

# Pathophysiology of the GH/IGF-1 axis : long-term consequences on joints and bone

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#### **STELLINGEN**

#### BEHORENDE BIJ HET PROEFSCHRIFT

#### PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF THE GH / IGF-I AXIS:

#### LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES ON JOINTS AND BONE

- 1. Cartilage hypertrophy in acromegalic arthropathy is irreversible (*This thesis*).
- 2. The high incidence rate of vertebral fractures in biochemically controlled acromegaly patients, in the presence of normal bone mineral density, suggests persisting poor bone quality (*This thesis*).
- 3. It is likely that an increased GH/IGF-1 signal is one factor in the multifactorial pathophysiology of primary osteoarthritis (*This thesis*).
- 4. The adult GHD syndrome characterized by features of the metabolic syndrome is not normalized by long-term rhGH replacement therapy in adult GHD patients (*This thesis*).
- 5. On the long-term, surgically cured acromegalic patients may develop fewer complications due to previous GH excess than patients controlled with somatostatin analogs (*This thesis*).
- 6. The limited length of the placebo arm in controlled rhGH replacement studies is in sharp contrast with the intended growth-stimulating effect of the preparation.
- 7. Optimal management of acromegaly goes beyond biochemical disease control (*Vilar et al. Pituitary 2014; 17(1): S11-S17*) and therefore requires extensive clinical experience in a center of expertise.
- 8. An early diagnosis by a careful doctor's look is the best treatment of endocrine disorders.
- 9. The knowledge and treatment of common diseases can be improved from lessons learned by observation of rare diseases.

- 10. A wise teacher does not ask you to enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind (*Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet, 1923*).
- 11. Women perform worse in sports than men (*Hans van Maanen*, *Encyclopedie voor Misvattingen*, 2002).
- 12. Eating chocolate makes you smarter (Messerli FH, New England Journal of Medicine 2012; 367(16): 1562-1564).

Kim Claessen, 17-12-2014