, frequency, and duration of GH therapy; and timing of initiation of estrogen therapy. The consequences of delaying GH treatment include shorter height in childhood, limited time for treatment, failure to reach adult height potential, and postponement of estrogen therapy which can have negative psychosocial impact.

Dr. Klein then proceeded to present case-based discussions regarding GH therapy. Case 1 was a 4-year-old female with mosaic TS. She was on the 3rd percentile on the CDC growth chart with her MPH being on the shorter side. The audience was asked whether they would start GH therapy for this patient. Being short at 4 years of age, she met criteria for GH treatment. However, with her family being short, her genetic potential for growth was less and family's expectation of final adult height was also lower. Her mosaic genotype made it was difficult to predict her growth trajectory. Although outcomes are improved with early initiation of GH, in this case, both starting treatment and watchful waiting were reasonable options. Case 2 was a 5-year-old female with a 45,X karyotype whose height had declined by 2 percentile curves over the last year and who came from a tall family. Audience response indicated that 100% would start this patient on GH. Dr. Klein confirmed that, with the girl being greater than 4 years of age and having slowing growth and greater genetic potential, starting treatment was warranted.

Hormone Replacement Therapy and Induction of Puberty

The next section focused on optimal timing for estrogen replacement. Most girls with TS have hypergonadotropic hypogonadism so they need female hormone replacement therapy (HRT). HRT is initially administered for induction of puberty and subsequently for maintenance of secondary sexual characteristics, attaining peak bone mass, and normalizing uterine growth (for possible pregnancy later). Up to 1/3 of the girls with TS have spontaneous pubertal onset which is more common with a mosaic Turner karyotype that includes a 46,XX line. Menstrual cycles remain regular in only 6% indicating that spontaneous puberty and menarche are not predictors of long-term normal ovarian function. Dr. Klein then described luteinizing hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) trends in patients with TS. She pointed out that, compared to the general population, a rise in LH occurred at an earlier age depending on the karyotype (46). The goal of

estrogen therapy is to mimic normal puberty while maximizing height growth with minimal risk. Delaying estrogen therapy would be deleterious to bone health, uterine growth, and psychosocial health.

The discussion then turned to the importance of understanding the different forms estrogen. Estradiol is the natural form that binds to the estrogen receptor. Ethinyl estradiol is an analog; it is not metabolized to estradiol and consequently retained in target tissues longer. Conjugated estrogens, such as Premarin, are not estrogen precursors and the guidelines recommend against their use due to an increased risk of thromboembolic and cardiovascular risks compared to native estradiol. Regarding the route of delivery, Dr. Klein explained that the systemic route, which includes transdermal, depot and transvaginal routes, is more physiological as it avoids first-pass metabolism in liver. Accumulation of non-physiological forms of estrogen in the liver observed after oral dosing is associated with a pro-coagulable state and, therefore, increased risk of stroke. Currently, transdermal is the preferred route. The depot forms work very well, but, addition of an extra injectable medication for patients already on GH therapy, needs careful consideration. Transvaginal route is not used in young girls.

Dr. Klein emphasized that estrogen should be initiated at a low dose. She then referred to a table from the guidelines listing equivalent doses of low-dose estrogen formulations for pubertal induction (45). Based on individual growth and pubertal progression, the dose should be increased about every 6 months until an adult dose is achieved. For the transdermal route, the starting dose is 3-7 mcg/day. Currently, the lowest available dose in an estradiol patch (Menostar) is 14 mcg/day and the patch is replaced weekly. Therefore, the starting dose in a girl with TS would require the use of half of a patch weekly. In contrast, the lowest dose delivered by the Vivelle Dot patch is 25 mcg/day necessitating use of a quarter patch weekly. The key factors in choosing the right preparation include dose of estradiol delivered, dosing frequency, and acceptability of patch-cutting. The matrix patch can be cut; however, cutting a reservoir form would cause the active drug to leak out. Gel formulations are available in sufficiently low concentrations in some countries, but not in the United States. The cheapest option is Estrace, an oral formulation not typically used due to aforementioned risks. However, it may be a good alternative when transdermal forms are unavailable or per patient preference.

Dr. Klein then described the study of Ross *et al* (47), which investigated the concurrent use of ultra-low-dose estrogen with GH in pre-pubertal patients with TS. The intent of this dual therapy was to improve height growth without affecting puberty. She explained that, while using ultra-low-dose estrogen therapy in this age group seemed reasonable physiologically, the study did not show sufficient advantage

in growth to risk premature thelarche. Moreover, long-term safety concerns and the exact estrogen dose needed remain unknown, so the guidelines committee would not recommend using it except for research.

The optimal timing of pubertal induction was then reviewed. Dr. Klein noted that induction should be initiated between 11 and 12 years of age, if gonadotropins are elevated or anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) is low, with the goal of estrogen initiation being to mimic normal physical and social development. Contrastingly, if the gonadotropins are normal, patients should be observed for spontaneous puberty. It is crucial to start with a low dose of estrogen to optimize growth. With a 25-100% dose increment every 6 months based on response, breast buds develop, on average, in 6 months and overall progression to Tanner 4 breasts occurs in approximately 2.25 years similar to timing observed in the general population. Therapy must be individualized based on response and growth potential. Lower doses of estrogen may be continued longer if linear growth is good; alternatively, the time between dose increments can be shortened in an older patient with less growth potential remaining.

Case-based discussions on pubertal induction started with Case 3, an 11-year-old mosaic TS patient on GH therapy since age 4. She demonstrated catch-up growth, but had a slight drop on the last data point for height. She had no breast development yet and serum LH and FSH levels were 2 IU/L each. The audience was asked if this was the appropriate time to start estrogen therapy. Several audience members answered no. Dr. Klein explained that it was important to evaluate whether the drop in her height was a variation in measurement versus actual slowing of growth, and optimize her GH dose if not adequate. She emphasized the need to educate families that initiating estrogen therapy did not automatically signal the end of GH therapy. When LH and FSH levels are normal, it is appropriate to monitor for spontaneous puberty every 6 months. Additionally, this would be a good time to discuss fertility preservation with the family.

Case 4 was a 12-year-old patient with a 45,X karyotype who was started on GH therapy at 10 years of age with a good response. She had no breast development and her serum FSH was 40 IU/L. This high FSH indicated the need for estrogen therapy so she was started on low-dose estrogen. To allow more time for growth, the low-dose estrogen should be continued for at least 12 months prior to dose increment. In response to an audience question regarding the addition of oxandrolone to her treatment regimen, Dr. Klein clarified that, since the patient had a good response to GH, it would likely suffice to optimize her GH dose, and simply monitor serum IGF-I levels and height velocity in response to low-dose estrogen atop the GH.

Routine monitoring of LH and FSH levels is not recommended because very high estradiol levels are needed to normalize gonadotropins in these patients. Sensitive estrogen assays that use tandem mass spectrometry could guide dose titration;

however, studies correlating the rise in estrogen levels with pubertal progression are lacking. Therefore, decisions to raise the estradiol dose should depend on physiological progression, clinical response, patient preference (growth versus breast development), and growth potential.

Since patients with TS typically have a normal uterus, progestins must be added once breakthrough bleeding occurs or after 2 years of estradiol treatment without breakthrough bleeding. This decreases the risks of irregular bleeding and endometrial cancer associated with unopposed estrogen action. The combined sequential approach, e.g. oral contraceptive pills, involves adding progestin for 10 days each month for withdrawal bleeding. The combined continuous approach involves giving estrogen and progestin continuously transdermally or orally, and typically does not result in menstruation; this is often preferred by older women.

Oral contraceptive pills (OCPs) are not used to induce puberty because the high amount of estrogen contained in OCPs may affect growth potential and lead to tubular breast development. OCPs may be useful in patients who undergo spontaneous puberty and breast development, but subsequently develop secondary amenorrhea. Ease of use also makes them preferable once adult dosing is achieved. However, OCPs increase the risk of thrombotic episodes; this risk is lower with micronized progesterone. Some studies have also shown unfavorable effects on bone density and blood pressure (BP), so the risk-benefit ratio of different formulations must be considered. Dr. Klein emphasized that compliance is more important than the preparation used because it is a very common to see patients going untreated in their 20's. The focus, therefore, should be to educate patients and to offer the simplest regimen.

For adult dosing, the preparation and dose of HRT depend on patient preference, size of uterus (possibility of future pregnancy via oocyte donation), bone and body composition, quality of life, and blood pressure. However, most of the currently available information is based on treating other forms of hypogonadism or post-menopausal women; there are limited studies in patients with TS. Once adult dosing is reached, treatment should be continued until menopausal age to mimic normal physiology. Therapy should be individualized to minimize risks of breast cancer and mortality associated with long-term use. The dose, route, age of initiation, and duration of treatment are factors that affect uterine health and, therefore, prospect of future pregnancy. Other outcomes to consider include metabolic health, risk of thrombosis, and neurocognitive and socialization functions.

Fertility

Dr. Klein then proceeded to discuss a key outcome in patients with TS - fertility. According to several studies, the rate of

spontaneous pregnancies in patients with TS ranges from 4-8%, including in those with a 45,X karyotype. Compared to the general population, patients with TS have a higher risk of miscarriages, cesarean sections, and pre-eclampsia. Furthermore, the most important risk to discuss with patients and families is the risk of aortic dissection with pregnancy. Women with TS have a rapidly decreasing ovarian reserve. Studies assessing anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) as a marker of ovarian function have proposed that levels of <2 or <4 pmol/L indicate no ovarian function (48). However, AMH levels are not an absolute predictor and should be used in conjunction with other variables. For the majority of patients with TS, oocyte donation is the only way to achieve a viable pregnancy. It is important to point out to families that, per *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) cycle, the clinical pregnancy rate is about 8% and the live-birth rate is 5.7%.

Next, Dr. Klein explained the importance of talking to patients about fertility preservation and making timely referrals to a reproductive endocrinologist/gynecologist. Oocyte cryopreservation is possible when ovarian function is intact. To date, no pregnancies from thawed oocytes have been reported in patients with TS, but studies have been limited. Ovarian tissue cryopreservation is still considered experimental. Routine oocyte retrieval, though not recommended, is available; appropriate timing of oocyte retrieval remains a topic of debate. An earlier retrieval increases the chances of finding viable oocytes, but performing ovarian stimulation in a patient just starting puberty would be hard to justify. However, if a patient is around 11-12 years of age with reasonable height and progression of puberty, oocyte retrieval can be considered and should be discussed.

The next section of the talk focused on pregnancy cautions related to increased cardiovascular risk in patients with TS. The risk of aortic dissection (AoD) is 3-4%, and 75% of those AoD end in death (49). There is also 2-3-fold increased risk of hypertension. Dr. Klein stressed that every patient needs cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) prior to pregnancy. Ongoing cardiac monitoring is crucial during pregnancy; however, currently only about 50% of these patients are being followed from a cardiac perspective. When aortic dilation is present, based on an aortic size index (ASI) >2.5 cm/m², the guidelines recommend against pregnancy. Alternative options for motherhood such as adoption and gestational carriers should be discussed.

Cardiovascular Health Issues in TS

Overall cardiac monitoring in TS was discussed next. Cardiac abnormalities are the most frequent cause of early mortality. Dr. Klein noted that the new recommendation to perform CMR for closer monitoring was based on the fact that not

all defects are visualized on transthoracic echocardiography (TTE). To emphasize this point, she then described a couple of real-life cases; both were patients of the cardiologist, Michael Silberbach, MD, who is an expert on TS. The first patient had a non-obstructive bicuspid aortic valve (BAV), coarctation of aorta that had been repaired in infancy, and well-controlled ulcerative colitis. She complained of chest pain on a Sunday and was prescribed antacids by her PCP. On the following Monday, her pediatric cardiologist endorsed the diagnosis of reflux. Then on Wednesday, she died suddenly from an aortic dissection. She was not exercising at the time of death. The second patient had BAV and mild aortic enlargement. A computerized tomography (CT) scan showed a striking aneurysm of left subclavian artery at age 18 years, but it had been overlooked by her internist cardiologist. At age 28 years, her fertility specialist referred her to a cardiologist who, unaware of the aneurysm, told her that assisted reproductive therapy (ART) was an acceptable option and wondered why there was a concern given her mild cardiac disease. Two embryos were implanted; no cardiac imaging was performed during her pregnancy. At 36 weeks, she had chest pain and was diagnosed with aortic dissection. Healthy twins were delivered, but she died 24 hours later. In light of these and other similar cases, Dr. Klein re-iterated the importance of regular cardiac monitoring and evaluations by a cardiologist experienced in assessing patients with TS.

Referring to the cardiac monitoring protocol from the guidelines, Dr. Klein explained that all newly diagnosed patients with TS should be evaluated by a cardiologist and have a TTE. A baseline CMR should be obtained once the patient is old enough to not require anesthesia. CMR should be repeated every 5 years in children with known heart disease and more frequently in patients at high risk, every 5-10 years in adults, during transition of care, and prior to anticipated pregnancy. Serial monitoring of aortic diameter helps guide medical management and timing of elective heart surgery. A resting electrocardiogram (ECG) with QTc measurement should also be obtained and further cardiac evaluation is warranted if the QTc interval is prolonged.

Health Surveillance for Comorbidities in TS

Other screening tests at diagnosis include a karyotype, a renal ultrasound (US), audiology evaluation, and thyroid function tests (TFTs). TFTs, a fasting lipid panel, and a fasting plasma glucose (starting at age 10 years) should be repeated annually. Serum LH and FSH should also be monitored, starting at age 10 years, if there are no signs of puberty. Starting at age 2-3 years, a celiac screen should be obtained every 2-3 years. An audiology evaluation should be conducted every 2-5 years.

Future Directions

Dr. Klein concluded by delineating future research areas including optimization of protocols for pubertal induction with corresponding optimum levels of circulating estradiol during each phase; optimizing dosing, preparation type, and timing of progestins; determining the appropriate formulations and duration for estrogen therapy based on their effects on bone and reproductive health. Moreover, studies are needed to determine optimal OCP preparations with particular focus on ascertaining the long-term effects of a week of placebo therapy in patients with TS, who inherently do not produce enough estrogen.

Audience Q&A

Dr. Klein then answered questions from the audience. In response to a question about the need for TTE, CMR, and EKG studies, Dr. Klein clarified that each of these modalities assessed different aspects of cardiovascular health, and were, therefore, all recommended. Regarding the criteria that children should be 4 years old before starting GH therapy, Dr. Klein explained that studies, albeit of a limited number, did not show significant benefit in adult height when therapy was started before age 4 years. However, GH could be started sooner in patients that are clearly falling off the growth curve. Another audience member brought up a case of a 4-year-old female with antenatal diagnosis of TS, who was short, but had a normal height velocity. The family was asking for GH therapy, but hesitant to optimize calorie intake first for fear of her becoming overweight. Dr. Klein discussed that patients with TS are often at the top on the TS growth chart at around 4 years age, but at the bottom on the regular growth chart. So, in this patient, GH could be considered, but optimizing nutrition was also important. The next question was whether combined contraceptive patches could be used in patients with TS. To this, Dr. Klein and another audience member responded that the lower doses of estrogen contained in those patches would not adequately provide the dose needed in patients with TS. When questioned about the value of obtaining serum AMH levels along with gonadotropins to guide the timing of pubertal induction, Dr. Klein explained that all three levels, in conjunction, would be helpful to ascertain an individual patient's fertility potential rather than the timing of pubertal induction. Lastly, an audience member asked about hesitancy of continuing GH therapy for patients with TS who had IGF-I levels persistently > 2 standard deviations and if low-dose estradiol causes any rise in IGF-I levels. Dr. Klein replied that, while those were valid concerns, there are no data available to determine the

appropriate duration of GH therapy in these patients or for assessing the effect of estradiol on IGF-I levels.

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Disclosure

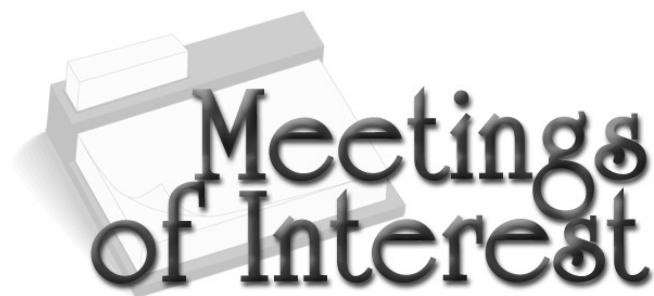
All of the authors have no conflict of interest

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Meetings of Interest

2019

September

- 2-3 **12th Edition of International Conference on Endocrinology & Diabetology**
Berlin, Germany
Email: endocrinology@conferencesguide.org
Web: <https://endocrinology.euroscicon.com/>
- 5-6 **Updates in Diagnosis and Management of Hyperinsulinism and Neonatal Hypoglycemia Conference**
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, USA
Email: CMEOFFICE@email.chop.edu
Web: <https://congenitalhi.org/chop-symposium/>
- 17-19 **2019 Clinical Endocrinology Update (CEU)**
Seattle, Washington, USA
Web: www.endocrine.org/ceu
- 17-21 **3rd JENS Meetings**
MAASTRICHT, The Netherlands
Email: info@mcascientificevents.eu
Web: <https://www.mcascientificevents.eu/jens/>
- 19-20 **2nd World Congress on Gynecology and Obstetrics**
Miami, USA
Email: wco-2019@scientificfederation.org
Web: <https://www.scientificfederation.com/wco-2019/>
- 19-21 **58th ESPE Meeting**
Vienna, Austria
Email: peter.clayton@manchester.ac.uk
Web: www.eurospe.org/meetings/
- 27-28 **International Conference and Exhibition on Nursing Nursing USA 2019**
Houston, USA
Email: angela_b@nursingintconf.com
- October
- 14-15 **World Congress on Nursing, Healthcare and Hospital Management (WCNHM-2019)**
Paris, France
Email: info@ijeert.com
Web: <https://nursing.conferenceera.com/>
- 14-15 **World Congress on Diabetes and Endocrinology (WCDE-2019)**
Paris, France
Email: diabetes@conferenceera.com
Web: <http://diabetes.conferenceera.com/>

- 17-19 **Frontiers in Biosimilars and Biologics Congress**
Rome, Italy
Email: biosimilars@frontiermeetings.com
Web: www.emedevents.com/c/medical-conferences-2019/global-experts-meeting-on-frontiers-in-biosimilars-and-biologics-congress
- 21-22 **World Congress on Gynecology and Obesity**
Switzerland
Email: gynecology@conferenceera.com
Web: <http://gynecology.conferenceera.com/>
- 24-25 **2nd International Conference on Obesity and Diabetes**
Valencia, Spain
Email: catherineparker@globalobesityconferences.org
Web: <https://www.colloquiumonline.com/conference/2nd-international-conference-on-obesity-and-diabetes>
- 24-27 **The Seventh Annual EndoBridge**
Antalya, Turkey
Web: www.endobridge.org/?p=meeting
- 25-27 **9th Annual World Congress of Molecular & Cell Biology (CMCB-2019)**
Singapore
Email: judy_du@mol-cell.com
Web: <http://www.bitcongress.com/cmcb2019/programlayout.asp>
- 28-30 **Global Forum on Nursing and Nurse Education**
Miami, USA
Email: nursingusa@globalhealthcareconferences.com
Web: <http://nursing-conferences.com>

October-November

- 30-2 **ISPAD 2019**
45th Annual Conference (International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes)
Boston, USA
Web: <https://2019.ispad.org/>

November

- 1-3 **13th World Congress of Regenerative Medicine & Stem Cell-2019 (RMSC-2019)**
Dalian, China
Email: emma@rmsccongress.com
Web: <http://www.bitcongress.com/rmsc2019/ContactUs.asp>

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| <p>4-5 The 2nd World Congress on Pediatrics & Child Care Meeting
 Porto, Portugal
 Email: contact@pediatrics2019.org
 Web: https://www.pediatricsconference.org/</p> <p>14-15 European Neonatal Ethics Conference 2019
 UK
 Email: mproveonline@gmail.com
 Web: www.bapm.org/events/european-neonatal-ethics-conference-2019</p> <p>15-17 The 17th Annual Congress of International Drug Discovery Science and Technology-2019 (IDDST-China 2019)
 Nanjing, China
 Email: jessica@iddst-china.com
 Web: http://www.iddst.com/IDDSTCHINA2019/welcomemessage.asp</p> | <p>June
 18-19 2nd International Conference on Diabetes and Endocrinology
 Berlin, Germany
 Email: info@scitechconferences.com
 Web: www.diabetes.scitechconferences.com</p> <p>September
 5-8 OI 2020 (14th International Conference on Osteogenesis Imperfecta)
 Sheffield, UK
 Email: n.j.bishop@sheffield.ac.uk
 Web: https://events.time.ly/qhzk1lk?event=20383885</p> <p>10-12 59th Annual ESPE Meeting
 Liverpool, UK
 Email: peter.clayton@manchester.ac.uk
 Web: www.eurospe.org/meetings/</p> |
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2020

January

- 29-30 **13th International Conference on Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism**
Sydney, Australia
Email: worlddiabetes@eurosessions.com
Web: www.diabetes.euroscicon.com

March

- 28-31 **The Annual Meeting 2020 of the Endocrine Society**
San Francisco, CA, USA
Email: media@endocrine.org
Web: <https://www.endocrine.org/endo2020>

April

- 15-17 **13th Annual World Protein & Peptide Conference (PepCon-2020)**
Osaka, Japan
E-mail: Barbara@food-congress2019.com
- 23-27 **PES 2020**
TX, USA
Email: info@pedsendo.org
Web: www.pedsendo.org/education_training/annual_meetings/
- 25-26 **PCS 5th Annual Health Care Congress (HCC-2020) and PCS 5th Annual Mental Health Forum (MHF-2020)**
Moscow, Russia
Email: William@pcszhang.com
Web: www.pcscongress.com/hcc2020

Volume 16 SUBJECT INDEX

Key word	Page
11 β -HSD2 gene	335
21-Hydroxylase deficiency	468
Achondroplasia	123
Acromegaly	2
Action	2
Adherence	113
Adolescent	441
Adult	162
Adult growth hormone deficiency syndrome	284
Adult height	100
Age	421
Annual meeting	216
Apparent mineralocorticoid excess	335
Athlete's biological passportcarried	142
Autoantibodies	359
Biological effects of hGH	11
Body perception	384
Body size	384
Brain	452
Burosumab	284
Cardiofaciocutaneous	428
Cerebral edema	209
Child	162
Childhood	233
Children	113, 162 441
Chondrocyte	33
Chondrocyteaccompanied	63
Chondroectodermal dysplasia	275
Closed loop systems	468
Cognition	209
Combined pituitary hormone deficiency	39
Common gene variants	113
Competitive growth strategies	384
Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia	186, 468
Congenital diaphragmatic hernia	171
Continuous glucose monitors	468
Contrast Media	256
Costello	428
Cryopreservation of oocytes	369
Cryptorchidism	465
Dandy-Walker malformation	275
Deiodinase	307
Diabetic Ketoacidosis	233
Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKS)	209

Key word	Page
Diagnosis	203
Discovery	2
DNA	17
Doping control	142
Doping	142
Drug formulation	162
DSD	452
Early history,	11
Ellis-Van Creveld syndrome	275
Endocrine abnormalities	311
Endocrine complications	401
Enzyme immunoassay	28
Estradiol	178
Ethics	186
Fertility preservation	369
Fibroblast-growth factor-21	209
Function	2
Genentech	17
Genetic defects	39
GH	28, 123
GH insensitivity	39
GH stimulation tests	11
GPC3	171
Growth	150, 216 401, 459
Growth adjustment	384
Growth failure	240, 447
Growth hormone	2, 17, 33
Growth Hormone	63, 70, 80 91, 100, 105 129, 142 150, 162 240, 412
Growth hormone deficiency	70, 162 240, 447
Growth hormone replacement therapy	70
Growth plate	33, 63
Hashimoto's thyroiditis	465
Heart and endocrine dysfunctions	401
Height	457
Height SDS changes	457
Hepatoblastoma	171
HGH treatment	459
History	2, 424
Honeymoon phase	233
Hormones	452

Volume 16 SUBJECT INDEX

Key word	Page
Human Growth Hormone	11
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)	471
Hypokalemia	335
Hypoparathyroidism	194
Hypophosphatemic rickets	284
Hypopituitarism	70
Hypothyroidism	284
Idiopathic short stature	113
IGF-I	28, 142
IGF-I insensitivity	39
Insulin analogs	468
Insulin-like Growth Factor-I	33, 63
Insulin-like Growth factor-II	33, 63
Insulin-like growth factors	412
Iodinated contrast media	256
Iodine-induced hypothyroidism	256
Isolated GH deficiency	39
Japanese Society for Pediatric Endocrinology (JSPE)	216
Kabi	17
Karyotype	431
Klinefelter syndrome	284
Long-acting	162
Low renin hypertension	335
Macimorelin	284
Management	194
Metabolism	266
Methodology	240
Methods for assessment	421
Mitochondrial	203
Molecular Genetics	435
mtDNA	203
Multiorgan	203
Multisystem	203
Narcolepsy	266
Natural history	359
Neurosecretory dysfunction	447
Noonan	428
Noonan Syndrome	100, 424 459, 465
Noonan Syndrome (NS)	471
Noonan	435
Novel treatment	162
Nuclear DNA	203
Nutrition and Development	216

Key word	Page
Obesity	209, 266 441
Observational Study	256
Outcomemutation	123
Ovarian tissue cryopreservation	369
Overgrowth syndromes	171
Pediatric	162
Perchlorate	284
Pharmacology of hGH	11
Phenotype	428, 431
Physiology of hGH	11
Pituitary	412
Pituitary extracted GH	11
Plasmid	17
Prader-Willi Syndrome	91, 284
Precocious Puberty	266
Prediction	113
Premature ovarian insufficiency	369
Prenatal	186
Prevention	359
Pros and cons	421
Psychosocial	129
Psychosocial well-being	113
PTPN11	424, 435
Pulmonary Stenosis (PS)	471
Radioimmunoassay	28
RAS/MAPK pathway	435, 447
Rasopathies	428, 435 447
Real-world experience	240
Recombinant	17
Recombinant human growth hormone	113
Recombinant human PTH	194
Reference	457
Registry	240
Restless legs syndrome	441
Retrospective	129
Risk	359
Risks of comorbidities	194
Safety	150
Screening	311
Selenium	307
Selenium deficiency	307
Sertoli dysfunction	465
SGA	105

Volume 16 SUBJECT INDEX

Key word	Page
Short stature	105, 129 150
Short term growth	457
SHOX haploinsufficiency	80
Simpson-Golabi-Behmel syndrome	171
Sleep quality	441
Small for gestational age	105
Social group	384
Social network	384
Somatomedin	2
Sport	142
Staging	359
Standardization	28
Structure	2
Syndrome	428
Syndromic diseases	311
Testicular function	421
Testicular volume	421
Therapeutic use exemption	142
Thyroid function	256
Thyroid hormone	307
Thyroid nodules	468
Transgender	209
Treatment	186
Treatment	203, 123
Treatment	150, 401
Triclosan	284
Turner Syndrome	80, 178 369, 431
Type 1 diabetes	209, 359
Type 1 Diabetes mellitus	233
Type 1 IGF Receptor	33, 63
Ultrasonography	178
Youth-onset type 2 diabetes	468
β-thalassemia major	401

Volume 16 AUTHOR INDEX

Last name	First name	Page
Abbott	Mary-Alice	335
Adamidis	Adam	335
Adeyemi	Oluyemisi	452
Adeyemi-Fowode	Oluyemisi	186
Aftab	Sommayya	447
Agarwal	Swashti	468
Akhtar	Sara	284
Akhtar Ali	Sarah	216
Albert	Benjamin B.	113
Anna	Anna	431
Arlt	Wiebke	431
Aslan	Vedat	401
Atar	Muge	441
Austin	Juliana	284
Austin	Paul F	452
Axelrad	Marni	186, 452
Backeljauw	Philippe	80
Bakhach	Marwan	468
Banik	Sudip Datta	383
Baran	Riza Taner	401
Bell	Stephen	2
Bell	Jennifer J.	240
Bercaw-Pratt	Jennifer	452
Bláhová	Květa	171
Blunden	Christopher	80
Bogin	Barry	383
Boldsen	Jesper L	383
Boujtat	Khadija	275
Boutahar	Imane	275
Braat	DDM	369
Breilyn	Margo Sheck	428
Bruggeman	Brittany S.	359
Bryl	Ewa	383
Buchman	Mat	2
Buyukgebiz	Atilla	441
Canatan	Duran	401
Cantas-Orsdemir	Sena	335
Cardoso-Demartini	Adriane de Andre	105
Cassorla	Fernando	100
Cernich	Joseph T.	240
Chao	Lily	216
Charles T.	Roberts	412
Cheng	Yingkai	256
Chodick	Gabriel	256
Claahsen-van der Grinten	Hedi L.	431
Coelho	Fernando Morgadinho Santos	266

Last name	First name	Page
Cutfield	Wayne S.	113
da Silva Boguszewski	Margaret Cristina	105
Dattani	Mehul T	447
De Luca	Francesco	33
De Sanctis	Vincenzo	194, 401 421
Di Maio	Salvatore	194, 421
Dietrich	Jennifer	186, 452
Domené	Sabina	39
Domené	Horacio M.	39
Elblová	Lenka	171
Erinekci	Ozlem	401
Espinoza	Anibal	178
FencI	Filip	171
Ferrandez Longas	Angel	457
Finsterer	Josef	203
Fleischer	K	369
Flynn	Katherine	452
Franciskovich	Rachel	186
Gaete	Ximena	100
Gardner	Melissa	129
Geiger	Miwa	471
Goffin	Vincent	302
Gomula	Aleksandra	383
Gorar	Suheyly	401
Grau	Gema	233
Groth	Detlef	383
Gunn	Sheila	186, 452
Gwenaelle	Diene	91
Hanć	Tomasz	383
Hermansen	Kasper	70
Hermanussen	Michael	383, 457
Higuchi	Shinji	123
Hoffman	Andrew R.	162
Hyle	Laurel	452
Iniguez	German	178
Janda	Jan	304
Jindal	Ishita	468
Jørgensen	Jens OL	70
Joubert	Kálmán	457
Juul	Anders	70
Karaviti	Lefkothea	186, 452
Karnik	Ruchika	471
Kastrup	Knud W	418
Katsumata	Noriyuki	28
Kattamis	Christos	194, 421
Kawai	Masanobu	307

Volume 16 AUTHOR INDEX

Last name	First name	Page
Kawakita	Rie	123
Kempers	Marlies	431
Köhler	Birgit	431
Kopchick	John J.	2
Koren	Gideon	256
Koziel	Slawomir	383
Kraus	Jonathan	178
Kurtoglu	Erdal	401
Kushchayeva	Yevgeniya	311
Lal	Rayhan A	162
Laron	Zvi	11
Latrech	Hanane	275
Lebl	Jan	171
Leidy Sievert	Lynnette	383
Lenise Jihe	Kim	266
Levy Andersen	Monica	266
Liao	Jun	435
Lieberman	Leslie Sue	383
Lightbourne	Marissa	311
Lippe	Barbara	240
Liu	Yuk-Chien	383
Lizarralde	Eneritz	233
Lodish	Maya	311
Maia Palhano	Ana Clara	266
Malaquias	Alexsandra C.	105
Mamrot	Paula	383
Mann	David	186, 452
Martínez	Elena	233
Mauras	Nelly	178
McCann-Crosby	Bonnie	186, 452
Mehta	Lakshmi	428, 435
Meigen	Christof	383
Melmed	Shlomo	170
Mericq	Veronica	178
Michel	Alexander	256
Miller	Bradley S.	150, 424
Millimaggi	Giuseppe	421
Moawad	Dalia	240
Molinas	Catherine	91
Monzavi	Roshanak	284
Moreira	Gustavo A	266
Mumm	Rebekka	383, 457
Musalek	Martin	383
Nasomyont	Nat	80
Neuman	Vít	171
Noordman	Iris D.	431
Ozdemir	Zekiye	401

Last name	First name	Page
Özer	Başak Koca	383
Palkowitsch	Petra	256
Parks	John S.	17
Parness	Ira	471
Peek	R	369
Pienkowski	Catherine	431
Pirgon	Özgür	441
Placencia	Frank Xavier	186
Plachý	Lukáš	171
Pop	Raluca	383
Portillo	Nancy	233
Průhová	Štěpánka	171
Pulungan	Aman B	383
Quanjier	Björn	383
Ranke	Michael B	63
Reimann	Anna	383
Reisch	Nicole	431
Rica	Itxaso	233
Richter-Unruh	Annette	431
Rintisch	Aileen	457
Rodríguez	Fernando	100
Rodríguez	Amaia	233
Roelants	Mathieu	383
Roeleveld	Nel	431
Rogol	Alan David	142, 232
Rogol	Alan D	383
Romano	Alicia A.	240, 459
Romero	Christopher J	465
Rosenberg	Vered	256
Rosenfeld	Ron G.	150
Rouf	Siham	275
Sandberg	David E.	129
Scerbak	Teresa	129
Schatz	Desmond A.	359
Scheffler	Christiane	383, 457
Schleedoorn	MJ	369
Seagroves	Amy	468
Shalev	Varda	256
Singh	Ravinder	178
Siniarska-Wolanska	Anna	383
Skiker	Imane	275
Söderhäll	Jani	383
Soliman	Ashraf T	194, 421
Sonuga-Barke	Edmund	383
Stochholm	Kirstine	70
Straňák	Zbyněk	171
Stratakis	Constantine A	311

Volume 16 AUTHOR INDEX

Last name	First name	Page
Suchomlinov	Andrej	457
Sutton	Vernon Reid	186, 452
Swanson	James M.	383
Swinford	Rita D.	240
Tajir	Mariam	275
Tamburaci Uslu	Zehra Diyar	401
Tassenaar	P.G. (Vincent)	383
Tatsuhiko	Urakami	216
Tauber	Maïthé	91
Tayfun Kupesiz	Funda	401
Thompson	Kristina	383
Timmers	Henri JLM	431
Tonyushkina	Ksenia	335
Torres-Santiago	Lournaris	178
Tsirka	Anna	335
Tu	Duong	186, 452
Tufik	Sergio	266
Turkkahraman	Doga	401
Tutkuvienne	Janina	457
Unanue	Nancy	178
van der Velden	van Alfen	369
van der Velden	Janiëlle AEM	431
Vela	Amaia	233
Veldre	Gudrun	383
Venugopal	Vijay	465
Vidmar	Alaina	209
Visintainer	Paul	335
Vives Corrons	Joan-Lluis	401
Webb	Emma A.	431
yabets-Lienhard	Anna	284
Yorifuji	Tohru	123
Yuen	Kevin CJ	412

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SI and Metric Units for Plasma, Serum, or Blood

	Metric unit	Conversion factor	SI unit
Acetoacetate	mg/dl	97.95	μmol/l
Acetone	mg/dl	172.2	μmol/l
Adrenocorticotropin	pg/ml	0.2202	pmol/l
Aldosterone	ng/dl	27.74	pmo/l
Amino acids			
• Alanine	mg/dl	112.2	μmol/l
• α-Aminobutyric acid	mg/dl	96.97	μmol/l
• Arginine	mg/dl	57.40	μmol/l
• Asparagine	mg/dl	75.69	μmol/l
• Aspartic acid	mg/dl	75.13	μmol/l
• Citrulline	mg/dl	57.08	μmol/l
• Cystine	mg/dl	41.61	μmol/l
• Glutamic acid	mg/dl	67.97	μmol/l
• Glutamine	mg/dl	68.42	μmol/l
• Glycine	mg/dl	133.2	μmol/l
• Histidine	mg/dl	64.45	μmol/l
• Hydroxyproline	mg/dl	76.26	μmol/l
• Isoleucine	mg/dl	76.24	μmol/l
• Leucine	mg/dl	76.24	μmol/l
• Lysine	mg/dl	68.40	μmol/l
• Methionine	mg/dl	67.02	μmol/l
• Ornithine	mg/dl	75.67	μmol/l
• Phenylalanine	mg/dl	60.54	μmol/l
• Proline	mg/dl	86.86	μmol/l
• Serine	mg/dl	95.16	μmol/l
• Taurine	mg/dl	79.91	μmol/l
• Threonine	mg/dl	83.95	μmol/l
• Tryptophan	mg/dl	48.97	μmol/l
• Tyrosine	mg/dl	55.19	μmol/l
• Valine	mg/dl	85.36	μmol/l
Amino acid nitrogen	mg/dl	0.7139	mmol/l
Amylase	units/l	1.0	units/l
Androstenedione	μg/l	3.492	nmol/l
Calcitonine	pg/ml	1.0	ng/l
Calcium	mg/dl	0.2495	mmol/l
Calcium ion	meq/l	0.500	mmol/l
Carbone dioxide content	meq/l	1.00	nmol/l
Cholesterol	mg/dl	0.02586	mmol/l
Citrate (as citric acid)	mg/dl	52.05	μmol/l
Cortisol	μg/dl	27.59	nmol/l
C-peptide	ng/ml	0.331	nmol/l
Creatinine	mg/dl	88.40	μmol/l
Creatinine clearance	ml/min	0.01667	ml/s
Cyclic AMP	μg/l	3.038	nmol/l
Cyclic GMP	μg/l	2.897	nmol/l
Dehydroepiandrosterone	μg/l	3.467	nmol/l
Dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate	ng/ml	0.002714	μmol/l
11-Deoxycortisol	μg/dl	28.86	nmol/l
Epinephrine	pg/ml	5.458	pmol/l

	Metric unit	Conversion factor	SI unit
Estradiol	pg/ml	3.671	pmol/l
Estrone	pg/ml	3.699	pmol/l
Fatty acids, nonesterified	mg/dl	0.01	g/l
Follicle-stimulating hormone	mIU/ml	1.00	IU/l
Fructose	mg/dl	0.05551	mmol/l
Galactose	mg/dl	0.05551	mmol/l
Gases			
• Po ₂	mmHg	0.1333	kpa
• Pco ₂	mmHg	0.1333	kpa
Gastrin	pg/ml	1.0	ng/l
Gastroinhibitory polypeptide	pg/ml	0.201	pmol/l
Glucagon	pg/ml	1.0	ng/l
Glucose	mg/dl	0.05551	mmol/l
Glycerol, free	mg/dl	0.1086	mmol/l
Growth hormone	ng/ml	1.0	μg/l
β-Hydroxybutyrate (as β-Hydroxybutyric acid)	mg/dl	96.05	μmol/l
17α-Hydroxyprogesterone	μg/l	3.026	nmol/l
Insuline	μU/ml	6.0	pmol/l
Lactate (as lactic acid)	mEq/l	1.0	mmol/l
Lipase	units/l	1.0	units/l
Lipoproteins			
• LDL (as cholesterol)	mg/dl	0.02586	mmol/l
• HDL (as cholesterol)	mg/dl	0.02586	mmol/l
Luteinizing hormone	mIU/ml	1.0	IU/l
Norepinephrine	pg/ml	0.005911	nmol/l
Osmolality	mOsm/kg	1.0	mmol/kg
Pancreatic polypeptide	pg/ml	0.239	pmol/l
Phosphate (as inorganic phosphorus)	mg/dl	0.3229	mmol/l
Phospholipid phosphorus	mg/dl	0.3229	mmol/l
Progesterone	ng/ml	3.180	nmol/l
Prolactine	ng/ml	1.0	μg/l
Protein, total	g/dl	10.0	g/l
Pyruvate (as pyruvic acid)	mg/dl	113.6	μmol/l
Renin	ng · ml ⁻¹ · h ⁻¹	0.2778	ng · l ⁻¹ · s ⁻¹
Serotonin	μg/dl	0.05675	μmol/l
Somatostatin	pg/ml	0.611	pmol/l
Testosterone	ng/ml	3.467	nmol/l
Thyroid-stimulating hormone	μU/ml	1.0	mIU/l
Thyroxine	μg/dl	12.87	nmol/l
Triglycerides	mg/dl	0.0112	mmol/l
Triiodothyronine	ng/dl	0.01536	nmol/l
Urea nitrogen	mg/dl	0.3570	mmol/l
Vasoactive intestinal polypeptide	pg/ml	0.331	pmol/l

Acknowledgement to Referees of Articles in PER Volume 16

U. Alon

A. Biason

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For Debate - Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Delay of Growth and Puberty

Otfrid Butenandt, MD, PhD

Treatment of Girls and Boys with McCune-Albright Syndrome with Precocious Puberty - Update 2017

Anna Neyman, MD, Erica A Eugster, MD

Metformin in Adolescent PCOS: The Way Forward

Inderpal Pal Singh Kochar, MD, Smita Ramachandran, MD, Aashish Sethi, MD

Preimplantation Factor and Endocrinology of Implantation and Establishment of Early Pregnancy: A Contemporary View

Roberto X. Calix, MD, Sara Ornaghi, MD, Jean H. Wilson, Nelson Fernandez, PhD, Francois Vialard, MD, Eytan R. Barnea, MD, Michael J. Paidas, MD

Consanguineous Marriages and Endocrine Diseases in Arab Societies

Dr Noman Ahmad, MBBS, FRCPCH, MSc, Jean-Pierre Chanoine, MD, FRCPC (Academic), PhD

Periodontal Disease and Dental Caries among Children and Adolescents Suffering from Endocrine Disorders - A Literature Review

Michael Saminsky, DMD, MA

Meeting Reports: The 2017-USFQ Biennial Meeting on Growth Hormone & IGF1 Research

Jaime Guevara-Aguirre, MD, Enrique Terán, MD, PhD, Ron Rosenfeld, MD



In Memoriam - Teruo Kitagawa, MD (1926-2017)

Tatsuhiko Urakami, MD

For Debate - Combination Growth Hormone and Insulin-Like Growth Factor-I Therapy for Childhood Growth Disorders: Prime Time or Too Much Dime?

Mitchell E. Geffner, MD

Genetics of Primary Congenital Hypothyroidism

Nitash Zwaveling-Soonawala, MD, A.S. Paul van Trotsenburg, MD, PhD

Prolactin - Not Only a "Milk Hormone"

Prolactin - Growth Hormone Relationships with Emphasis on Cancer

Alon Farfel, MD, Haim Werner, PhD, Zvi Laron, MD PhD (hc)

Options for Fertility Preservation in Children

Asma Javed, MBBS, Zaraq Khan, MBBS, Siobhan T. Pittock, MB, BCh, Jani R. Jensen, MD

Fertility Preservation in Pubertal and Pre-Pubertal Boys with Cancer

Michael Jurewicz, MD, Joel Hillelsohn, MD, Sandeep Mehta, MD, Bruce R Gilbert, MD, PhD

Present Knowledge on the Etiology and Treatment of Adrenarche

Sharon E. Oberfield, MD, Rachel H. Tao, BA, Selma F. Witchel, MD

Meeting Reports: 2017 International Joint Meeting of Pediatric Endocrinology Washington DC (September 14-17, 2017) Selected Highlights

Alissa Roberts, MD, Angel Nip, MD, Arushi Verma, MB, BS, Allison LaRoche, MD, MPH



For Debate - Personalized Health Care: As Exemplified by Home Sodium Measurements in a Child with Central Diabetes Insipidus and Impaired Thirst Perception

A.A.A. van der Linde, MD, A.E. van Herwaarden, PhD, J.D. Oosting, PhD, H.L. Claahsen - van der Grinten, MD, PhD, E.P.L.M. de Grouw, PhD

Review of Current Care Models for Transgender Youth and Application to the Development of a Multidisciplinary Clinic - The Seattle Children's Hospital Experience

Parisa Salehi, MD, Sara A. Divall, MD, Julia M. Crouch, MPH, Rebecca A. Hopkinson, MD, Leah Kroon, MN, RN, Jennifer Lawrence, LMFT, Benjamin S. Wilfond, MD, David J. Inwards-Breland, MD, MPH

The Effects of Diuretics on Mineral and Bone Metabolism

Uri S. Alon, MD

Gonadotropin-releasing Hormone (GnRHa) Therapy for Central Precocious Puberty (CPP): Review of Nuances in Assessment of Height, Hormonal Suppression, Psychosocial Issues, and Weight Gain, with Patient Examples

Karen O. Klein, MD, Peter A. Lee, MD, PhD

Thyroid Dimensions Using Handheld Point-of-Care (bedside) Ultrasound Scan of the Thyroid Gland in Neonates in Port Harcourt and a Review of Literature

Yarhere Iro E, MB, BS, FWACP, Jaja Tamunopriye, MB, BS, FMCPaed

Meeting Reports: Growth and Social Environment

Proceedings of the 25th Aschauer Soiree, held at Krobielowice, Poland, November 18th 2017

Slawomir Koziel, PhD, Christiane Scheffler, PhD, Janina Tutkuvienė, PhD, Egle Marija Jakimaviciene, Rebekka Mumm, Davide Barbieri, PhD, Elena Godina, PhD, Mortada El-Shabrawi, MD, PhD, Mona Elhusseini, MD, Martin Musalek, Paulina Pruszkowska-Przybylska, Hanaa H. El Dash, Hebatalla Hassan Safar, Andreas Lehmann, James Swanson, MD, PhD, Barry Bogin, PhD, Yuk-Chien Liu, PhD, Detlef Groth, PhD, Sylvia Kirchengast, Anna Siniarska, PhD, Joanna Nieczuja-Dwojacka, PhD, Miroslav Králík, PhD, Takashi Satake, PhD, Tomasz Hanć, Mathieu Roelants, PhD, Michael Hermanussen, MD, PhD



Volume 16 • Supplement 1 • September 2018

Growth Hormone Discovery and Structure

Mat Buchman, BS, Stephen Bell, BA, BS, John J. Kopchick, PhD

The Era of Cadaveric Pituitary Extracted Human Growth Hormone (1958 - 1985): Biological and Clinical Aspects

Zvi Laron, MD, PhD (hc)

Gene Sequence and Production of Recombinant Metgh/hgh

John S. Parks, MD, PhD

Standardization of Growth Hormone and Insulin-like Growth Factor-I Measurement

Noriyuki Katsumata, MD, PhD

Regulatory Role for Growth Hormone in Statural Growth: Igf-Dependent and Igf-Independent Effects on Growth Plate Chondrogenesis and Longitudinal Bone Growth

Francesco De Luca, MD

Genetic Mutations in the GH/IGF Axis

Sabina Domené, PhD, Horacio M. Domené, PhD

Pediatric Growth Hormone Deficiency (GHD) in the Recombinant Human GH (rhGH) Era

Michael B Ranke

Adult Growth Hormone Deficiency: from Transition to Senescence

Jens OL Jørgensen, MD, DMSci, Kasper Hermansen, MD, Kirstine Stochholm, MD, PhD, DMSci, Anders Juul, MD, PhD, DMSci

Non-GHD Indications:

Growth Hormone Therapy for Turner Syndrome

Christopher Blunden, MD, Nat Nasomyont, MD, Philippe Backeljauw, MD

Growth Hormone Treatment for Prader-Willi Syndrome

Maïthé Tauber, MD, Gwenaëlle Diene, MD, Catherine Molinas, CRA

Growth Hormone Treatment for Patients with Noonan Syndrome

Ximena Gaete, MD, Fernando Rodríguez, PhD, Fernando Cassorla, MD

Growth Hormone Treatment for Short Children Born Small for Gestational Age

Adriane de Andre Cardoso-Demartini, MD, PhD, Alexandra C. Malaquias, MD, PhD, Margaret Cristina da Silva Boguszewski, MD, PhD

Growth Hormone Treatment for Idiopathic Short Stature

Wayne S. Cutfield, BHB, MB, ChB, MD, Benjamin B. Albert, BHB, MB ChB, PhD

Growth Hormone Treatment for Achondroplasia

Tohru Yorifuji, MD, PhD, Shinji Higuchi, MD, Rie Kawakita, MD

Psychosocial Aspects of Short Stature and rhGH Treatment: Implicit Trends over 60+ Years

Melissa Gardner, MA, Teresa Scerbak, BS, David E. Sandberg, PhD

rhGH Abuse for Sports Performance

Alan D. Rogol, MD, PhD

Monitoring rhGH Safety: rhGH Registries, SAGhE and Future Needs

Bradley S. Miller, MD, PhD, Ron G. Rosenfeld, MD

Long-Acting Growth Hormone Preparations in the Treatment of Children

Rayhan A Lal, MD, Andrew R. Hoffman, MD



In Memoriam - Lawrence A. Frohman, MD (1935-2018)

Shlomo Melmed, MD

For Debate - The Significance of Etiologic Diagnosis in Neonates with Overgrowth Syndromes. Lesson Learned from the Simpson-Golabi-Behmel Syndrome

Lukáš Plachý, MD, Lenka Elblová, Mgr, PhD, Vít Neuman, MD, Filip Fenc, MD, PhD, Květa Bláhová, MD, PhD, Zbyněk Straňák, MD, PhD, Jan Lebl, MD, PhD, Štěpánka Průhová, MD, PhD

Is There a Difference between Ultrasonographic (US) Uterine Changes of Oral Versus Transdermal (TD) 17 β Estradiol (17 β E2) in Girls with Turner Syndrome (TS)?

Own Experience and Literature Review

Jonathan Kraus, Nancy Unanue, Aníbal Espinoza, German Iniguez, Lournaris Torres-Santiago, Ravinder Singh, Nelly Mauras, Veronica Mericq

Challenges in Prenatal Treatment with Dexamethasone

Bonnie McCann-Crosby, MD, Frank Xavier Placencia, MD, Oluyemisi Adeyemi-Fowode, MD, Jennifer Dietrich, MD, Rachel Franciskovich, MS, Sheila Gunn, MD, Marni Axelrad, PhD, Duong Tu, MD, David Mann, MD, MA, Lefkothea Karaviti, MD, PhD, Vernon Reid Sutton, MD

The Management of Permanent Primary Hypoparathyroidism in Children and Adolescents: A Complex Task

Vincenzo De Sanctis, MD, Ashraf T Soliman, MD, PhD, FRCP, Salvatore Di Maio, MD, Christos Kattamis, MD

Clinical Perspectives of Mitochondrial Disorders

Josef Finsterer, MD, PhD

Meeting Reports:

2018 Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society - Chicago IL (March 17-20, 2018)

Selected Highlights

Alaina Vidmar, MD, Sarah Akhtar Ali, MD, Lily Chao, MD

The 51st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Pediatric Endocrinology (JSPE), Osaka, Japan, September 28th-30th, 2017

Tatsuhiko Urakami, MD, PhD



Volume 16 • No. 2 • December 2018

In Memoriam - Robert M. Blizzard, MD (1924-2018)

Alan David Rogol, MD, PhD

For Debate - Paediatric T1DM: DKA is Still a Problem

Elena Martínez, MD, Nancy Portillo, MD, Eneritz Lizarralde, MD, Gema Grau, MD, Amaia Vela, MD, PhD, Amaia Rodríguez, MD, Itxaso Rica, MD, PhD

National Cooperative Growth Study: 25 Years of Growth Hormone Data, Insights, and Lessons for Future Registries

Jennifer J. Bell, MD, Barbara Lippe, MD, Alicia A. Romano, MD, Joseph T. Cernich, MD, Rita D. Swinford, MD, Dalia Moawad, MBCh

Hypothyroidism in Young Children Following Exposure to Iodinated Contrast Media: An Observational Study and a Review of the Literature

Vered Rosenberg, BSc.Pharm, Alexander Michel, MD, MSc, Gabriel Chodick, PhD, Yingkai Cheng, MD, PhD, Petra Palkowitsch, MD, Gideon Koren, MD, Varda Shalev, MD, MPH

Narcolepsy, Precocious Puberty and Obesity in the Pediatric Population: a Literature Review

Ana Clara Maia Palhano, Lenise Jihe Kim, PhD, Gustavo A Moreira, MD, PhD, Fernando Morgadinho Santos Coelho, MD, PhD, Sergio Tufik, MD, PhD, Monica Levy Andersen, PhD

Ellis-Van Creveld Syndrome and Dandy-Walker Malformation: An Uncommon Association

Khadija Boujtat, MD, Siham Rouf, MD, Imane Boutahar, MD, Imane Skiker, MD, Mariam Tajir, MD, Hanane Latrech, MD

Meeting Reports:

2018 Annual Meeting of the Pediatric Endocrine Society - Toronto, Canada (May 5-8, 2018) Selected Highlights

Anna Ryabets-Lienhard, DO, Sara Akhtar, MD, Roshanak Monzavi, MD, Juliana Austin, MD



Volume 16 • No. 3 • March 2019

In Memoriam - Paul A. Kelly, PhD (1943-2018)

Vincent Goffin, PhD

Worth Remembering - Ing. Milan Zaoral, DrSc, the discoverer of Desmopressin (DDAVP) (5.5.1926 - 4.1.2011)

Jan Janda, MD

For Debate - When is Selenium Deficiency Suspected and When is Its Measurement Indicated?

Masanobu Kawai, MD, PhD

Genetic Tumor Syndromes with Endocrine Involvement: A Compendium and an Update

Yevgeniya Kushchayeva, MD, PhD, Marissa Lightbourne, MD, MHP, Maya Lodish, MD, Constantine A. Stratakis, MD, D(Med)Sc

Apparent Mineralocorticoid Excess in the Pediatric Population: Report of a Novel Pathogenic Variant of the 11B-HSD2 Gene and Systematic Review of the Literature

Adam Adamidis, MD, Sena Cantas-Orsdemir, MD, Anna Tsirka, MD, Mary-Alice Abbott, MD PhD, Paul Visintainer, PhD, Ksenia Tonyushkina, MD

Enhanced Understanding of the Natural History of Pre-Type 1 Diabetes: Fundamental to Prevention

Brittany S. Bruggeman, MD, Desmond A. Schatz, MD

To Freeze or Not to Freeze? An Update on Fertility Preservation In Females with Turner Syndrome

MJ Schleedoorn, MD, van Alfen-van der Velden, AAEM, MD, PhD, DDM Braat, MD, PhD, R Peek, PhD, K Fleischer, MD, PhD

Meeting Reports:

The Role of Beliefs and Perception on Body Size. Proceedings of the 26th Aschauer Soiree, held at Aschauhof, Altenhof, Germany, May 26th, 2018

Michael Hermanussen, MD, PhD, Aman B Pulungan, MD, PhD, Christiane Scheffler, PhD, Rebekka Mumm, Alan D Rogol, MD, PhD, Raluca Pop, MD, James M. Swanson, MD, PhD, Edmund Sonuga-Barke, PhD, FBA, FMedSci, Anna Reimann, Anna Siniarska-Wolanska, PhD, Martin Musalek, Barry Bogin, PhD, Jesper L Boldsen, PhD, P.G. (Vincent) Tassenaar, PhD, Detlef Groth, PhD, Yuk-Chien Liu, Christof Meigen, Björn Quanjer, Kristina Thompson, MSc, Başak Koca Özer, PhD, Ewa Bryl, Paula Mamrot, Tomasz Hanć, PhD, Slawomir Koziel, PhD, Jani Söderhäll, Aleksandra Gomula, PhD, Sudip Datta Banik, PhD, Mathieu Roelants, PhD, Gudrun Veldre, PhD, Leslie Sue Lieberman, PhD, Lynnette Leidy Sievert, PhD

The Equality Project on Endocrine Complications in Thalassemia: Selected Highlights from the First Turkish Congress, Antalya (10th-11th December 2018)

Duran Canatan, MD, Vincenzo De Sanctis, MD, Joan-Lluís Vives Corrons, MD, Suheyra Gorar, MD, Doga Turkkahraman, MD, Riza Taner Baran, MD, Erdal Kurtoglu, MD, Vedat Aslan, MD, Funda Tayfun Kupesiz, MD, Zehra Diyar Tamburaci Uslu, MD, Zekiye Ozdemir, MD, Ozlem Erinekcı, MD

Report on the 9th International Congress of the Growth Hormone Research and IGF Societies, September 14-17, 2018, in Seattle, Washington, USA

Charles T. Roberts, Jr, PhD, Kevin CJ Yuen, MD



The History of Noonan Syndrome

Bradley S. Miller, MD, PhD

Clinical Manifestations of Noonan Syndrome and Related Disorders

Margo Sheck Breilyn, MD, Lakshmi Mehta, MD, FACMG

Molecular Genetics of Noonan Syndrome and RASopathies

Jun Liao, PhD, FACMG Lakshmi Mehta, MD, FACMG

Pathogenesis of Growth Failure in Rasopathies

Sommayya Aftab, MBBS MRCPCH FCPS (Paediatrics), Mehul T Dattani, MD, FRCP, FRCPC

Growth and Growth Hormone Treatment in Noonan Syndrome

Alicia A. Romano, MD

Endocrine Complications of Noonan Syndrome beyond Short Stature

Vijay Venugopal, MD, Christopher J Romero, MD

Cardiac Manifestations of Noonan Syndrome

Ruchika Karnik, MBBS, Ira Parness, MD, Miwa Geiger, MD



Worth Remembering - Henning Jesper Andersen, MD, 1916-1978

Knud W. Kastrup, MD

For Debate - Testicular Volume Development along Ages: Evaluation by Different Methods

Vincenzo De Sanctis, MD, Ashraf T. Soliman, MD, PhD, FRCP, Salvatore Di Maio, MD, Giuseppe Millimaggi, MD, Christos Kattamis, MD

Karyotype - Phenotype Associations in Patients with Turner Syndrome

Iris D. Noordman, Bsc, Janiëlle AEM van der Velden, MD, PhD, Henri JLM Timmers, MD, PhD, Catherine Pienkowski, MD, Birgit Köhler, MD, PhD, Marlies Kempers, MD, PhD, Nicole Reisch, MD, PhD, Annette Richter-Unruh, MD, PhD, Wiebke Arlt, MD, PhD, Anna Nordenström, MD, PhD, Emma A. Webb, MD, PhD, Nel Roeleveld, PhD, Hedi L. Claahsen-van der Grinten, MD, PhD

Sleep Disorders and Obesity in Childhood: A New Component in Solving Obesity

Muge Atar, MD, Özgür Pirgon, MD, Atilla Buyukgebiz, MD

Hormones and their Structural and Functional Effects on the Brain: How Can We Change our Practice Moving Forward?

Bonnie McCann-Crosby, MD, Laurel Hyle JD, MPH, David Mann, MD, MA, Sheila Gunn, MD, Katherine Flynn, Jennifer Bercaw-Pratt, MD, Oluyemisi Adeyemi, MD, Jennifer Dietrich, MD, Duong Tu, MD, Paul F Austin, MD, V. Reid Sutton, MD, Marni Axelrad, PhD, Lefkothea Karaviti, MD, PhD

Height SDS Changes (Δ hSDS) in Healthy Children from Birth to 18 Years, with Correction Factors for Measurement Intervals of Less than One Year

Michael Hermanussen, MD, PhD, Rebekka Mumm, MEd, Aileen Rintisch, BEd, Janina Tutkuvienė, MD, PhD, Andrej Suchomlinov, PhD, Kálmán Joubert, PhD, Angel Ferrandez Longas, MD, PhD, Christiane Scheffler, PhD

Meeting Report: 2019 Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society - New Orleans, LA (March 23-26, 2019) - Selected Highlights

Swashti Agarwal, MD, Amy Seagroves, MD, Marwan Bakhach, MD, Ishita Jindal, MD



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