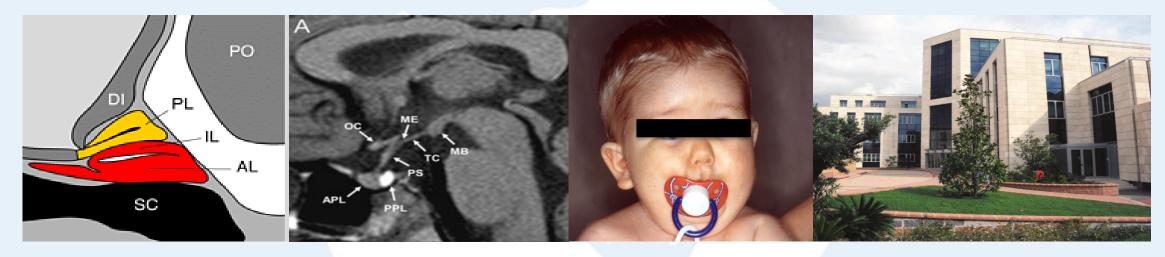
# CURRENT PERSPECTIVES ON THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH GROWTH DISORDER GH DEFICIENCY – HYPOPITUITARISM



# **Mohamad Maghnie**



Mohamad.Maghnie@unige.it MohamadMaghnie@gaslini.org



Department of Pediatrics, University of Genova, IRCCS Giannina Gaslini

### DISCLOSURES



#### **Research Grants**

• Merck Serono, Pfizer

#### **Lecture Fees**

• Ferring, Novo Nordisk, Merck Serono, Pfizer, Sandoz,

#### **Advisory Boards**

• Ascendis, Biomarin, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Merck Serono, Sandoz,

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**



- Understand the efficacy of rhGH therapy in growth hormone deficiency
- Recognise the value and limitations of factors affecting the outcomes
- Gain knowledge about monitoring and safety



1	Section 1: Aetiology
2	Section 2: Treatment Efficacy
3	Section 3: Treatment Safety
4	Section 4: Long-Acting Growth Hormone
5	Section 5: Conclusions



- Early-to-late onset
- Incidence 1/4000-1/8000-10,000 births
- Most cases are sporadic
- Normal weight and length
- Subsequent variable post-natal growth failure



#### Congenital

- Transitory
- Permanent
- Evolving

#### Genetics

- GH1, GHRHR, RNPC3 mutations
- X-linked (SOX3)
- Transcription factor defect, gene mutation, deletion or Duplication (HESX1, POU1F1, OTX2, LHX4)

#### Syndromic

- MEHMO (Mental retardation, Epileptic seizures, Hypogonadism, Microcephaly, Obesity)
- Mutations in MAGEL2 (Schaaf-Yang syndrome) and L1CAM are Associated with Congenital Hypopituitarism and Arthrogryposis
- BRAF –Cardofaciocutaneous, SOD
- Others

#### Idiopathic

- Transitory in the majority
- Overlapping congenital/Genetic/syndromic

#### Acquired

- CNS tumours
- Radiotherapy (cranial irradiation for CNS tumours, other malignancies, BMT)
- TBI (accidental, after neurosurgery, subarachnoid haemorrhage)
- Infections (meningitis, encephalitis, tuberculosis, hypophysitis)
- Autoimmune (hypophysitis, APS, anti Pit1 antibodies)
- Infiltration (LCH, hemochromatosis, chronic blood transfusions, sarcoidosis)
- Chemotherapy
- Autoimmune

Hage C. et al. Nat Rev Endocrinol. 2021;10.1038/s41574-021-00539-5.

APS, autoimmune polyendocrine syndromes; BMT, bone marrow transplant; B-RAF, B-rapidly accelerated fibrosarcoma; CNS, central nervous system; GH, growth hormone; GH1, growth hormone 1; GHRHR, growth hormone-releasing hormone receptor; HESX1, HESX homeobox 1; L1CAM, L1 cell adhesion molecule; LCH, Langerhans' cell histiocytosis; LHX4, LIM homeobox 4; MAGEL2, MAGE family member L2; OTX2, orthodenticle homeobox 2; Pit1, pituitary-specific positive transcription factor 1; POU1F1, POU class 1 homeobox 1; RNPC3, RNA binding region (RNP1, RRM) containing 3; SOD, septo-optic dysplasia; SOX3, SRY-box transcription factor 3; TBI, traumatic brain injury. 1. Maghnie M, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 1991;73:79-83; 2. Arrigo T, et al. Eur J Endocrinol. 1998;139:84-88; 3. Di lorgi N, et al. Clin Endocrinol (Oxf). 2012;76 161-176; 4. Di lorgi N, et al Best Pract Res Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2016;30:705-736; 5.



#### **1.** Congenital

- Variable Timing of onset (Early neonatal to childhood presentation)
- Late/adult presentation
- Isolated GHD (evolving to CPHD/MPHD )
- Severe with Combined Pituitary Hormone Deficiencies (CPHD/MPHD) ± Syndromic Features

#### 2. Genetic

- Genes implicated in early development
- Genes implicated in GH secretion/cell differentiation
- Digenic Inheritance
- Micro Rearrangements
- More complex

CPHD, combined pituitary hormone deficiency; GH, growth hormone; GHD, growth hormone deficiency; MPHD, multiple pituitary hormone deficiency 1. Maghnie M, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 1991;73:79-83; 2. Arrigo T, et al. Eur J Endocrinol. 1998;139:84-88; 3. Di Iorgi N, et al. Clin Endocrinol (Oxf). 2012;76 161-176; 4. Di Iorgi N, et al Best Pract Res Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2016;30:705-736



#### **3. Idiopathic – Environmental Factors – Polygenic hypothesis**

- Overlap between congenital and genetic hypopituitarism
- Transitory in the majority of cases unless due to Pituitary Stalk Interruption Syndrome
- These forms could be associated with midline defects, eyes, ears, forebrain:
  - Agenesis of the corpus callosum
  - Septo-optic dysplasia
  - Microphthalmia-anophthalmia-coloboma (MAC)
  - Holoprosencephaly
  - Encephalocele
  - Hydrocephalus,
  - Cleft lip or palate, single central incisor etc.

GH, growth hormone; MAC, microphthalmia-anophthalmia-coloboma

1. Maghnie M, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 1991;73:79-83; 2. Arrigo T, et al. Eur J Endocrinol. 1998;139:84-88; 3. Di lorgi N, et al. Clin Endocrinol (Oxf). 2012;76 161-176; 4. Di lorgi N, et al Best Pract Res Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2016;30:705-736

#### **DOES PITUITARY PHENOTYPE MATTER? MRI/GENOTYPE RELEVANCE**

#### **Idiopathic CPHD**



#### POU1F1(Pit-1)

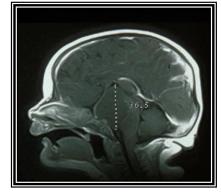


**HESX-1-MPHD** 

#### Authorisation obtained from all families











HGLI3-MPHD





	Section 1: Aetiology
2	Section 2: Treatment Efficacy
3	Section 3: Treatment Safety
4	Section 4: Long-Acting Growth Hormone

### **APPROVED DOSES OF RECOMBINANT HUMAN GH\***



	Europe	United States
GHD (1985)	0.025-0.035 mg/kg/d or 0.7-1.0 mg/m²/d BSA	<u>0.024</u> -0.034 mg/kg/d
CRI (1993)	0.050 mg/kg/d or 1.4 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /d BSA	Up to 0.35mg/kg/w
TS (1996)	0.045-0.067 mg/kg/d or 1.3-2.0 mg/m²/d BSA	Up to 0.067 mg/kg/d
PWS (2000)	0.025-0.035 mg/kg/d (Switzerland)	0.034 mg/kg/d
SGA (2001)	0.035 mg/kg/d or 1.0 mg/m <sup>2/</sup> d BSA	Up to 0.067 mg/kg/d
ISS (2003)	Not approved <sup>a</sup>	Up to 0.067 mg/kg/d
SHOX Haploinsufficiency (2006)	0.045-0.050 mg/kg	0.045-0.050 mg/kg/d
Nonan Syndrome (2007)	0.033 or 0.066 mg/kg/d (Switzerland and Japan)	Up to 0.066 mg/kg/d

\*Stated doses are based on selected formulations of recombinant human GH. Please check individual package inserts for specific prescribing information.

There are other indications not listed. There appeared to be a dose relationship (risk was highest in patients receiving doses >50 mcg/d (Long-term mortality after recombinant growth hormone treatment for isolated growth hormone deficiency or childhood short stature: preliminary report of the French SAGhE study.

BSA, body surface area; CRI, chronic renal insufficiency; GH, growth hormone; GHD, growth hormone deficiency; ISS, idiopathic short stature; PWS, Prader–Willi syndrome; SGA, small-for-gestational-age; SHOX, short stature homeobox; TS, Turner syndrome

Carel JC, et al., J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2012;97(2):416-25; Ranke MB, Wit JM. Nat Rev Endocrinol. 2018;14(5):285-300.

### **GH THERAPY – CLINICAL END POINTS**

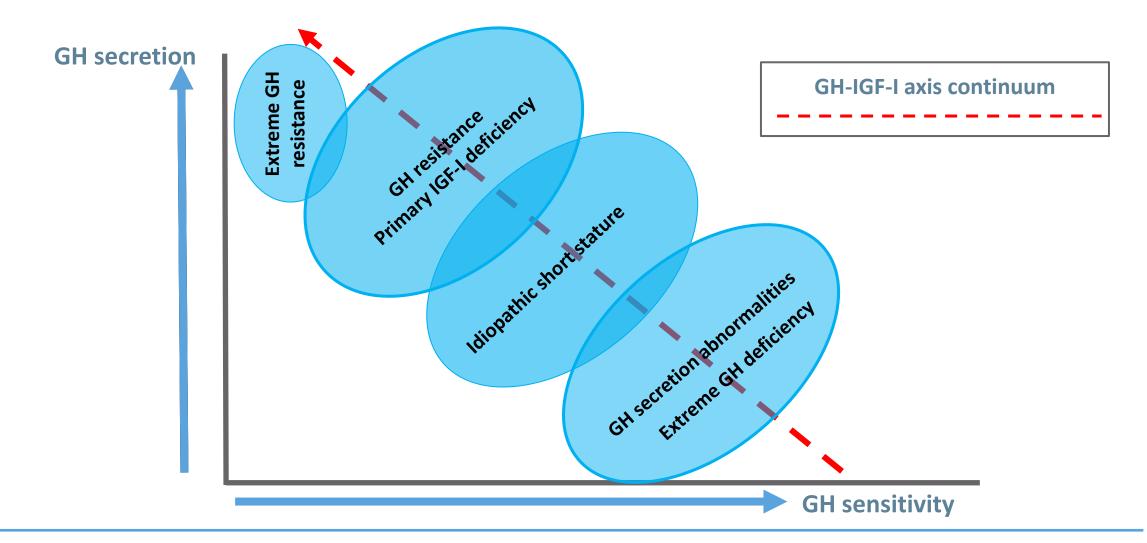


- Growth
- Maintenance of normal blood glucose concentrations (avoidance of hypoglycaemia)
- BMD (Increasing bone mineralisation)
- Body composition (Decreasing fat mass; increasing lean mass)
- Increasing bone strength & muscle mass
- Neuro-cognition and motor skills (Replacement therapy in GHD adults suggest that both GH and IGF-1 may enhance long-term working memory)
- There is an unmet need to capture the pleiotropic actions of GH in treated children

BMD, bone mineral density; GH, growth hormone; GHD, growth hormone deficiency; IGF-I, insulin-like growth factor 1 1. Richmond E, et al. Best Pract Res Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2016;30:749-755; 2. Deijen JB, et al. Psychoneuroendocrinology. 1996;21:313-322; 3. Deijen JB, et al. Psychoneuroendocrinology. 1998;23;45-55; 4. Burman P, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 1995;80:3585-3590; 5. Lijffijt M, et al. Neurosci Lett. 2003;353:123-126; 6. Scheepens A, et al. Horm Res. 2005;64:66-72; 7. van Dam PS. Horm Res. 2005;64:109-114; 8. Webb EA, et al. Brain. 2012;135:216-227; 9. Johannsson G et al Endocr Connect. 2018;7:R126-R134

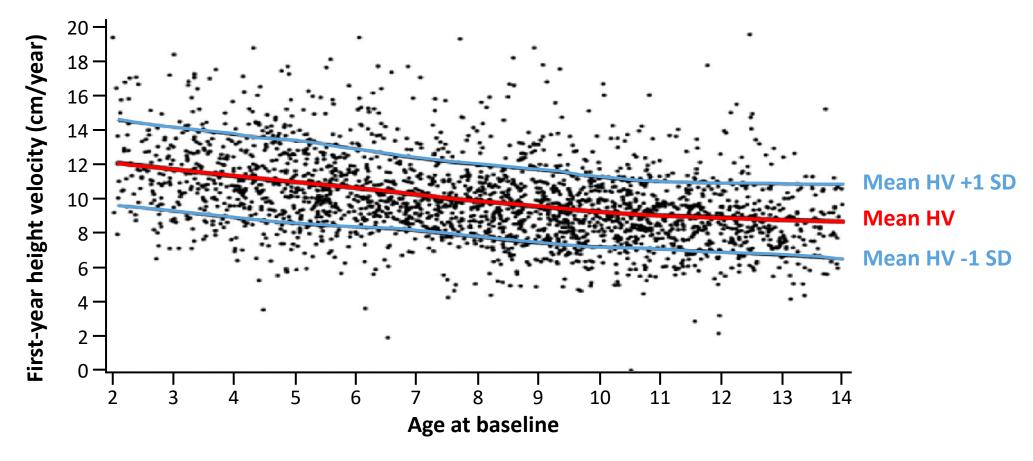
# THERAPEUTIC RESPONSES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONTINUUM OF GH-IGF-I AXIS DEFECTS





#### FIRST YEAR GROWTH RESPONSE: GREAT VARIABILITY





**Prepubertal boys with idiopathic GHD** 

GHD, growth hormone deficiency; HV, height velocity; SD, standard deviation Bakker B, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2008;93:352-357

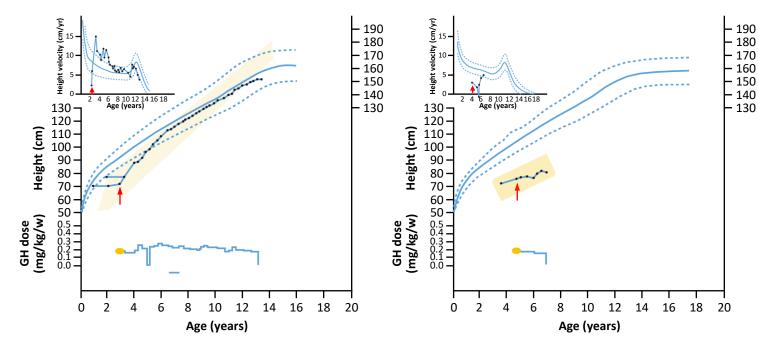
# REAL NEED TO PERSONALISE AND OPTIMISE GH TREATMENT



- The response to growth hormone (GH) therapy is highly variable between individual patients<sup>1</sup>
- Current methods to evaluate first-year response are arbitrary<sup>3</sup>
- A polygenic risk captured 71.1% of the total variance in adult height based on UK Biobank data<sup>4</sup>
- A polygenic component of GH responsiveness (B4GALT4 and TBCE genes)<sup>5</sup>
- Single genomic test which can be linked to a prediction algorithm to improve clinical management<sup>6</sup>

#### SOME CHILDREN RESPOND VERY WELL TO GH AND REACH THEIR MID-PARENTAL HEIGHT<sup>2</sup>

#### OTHER CHILDREN RESPOND LESS WELL TO SIMILAR GH TREATMENT REGIMENS<sup>3</sup>



B4GALT4, beta-1,4-galactosyltransferase 4; GH, growth hormone; TBCE, tubulin folding cofactor E

1. Kaspers S, et al. Appl Health Econ Health Policy. 2013;11:237-249; 2. Cutfield W, et al. Acta Paediatr Suppl. 1999;88:72-75; 3. Ranke MB, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2013;79:51-67; 4. Lu

T, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2021;106:1918-1928; 5. Dauber A, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2020;105:3203-3214; 6. Stevens A, et al. Pharmacogenomics J. 2021. DOI: 10.1038/s41397-021-00237-5

## DIAGNOSIS DICTATES THE FIRST YEAR RESPONSE TO HGH THERAPY



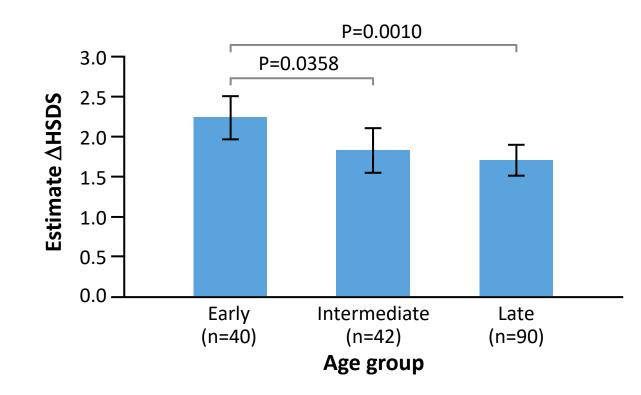
#### **GROWTH RESPONSE OF PREPUBERTAL PATIENTS AFTER THE FIRST YEAR OF GH TREATMENT**

	Severe GHD mean (SD)	GHD mean (SD)	TS mean (SD)	SGA mean (SD)
HV (cm/yr)	10.39 (3.08)	8.58 (2.07)	7.87 (1.81)	8.81 (1.82)
∆Ht SDS	1.11 (0.69)	0.74 (0.43)	0.68 (0.38)	0.81 (0.42)

GH, growth hormone; GHD, growth hormone deficiency; hGH, human growth hormone; HV, height velocity; Ht SDS, height standard deviation score; SGA, small for gestational age; TS, Turner syndrome Ranke MB, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2010;95:1229-1237

# EARLY GROWTH HORMONE TREATMENT START IN CHILDHOOD GROWTH HORMONE DEFICIENCY IMPROVES NEAR ADULT HEIGHT: ANALYSIS FROM NORDINET® INTERNATIONAL OUTCOME STUDY



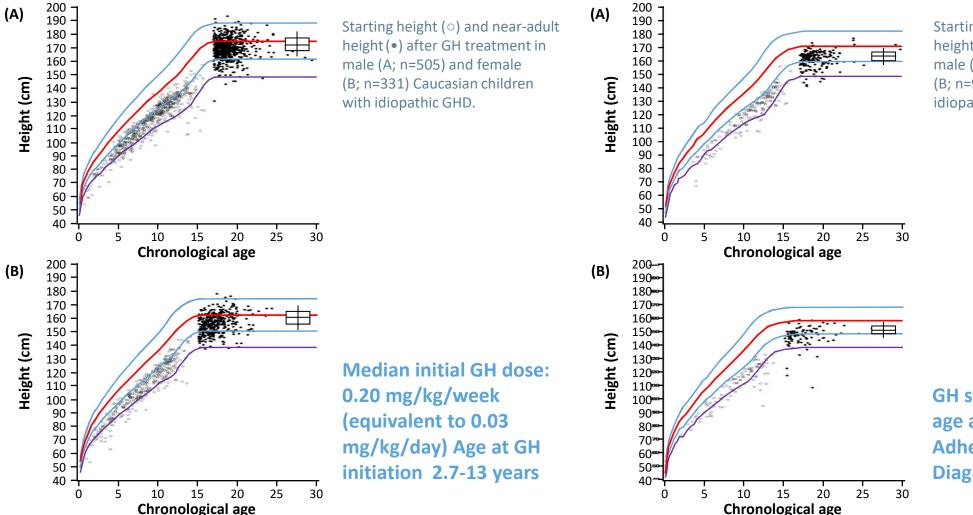


- Estimated change in HSDS from baseline to NAH
  - Early (girls aged <8 years; boys aged</li>
     9 years),
  - Intermediate (girls aged 8-10 years; boys aged 9-11 years)
  - Late (girls aged >10 years; boys aged
     >11 years) age group at GH treatment start
- Data are LS means (95% CI) corrected for baseline HSDS, average GH dose, target HSDS, GH severity and mid-parental height

### NEED TO OPTIMIZE GH TREATMENT: EFFECT OF GH ON NEAR-FINAL HEIGHT



Starting height (○) and near-adult height (●) after GH treatment in male (A; n=198) and female (B; n=98) Japanese children with idiopathic GHD.



The curves represent means (red lines),  $\pm 2$  sd (blue lines), and -4 sd (purple lines).

Box plots represent medians and 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles, with whiskers at the 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles. GH, growth hormone;

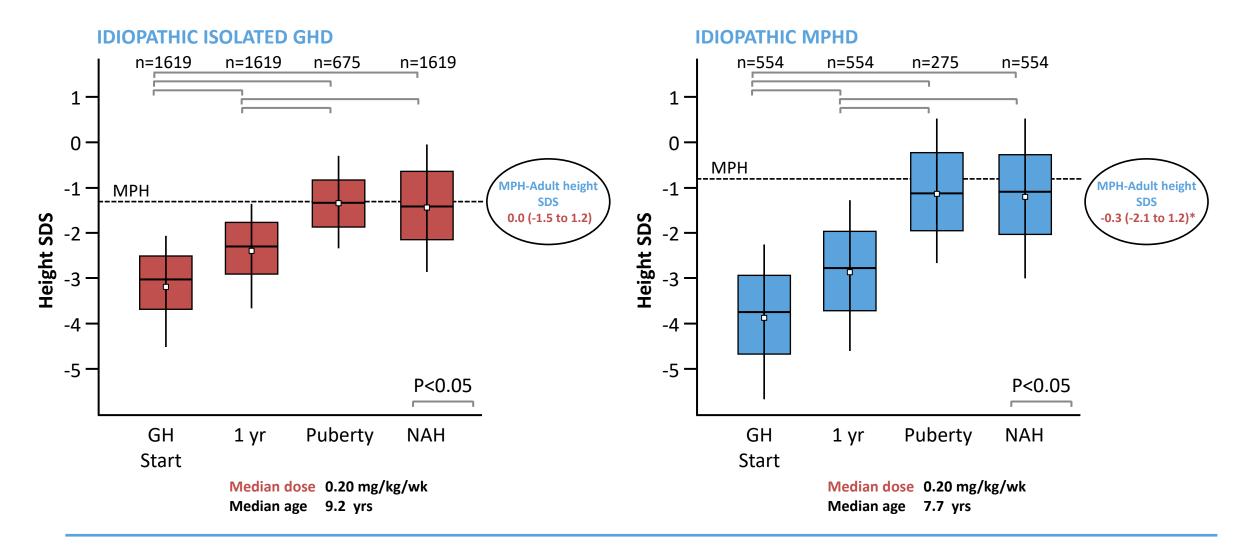
GHD, growth hormone deficiency; SD, standard deviation

Reiter EO, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2006;91:2047-2054

GH sensitivity, GH dose, age at treatment, Adherence, Genetics, Diagnosis, other factors

### HEIGHT SDS IN ISOLATED IDIOPATHIC GHD AND IN IDIOPATHIC MPHD: KIGS DATABASE

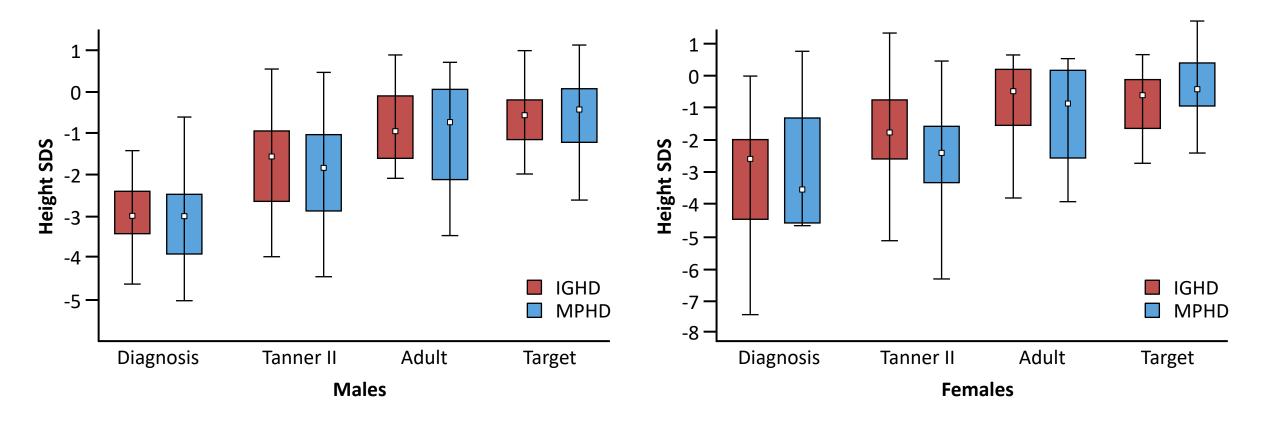




GH, growth hormone; GHD, growth hormone deficiency; KIGS, Pfizer International Growth Study Database; MPH, mid-parental height; MPHD, multiple pituitary hormone deficiency; NAH, nearly adult height; SDS, standard deviation score Darendeliler F, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2011;76:42-46

### ADULT HEIGHT IN PATIENTS WITH IGHD OR MPHD AND PITUITARY STALK INTERRUPTION SYNDROME



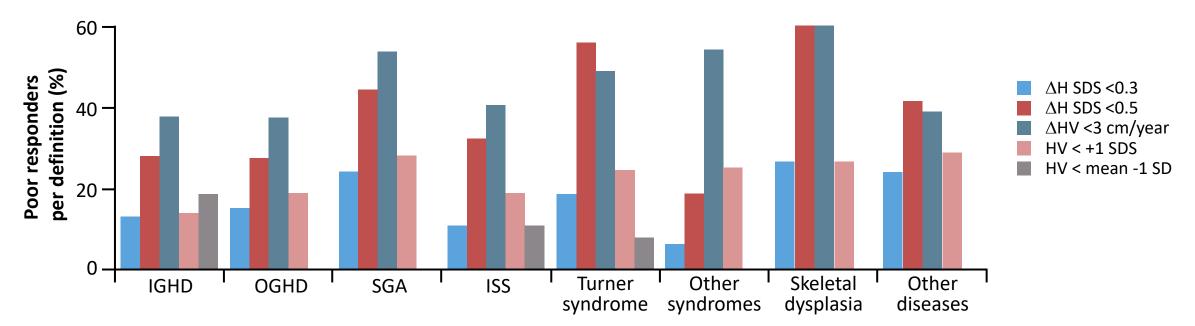


IGHD, isolated growth hormone deficiency; MPHD, multiple pituitary hormone deficiency; SDS, standard deviation score Maghnie M, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2006;91:2900-2905

# IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF POOR RESPONSE TO GROWTH-PROMOTING THERAPY IN CHILDREN WITH SHORT STATURE



Proportion of poor responders after 1 year of standard GH therapy in 456 short prepubertal children according to different definitions in each diagnostic group



# Evidence is increasing for an unacceptably high rate of poor or unsatisfactory response to growth-promoting therapy in many approved conditions

GH, growth hormone; HV, height velocity; IGHD, isolated growth hormone deficiency; ISS, idiopathic short stature; OGHD, organic growth hormone deficiency; SD, standard deviation; SDS, standard deviation score; SGA, small for gestational age Bang P, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2011;75:335-45

### MAIN FACTORS AFFECTING GH RESPONSE TO rhGH



22

#### Differences can be attributed to:

- Age
- Birth weight SDS
- Maximum GH (Diagnosis)
- Height-MPH SDS (Genetics)
- Weight SDS
- Height velocity-previous year
- GH dose (IGF-I titration)
- Weekly GH dose
- Gender
- Bone age
- IGF-I value
- Growth response during the 1st year of GH therapy
- Duration of treatment
- Adherence
- Appropriate replacement of other (endocrine) therapies or unrecognised associated defects

# And still poorly defined molecular and biochemical factors that may include:

- the structure and concentration of GH receptors
- the robustness of the post-receptor signaling cascade
- IGF-I transcriptional and translational efficiency
- epiphyseal responsiveness

GH, growth hormone; IGF-I, insulin-like growth factor 1; MPH, mid-parental height; rhGH, recombinant human growth hormone; SDS, standard deviation score 1. Ranke MB, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 1999;84:1174-1183; 2. Kaspers S, et al. Appl Health Econ Health Policy. 2013;11:237-249; 3. Cutfield W, et al. Acta Paediatr Suppl. 1999;88:72-75; 4. Ranke MB, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2013;79:51-67; 5. Lu T, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2021;106:1918-1928; 6. Dauber A, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2020;105:3203-3214; 7. Stevens A, et al. Pharmacogenomics J. 2021. DOI: 10.1038/s41397-021-00237-5; 8. Bagnasco F, et al. Endocr Pract. 2017;23:929-941; 9. Haverkamp F, et al. Clin Ther. 2008;30:307-316; 10. Fisher BG, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2013;79:189-196

### **ADHERENCE TO rhGH THERAPY – THE EVIDENCE BASE**



23

- Few, but increasing number of studies
- Studies vary in design, quality and definition of 'adherence'
- Methods for assessing adherence have generally been poor
- Frequently relying on reporting by patients or carers
- Contrasting results depending on the method used to record adherence (we need objective measurements of adherence)
- Relationship between non-adherence and reduced linear growth
- A range of possible determinants have been identified

rhGH, recombinant human growth hormone

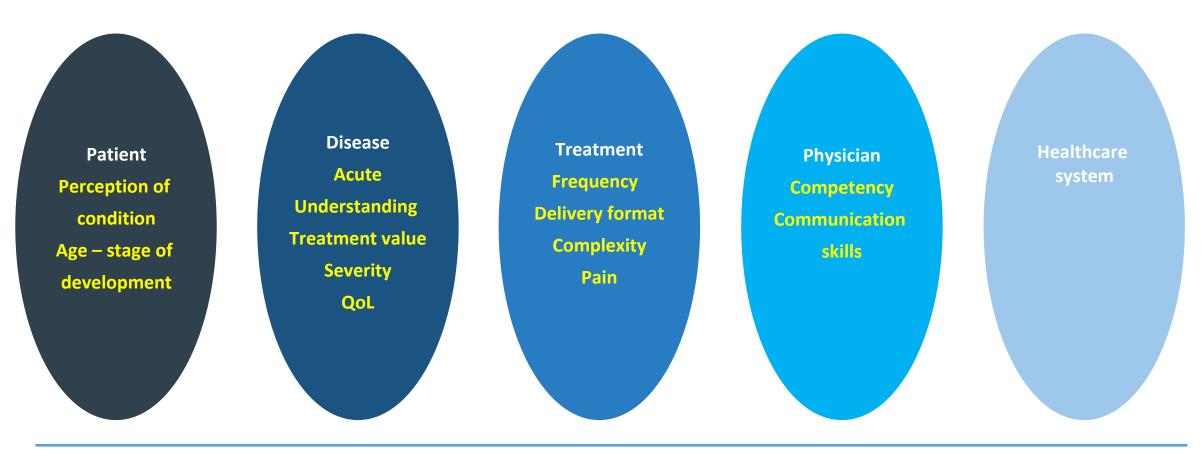
<sup>1.</sup> Fisher BG, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2013;79:189-196; 2. Cutfield WS, et al. PLoS One. 2011;6:e16223; 3. Gau M, et al. J Pediatr Endocrinol Metab. 2017;30:989-993; 4. Kapoor RR, et al. Arch Dis Child. 2008;93:147-148; 5. Graham S, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2018;90:221-227; 6. Farfel A, et al. Growth Horm IGF Res. 2019;44:1-5; 7. Rosenfeld RG, et al. Endocr Pract. 2008;14:143-154; 8. Lass N, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2015;84:240-247; 9. Aydın BK, et al. Endocr Pract. 2014;20:46-51; 10. Acerini CL, et al. Front Endocrinol (Lausanne). 2018;9:688

### FACTORS WHICH MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT ADHERENCE



#### THE EVIDENCE BASE

• A range of possible determinants have been identified



QoL, quality of life

1. Bagnasco F, et al. Endocr Pract. 2017;23:929-941. 2. Haverkamp F, et al. Clin Ther. 2008;30:307-316; 3. Fisher BG, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2013;79:189-196



	Section 1: Aetiology
	Section 2: Treatment Efficacy
3	Section 3: Treatment Safety
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#### WHY MONITOR GH THERAPY? – SAFETY



- GH therapy is given to patients systemically for long periods:
  - Often throughout childhood and into adulthood
  - The growth response is disease/condition-specific
  - Has the potential to be linked with other diseases
- The areas for ongoing surveillance:
  - Use of high-dose GH
  - Glucose homeostasis
  - Cancer risk

# SAFETY OUTCOMES DURING PAEDIATRIC GH THERAPY: FINAL RESULTS FROM THE PROSPECTIVE GeNeSIS OBSERVATIONAL PROGRAM



- Study included 22,311 GH-treated children from 827 sites in 30 countries; mean ± SD follow-up of 4.2 ± 3.2 years
  - GH deficiency (63%)
  - idiopathic short stature (13%)
  - Turner syndrome (8%)
- T2DM was elevated [SIR: 3.77 (95% CI: 2.24, 5.96)], but 72% had risk factors (n = 18)
- T2DM incidence was elevated compared with the general population, however, most cases had T2DM risk factors

# SAGHE EVALUATED THE SAFETY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF GH TREATMENT IN EUROPE



# SAGhE: LONG TERM SAFETY OF rhGH TREATMENT



Total number of patients = 25,229

Risk groups		
1a     Isolated GHD       ISS		
1b	SGA without catch-up growth	
2	<ul> <li>Multiple pituitary hormone deficiency</li> <li>Defined paediatric syndromes associated with an increased mortality risk (i.e. Turner syndrome)</li> <li>Benign pituitary tumours</li> <li>Severe craniofacial or other malformations</li> <li>Severe chronic paediatric diseases</li> </ul>	
3	<ul> <li>Patients who were previously treated for cancer, craniopharyngioma</li> <li>Chronic renal insufficiency</li> </ul>	

(rh)GH, (recombinant human) growth hormone; GHD, growth hormone deficiency; ISS, idiopathic short stature; SAGhE, Safety and Appropriateness of Growth hormone treatments in Europe; SGA, small for gestational age

1. Carel J-C, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2012;97:416-425; 2. Poidvin A, et al. Neurology. 2014;83;780-786; 3. Sävendahl L, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2012;97:E213-217; 4. Albertsson-Wikland K, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2016;101:2149-2159; 5. Lars Sävendahl et al. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol 2020; 8: 683–92

# **MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY: CONFLICTING REPORTS**



#### French Cohort<sup>1,2</sup>



- IGHD, ISS, SGA
  - Higher mortality (dose related)
  - Higher SMR for circulatory diseases, incl. cerebrovascular disease
  - Higher Stroke SIR (all types)

#### Belgian, Netherlands, Sweden<sup>3</sup>

- IGHD, ISS, SGA
  - No CVD or cancer deaths

#### Sweden<sup>4</sup>

- IGHD, ISS, SGA
  - No increased mortality (controlling for birth characteristics)

observed/expected deaths were not increased in childhood rhGH-treated IGHD, ISS, and SGA patients when applying an advanced sex-specific mortality model adjusting for birth characteristics









CVD, cardiovascular disease; IGHD, idiopathic growth hormone deficiency; ISS, idiopathic short stature; rhGH, recombinant human growth hormone; SGA, small for gestational age; SIR, standardised incidence ratio; SMR, standardised mortality rate1. Carel J-C, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2012;97:416-425; 2. Poidvin A, et al. Neurology. 2014;83;780-786; 3. Sävendahl L, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2012;97:E213-217; 4. Albertsson-Wikland K, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2016;101:2149-2159

### GH SAFETY WORKSHOP 2016 SAGhe 2020 (24,232 PATIENTS)



**Majority view** of the effect of GH treatment for approved indications on cancer risk in children and adults (including those with a childhood-onset of GH deficiency

Age at onset of GH treatment	New primary cancer	Recurrence of previous primary cancer in cancer survivors	Second or subsequent neoplasms
Child	No evidence for GH treatment effect Level: robust	No evidence for GH treatment effect Level: robust	Risk present but diminishes with time from onset of GH treatment Level: suggestive
Adult	No evidence for GH treatment effect Level: Suggestive	Insufficient data available	Insufficient data available

**Robust: multiple supportive publications; Suggestive: <3 supportive publications; Insufficient: inadequate published evidence** 

GH, growth hormone; SAGhE, Safety and Appropriateness of Growth hormone treatments in Europe; Allen DB, et al. Eur J Endocrinol. 2016;174:P1-9; Lars Sävendahl et al. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol 2020; 8: 683–92

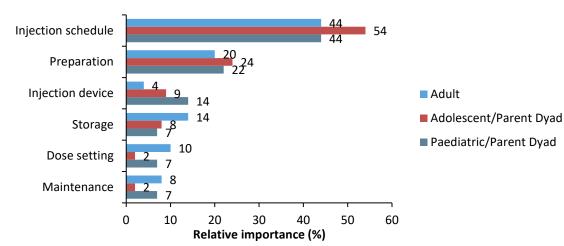


	Section 1: Aetiology
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### PATIENTS PREFER A LESS FREQUENT INJECTION REGIMEN FOR TREATING GHD

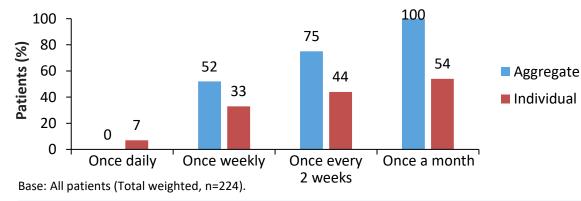


#### AVERAGE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES BY PATIENT COHORT

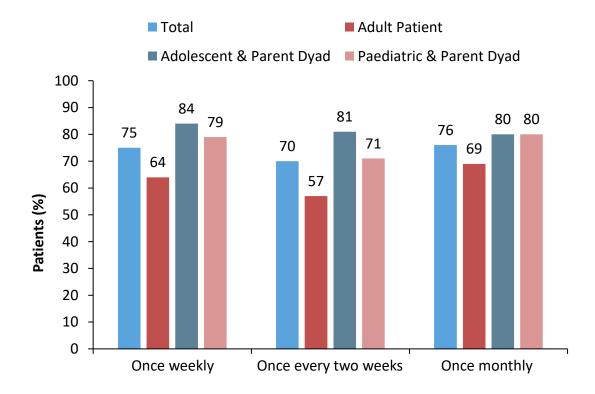


Base: All patients (Total weighted, Adult, n=75; Adolescent Dyad, n=79; Paediatric Dyad, n=70

#### AVERAGE RELATIVE UTILITY OF INJECTION SCHEDULE ATTRIBUTE



#### PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS THAT WOULD CHOOSE THE NEW PROFILE OVER CURRENT TREATMENT



Base: All patients (Total weighted, n=224; Adult, n=75; Adolescent n=79; Paediatric Dyad, n=70).

GHD, growth hormone deficiency McNamara M, et al. Patient Prefer Adherence. 2020;14:781-793

## OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF LAGH ANALOGUES



- Depot formulation
- PEGylated Formulations
- Pro-drug formulation
- Non-covalent albumin binding GH compound(s)
- GH Fusion Proteins

- No longer being developed
- Ongoing studies
- Phase 3 trial in CGHD suggest non inferiority
- Completed Phase 3 study in CGHD and data submitted to FDA and EMA

CGHD, combined growth hormone deficiency; EMA, European Medicines Agency; FDA, Food and Drug Administration; GH, growth hormone; LAGH, long-acting growth hormone

<sup>1.</sup> Yang Y, et al. Endocrine. 2019;65:25-34; 2. Miller BS, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2020;105:e2121-2133; 3. Yuen KCJ, et al. Front Endocrinol (Lausanne). 2021;12:637209; 33 4. Bidlingmaier M, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2021;106:e2367-2369

### LONG-ACTING GROWTH HORMONE ANALOGUES



- Currently, two LAGH analogs are marketed in Asia, one recently approved in the United States, another previously approved but not marketed in Europe, and several others proceeding through various stages of clinical development
- Shot-term efficacy and safety data
- Several practical questions still remain, including
  - possible differences in dose initiation between naïve and switch-over patients
  - methodology of dose adjustment/s
  - timing of measuring serum IGF-I levels
  - metabolic effects
  - antibodies
  - durability of efficacy
  - safety
  - cost-effectiveness
- Long-term surveillance of safety and efficacy of LAGH analogs (Different LAGH) are needed
- There is no evidence to support differences in the effects of long-acting GH compared with those of daily GH (7 studies)
- More RCTs that focus on the safety of high-dose long-acting GH treatment, especially the detection of adverse events caused by elevated levels of serum IGF-1, are needed in the future

GH, growth hormone; IGF-I, insulin-like growth factor 1; LAGH, long-acting growth hormone; RCT, randomised clinical trial 1. Yang Y, et al. Endocrine. 2019;65:25-34; 2. Miller BS, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2020;105:e2121-2133; 3. Yuen KCJ, et al. Front Endocrinol (Lausanne). 2021;12:637209; 4. Bidlingmaier M, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2021;106:e2367-2369

### **KEY CONCLUSIONS**



- Despite the many years of research, controversies remain regarding etiology, diagnosis, and management of GHD children
- rhGH treatment is efficacious and children achieve increase in growth velocity and adult height appropriate for target range (Adult height range -1.5 to -0.8 SDS)
- Age at onset of rhGH therapy has been demonstrated to be negatively correlated with change in HSDS and the adult height outcome of the patient
- Main factors affecting adult height: age at start of GH, peak GH, parental height, GH dose, adherence
- Good safety profile but long-term safety data are still needed (evidence-based intervention strategies for optimising treatment and safety profiles)
- Several forms of long-acting rhGH are currently under development with new challenges

# **PRIMARY IGF-1 DEFICIENCY**

Andrew Dauber, MD MMsc Chief of Endocrinology Children's National Hospital Washington, DC, USA

# DISCLOSURES



- Dr Dauber has served as a consultant for Biomarin, Novo Nordisk and Ascendis
- Dr Dauber is currently receiving research funding from Biomarin

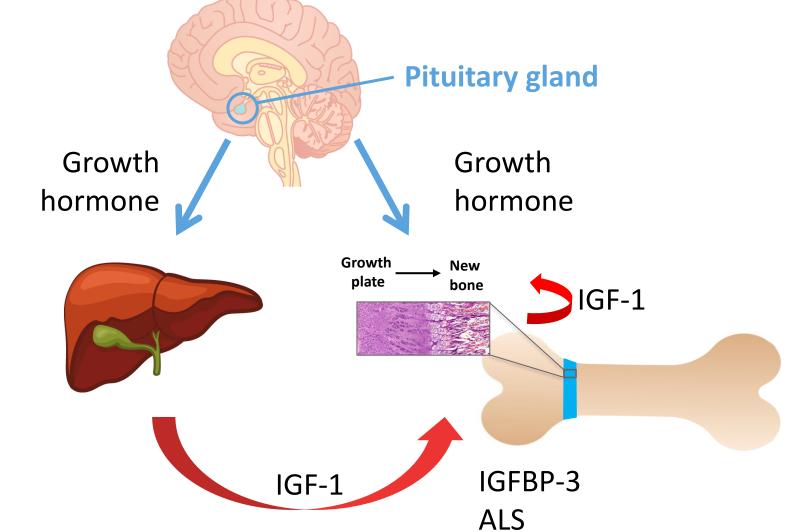
## AGENDA



- Brief overview of the growth hormone/IGF-1 signalling axis
- Genetics of growth hormone insensitivity/resistance
- Efficacy and safety of recombinant IGF-1 treatment in primary IGF-1 deficiency

## **GROWTH HORMONE/IGF-1 PATHWAY**

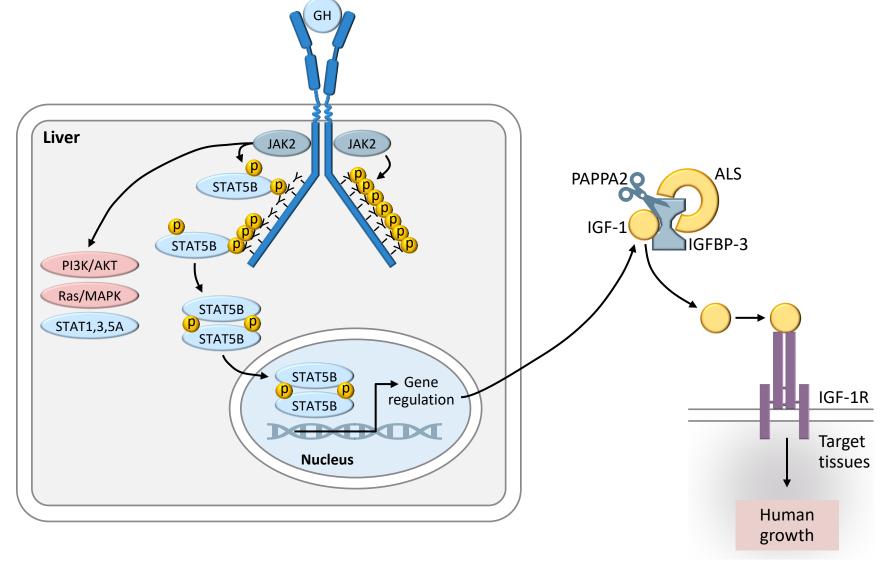




ALS, acid-labile subunit; IGF-1, insulin-like growth factor 1; IGFBP-3, insulin-like growth factor-binding protein 3 Storr HL, et al. Endocr Rev. 2019;40:476-505

# **GROWTH HORMONE SIGNALLING PATHWAY**

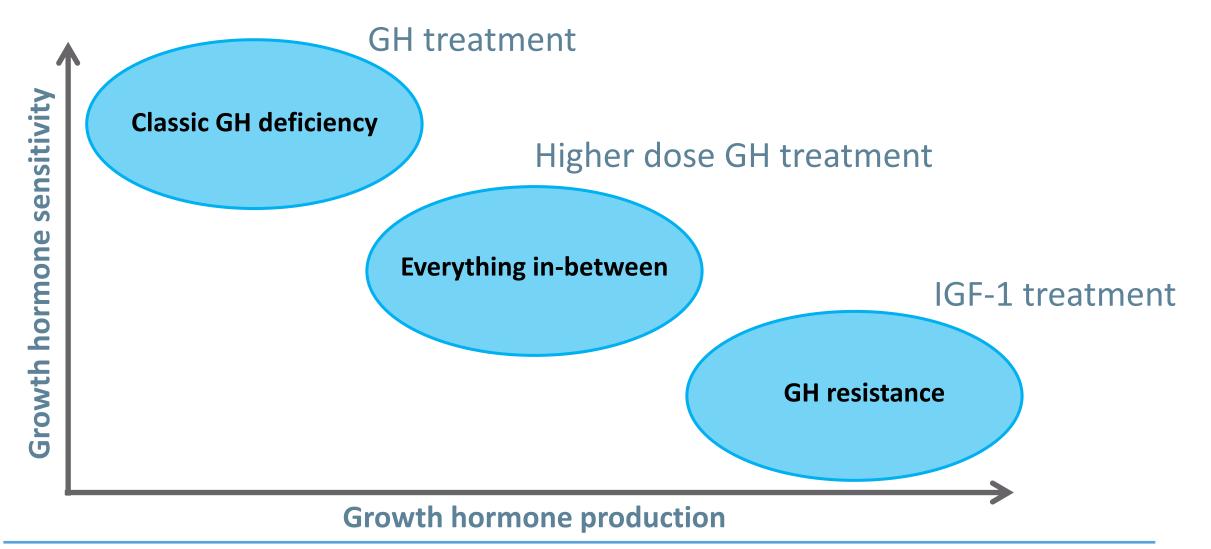




AKT, v-akt murine thymoma viral oncogene homolog; ALS, acid-labile subunit; GH, growth hormone; JAK2, Janus kinase 2; IGF-1(R), insulin-like growth factor 1 (receptor); IGFBP-3, insulin-like growth factor-binding protein 3; MAPK, mitogen-activated protein kinase; P, phosphorylated residue; PAPPA2, pregnancy-associated plasma protease A2; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase; Ras, rat sarcoma virus; STAT, signal transducer and activator of transcription; Y, tyrosine 40 Storr HL, et al. Endocr Rev. 2019;40:476-505

## TRADITIONAL ENDOCRINOLOGIST VIEW OF GROWTH TREATMENT





## WHAT IS PRIMARY IGF-1 DEFICIENCY?



#### **IGF-1 DEFICIENCY WHICH IS NOT SECONDARY TO:**

- Growth hormone deficiency
- Malnutrition
- Chronic steroid use
- Hypothyroidism

#### SEVERE PRIMARY IGF-1 DEFICIENCY IS DEFINED BY THE FDA AS:

- Height  $\leq$  -3 SDS
- Basal IGF-1  $\leq$  -3 SDS (in EU IGF-1 < 2.5%)
- Normal or elevated growth hormone levels

#### **IGF-1 DEFICIENCY WHICH IS DUE TO:**

• Genetic defects downstream of growth hormone

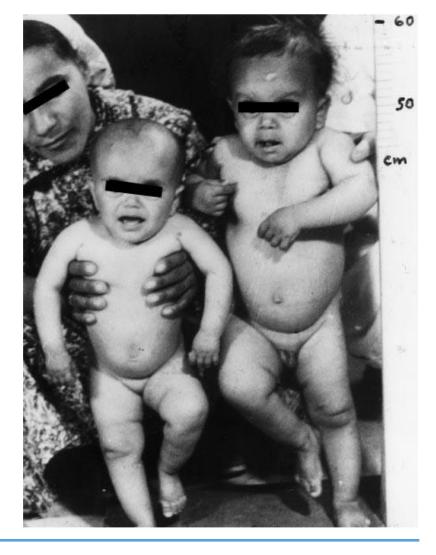
IGF-1, insulin-like growth factor 1; SDS, standard deviation score Increlex (mecasermin) [prescribing information]. Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals Inc., December 2019; Increlex (mecasermin) (SmPC).

# LARON SYNDROME – CLASSIC GROWTH HORMONE INSENSITIVITY



- Clinical syndrome first described by Dr. Zvi Laron in 1966<sup>1</sup>
  - Phenotype of hypopituitarism
  - Elevated growth hormone levels
- Found to be due to mutations in the growth hormone receptor (GHR) in 1989<sup>2</sup>



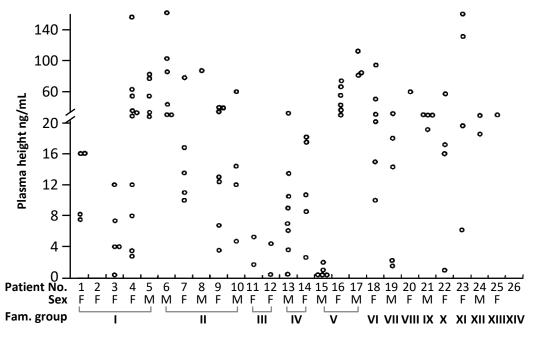


# **CLINICAL PRESENTATION OF LARON SYNDROME**



- Extreme post-natal short stature (-4 to -10 SDS)
- Craniofacial disproportion with midface hypoplasia
- Small external genitalia in males
- Sparse and thin hair
- Delayed motor development
- Small hands and feet
- Delayed dentition
- Delayed puberty
- Hypoglycaemia
- High pitched voice

#### **HIGH GROWTH HORMONE LEVELS**

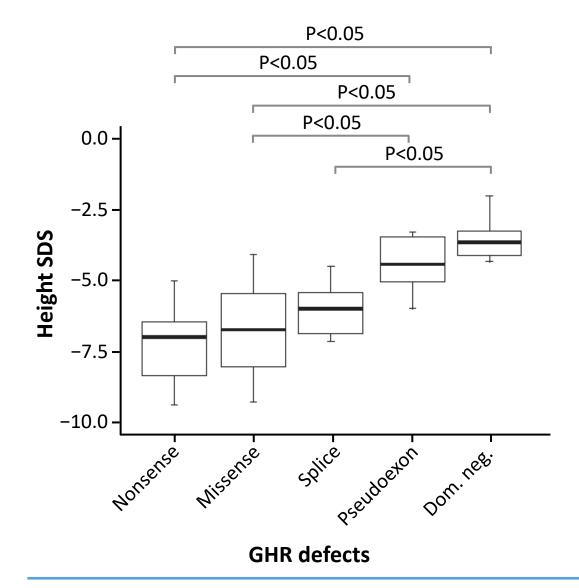


- Low IGF-1, IGFBP-3, ALS
- Minimal increase in IGF-1/IGFBP-3 upon growth hormone stimulation

ALS, acid-labile subunit; IGF-1, insulin-like growth factor 1; IGFBP-3, insulin-like growth factor-binding protein 3; SDS, standard deviation score Laron Z. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2004;89:1031-44

# PHENOTYPIC SPECTRUM OF GHR MUTATIONS





- Biallelic mutations lead to most severe phenotype
- Mutation in intron 6 leads to insertion of a pseudoexon – adds 36 amino acids to protein
  - Wide clinical spectrum
- Dominant-negative mutations
  - Milder phenotype

# MUTATIONS IN THE GH/IGF-1 AXIS CAN PRESENT WITH GROWTH HORMONE INSENSITIVITY



#### SUMMARY OF PHENOTYPIC AND BIOCHEMICAL FEATURES IN THE RANGE OF GH-IGF-1 AXIS DEFECTS

Gene defect/phenotype	GHR	STAT5b	PTPN11	IGF-1	IGFALS	IGF-1R	Bioinactive GH	<i>GH1</i> with anti- GH antibodies
Severe growth failure	+/-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+
Mild growth failure	-/+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-
Mid-face hypoplasia	+/-	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Other facial dysmorphism	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-
Deafness	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	-
Microcephaly	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-
Intellectual delay	-	-	-/+	+	-	+/-	-	-
Puberty delay	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+	-	-	-
Immune deficiency	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypoglycaemia	+	-/+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperinsulinemia	-	-	-	+/-	+	-	-	-
IGF-1 deficiency	+	+	-/+	+/-	+	-	+	+
IGFBP-3 deficiency	+	+	-/+	-	+	-	+	+
ALS deficiency	+	+	-/+	-	+	-	+	+
GH excess	+	+	-	+/-	+	-	-	-
GHBP deficiency	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Homozygous or compound heterozygous mutations	+	+	-	+	+	-	-/+	+
Heterozygous mutations	-	-	+	-/+	-	+	+/-	-

+, positive; -, negative; +/-, predominantly positive; -/+ predominantly negative

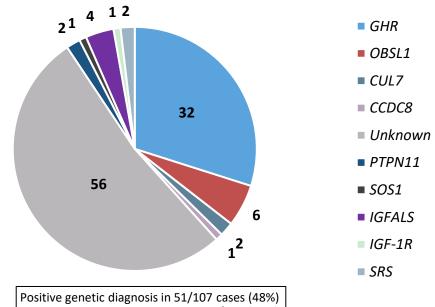
ALS, acid-labile subunit; GH(R), growth hormone (receptor); GHBP, growth hormone-binding protein; IGF-1(R), insulin-like growth factor 1 (receptor); IGFALS, insulin-like growth factor binding protein acid labile subunit; IGFBP-3, insulin-like growth factor-binding protein 3; PTPN11, protein tyrosine phosphatase non-receptor type 11; STAT5b, signal transducer and activator of transcription 5b David A, et al. Endocr Rev. 2011;32:472-97

# EXOME SEQUENCING IDENTIFIED ADDITIONAL GENES PRESENTING WITH GH OR IGF-1 INSENSITIVITY



47

- 107 patients
  - 96 GH insensitivity
  - 11 IGF-1 insensitivity
- Candidate gene sequencing followed by WES
- Identified genes with overlapping phenotype with classic GHI



Positive genetic diagnosis in 51/107 cases (48%) Candidate gene sequencing alone 38/107 (36%)

#### Comparison of mean height SDS, IGF-1 SDS and peak GH levels (means ± SD) between individuals with genetic defects and those with no molecular diagnosis

No genetic diagnosis	GHR and GHR 6ψ	3M gene mutations	Any genetic	P value (95% CI)			
(Group 1)	mutations (Group 2)	(Group 3)	diagnosis (Group 4)	Group 1 vs Group 2	Group 1 vs Group 3	Group 1 vs Group 4	
-3.7 ± 1.2 (n=50)	-5.7 ± 1.9 (n=31)	–5.7 ± 0.9 (n=9)	-5.2 ± 1.8 (n=51)	<0.0001 (1.3-2.6)	<0.0001 (1.2-2.8)	<0.0001 (0.89-2.1)	
-2.1 ± 1.5 (n=48)	-3.7 ± 1.9 (n=26)	-1.6 ± 1.0 (n=8)	-3.0 ± 2.0 (n=42)	<0.0001 (0.87-2.45)	0.3682 (-1.6-0.6)	<b>0.0128</b> (0.2-1.63)	
21.6 ± 17.1 (n=51)	93.7 ± 212.3 (n=31)	21.4 ± 13.4 (n=9)	68.1 ± 173.3 (n=48)	<b>0.0177</b> (12.9-131.3)	0.9676(-12.3-11.8)	0.0594 (-1.88-94.9)	
	(Group 1) -3.7 ± 1.2 (n=50) -2.1 ± 1.5 (n=48)	(Group 1)mutations (Group 2)-3.7 ± 1.2 (n=50)-5.7 ± 1.9 (n=31)-2.1 ± 1.5 (n=48)-3.7 ± 1.9 (n=26)	(Group 1)mutations (Group 2)(Group 3)-3.7 ± 1.2 (n=50)-5.7 ± 1.9 (n=31)-5.7 ± 0.9 (n=9)-2.1 ± 1.5 (n=48)-3.7 ± 1.9 (n=26)-1.6 ± 1.0 (n=8)	(Group 1)mutations (Group 2)(Group 3)diagnosis (Group 4)-3.7 ± 1.2 (n=50)-5.7 ± 1.9 (n=31)-5.7 ± 0.9 (n=9)-5.2 ± 1.8 (n=51)-2.1 ± 1.5 (n=48)-3.7 ± 1.9 (n=26)-1.6 ± 1.0 (n=8)-3.0 ± 2.0 (n=42)	(Group 1)mutations (Group 2)(Group 3)diagnosis (Group 4)Group 1 vs Group 2-3.7 ± 1.2 (n=50)-5.7 ± 1.9 (n=31)-5.7 ± 0.9 (n=9)-5.2 ± 1.8 (n=51)<0.0001 (1.3-2.6)	(Group 1)         mutations (Group 2)         (Group 3)         diagnosis (Group 4)         Group 1 vs Group 2         Group 1 vs Group 3           -3.7 ± 1.2 (n=50)         -5.7 ± 1.9 (n=31)         -5.7 ± 0.9 (n=9)         -5.2 ± 1.8 (n=51)         <0.0001 (1.3-2.6)	

3M gene mutations, mutations identified in CUL7, CCDC8 and OBSL1

CCDC8, coiled-coil domain-containing 8; CI, confidence interval; CUL7, cullin 7; GH(R), growth hormone (receptor); IGF-1, insulin-like growth factor 1; IGF1R, insulin-like growth factor 1; IGF1R,

# TREATMENT WITH RECOMBINANT IGF-1 CAN IMPROVE HEIGHT IN PATIENTS WITH IGF-1 DEFICIENCY



#### **BASELINE AND MOST RECENT CHARACTERISTICS FOR ALL SUBJECTS**

	GHRD	GHIS	GHAB	Total
N (males/females)	28 (18/10)	39 (24/15)	9 (4/5)	76 (46/30)
IGF-1 SDS baseline	–4.5 ± 1.8 (–7.5, –0.7) 27	-4.3 ± 1.8 (-9.5, -1.5) 35	−4.0 ± 1.6 (−6.6, −2.0) 7	–4.4 ± 1.8 (–9.5, –0.7) 69
Height velocity baseline (cm/yr)	2.9 ± 1.6 (0.5, 5.6) 21	2.8 ± 2.0 (0, 7.7) 33	2.1 ± 1.1 (0.2, 3.6) 8	2.7 ± 1.8 (0, 7.7) 62
Duration of treatment (yr)	5.0 ± 3.6 (0.1, 12.1)	3.7 ± 2.5 (0.04, 12.5)	5.5 ± 3.0 (0.5, 9.5)	4.4 ± 3.0 (0.04, 12.5)
Age baseline (yr)	8.2 ± 4.9 (1.7, 17.1)	7.2 ± 4.1 (1.7, 17.5)	9.5 ± 4.5 (2.6, 16.6)	7.8 ± 4.5 (1.7, 17.5)
Age last	13.1 ± 3.8 (6.9, 21.4)	10.9 ± 4.3 (3.2, 20.2)	15.0 ± 3.2 (10.7, 20.6)	12.2 ± 4.2 (3.2, 21.4)
Height SDS baseline	-6.1 ± 1.6 (-8.4, -3.2)	-6.3 ± 1.7 (-9.3, -2.8)	-8.2 ± 2.4 (-12.1, -5.0)	-6.5 ± 1.8 (-12.1, -2.8)
Height SDS last	-5.2 ± 1.6 (-9.0, -1.5)	-4.9 ± 1.8 (-8.8, -1.4)	-6.0 ± 1.8 (-8.6, -2.7)	-5.1 ± 1.8 (-9.0, -1.4)
Weight SDS baseline	-5.7 ± 3.3 (-12.5, -0.2)	-6.4 ± 2.7 (-11.4, -1.7)	-10.3 ± 7.8 (-27.2, -1.1)	-6.6 ± 4.0 (-27.2, -0.2)
Weight SDS last	-3.5 ± 2.8 (-10.3, 1.1)	-3.5 ± 2.8 (-9.9, 0.6)	-5.1 ± 4.3 (-12.6, 0.9)	-3.7 ± 3.0 (-12.6, 1.1)
BMI SDS baseline	0.0 ± 1.4 (-3.1, 2.2) 27	-0.3 ± 1.0 (-2.8, 1.8) 38	-0.4 ± 1.2 (-1.7, 1.6) 9	-0.2 ± 1.2 (-3.1, 2.2) 74
BMI SDS last	0.4 ± 1.2 (-2.1, 2.4)	0.3 ± 1.2 (-2.6, 1.9)	0.2 ± 1.4 (-2.2, 2.2)	0.3 ± 1.2 (-2.6, 2.4)
Bone age baseline (yr)	5.8 ± 4.5 (0.3, 14.3) 28	4.4 ± 2.3 (0.6, 8.3) 30	5.8 ± 4.2 (1.5, 13.7) 7	5.1 ± 3.8 (0.1, 14.3) 65
Bone age last	11.4 ± 4.2 (4.1, 18) 28	8.4 ± 3.5 (2.5, 15.6) 28	13.4 ± 1.5 (10.6, 15.4) 7	10.3 ± 4.1 (2.5, 18) 63

All data are expressed as mean ± SD, with range in parentheses, with or without frequency. The number of determinations is displayed when the number of subjects examined is less than 76 or the variable is not defined for subjects of certain age (e.g. BMI SDS)

BMI, body mass index; GHAB, growth hormone-neutralising antibodies; GHIS, growth hormone insensitivity syndrome; GHRD, growth hormone receptor deficiency; IGF-1, insulin-like growth factor 1; SD, standard deviation; SDS, standard deviation score Chernausek SD, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2007;92:902-10



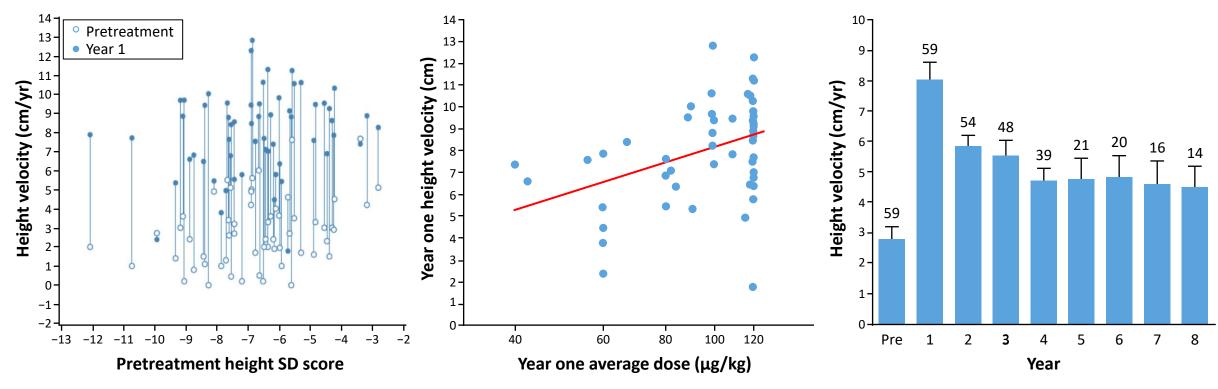
#### SUBJECTS AT OR NEAR FINAL HEIGHT

	Male 1	Male 2	Female 1	Female 2	Female 3	Female 4
Baseline age (yr)	9.7	13.0	5.0	15.2	8.2	8.2
Treatment duration (yr)	7.7	8.4	9.9	5.4	6.6	6.6
Initial height (cm)	111.2	99.4	92.7	86.1	85.1	92.7
Initial height SD score	-4.2	-7.5	-3.4	-12.1	-9.1	-7.2
Final height (cm)	164.4	142.0	150.2	112.0	121.2	120.8
Final height SD score	-1.5	-4.8	-1.8	-7.8	-6.3	-6.4
Change (cm)	53.1	42.6	57.5	25.9	36.1	28.1
PAH (cm)	141	123	133	89	110	118
GnRH agonist treatment	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Diagnostic category	GHRD	GHRD	GHIS	GHAB	GHAB	GHAB

GHAB, growth hormone-neutralising antibodies; GHIS, growth hormone insensitivity syndrome; GHRD, growth hormone receptor deficiency; GnRH, gonadotropin-releasing hormone; PAH, predicted adult height; SD, standard deviation Chernausek SD, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2007;92:902-10

# RECOMBINANT IGF-1 EFFECT IS DOSE DEPENDENT AND HIGHEST IN 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR



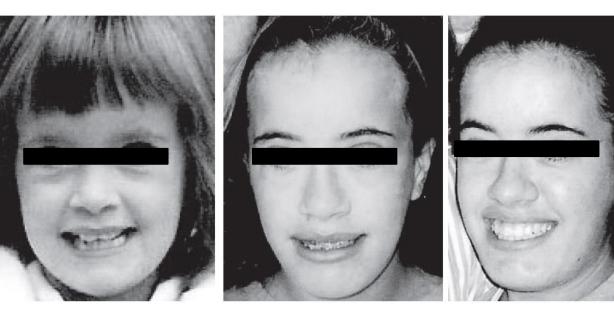


Number of subjects at each year is indicated

## **ADVERSE EVENT PROFILE**



Adverse event	No. of subjects (%)
Related to IGF-1 metabolic effects	
Hypoglycaemia	37 (49)
Hypoglycaemic seizure	4 (5)
Related to lymphoid tissue growth	
Hypoacusis	17 (22)
Snoring	17 (22)
Tonsillar/adenoidal hypertrophy	17 (22)
Tympanostomy tube placement	12 (16)
Sleep apnoea	3 (4)
Tonsillectomy/adenoidectomy	8 (11)
Thymic hypertrophy	8 (35)
Other	
Injection site lipohypertrophy	24 (32)
Orthorpedic event (arthralgia, myalgia, and/or skeletal pain)	15 (20)
Intracranial hypertension	3 (4)
Nephrolithiasis	2 (3)



Age 4 yr, before IGF-1

Age 10 yr, 6 yr Rx

Age 15 yr, 1 yr after Rx

IGF-1, insulin-like growth factor 1; Rx, prescription Chernausek SD, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2007;92:902-10



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#### BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL ENROLLED PATIENTS AND SUBGROUPS OF THE REGISTRY POPULATION: TREATMENT-NAÏVE/PREPUBERTAL PATIENTS AND PREVIOUSLY TREATED/PUBERTAL PATIENTS

Characteristic	All enrolled patients (N=195)		Treatment-naïve/prepubertal patients (N=110)			Previously treated/pubertal patients (N=82)			
	N	Mean ± SD [95% Cl]	Median (25 <sup>th</sup> , 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	N	Mean ± SD [95% CI]	Median (25 <sup>th</sup> , 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	N	Mean ± SD [95% Cl]	Median (25 <sup>th</sup> , 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile)
Female, n	195	67 (34.4%) [28.1; 41.3]	N/A	110	44 (40.0%) [31.3; 49.3]		82	23 (28.0%) [19.5; 38.6]	N/A
Age at first injection, years	195	10.1 ± 4.0 [9.5; 10.7]	10.6 (6.8, 13.2)	110	8.5 ± 3.5 [7.8; 9.2]	8.3 (5.8, 11.2)	82	12.0 ± 3.6 [11.2; 12.8]	12.4 (10.2, 14.5)
Height, cm	183	116.5 ± 20.0 [113.6; 119.4]	118.5 (100.6, 133.5)	105	110.2 ± 19.3 [106.5; 113.9]	110.1 (96.0, 125.5)	75	124.2 ± 17.8 [120.1; 128.2]	126.6 (112.0, 137.1)
Height SDS	183	-3.5 ± 1.3 [-3.7; -3.3]	-3.2 (-4.4, -2.6)	105	-3.4 ± 1.3 [-3.6; -3.1]	-3.0 (-3.9, -2.5)	75	-3.8 ± 1.3 [-4.1; -3.4]	-3.3 (-4.6, -2.7)
GH test: stimulated, ng/mL	133	27.8 ± 38.7 [21.1; 34.4]	16.8 (11.3, 29.0)	78	24.4 ± 25.0 [18.7; 30.0]	15.6 (11.0, 26.1)	52	32.9 ± 53.6 [18.0; 47.8]	18.1 (11.4, 39.0)
Height velocity, cm/year	109	4.8 ± 1.7 [4.5; 5.1]	4.7 (3.9, 5.6)	57	5.0 ± 1.9 [4.5; 5.5]	5.1 (4.0, 6.2)	51	4.6 ± 1.5 [4.2; 5.0]	4.4 (3.8, 5.4)
Primary diagnosis: SPIGFD, n	195	165 (84.6%) [78.9; 89.0]	N/A	110	99 (90.0%) [83.0; 94.3]	N/A	82	63 (76.8%) [66.6; 84.6]	N/A
Prior growth-promoting therapy, n	195	65 (33.3%)ª [27.1; 40.2]	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A

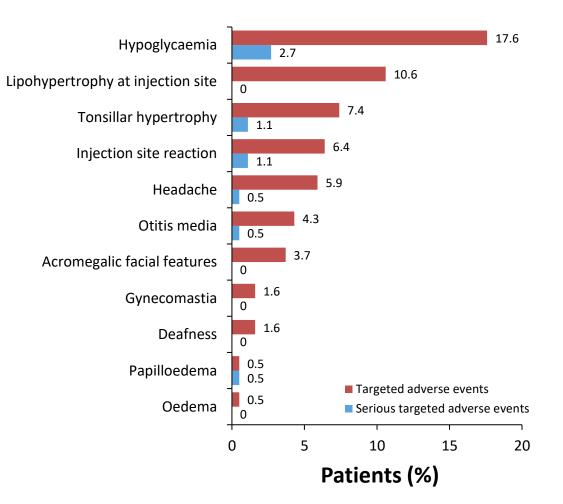
<sup>a</sup> rhGH in 52 (80.0%) and rhIGF-1 in 21 (32.3%)

CI, confidence interval; GH, growth hormone; rhGH, recombinant human GH; rhIGF-1, recombinant human insulin-like growth factor 1; SD, standard deviation; SDS, standard deviation score; SPIGFD, severe insulin-like growth factor 1 deficiency Table adapted from Bang P, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2015;83:345-57

# EU INCRELEX GROWTH FORUM DATABASE TAKE-HOME POINTS

PE connect POWERED BY COR2ED

- Mean 1<sup>st</sup> year height velocity 6.9 cm/yr
  - Prepubertal naïve patients 7.3 cm/yr<sup>1</sup>
- Predictors of increased height SDS were<sup>1</sup>:
  - Younger age at rhIGF-1 initiation
  - Female sex
  - Lower baseline height SDS
- Not all patients actually met the SPIGFD<sup>1</sup> diagnostic criteria
- No new safety signals<sup>1</sup>
- Height SDS improvement in 1<sup>st</sup> year was better in patients with Laron Syndrome<sup>2</sup>



rhIGF-1, recombinant human insulin-like growth factor 1; SDS, standard deviation score; SPIGFD, severe insulin-like growth factor 1 deficiency 1. Bang P, et al. Horm Res Paediatr. 2015;83:345-57; 2. Bang P, et al. Eur J Endocrinol. 2021;184:267-276

## **SAFETY WARNING**



#### **MALIGNANT NEOPLASIA:**

- There have been postmarketing reports of malignant neoplasia in pediatric patients who received treatment with INCRELEX
- The tumours were observed more frequently in patients who received INCRELEX at higher than recommended doses or at doses that produced serum IGF-1 levels above the normal reference ranges for age and sex
- Monitor all patients receiving INCRELEX carefully for development of neoplasms. If malignant neoplasia develops, discontinue INCRELEX treatment

## **CONCLUSIONS**



- Severe primary IGF-1 deficiency is most commonly associated with mutations in the growth hormone receptor
- There is a spectrum of genetic variants that can present with IGF-1 deficiency
- Recombinant IGF-1 therapy can be effective when treating patients with SPIGFD but the results are not as robust as seen with growth hormone in patients with severe growth hormone deficiency
- Monitoring for hypoglycaemia and symptoms associated with tonsillar hypertrophy is important when initiating therapy with recombinant IGF-1
- Therapy is most efficacious when prescribed in patients who meet the approved indication

# THERAPIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF SHORT STATURE IN PUBERTY: USE OF AROMATASE INHIBITORS

# **Nelly Mauras, MD**

Chief, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Nemours Children's Health System, Jacksonville, Florida & Professor Of Pediatrics, Mayo College of Medicine

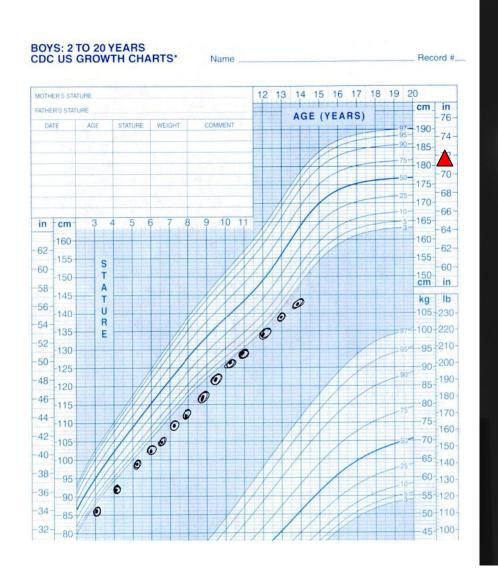


# DISCLOSURE STATEMENT NELLY MAURAS, MD



Research Support Novo Nordisk OPKO Abbvie





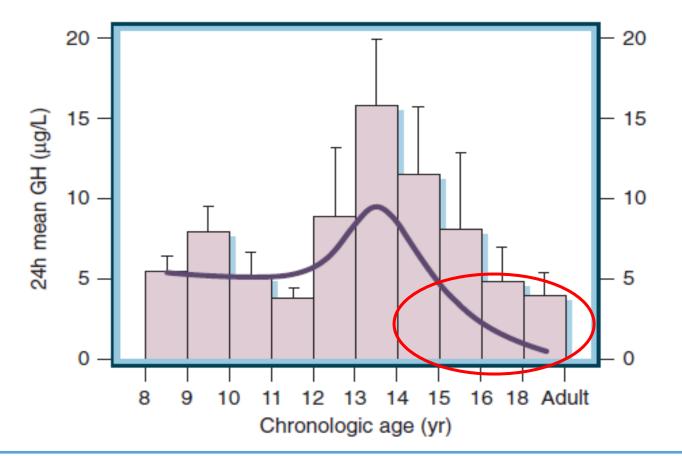




### BACKGROUND



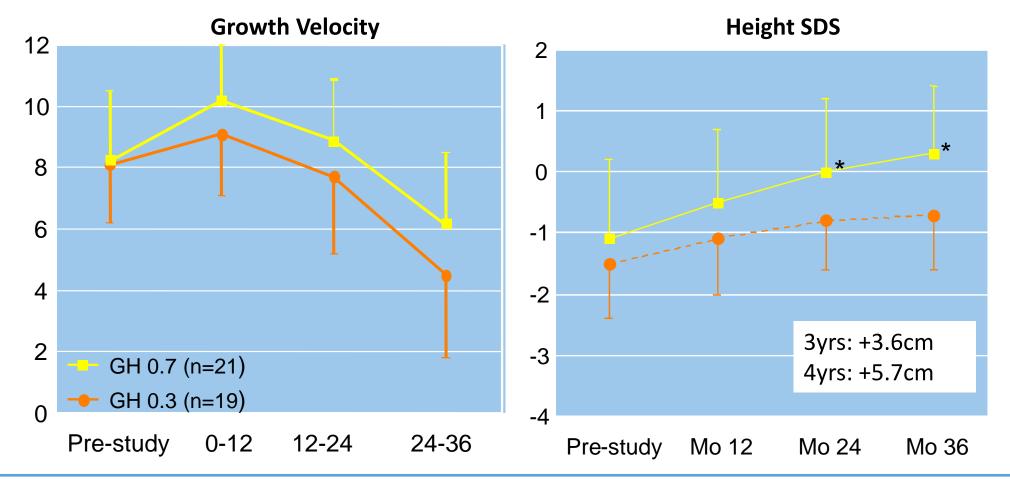
# Starting treatment in children with significant short stature during puberty is limited by the tempo of epiphyseal fusion as impacted by sex steroids.



#### High Dose Recombinant Human Growth Hormone (GH) Treatment of GH-Deficient Patients in Puberty Increases Near-Final Height: A Randomized, Multicenter Trial\*







# COMBINATION TREATMENT WITH GH AND GNRHA MAY RESULT PE IN 5-10CM OF HEIGHT GAIN

Near Final Height in Pubertal Growth Hormone (GH)-Deficient Patients Treated with GH Alone or in Combination with Luteinizing Hormone-Releasing Hormone Analog: Results of a Prospective, Randomized Trial\* Mericq V, JCEM 2000

Adult Height in Short Children Born SGA Treated with Growth Hormone and Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone Analog: Results of a Randomized, Dose-Response GH Trial Lem AJ, JCEM 2012

Effectiveness of the Combined Recombinant Human Growth Hormone and Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Analog Therapy in Pubertal Patients with Short Stature due to *SHOX* Deficiency <sub>Scalco RC, JCEM 2010</sub>

Effects of Combined Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Agonist and Growth Hormone Therapy on Adult Height in Precocious Puberty: A Further Contribution\* *Pucarelli I, JPEM 2003*  SHOX

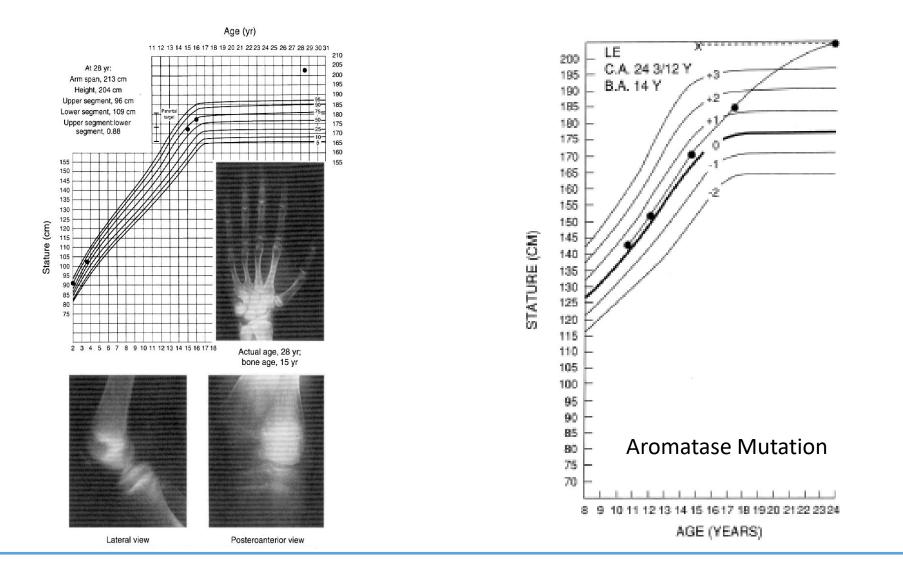
GHD

SGA

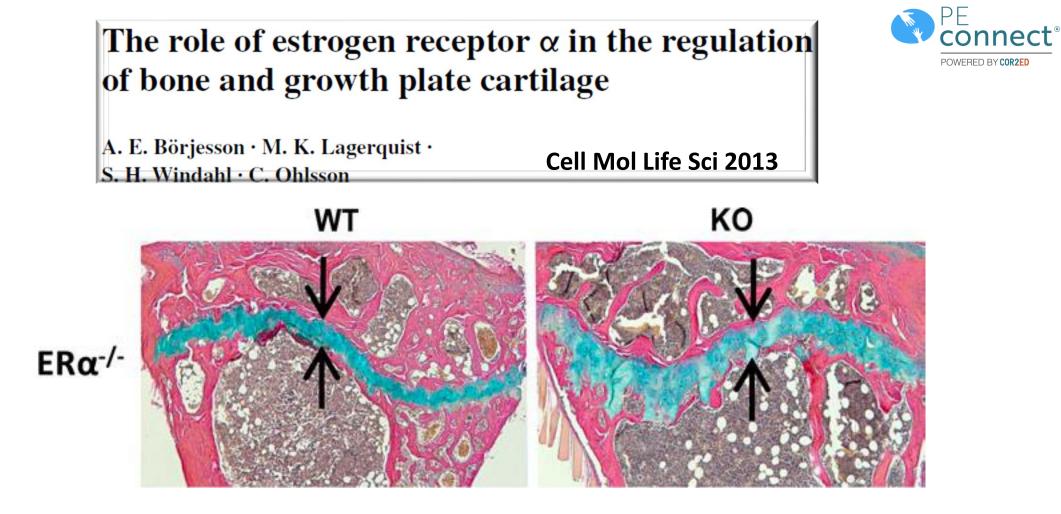
CPP

### **ESTROGEN RECEPTOR AND AROMATASE MUTATIONS IN MEN**





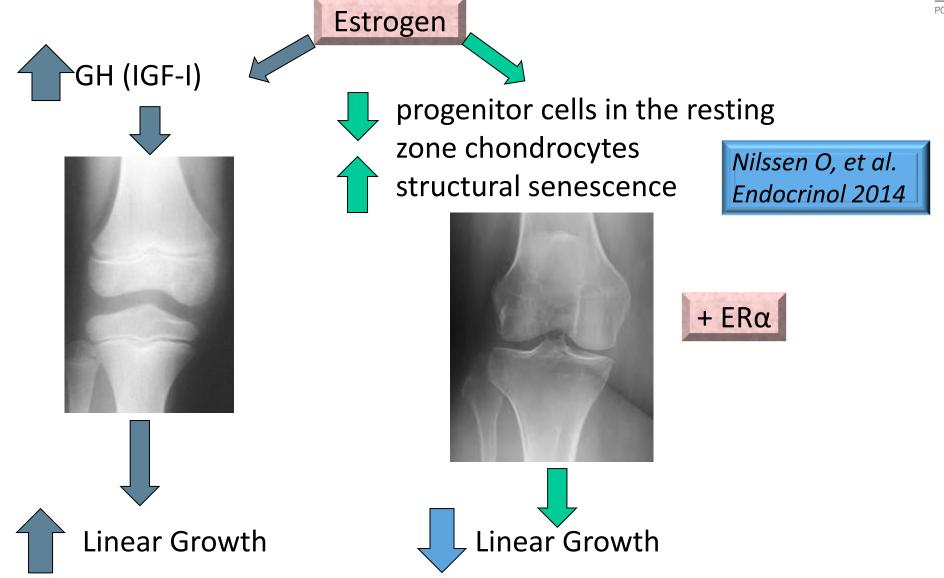
Smith, et al, NEJM, 331;1994 Morishima, et al, JCEM 80; 1995



ERα is the main mediator of estrogenic effects on growth plate reduction in mice and growth plate closure in man

# SEX STEROIDS DUAL EFFECTS ON GROWTH









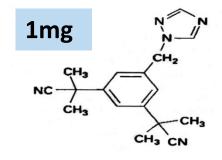
 Product of the CYP19 gene which catalyzes the conversion of C19 androgenic steroids to estrogens

 Expressed in a number of tissues including: ovary, adipose, liver, muscle, bone, syncytiotrophoblast, and breast tumors

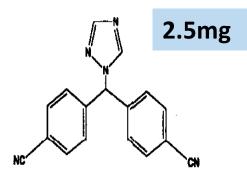
### **AROMATASE INHIBITORS**



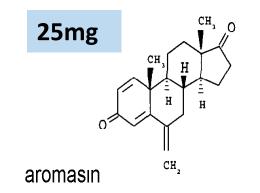
#### Anastrozole



Letrozole



**Exemestane** 



PK, PD similar to women

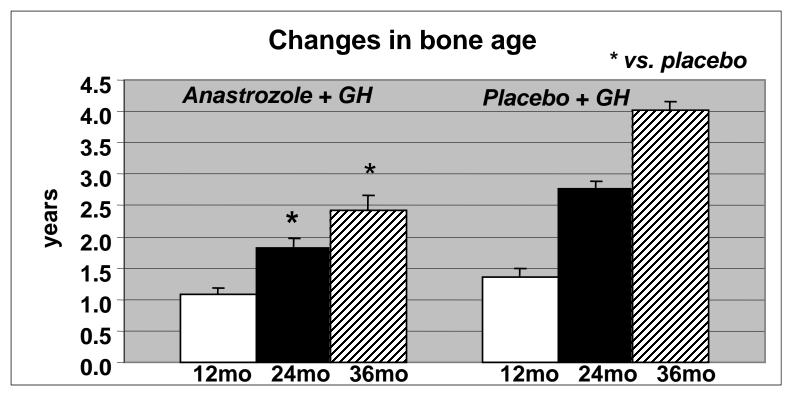
Mauras, et al JCEM 94; 2009 Mauras, et al JCEM 88; 2003

Anastrozole Increases Predicted Adult Height of Short Adolescent Males Treated with Growth Hormone: A						
Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Trial for						
One to Three Years						
	n, Helen Y. Hsiang, Paul Desrosiers, Robert Rapaport					

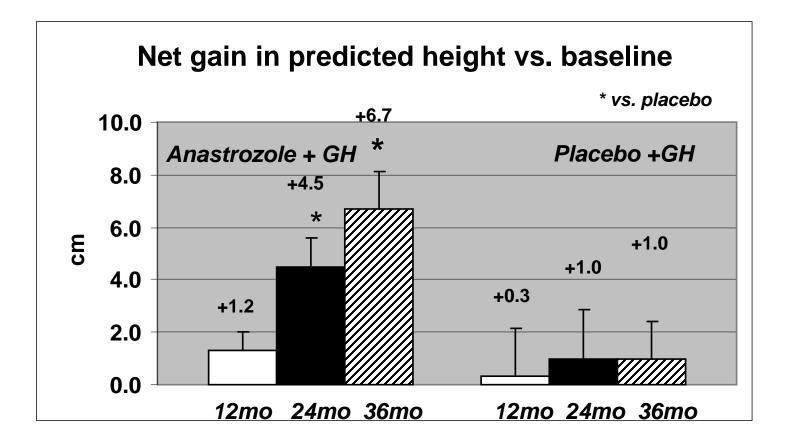


I. David Schwartz, Karen Oerter Klein, Ravinder J. Singh, Anna Miyamoto, and Kim Bishop

- N=52 boys with GHD
- Age: 14.0 ± 0.2 yrs, all pubertal
- Rx 1.0mg/d of Anastrozole or PL x 3yrs or cessation of growth









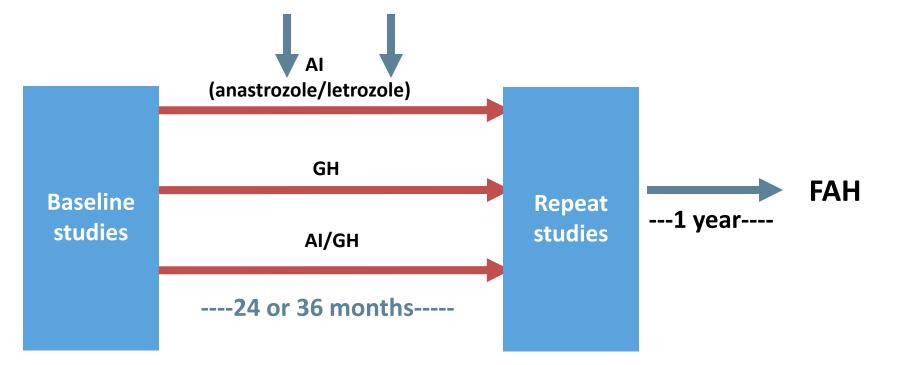


# Randomized Trial of Aromatase Inhibitors, Growth Hormone, or Combination in Pubertal Boys with Idiopathic, Short Stature

Nelly Mauras, Judith L. Ross, Priscila Gagliardi, Y. Miles Yu, Jobayer Hossain, Joseph Permuy, Ligeia Damaso, Debbie Merinbaum, Ravinder J. Singh, Ximena Gaete, and Veronica Mericq Dec 2016

## **PROTOCOL STUDY FLOW**





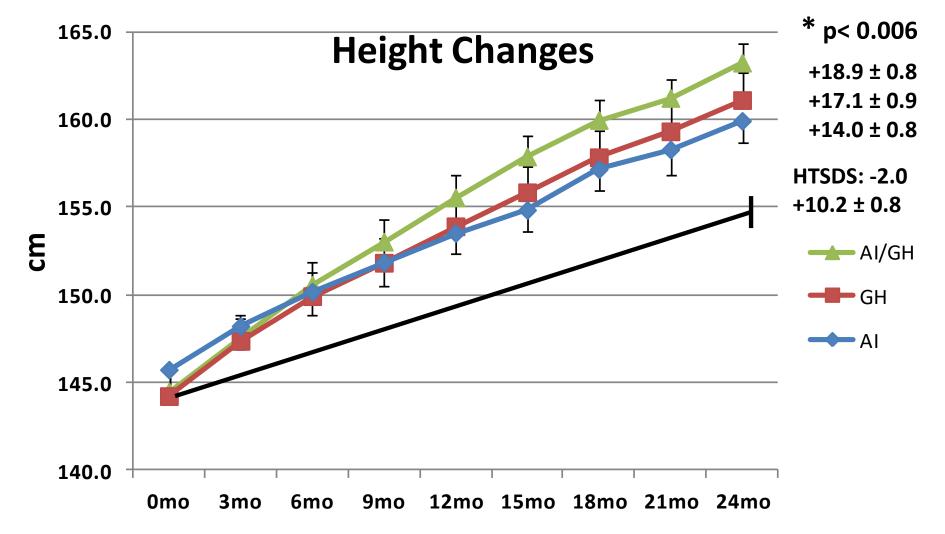
\*Anthropometry, BA, DEXA, Lateral spine, Hormones, Safety Labs, QoL

## **CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY SUBJECTS**



	Total	AI	GH	AI/GH
Ν	76	25	25	26
Age (yrs)	14.1 ± 0.1	14.2 ± 0.2	14.1 ± 0.2	14.0 ± 0.2
HT SDS	-2.3 ±0.0	-2.2 ± 0.1	-2.4 ± 0.1	-2.3 ±0.1
BA (yrs)	12.8 ±0.2	12.7 ± 0.3	12.9 ± 0.3	12.7 ± 0.2
Testosterone (ng/dl) (nmol/L)	223 ± 22 (7.74 ± 0.76)	205 ± 37 (7.11 ± 1.28)	244 ± 39 (8.47 ± 1.35)	222 ± 37 (7.70 ± 1.28)



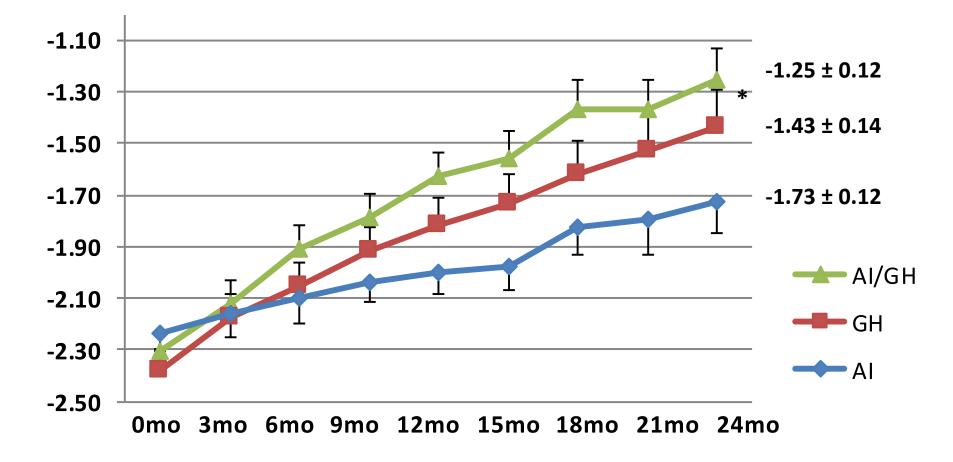


Mauras, et al. JCEM 2016



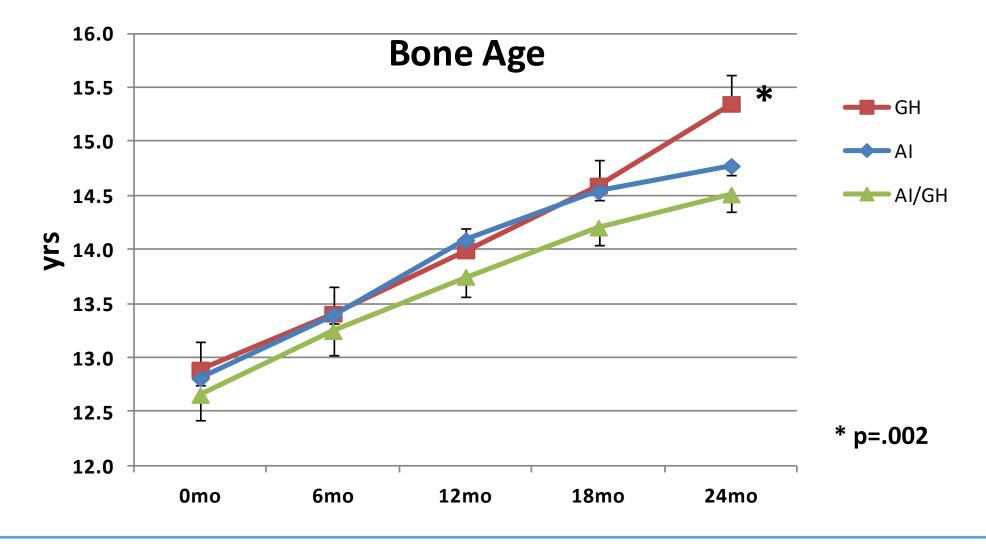
Height SDS

\* p= .0012



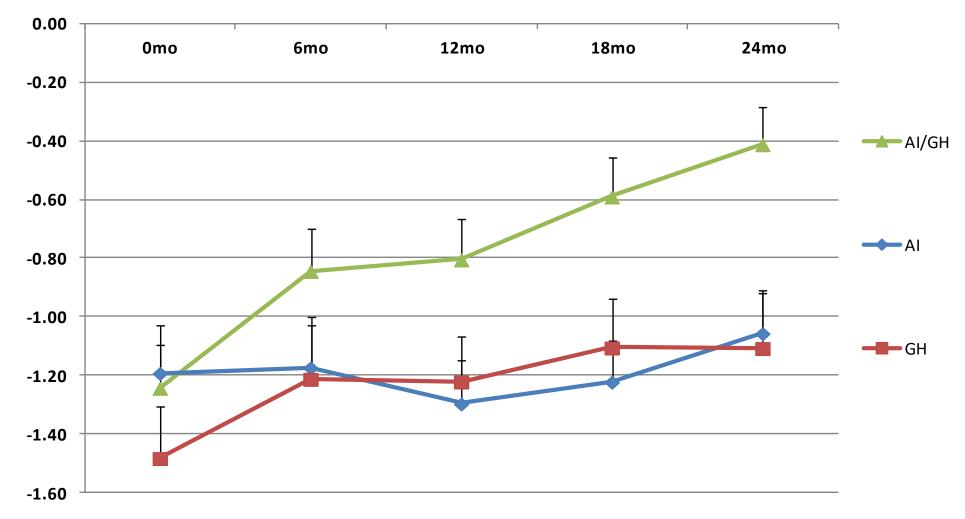
## **BONE AGE**





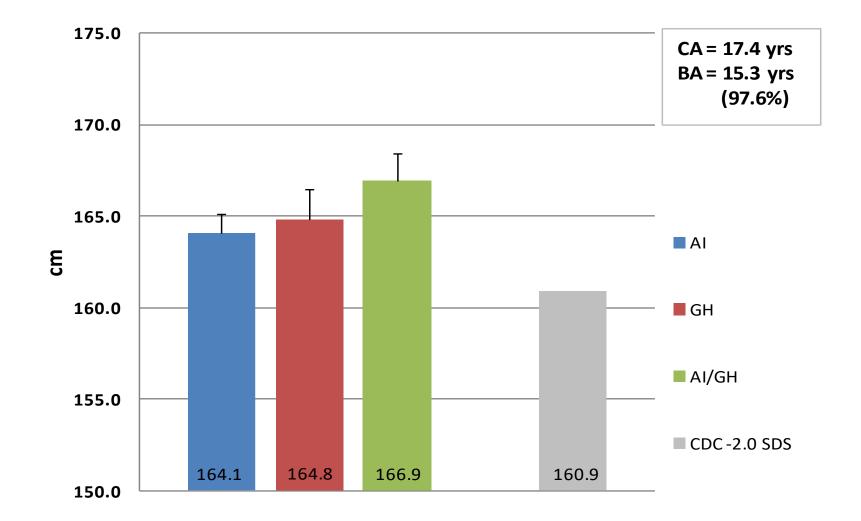
## **HTSDS FOR BONE AGE**





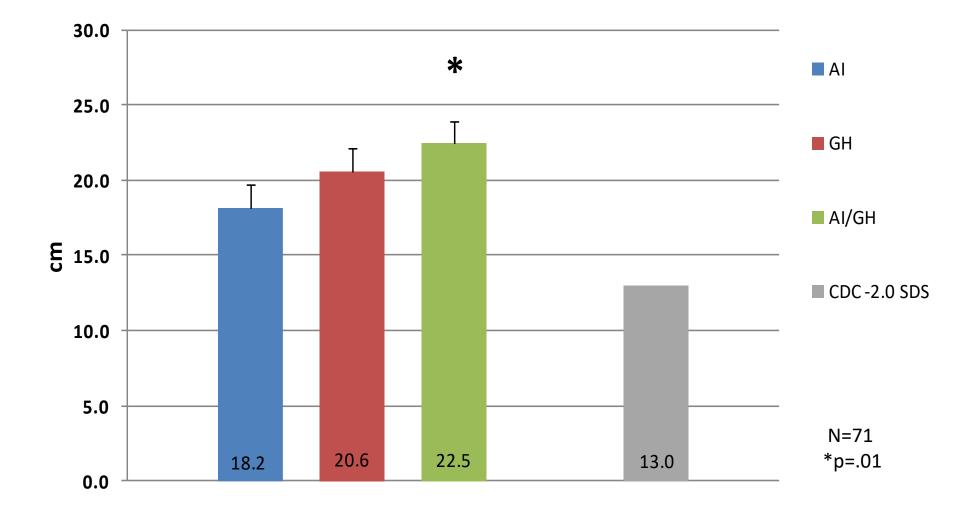
## **NEAR FINAL HEIGHT**





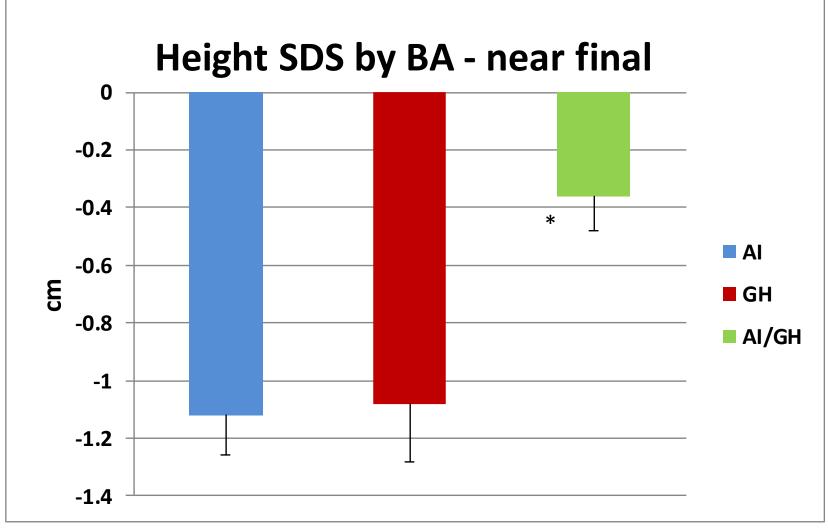
## **NET GAIN IN HEIGHT**





## **HEIGHT SDS BY BA – NEAR FINAL**

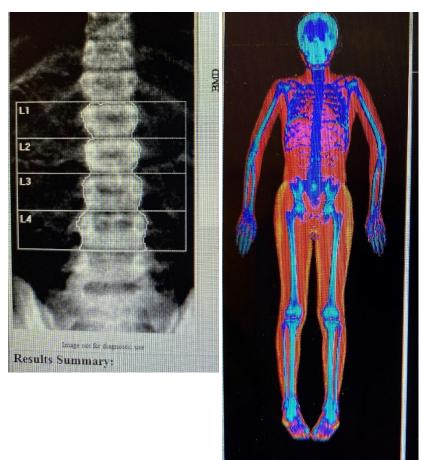




## **BONE ASSESSMENTS**



#### DEXA



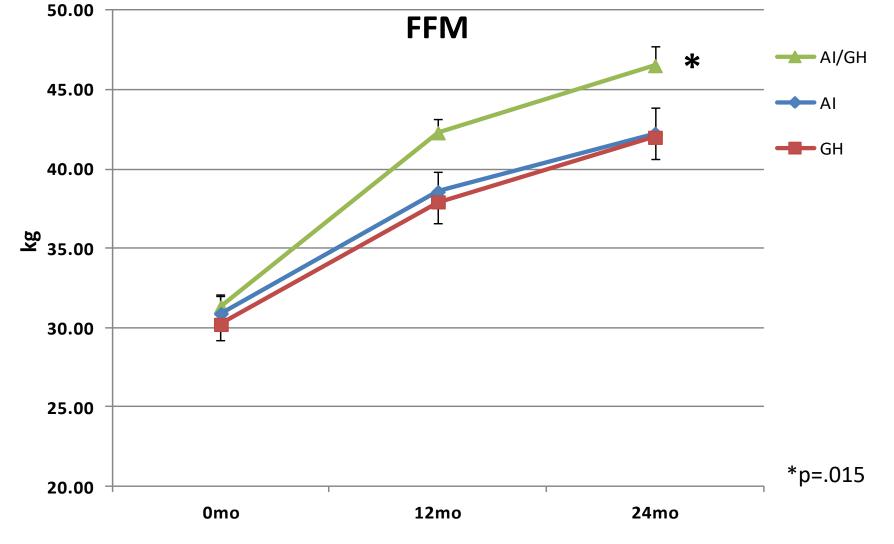
#### **Vertebral Changes**

- Space narrowing
- Compression
- Irregularity
- Wedging

**Bone Pain Questionnaires** 

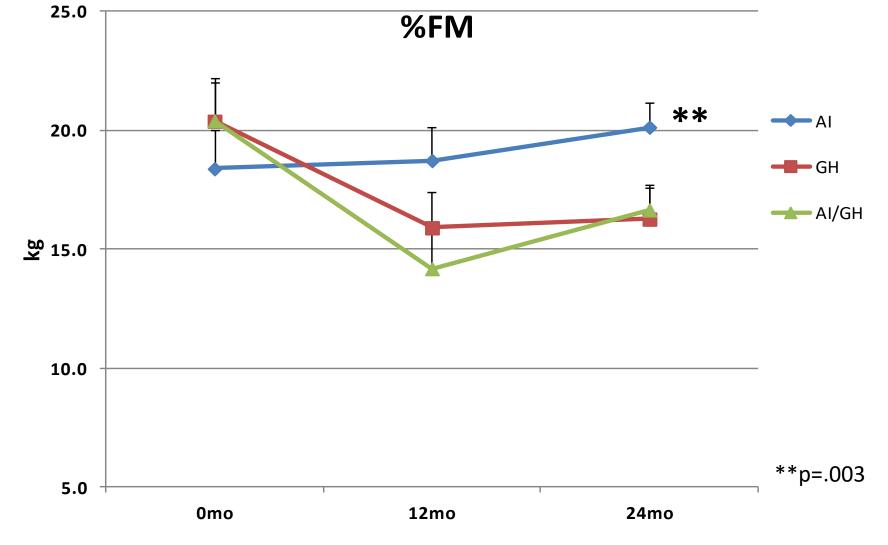
FFM





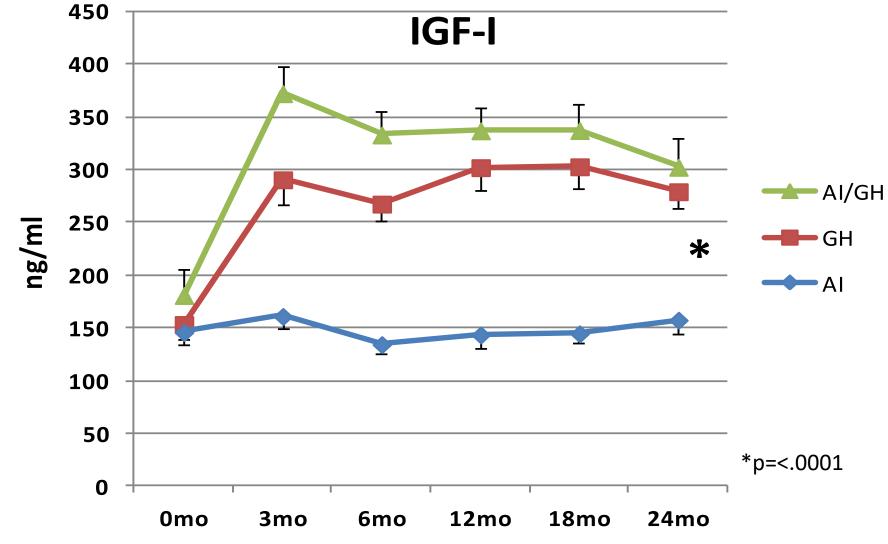
%FM





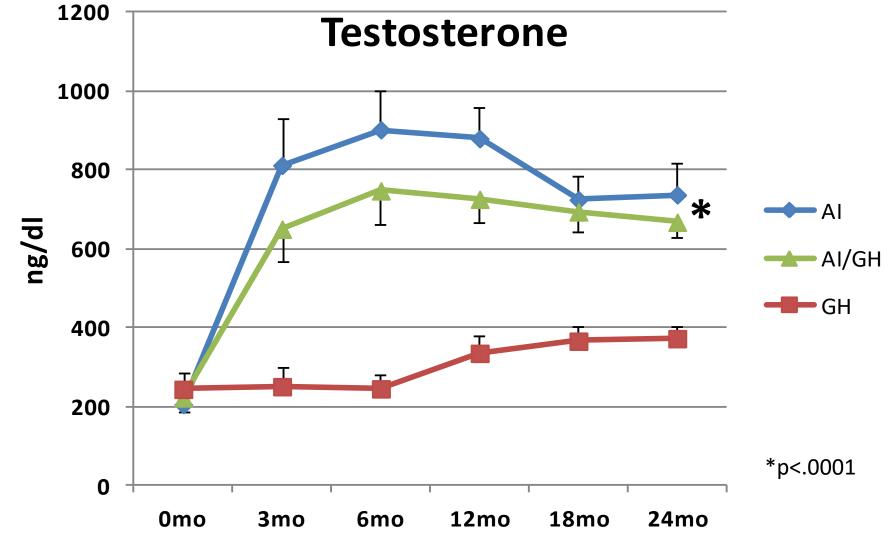
IGF-I





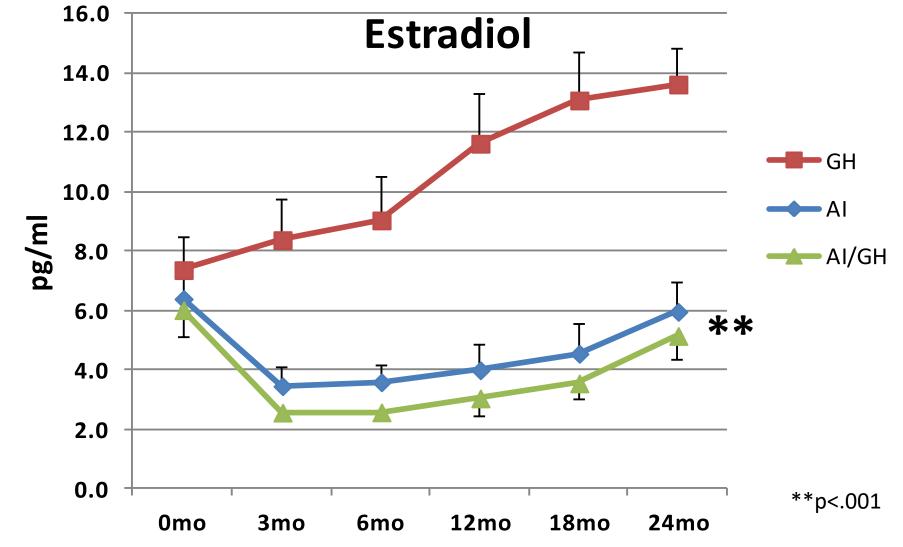
## **TESTOSTERONE**





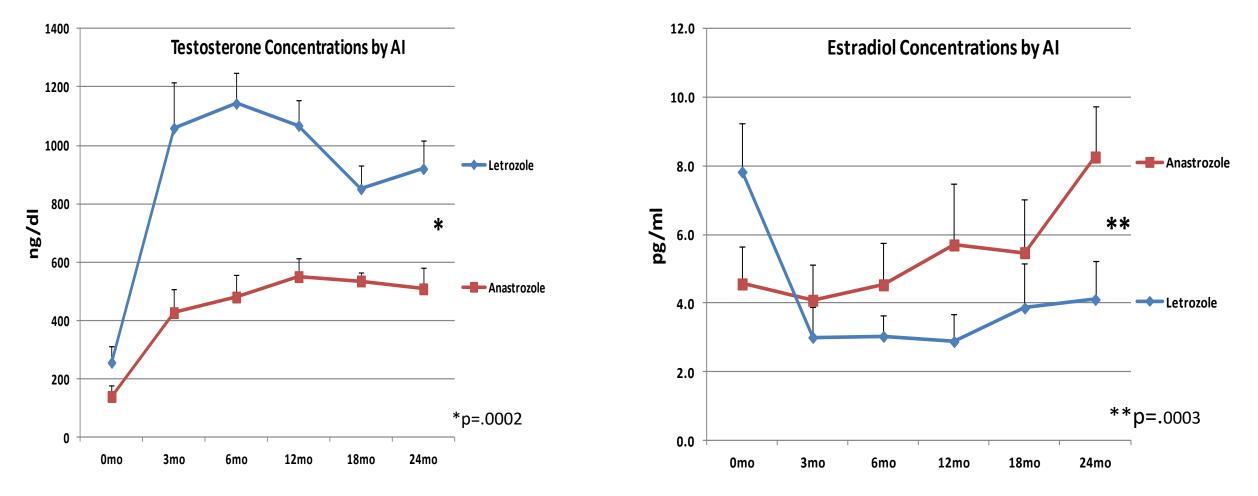
## **ESTRADIOL**





## **TESTOSTERONE CONCENTRATIONS BY AI**





## **SUMMARY OF ADVERSE EVENTS**



Summary of Adverse Events				
	ALL	AI	GH	AI/GH
All events	382	118	114	150
Head & Neck	36	10	11	15
Respiratory	56	19	24	13
Skin	50	20	9	21
Lab	90	28	28	34
Neurological	28	9	7	12
Gastrointestinal	21		8	9
Musculoskeletal	79	22	18	39
Genitourinary	15	3	7	5
Cardiovascular	5	3	1	1
Psychological	2	0	1	1

8 SAE: 3 AI, 2 GH, 3 GH/AI, 1 possibly related (SCFE)

# SUMMARY – IN GROWTH-RETARDED ADOLESCENTS WITH ISS



- All 3 treatment modalities increased height at 24 months AI/GH> GH >AI
  - +8.7cm
  - +6.9 cm
  - +3.8 cm above CDC reference data
- Near final height gain (CA 17.3 yr, BA 15.3 yr) AI/GH> GH >AI
  - +9.4 cm
  - +7.0 cm
  - +4.3 cm above CDC reference data
  - Many of these subjects had residual height potential
- The combination of GH and AI was more anabolic enhancing FFM accrual than each compound alone
- Safety profile for all programs was very good

## **Original Paper**

## HORMONE RESEARCH IN PÆDIATRICS

Horm Res Paediatr DOI: 10.1159/000496353 February 28, 2019



# Quality of Life in Adolescent Boys with Idiopathic Short Stature: Positive Impact of Growth Hormone and Aromatase Inhibitors

Monika Bullinger<sup>a</sup> Janika Bloemeke<sup>a</sup> Veronica Mericq<sup>b</sup> Rachel Sommer<sup>a</sup> Xiemena Gaete<sup>b</sup> Judith L. Ross<sup>c</sup> Y. Miles Yu<sup>d</sup> Joseph Permuy<sup>e</sup> Priscila Gagliardi<sup>e</sup> Y. Ligeia Damaso<sup>e</sup> Nelly Mauras<sup>e</sup>

QoL scores higher (better) than baseline

- GH and GH/AI groups participants' report
- AI, GH, GH/AI groups parental report

# A randomized pilot trial of growth hormone with anastrozole versus growth hormone alone, starting at the very end of puberty in adolescents with idiopathic short stature

Anya Rothenbuhler, Agnès Linglart and Pierre Bougnères\*

N=24 randomized to GH/AI vs. GH

N=17 historical controls

Age: 15.2 ± 1.2 yrs

Bone Age: 14.5 ± 0.7 yrs

HT SDS: -1.7 ± 0.7 (PAH <-2.5)

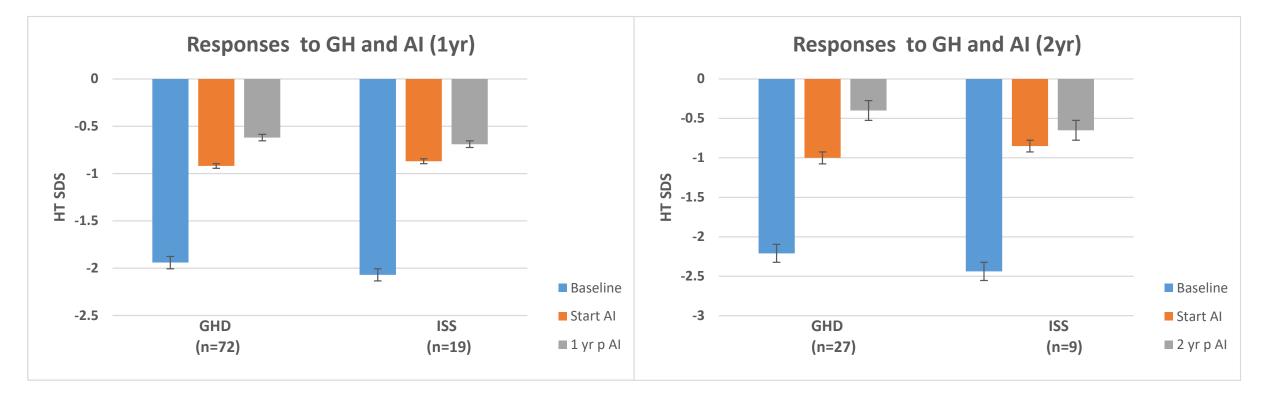
Results: 168.5 ± 2.6 cm – GH/AI (19mo) 164.2 ± 5.6 cm – GH (11.5mo) 160.1 ± 2.8 cm – historical controls



Int J Pediatr Endo 2015

## HEIGHT OUTCOMES IN CHILDREN WITH GHD, ISS TREATED WITH GH AND AI: ANSWER PROGRAM

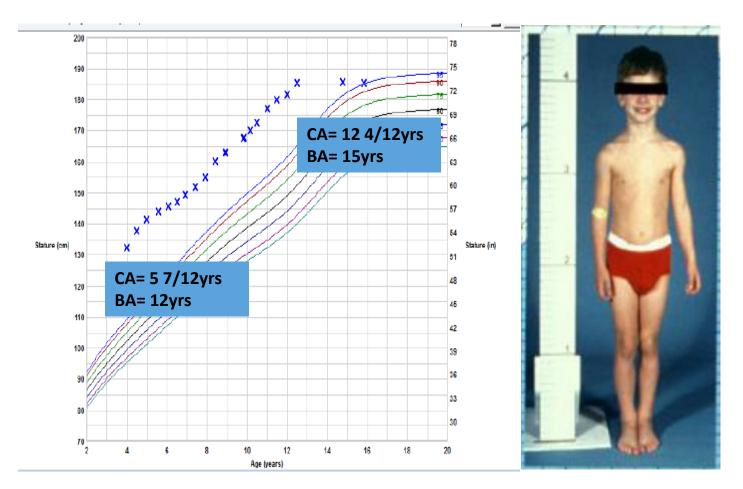




GH start AI start GHD – 12.1 yrs 14.7 yrs ISS – 10.8 yrs 13.8 yrs

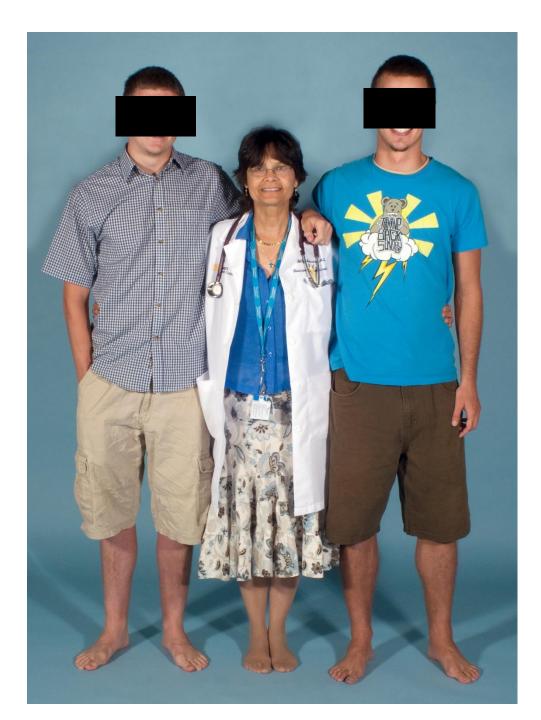






Initial Testosterone: 185ng/dl (16.8nmol/L)







#### Adult HT MPH 1) 186.5cm (73.4") 2) 183.6cm (72.3") 3) 168cm (65.3") 167.6cm (66")

Dad's HT 179cm (70.5") 188cm (74") 165cm (65")

Photo shown with permission



ORIGINAL

**ARTICLES** 



## Effect of Antiandrogen, Aromatase Inhibitor, and Gonadotropin-releasing Hormone Analog on Adult Height in Familial Male Precocious Puberty

Ellen Werber Leschek, MD<sup>1</sup>, Armando C. Flor, MD<sup>2</sup>, Joy C. Bryant, RN<sup>3</sup>, Janet V. Jones, RN<sup>4</sup>, Kevin M. Barnes, PhD<sup>5</sup>, and Gordon B. Cutler, Jr, MD<sup>6</sup>

N=28

Age at treatment onset =  $4.9 \pm 1.5$  years

Rx: testolactone/anastrozole, spironolactone

Adult height = 173.6 ± 6.8 cm (-0.4SDS)

BICALUTAMIDE PLUS ANASTROZOLE FOR THE TREATMENT OF GIP IN BOYS REITER, ET. AL. J PED ENDO METAB 23; 2010

# Aromatase inhibitors for male infertility



Peter N. Schlegel, M.D.

Fert Ster 2012

Successful testicular sperm retrieval in adolescents with Klinefelter syndrome treated with at least 1 year of topical testosterone and aromatase inhibitor Mehta A, et al. Fert & Ster 2013 (N=10, 14-22yrs)

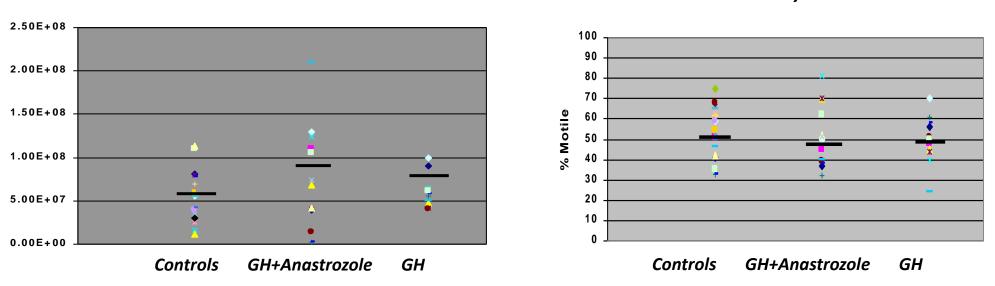
Ejaculatory sperm production in non-obstructive azoospermic patients with a history of negative testicular biopsy after the administration of an aromatase inhibitor: report of two cases Kyrou D, et al. Eur J Ob Gyn & Rep Biol 173:120, 2014

Aromatase inhibitors in the treatment of oligozoospermic or azoospermic men: a systematic review of randomized controlled trials JBRA Assisted Reprod 2016

Mariana A. Ribeiro<sup>1</sup>, Luís F. O. Gameiro<sup>2</sup>, Wellerson R. Scarano<sup>1</sup>, Christine Briton-Jones<sup>3</sup>, Anil Kapoor<sup>4,5</sup>, Mauro B. Rosa<sup>6</sup>, Regina El Dib<sup>5,7</sup>

## SPERM ANALYSIS IN GROWTH HORMONE-DEFICIENT ADOLESCENTS PREVIOUSLY TREATED WITH AN AROMATASE INHIBITOR: COMPARISON WITH NORMAL CONTROLS

Sperm Concentrations



Motility

Mauras N, et al, Fertility & Sterility 2005



## WHAT ABOUT GIRLS?



## Long-term outcomes of letrozole treatment for precocious puberty in girls with McCune-Albright syndrome

Andrea Estrada<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>, Alison M Boyce<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>, Beth A Brillante<sup>1</sup>, Lori C Guthrie<sup>1</sup>, EJE 2016 Rachel I Gafni<sup>1</sup> and Michael T Collins<sup>1</sup>

# The use of aromatase inhibitors for ovulation induction

**Curr Opin Obst Gynecol 2015** 

Anat Hershko Klement<sup>a,b</sup> and Robert F. Casper<sup>a,b</sup>

Anastrozole plus leuprorelin in early maturing girls with compromised growth: the "GAIL" study



D. T. Papadimitriou<sup>1,2</sup> · E. Dermitzaki<sup>2</sup> · M. Papagianni<sup>3</sup> · G. Papaioannou<sup>4</sup> · V. Papaevangelou<sup>2</sup> · A. Papadimitriou<sup>2</sup> J Endocrinol Invest 2016

N=40 with early puberty

Age: 7.5 – 9 yrs

Bone age: +1.8 yrs

Randomized to:Leuprorelin IM/q mo vs.Leuprorelin + anastrozole

Rx x 2yrs or until age 10 yrs

PAH at 24 months: +1.21 ± 0.45 SDS (7.51cm) Leuprorelin/AI +0.31 ± 0.37 (1.92 cm), p=0.001 Leuprorelin

## CONCLUSIONS



## Aromatase inhibitors in boys

- Have been studied over 20y in gynecomastia, testotoxicosis, CDGM, GH deficiency and ISS with a slowdown of bone maturation and increased height potential
- Judicious use of Als combined with GH, for 2-3 years, offer an alternative to the treatment of pubertal males with ISS with an excellent safety profile
- Measures of quality of life were improved with GH and AI/GH
- Testosterone, IGF-I and bone densitometry should be monitored
- Anastrozole is better than letrozole avoiding excessive increase in testosterone
- Rx in physiologic puberty should be limited to 2-3 years

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



### **Nemours Children's Health System:**

Judith Ross, MD; Joe Permuy, APRN; Ligeia Damaso, APRN; Jobayer Hossain, PhD; Priscila Gagliardi, MD; Debbie Merimbaum, MD; Miles Yu, MD; Karen Kowal, PA

**University of Chile:** 

Veronica Mericq, MD; Ximena Gaete, MD; Alejandra Avila, RN

Mayo Clinic: Ravinder Singh, PhD

**University of Hamburg:** Monika Bullinger, PhD; Janika Blömeke, PhD

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**PE CONNECT** Bodenackerstrasse 17 4103 Bottmingen **SWITZERLAND** 

Dr. Froukje Sosef MD



+31 6 2324 3636

 $\bowtie$ froukje.sosef@cor2ed.com

Dr. Antoine Lacombe Pharm D, MBA



+41 79 529 42 79

antoine.lacombe@cor2ed.com





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