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**European Journal of Endocrinology Prize Winner**

*The European Journal of Endocrinology* Prize is awarded to a candidate who has significantly contributed to the advancement of knowledge in the field of endocrinology through publication. This year’s recipient is Professor Wiebke Arlt. The prize will be presented as part of the ECE 2009 opening ceremony where Professor Arlt will deliver her lecture. Professor Arlt will also write a review article based on this lecture to be published in the *European Journal of Endocrinology*. Further information can be found at http://www.euro-endo.org/about/about_prizes.htm

Wiebke Arlt, UK

Wiebke Arlt is 43 years of age and fell for Endocrinology as a medical student. She underwent clinical and scientific training in Germany and the USA. At present, she serves as Professor of Medicine and Head of the Centre for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. She is a Consultant Endocrinologist at the University Hospital Birmingham, the Birmingham Women’s Hospital and the Birmingham Children’s Hospital. She is a committed clinician scientist and heads a research group working on basic and clinical aspects of adrenal and gonadal disorders, with a particular focus on steroid endocrinology. She is a steering committee member of the European Network for the Study of Adrenal Tumors, ENS@T, and the FP7 European Collaborative Network on Disordered Sex Development, EuroDSD. She is an editorial board member of the *European Journal of Endocrinology, Clinical Endocrinology, Journal of Endocrinology and Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*. She serves on several committees of the Society for Endocrinology, United Kingdom and the Programme Organising Committees for the ECE meetings 2005 Gothenburg and 2010 Prague. She represents the European Society of Endocrinology as a POC member for the ICE meeting 2010 Kyoto.
The European Journal of Endocrinology Prize Lecture

**Sex, electrons and the adrenal – why endocrinology excites**

Wiebke Arlt, Centre for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism (CEDAM), School of Clinical & Experimental Medicine, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

This lecture will cover clinical-experimental and molecular studies elucidating the role and regulation of the adrenal steroid dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), a crucial precursor of human sex steroid synthesis. DHEA and its sulphate ester DHEAS are the most abundant steroids in the human circulation and their intraadrenal synthesis represents a recent evolutionary development, only observed in higher mammals. Only humans and higher non-human primates show an age-specific pattern of DHEAS secretion with levels increasing from age 6–10 years (‘adrenarche’), reaching its maximum during the third decade, followed by a gradual decline from middle age onwards (‘adrenopause’). Adrenal DHEA serves as the major source for female androgen synthesis and several studies have demonstrated a beneficial role of DHEA replacement in patients with adrenal insufficiency.

Individuals with completely inactivating mutations in the *CYP17A1* gene encoding the enzyme responsible for DHEA biosynthesis produce no DHEA and thus no sex steroids at all. Consequently, affected boys present with a female phenotype, 46,XY disordered sex development (46,XY DSD). Recently, a novel form of congenital adrenal hyperplasia, combined CYP17A1 and CYP21A2 deficiency, has been shown to be caused by mutant P450 oxidoreductase (POR), which provides electrons to all microsomal CYP enzymes including CYP17A1 and CYP21A2. While the disruption of DHEA synthesis by mutant POR readily explains 46,XY DSD in some affected boys, the observation of severe virilisation in affected girls, 46,XX DSD, despite low circulating androgens appeared counterintuitive. However, recent studies have provided evidence for the existence of an alternative pathway to androgens in early human life, explaining the development of 46,XX DSD.

DHEA can be inactivated to DHEAS by DHEA sulphotransferase (SULT2A1), thereby preventing the conversion of DHEA to active androgens. SULT2A1 requires the sulphate donor PAPS for catalytic activity. Recent work has identified inactivating mutations in *PAPSS2* encoding human PAPS synthase 2 as the cause of androgen excess in a girl with premature pubarche, hyperandrogenic anovulation and undetectable DHEAS. These observations indicate PAPSS2 deficiency as a monogenic cause of androgen excess and highlight the crucial role of DHEA sulphation as a gatekeeper to human androgen synthesis.
Geoffrey Harris Prize Winner

This prestigious prize is intended for established workers in the field of basic or clinical neuroendocrinology, and is generously supported by Ipsen. This year’s recipient is Professor Jan-Åke Gustafsson. The prize will be presented as part of the ECE 2009 opening ceremony where Professor Gustafsson will deliver his lecture. Professor Gustafsson will also deliver two other lectures at future ESE Scientific meetings. Further information can be found at http://www.euro-endo.org/about/about_prizes.htm

Jan-Åke Gustafsson, Sweden

Jan-Åke Gustafsson, MD, PhD, has played a pivotal role in discoveries of how nuclear receptors in the cell mediate actions of steroid hormones and other ligands to regulate gene expression. Dr Gustafsson is Professor of Medical Nutrition, Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden, and is also, since January 2009, Professor and Director of the Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling, University of Houston, Texas.

Dr Gustafsson and collaborators first described the three-domain structure of nuclear receptors, defined the function of these domains, ascertained how the nuclear receptor DNA-binding mechanism mediates effects on transcription of genes, and cloned the first (partial) cDNA sequence of a nuclear receptor. He also was the first to discover that fatty acids are natural activators of the peroxisome proliferator activated nuclear receptor (PPAR). Dr Gustafsson discovered the second type of estrogen receptor (estrogen receptor β) as well as a nuclear receptor that is important in cholesterol metabolism in many tissues, including the central nervous system (liver X receptor β).

Dr Gustafsson has received many rewards during his career: the Svedberg Prize in chemistry in 1982, the Fernström Prize of the Karolinska Institute in 1983, the Anders Jahre Prize in 1992, the Gregory Pincus Medal and Award of the Worcester Foundation in 1994, the Söderberg Prize in Medicine in 1998, the European Medal of the Society for Endocrinology, UK in 2000, and the Fred Conrad Koch Award from the Endocrine Society in the U.S. in 2002. Dr Gustafsson was elected to the Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1997, to the Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences in 1998, became a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2000, a foreign honorary member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2002 and a foreign honorary member of the American Philosophical Society 2008.
The Geoffrey Harris Prize Lecture

The new biology of estrogen signaling

J-Å Gustafsson, Department of Medical Nutrition, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Estrogen signaling is mediated by two isoforms of the soluble estrogen receptor (ER), ERα and ERβ. In general, ERα and ERβ appear to have distinct, specific actions, sometimes of antagonistic nature (yin/yang). ERβ is widely distributed and studies on mice with deleted ERβ show phenotypic alterations in many tissues, indicating that ERβ has essential roles in several physiological contexts. In the CNS, ERβ is essential for development of the brain and many aspects of estrogen signaling; in the ovary, ERβ is selectively expressed in the granulosa cells and is important for ovulation; in the lung, deletion of ERβ results in fibrosis and hypoxia; in the immune system ERβ deficiency leads to a syndrome reminiscent of chronic myeloid leukemia; in the bladder, female ERβ KO mice develop interstitial cystitis, probably secondary to disturbances in the immune system; in aging ERβ deleted mice, tumors develop in the prostate, ovaries and female pituitaries. The latter phenotypes reflect an antiproliferative action of ERβ, also seen in cultures of breast, colon and prostate cancer cell lines, where microarray studies have indicated that ERβ downregulates a multitude of genes involved in cell proliferation and, conversely, upregulates many genes with tumor suppressor function. ERβ also upregulates several adhesion proteins, notably E-cadherin, consistent with a role of ERβ in cellular differentiation. Proof of principle for the antiproliferative action ERβ has recently been obtained by the antiproliferative action in prostate gland and human prostatic cancer cell lines of synthetic ERβ specific drugs. Yet other ERβ specific drugs have been shown to ameliorate depression, as assessed in various mouse models. Pain is another possible indication for ERβ drugs; ERβ is involved in development of pain pathways in the spinal cord and ERβ drugs have been reported to increase the pain threshold in rodents. ERβ targeted, tissue specific drugs may soon prove useful against several diseases. This lecture will highlight some recent studies on ERβ in our lab with reference to a few of the themes described.
Plenary Lectures
Epigenetics and early environmental exposure
PL1
Early influences on epigenetic regulation: relevance to chronic disease
Robert Waterland
USDA Children’s Nutrition Research Center, Houston, Texas, USA.

Epigenetic mechanisms provide a potential explanation for how environmental influences in early life cause long-term changes in chronic disease susceptibility. Whereas epigenetic dysregulation is increasingly implicated in human developmental syndromes and cancer, the role of epigenetics in complex chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and obesity remains largely uncharacterized. The inherent tissue-specificity of epigenetic regulation is the foremost impediment to an improved understanding of epigenetic dysregulation in human disease. Research in animal models is therefore crucial to enable the development of specific hypotheses that can be practically tested in humans. We have developed a mouse model showing that methyl donor supplementation prevents transgenerational amplification of obesity, suggesting a role for DNA methylation in the developmental establishment of body weight regulation. Coupling such models with epigenomic technologies including DNA methylation-specific amplification and microarray hybridization should ultimately enable us to determine if epigenetics is an important link between early life events and adult disease.

Current and novel treatment targets for bone diseases
PL2
Current and novel treatment targets for bone diseases
Socrates Papapoulos
Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.

During the past few years there have been significant developments in the pharmacotherapy of bone diseases, especially of osteoporosis, and effective treatments have become available to physicians. These developments were paralleled by significant progress in our understanding of the local regulation of bone metabolism. Particularly, studies of human and animal genetics have led to the identification of novel, more specific, signaling pathways in bone cells that can provide targets for new therapeutics.

Such novel targets in osteoclasts include, among others, RANKL and cathepsin-K. A fully human monoclonal antibody to RANKL (denosumab) was developed and a large phase three study in osteoporosis has just been completed while cathepsin-K inhibitors have been evaluated in phase two studies and one of them (odanacatib) is currently in phase three clinical development.

The PTH paradigm illustrated the possibility of stimulating bone formation in osteoporotic patients and opened the way for the development of bone forming agents and novel forms of PTH (e.g. PTH 1.31) or PTHrP. A particularly interesting approach has been the development of molecules that antagonize the calcium sensing receptor of the parathyroid cells and stimulate PTH secretion (calcilytics). The most exciting development of recent years has been, however, the recognition of the central role of the Wnt signaling pathway in bone formation which, in turn provided, a number of attractive targets for the development of pharmaceuticals. For example, inhibition of this pathway by blocking the action of sclerostin represents a very promising novel approach to stimulating bone formation in patients with osteoporosis.

The new developments may allow in the future tailoring pharmacotherapy to the specific needs and pathophysiological profile of the individual patient. However, apart from establishing the efficacy of these new molecules a critical issue for their introduction into clinical practice will be their tolerability and safety profile.

Stress and the brain: from adaptation to disease
PL3
Stress and the brain: from adaptation to disease
Florian Heiböer
Max-Planck-Institute of Psychiatry, Munich, Germany.

In response to stress, the brain activates several neuropeptide-secreting systems. This eventually leads to the release of adrenal corticosteroids, hormones which subsequently feed back on the brain and bind to two types of nuclear receptor that act as transcriptional regulators. By targeting many genes, corticosteroids function in a binary fashion, and serve as a master switch in the control of neuronal and network responses that underlie behavioural adaptation. In genetically predisposed individuals, an imbalance in this binary control mechanism can introduce a bias towards stress-related brain disease after adverse experiences. New candidate susceptibility genes that serve as markers for the prediction of vulnerable phenotypes are now being identified.

Genetics of diabetes and obesity
PL4
New insight in the genetics of type 2 diabetes and obesity from genome-wide associations studies
Philippe Froguel1,2
1Genomic Medicine, Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College, London, UK, 2-CNRS 8090-Institute of Biology, Pasteur Institute, Lille, France.

Recent large twin studies have definitively shown that more than 70% of the variance of the BMI and waist is genetically determined in both adults and children, suggesting that the epidemics of obesity and subsequent T2D are mainly due to the environmental pressure targeting individuals who are particularly vulnerable to metabolic diseases. The dissection of monogenic early onset severe obesity and T2D cases have identified a variety of causative genes that are involved in two fundamental pathways: pancreatic beta-cell function and the control of appetite. Genome Wide Association approaches using high-density frequent Single Nucleotide Polymorphism micro-arrays have been developed to elucidate common forms of metabolic diseases. Since the report of the first GWA in T2D in early 2007 (Sladek et al. nature), several T2D case/control GWA studies have provided more than a dozen of loci that are consistently associated with increased risk for diabetes. Meta-analyses of GWA data from several populations should bring so far additional genes but their effect is likely to be modest. Most of the new T2D associated genes are expressed in the pancreas and are guessed to control insulin secretion. Their effect is additive which makes interesting their use to predict T2D incidence. However, these loci only explain a small fraction of T2D heritability. Other form of polymorphisms, such as gene Copy Number Variations and rare variants may also greatly contribute to T2D risk. In addition other genes may also modulate phenotypes related to glucose control in the general (non diabetic) population, and in interaction with environmental factors might play an important role in the early development of glucose intolerance and in the morbidity and mortality associated with slightly elevated glucose levels. GWA analyses of general populations for quantitative traits related to glucose homeostasis identified glucose-6-phosphatase catalytic subunit-related protein 2 (G6PC2) and the melanotonin receptor 2 gene (MTRNB) have major regulators of fasting glucose. Both genes are expressed in the pancreatic beta-cells although the melanotonin receptor is also acting in the retina as a mediator of the biological clock. Impairment of the circadian clock or of sleep quality is known to impair insulin secretion.

GWA on BMI in general populations and in severe obesity cases and normal weight controls studies have identified the brain expressed FTO and Melanocortin 4 receptor as common obesity associated genes. Recent, GWA meta-analyses for BMI and in childhood obesity also found new genes contributing to obesity risk most of them expressed in the brain and potentially involved in the regulation of food behavior.

In conclusion, GWA conducted in both large well phenotyped general population and in well-defined cases and controls are equally useful to identify fundamental pathways involved in glucose and energy homeostasis. These studies should contribute to elucidate human metabolic physiology and to understand better the natural history of T2D and associated obesity.

New therapies for diabetes – genetically engineering tissues to maintain glucose homeostasis
PL5
New therapies for diabetes – genetically engineering tissues to maintain glucose homeostasis
Patima Bosch
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Center of Animal Biotechnology and Gene Therapy, School of Veterinary Medicine, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, Spain.

Abstract unavailable.
Thyroid hormone transporters
PL6
Thyroid hormone transporters
Annette Gruters
Institute of Experimental Pediatric Endocrinology, Charité, Berlin, Germany.

Abstract unavailable.

Implications of adrenal hormone pulsatility
PL7
Implications of adrenal hormone pulsatility
Stafford Lightman
University of Bristol, Bristol, UK.

The HPA axis has a massive dynamic response rate. At nadir periods (at night in man and during the day in nocturnal rodents) there is a low level of activity which increases up until the circadian peak. This circadian rhythm is made up of an underlying ultradian rhythm of pulsatile glucocorticoid section, with pulse amplitude increasing from the circadian nadir to the circadian peak. Superimposed on this underlying rhythm is, of course, the stress response which can result in massive peaks of glucocorticoid secretion with high levels lasting much longer than the normal endogenous pulses. Why does the HPA axis have such a complex underlying rhythmicity and is it important for the ability of the organism to show both rapid and prolonged responses to homeostatic stress? If the ultradian rhythmicity is important, rapid changes in endogenous glucocorticoids must have some rapid effects on cell signalling. We have shown that at the level of the whole animal, rapid changes in glucocorticoid can turn off HPA activity within about 20 min both in the rat and in man. Furthermore, using much lower concentrations of endogenous glucocorticoids we can show that each individual pulse of glucocorticoid results in a distinct translocation of GR from the cytoplasm to the nucleus, binding to promoter sequences of glucocorticoid responsive genes and transcription of pulses of hMRNA and mRNA. Interestingly in the brain there are distinctive time domains for the DNA binding of GR and MR. This provides scope for a digital signalling mechanism in which the frequency of pulses will determine the ratio of GR to MR binding to DNA – in effect an mechanism in which the response depends on the frequency of incoming signals acting on stochastic intranuclear events. Furthermore, it appears that translation of GR from the cytoplasm to the nucleus is not always necessary for these rapid intranuclear events and that there is an endogenous intranuclear cycle of GR activation, DNA binding and dissociation intimately related to chaperones and other accessory intranuclear proteins.

The HPA clearly uses rapid episodic changes to signal through both membrane associated and nuclear receptors. This allows an ability to respond to changes of great temporal and magnitude diversity. The next stage in our enquiries needs to be at the level of how this is reflected in the functional response to HPA signals.

11β HSDs-common lessons from rare mutations
PL8
11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenases: common lessons from rare mutations
Paul Stewart
University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK.

In mammalian tissues, two isozymes of 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (11β-HSD) catalyze the interconversion of hormonally active cortisol (F) and inactive cortisone (E). 11β-HSD2 is a high affinity dehydrogenase expressed in adult kidney that inactivates F to E protecting the mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) (which has equal affinity for F and aldosterone in vitro) from cortisol excess. ‘Cushing’s disease of the kidney’ occurs in the hypertensive condition ‘Apparent Mineralocorticoid Excess (AME)’ because of mutations in the HSD11B2 gene. Acquired inhibition of 11β-HSD2 explains the mineralocorticoid excess state that characterizes excessive losarico ingestion. Heterozygous mutations in HSD11B2 and polymorphic variation at this locus might be involved in the pathogenesis of salt-sensitive and ‘essential’ hypertension. By contrast, 11β-HSD1 is a bi-directional enzyme but in vivo the predominant action in liver, adipose tissue and bone is to F conversion. The putative 11β-HSD1 null state is the syndrome of Cortisone Reductase Deficiency (CRD) whereby patients are unable to convert cortisone to cortisol. Hyperandrogenism results because of increased ACTH drive to the drive secondary to increased cortisol clearance; as a result patients present with polycystic ovary syndrome and/or precocious puberty. Our clinical and laboratory studies indicate that the pivotal oso-reductase activity of 11β-HSD1 is critically dependant upon the generation of NADPH within the endoplasmic reticulum from an accessory enzyme hexose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (H6PDH). Mutations in the H6PDH gene explain the molecular basis for CRD – the HSD11B1 gene is normal. Recombinant mice lacking H6PDH have the predicted change in glucocorticoid metabolism (reduced oso-hydroxylation ratios), and improved insulin sensitivity because of a failure to reactivate glucocorticoid locally within liver and fat. Lack of H6PDH specifically within muscle results in a type II fiber myopathy because of activation of ER stress pathways. Polymorphisms in HSD11B1/H6PDH genes may be implicated in explaining the variable phenotype of patients with PCOS.

Mutations in the HSD11B2 and H6PDH genes explain the monogenic diseases AME and CRD. In turn a greater understanding of the role of 11β-HSD1, 11β-HSD2 and H6PDH has increased our understanding of the role of corticosteroids in prevalent human diseases such as hypertension, metabolic syndrome and PCOS.
Symposia
PCOS
S1.1
Obesity, type 2 diabetes and PCOS: a common origin?
Bulent O Yıldız
Department of Internal Medicine, Endocrinology and Metabolism Unit, Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey.

Obesity and type 2 diabetes are common and complex traits that are closely related and the term ‘diabetes’ is being used for the twin global epidemic of these two disorders. PCOS is another common and complex disorder characterized by androgen excess, oligo-anovulation and polycystic ovaries on ultrasound. PCOS is linked with both obesity and type 2 diabetes. Although obesity and type 2 diabetes are not universally observed in PCOS, many women with PCOS are obese and the risk and prevalence of type 2 diabetes are significantly increased in PCOS. Alternatively, limited available data suggest an increased prevalence of PCOS in women with type 2 diabetes. Lastly, obesity is recognized as a major contributor to considerable variation in severity and expression of PCOS phenotype. Obesity, particularly the abdominal type, has significant impact on androgen excess and oligo-anovulation of PCOS through various mechanisms. Although underlying genetic and environmental factors are not fully understood for the linkage among obesity, type 2 diabetes and PCOS, insulin resistance appears to be a common denominator of these three disorders.

S1.2
Targeting insulin sensitivity in the treatment of PCOS
Renato Pasquale
Division of Endocrinology, Department of Clinical Medicine, St Orosia-Malpighi Hospital, University Alma Mater Studiorum, Bologna, Italy.

Lifestyle interventions and insulin sensitizers play a fundamental role in the treatment of PCOS, particularly in the presence of obesity. The rationale is represented by the reasoning that the decrease in insulin concentration, as a result of improved insulin resistance, may lead to metabolic alterations and have important effects on hyperandrogenism, and, in particular, on fertility. Insulin sensitizers can be added to lifestyle intervention, when obesity is present, although there is preliminary evidence that some behavioural modification in dietary habits may have a positive effect even in normal-weight insulin resistant PCOS women. Hopefully, weight reduction in the management of PCOS should be encouraged by any pharmacological treatment such as insulin sensitizers or antiobesity agents, although this does not represent a common rule worldwide.

Sustained weight loss can completely reverse the phenotype in a subset of obese women with PCOS, supporting the concept that a PCOS ‘secondary’ to obesity may exist. Interestingly, this is associated with a marked improvement of insulin resistance and a normalization of fasting and glucose-stimulated insulin levels. This adds new perspectives on the pathophysiologic impact of obesity on PCOS. Future research should however investigate factors determining individual susceptibility to develop this disorder in the presence of obesity.

An important issue is represented by the individual responsiveness to insulin sensitizers, given alone or in combination. The effect of genetic variation in the organic cation transporter 1 (OCT1) on metformin action suggests that OCT1 genotype may be a determinant of metformin pharmacokinetics in PCOS. Preliminary clinical studies further support that clustering PCOS women by this genotype may partly explain individual responsiveness to metformin.

In addition, emerging data support the concept that metformin dose has an important impact in ameliorating insulin sensitivity and in decreasing circulation insulin levels.

Finally, insulin resistant PCOS women present an increasing list of monogenic disorders that represent a potential target for specific insulin sensitizers, such as tiazolidinediones.

S1.3
The role of HPA axis in metabolic derangements in PCOS
Djuro Macut
Institute of Endocrinology, Belgrade, Serbia.

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a common endocrine and metabolic disorder present in ~5–10% of women of the reproductive period. The endocrine manifestations of PCOS include excess androgen production of ovarian and/or adrenal origin and arrested follicular development leading to chronic oligo- or anovulation. As a consequence, PCOS is associated with increased risk of infertility, and in long term to type 2 diabetes, and possibly cardiovascular disease. The ovary is generally considered the principal source of androgens and anovulation, but many patients with PCOS also have increased adrenal androgen secretion. Previous works on this issue showed possible androgen hypersensitivity to direct (ACTH) or indirect (CRH) stimulation of the adrenal cortex. Increased urinary free cortisol (UFC) has also been reported in PCOS patients. This alteration has been attributed to enhanced cortisol metabolism, followed by a compensatory overdrive of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis and hence increased androgen production. It was supposed an abnormal P450c17 function in PCOS that is principally responsible for the adrenal androgen excess, as well as increased peripheral metabolism of cortisol, either through enhanced 5α-reductase or inhibited 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase activities. Known role of glucocorticoids (GCs) in the development of components of the metabolic syndrome (MS) led to the examination of possible hormonal dysregulation of HPA, by analyzing indices of GCs and cortisol secretion in PCOS. The cortisol and GCs indices were increased, with higher cortisol levels in women with PCOS, and a trend towards increased 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase 1 (11βHSD1) activity.

S1.4
Treatment of infertility in women with PCOS
Kursad Unluhizarci
Department of Endocrinology, Erciyes University Medical School, Kayseri, Turkey.

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is one of the most common endocrinopathies, affecting ~5–10% of premenopausal women. Anovulatory infertility is an important feature of PCOS and the optimal treatment for infertile women with PCOS has not yet been defined. We consider weight loss to be an important initial approach to therapy in obese women with PCOS desiring pregnancy. It is clear that regular physical activity is an important component of weight loss programs since it is associated with better long-term weight loss maintenance. Many studies have shown that weight loss is associated with improved spontaneous ovulation rates in women with PCOS. Among the pharmacologic agents, clomiphene citrate (CC) remains the treatment of first choice for induction of ovulation in anovulatory women with PCOS. There are relatively few adverse effects and requires little ovarian response monitoring. There are no specific exclusion criteria for women with anovulatory PCOS who have normal baseline FSH and estradiol levels. However, older patients may show less response. Treatment generally should be limited to six ovulatory cycles and the starting dose is generally 50 mg/day, for 5 days. Common side effects are hot flushes, headaches and visual complaints. Although there are very limited experience, tamoxifen can be considered in women who are intolerable to hot flushes. There is considerable interest for insulin sensitizers (metformin, rosiglitazone and pioglitazone) in the treatment of women with PCOS. Metformin should be the choice if an insulin sensitizer is considered in the treatment of PCOS women. Although oligomenorrhea improves in some women with PCOS, the degree of improvement in ovulation frequency is similar to that obtained with weight reduction. Insulin sensitizers should not be used indiscriminately and should be restricted to those patients with glucose intolerance and/or metabolic syndrome. Another approach for the treatment of anovulatory infertility in women with PCOS is gonadotropin treatment. The use of exogenous gonadotropins is associated with increased chances for multiple pregnancy and therefore, intense monitoring of ovulation response is required. Adherence to the chronic low-dose regimen of FSH (37.5–50 IU/day) administration should markedly reduce the likelihood of excessive ovarian stimulation, namely ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). This issue should be discussed with the patient before ovulation induction. The duration of gonadotropin therapy generally should not exceed 6 ovulatory cycles. Laparoscopic ovarian surgery (LOS) may be used in CC resistant women with anovulatory PCOS. Mostly employed methods for LOS include diathermy and laser, known as ‘ovarian drilling’. Between 4 and 10 punctures have been performed, and premature ovarian failure is a concern particularly in women who had a large number of punctures. Finally, after failure of weight reduction, anti-estrogen therapy or LOS and in women who have associated pathologies such as tubal damage, male factor infertility, in vitro fertilisation is indicated.

β cell proliferation, survival and secretion

S2.1 Cell-cell communication and the regulation of insulin secretion
Peter Jones
King’s College London, London, UK.

The mechanisms through which pancreatic beta cells recognise and respond to external signals Type 2 diabetes is becoming increasing well understood, but we have less understanding of how the responses of individual cells are integrated within the islet of Langerhans. Islets are heterogeneous organs containing a variety of endocrine cell types including beta, alpha, delta and PP cells which synthesise and secrete insulin, glucagon, somatostatin and pancreatic polypeptide, respectively. Disaggregation of islets results in impaired insulin secretion from the beta cells, suggesting that interactions between cells within islets are important in regulating normal islet function. Islet cells express a variety of cell adhesion molecules which confer the capacity for the spontaneous re-aggregation of dispersed islet cells into anatomically-correct, three-dimensional islet-like structures, and this is associated with a return to more appropriate patterns of insulin secretion. There are numerous possible mechanisms through which intercellular communication within the islet may modulate beta cell function, including gap junctions, paracrine signalling and direct cell-cell interactions through cell surface molecules. In vivo studies using transgenic mice and in vitro studies using isolated islets or hormone-secreting cells lines suggest that several different mechanisms act simultaneously to maintain appropriate insulin secretion by co-ordinating beta cell responses to external stimuli. Thus, gene ablation studies have identified an important role for connexin-36 gap junctions in the synchronous behaviour of adjacent beta cells. Interactions between cell surface molecules such as E-Cadherin, Ephs and Ephrins have been implicated in communication between adjacent islet cells to regulate insulin secretion, beta cell proliferation and apoptosis. Finally, beta cells express numerous cell surface receptors to islet hormones and other potential auto/paracrine regulators, and there is considerable evidence of multiple levels of regulation of beta cell function by intra-islet diffusible signals. Understanding these complex interactions between islet cells may offer novel insights into the causes and treatments of Type 2 diabetes.

S2.2 Inflammation, cytokines and diabetes
Claus Larsen
Steno Diabetes Center, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Beta-cell failure is central to the pathogenesis of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus. In type 1 diabetes immune-mediated beta-cell destruction takes place, whereas in type 2 diabetes metabolic factors are believed to induce progressively deterioration of beta-cell function and finally reduced beta-cell mass. The proinflammatory cytokine interleukin-1 could be a mediator of the beta-cell failure in both diseases: In type 1 diabetes by the secretion from activated macrophages infiltrating the islets, and in type 2 diabetes by glucose induced secretion from the beta-cell itselfs. Using the interleukin-1-receptor antagonist in patients with type 2 diabetes improves glycemic control and beta-cell function and reduces markers of systemic inflammation, indicating that type 2 diabetes could be an auto-inflammatory condition. Furthermore the involvement of interferon-gamma and tumor necrosis factor alpha in the pathogenesis of type 1 and type 2 diabetes is reviewed.

S2.3 Endoplasmic reticulum stress and beta-cell apoptosis
Decio Eizirik
Laboratory of Experimental Medicine, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Brussels, Belgium.

Accumulated knowledge in the last five years suggests that components of the unfolded protein response (UPR) in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) play a dual role in pancreatic beta cells, acting as regulators under pathological conditions or as triggers of beta cell dysfunction and death under situations of chronic and/or severe ER stress. These observations indicate that the large capacity of beta cells to synthesize, sort and secrete insulin may also make them vulnerable to chronic exposure to high glucose or free fatty acids, agents that contribute to beta cell dysfunction and apoptosis in type 2 diabetes. Beta cell ER stress is also present in the context of type 1 diabetes, but following different pathways. Thus, the cytokines IL-1β and IFN-γ trigger a severe ER stress by respectively inducing an NO-mediated depletion of ER calcium and inhibiting ER chaperones, thus hampering beta cell defenses. This results in amplification of the pro-apoptotic pathways and eventually beta cell death.

Some of the key issues that remain to be clarified in this novel field are: a. the transition from physiology to pathology, i.e. how the physiological UPR evolves to severe ER stress and, in some cases, beta cell death; b. the mechanism utilized by beta cells to recover from ER stress; c. the ‘point of no return’ for beta cell apoptosis, and the nature of the multi-apoptotic signals generated by ER stress.

S2.4 Incretin receptor signalling, β-cell proliferation and survival
Daniel Drucker
Samuel Lunenfled Research Institute, Mt Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.

Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and glucose-dependent insulinotopic polypeptide (GIP) are incretin hormones secreted by gut endocrine cells that act on structurally related β-cell G protein coupled receptors to trigger glucose-dependent insulin secretion. Both peptide hormones augment glucose-stimulated insulin secretion although the actions of GIP are diminished in the setting of hyperglycemia. Moreover, the two incretin hormones, and their structurally related receptors, exert widely divergent biological actions on β-cell function following receptor agonist administration or genetic disruption of receptor signalling in vivo. Furthermore, there are significant differences in β-cell function and survival arising from pharmacological activation of incretin receptor signaling achieved using peptide agonists versus DPP-4 inhibition. The available data identify important differences in the endogenous physiological roles and pharmacological importance of murine GIP versus GLP-1 receptors versus DPP-4 inhibition for the preservation of β-cell mass and function in vivo.

Genetics in neuroendocrinology

S3.1 Familial hypopituitarism
Primus E Mullis
Paediatric Endocrinology, University Children’s Hospital, Inselspital, CH-3010 Bern, Switzerland.

Growth is an inherent property of life. Normal somatic growth requires the integrated function of many of the hormonal, metabolic, and other growth factors involved in the hypothalamo-pituitary-growth axis. Discovery of transcription factors responsible for pituitary cell differentiation and organogenesis has had an immediate impact on understanding and diagnosis of pituitary hormone deficiencies. Importantly, combined pituitary hormone deficiencies (CPHD) have been associated with mutations in transcription factor coding genes that control organogenesis or multiple cell lineages, whereas isolated hormone deficiencies are often caused by transcription factors controlling late cell differentiation.

These transcription factors, mainly found and described primarily in transgenic and naturally occurring murine models, include factors such as HESX1, PROP1, POU1F1, LHX3, LHX4, TRHβ19, SOX2 and SOX3. Importantly, the expression of these various transcription factors dictates the phenotype that results when the gene encoding the relevant transcription factor is mutated. The highly variable phenotype may consist of isolated hypopituitarism, or more complex disorders such as septo-optic dysplasia and holoprosencephaly. As mutations in any of those transcription factors are rare, it is clear that many genes remain to be identified, and the characterization of these will further elucidate the pathogenesis of these complex conditions.


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Furthermore, a normal development of a gland does not mean that the normal function will be maintained, as GH-I gene defects may end in CPHD as well. These findings are to be stressed and have an impact how these patients need to be followed in clinical practice.

S3.2
ACTH insensitivity syndromes
Adrian Clark, Claire Hughes & Louise Metherell
Barts and the London School of Medicine, London, UK.

ACTH insensitivity or familial glucocorticoid deficiency (FGD) is a rare autosomal recessive disorder first described in 1959. We demonstrated in 1993 that about 25% of affected patients have nonsense or (more commonly) missense mutations in the ACTH receptor (melanocortin 2 receptor, MC2R). Functional analysis of these mutations had been especially difficult until our discovery in 2005 that the receptor requires an essential accessory factor – the melanocortin 2 receptor accessory protein (MRAP) for membrane trafficking and signal generation. Furthermore, mutations in MRAP account for about 20% of FGD patients. Availability of MRAP enables the development of efficient MC2R functional assays and it emerges that the majority of naturally occurring MC2R missense mutations result in failure of receptor trafficking and cell surface expression. A further group of patients have a form of FGD that was linked to a gene on chromosome 8 following a whole genome mapping strategy in 2002. Recently we have shown that this gene is that encoding SIAR. The SIAR protein is responsible for the transport of cholesterol across the mitochondrial membrane and is the first step in steroidogenesis. Typically mutations in SIAR result in congenital lipid adrenal hyperplasia. However certain mutations result in a SIAR protein that retains some function, and consequently gonadal steroidogenesis is unaffected while adrenal glucocorticoid production is compromised, resulting in an FGD phenotype. In about 50% of FGD patients there is no defect in any of these genes, and further genetic loci remain to be identified.

Gonadal steroid replacement

S4.1
Testosterone and the metabolic syndrome
Stefan Arver
Department of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes, Centre for Andrology and Sexual Medicine, Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Abstract unavailable.

S4.2
Pharmacogenetics of androgen action
D Canale, C Caglieresi, S Gavioli, A Moscatelli, E Martino & P Vitti
Department of Endocrinology, University of Pisa Medical School and Hospitals, Pisa, Italy.

Hypogonadism is still a poorly-defined clinical entity. Recently approved and published guidelines to diagnosis and treatment of hypogonadism claim the necessity of accompanying biochemical thresholds with clinical symptoms and monitoring under treatment a specific aspect of the ‘wide spectrum’ hypogonadism (libido, erection, bone mass, muscle strength and so on). This is due both to different levels of thresholds for different tissues and to individual variability. Most part of interindividual variability relies on androgen receptor (AR) polymorphism linked to variations in the length of CAG repeats (CAGR) in exon 1. Many studies have shown that the longer the CAGs the weaker the androgen action and viceversa. This is true both for endogenous and exogenous androgens. In presence of similar testosterone (T) plasma levels, the initial phenotypic androgenic effect or ‘androgenicity’ is mainly due to CAG length. This is particularly relevant when exogenous T is administered. Data are emerging that androgen replacement treatment (ART) should be tailored on AR polymorphism to balance between clinical benefits and risks. Moreover, specific patient categories, such as obese men or patients with metabolic syndrome, represent clinical conditions that should deserve particular attention during ART, since shorter CAGs could amplify a clinical effect, such as polycystenia or sleep apnea. It is rather strange to believe nowadays that strict diagnostic criteria and strict scheduled treatments could apply to all the spectrum of hypogonadal patients. Pharmacogenetically tailored diagnosis and treatment should be considered in this field of medicine.

S3.3
The GPR54 gene mutations as a cause for hypogonadotropic hypogonadism
Ana Latronico
San Paulo University, San Paulo, Brazil.

The identification of naturally occurring genetic mutations has provided unique insight into the current knowledge of the human hypothalamic–pituitary–gonadal axis. In the last 5 years, several loss-of-function mutations in the G-protein coupled receptor 54 (GPR54) gene have been shown to cause isolated hypogonadotropic hypogonadism. Although these mutations are not a common cause of hypogonadotropic hypogonadism, patients bearing mutations are critical to explore genotype-phenotype and gene function. The ligands for GPR54 are derived from the precursor protein, kisspeptin. The kisspeptins have been characterized as fundamental regulators of pubertal onset and powerful stimulants for GnRH-induced gonadotropin secretion. More recently, a GPR54 missense mutation (R386P) was reported in a girl with idiopathic gonadotropin-dependent precocious puberty. Functional studies in vitro demonstrated that this mutation leads to sustained activation of intracellular signaling pathways downstream of GPR54, suggesting that GPR54 defects can be also associated with central precocious puberty phenotype.

S3.4
Reversible hypogonadotropic hypogonadism
Nelly Pitecloud
Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA.

Puberty is a complex biologic process inducing sexual development and fertility. Puberty is initiated by the secretion of pulsatile gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) secretion from the hypothalamus. Severe anomalies in GnRH secretion or action may lead to idiopathic hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (IHH), a disorder where patients failed to go through puberty. While IHH was previously thought to require lifelong treatment, we hypothesized that activation of the hypothalamic–pituitary–gonadal (HPG) axis could occur in adulthood with the appropriate stimulus. Retrospective and prospective studies in a large cohort of male IHH (Kallmann syndrome (KS) and normosmic IHH) demonstrate reversible of HH in approximately 10% of cases. Those patients exhibited sustained adult serum T levels after hormonal treatment was discontinued. Mutations in FGR1, PROKR2, GNRHR were identified in several cases of reversal. In conclusion: 1) Sustained reversal of IHH occurs in about 10% of patients with KS or nIHH; 2) Genetic defects leading to IHH can be overcome, likely by environmental stimuli such as exposure to sex steroids; 3) Although the mechanism of reversal remains unclear, it may involve plasticity of the GnRH neurons in adulthood; and 4) IHH patients should undergo brief discontinuation of hormonal treatment to assess for reversal.

androgen deficiency. The ovaries contribute to some extent to circulating female androgens, mainly by converting the precursor steroid DHEA to androgens directly binding and activating the androgen receptor, testosterone and dihydrotestosterone. Loss of adrenal function, e.g. in adrenal insufficiency or due to chronic glucocorticoid treatment, results in pronounced androgen deficiency. Similarly, women undergoing bilateral oophorectomy often suffer a significant decrease in circulating androgens. Seminal studies in both these groups have provided the data that form the basis of our current recommendations for androgen therapy in women. However, it is important to stress that physiological menopause per se does not cause androgen deficiency, as androgen synthesis in the ovaries may persist postmenopausally despite declining estrogen production. The definition of female androgen deficiency in the 2002 Princeton consensus statement, androgen levels below or within the lower quartile of the normal range and concurrent sexual dysfunction, is not precise enough and may lead to over-diagnosis. On the other hand, the Endocrine Society USA guidelines published in 2006 and advising against all androgen replacement in women, is no better help for the concerned clinician. Androgen treatment should be considered in women with severe androgen deficiency due to an established cause such as adrenal insufficiency or bilateral oophorectomy and matching clinical symptoms. Replacement options include transdermal testosterone or oral DHEA, both of which have been shown to result in significant improvements in libido and mood and also of body composition and bone mineral density. It is important to keep in mind that the number of randomized controlled trials is still limited and we need to learn more about the respective benefit and risk ratios.

S4.4 Diagnosis and treatment of estrogen deficiency in men Cesare Carani University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

The discovery of naturally occurring, inactivating mutations of the aromatase gene and of the estrogen receptor (ER) gene in humans shed new light on the precise role of estrogen in several metabolic processes, both in male and female. To date, few clinical cases of males with well-documented congenital aromatase deficiency (11 females and 8 males) have been reported in medical literature. All mutations accounting for aromatase deficiency have been located in regions encoding essential functions in the aromatization process. Aromatase-deficient males develop testicular feminization with delayed skeletal maturation and ephiphysial closure, euthyroid body proportions, osteoporosis, various degrees of fertility impairment and strong evidences of metabolic syndrome (impaired lipid, glucose and liver metabolism). Moreover preliminary data demonstrate an impaired GH response to GHRH plus Arginine and serum IGF-I levels at the lower end of the normal range in four patients with aromatase deficiency.

The estrogen treatment in some of these patients demonstrated the crucial role of estrogens also in men. Particularly, estradiol treatment induces the pubertal growth spurt, the achievement and maintenance of normal skeletal proportions and of peak bone mass, and the inhibition of bone resorption. Moreover, among gonadotropin feedback it was shown that estrogens are the most effective gonadotropin-secretion inhibitor at pituitary level, particularly with respect to FSH, and that they act also at hypothalamic level. Nevertheless estrogens are not able to improve the fertility and to restore GH-IGF-I axis function. After all, the human model of aromatase deficiency shows that estradiol treatment could act on heart and cardiovascular system by possible cardio-protective effects and prevention of atherogenesis, and on dysmetabolic pattern by an improvement of lipid profile, insulin sensitivity, and of liver homeostasis.

By studying the naturally occurring aromatase-deficient patients we are expanding our understanding of the essential role of estrogens in human physiology.

IGF 1 survival, proliferation and cancer

S5.1 IGF1, proliferation and cancer Haim Wener Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel.

The involvement of the insulin-like growth factors (IGF1, IGF2) in cancer biology has been the focus of extensive research. Ligand-dependent activation of the IGF1 receptor (IGF1-R) has been identified as a crucial step in cancer development. Epidemiological studies revealed that moderately elevated serum IGF1 is associated with increased occurrence of various tumours, including breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer. The IGF1-R is expressed in most transformed cells, where it displays potent anti-apoptotic and cell-survival activities. The central role of the IGF1-R in cancer biology is illustrated by studies showing that IGF1-R blockade inhibits tumour growth and angiogenesis. Regulation of IGF1-R gene expression and activity is an important mechanism that allows the cell to decide whether to go into arrest, to proliferate, or to apoptose. IGF1-R levels are controlled by secreted factors of endocrine or local (autocrine/paracrine) origin that can either stimulate or inhibit IGF1-R biosynthesis. In addition, a number of nuclear proteins with oncogenic or antioncogenic properties have been identified that regulate IGF1-R gene transcription. Transcription factors with tumour suppressor activity, such as p53, BRCA1, Von-Hippel Lindaus (VHL), and Wilms’ tumour 1 (WT1), negatively regulate IGF1-R expression. The etiology of neoplasias associated with loss-of-function mutation of tumour suppressors is, in many cases, linked to the inability of mutant forms to suppress their molecular targets, including the IGF1-R gene. Gain-of-function mutations of oncogenes are associated with increased transactivation of the IGF1-R promoter and/or augmented phosphorylation of its cytoplasmic domain and downstream signalling molecules.

Interactions between stimulatory and inhibitory factors may ultimately determine the level of expression of the IGF1-R gene and, consequently, the proliferative status of the cell. Understanding the molecular basis of these interactions will be of significant value both in basic as well as in clinical terms.

S5.2 IGF, somatotropic plasticity and mammalian lifespan Martin Holzenberger INSERM, Paris, France.

During recent years, insulin and insulin-like growth factors have been implicated in the control of lifespan in a variety of species. In mammals, substantial reduction of somatotropic signals generally extends lifespan. We showed recently in a conditional mouse mutant relevant for humans, that lifespan can be prolonged by inhibiting IGF-I signaling selectively in the central nervous system. This effect occurred through changes in specific neuroendocrine pathways. Investigating the pathophysiological mechanism, we found that IGF receptors in the brain steered the postnatal development of the somatotrophic axis, which in turn altered the individual growth trajectory. This led to reduced adult body size, delayed mortality and longer mean lifespan. Our work suggested that chronically low IGF-1 and low growth hormone levels favor long lifespan and may postpone age-related mortality. Together with other recent reports, these results challenge the idea that administrating GH can slow down or even prevent aging.

We then investigated whether early postnatal nutrition may participate in controlling the plasticity of the somatotrophic axis. Using cross-fostering in newborn mice we manipulated early nutrition, and showed that underfeeding delayed growth, whereas overfeeding accelerated it. In both cases, final body size was permanently altered. We found significant alterations in pituitary GH, plasma IGF-I and ALS, and in gene expression of hypothalamic GHRH during postnatal development, that were consistent with the observed phenotypes and that persisted throughout adulthood. Although limited to the early postnatal period, both under- and overfeeding led to metabolic abnormalities, including diminished adult glucose tolerance, defective insulin secretion in previously restricted, and insulin resistance in overfed mice. Both restricted and overfed mice also showed increased arterial blood pressure, suggestive of vascular impairment. Collectively, these findings indicate a significant link between early diet, somatotropic development and specific pathology in mice, suggesting that, together with other hormones like leptin, IGF-I may play a role in modulating hypothalamic stimulation of the developing somatotrophic function.

We propose that the underlying mechanism of the described phenotypes is an adaptive plasticity of the somatotropic function. This concept is particularly interesting from an evolutionary point of view, since it may allow individuals to decelerate growth and preserve resources, and thereby improve fitness in challenging environments.

S5.3 Nutrition, physical activity and cancer risks: the role of insulin and insulin-like growth factor-1 Rudolf Kaaks Division of Cancer Epidemiology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany.

Epidemiological observations increasingly imply nutritional energy balance as a key risk factor for cancer development. Excess body weight is associated with

increased risks of cancers of the endometrium, breast (postmenopausal women), kidney (renal cell tumours), colon, pancreas and oesophagus (adenocarcinomas). By contrast, regular physical activity reduces the risk of developing breast and colorectal cancers, and potentially other tumour types. Overall, excess weight and lack of physical activity may account for one quarter to half of the occurrence of the abovementioned tumour types. The mechanisms that may underlie these relationships of nutritional energy balance with cancer development may depend on tumour type. One major mechanism that is increasingly being implicated is alterations in the metabolism of insulin and/or insulin-like growth factors (IGFs) as possible metabolic links between nutritional energy balance and cancer development. Prospective cohort studies have shown increased risks particularly of colon cancer and endometrial cancer among women and men with high fasting and non-fasting plasma insulin concentrations, and similar associations have been reported for pancreas cancer. Likewise, elevated plasma concentrations of IGF-I have been related to increased risks of cancers of the prostate, breast and colorectum. More independently of adiposity, higher plasma glucose levels (fasting and post-load) have also been associated with increased risks of cancers of the pancreas, liver and endometrium, in particular, as well as of the colon. Finally, there is increasing evidence to suggest that adiposity may also promote tumor development through the release of pro-inflammatory adipokines and cytokines, creating a state of chronic, low-grade inflammation. In addition to insulin, IGF-I and glucose, endogenous sex hormones are strongly implicated in the development of cancers of the endometrium and breast, and especially among postmenopausal women that are overweight or obese. Among premenopausal women, development of ovarian hyperandrogenism (polycystic ovary syndrome) is a frequent phenomenon that is related to obesity and hyperinsulinemia, which is associated with an increased risk of endometrial cancer because of reduced ovarian progesterone synthesis. Besides the extracellular growth signals, there is increasing experimental evidence that intracellular energy sensing mechanisms are also central in controlling cell growth, proliferation and apoptosis. One mechanism of special interest, here, is the suppression of AMP-activated kinase (AMPK) activity, as a result of higher energy status of the cell. Gaining a better understanding of the mechanisms relating excess weight and physical inactivity to cancer may lead to improved strategies for both cancer prevention and treatment.

Section 5.4

IGF-I and neuroprotection

Ignacio Torres Aleman

Cajal Institute, Madrid, Spain.

Neuroprotection defines a set of homeostatic, self-repair mechanisms that probably evolved for the specially demanding conditions imposed by brain function. Among these, intercellular messengers such as the insulin-like growth factors (IGFs), that appeared very early during phylogeny, apparently play a prominent role despite their peripheral origin. In contrast to the heterogeneity seen in primitive organisms where at least 30 different IGF-like peptides are described, in mammals only 3 of them, insulin and IGF-I/II are so far known. All exert neurotrophic actions, probably playing also a crucial role in a wide diversity of brain diseases. Although originally ascribed exclusively to the IGF-I receptor, the neuroprotective actions of these peptides in all probability also includes the insulin and IGF-II receptors. Several aspects of these peptides in relation to their brain actions warrant further investigation: 1) altered glucose metabolism, not only in brain but also in the periphery, is unusually common in brain pathologies. As it is not well understood interaction between insulin and IGF-I signalling probably contributes to it. 2) Hetero-dimerization of insulin and IGF-I hemi-receptors and the unusual chaperone-like properties of the IGF-II receptor undoubtedly adds to the complexity of IGFs actions in the brain, and elsewhere. Their ultimate significance remains undetermined 3) Insulin/IGF-I resistance triggered by neuro-inflammation, oxidative stress, excess excitatory neurotransmission, or endoplasmic reticulum stress (the four major disruptions linked to brain pathology) is a common process in pathological pathways in brain diseases. Their molecular underpinnings constitute an area for potential druggable targets. 4) Many neuroprotective mechanisms include activity-dependent processes and our recent evidence indicates that serum IGF-I enters into the brain in an activity-dependent fashion. These initial observations suggest an important role of IGF-I in cognitive reserve build-up. Thus, the concerted brain actions of IGFs likely contribute to environmental influence on brain health, brain aging and cognition.

Section 6.1

Epigenetics and endocrine programming

Jonathan Seckl

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.

Epidemiological evidence suggests that an adverse fetal environment permanently programmes physiology leading to increased risks of cardiometabolic, neuro-endocrine and psychiatric disorders in adulthood. We originally hypothesised that prenatal stress via fetal glucocorticoid excess might explain this link. Indeed, in rodents, prenatal stress, glucocorticoid exposure or inhibition/knockout of 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 2 (11β-HSD2), the fetoplacental ‘barrier’ to maternal glucocorticoids, reduces birth weight and causes permanent hypertension, hyperglycaemia, increased hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis activity and anxiety-related behaviours in adult offspring. The phenotype persists into a second generation and transmits via male and female lines. This implies epigenetic mediation, a mechanism emerging for at least HPA axis programming. This also appears of potential clinical relevance. Thus, in a singleton-bearing, non-human primate model, exposure to glucocorticoids in the second half of gestation programmes cardiometabolic, HPA and behavioural parameters in 1-year-old offspring. In humans, placental 11β-HSD2 activity correlates directly with birth weight and inversely with infant blood pressure. Moreover, low birth weight babies have higher plasma cortisol levels throughout adult life, indicating HPA axis programming. Indeed, maternal glucocorticoid therapy alters offspring cognition and affect, and pregnant women exposed to the 9.11.2001 atrocity and who developed PTSD appear to transmit neuroendocrine changes to their one-year-old offspring, but continued to third trimester exposure. Furthermore, exposure to the Nazi Holocaust exerted permanent effects upon glucocorticoid levels and steroid metabolism, effects dependent upon the age at exposure. Second generation effects also occur. Overall, the data suggest that developmental exposure to excess glucocorticoids/stress programmes peripheral and CNS functions in adult life, predisposing to affective and other pathology, and may be transmitted into at least one subsequent generation.

Section 6.2

Abstract unavailable.

Section 6.3

Programming of the stress system by the maternal care in animal models

S Maccari, S Morley-Fletcher & M Darnaudery

University of Lille, Lille, France.

Life events occurring during the perinatal period have strong permanent long-term effects on the behavioural and neuroendocrine response to stressors. In rats, repeated restraint stress of the pregnant dam during the last week of pregnancy produces long lasting changes in the HPA axis function and behaviours in the offspring. These changes include a hyperactivity of HPA axis response associated with a reduction in the number of hippocampal corticotroic receptors. The HPA dysfunctions have been reported in infant, young adult and aged animals, therefore suggesting a permanent effect of early stress. Interestingly, after the confrontation to an intense inescapable footshock, prenatal restraint stress (PRS) rats durably show a blunted corticosterone secretion after stress. PRS also induces a hyperresponse of the HPA axis when animals are exposed to an alcohol challenge. Rats exposed to a PRS also show behavioural disturbances known to be related to the HPA axis. Indeed, PRS produces high anxiety levels and depressive-like behaviour during adulthood including sleep disorders related to depression. With aging, these animals exhibit memory impairments in hippocampal-dependent tasks. Despite the permanent imprinting induced by stress in utero, the dysfunctions observed after PRS can be reversed by environmental or pharmacological strategy. For example, early adoption or environmental enrichment during adolescence, as well as a chronic treatment with Insulin-like growth factor 1 in aged animals attenuated some HPA dysfunction’s produced by PRS. Mechanisms underlying the PRS effects on the offspring remain largely unknown. However, previous works demonstrated that maternal glucocorticoids...
during pregnancy may play an important role in the HPA disturbances reported. Thus, stressed mothers show high glucocorticoid levels during pregnancy. Furthermore, in the offspring of stressed mothers, the HPA response to stress is normalised by maternal adrenalectomy during pregnancy. Recently, our group has reported that repeated restraint stress during pregnancy leads to a decrease of the placental 11β-HSD2 activity. Finally, gestational stress has long lasting effects on HPA axis and behaviour in female dams. Thus, during lactating period, stressed mothers show an impairment of maternal care and low aggressive behaviour against a male intruder. Moreover, females stressed during pregnancy show an increase of anxiety-like behaviour several weeks after the end of the stress period. Given that, several evidences suggest that changes in maternal care may durably program offspring’s HPA function and behaviours, it could be postulated that the alterations of the maternal behaviour during the early postnatal period may also strongly contribute to the long-term effect described after prenatal stress.

S6.4 Epigenetic programming and chronic physical aggression
Richard Tremblay
University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada.

Chronic physical aggression has been linked to cortisol secretion and testosterone. Such links could be programmed by environmental effects on gene expression during pregnancy and early childhood. This paper will review research on the chronic aggression-cortisol-testosterone links and summarize a research program on pre and postnatal epigenetic programming.

Glucocorticoid action in the brain

S7.1 Glucocorticoid control of chromatin remodelling in stress-related learning and memory
Johannes MHH Reul
University of Bristol, Bristol, UK.

It is a well-known observation that glucocorticoid hormones facilitate the storage of stressful, emotional events into memory. How glucocorticoids act in these cognitive processes has still not been completely clarified. Since almost a decade we have been collecting data indicating that memory formation of stressful events involves epigenetic mechanisms coordinating transcriptional processes in dentate gyrus granule neurons. We found that such events evoke the phosphorylation of Serine-10 and the acetylation of Lysine-14 in the N-terminal tails of histone H3 molecules specifically in mature dentate neurons. Corresponding with in vivo findings, this epigenetic response is required for chromatin remodeling enabling the induction of immediate-early genes such as C-Fos specifically in these neurons. Subsequent studies employing a set of pharmacological and gene deletion approaches showed that the phospho-acetylation of histone H3, as well as associated gene expression and memory formation requires concurrent signaling via the glucocorticoid receptor and the NMDA/ERK/MSK, NMDA: N-methyl-D-aspartate; ERK: Extracellular signal-regulated kinase, MSK: mitogen- and stress-activated kinase) pathways. Thus, epigenetic processes regulating induction of gene transcription are involved in neuroplasticity processes in dentate neurons necessary for the formation of memories of the endured event. Glucocorticoid hormones secreted as a result of the stressful event play a critical role as signaling molecules in these epigenetic processes. Possible mechanisms of glucocorticoid action will be discussed.

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S7.3 Genomic versus nongenomic corticosteroid effects
Marian Joels & Henk Karst
University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Neurons in the CA1 region of the rodent hippocampus express high levels of the nuclear mineralocorticoid (MR) and glucocorticoid receptors (GR). The MR affinity is such that low levels of corticosterone -as seen under rest- already substantially activate this receptor. Hence, for many years the GR was considered to be the main mediator of the stress response. This receptor causes (among other things) a delayed enhanced influx of calcium into CA1 neurons, an enhancement of serotonin responses and an impaired ability to induce long-term potentiation. Overall, these actions help to normalize hippocampal activity several hours after stress and to preserve information encoded shortly after stress. Recently, it has become evident that this delayed normalizing effect is complemented by a rapid nongenomic action of the same hormone. Thus, as soon as corticosteroid levels rise, hippocampal cells show an increased release probability of glutamate-containing synaptic vesicles. This is presumably due to MRs inserted into the presynaptic membrane, linked to the ERK1/2 signaling pathway. Interestingly, membrane-located MRs display a 10-fold lower affinity than their nuclear counterpart, allowing the former to be a prominent player in the stress response. MRs can also be inserted into the postsynaptic membrane and then (via G-proteins) mediate a rapid suppression of the K-conductance IA. Overall, these rapid and quickly reversible effects of corticosterone are expected to raise hippocampal excitability (in concert with other stress hormones) as long as the hormone levels are elevated, thus enabling the early stages of memory formation. Preliminary evidence suggests that both the nongenomic and the genomic effects of corticosterone show regional differentiation. This allows for region-specific facilitation or attenuation of neuronal activity, which is important for the role of the various areas in the neuroendocrine / cognitive processing of stressful information.

S7.4 Acute and chronic stress: central and peripheral actions of glucocorticoids and insulin
Mary Dallman, Norman Pecoraro, James Warne, Abigail Ginsberg & Susan Akana
Department of Physiology, UCSF, San Francisco, USA.

Stressors engage a neural stress response network that is mediated in large part through the immediate actions of the stimuli on corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) neurons in the amygdala (CeA) and in the long-term by the actions of glucocorticoids (GC) on increased synthesis of CRF in CeA and secretion of CRF on the monoaminergic cell groups as well as forebrain. The consequences of this bias behavioral, autonomic and endocrine outputs in the stressed organism. However, the GC also act both very rapidly and more slowly in hypothalamus and at the pituitary to damp further activity in the HPA axis. When elevations in GC are sustained, systemic insulin concentrations rise in parallel with GC. Together, elevated GC and insulin promote food intake, with a strong bias toward highly palatable calories in moderately stressed rats. This effect is also both acute and chronic. Stressors, like glucocorticoids, promote increases in fat deposition. This combination over the long term increases fat depot weights. There is good evidence that a feedback signal denoting metabolic well-being acts on brain to reduce activity in the central stress response network, thus ameliorating the neural effects of stressors. Activity in common hepatic vagal afferents reduces intake of palatable calories, however, insulin overrides this action, and it is likely that the central action of insulin is responsible for fat and sucrose preferences shown in moderately stressed rats. Moreover, there is a strong, inverse relationship between mesenteric fat depot weights and hypothalamic CRF expression that supports the conclusion that metabolic well-being modulates the perception of stressors by the brain. Because the HPA axis appears to be in large part responsible for metabolic homeostasis and responds primarily to loss of metabolic stores, the dual feedback and forward actions of GC and insulin provide a highly appropriate means to re-establish metabolic equilibrium.
S8.1
Imaging pituitary cell networks and function
Patrice Mallard
Institute of Functional Genomics, Montpellier, France.

The pituitary gland generates highly ordered hormone pulses to control basic body functions such as growth, fertility, and lactation. Using an approach combining transgenic mice models with cell-specific fluorescent tags (GH-GFP, PRL-DSRed, POMC-GFP, LH-Cerulean...) and functional optical imaging (pitary-scale 2-photon excitation microscopy, cellular in vivo imaging), we recently unraveled that most, if not all pituitary cell types are much more organized than we first thought from earlier histological studies on thin tissue sections. During the presentation, I will present examples of how the sexual dimorphism of the GH axis impacts the GH cell network efficacy, i) the development of the pituitary program and external inputs are required for the optimized cell network organization, ii) structural and functional network motifs can differ from one cell network to another (GH cell network versus PRL cell network), and iv) the organizational relationship between paracrine cell networks and the blood flow circuitry is important for generating hormone pulses.

S8.2
New regulatory mechanisms controlling pituitary hormone secretion
Francisco Gracia-Navarro
University of Córdoba, Córdoba, Spain.

Hormone release by pituitary cell types is primarily regulated by stimulatory and inhibitory factors secreted by the hypothalamus. In turn, factors produced by the target organs controlled by the pituitary exert a feedback regulation on the corresponding pituitary cells. However, recent data indicate that, besides these factors, other mechanisms operate to finely tune pituitary function. These include both novel peripheral regulatory factors as well as intrinsic cellular elements. Regarding the first group, we will discuss our recent results on the interaction of adipocyte-derived adipokines involved in the regulation of metabolism and energy balance, with the pituitary. Thus, we have shown that adiponectin inhibits both basal GH and LH release as well as ghrelin-induced GH release and GnRH-stimulated LH secretion in rat pituitary cell cultures, whereas the adipokine also increases GHRH-R and ghrelin/GHS-R mRNA content while decreasing GnRH-R. We will also discuss the role played by the KISS1/KISS1R neuroendocrine system, which controls puberty and other reproductive functions, at the pituitary level. Specifically, our in vitro data using kispeptin-10 (k10) show that this peptide acts directly on pituitary somatotropes and gonadotropes to increase both free cytosolic Ca²⁺ and to stimulate modestly but significantly the release of GH and LH. Finally, we will consider the involvement of the different somatostatin receptors (sst1–sst5) in the differential regulation of somatotropes by their classic inhibitor somatostatin and the somatostatin-related peptide cortistatin. We recently cloned two novel human and porcine truncated isoforms of sst5 (sstB and ss5C) which are selectively activated by somatostatin (sst5B) or cortistatin (sst5C) and can interact with and functionally modulate full-length sst5 and sst2. When viewed together, these data suggest that far from representing simple linear models of regulation, pituitary cell types are controlled by complex multifactorial systems, comprising both intrinsic and peripheral factors, which will have to be uncovered in order to fully understand the precise regulation of the distinct pituitary cell types and, accordingly, their physiological role and pathological implications.


S8.3
New regulators of pituitary cell proliferation
Marta Korbonits
Barts and the London School of Medicine, London, UK.

Sporadic and familial pituitary adenomas are being recognised and diagnosed with increasing frequency due to better diagnostic techniques and improving awareness. Recently, a number of important steps have been taken to clarify the molecular pathological events leading to familial pituitary tumorigenesis, with the recognition of the tumour suppressor genes p27 and AIP as causes of familial pituitary tumours in addition to previously-established genes such as MEN1 and PRKAR1A. The abnormal expression of p27 (CDKN1B, which is underexpressed) and AIP (which is over-expressed) in sporadic pituitary tumours has been reported, but no somatic mutations have been recognised in these genes. Furthermore, germline mutations in apparently sporadic cases are extremely rare. The mechanism of p27 haploinsufficiency leading to tumorigenesis is supported by previous data showing p27 as an important cell cycle inhibitor. However, the mechanism whereby AIP causes tumorigenesis is unclear as this molecular co-chaperone has many potentially important partners. The most logical candidates are the phosphodiesterases due to their involvement in the cAMP pathway, which has in turn been previously implicated in somatotroph cell tumorigenesis via the gsp-mutation (GNAS1) and that of the PKA regulatory subunit (PRKAR1A). Nevertheless, there are increasing data that AIP acts as a classic tumour suppressor gene, regardless of its precise mode of action. A number of outstanding questions remain regarding familial pituitary adenomas including (1) what are the causative genes in cases of AIP mutation-negative familial isolated pituitary adenomas, (2) what genes are responsible for the MEN1 and CDKN1B mutation-negative sporadic and familial MEN1-syndrome patients, and (3) what gene is behind ~40% of Carney complex cases without PRKAR1A but which segregate to the 2p16 area?

There are also exciting and novel developments in studies of the genetics of sporadic pituitary tumours. In addition to previously identified important players such as PTTH and HMG12 (high mobility group A2 protein), recent studies have implicated the involvement of Akt and ERK pathways, MEG3, a non-coding RNA in non-functioning pituitary adenoma tumorigenesis, E-cadherin and the Wnt pathway, P-class glutathione-S-transferase (GSTP1), p51, p16, CXC1L2 and its receptor CXCR4, DNA methyltransferase-3 (DNMT3), Rab18 a protein involved in secretory granules, the ficolate receptor, pituitary microRNAs, and even the cooking spice curcumin.

Tumorigenesis seems to be a multifaceted process in the different type of pituitary adenomas, the increasing amount of information may lead to novel pathways and possibly novel treatments in the future, but the prime causative mechanisms remain elusive.

S8.4
Dual function of dopamine/somatostatin hybrid agonists
Alexandre Saveaumi, Thierry Bru, Alain Enjalbal, Philippe Jaquet & Amé Barlier
Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France.

Somatostatin acts as an inhibitor of hormonal secretion and cell proliferation by acting through 5 somatostatin receptors subtypes (sst1–5). Coupling with Gαi proteins is associated with effects on various transduction pathways, as adenylate cyclase inhibition or phosphatases activation. Dopamine receptor subtype 2 (D2DR) acts through coupling with similar G-proteins and transduction pathways. Sst, mostly sst2 and sst5, are coexpressed with D2DR in many neuroendocrine normal or tumoral cells. Both sst2 and sst5 are able to form heterodimers with D2DR, modifying ligands binding and signal transduction in a positive cooperation manner. Coactivation of (sst2 and D2DR) with clinically available sst2 (octreotide, lanreotide) and D2DR agonists (cabergholine) in different tumors or cellular models is rarely associated with additive effects in the suppression of cell secretion and proliferation. Availability of hybrid dopamine and somatostatin agonists (dopastatins), combining in the same molecule structural parts of somatostatin and dopamine, opened new possibilities for sst/D2DR cooperation. In the first and most studied cellular model, GH tumoral cells in vitro, dopastatins showed clearly a synergistic effect on cell secretion and proliferation by acting through both sst and D2DR receptors. In others pituitary tumours as lactotroph and gonadotroph and in most other neuroendocrine and non-neuroendocrine cellular models, coexpressing various levels of one and D2DR, dopastatins showed an effect closer to that of D2DR agonists. Transduction pathways involved in sst – D2DR cooperation is currently under investigation in various cell models, while a dopastatin, BIM-23A760, is starting clinical studies in acromegaly.

Addison’s disease from genetics to clinical outcome
S9.1
Addison’s disease: natural history and long-term outcome
Bruno Allolio
Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes, University of Wuerzburg, Wuerzburg, Germany.

Primary adrenal insufficiency was first described in 1855 by Thomas Addison, demonstrating that the adrenal cortex is essential for life. Life-saving
glucocorticoid replacement became widely available only with the clinical introduction of cortisone in 1949. Chronic primary adrenal insufficiency (PAI) has a prevalence of 93–140 per million and its incidence is rising due to an increase in autoimmune adrenalitis. In developing countries tuberculosis is still a leading cause of PAI. Despite significant improvements in therapeutic regimens for PAI there is mounting evidence that well-being is not fully restored by current replacement strategies. Impaired well-being has been repeatedly and consistently demonstrated in PAI irrespective of the glucocorticoid used or the distribution of hydrocortisone doses. This may be related to the missing early morning rise in glucocorticoid availability with current replacement regimens. Furthermore, there is now growing evidence that not only quality of life but also life expectancy may be affected by PAI including increased cardiovascular mortality and an increased cancer risk. However, these data have been challenged by a recent investigation from Norway suggesting that increased mortality is restricted to younger age (<40 years) and male sex. In particular, patients with PAI are at risk of life-threatening adrenal crisis. Retrospective analysis in 444 patients with adrenal insufficiency revealed an incidence 5.1 crises per 100 patient years. Major precipitating causes were gastrointestinal infections and fever of any cause. In 8% no specific cause was identified. Patients with PAI and significant non-endocrine comorbidities had a moderately higher risk of crisis (RR 1.24, P = 0.057).

In secondary adrenal failure female sex and concomitant diabetes insipidus were risk factors for adrenal crisis (RR 1.26 and 1.25, respectively, P < 0.05). We currently collect data on adrenal crisis prospectively in a large cohort of patients with adrenal insufficiency to better define the risk factors for this emergency which will be presented. In summary, impaired well-being and altered morbidity and mortality in PAI indicate the need to improve current replacement and surveillance strategies in Addison’s disease.

S9.4 New ways of delivering glucocorticoids
Richard Ross
University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK.

Replication of physiology is a basic tenet of endocrinology but this is rarely achieved. We developed a modified-release hydrocortisone to provide circadian cortisol. The adrenal glucocorticoid, cortisol, is an essential stress hormone and its secretion follows a distinct rhythm regulated by the central circadian oscillator in the suprachiasmatic nucleus. Circulating cortisol levels are low at dawn and rise between 0200 and 0400 h, peak within an hour of waking and then decline through the day. Loss of this rhythm, as occurs in adrenal insufficiency, is associated with metabolic abnormalities, fatigue and poor quality of life, despite replacement with immediate release hydrocortisone. Our aim was to investigate whether an oral formulation of modified release hydrocortisone (Chronocort) could replicate the physiological cortisol rhythm in normal healthy volunteers. Using reference subjects (n = 33) we defined the normal cortisol rhythm. We then tested Chronocort against immediate-release (IR-HC) in dexamethasone suppressed healthy volunteers (n = 28). Chronocort 15mg demonstrated delayed and sustained release: mean (s.e.m.) C1: 4.1 ± 0.4 (18.4 ± 2.4) nmol/L at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24 h and 168 ± 45 h after drug. Bioavailability of Chronocort 5, 10, 15 & 30 mg was 100, 79, 86, & 69% that of IR-HC. In patients with CAH, Chronocort 30 mg, showed a similar pharmacokinetic profile to that seen in healthy volunteers and controlled early morning (0800 h) ACTH and 17OH-progesterone. Modelling demonstrated that Chronocort 15 to 20 mg at 2300 h and 10 mg at 0700 h could reproduce physiological cortisol levels. In conclusion, using modern formulation technology it is possible to generate physiological cortisol profiles. This approach provides a new paradigm for glucocorticoid replacement therapy with important clinical implications for the current management of congenital adrenal hyperplasia and adrenal insufficiency.

S9.5 Early subclinical Addison’s disease
Alberto Falorni
Department of Internal Medicine, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy.

The adrenal autoimmune process that causes primary adrenal insufficiency is made evident by the appearance of circulating adrenal autoantibodies directed against the enzyme steroid 21-hydroxylase (21OAH), in genetically predisposed individuals. Adrenal autoantibodies appear months to years before the appearance of clinical signs of adrenal insufficiency and a pre-clinical phase of the disease can be recognised. Subjects positive for 21OAHb present with a variable degree of pre-clinical adrenal insufficiency as revealed by the low-dose ACTH stimulation test (LDT) and by aldosterone concentration and plasma renin activity. The progression of the destructive process against the adrenal cortex is accompanied by a progressive increase in 21OAHb levels, more evident in subjects with an impaired response to the LDT. A spontaneous remission of early subclinical adrenal insufficiency is observed in the majority of subjects with normal response to the LDT. On the contrary, a pathologic LDT is invariably followed by progression of the adrenal dysfunction that ultimately leads to clinical Addison’s disease (AAD). Factors influencing significantly the risk of progression towards clinical adrenal insufficiency include: male gender, presence of other concomitant autoimmune diseases, impaired LDT and a high 21OAHb titre. Among genetic factors, HLA-DR3-DQ2, DR4-DQ8, MICA5.1 and CTLA gene polymorphism are significantly associated with appearance of 21OAHb, but do not influence the natural history of the disease and do not predict future clinical adrenal insufficiency. On the contrary, the presence of the DRB1*0403 allele in 21OAHb-positive subjects is significantly and negatively associated with progression to clinical Addison’s disease (AAD), and represents the major protective gene marker. The combined use of biochemical and genetic tests in 21OAHb-positive subjects enables an accurate estimate of the risk for future development of clinical AAD and paves the way to clinical studies aimed at preserving the residual adrenal function in subjects with early subclinical AAD.

S9.6 Secondary osteoporosis
Galina Götterström
Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg, Sweden.

Growth hormone (GH) plays a critical role for longitudinal bone growth in children, the achievement of a normal peak bone mass in young adults, and it also affects bone mass and bone remodelling in adults. Among the most reported features of severe growth hormone deficiency (GHD) are abnormal body composition, in particular, increased fat mass and reduced lean body mass, osteopenia and increased risk of fracture. Low bone mass has been reported using dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) and other quantitative methodologies. Bone quality in GHD adults is not studied. Reduced serum concentrations of the markers of bone turnover and the scarce histomorphometry data suggest that GHD is, probably, a state of low bone turnover. Clinical studies have shown that GH replacement therapy accelerates bone turnover within a few weeks, whereas changes in bone mineral density (BMD) and bone mineral content (BMC) were observed much later, 1–2 years after initiating of GH therapy because of initially negative bone remodelling balance. There are few studies determining the effects of prolonged GH replacement. Seven years of GH replacement therapy in 20 adults resulted in increased lumbar


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spine and forearm BMD between 1 and 6 years. In our study, 10 years of GH therapy in 87 GH-deﬁcient adults produced sustained increases in bone mass and density with the maximum effect after 7–10 years. T-scores were almost normalized. As t-score in lumbar spine and femur neck is strongly related to the risk of fractures in these regions, the 10-year replacement is likely to reduce the risk of fractures in GH-deﬁcient adults. The differences in the treatment responses between genders, age groups and groups of adults with different onset of GHD will be discussed.

S10.2 Glucocorticoids effects on bone
Harald Dobnig
Division of Endocrinology and Nuclear Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria.

Glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis (GIO) is the most relevant form of secondary osteoporosis and fractures occur in 30–50% of individuals. Moreover, glucocorticoids (GC) may cause osteonecrosis in as many as 25% of patients on high-dose or long-term therapy. Bone loss occurs fast and may be as high as 10–15% in the first 3–6 months and preferentially affects bone sites rich in cancellous bone such as the ribs, vertebral bodies and the femoral neck. It appears that there is no ‘safe’ dose of GC and even inhaled GC in higher doses suppress bone formation and accelerate bone loss. The effects of GC on bone are primarily direct and here the major effect is on osteoblasts and osteocytes. GC lead to premature apoptosis of these two cell systems and inhibit osteoelastic resorption at the same time. Newer insights into the pathophysiology of GIO has led to the discovery of the importance of the local activity of the 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (11β-HSD) system which consists of two isoenzymes determining the local concentration of active cortisol. Various activation of this system is thought to be responsible for the clinical observation whereby patients are more or less prone to the effects of GC. Other important mechanisms i.e. impaired production of IGF-1 and testosterone support the decrease in osteoblastic activity. Although absolute osteoclastic activity does not appear to be increased in GIO it is nevertheless too high in bone compartments of numerous marked decrease in bone formation. Here, the primary driving factor seems to be a decrease in local osteoprotegerin production that allows RANKL to increase osteoclastogenesis and promote osteoclast life span.

The consequences of prevention and treatment of GIO include a calcium (1200–1500 mg) and vitamin D3 supplementation (800–1200 IE) as well as a bisphosphate treatment or, in high-risk patients teriparatide injections.

S10.3 Defining the target level for vitamin D
Ghada El-Haj Fuleihan
American University of Beirut Medical Center, Beirut, Lebanon.

Vitamin D is an essential hormone for skeletal metabolism across the lifecycle. Rickets and osteomalacia, uncommon manifestations of vitamin D deﬁciency in western countries, are still common in the Middle East and Asia (1, 2). Furthermore, low bone mass and fractures, latent manifestations of vitamin D insufﬁciency, are common conditions worldwide (3, 4). Serum 25-hydroxy-vitamin D (25-OHD) level is the best index of vitamin D nutritional status, and whereas it is generally accepted that a level below 5–10 ng/ml (multiply by 2.5 to convert to nmol/l) represents vitamin D deﬁciency, what constitutes a desirable level is now emerging based on the evidence detailed below. Vitamin D sufﬁciency in adults and elderly can be deﬁned by evaluating discrete biochemical or physiological outcomes that this hormone modulates. These include intestinal calcium absorption, serum parathyroid hormone levels, bone mass, muscle function, and fractures. Intestinal calcium transport increases linearly from 15% to 35% when serum 25-OHD level rises from 10 to 32 ng/ml (5); whereas the vitamin D level at which PTH levels tend to decrease and follow a shallower curve varies from study to study, with a range of 20–40 ng/ml (6). In the NHANES III study, higher serum levels of 25-OHD were associated with higher bone mass of the hip in older (and younger) men and women; the curves being steepest for 25-OHD levels between 10 and 40 ng/ml (7). As for musculoskeletal outcomes, the elderly need a 25-OHD level of around 26 ng/ml to improve muscle function and reduce the risk of falls, and a level above 30 ng/ml to reduce the risk of hip and non-vertebral fractures (8).

Therefore, based on the above body of evidence, a desirable target level for 25-OHD would be above 30 ng/ml. Using this cut-off, it is estimated that 1 billion individuals would suffer from hypovitaminosis D worldwide, regions at higher risk are the Middle East and Southern Asia (2, 3). Each 100 IU of vitamin D taken orally would raise 25-OHD level by 1 ng/ml, consequently the current recommendations for an adequate intake for vitamin D, of 400 IU in adults and 600 IU in elderly, would be sub-optimal to reach a target level above 30 ng/ml. Daily doses of 800–1600 IU have been suggested (9) and would vary depending on the nutritional status of the individual at the start of supplementation.

Hypovitaminosis D is a major public health problem across all life stages, with deleterious immediate and latent manifestations (1–4). Strategies to address this often silent disease should include public education, national health policies for screening and prevention through food fortification, and treatment of high risk patients through vitamin D supplementation. In addition to the above, further research is needed to standardize vitamin D assays, to define optimal vitamin D levels, and determine the doses and regimens of vitamin D supplementation for pregnant and lactating women, infants and adolescents.

S10.4 Sex steroids in the regulation of bone metabolism in men
Claes Ohlsson
University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Osteoporosis-related fractures constitute a major health concern not only in women but also in men. The relative contribution of estrogens and androgens for the male skeleton remains unclear. Most epidemiological studies demonstrate that serum estradiol is a stronger predictor of bone mineral density than serum testosterone. However, conﬂicting results have been presented regarding the impact of serum sex steroids for fracture risk in men, probably because previous studies have been underpowered and have analyzed the serum sex steroid levels using immunoassay-based techniques with a questionable speciﬁcity at lower concentrations. We recently showed that elderly men with low serum estradiol have an increased risk of fractures in the large population-based MrOS Sweden study, with serum sex steroids analyzed by the speciﬁc gas chromatography–mass spectrometry technique. In contrast, serum testosterone was not an independent predictor of fracture risk.

There are two main sources of sex steroids in elderly men, the testis and the adrenals. Interestingly, we found that low DHEA was related to fracture risk independently of serum sex steroids in the MrOS Sweden study, indicating that adrenal-derived DHEA, which is locally converted to estradiol and/or testosterone, has an impact on fracture risk. Experiments using mice with inactivated sex steroid receptors demonstrated that both activation of the estrogen receptor (ERx) and activation of the androgen receptor (ARx) result in a stimulatory effect on the cancellous bone mass in males. ERx was of no importance for the skeleton in male mice while it modulated the ERx-action on cancellous bone in females. In vitro studies demonstrated that the G-protein coupled receptor GPR30 is a functional ER. Our recent in vivo analyses of GPR30-inactivated mice revealed no function of GPR30 for cancellous bone mass but it is involved in the regulation of longitudinal bone growth.

New approaches to epigenetics and hormone/gene regulation

S11.1

Abstract unavailable.

S11.2

Existence of a ‘dormant’ androgen receptor-regulated gene program revealed by ChiP-seq and its influence in prostate cancer progression
Ivan Garcia-Bassols
University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA.

Prostate cancer (PCa) patients are typically treated by androgen ablation therapies that ultimately fail when PCa enters androgen-depletion independence (ADD),
leading to metastasis and death. To develop better clinical treatments it is crucial to understand the mechanisms underlying progression towards ADI and metastasis. Using ChIP-seq technology, I will show how the forkhead factor FoxA1 precisely restricts the extension of the androgen receptor (AR) binding program maintaining as ‘dormant’ 75% of the potentially AR-regulated program.

Once ‘awaked’ -when FoxA1 is absent-, this previously unknown AR-regulated gene program would promote the progression to aggressive PCA by potentially conferring metastatic properties to the cell, including cell motility and cell migration. Together, this cascade of events provides a potential direct link between FoxA1-dependent regulation of AR, progression to ADI, and metastatic behaviour. These studies show how fine modulation of transcription factor levels can drastically modify the complete set of directly-regulated gene programs, deriving in dramatic consequences for tumour progression.

S11.3
MicroRNA and glucocorticoid signaling
Enno Vreugdenhil
Medical Pharmacology/LACDR, Gorlaeus Laboratory, University of Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands.

The absolute protein level of hormone receptors is a crucial determinant for cellular responsiveness towards hormone exposure. In that respect, it is important to note that, by recent progress in gene expression profiling techniques, a novel class of small non-coding RNAs has been discovered. These non-coding transcripts of approximately 21 nucleotides are called microRNAs (miRNAs) that downregulate protein levels in a cell by translational repression. Given the increasing and varied number of functions attributed to miRNAs, it is plausible to hypothesize that miRNAs regulate levels of proteins involved in glucocorticoid feedback mechanisms, in particular because miRNAs preferentially target transcription factors. In the lecture, I will highlight the role of miRNAs in endocrine signalling and present experimental evidence that protein levels of the glucocorticoid receptor are under control of cell-type specific microRNAs.

S12.1
Growth factors and signaling networks in pituitary tumours
Monica Fedele
Italy.

HMGA2 gene amplification and overexpression in human pituitomas and development of pituitary adenomas in HMGA2-transgenic mice showed that HMGA proteins play a crucial role in pituitary tumorigenesis. Recently, we have explored the pRB/E2F1 pathway to investigate the mechanism by which HMGA proteins act, showing that HMGA2 interacts with pRB and induces E2F1 activity in mouse pituitary adenomas by displacing HDAC1 from the pRB/E2F1 complex – a process that results in E2F1 acetylation. We found that loss of E2F1 function (obtained by mating HMGA2 and E2F1-/- mice) suppressed pituitary tumorigenesis in HMGA2 mice, thus demonstrating that HMGA2-mediated E2F1 activation is a crucial event in the onset of these tumors. To identify other genes involved in the process of pituitary tumorigenesis induced by the HMGA proteins, more recently we have analysed the gene expression profile of pituitary adenomas developed by HMGA2- and HMGA1-transgenic mice in comparison with normal pituitary glands from control mice. We have identified 82 transcripts increased and 72 transcripts decreased of at least 4-fold in all the mice pituitary adenomas analyzed compared with normal pituitary glands. Among these genes, we focused our attention on two genes, Muc5Cd-rap and Ccnb2, the first down- and the latter up-regulated in the adenomas compared to normal tissue. We demonstrated that the HMGA proteins directly bind to the promoter of both these genes and are able to regulate their expression. For Ccnb2, the gene coding for cyclin B2, we also analysed the expression of its human homologue in a panel of human pituitary adenomas of different histotype and correlated the expression of the HMG protein with the degree of chromatin modification. We found a statistical direct correlation between CCNB2 expression and each of the HMGA genes, thus indicating that HMGA-induced cyclin B2 overexpression gives an important contribution to human pituitary tumorigenesis.

S12.2
MAPK and PI3K/AKT pathways in pituitary tumorigenesis
Metin Cakir
Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey.

Mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK) are a family of serine/threonine kinases and are key signaling pathways involved in the regulation of normal cell proliferation, survival and differentiation. In mammals, there are more than a dozen MAPK genes. The best known are the extracellular signal-regulated protein kinases (ERK1 and 2); c-Jun N-terminal kinases (JNK1-3); p38 (α, β, γ, δ) and ERK5. Aberrant regulation of MAPK cascades contribute to cancer and other human diseases. In particular, ERK 1/2 which is a downstream component of a signaling module that is activated by the Raf serine/threonine kinases has been the subject of intense research. Raf activates the MAPK kinase (MEK1/2) dual-specificity protein kinases, which then activate ERK1/2. The mutational activation of Raf in human cancers supports the important role of this pathway in human oncogenesis. Additionally, the Raf-MEK-ERK pathway is a key downstream effector of the Ras small GTPase, the most frequently mutated oncogene in human cancers.

The serine/threonine protein kinase PKB/Akt is a crucial regulator of cell growth, proliferation, differentiation and apoptosis. Mitogenic signaling by receptor tyrosine kinases that increase phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) activity lead to activation of PKB/Akt which in turn triggers a number of responses like cell growth, survival and increased motility. Interactions between MAPK and PI3K/Akt pathways have also been reported (1).

There are a number of studies investigating the role of these signaling cascades in pituitary tumorigenesis. In somatotroph GH1c1 cell lines, both gsp oncogene and over-expression of wild-type Gα protein was found to initiate a sustained MAPK ERK 1/2 activation (2). In a study performed in GH-secretory adenomas and non-functioning pituitary adenomas, the activation of G-protein-coupled receptors by neurohormones caused an increase in ERK 1/2 activity, while increasing cAMP by forskolin increased ERK 1/2 activity only in GH-omas (3). In a study by Muñoz et al. Akt mRNA was found to be over-expressed and immunohistochemical expression of phospho-Akt was found to be higher in pituitary adenomas compared to normal pituitaries (4). In a knock-in mutant mouse model carrying a mutation in thyroid hormone receptor-β gene, spontaneous development of TSH-omas with accompanying activation of Akt and its downstream effectors were noted (5). In a recent study, mutations and amplifications in PI3KCA gene of the PI3K/Akt pathway have been found in invasive pituitary tumors compared to noninvasive ones (6).

In conclusion, there are reports showing both MAPK and PI3K/Akt over-activation in pituitary tumors, however whether activation of these pathways are primary events or their activation results from upstream regulators of these pathways needs to be revealed.

S12.3
Molecular and histological prognostic markers in pituitary tumours
J Trouillas1,2, A Wierinckx3,4, C Auger1,2, E Journee5, M Jan5, L Villedieu1, E Dannoty1, G Raverot1,2 & J Lacour6
1INSERM, U842, Lyon, France; 2Université de Lyon 1, Faculté de Médecine Laennec, Lyon, France; 3Hospices Civils de Lyon, Lyon, France; 4ProfilmeXpert, Bron, Lyon, France; 5Faculté de Médecine, département de Neurochirurgie, Tours, France; 6UMR 5558, Laboratoire Bistatistique santé, Pierre-Bénite, France.

Although most pituitary tumors are benign, some are invasive or aggressive. In the absence of specific markers of malignancy, only tumors with metastases are considered malignant. Recently we identified a marker set of invasion, proliferation and aggressiveness in prolactin (PRL) tumors. We will present the prognostic value of histological and molecular markers in PRL tumors and their usefulness in other types of pituitary tumors. Forty-five patients, 23 men and 22 women, with a PRL tumor were operated by transphenoidal surgery, with a long post-surgical outcome (mean follow-up: 124
months; 36–300 months). The tumor size and the invasion were studied by radiology (MRI). Histological (mitoses and labeling for Ki-67, P53, PTGG) and transcriptomic (microarrays and q-RTPCR) methods were performed. Thirty-nine tumors were classified into 5 groups: non-invasive (n=17), invasive (n=15), and aggressive-invasive with histological signs of proliferation (n=7) tumors. Two tumors are considered as malignant, on the presence of metastasis, 5 and 16 years after primary surgery. Two statistical analyses, taking into account the histological groups and the post-surgical out come were performed in 39 patients (15 patients g with remission and 24 patients with persistence and progression in 9 of them). The expression of each gene was compared to the histological classification using a non-parametric test and to the follow-up using a survival model.

By radiology, these 45 PRL tumors consisted of 8 microadenomas and 37 macroadenomas (volume>0.5 cm³). By histology, the detection of 4 markers of proliferation (mitosis, Ki-67, P53 and PTGG) confirmed that no marker per se could distinguish between invasive and non-invasive tumors. However, mitoses and Ki-67, PTGG and p53 labelings were significantly different in 7 invasive tumors, which were classified as aggressive-invasive tumors. These results are consistent with the existence, and 3 groups of PRL tumors. By q-RTPCR analysis, we found that one gene implicated in proliferation (ADAMTS6) and 6 genes of proliferation (CRMP), PTGG, ASK, CCNB1, AURKB, CENPE) were differentially up- or down regulated with high degree of significance (P=0.0028 to P<0.0004) in those patients either in remission or with persistent or progressive tumors. By the same method, tumors other genes were found in those patients.

In conclusion, molecular and histological markers are useful in classifying the PRL tumors into three groups. Differential expression of some genes may predict the aggressiveness and recurrence potential specifically in PRL tumors, but other genes are found in other types of pituitary tumors.

S12.4 Predictive markers of pituitary adenoma behaviour
G Kontogeorgos
Department of Pathology and Pituitary Tumour Reference Center, Athens general Hospital, Athens, Greece.

Markers to predict tumor biology represent an important tool for the optimal management of pituitary adenomas. Specific morphologic features may act as predictive markers of tumor behavior. These include a) tumor cell-specific markers, b) stroma-related elements involving vasculature and angiogenic factors, and c) additional stromal substances and c) miscellaneous tumor type-associated features.

Macrosopic invasion of the perissellar tissues, defined as radiographic or gross operative finding, is considered a more consistent prognostic indicator. Regarding morphology, cystolocal atypia is not a reliable feature. In contrast, the number of mitoses is very important for prognosis. Given that only scarce mitoses can be identified, particularly in some aggressive cases, the Ki-67 represents an alternative key concept. If applied to assess tumor proliferation, in the recent WHO classification, the Ki-67 labeling index (LI) represents a major prognostic indicator for pituitary adenomas. In addition, expression of the p53 gene product is a very important marker to assess tumor biology with more than 3% Ki-67 LI and extensive p53 immunoreactivity are classified as 'atypical adenomas'. Some investigators have proposed to designate adenomas as 'atypical' when Ki-67 LI is more than 10% irrespective of p53 status.

Apoptosis and mitoses represent two adverse and asynchronous events, which under physical conditions maintain the optimal cell numbers. Apoptoses can be recognized by histology alone. Using DNA labeling techniques we can identify apoptotic cells, higher apoptotic labeling index was found in functioning compared to non-functioning adenomas, in microadenomas, particularly in corticotroph adenomas, and in untrated adenomas, particularly prolactinomas.

Cystogenetic analysis of chromosones may provide important information regarding tumor development and progression. Increased chromosome 11 copies are more frequent in functioning, aneuploid pituitary adenomas. Monosomy or partial loss of chromosome 11 in adenomas with normal or increased DNA labeling index indicates complex genomic abnormalities of chromosomes, other than chromosome 11.

Immunohistochemical detection of somatostatin receptors is important, as their density in the cytoplasmic membrane is directly related to the effectiveness of somatostatin analogues. Therefore, morphologic assessment of the somatostatin receptor profile can predict the responsiveness and also validate the effectiveness of treatment with somatostatin analogues.

New drugs such as temozolomide can be used to treat aggressive pituitary tumors. 0-ethylguanine DNA methyltransferase (MGMT) serves as a predictive marker for this new option of treatment. It is important to know that only patients with adenomas showing low MGMT levels respond, whereas those with high levels are resistant to temozolomide therapy.
Thyroid

**$14.1$**

**TSH receptor and thyroid diseases**

Sabine Costagliola
IRIBIM, ULB, Bruxelles, Belgium.

The thyrotropin receptor (TSHR) is a glycoprotein hormone receptor controlling the thyroid growth and the thyroid hormones production, upon stimulation by its natural ligand, the thyrotropin hormone (TSH). In some pathological situations, this receptor is activated in the absence of TSH, either by autoantibodies from patients with Graves’ disease (an autoimmune thyroid disease where the TSHR is targeted and activated by autoantibodies), or by activating mutations (as observed in autonomous thyroid adenomas), or by abnormally high levels of another glycoprotein hormone, the chorionic gonadotropin (hCG), produced by the placenta during the pregnancy (which results in gestational hyperthyroidism). So far the mechanism of activation of this receptor by the TSH, autoantibodies, hCG or natural mutations remains poorly understood.

We propose here a model of activation for the TSHR which takes into account all these physiological and pathological observations.

**$14.2$**

**DUOX2 gene and thyroid disease**

Jose C Moreno
Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Generation of hydrogen peroxide (H$_2$O$_2$) in thyroid cells is essential for the synthesis of thyroid hormone. H$_2$O$_2$ is produced by the Dual Oxidase 2 (DUOX2) at the apical membrane of the thyrocyte, where it is required by thyroxoperoxidase for the iodination of thyroglobulin. A dual oxidase maturation factor 2 (DUOX2) was recently identified as an endoplasmic reticulum-resident protein required for expression of DUOX2 activity. DUOX2 and DUOX2A genes are located in immediate vicinity at human chromosome 15q, and constitute a functional unit evolved from ancient prorakuyotic operons.

Deficiency of DUOX2 leads to congenital hypothyroidism (CH) in humans and mice. We described biallelic inactivating mutations in DUOX2 in patients with severe and permanent CH, while monoallelic defects cause milder and transient CH. These findings represented the first proof of a direct involvement of DUOX2 in human thyroid hormoneogenesis, and showed that a (permanent) genetic defect could cause a transient CH phenotype. Missense DUOX2 defects in compound heterozygosity with nonsense mutations were later shown to contribute to permanent but milder forms of CH, adding to the hypothesis that biallelic defects are necessary for permanence of the disease. However, transient CH was recently reported in children with biallelic mutations in the gene, albeit not functionally tested.

We performed a large-scale screening in 102 patients with thyroid dysmorphogenesis and identified DUOX2 mutations in 33% of the cohort, and a much lower prevalence of DUOX2A defects of only 2%. Even when DUOX2/ DUOX2A genes are also expressed in other tissues as the lung or the gastrointestinal tract, we did not identify any extra-thyroidal symptoms in patients with DUOX2 or DUOX2A genetic defects. This probably reflects the tight and complex tissue-specific regulation of H$_2$O$_2$superoxide generation systems, including overlapping functions of the DUOX1/DUOX1A paralog pair in human mucosal host defense.

**$14.3$**

**Molecular basis of non thyroidal illness syndrome**

Joaquín Lado-Abadal 1
1University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, Texas, USA; 2UETeM.

Medical School, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

The term nonthyroidal illness syndrome (NTIS) refers to characteristic changes in thyroid hormone (TH) levels during illness and starvation. These changes are low TH and high rT3 in serum and tissues, normal or low serum T4 and inappropriately normal or low serum TSH. It remains unclear whether NTIS is a beneficial adaptive response to reduce energy consumption, or a form of secondary hypothyroidism that requires TH treatment, and there is no clinical evidence that TH treatment is advantageous, or indeed disadvantageous.

NTIS patients have an impairment of hypothalamic-pituitary function. The increase in proinflammatory cytokines and endogenous glucocorticoids typically seen in critically ill patients, together with administration of glucocorticoids and dopaminergic drugs, could directly suppress TRH secretion, the pituitary response to TRH and TSH secretion.

About 80% of $T_3$ is produced by extrathyroidal deiodination of $T_4$. In NTIS low $T_3$ and high $rT_3$ are related to a decrease in liver type 1 sodium hormone deiodinase (D1) and skeletal muscle (SM)-D2 activities and to the increase of D3 activity in liver and SM.

NTIS patients show decreased $T_4$ and $T_3$ in most tissues caused in part by reduced uptake, although this is not limiting if appropriate replacement therapy is given.

TH action depends on the tissue expression of TH receptors (TRs), retinoid X receptor (RXR) and corepressors and coactivators. In patients with NTIS THRBI and RXRG expression decreased in SM and adipose tissue and THR1 expression and MCT8 transporter decreased in adipose tissue, indicating a decreased potential for TH. Septic NTIS patients showed an increase in D2 expression, and an increase in D3 activity in SM, but no changes in deiodinase activities were observed in adipose tissue. Septic shock NTIS patients tend to decrease production and increase degradation (muscle) or decrease uptake (adipose tissue) of $T_3$ that probably decrease TH actions.

**$14.4$**

**Type 3 deiodinase and cancer**

Domenico Salvatore
University of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy.

Thyroid hormones (TH) are endocrine molecules necessary for multiple biological processes that are crucial to tumor growth and differentiation. Several reports pointed out a pivotal role of thyroid status in the tumoral behavior. TH action is regulated by the action of the deiodinases. Type 2 deiodinase (D2) activates thyroxine (T4) by converting it to $T_3$, whereas D3, by inactivating T3, terminates thyroid hormone action. Thus, the deiodinase family of selenoproteins constitutes a potent mechanism to control thyroid hormone signaling, allowing cells to customize their own $T_3$ intracellular concentration in a spatial- and temporal-dependent/specific fashion.

$D_3$ is an oncifetal protein frequently expressed in proliferating and neoplastic cells, but its role in this context is unknown. $D_3$ mRNA and/or activity has been reported in several tumoral cell lines (breast and colon carcinoma, hepatocarcinoma and neuroblastoma) and human tumors, including astrocytomas, gliomas, TSH-secreting pituitary tumors. High levels of $D_3$ expression in vascular tumors, a condition that can cause consumptive hypothyroidism.

At the same time, tissues expressing $D_3$ have lower $T_3$ concentrations than what would be expected from plasma contribution; thus, $D_3$ expressing tissues have a gene expression profile typical of hypothyroid cells (28, 175). This is explained by the inactivation of $T_3$ and $T_4$ that takes place at the plasma membrane level immediately after these hormones enter the cell.

We have recently demonstrated that the Shh pathway, through Gli2, directly induces $D_3$ in proliferating keratinocytes and in mouse and human basal cell carcinoma, the most frequent human cancer. We further demonstrate that Gli-induced $D_3$ over-expression reduces intracellular active thyroid hormone (T3), thus resulting in increased cyclin D1 and keratinocyte proliferation.

Whether and how the control of local TH homeostasis contributes to the neoplastic growth will be discussed and is the object of active investigations.

**Progress in understanding and management of diabetes**

$15.1$

**The metabolic syndrome is getting nervous**

JA Romijn
Department of Endocrinology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.

The classical diagnostic strategy of internal medicine, including medical history, physical examination and additional diagnostic test, is unable to assess the activity of the autonomous nervous system in detail and, consequently, has resulted in negligence of the involvement of the autonomic nervous system. Nonetheless, evidence is emerging that the autonomous nervous system is
involved in the pathophysiology of complex diseases. These conditions include insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes mellitus and dyslipidemia, which have traditionally been interpreted in brainless concepts of disease. Several lines of evidence obtained in rodent studies have provided support for this involvement of the autonomous nervous system. These include experiments employing retrograde neuronal tracers, which have documented for instance tissue specific neuroanatomical representation of different fat compartments in hypothalamic nuclei (Keizer et al., Endocrinology 2007). Conversely, experiments using tissue specific denervation in combination with neuroendocrine interventions have documented that hypothalamic nuclei and the two branches of the autonomous nervous system are powerful modulators of tissue specific hormone sensitivity. For instance, NPY induces hepatic insulin resistance of VLDL production through neuronal activity of hepatic sympathetic nerves (van den Hoek et al. Diabetes 2008). In humans the involvement the hypothalamus in the pathophysiology of type 2 diabetes mellitus was proven by functional MRI (Vidarsdottir et al. 2007). These observations support the notion that the metabolic syndrome is getting nervous, even though we lack the tools to assess this involvement in all details in humans in vivo.

**S15.2**

The metabolic memory

Antonio Ceriello

Warwick Medical School, Coventry, UK.

Large randomized studies have established that early intensive glycemic control reduces the risk of diabetic complications, both micro and macrovascular. However, epidemiological and prospective data support a long-term influence of early metabolic control on clinical outcomes. This phenomenon has recently been defined as ‘Metabolic Memory’. It was first hypothesized by Brownlee (Nature 2000), and since shown by many researchers that overproduction of free radicals, superoxide anion (O2−) in particular, forms the unifying link between hyperglycemia and the complications of diabetes. It has also been shown that antioxidant molecules can at least partially reverse these complications both in the laboratory bench and clinically.

In this study we have confirmed in three different models (human endothelial cells, retinal cells and retina from diabetic animals) that, even normalizing glycemia, a persistent activation of many pathways involved in the pathogenesis of diabetic complications is still present. However, the major finding has been the demonstration that even normalizing glycemia an overproduction of free radicals is still evident and, overall, that inhibiting their production, particularly at the mitochondrial level, can switch off the memory effect of hyperglycemia.

These findings clearly open a new field of research, aiming to obtain specific compounds able of blocking the ‘Metabolic Memory’.

**S15.3**

Role of the fatty liver (NAFLD) in the pathogenesis and treatment of Type II Diabetes

Hannele Yki-Jarvinen

University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland.

Several prospective studies have shown that fat accumulation in the liver due to non-alcoholic causes (NAFLD) precedes and predicts type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease independent of obesity and even fat distribution, although individuals with a fatty liver tend to be more abdominally obese than those without. All components of the metabolic syndrome also correlate with liver fat independent of obesity. Both genetic and acquired factors regulate liver fat content. The heritability of liver fat based on twin studies is ~60%. The rs738409[G] allele in the PNPLA3 (adiponutrin) gene strongly associates with increased liver fat content in 3 different ethnic groups, also in Finns. Of acquired factors, changes in body weight markedly and rapidly change liver fat. Of dietary factors, diets rich in saturated fat and those stimulating de novo lipogenesis appear harmful. Regarding the mechanisms of fat accumulation in the liver, peripheral lipolysis is increased independent of obesity in subjects with NAFLD. In such subjects, adipose tissue in inflamed and insulin resistant and characterized by an excess of ceramides which could be mediators of high fat induced insulin resistance. In the human liver, there is an excess of triglycerides which contain saturated fatty acids, consistent with tracer studies that both increased adipose tissue lipolysis and de novo lipogenesis (which produces saturated fatty acids) contribute to excess fat accumulation in the liver. Liver fat content and inflammation are regulated by PPARγ agonists. This effect is unlike the direct sPPARγ2 expression is increased and likely to involve adiponectin from adipose tissue. The main target of adiponectin is the liver and its circulating concentrations are markedly increased by PPARγ agonist therapy. Indeed patients who are very resistant to insulin because of a fatty liver or who have inflammatory changes in addition to increased fat content (NAISH) might form a subgroup which benefit from PPARγ treatment. Liver fat is also the best predictor of insulin requirements in type 2 diabetes. Simple equations to predict liver fat based on routinely available clinical data have recently been developed.

**S15.4**

Insulin analogues in type 2 diabetes: how far have we come?

Allan Vaag

Steno Diabetes Center, Gentofte, Denmark.

The introduction of chemical and genetically modified short and long acting insulin molecules, as well as mixed insulin preparations, has provided novel tools to improve glycemic regulation in patients with diabetes. Reaching the glycaemic target of an HbA1c below 7% represent a major challenge in many patients with type 2 diabetes. Different insulin preparations can be used in various different combinations with a variable number of daily injections as well as in different combinations with oral antihyperglycemic agents. In this talk, some of the most important questions regarding insulin treatment with different insulin analogues in patients with type 2 diabetes will be addressed including: 1. When initiating bed time insulin treatment in patients with type 2 diabetes, what can be achieved using modern basal insulin analogues as compared with human NPH-insulin?, 2. Which treatment regimen is best when initiating insulin treatment in patients with type 2 diabetes using human insulin or insulin analogues: Bed time basal, biphasic or prandial only insulin?, 3. Do multiple injections with human insulin or insulin analogues improve control in patients with type 2 diabetes on biphasic insulins who have not reached target?, and finally 4. Should insulin treatment in obese and non-obese patients with Type 2 diabetes be combined with metformin, insulin secretagogues or both? In addition, the lecture will address the future of insulin analogues in the treatment of type 2 diabetes.

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**Neuroendocrine tumors**

**S16.1**

Novel approaches in the treatment of NET

Kjell Oberg

Department of Endocrine Oncology, University Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden.

Neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) constitute a rather heterogeneous group of malignancies that are considered to be rare. However, recent data is indicating a significant increase in both incidence and prevalence over the last decades, with an overall incidence of 5/100 000/year and prevalence of 25/100 000/year. The treatment of NETs is based on the tumor biology (proliferation capacity and differentiation), tumor localization and spread (TNM-staging). Surgery is important in most patients with NETs with or without a curative intent combined with radiofrequency ablation and embolization of liver metastases. PRRT, peptide receptor receptor treatment, with radioactive somatostatin analogs has increased in importance over the last years with objective response rates (PR + SD) of 30-45%. The medical treatment consists of cytotoxic agents and biologicals such as somatostatin analogs, alpha interferon, VEGF- and mTOR-inhibitors. The cytotoxic therapy consist of various agents such as streptozotocin, cisplatinum, etoposide, temozolomide, capcitabine and doxorubicin in different combinations for high proliferating tumors (Ki-67<10%). Somatostatin analogs (octreotide, lanreotide) are standard of care for functioning NETs with low proliferation capacity and Ki-67 less than 5%. The biochemical and subjective improvement are ranging from 35 to 50% with significant tumor reduction in about 5% Treatment with non-functioning tumors with somatostatin analogs is still debatable but most recent data are indicating a benefit. Alpha interferon has been registered for mainly classical midgut carcinoids with carcinoid syndrome with biochemical and symptomatic improvement in 35-60% of the patients and tumors shrinkage in 10-15%. Both somatostatin analogs and alpha interferon can be combined. VEGF-inhibitors have been applied during the last years for treatment both as single drug but also in combinations with cytotoxic giving response rates of 10-20% and most recently mTOR-inhibitors have been applied in different subtypes of NETs with response rates between 5 and 15%. The future treatment of NETs will be based on molecular genetics and tumor biology for personalized treatment.
S16.2 Molecular genetics of neuroendocrine tumours
Hartmut Neumann
Department of Nephrology and General Medicine, University Medical Center, Freiburg, Germany.

Neuroendocrine tumor (NET) is a distinct term and includes specific selected tumors of the foregut, midgut and hindgut. The term separates other neurocrist-derived tumors likewise pheochromocytomas, paragangliomas as well as medullary thyroid carcinoma and parathyroid adenoma. There are sporadic and hereditary NETs. The prominent hereditary group of NETs forms the syndrome of multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 (MEN1). Other NETs are regarded as sporadic.

The Preventive Care Unit of the Freiburg Medical University Center has focused over years on pheochromocytoma-associated syndromes including von Hippel-Lindau disease (VHL). Among the major manifestations of VHL are pancreatic islet cell tumors (ICT), thus forming a third group of NET patients. Both genes, MEN1 and VHL have been identified. We have subjected patients with pancreatic islet cell tumors to genetic screening of the genes MEN1 and VHL.

The NET registry included 68 patients with pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. These 68 subjects comprised 28 women and 40 men diagnosed with ICT at age 12–82 (mean 59 years). Twenty three functional tumors are registered, 13 insulinomas, 3 VIPomas, 2 glucagonomas, 1 gastrinoma and 4 tumors without specification. Moleculargenic analysis revealed 4 patients with MEN1 germline mutations. In 36 patients no MEN1 and no VHL mutation was found. These patients and tumors were classified as sporadic.

The VHL registry included 23 subjects had ICT. Gender was female in 15 and male in 8 subjects. All these patients were primarily symptomatic for other VHL-associated tumors but not because of ICT. Single ICT was present in 19 subjects, whereas in 4 subjects multiple tumors were present. Tumor diameter varied from 0.5 to 15 cm. Insulin, C peptide and gastrin were measured in 10 cases, but elevated C peptide and gastrin was only found in one subject. This patient had malignant ICT. Transformation from benign to malignant ICT was observed in 2 subjects at age 24 and 61 years respectively. Malignant tumors were found to be statistically larger than benign tumors. malignant. Moleculargenic analyses revealed germline VHL mutations in all patients with VHL-associated ICT. There are 20 different mutations, 13 missense, 6 truncating mutations and one large deletion comprising exon 1. Of note, there was a clustering of mutations in nucleotides 691–713 (14/30 subjects) or nucleotides 666–761 (21/30 subjects).

S16.3 Peptide receptor radiotherapy for NET
Dirk Kuikkeboom
Department of Nuclear Medicine, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Abstract unavailable.

S16.4 PET based somatostatin receptor imaging of NET
Irene Virgolini
Department of Nuclear Medicine, Medical University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria.

Abstract unavailable.

Stem cells niches in the endocrine system

S17.1 Stem cell biology: lessons to learn from the fly
Lilach Gilboa
Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel.

Many adult organs harbor stem cells that are used to sustain homeostasis and to replenish damaged tissue following injury or disease. While the therapeutic potential of stem cells has been much discussed its practical use is still lacking. One major obstacle is the difficulty of re-introducing stem cells into their organs.

Adult stem cells reside within a special environment (niche), which participates in every aspect of stem cell behavior. Many of the biological principles that govern stem cell behavior within a living body were worked out in fruit flies. These principles suggest that stem cells cannot be considered separately from their niches. They form one unit.

Oogenesis in the fly depends on germ line stem cells (GSCs). GSCs divide continually to produce one daughter cell that remains a stem cell, while the other differentiates to form an egg. Niche cells secrete factors that maintain GSCs and control their rate of division. They also tether GSCs and induce asymmetric localization of proteins and organelles within GSCs.

Our data suggests that the stem cell unit (GSCs and their niche) develops in unison. Most importantly, while niche cells affect GSCs, the opposite is also true. Stem cells affect their own support cells. Germ cells and their somatic support cells communicate via a feedback loop. GSCs produce a factor required for somatic cell survival. When GSCs are missing, support cells die. The support cells, on the other hand, produce a factor repressing germ cell proliferation. This feedback loop controls tissue homeostasis and allows the ovary to control the number of stem cells it possesses.

The conservation of biological principles and molecular players between flies and mammals suggest that many of the lessons learned in flies are applicable to humans. The implications for the interdependence of stem cells and niche cells will be discussed.

S17.2 A population of progenitor/stem cells in the adult pituitary
Karine Rizzoti
NIMR, London, UK.

Tissue-specific progenitors play essential roles for organ development and homeostasis but they are not present in all tissues. Throughout life, the pituitary gland adapts the proportion of its endocrine cell types to meet hormonal demands. This plasticity may rely on adult progenitor cells and we have recently described such a population. These cells express SOX2, an HMG box transcription factor, marker of several embryonic progenitors and stem cells, and form “pituise” cultures in culture, which can grow, self renew, and differentiate to all pituitary endocrine cells. Differentiation is associated with expression of OX2, a related HMG box factor. SOX2+ cells are found throughout Rathke’s pouch in embryos and persist in the adult gland. However most of these adult SOX2+ cells also express SOX9. This SOX2+/SOX9+ population may represent transit amplifying cells, whereas the SOX2+/SOX9− cells could be progenitor/stem cells. In order to prove this hypothesis and also better characterize the newly developed pituise cultures we are currently following different approaches.

We have first undertaken lineage marker analysis in order to prove that SOX2+/SOX9− cells give rise to endocrine cells in vitro. We are also developing genetic tools to specifically inactivate Sox2 and Sox9 to understand their function in the embryonic and adult pituitary and to learn more about the cells in which they are expressed. Finally, to establish the pituise culture as an in vitro system to understand endocrine cell differentiation we are currently developing assays to manipulate/control differentiation of specific endocrine lineages.

S17.3 Thyroid: stem cells: normal development and tumorigenesis
Michael Derwahl
Department of Medicine, St Hedwig Kliniken and Charite, University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany.

There is some evidence from different studies that (1) stem cells reside in thyroid tissue (as in all other tissues) for life-time of the organism, (2) stem cells and their progeny are under the control of niches that limit proliferation of these undifferentiated cells, (3) induction of apoptosis and (excessive) growth stimulation can overcome strict niche control, (4) under these conditions actively cycling, more or less differentiated progenitor may grow faster than the surrounding differentiated thyrocytes. Based on this evidence, epidemiological data, and the general concept of stem cells as a source of benign and malignant tumours a role of stem cells and their progeny in the pathogenesis of benign thyroid nodules (A) and thyroid cancer (B) is hypothesised: (A) Population studies have demonstrated that nodular transformation is increasing with age whereas the gestre size is decreasing. Throughout the aging thyroid gland, adult stem cells are detectable that maintain the capacity of proliferation and differentiation. Experimental studies revealed that growth factors, their related
receptors and growth-related signalling pathways are highly expressed or even overexpressed in thyroid nodules and nodular goitres. Some of the growth factors are potent stimulators of thyroid stem cell growth. The proliferation of quiescent stem cells is controlled by signals from putative niche cells. In vivo, malnutrition can limit or even overcome the control which results in an outgrowth of stem cells as thyro-spheres. Histological and immunohistochemical studies demonstrated hypofunction, destruction and necrosis of normal thyroid tissue in goitreous conditions that may be equivalent to in vivo focal malnutrition thereby affecting the control of niches on thyroid cell growth in vivo. In addition, there is some experimental evidence that apoptosis of thyrocytes is a main factor of cell loss during goitre formation. Apoptosis of thyrocytes is, however, a prerequisite for thyro-sphere formation and therefore the proliferation of stem and progenitor cells in vivo. Thus, the short but intense stimulation of stem cells by growth factors in vivo may correspond to processes of nodular transformation in vivo that last for months, years or even decades. During this time, some cells may additionally accumulate molecular aberrations that provide a second growth advantage, for example ras mutations in few non-functional cells. Adrenal venous sampling (AVS) is considered the only reliable technique that allows the clinician to define the patients that should undergo unilateral adrenalectomy. During AVS, blood is collected from the inferior vena cava, from a peripheral vein and from both adrenal veins and aldosterone and cortisol are measured in each sample. The cortisol concentration in the samples are a measure of the adequacy of the adrenal vein cannulation. There is no agreement on which criteria should be used for considering a successful cannulation of the adrenal veins and for considering the aldosterone secretion "lateralized" and therefore, to suggest adrenalectomy. We suggest to use restrictive criteria, especially for demonstrating the correct cannulation of the adrenal veins. Monitoring of cortisol during the catheterization procedure allows any improperly collected adrenal samples to be immediately re-collected. We recently reported a quick and reliable cortisol assay performed in the operating room during the AVS, allowing the radiologist further attempts at cannulation until cortisol measurements demonstrate the success of the sampling. The recently published Guidelines of the Endocrine Society suggest that AVS should be performed in all patients in whom the adrenalectomy is considered. In fact adrenal vein sampling is the only reliable technique that allows the differentiation between PA subtypes and therefore, it should always be performed in patients who are potential candidates for surgery.

However, AVS is not widely available. It is invasive and not devoid of morbidity (pain, adrenal hematoma). Cannulating the two adrenal veins is technically demanding and may fail in up to one patient in four. The procedure is not standardized (sequential or simultaneous bilateral AVS? with or without corticotropin stimulation?). There is no consensus regarding the threshold for the cortisol-corrected aldosterone ratio that indicates a lateralized AVS. Even the use of cortisol-corrected aldosterone ratios can be questioned as it relies on the unproven assumption that cortisol secretion in symmetrical in all cases of surgically-curable PA.

The presence of a unilateral adenoma at computed tomography is a surrogate marker of unilateral aldosterone hypersecretion. Whether a lateralized AVS improves the prediction of surgery outcome in younger patients (e.g. aged 40 or less) with a unilateral adenoma is not documented. The prevalence of non-functioning adrenal masses increases with age. Therefore younger patients have a very low probability for the combination of idiopathic PA with a non-functioning adrenal adenoma. Consequently, AVS cannot be considered a sine qua non condition for adrenalectomy in PA, specifically in younger patients, i.e. in patients who are the best candidates for surgery.

Should AVS be performed in a many patients with PA before surgery? YES Should all young patients with PA and a typical adenoma at computed tomography undergo AVS before surgery? NO.

Bone endocrinology

S19.1

Endocrine regulation of energy metabolism by the skeleton

Patricia Duct
Columbia University, New York, New York, USA.

That obesity protects mammals from osteoporosis led us to show in the past that bone remodeling, and thereby bone mass, is regulated by the adipocytes-derived hormone leptin via a central relay and the sympathetic nervous system. To test whether in response to this regulation bone could exert a feedback control of energy homeostasis we performed a functional genetic screen in mice designed to identify genes expressed specifically in osteoblasts, encoding signaling molecules and affecting energy metabolism. Through this effort we identified two genes, Osteocalcin and Esp, whose products are both involved in the regulation of glucose metabolism and of pancreas biology. Indeed, mice lacking the product of Esp are hypoglycemic and protected from obesity and glucose intolerance because of an increase in β-cell proliferation, insulin secretion and insulin sensitivity. In contrast, mice lacking the osteoblast-secreted molecule osteocalcin display decreased β-cell proliferation, glucose intolerance and insulin resistance. Genetic and biochemical analyses revealed that Esp and Osteocalcin lie in the same molecular cascade and that the Esp−/− mice are a model of osteocalcin’s gain-of-activity. Highlighting the importance of this novel regulation of energy metabolism Esp−/− mice are protected from diet-induced obesity and diabetes. These studies establish that the skeleton, via its secretion of osteocalcin, exerts an endocrine regulation of sugar homeostasis thus expanding the biological importance of this organ as well as our understanding of the regulation of energy metabolism.

In a new set of studies, we have tested the effect of recombinant osteocalcin on energy metabolism in WT mice as well as in a model of diet-induced obesity. Results of these experiments will be presented at the meeting.

S19.2

Neuronal regulation of bone remodeling

Florent Elefteriou
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

The process of bone remodelling enables the conservation of an optimal bone mass and properties during adult life. Recent evidences, based on genetic and pharmacological data, revealed that this process is under the control of hypothalamic and neuronal signals released by sympathetic nerves in the bone microenvironment. The implication of these findings is that bone remodelling can be considered as a classical homeostatic process, coupled and fully integrated with other endocrine systems of the body. These studies also revealed that beta2 adrenergic receptors in osteoblasts mediate the anti-osteogenic effect of autonomic nerves, and that pharmacological blockade of b2 adrenergic receptor signalling by beta-blockers can increase bone mass in mice and rats. These findings as well as their clinical implications will be discussed.
S19.3
Role of oxidative stress in skeletal involton
Stavros Manolagas
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas, USA.

In contrast to traditional ideas that loss of estrogens at menopause is the seminal mechanism of osteoporosis, bone loss begins as early as the early part of the third decade in both women and men; substantial trabecular bone loss occurs in sex steroid sufficient young adult women and men, and after the first few years of accelerated bone loss in postmenopausal women, bone mass and strength decline in both sexes at the same rate. Consistent with these clinical observations, mechanistic studies in mice show that aging, and specifically increased oxidative stress, rather than age-associated failure of other organs, is a fundamental pathogenetic mechanism of age-related bone loss and strength, leading to, among other changes, a decrease in osteoblast lifespan and bone formation. Loss of estrogens or androgens accelerates the effects of aging on bone by decreasing defense against oxidative stress. Oxygen radical-induced activation of the FoxO family of transcription factors defends against such an increase by up regulating free radical scavenging and DNA repair enzymes, thereby representing an indispensable homeostatic mechanism for skeletal health. Consistent with this, loss or gain of function of FoxO3 decreases and increases bone mass respectively. Albeit, excessive or protracted FoxO activation diverts β-catenin away from Wnt signaling, leading to a decreased osteoblastogenesis. Excessive FoxO activation may also lead to a decrease in bone strength, independently of bone mass, by compromising the bone vasculature and the hydration of the aging skeleton. Fascinatingly, attenuation of Wnt-mediated transcription, resulting from an autosomal dominant missense mutation in LRPS or LRPS -co-receptors for the Wnt-signaling pathway has been linked recently genetically not only to premature osteoporosis, but also to coronary artery disease as well as several features of the metabolic syndrome including hyperlipidemia, hypertension, and diabetes, but not obesity. Hence, antagonism of Wnt-signaling by oxidative stress-induced activation of FoxO3 with increasing age may be a common molecular mechanism contributing to the development not only of involutional osteoporosis, but several pathologies like atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, and hyperlipidemia – all of which become more prevalent with advancing age (Manolagas & Almeida Mol Endocrinol. 2007 21 2605–14).

S19.4
Lipoprotein involvement in bone metabolism
Barbara Obermayer-Pietsch
Medical University, Graz, Austria.

Osteoporosis is a common, age-related disease with a strong genetic component. Mutations in the low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5 (LRPS) gene function are known to cause rare bone-related syndromes including loss-of-function mutations with decreased bone mineral density (BMD) and gain-of-function mutations with high bone mass. The initial discovery of lipoprotein involvement in bone metabolism was surprising, but revealed a strong regulatory pathway by the Wnt-sigalling cascade. In addition, several attempts to investigate the genetic background of osteoporosis by whole genome investigations resulted in the affirmation of the lipoprotein receptor gene loci in association with bone fractures and BMD.

Recent studies demonstrate the LRPS coreceptor as a key element of the PTH signaling that regulates osteoblast activity. Furthermore, lipoproteins and the respective genes regulate atherogenesis and bone properties – more investigations are on the way to elucidate their involvement in bone metabolism using new insights in the calcification of bone and vasculature.

Defining targets for investigating new therapies and possible individual pharmacogenomics in osteoporosis patients by lipoprotein research will expand our repertoire in diagnosis and treatment of this widespread disease.

Thyroid cancer
S20.1
C Cell neoplasia
Rossella Elisei
Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy.

Parafollicular C-Cells represent 1% of thyroid cells and differ from follicular cells for their origin from the neural crest. At variance with follicular cells, their growth and function are independent from thyrotopsin stimulating hormone (TSH), they do not take up iodine and they produce and secrete calcitonin (CT) but not thyroglobulin. C-Cell Hyperplasia (CHC) is defined as an increased number of normal C-cells (i.e. 50 or more C-cells in at least one low-power field (100x)), more commonly with a diffuse pattern. Although rare, CHC has been described in normal thyroids and more than 10% of lymphocytic thyroiditis are accompanied by CCH as well as some micropapillary thyroid cancer. The pathological role of this CCH is still unclear.

Malignant transformation of C cells leads to the development of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC). It is a well-differentiated thyroid tumor maintaining the biochemical and pathological features of C cells and elevated concentration of serum CT are strongly suggestive of the presence of either primary MTC, before thyroidectomy, or metastatic MTC, after thyroidectomy. Only rare cases of de-differentiated MTC are associated to low or absent levels of serum CT.

The prevalence of MTC varies from 5 to 10% among all thyroid tumors and from 0.4 to 1.4% among thyroid nodules. Females and males are almost equally affected. The mean age at diagnosis is around 40 years, but a wide range of age at onset is reported. In about 25% of cases MTC is one of the components of the Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia type II syndromes, which are autosomal dominant inherited syndromes involving other endocrine glands. The pathogenic mechanism of these syndromes has been recognized in the activation of the RET protooncogene. Several germline RET mutations, mainly concentrated in exons 10–16 of the RET gene have been discovered to be associated with the hereditary MTC. Somatic RET mutations are found in about 45% of sporadic MTC and have been reported to have a poor prognostic role both for the outcome and the survival.

The biological behaviour of MTC is quite aggressive and only 50% of MTC patients are still alive after 10 years. The only possibility to improve the cure and survival is the early diagnosis and the early surgical treatment when the MTC is still intrathyroid. This can be obtained by routine measurement of serum CT in patients with thyroid nodular disease and with RET genetic screening in hereditary forms. Metastatic MTC patients have only few therapeutic options and conventional therapies have been demonstrated to be ineffective. The recent development of new targeted drugs such as tyrosine kinase inhibitors able to act against both RET and other tyrosine kinase receptors (i.e VEGFR, PDGFR ecc) are very promising and several clinical trials are already on going.

S20.2
Ultrasound diagnosis and follow-up of thyroid cancer
Murat Erdogan
Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey.

Ultrasoundography is now a crucial part of diagnosis and the follow-up of thyroid cancers as well as other thyroid disorders. If you are an endocrinologist of the age 40 or below and if you still do not perform ultrasonography by yourself, we believe you have an important skill to learn, which will guide you through out your thyroid practice and totally change your vision to thyroid disorders.

We hereby discuss the importance of thyroid ultrasonography for the diagnosis and follow up of thyroid malignancy under three headings:

1. Picking up the high risk cases among a large group of patients with nodular thyroid disorders.
2. Preoperatively, to define the operation strategy for the FNAC (+) patients.
3. Postoperative management of differentiated and medullary thyroid cancer patients.

If one can use ultrasonography for these three headings in a given thyroid cancer patients, we believe that the outcome of the patient will be improved to a great extend.

S20.3
Advances in management of thyroid cancer with novel chemotherapy agents
Christopher Nutting
Royal Marsden Hospital, London, UK.

Recently there has been resurgence in interest in the treatment of iodine negative differentiated thyroid cancer and medullary thyroid cancer with novel agents. This presentation will review the recent literature on treatment of thyroid cancers with multi-targeted tyrosine kinase inhibitors. Data on the experience of the Royal Marsden Hospital with Sorafenib will be presented. Vascular endothelial growth factor inhibition appears to be a particularly important target for these agents, and future directions of research will be discussed.

S20.4
Pregnancy after exposure to radiiodine
Steve Hyer
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust, Carshalton, UK.

The administration of 131I should strictly be avoided in pregnancy. Iodide concentrating capacity can be detected in the thyroid of the 10–11 week fetus. If administration is within the first 8 weeks, the major problem is fetal whole body dose due to gamma emission from 131I in the maternal bladder (about 50–100 μCi/MBq of administered activity). This dose is reduced if the mother is well hydrated and voids frequently. Generally the lifetime risk of fetal cancer is considered to be 10–15% per Sv (stochastic).

If the fetus is more than 8 weeks post conception, the developing fetal thyroid may accumulate iodine. Fetal thyroid doses are very high which can cause significant fetal thyroid damage leading to permanent hypothyroidism. The whole body fetal dose is likely to be less than 100 mSv and would not necessarily indicate termination of the pregnancy on the basis of the exposure alone. The mother should, however, be given usual doses of replacement thyroid hormone. If discovered within 12 hours of administration, 60–130 mg of stable KI is recommended. Since 131I is concentrated in maternal milk, breast feeding is contra-indicated after radiiodine administration to the mother. A radiation dose of approx. 550 μCi would be delivered after the administration of 1mCi to the mother.

This presentation will consider the risk assessment after exposure to 131I with case studies taken from clinical practice. Dose-dependent effects of 131I on gonadal function will also be discussed.

S21.1
Cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in patients treated for craniopharyngioma
Alberto Pereira
Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.

The treatment of craniopharyngiomas is associated with long-term morbidity. Although histological benign, intrinsic aggressive biological properties of craniopharyngioma, such as invasion of surrounding tissues, apparently preclude an indolent course. Cardio- and cerebrovascular mortality risk in craniopharyngioma patients is approximately three fold increased. This risk seems to be even greater in estrogen-deficient premenopausal women. In addition, there is a high prevalence of features of the metabolic syndrome, such as type 2 diabetes mellitus, obesity and dyslipidemia, when compared to normative data. Long-term follow-up studies all involve retrospective historical cohorts. The potential role of treatment modalities and hypothalamic hypopituitarism to the enhanced cardiovascular morbidity, is discussed. Then, the question arises as to the mechanism(s) involved in the explanation for the increased prevalence of cardiometabolic complications in these patients. One of these explanations is irreversible hypothalamic dysfunction. Evolution has provided us with powerful tools to keep our internal environment stable by synchronizing activity and rest to the day/night cycle by means of biological clock mechanisms. The nuclei within the hypothalamus are crucial in integrating and conveying the different signals, informing the brain of the internal and external environment. Considering the large proportion of patients with damage to the optic nerves, it is hypothesized that craniopharyngiomas and/or the effects of treatment may result in damage to the suprachiasmatic hypothalamic nucleus. This may result in altered regulation of central clock mechanisms, which predisposes to alterations in metabolism. In addition, the possibility of damage to other hypothalamic nuclei involved in the integrative physiology of metabolism cannot be excluded. Hypothalamic damage thus may have contributed to the observed morbidity but direct clinical evidence is not yet available. Patients treated for Craniopharyngioma have excessive long-term multisystem morbidity and mortality. Besides appropriate endocrine replacement, especially estrogen replacement in premenopausal females, intensive control of glucose, lipids, blood pressure and weight should be achieved, as in any other patient with increased risk for cardiovascular disease.

S21.2
Factors associated with hypothalamic morbidity in patients with craniopharyngiomas
Helene Holmer & Eva Marie Erfurth
Centralsjukhuset Kristianstad and Lund University Hospital, Centralsjukhuset Kristianstad, Sweden.

S21.3
Treatment and prognosis of non-functioning pituitary adenomas
Annamaria Colao
Department of Molecular and Clinical Endocrinology and Oncology, ‘Geldrio II’ University, Naples, Italy.

Surgery is the first-line treatment of patients with clinically non-functioning pituitary adenomas (NFA). Because of lack of clinical syndrome these tumours are diagnosed with a variable delay when patients suffer from compression symptoms (hypopituitarism, headache, visual field defects) due to the extension of the tumour outside the pituitary fossa. Surgery is followed by residual tumour tissue in most patients. In these cases, radiotherapy is generally used to prevent tumour re-growth. However, NFA cell membranes, in analogy with GH- and PRL-secreting adenomas, express somatostatin and dopamine receptors. Treatment with somatostatin analogues and dopamine-agonists induced some beneficial effects on visual field defects and was also followed by tumour shrinkage in a minority of cases. Dopamine-agonists seem to be more effective on tumour shrinkage than somatostatin analogues. More recently, a combination treatment with both somatostatin analogues and dopamine-agonists have been tested in a few patients with interesting results.

Lack of randomized, placebo-controlled trials prevents any conclusion on the efficacy of these drugs. In contrast, use of gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogues has been abandoned.

S21.4
Treatment options for aggressive pituitary tumours
Ashley Grossman
St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London, UK.

Pituitary tumours have recently been shown to have a prevalence of around one in 1000, but the overwhelming majority of these are benign and readily treated. Nevertheless, while the initial therapy of the majority of non-secreting macroadenomas is transphenoidal surgery, these have a tendency to recur even when apparently totally removed. Recurrence seems not to depend on dural invasion, and it cannot at present be predicted by any histopathological markers. Indeed, some 50% of such adenomas will recur over 10 years, although this recurrence rate is
Tumorigenesis in pheochromocytoma/paragangliomas

The Warburg effect in pheochromocytoma: a link between genetic disorders and cell metabolism
Judit Faví
INSERM U772, Paris, France.

Tumorigenesis and intermediary metabolism have a long common history. Eighty years ago, the biochemist Otto Warburg pioneered a large field of researches devoted to the metabolism of tumour cells. He reported a spectacular shift from a normal aerobic metabolism to a highly glycolytic metabolism, associated with a low respiration rate, despite aerobic conditions. After being forgotten for decades, a renewed interest in the Warburg effect has resulted from the report that, mitochondrial enzyme involved in the tricarboxylic acid cycle, also known as the Krebs Cycle, can act as tumor suppressor genes in hereditary tumor syndromes. Three of the four subunits of succinate dehydrogenase, or mitochondrial complex II, namely, SDHB, SDHC, and SDHD, have been involved in the tumorigenesis resulting in paragangliomas and pheochromocytomas. Primary mutations in the fumarate hydratase (FH)-encoding gene unexpectedly result in uterine fibroids, skin leiomyomata, and papillary renal cell cancer. These inactivation seem to have a common pathway with the Von Hippel Lindau (VHL) tumour suppressor gene inactivation, as they all lead to the abnormal activation of hypoxia-inducible factors (HIF) in normoxic conditions, a phenomenon known as pseudo-hypoxia.

We used the heterogeneous genetic determinism of pheochromocytomas as a tool to decipher the molecular basis for the Warburg effect and its link with pseudohypoxia in tumors. We studied oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS), angiogenesis and glycolysis in pheochromocytomas induced by germ-line mutations in VHL, Von Hippel Lindau disease type 2A, 2B and 2C) and compared them to those associated with mutations in RET, NF1 and SDH genes. SDH, VHL-2A and VHL-2B tumors, but not RET, NF1 and VHL-2C pheochromocytomas, have been suggested to be related to a pseudo-hypoxic drive. Our findings suggest an unexpected association between pseudohypoxia and loss of p53, which leads to a distinctive Warburg effect, specifically in VHL-2A- and -2B-related pheochromocytomas. This study illustrates how the molecular consequences of genetic disorders can strongly modulate metabolic functions in tumor cells.

Hypoxia-induced angiogenesis in pheochromocytoma
Eamonn Maher
University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK.

Predisposition to pheochromocytoma is a feature of germline succinate dehydrogenase subunit mutations (SDH, SDHC and SDHD). Von Hippel Lindau (VHL) disease, multiple endocrine neoplasia (MEN) types 2A and 2B and neurofibromatosis type 1. However, although each of these disorders is associated with pheochromocytoma they differ with respect to susceptibility to other related tumours. However despite this clinical heterogeneity, there is evidence for shared mechanisms of tumourigenesis. Thus VHL, SDHB and SDHID inactivation have been both demonstrated to be able to predict which patients would benefit from this treatment. Radiosurgery appears to be a useful alternative where the recurrence is limited in size and is >5 mm from the optic chiasm nerves, although claims of an increased rate of effectiveness have not been easy to substantiate.

Only around 0.2% of pituitary tumours are carcinomas, as defined by the presence of intra- or extra-cranial metastases, but these offer an exceptional challenge. The majority of these tumours are either prolactin- or ACTH-secreting tumours. Such patients may occasionally respond to dopamine- or somatostatin-receptor agonists, but in general require repeated transphenoidal or even transcranial surgery. Conventional chemotherapy has not been shown to be particularly effective, but recent case reports with the alkyating agent temozolomide have shown scattered cases of impressive tumour control, at least in the short and medium term. The exact role of radiation therapy in the management of these tumours, derived from DNA, and recent reports suggest that tumours lacking MGMT are especially sensitive to temozolomide. In such tumours there is evidence for methylation of the MGMT gene promoter. However, an extensive study has shown that only some 15% of pituitary adenomas lack MGMT, although this proportion may be higher in prolactinomas.

S22.3
Antiangiogenic medication in malignant pheochromocytoma
Michel Azzzi
Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou, 20-40 rue Leblanc, Paris, France.

Inhibiting tumor angiogenesis by targeting the activity of angiogenic growth factors, especially the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)-A signalling pathway, is a new promising therapeutic strategy for patients with different cancer types. Several VEGF inhibitors have been developed including a humanized anti-VEGF-A monoclonal antibody (bevacizumab), an anti-VEGFR-2 antibody, a VEGF receptor chimeric protein and various small molecules inhibiting VEGFR-2 signal transduction, such as sunitinib or sorafenib. Several of them are now approved for the treatment of cancer, especially for advanced renal and colorectal cancer. Complete/partial response to sunitinib has been reported in very few patients with advanced pheochromocytoma or paraganglioma. The use of these drugs has been associated with several side effects, including early hypertension necessitating close blood pressure monitoring, renal toxicity (proteinuria), cardiovascular toxicity (decrease in left ventricular ejection fraction, congestive heart failure), hypothyroidism, bleeding, gastrointestinal perforation, wound-healing complications, and venous thrombosis. Initial and follow-up work-up should include: home or 24-h ambulatory blood pressure monitoring; urine dipstick for proteinuria and estimated glomerular filtration rate determination (MDRD); TSH measurements; ECG; echocardiography if necessary. Optimal care is best achieved within a network of professionals including general practitioners, oncologists, cardiologists and nephrologists.

S22.4
Clinical, biochemical and genetic aspects of malignant pheochromocytoma
Massimo Mannelli
University of Florence, Florence, Italy.

Pheochromocytoma (Pheo) is a chromaffin tumor of the adrenal gland. When extra-adrenal, the tumor is called paraganglioma (PGL). At present, the only objective criterion for malignancy is the presence of metastases (i.e. spreading of the tumor in bones, liver, lungs or lymph-nodes where chromaffin tissue is normally absent). Extensive invasion of adjacent tissues can be considered only an indicator of malignant potential as well as high cellularity, necrosis, vascular/ capsular invasion and high Ki-67 immunoreactivity at histology. Malignancy is more frequently associated with extra-adrenal localizations and with tumor of large size and of irregular shape. Metastases can be found at diagnosis or develop after primary surgery, sometimes also after many years. The biochemical profile of malignant Pheo/PGL is generally represented by high levels of norepinephrine and/ or dopamine. Rarely malignant tumors can be non-secreting. Genetic analysis has demonstrated that malignant Pheo/PGLs are frequently associated with mutations of the gene encoding the B subunit of the succinate-dehydrogenase (SDHB). In fact, at variance with carriers of mutations in the other susceptibility genes who present malignancy in about 5%, in patients with a germline SDHB mutation


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malignancy ranges from 30 to 60%. Unfortunately, at present the therapy of malignant Pheochromocytoma is palliative. Radiometabolic therapy using I-131-MIBG is the first option when metastases result positive at scintigraphy. Chemotherapy has been used alone or in association with radionucleide treatment but always with limited results. Therefore, with anti-angiogenic drugs a putative option that might be tested in the next future.

Adrenocortical tumours – pathogenesis and management

S23.1

Molecular pathogenesis of adrenocortical tumors
Felix Beuschlein
Medizinische Klinik Innenstadt, München, Germany.

Tumors of the adrenal cortex can present as incidental findings during abdominal imaging, as the cause of steroid excess and/or as malignancy. The most common adrenal disorder encountered today is the adrenal incidentaloma, which is mostly benign but can be associated with (subclinical) Cushing’s syndrome or primary aldosteronism. In contrast, adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC) represents a rare but highly malignant tumor entity. Over the last years studies including expression profiling of tissue samples, in vitro examination of tumor related pathways and genetic examination of patient cohorts with specific adrenal disorders have uncovered a number of mechanisms relevant for the molecular pathogenesis of adrenocortical tumors. Furthermore, hereditary diseases including Li-Fraumeni and Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome have allowed important insights in mechanisms of adrenal tumorigenesis. Finally, during the last decade a number of mouse systems have been developed with distinct features of adrenal tumorigenesis that have aided as in vivo models. IGF-2 is considered one of the most potent growth factor for the adrenal. Accordingly, genetic studies and expression profiling on adrenocortical carcinomas have demonstrated a variety of genetic alterations resulting in IGF-2 overexpression. Conversely, loss of peptide hormone expression such as the Bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs) also have been demonstrated to impact growth and function of ACCs. Furthermore, the Wnt/beta-catenin pathway has been recently suggested to be activated in both benign and malignant adrenocortical tumors. Activating mutations of the beta-catenin gene were found with similar frequencies in adrenal adenomas and carcinomas whereas abnormal localization of beta-catenin was observed at a higher rate in adenomas than in carcinomas. In addition, somatic mutations in the regulatory R1/A subunit of protein kinase A (PKR1AR1A), which is a key component of the cAMP signaling pathway that has been implicated in endocrine tumorigenesis have been demonstrated in sporadic secreting adrenocortical adenomas. Taken together, a number of molecular mechanisms have been recently identified that contribute to adrenocortical growth and function. Future challenges will include translation of these molecular advances into clinical practice to improve diagnosis and treatment of patients with adrenocortical tumors.

S23.2

Aberrant receptors (AR) in adrenal Cushing’s syndrome
Rossella Lébe1, Lionel Grousson1,2, Guillaume Assie1
Xavier Bertagna1, Olivier Chabre1, Hervé Lefèvre1 & Jérôme Bertherat1,2
1Institut Cochin, INSERM U567, Paris, France; 2Hôpital Cochin, Université Paris Descartes, Paris, France; 3CHU de Grenoble, Grenoble, France; 4CHU de Rouen, Rouen, France.

Some elegant clinical observations of dysregulated cortisol-secretion in cases of ACTH-independent macronodular hyperplasia (AIMAH) and more rarely adrenocortical adenomas (ACA) have led to the concept of ‘aberrant’ or ‘illegitimate’ receptors (AR) in adrenal Cushing syndrome. If this situation cortisol secretion is regulated by an extra-cellular ligand that usually does not stimulate cortisol secretion in normal adrenals. This abnormal response might be due to an ectopic expression or overexpression of a receptor. It is also possible that post-receptors signalling alterations play a role in this phenomenon. The most investigated example of AR is the case of food-dependent Cushing’s syndrome due to illegitimate expression of the GIP receptor. This receptor stimulates intracellular levels of cAMP as does ACTH. Others G-protein-coupled receptors (i.e. receptors for LHHCG, 8-adenergic ligands, vasopressine, serotonin) have been described. In vitro studies have shown that stimulation of these receptors often stimulate cAMP signaling. Ligands of these receptors might circulate from the general circulation, but also, as demonstrated for vasopressine or serotonin, be produced by the adrenal tumor itself. Clinical screening of AIMAH patients have shown that an abnormal response suggestive of the presence of one or several AR is very frequent. In some cases this has been used for targeted therapy of cortisol oversecretion. The list of receptors that could be ‘aberrant’ might not be yet be complete. In vitro studies of cortisol secretion regulation by various ligands as well as gene profiling studies are interesting tools for a systematic extensive screening. The concept of AR raised two interesting issues: 1) its role in the development and pathogenesis of adrenocortical tumors 2) its pathogenesis. The expression of a functional AR clearly takes part in cortisol dysregulation. However animals studies have shown that ectopic expression of LHHCG or GIP receptors also stimulates tumor growth. Concerning the mechanisms leading to AR in adrenal Cushing’s syndrome no genetic alteration of the gene encoding these receptors have been reported so far. Transcription factor studies have shown that the gene expression profile of AIMAH varies according to the type of AR. The genetic study of familial cases of AIMAH with AR might in the future give new insights in the pathogenesis of this disorder.

S23.3

Prognostic factors and adjuvant mitotane therapy for ACC
Massimo Terzolo
Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, San Luigi Hospital, University of Turin, Orsasasco, Italy.

Adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC) is a rare tumor characterized by a dismal prognosis. The most important predictor of outcome is the possibility to attain a complete resection and prognosis is extremely poor when complete surgical removal of ACC is not feasible. Most patients have resectable disease at presentation; however, fully half of the patients who have undergone complete removal of the tumour are destined to relapse. The high recurrence rate of ACC has prompted many investigators to consider the use of adjuvant therapy following radical resection of the tumour. Very recently, the results of a retrospective analysis, performed by our group involving a large cohort of patients for ACC, who underwent surgery for ACC at our center during the last 10 years at different institutions in Italy and Germany, demonstrated that recurrence-free survival was significantly prolonged in the mitotane group, as compared with untreated patients, who had a significantly higher risk of recurrence than those receiving mitotane. Multivariate analysis indicated that shorter disease-free survival was associated with older age and more advanced stage. In contrast to our experience, Bertherat et al. did not observe a significant advantage with adjuvant mitotane after complete removal of ACC, even if survival of mitotane-treated patients was better in secreting ACC. They found that steroid secretion had a prognostic value: the poorer prognosis of cortisol-secreting tumours could be related to co-morbidity of Cushing’s syndrome. Alternatively, the pathophysiology of cortisol-secreting ACC may lead to the development of more aggressive tumours. It is also possible that the adrenolytic action of mitotane requires CYPIB activity within the tumour: this enzyme is probably expressed in cortisol-secreting tumours, accounting for the more potent effect of mitotane in such tumours. To conclude, ACC is a rare disease with a high risk of relapse after radical surgery. In our centers, institution of adjuvant mitotane therapy following complete removal of ACC has become the standard of care, at least for patients at high risk of recurrence, as defined by advanced stage and/or high proliferation of ACC, as defined by elevated mitotic count or high Ki-67 index. A prospective randomised trial comparing the effect of mitotane versus observation in low-risk patients is currently ongoing.

S23.4

Chemotherapy and radiotherapy for adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC)
Martin Fassnacht1, Stefanie Hahner1, Buekent Polat1 & Bruno Allojo1
1Department of Medicine, University of Wurzburg, Wurzburg, Germany; 2Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Wurzburg, Wurzburg, Germany.

ACC is a rare, heterogeneous malignancy with poor prognosis. Data from the German ACC Registry (n=478) indicate a 5-year survival rate of 47%. In addition to mitotane, cytotoxic drugs are standard care in advanced ACC. The best results have been reported by Belli et al. for the combination of mitotane with etoposide, doxorubicin and cisplatin with an objective tumor response rate of 49% in 72 patients. A response rate of 36% was published for the combination of mitotane and streptozotocin in 22 patients. Currently these two most promising regimens are compared in the first ever phase III trial (www.firm-act.org). Up to Dec 2008, 238
patients have been randomized and results will be available in 2011. The first experience using ‘target therapies’ for ACC was disappointing. The EGF-R inhibitor gefitinib, erlotinib (EGFR inhibitor) + gemcitabine or bevacizumab (VEGF antibody) + capetabine exhibited only limited efficacy. However, trials testing HER-2 receptor inhibitors or multityrosine kinase inhibitors like sunitinib or sorafenib are ongoing and will hopefully hold more promise.

The role of radiotherapy is not well defined and in the past some authors judged ACC as radio-resistant. By reviewing the literature we could identify ten factors covering radiotherapy in a total of 129 patients (64 postoperative and 65 palliative irradiations). In addition, we analyzed 26 patients receiving palliative radiotherapy from the German ACC Registry. In an adjuvant setting radiotherapy was able to prevent local recurrence in most patients. In advanced disease, response to radiotherapy was seen in 57% of patients. Therefore, ACC is not resistant to radiotherapy, but prospective investigations are needed to fully define its therapeutic potential.

Therefore, further cooperative efforts including well designed clinical trials are needed to improve outcome in patients with ACC.

Environmental pollutants as endocrine disruptors

Environmental chemical and thyroid signalling

Hongyang Dong1, Carole Yauk1, Mike Wade1, Andrew Williams1, Andrea Rowan-Carroll1, Alice Lee1, Priya Panchal2, Seo-Hee You1, R Thomas Zoeller1 & Iain Lamber1

1Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; 2University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA; 3Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Despite the recognized importance of thyroid hormones (TH) for normal brain development, little is known about the critical molecular events underlying this role. We investigated the molecular basis of TH action on the developing brain by: (1) comparing genome-wide gene expression patterns in the cerebellum of euthyroid, hypothyroid and hyperthyroid juvenile mice treated with 6-propyl thiouracil or mercaptopurine-lidazoloxide/permethylated DNA microarrays; and (2) investigating genes associated with TH receptor-binding sites in post-natal day 15 mouse cerebellum using chromatin immunoprecipitation combined with customized microarrays (ChIP-on-chip). The vast majority of genes that were altered in animals rendered hyper- or hypothyroid were involved in metabolism, apoptosis and REN (RE1-silencing transcription factor). The effect of TH on gene expression differed between males and females; hypothyroidism had a greater effect in male relative to female pups. Sex-specific effects were confirmed in rats treated with PTU. ChIP-on-chip identified 91 genes associated with TH receptor (TR) binding sites in their promoter regions or other genomic locations; 10 of the 13 binding fragments were confirmed with ChIP-PCR. A TRβ binding site upstream of the coding region of myelin associated glycoprotein was demonstrated to be TRβ responsive using a luciferase expression system. Motif searches did not identify any classical binding elements, indicating that not all TR binding sites conform to variations of the classical formal. Genes that are directly-regulated by TH-TR may provide useful biomarkers of exposure to chemicals that operate through the TH-TR pathway (e.g., polychlorinated biphenyls or benzo(a)pyrene). These findings provide mechanistic insight into impaired neurodevelopment resulting from TH deficiency and a rich bioinformatics resource for developing a better understanding of TH function.

Molecular mechanisms of AHR and NR crosstalk

Ingemar Pongratz, Joelle Ruegg, Elin Swedenborg & Tatiana Kramarova Department for Biosciences and Nutrition, Karolinska Institutet, Huddinge, Sweden.

The AHR is a ligand dependent transcription factor which belongs to the bHLH-PAS family of transcription factors. Together with its partner ARNT the AHR mediates the biological of numerous ligands including dietary factors, tryptophane derivatives and environmental pollutants like polyaromatic hydrocarbons and poly-chlorinated dioxins.

Exposure to AHR-activating pollutants leads to, among other effects, disruption of hormonal signaling pathways. Ample scientific evidence has demonstrated that exposure to dioxin inhibits for example estrogen receptor signaling pathways. One of the mechanisms behind the disruptive effects of dioxin on ER signaling is due to recruitment of ARNT to the AHR, an event that lowers the intracellular pool of ARNT available for the estrogen receptors ERα and ERβ.

We have continued to study the mechanisms by which dioxin and other AHR ligands modulate estrogen receptor signaling. Using a combination of bioinformatics and molecular biology methods we have shown that AHR ligands can either activate or repress ERα or ERβ signaling depending on cell-context. This cell and ligand specific effects are depending on PASα1 enzymes and their ability to generate metabolites that activate ERα and/or ERβ transcription. Interestingly, our observations show that exposure to different AHR ligand activate different gene expression profiles and thus different cellular outcomes.

Endocrine disruptors or goitrogens? Effects of UV screens, synthetic and nutritive compounds on thyroid function

Josef Kohle

Institut für Experimentelle Endokrinologie & EnfFortCé, Berlin, Germany.

Thyroid hormone (TH) biosynthesis, storage and secretion is organized in a complex series of biochemical reactions round an evolutionary conserved functional unit, the thyroid follicle, a highly vascularised epithelial structure enclosing the colloidal lumen mainly composed of thyroglobulin (Tg). The luminal apical surface of this tight epithelial monolayer is the site of H2O2 dependent TH biosynthesis and is involved in mobilization of Tg, the colloidal matrix and storage protein. The initial step of biosynthesis, basolateral iodide uptake by the sodium-iodide symporter NIS, is blocked by voluminous anions (e.g. ClO4-), a rocket fuel increasingly contaminating the global surface. Nutritive compounds have been identified as goitrogens, such as C-and O-glucosidic glucosinolates (cruciferes), cyanates, isocyanates and thiocyanates (e.g. cassava), which (irreversibly) inhibit thyroperoxidase (TPO). Several flavonoids and isoflavonoids, widely used as ‘green’ natural plant steroids in postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy such as genistein and UV screens (e.g. benzophenone 2) regularly applied as sun protectants to prevent erythema, sun burns and skin cancer are potent TPO inhibitors and lead to goiter formation if iodine supply is inadequate in many parts of the world. Specific inhibitors of thyroxinase (Doxo) or calcipins involved in T4 and T3 liberation from Tg or of plasma membrane transporters (MCT8, OATP14, LATs) involved in thyroid secretion or cellular uptake of T4 and T3 have been identified among endocrine disruptors. Several endocrine disruptors have been reported to displace T4 and T3 from its binding to the serum distributor protein transthyretin (TTR), resulting in altered free TH levels, increased cellular uptake or renal excretion. Among these agents are flavonoids (F21388), flame retardants (BBPA) and other phenolic or aromatic compounds with structural similarities to T4. However, several endocrine disruptors are also potent inhibitors of intracellular deiodinase enzymes, (de-) conjugating enzymes (sulfotransferase, glucurondase, sulfatase) and T3 receptors, thus interfering with intracellular availability and action of the ligand T3, which modulates gene expression by T3 receptors TRα and TRβ. Therefore, several of the identified endocrine disruptors exhibit multiple modes of interference in the TH axis and raise major concern especially under conditions of variable iodine supply and during life phases sensitive to altered TH availability such as fetal, neonatal, pubertal development, pregnancy, aging and euthyroid sick syndrome. More data on human exposure and risk assessment need to be collected in the REACH project of the EU.

Amphibians as sensors of endocrine disruptors

Werner Kluss1,2

1Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Berlin, Germany; 2Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany.

Environmental compounds can interfere with endocrine systems of wildlife and humans. The main sink of such substances, called endocrine disruptors (ED), are surface waters; and thus aquatic vertebrates such as fishes and amphibians are most endangered. Despite numerous reports on ED in fishes exist, information about ED in amphibians is relatively scarce but emerging. Amphibians can be affected sensitively by ED via adverse effects on reproductive biology and development e.g. metamorphosis triggered by the thyroid system. In amphibians, ED can affect reproductive biology by (anti)stereogenic and (anti)androgenic modes of action resulting in sterility and sex-reversal effects including abnormal sexual differentiation. These effects are mainly driven by direct interferences of ED with sex steroid receptors or indirectly by impacting synthesis and bioavailability of sex steroids. Recent development of flow-through exposure systems indicate that larval exposure of amphibians results in a similar sensitivity concerning impacts on sexual differentiation compared to established fish models. ED actions on thyroid system cause acceleration or retardation of metamorphosis mainly via changes in bioavailability of thyroid hormones rather than by direct interferences with thyroid hormone receptors. Our broad knowledge of amphibian biology and
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endocrinology indicates that amphibians are very suitable sensors for the study of ED. In particular, the effects of ED on the thyroid system triggering metamorphosis can be determined easily and most sensitively in amphibians compared to other vertebrates including mammals. Methods and strategies are proposed for tracking and risk assessment of ED using amphibians as model. Recently, the emerging ecotoxicological issue of pharmaceuticals present in the environment indicates a high potential of further modes of action disrupting endocrine system of amphibians for instance by glucocorticoids and progesterogens.

Pathophysiology and treatment of Type 2 Diabetes

S25.1

Abstract unavailable.

S25.2

Monogenic obesity

Sadaf Farea
University of Cambridge Metabolic Research Laboratories, Cambridge, UK.

Whilst the recent rise in the prevalence of obesity has been driven in part by environmental factors, there is considerable evidence from twin and adoption studies that body weight and fat mass are highly heritable traits and differences in susceptibility to obesity have strong genetic determinants. The identification of patients with mutations in the gene encoding the adipocyte-derived hormone leptin, and their successful treatment with recombinant human leptin, have provided insights into the role of leptin responsive pathways in the regulation of eating behaviour, intermediary metabolism, the onset of puberty and T-cell mediated immunity. Leptin acts by regulating a complex network of brain responses that can be studied using functional imaging, to co-ordinate changes in nutritional state with changes in food intake and the 'liking' of food. A downstream target of leptin action, the melanocortin 4 receptor (MC4R), plays a key role in modulating sympathetic nerve mediated changes in blood pressure. Recently, genome wide approaches are proving to be an increasingly important tool in understanding the genetic heterogeneity associated with common obesity. The recognition that copy number variants contribute to a significant proportion of genetic variation at an individual and at a population level opens up new routes to gene discovery which will drive further understanding of the molecular pathways involved in energy homeostasis.

S25.3

FTO and obesity

Christian Dina
Épidémiologie Génétique Institut de Biologie de Lille, Lille, France.

Three independent studies identified SNPs in the first intron of the gene FTO as being strongly and consistently associated with BMI and/or obesity at significance levels ($P = 10^{-11}$ to $P = 10^{-18}$) unobserved so far in genetics of obesity. The three studies estimated the putative effect around 1% of the total variance of BMI. So far, this represents the strongest effect for a common variant in obesity. This result was replicated in at least 5 studies, either case-controls or general population of European and, less strongly Asian, descent. Interestingly, so far, the association has not been replicated in a 1,100 African Americans cohort. However, both different allele frequencies and, for individual of African descent, lower linkage disequilibrium could explain this lack of replication. Associated SNPs are located within a high LD block spanning 47 kb which includes exon 2 where both initial studies failed to find any mutation and thus the functional variant is not yet determined. The FTO gene is ubiquitously expressed with a maximum in hypothalamus, which plays a major role in control of energy homeostasis. Contradictory results as to correlation of mRNA levels within hypothalamus in response to fasting rodent or correlation of FTO mRNA and obesity were found. This gene encodes a 2-oxoglutarate-dependent nuclear acid demethylase that could be involved in demethylation or DNA repair but its in vivo function is so far unknown.

Noticeably, another gene, RPROP/TL (FTM) is close to associated SNPs and could be involved in obesity together with, or instead of FTO although initial KO study does not support this hypothesis. Thus, at the time being, both the functional variation and the physiopathology of FTO action are partially unknown. I will provide an update of the ongoing research on this subject.

S25.4

Incretin-based therapies

Sten Madshus
Hvidovre Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) is an incretin hormone with potent glucose-dependent insulinotropic and glucagonostatic actions. The glucose dependency of its antihyperglycaemic effects minimize any risk of hypoglycaemia. In higher concentrations GLP-1 slows gastric emptying and reduces appetite and food intake, resulting in weight loss. Taken together these actions give GLP-1 an unique profile as an antidiabetic agents. Since GLP-1 is highly susceptible to enzymatic degradation by dipeptidyl peptidease-4 (DPP-4) strategies for developing GLP-1 as therapeutic agent include DPP-4 resistant GLP-1 analogues and selective DPP-4 enzyme inhibitors to prevent degradation of the peptide.

Treatment with a DPP-4 inhibitor (sitagliptin and vildagliptin) increases intact GLP-1 with a factor 2–4 and improved HbA1c with 0.8–1.0%, without risk for hypoglycaemia. The DPP-4 inhibitor is without gastrointestinal side effects and weight neutral. The GLP-1 analogue exenatide has a half-life of 3–4 h and needed to be administered twice daily before breakfast and dinner. Exenatide improves glycaemic control with an average reduction in HbA1c of about 1.0% and caused a weight loss of 2–3 kg after 30 weeks of treatment. The side effect is primarily nausea during the first days of treatment. Liraglutide, a once daily GLP-1 analogue with a half life of 12 h, reduces HbA1c with 1.0±0.2% and weight with 2–4 kg. Liraglutide has been compared with sulfonylurea, rosiglitazone and insulin glargine and in all studies reduction in HbA1c was greater or similar with liraglutide, and weight loss was in favour of liraglutide. At present several GLP-1 analogues for once-weekly administration are in phase 3 development. The final place of incretin-based therapies in the diabetic treatment algorithm will be clarified when we have long-term trials with cardiovascular end points and data illustrating the effects on beta-cell function and the progression of type 2 diabetes.

Thyroid, Pregnancy and Fertility

S26.1

Thyroid disorders, infertility and miscarriages

Luca Chiavato
Italy.

Before and during pregnancy the thyroid gland and gonadal axes interact continuously. During reproductive life, normal levels of thyroid hormones are required for the maturation of oocytes. Hypothyroidism influences ovarian function by decreasing levels of sex-hormone-binding globulin and increasing the secretion of prolactin. In women of reproductive age, l-thyroxine therapy reverses hypothyroidism improving fertility and avoiding the need for use of assisted reproduction techniques. Infertile women undergoing medically assisted reproduction technologies are treated with a controlled ovarian hyperstimulation to increase circulating estrogen concentrations, which can, on the other hand, severely impair thyroid function. These changes are transient in healthy women, but in women affected by autoimmune thyroid diseases, estrogen stimulation might lead to an altered thyroid function during pregnancy. The frequency of thyroid autoimmunity is raised in infertile women with ovarian dysfunction and endometriosis whereas hypothyroidism associated with infertility seems to be increased only in women with ovulatory dysfunction. Presence of thyroid autoimmunity does not interfere with normal embryo implantation, but is associated with a significantly raised frequency of miscarriages, even when thyroid function is apparently normal. Subclinical and overt hypothyroidism is associated with an increased risk of pregnancy-related morbidity, for which l-thyroxine therapy is required. Systematic screening for thyroid disorders in pregnant women is still controversial but can be considered an adjunctive tool in women at high risk, particularly infertile women.
S26.2
Thyroid dysfunction during pregnancy
Malgorzata Karbowik-Lewinska
Department of Oncological Endocrinology, Medical University, Lodz, Poland.

Thyrotoxicosis demonstrates certain specificity during pregnancy. Due to the increased thyroid hormone formation, observed in the course of gestation, the requirements for dietary iodine increase substantially – according to the current recommendations – to 250 μg/day (but <500 μg/day). Therefore, additional iodine supplementation is advised at the level of 150 μg/day to be administered to every pregnant (and lactating) woman. Thyroid hyperstimulation, caused by human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) in the first trimester, is another physiological change during pregnancy, assuming relatively frequently the form of gestational transient thyrotoxicosis which, however, usually needs no treatment. Concerning thyroid pathologies in pregnant women, thyroid dysfunctions, i.e. hyper- and hypothyroidism, occur most frequently in developed countries, both being predominantly of autoimmune etiology. Thus, hyperthyroidism in pregnancy is usually associated with Graves’ disease, whereas hypothyroidism – with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis. The diagnosis is based on abnormal values of thyroid hormones and thyroid stimulating hormone, with difficulties in the interpretation of results occurring in the first trimester, while thyroid antibodies should always be measured. Medical treatment in hyperthyroid pregnant women is in the management of choice, with propylthiouracil being the preferred antithyroid drug, although thiamazole is also recommended by some authors as a safe and even more effective agent. Careful control of maternal thyroid function is required during antithyroid drug treatment to avoid fetal hypothyroidism. Replacement therapy with levothyroxine is the treatment of choice in hypothyroidism. Patients with pre-existing hypothyroidism generally require increased thyroid hormone doses during pregnancy.

S26.3
Postpartum thyroiditis
Roberto Negro
Division of Endocrinology, ‘V. Fazzi’ Hospital, Lecce, Italy.

Postpartum thyroiditis (PPT) is an autoimmune disorder characterized by lymphocytic infiltration of the thyroid gland and by the occurrence, in the postpartum period, of transient hyper- and hypothyroidism. Most women return to the euthyroid state by 1 year postpartum. The prevalence of PPT is about 7.5–8.5%, then it represents a quite common disease, even if it may be asymptomatic in most cases. Women positive for thyroid peroxidase antibodies (TPOAb) (>60) are prone to develop hypothyroidism during pregnancy and thyroid dysfunction after delivery. About 50% of TPOAb(+) pregnant women have PPT, and among these, more than 40% are affected by permanent hypothyroidism within 1–2 years. Factors predictive of thyroid dysfunction include a hypothyroid form of postpartum thyroid disease, high TSH values, and high TPOAb titers.

The clinical presentation of thyroid dysfunction occurring after delivery, may be characterized by hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, or hypothyroidism followed by hypothyroidism (biphasic form).

Two studies, in 1990 and 2000, have investigated the chance of preventing PPT. Results showed that the administration of levothyroxine or iodine during or after pregnancy is not able to reduce the incidence of thyroid dysfunction after delivery.

Selenium (Se) exerts multiple actions on endocrine systems by modifying the expression of at least 30 selenoproteins, many of which have clearly defined functions. Well-characterized selenoenzyme families include the glutathione peroxidases (GPx), thioredoxin reductases, and iodothyronine deiodinases. These selenoenzymes influence cell function by acting as antioxidants, modifying redox status and thyroid hormone metabolism. Se supplementation may decrease inflammatory activity in patients with autoimmune thyroiditis, especially in those with high activity, reduces TPOAb titers, andameliorates the thyroid echogenic pattern.

To test the hypothesis that Se supplementation may be beneficial on thyroid autoimmunity and postpartum thyroid dysfunction (PPT), 169 euthyroid, TPOAb(+) pregnant women were randomly divided into two groups: group S1 (85 women), designed to receive selenomethionine 200 μg/dl after 12 week gestation; and group S0 (84 women), designed to receive placebo. In addition, 85 TPOAb(+) age-matched women were recruited as the control group (group C).

Results showed that Se supplementation reduced the number of thyroid dysfunction during the postpartum period (28.6 vs 48.6%) and the number of permanent hypothyroid patients at 12 months after delivery (11.7 vs 20.3%); furthermore, lower TPOAb titers were observed in the Se-treated patients during and after gestation, and the same patients 12 months after delivery displayed a significantly better ultrasound pattern.

This study shown for the first time that Se supplementation during and after pregnancy inhibits the progression of autoimmune chronic thyroiditis. Se administration in the dosage of 200 μg/dl during pregnancy and the postpartum period exerted an anti-inflammatory action, reduced TPOAb titers, and ameliorated the ultrasound echogenicity pattern with respect to controls. Se supplementation improved the course of the destructive thyroid gland process that occurs after parturition, reducing the incidence of PPTD and hypothyroidism.

S26.4
Consensus guidelines for the management of thyroid disorders associated with the pregnancy: an overview
Daniel Glinoer
University Hospital Saint-Pierre, Brussels, Belgium.

The wealth of new information, published over the past two decades, has led an international committee (under the auspices of the American Endocrine Society) to propose clinical guidelines for the management of thyroid diseases associated with the pregnant state. These guidelines were reviewed and endorsed by the four World Thyroid Associations (ETA, ATA, LATS, AOTA) and the Endocrine Society. They have been published in August 2007 as a supplement to the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism (Vol: 92; pp S1–S47).

The topics under scrutiny were maternal & fetal aspects related to both maternal hypothyroidism & hyperthyroidism (including Graves’ disease & GTH ‘gestational transient non-autoimmune thyrotoxicosis’), infertility and miscarriage, postpartum thyroid disorders, iodine nutritional status, thyroid nodules & cancer diagnosed during pregnancy, and finally the heated subject of universal screening. Altogether, 35 recommendations for ‘good clinical practice’ were edited, based on a systematic review of all publications related to each of these topics, published over the past two decades. For each recommendation, grading of the evidence was achieved based on the USPSTF system and, when possible, on the GRADE system.

Management of thyroid diseases during pregnancy involves many different care providers (family doctors, obstetricians, endocrinologists, nurse midwives, etc.) thus making the development of such guidelines all the more needed. Also, thyroid diseases during pregnancy require special consideration because pregnancy per se induces significant changes in thyroid function and, conversely, maternal thyroid disease can have adverse effects on the pregnancy and foetal development.

Since it is not possible, in the time allotted for this lecture, to review systematically the entirety of the 35 recommendations, we will focus our attention on the following topics: a) the difficulties encountered in grading the available scientific evidence and lack of sufficient randomized clinical trials; b) the need for continuing and better education of the multiple care providers concerning thyroid disease in pregnancy; c) the difficult issue of targeted versus universal screening of pregnant women to search for thyroid autoimmunity features and mild thyroid dysfunction, and finally d) an attempt to draw perspectives on ‘where to go to’ in the near future.

In summary, pregnancy has profound effects on the regulation of thyroid function in healthy women and in patients with thyroid disorders. These effects need to be recognized, precisely assessed, clearly interpreted, and correctly managed in order to drastically reduce the detrimental effects of thyroid dysfunction on pregnancy outcome.

Impact of SNPs on Hormone Function

S27.1
Polymorphisms and association studies
Bertram Muller-Mytsk
Max-Planck-Institute of Psychiatry, Munich, Germany.

Genetic association studies have been very successful and very reliable in many fields of medicine. Cross replication between studies now is the rule rather than the exception, which is very different from the situation a few years ago. Nonetheless, there are still possible problems with association studies which need close attention. These problems include population stratification even in the days of whole genome data sets, inappropriate methods of analysis and finally over-interpretation of the data.
I will try to give an overview of these chances and problems, highlighted by examples and will attempt a guide to the implementation and interpretation of association studies nowadays.

S72
Impact of SNP on hormone function: FSH receptor
Manuela Simonig
Department of Medicine, Endocrinology, Metabolism and Geriatrics, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

The FSHR is characterised by a large number of SNPs (1636 listed in the NCBI SNP database), mostly located in intronic regions and of unknown heterozygosity rate. Some SNPs, especially those which are non synonymous and located in exons have been studied in association with gonadal function. The SNPs at nt position 919 and 2039 in exon 10 are very common (heterozygosity: 0.469) and result in the amino acid transition Thr/Ala at codon 307 and Asn/Ser at codon 680, respectively. In the Caucasian population they are in linkage disequilibrium with the Thr307-Asn/Ser variant covering 55% and the Ala307-Ser/680 variant 45% of the alleles. The other two possible combinations represent ~1% of all alleles in Caucasians, while they are more frequent in the East. A G/A SNP is located in the promoter region (~29), with the G allele covering 75% and the A allele 25% of the alleles in Caucasians, while the distribution is equal (50%) in Indonesians. These SNPs do not have any apparent functional effect in vitro, but influence the receptor activity in vitro, at least in women. We could show that the Ala307-Ser/680 variant is associated with higher basal serum FSH levels and lower sensitivity to FSH stimulation in women with normal ovarian function undergoing ovarian hypostimulation for assisted reproduction and during normal menstrual cycle. However, these two SNPs apparently do not influence serum FSH levels and semen parameters in men with normal or reduced spermatogenesis. However, when the haplotypes resulting from the SNPs in exon 10 and from the SNP at position ~29 in the promoter region are considered together the two allelic variants A-Ala-Ser and G-Thr-Asn showed a statistically significant different distribution between controls and men with non-obstructive azoospermia, suggesting that the FSHR genotype might constitute a risk factor for spermatogenic failure.

S73
Estrogen and androgen receptor variants
Aleksander Giwercman
Reproductive Medicine Centre, Malmo University Hospital, Lund University, Malmo, Sweden.

Androgens and oestrogens, are acting through specific receptors, belonging to the nuclear receptor family and both androgen receptor (AR) and the two forms of oestrogen receptor, α (ER1) and β (ER2) are richly expressed in different parts of the male reproductive system.

There are several examples indicating that polymorphisms in these sex hormone receptors can be associated with some types of disease or milder dysfunction of the sex hormone regulated organs.

In the AR gene not only single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) but also variation in the length of two repetitive sequences, CAG (glutamine encoding) and GGN (glycine encoding) repeats, can have an impact on the receptor function. Thus, extremely long (>40) CAG repeats are associated with Kennedy’s disease, a late onset disturbance in the neuromuscular function. Even variations in the normal range (10–30) of CAG numbers have suggested as implicated in pathogenesis of conditions as male infertility, prostate cancer, testicular cancer and metabolic syndrome.

Less information is available as considers the impact of GGN repeat length variation but polymorphisms in this part of the AR gene have been linked to the risk of e.g. cryptorchidism and hypogonadism.

In vitro studies have confirmed that AR activity varies with different CAG and GGN length and these variations may not only have influence on the effect of the natural ligand of the receptor but even modify the androgenic disrupting effect of environmental pollutants.

Less information is available as considers SNPs in the AR gene and risk of disease; however, we have recently identified a SNP which may be associated to the risk of testicular cancer.

SNPs in the ER1 and ER2 have also been reported as risk factors of pathological conditions in the male reproductive system, e.g. infertility and cryptorchidism. However, these findings need to be confirmed in more studies.

LH receptor variance
Djura Piersma, Miriam Verhoef-Post, Maxime Look, Andre Uitterlinden, Huib Pols, Jan Klijn, Ehs Berns & Axel Themmen
Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

The LH receptor is a member of the large receptor family of GTP-binding protein coupled receptors. Mutations in the LH receptor gene cause severe sex hormone-related disease, ranging from very early precocious puberty in boys (activating mutation) to slight underutilisation, severe hypogonadism or complete 46XY pseudohermaphroditism (inactivating mutation). Thus, LH receptor gene mutations have profound effects on sex hormone production and on physiology of patients. In addition, the strength of the phenotype follows the in vitro activity of the various LH receptor mutant proteins. Thus the question has arisen whether minor changes in LH receptor activity, such as caused by polymorphic gene variants, may have subtle effects on susceptibility, disease progression or response to treatment of sex hormone-dependent disease. The most frequent LH receptor polymorphisms that involve an amino acid change are the absence or presence of a two amino acid (LQ) insertion at position 18 in exon 1 (rs4539842) and two variable amino acids at position 291 and 312 respectively: 291Asn/Ser (rs12470652) and 312Ser/Thr SNPs are located at or near glycosylation sites, respectively. The polymorphic LQ insertion is located in the signal peptide, which enables translocation of the LH receptor into the endoplasmic reticulum where protein maturation processes are carried out. The LQ insertion has had a clear effect on in vitro LH receptor expression and showed an association with worse disease free survival in breast cancer patients. Although we could not detect a functional effect of the 312SN polymorphism, this allele appears to be a weak risk allele for breast cancer. The 291LH receptor variant is more sensitive to LH in vitro, but its low frequency did not allow association studies in our breast cancer cohort.

Receptor Modulators
S81
Diverse actions of the nuclear receptor corepressor RIP140 in metabolic regulation
Malcolm Parker, Mark Christian, Evangelos Kiskinis, Asmaa Fritah, Ariel Poländri, Jenny Steel, Magnus Hallberg, Birger Herzog, Asha Seth, Steven Dilworth & Roger White
Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London, Institute of Reproductive & Developmental Biology, London W12 0NN, UK.

PGC1 and RIP140 are key regulators of nuclear receptor signalling that control metabolic gene expression in adipose tissue, liver and muscle. PGC1 promotes whereas RIP140 represses the expression of a network of catabolic genes in adipose and muscle. Thus mice devoid of RIP140 accumulate less fat in adipose tissue and liver while mitochondrial biogenesis and respiration is increased in type 2 muscle fibres; as a consequence, the mice maintain their insulin sensitivity as they age or are fed a high fat diet. Expression profiling indicates RIP140 suppresses the expression of genes in adipose and muscle that are involved in energy expenditure, including fatty acid oxidation, oxidative phosphorylation and mitochondrial biogenesis but is necessary for the expression of genes involved in lipogenesis and triglyceride storage. Analysis of cultured adipocytes and myofibres after in vitro differentiation demonstrates that RIP140 functions as a corepressor for PPARs and ERRs. Analysis of the UCPI1 gene, which is de-repressed in white adipose tissue, indicates that the repression of metabolic genes is achieved by the recruitment of a combination of histone modifying enzymes and DNA methyl transferases which leads to methylation of specific histone residues and DNA. Interestingly, many of the metabolic genes repressed by RIP140 are activated by the coactivator PGC1. It appears that these two cofactors function to remodel chromatin in the vicinity of metabolic genes and thereby regulate gene expression through mutually antagonistic mechanisms including post translational modifications.

S82.2
Glucocorticoid receptor ligands, dissociating between transrepression and transactivation
Guy Haegeman
LEGESt-University Gent, Gent, Belgium.
Glucocorticoid hormones (GCs) remain the mainstay for the treatment of various inflammatory disorders, because of their great efficacy. The long-term usage of GCs is, however, overshadowed by the occurrence of debilitating side-effects, like osteoporosis, skin and muscle atrophy, diabetes and neurological disorders. GCs exert their functions through binding to the glucocorticoid receptor (GR), a transcription factor that regulates gene transcription in a positive or negative way. Direct binding of activated GR in the promoter of target genes is believed to be the main pathway leading to metabolic gene expression (mainly hold responsible for the unwanted side-effects), whereas the interference of GR with the activity of other transcription factors, such as NF-xB or AP-1, greatly contributes to its desired anti-inflammatory capacities. ‘Dissociated ligands’ thus aim to separate GR-mediated transcriptional activation from transcriptional repression in order to achieve better side-effect profiles.

In this respect, a newly characterized, plant-derived, non-steroidal GR modulator, i.e. Compound A (CpdA) was tested both in vitro and in vivo for its dissociative effects.

Methodology
We have used CpdA in several cellular in vitro assays as well as in vivo disease models to test its dissociated properties, as compared to glucocorticoids. Results
CpdA behaves as a potent (although weaker) anti-inflammatory agent, both in vitro as in vivo, as compared to the synthetic glucocorticoid Desamethasone. However, as opposed to steroidal ligands, CpdA does not give rise to the gene-activating effects in cells, nor to increased blood glucose levels or hyperinsulinemia in the tested animals. Furthermore, as opposed to glucocorticoids, CpdA does not lead to GR desensitization.

Conclusions
It is possible to fully dissociate the gene-activating effects from the inhibitor actions of GR by imparting a nonsterogenic structure to the receptor by so-called ‘specific GR modulators’ (SGRM), like CpdA. Moreover, GR desensitization can be avoided which adds to the beneficial effects for long-term treatments.

S28.3
Selective androgen receptor modulators: mechanisms and therapeutic potential
Shalender Bhasin
Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Testosterone supplementation increases whole body and appendicular skeletal muscle mass, maximal voluntary muscle strength, and leg power. However, concerns about the long term risks of prostate and cardiovascular disorders in older men treated with testosterone have encouraged efforts to develop selective androgen receptor modulators (SARM) that increase skeletal muscle mass and improve physical function without the adverse effects on prostate and cardiovascular outcomes. These nonsteroidal SARMs do not serve as substrates for CYP19 aromatase or 5a-reductase, act as full agonists in muscle and bone and as partial agonists in prostate and seminal vesicles. The differing interactions of steroidal and nonsteroidal compounds with the AR may at least partially contribute to their unique pharmacologic actions. Bicalutamide adapts a greatly bent conformation in the AR. Although A-ring and amide bond of the bicalutamide molecule overlaps the steroidal plane, the B-ring of the molecule folds away from the plane, pointing to the top of the ligand binding pocket (LBP), which forms a unique structural feature of this class of ligands. These H bonding interactions are believed to be critical for high binding affinity. Structural modifications of aryl propionamide analogs bicalutamide and hydroxyflutamide led to the discovery of the first generation of SARMs. The first generation SARM pharmacophores can be classified into four categories: aryl-propionamide, bicyclic hydantoin, quinoline, and tetrahydroquinoline analogs. The mechanistic basis of the tissue selective actions of SARMs is poorly understood, although several mechanisms have been proposed. Ligand binding induces specific conformational changes in the ligand binding domain, which could modulate surface topology and subsequent protein–protein interactions between AR and other coregulators involved in genomic transcriptional activation or cytosolic proteins involved in nongenomic signaling. Differences in ligand-specific receptor conformation and protein–protein interactions could result in tissue-specific gene regulation, due to potential changes in interactions with ARE, coregulators or transcription factors.

It is generally believed that the downstream signaling mechanisms that mediate the anabolic effects of SARMs on the skeletal muscle are similar to those of testosterone. Testosterone induces hypertrophy of both type I and type II fibers and an increase in the number of satellite cells. Testosterone promotes the differentiation of mesenchymal, multipotent cells into myogenic lineage and inhibits their differentiation into adipogenic lineage. Testosterone and DHT regulate mesenchymal multipotent cell differentiation by promoting the association of AR with β-catenin and translocation of the AR–β-catenin complex into the nucleus, resulting in activation of TCF-4. The activation of TCF-4 modulates a number of Wnt-regulated genes that promote myogenic differentiation and inhibit adipogenic differentiation. The effects of testosterone on myogenic differentiation are mediated through an AR pathway. Testosterone increases fractional muscle protein synthesis and improves the reutilization of amino acids by the muscle. We do not know whether conversion of testosterone to DHT is required for mediating androgen effects on the muscle. Preclinical studies have demonstrated the ability of SARMs to increase levator ani muscle mass in the castrated rat and to increase bone mass and strength. Efficacy trials of several SARMs in humans are in early stages and have generally shown modest increments in fat-free mass. The first generation SARMs do not undergo aromatization or 5-alpha reduction; it is unknown whether this may pose long term risks. The efficacy and the safety of SARMs as function promoting therapy is just beginning to be evaluated.

S28.4
Thyroid hormone signaling during brain development: genetic dissection in mouse
Frédérique Flamant
ENS Lyon, Lyon, France.

Thyroid hormone (T3) has been known for a long time to be required for brain development which activate TRα and TRβ nuclear receptors. In rodent models, histological defects are mainly observed in cerebellum. Whether T3 action during cerebellum development is due to direct regulation of gene transcription by liganded thyroid hormone receptors (mainly TRα) or also the indirect consequences of other defects and systemic disorders is currently unknown. In order to unravel the direct and indirect effect of T3 during mouse cerebellum development we have used the Cre/loxP recombination technology to express a mutant form of the TRα1 isofrom able to block T3 signaling in a controlled manner. Whereas ubiquitous expression of this mutation recapitulates most if not all features of congenital hypothyroidism in the postnatal mouse cerebellum, restricted expression indicate that in some neuronal cell types, the action is cell autonomous whereas in other, indirect effects, perhaps mediated by neurotrophic factors or cell contacts, are involved.
Meet the Expert Sessions
**ME1**

**How to optimize the management of thyroid associated orbitopathy**

P Perros
Department of Endocrinology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

Thyroid associated orbitopathy affects approximately a third of patients with Graves’ disease. It is responsible for significant symptoms, poor quality of life, and if neglected can cause blindness. Early diagnosis of Graves’ ophthalmopathy is paramount as it is early detection of sight-threatening disease. All but the mildest cases are best referred to centres who provide multidisciplinary care and have the experience and expertise on managing this condition. Treatment must be tailored to the individual and timed appropriately. The mainstay of medical treatment is high dose steroids. Orbital irradiation has a role in patients with dismotility. Surgical treatment has a lot to offer in patients with sight-threatening disease and to improve functional and cosmetic outcomes.

**ME2**

**Laparoscopic and cortical sparing surgery in adrenal tumors**

M Waltz Germany
Klinikum Essen-Mitte, Clinic of Surgery and Center of Minimal Invasive Surgery, Essen, Germany.

Abstract unavailable.

**ME3**

**Clinical: adolescent and adulthood gynecostasia**

Krzysztof Kula
Department of Andrology and Reproductive Endocrinology, Medical University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland.

Gynecostasia (Gm) is defined as increased mammary gland size in males and must be distinguished from lipomatosis. Mammary tissue is present in children of both sexes. The gland does not develop when androgens (A) prevail over estrogens (E). In men, the molar ratio of plasma testosterone to estradiol is about 300 to 1. Any deviation from this ratio, be it through diminished A or increased E, can lead to Gm. Testes maturation requires both A and E, and papillary mammary tissue is present in about 40% of pubescent boys that disappears within 2–3 years (adolescent Gm). It may occasionally be present until adulthood (persistent adolescent Gm) without clinical significance except for psychogenic discomfort. Gm may appear in any age male. In any age, Gm may indicate tumor with supranormal E secretion. Leydigoma, embryonic carcinoma, teratocarcinoma, chorioncarcinoma and bronchial carcinoma lead either directly or via elevated hCG secretion to increased E production by Leydig cells. Palpation and ultrasonic scans are obligatory. Gm may associate congenital adrenal hyperplasia and adrenal tumors. Klinefelter syndrome, other primary or secondary hypogonadism, diseases of androgen target organs (Reifenstein syndrome, perineal hypospadias, intersexuality), liver cirrhosis, terminal renal failure may be associated with Gm. In thyrotoxicosis, Gm result from increased production of sex hormone binding globulin and decreased bioavailability of A. In large unilateral Gm mammography is needed for diagnosis of a possible mammary cancer (% of all breast cancers). Different drugs (including anti-androgens) may induce or exacerbate Gm. In 50% of cases idiopathic Gm is diagnosed. Recently CYP19 gene polymorphism with high aromatase activity has been attributed to incidence of Gm. Therapy should target underlying cause. In idiopathic Gm an anti-estrogen tamoxifen (10 mg b.i.d.) is suggested. If, after 3 months of treatment no improvement has occurred or if patient desires primarily a surgical correction, gynecomastectomy is advocated.

**ME4**

**Treatment of osteoporosis**

Juraj Payer
Fifth Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty Hospital Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovakia.

Osteoporosis affects more than 75 million people in Europe, United States and Japan, and more than 4.5 million osteoporotic fractures occur in Europe and United States. The aim of treating osteoporosis is to reduce risk of fractures and to improve quality of life of patients with preexisting fractures. Several interventions to prevent and reduce fracture risk are being recommended. These include adequate intake of calcium (at least 1000 mg per day), vitamin D (at least 800 mg per day), muscle strengthening, exercise, avoiding nicotine, alcohol and other osteoporosis risk factors and treating disorders leading to osteoporosis. The most commonly used osteoprotic drugs are antiresorptives. They include bisphosphonates (alendronate, risedronate, ibandronate used orally weekly or monthly and ibandronate used intravenously yearly), selective estrogen receptor modulators (raloxifene), calcitonin and in the past also hormone replacement therapy (because of higher risk of cardiovascular events and breast cancer used sporadically). Teriparatide and parathormone are osteoanabolic drugs and strontium ranelate has dual antiresorptive and osteoanabolic effect. All these drugs have shown to reduce risk of vertebral and some nonvertebral fractures. Indication for most of the drugs (except teriparatide and parathormone, which have special prescription criteria) is in Europe T score < −2.5 s.d. and a osteoporotic fracture. Lately WHO developed a FRAX algorithm, which allows to estimate 10 year fracture probability and to individualize the treatment selection for each patient. For monitoring the treatment bone mineral density and bone turnover are used. The average duration recommended for the treatment is 5 years, in osteoanabolics 18 months. Early onset of powerful treatment can now effectively reduce the number of osteoporotic fractures.

**ME5**

**Thyroid dysfunction induced by Amiodarone (focused on prevalence, predisposing factors, treatment)**

Wilmar Wiersinga
Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Abstract unavailable.

**ME6**

**Growth in childhood and adolescence as function of hormonal activity and nutrition**

Zvi Zakid1,2
1Kaplan Medical Center, Rehovot, Israel; 2School for Nutritional Sciences, Hebrew University, Rehovot, Israel.

A prerequisite milieu for normal growth is an intact hormonal system, adequate nutrition and normal physical activity. Any arm of this triangle, if interrupted, may change the normal growth pattern. Timing and interval range of disruption of this homeostasis, may affect the outcome up to irreversible results. The 3 polynomial growth model of Karlberg helps to detect, past irreversible growth retardation and in foresee and prevent growth deterioration.

A normal function of the endocrine system from the gene to the receptor is dependent on an adequate supply of precursors, building materials, and functioning enzymes. Any substance, chemical that has the right configuration can activate a cascade of events in a different way from the expected normal function acting as an endocrine disruptor. On the other side of the spectrum, nutritional deficiency may result in hormonal deficiency.

We will use iron as an example for a nutritional basis of a hormonal dysfunction. Iron deficiency may be the basis of an uncontrolled hypothryosism, this specific deficiency results in malfunctioning of all the steps of the TRH-TSH-T4 axis. The last step of the iron dependent thyroid peroxidase may prevent efficient production of thyroid hormone. Without proper replacement of iron, thyroid replacement may be inefficient and reaching euthyroidism may be a difficult task. Iron deficiency may be the tip of the iceberg of nutritional deficiency. In such a patient, subnormal Vitamin A levels may interfere with iron supplementation, since vitamin A has an important task in iron absorption. Hypothyroidism may be severe in patients with a combination of iron and vitamin A deficiency. During puberty as a result of subnormal vitamin A supply, puberty might be delayed and growth hormone levels may be lower than expected. Thus adequate nutrition is a prerequisite for a normally functioning hormonal system for proper growth and puberty.

Physical activity may have an effect on nutritional needs but also an effect on metabolic systems. In children and adolescents, IGF-1 levels may be low despite adequate supply of calories in first stages of training. While sedentary life style and caloric overload may change puberal progression and growth.

In a world of super specialty, clinical cases teach us that endocrinology and nutrition have many very important meeting points of interest.
ME7
Menopausal hormonal therapy and cardiovascular disease: the women’s health initiative (WHI) randomized placebo-controlled hormone trials
Marcia Stefanick
Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA.

The Women’s Health Initiative (WHI) placebo-controlled trial of conjugated equine estrogens (CEE) plus medroxyprogesterone (MPA) in 16,608 postmenopausal women, aged 50–79 at randomization, was stopped after an average of 5.6 years of follow-up, due to increased risks, including increased coronary heart disease (CHD), stroke, and pulmonary embolism (PE), compared to health benefits. The WHI trial of CEE only in 10,739 women with prior hysterectomy, also aged 50–79, was also stopped early, after an average of 7.1 years of follow-up, because of excess stroke and no cardiovascular benefit. There was, however, a suggestion of a cardioprotective effect of CEE in women who had been aged 50–59 years at the time of randomization, which had not been seen with CEE+MPA. This prompted a cross-sectional study of coronary artery calcification (CAC) in 1064 CEE trial participants aged 50–59, 1.3 years after stopping study pills, which showed a significantly lower mean CAC score among women who had received CEE for a mean of 7.4 years, compared to placebo. Analyses designed to explore whether the effects of hormone therapy (HT) on risk of cardiovascular disease varied by age or years since menopause, which combined all the data from the two WHI trials, revealed a (non-significant) trend of decreased CHD risk in women who had initiated HT closer to menopause compared to the increase in CHD risk among women more distant from menopause. In contrast, the risk of stroke was elevated regardless of years since menopause. The concept that beneficial cardiovascular effects of HT occur when the therapy is initiated before atherosclerosis develops, referred to as the ‘timing hypothesis’, has been a subject of debate in recent years and will be discussed.

ME8
Cushing’s syndrome: pitfalls in diagnosis and management
Xavier Bertagna
Hôpital Cochin, Paris, France.

Drug interactions, intercurrent pathological states may interfere with routine diagnostic tests. Authentic hypercortisolic states can be present without Cushing’s syndrome, as in depression, anorexia nervosa, alcoholism, pregnancy. Mild forms of Cushing’s syndrome, or fluctuating cases are other usual pitfalls. When the diagnosis of Cushing’s syndrome is firmly established there are still many potential pitfalls in the etiological diagnosis of Cushing’s syndrome: Cushing’s disease mimicking an autonomous adrenal tumor, severe Cushing’s disease mimicking the classical ectopic ACTH syndrome, mild ectopic ACTH syndrome mimicking the classic Cushing’s disease, and the cases of ACTH-independent Cushing’s syndrome where the two adrenal glands are involved (AIMAH, and PPNAD).

Management of patients through pituitary surgery, adrenal surgery, anticonvulsant drugs offer many other situations with potential pitfalls. All these situations will be approached through case presentations.

ME9
New drugs in the management of the obese patients
Félix P Casanueva
Department of Medicine, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Santiago (CHUS), CIBER of Fisiopatología Obesidad y Nutrición (CB06/03), Instituto Salud Carlos III, Santiago de Compostela University, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

In the prevalence of obesity has increased worldwide reaching 30% of the adult population in some countries. Direct and inferential evidences show that this excess of body mass is associated with adverse health consequences, and that even a modest 5 to 10% weight loss results in substantial improvement in health. Considering the limited efficacy of the so-called ‘life style’ interventions based on diet plus exercise in the obese subjects, that and bariatric surgery is indicated only for morbid obesity, it appears that drug therapy would be the only available method to tackle the problem at large scale. Until now, pharmacological obesity treatment options are limited, however, new anti-obesity drugs acting through the central nervous system pathways or the peripheral adiposity signals are under clinical development. One promising approach is the use of peptides that influence the peripheral satiety signals and brain–gut axis, like the GPL-1 analogs. However, considering that any anti-obesity drug may probably affect one or several of the systems that control food intake and energy expenditure, it is unlikely that a single pharmacological agent will be effective for a striking treatment of obesity. Thus, the future strategies to tackle obesity would need to take into account that an effective weight loss will most probably require a coadministration of medications that act through different mechanisms.

ME10
Nonclassical congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH)
Catherine Dacou-Voutetakis & Maria Dracopoulos-Vabulikis
Unit of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, First Department of Pediatrics, ‘Agia Sofia’ Children’s Hospital, Athens University Medical School, Athens, Greece.

CAH results from an enzymatic defect in the synthesis of cortisol from cholesterol in the adrenal cortex. It is a monogenic disorder transmitted as an autosomal recessive trait. More than 90% of the cases are caused by a deficiency of 21-hydroxylase (21OH). Patients with 21OH are categorized into 2 main forms: classical (salt wasting and simple virilizing) and nonclassical (NC). The frequency of the NC form varies in the different populations and the method of detection (hormonal, molecular) ranging from 1:100 to 1:1000. The NC form of CAH is looked for in subjects with premature adrenarche, increased acne, hirsutism, menstrual disorders, fertility problems or abortions, adrenal or testicular adenosmas. A number of cases are completely asymptomatic, especially men, and are discovered either when investigating the family members of an index case or by serendipity.

Concerning genotyping, three point mutations have specifically been associated with NC CAH: V281L, F304L, and P453S. In compound heterozygotes, the phenotype is determined by the least deleterious mutations. The overall data indicate that NC genotypes do not always present phenotype. Thus in certain cases mild, unexpected virilization may be detected.

The management of patients with NC CAH includes genetic counseling especially in prospective or current pregnancy and the administration of glucocorticoids in symptomat subjects. In asymptomatic patients incidentally diagnosed, there is a real dilemma since the patient has no clinical problem but there is a potential risk for adrenal or testicular adenosma or poly cystic ovarian disease. In such cases a consensus document does not recommend treatment. One may suggest that if follow-up can be ensured the patient may remain without therapy. It must be emphasized however that there is not as yet evidence-based recommendation for the management of such cases and individualization is required.

ME11
The relative value of 25(OH)D and 1,25(OH)2D measurements
Paul Lips
VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

After synthesis in the skin or intake with the diet, vitamin D3 is hydroxylated in the liver to 25-hydroxyvitanin D (25(OH)D), and subsequently in the kidney to 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D (1,25(OH)2D). The major vitamin D store is the circulating 25(OH)D. The serum 25(OH)D concentration is the measurement of choice to assess the vitamin D status. It is relatively stable and not directly influenced by hormones or calcium in the diet. The half life of serum 25(OH)D is around 25 days. Serum 25(OH)D should be assessed in patients suspected of vitamin D deficiency or insufficiency and patients with osteoporosis. The active metabolite, 1,25(OH)2D should be measured in case of disorders of 1α-hydroxylation of 25(OH)D, existing in renal failure, vitamin D dependent rickets type 1 and hypophosphatemic rickets where 1α-hydroxylase activity is decreased or absent, and vitamin D receptor defects as in vitamin D dependent rickets type 2 where 1α-hydroxylase activity is increased. Serum 1,25(OH)2D is under negative feedback control by serum calcium and phosphate. Its formation in the kidney is stimulated by parathyroid hormone (PTH). A high calcium diet or calcium supplements will decrease serum 1,25(OH)2D and immobilisation has similar effects. The half life of serum 1,25(OH)2D is around 8 h. While the renal hydroxylation of 25(OH)D is tightly regulated, the extrarenal hydroxylation in activated macrophages is not. Extrarenal formation of 1,25(OH)2D occurs in granulomatous diseases such as sarcoidosis, tuberculosis and inflammatory bowel disease, and lymphoproliferative diseases. In these disorders, serum 1,25(OH)2D


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may be elevated resulting in hypercalcemia and hyperparathyroidism. The measurement of serum 1,25(OH)2D in case of vitamin D deficiency is not very relevant. It usually stays within the normal reference range because the increase of serum PTH stimulates the renal hydroxylation of 25(OH)D. However, serum 1,25(OH)2D may fall to subnormal levels in case of severe vitamin D deficiency, where the synthesis of 1,25(OH)2D becomes substrate-dependent. When comparing groups of severely vitamin D deficient and replete patients, mean serum 1,25(OH)2D usually is lower in the former than in the latter group, but this is more important for research than for patient care. In conclusion, the measurement of serum 25(OH)D is important to assess vitamin D status and to exclude vitamin D deficiency or insufficiency. Serum 1,25(OH)2D should be measured in selected metabolic diseases associated with decreased or increased 1α-hydroxylase activity or vitamin D receptor defects.

ME12
Primary aldosteronism
John Connell
BHF Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK.

Primary aldosteronism is the most common secondary cause of hypertension. Less than 50% of patients with the disorder have a solitary aldosterone producing adenoma. In the most common presentation, patients present with bilateral hypersecretion of aldosterone. The aetiology of this is uncertain. Studies within our own group have suggested that there is an underlying generic predisposition to develop hypertension with a raised aldosterone to renin ratio (ARR) associated with variation in the gene encoding aldosterone synthase (CYP11B2). More recent studies have suggested that the development of aldosterone excess is a digenic phenomenon with variations in CYP11B2 and in the neighbouring gene (CYP11B1) that encodes 11β-hydroxylase. The combination of polymorphisms, which are inherited as a single haplotype block in Caucasian subjects, leads to reduced efficiency of 11β-hydroxylation and excess of aldosterone production. We have proposed that, over a lifetime, this may predispose subjects to develop hypertension with relative aldosterone excess. Regardless of the aetiology, identification of Primary Aldosteronism depends on detection using a simple screening procedure such as measurement of the ARR. Confirmation of diagnosis is had, thereafter, by appropriate sodium loading manoeuvres followed by lateralisation using imaging and adrenal vein sampling. Therapeutic strategies, including laparoscopic adrenalectomy, and medical approaches using specific mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists will be discussed.

ME13
New pharmaceutical contraceptive approaches
Philippe Bouchard
Department of Endocrinology, Hôpital Saint Antoine, Paris, France.

The pharmaceutical armamentarium available for contraception is remarkable and extraordinary progress has been achieved since 1960, when the first hormonal contraceptive, Enovid, was approved in the USA. However, the demand for new methods, for improvement of existing methods, and easier availability, remains unrestrained. Indeed, the number of untreated pregnancies is still too high, averaging 40% of all pregnancies. In addition, 50% of these pregnancies are followed by abortion, many of those being unsafe. The situation is further complicated by the decreased interest of the Pharma industry. Improvement of existing methods excludes OCs given non stop with bleed free regimes. There is also a need for improvement of the choice offered to women, and the multiplication of methods among which women can choose the method they like best: intrauterine devices which block menstruation without systemic exposure, vaginal contraceptive rings with 17 beta estradiol, and patches/transdermal hormonal contraception containing friendly steroids. Although the state of reproductive research has not permitted to target oocyte fertilization or implantation as a contraceptive method, several leads show great future: (1) the replacement of ethinyl estradiol by estradiol, which will allow the reduction VTE events, and tolerance, (2) the development of new estrogens such as estetrol, and (3) the development of the progesterone receptor modulators (PRMs). This class of product is remarkable since it is devoid of metabolic and coagulation side effects. PRMs block the LH surge and prevent implantation without suppressing endogenous estradiol production. The end result of their administration is a bleed free method available as a daily continuous regimen. Other regimes include emergency contraception, where better results have been achieved in comparison with levonorgestrel. The development of this method will allow the introduction of the first product on the market next year. Even though long term efficacy as well as endometrial safety will have to be assessed, this class of compounds looks very promising, because of their safety and efficacy but also because in animal models, PRMs prevent the development of breast cancer. Finally, the most difficult task will be to develop, in parallel, or in association, a contraceptive method, which at the same time, will protect against sexually transmitted infections.

ME14
Molecular biology for clinicians
John Kopchick
Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA.

In this lecture, fundamental concepts in the area of molecular biology will be presented. These include biology’s and biotechnology’s central dogma, the “human genome project”; the discordance between human gene number and corresponding protein number; and gene cloning techniques. Also presented will be procedures used to determine gene number and location (Southern blotting) and levels of gene expression at the RNA (Northern blotting, reverse transcription/polymerase chain reaction, micro-array/gene chip) and protein (Western blotting, proteomics) level. Additionally, three examples describing the cloning of genes/dNAAs and production of the respective recombinant therapeutic proteins will be offered. Finally, functional genomic concepts and protocols will be discussed including production of transgenic and gene-disrupted (knocked out) animals as well as methods to down regulate gene expression using antisense, ribozyme, or small inhibitory RNAs. The lecture will stress the ‘basics’ of the various protocols with clinical examples cited.

ME15
Diagnosis and treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus in childhood
Neslihan Gungor
University College of Medicine, Temple, Texas, USA.

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) has historically been considered an exclusive disease of adulthood until late 1970’s when reports of increased prevalence in pediatric age group emerged in the literature. The concerning increase in the rate of diagnosis of T2DM in children and adolescents has continued parallel to the increasing rates of obesity. The disease is not specific to the United States, it has been recognized as a global problem. T2DM of youth is a heterogeneous disease from a pathophysiology perspective. Both insulin deficiency and insulin resistance are the key components of pathogenesis, and their variable proportions alter the delicate balance between these two parameters. This reflects to the clinical presentation and the treatment needs to be tailored accordingly. This review will address T2DM as a relatively new and significant disease of the pediatric age group. The objectives are: 1. To provide an overview of T2DM in youth, with emphasis on: -Characteristics and pathophysiology -Diagnosis, differential diagnosis -Risk factors, epidemiology 2. To discuss treatment goals and options, with reference to clinical presentation.

ME16
Abstract unavailable.
Clinical Highlights
Hot topics: Clinical

HTC1

Reduction in incidence of Type 2 diabetes by lifestyle modification in a Middle Eastern urban population: Tehran Lipid and Glucose Study
Hadi Harati, Farzad Hadaegh, Laleh Ghanei & Fereidoon Azizi
Research Institute for Endocrine Disorders, Prevention of Metabolic Disorders Research Center, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Aims
Lifestyle modification has been shown to prevent development of Type 2 diabetes in high risk American, European and Asian populations. We wanted to test whether such intervention could have similar results in a white Middle Eastern population.

Methods
A total of 8212 non-diabetic subjects≥20 years were selected by cluster random sampling method in the cross-sectional phase of the Tehran Lipid and Glucose Study (TLGS) from 1999 to 2001. A subsample of 3098 subjects was then selected as the lifestyle modification and the remaining 5114 subjects as the control group in the interventional phase of the TLGS from 2002 to 2005.

Interventions were aimed at lifestyle modification through improving nutrition and dietary pattern, increasing physical activity levels, and smoking cessation. Fasting and 2-hours plasma glucose as well as other major diabetes risk factors were measured at baseline and follow-up examinations.

Results
After median follow-up of 3.5 years, 4747 subjects (2993 and 1754 respectively from the control and intervention group) completed the follow-up examination. Mean age and BMI of the participants were 41±12 years and 26.5 kg/m² respectively and 58% were females. The intervention group had significantly lower rate of increase in major diabetes risk factors (Table 1). The incidence rate of Type 2 diabetes was significantly lower in the intervention versus control group (8.2 and 12.2 per 1000 person-years respectively, P<0.001). The hazard ratio of developing Type 2 diabetes in the intervention group after adjustment for all the major risk factors was 0.34 (95% CI: 0.25–0.47, P<0.001). To prevent one case of diabetes, 25.0 individuals in the whole population, 5.7 in those with impaired glucose tolerance and 6.7 in those with BMI≥25 kg/m² had to participate in the intervention program.

Conclusion
Lifestyle modification could result in a significant decrease in the incidence of Type 2 diabetes in an Iranian urban population. This effect was independent of the level of major diabetes risk factors.

Table 1. Comparison of risk factor changes overtime between treatment groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk factors</th>
<th>Percent of change after 3.5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body weight</td>
<td>3.2 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>2.6 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waist circumference</td>
<td>5.7 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systolic blood pressure</td>
<td>−1.0 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic blood pressure</td>
<td>−2.8 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasting plasma glucose</td>
<td>3.3 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-hours plasma glucose</td>
<td>10.6 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglyceride</td>
<td>6.2 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL-cholesterol</td>
<td>−7.6 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are mean (s.e.) of percent of change over time. *; ** represent P<0.01 and P<0.001 respectively in comparison to the control group.

HTC2

Primary hyperparathyroidism (Nationwide cohort study): an increased risk of cancer and decreased survival
Sujoy Ghosh1, Andrew Collier1, David Clark2, Tarik Elhadi3 & Iqbal Malik1
1NHS Ayrshire & Arran Information Services Division, The Ayr Hospital, NHS National Services Scotland, Scotland, UK; 2Information Services Division, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS National Services Scotland, Scotland, UK.

Introduction
The incidence of primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) is ≈3.5/100,000 per year

- The incidence is on the rise due to increase in ‘routine biochemical testing’
- Has been thought to be a ‘relatively harmless’ disorder.
- Some patients tend to undergo surgery, while others are conservatively treated and most followed up for a short period before discharge from follow up.
- Aims
  - Determine if risk of cancer is increased in patients with primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT)
  - Determine if mortality is increased in patients with primary hyperparathyroidism.

Methodology
- A cohort of patients with PHPT between 1981 and 2007 was identified from the Scottish morbidity records and linked to the Scottish cancer registry and Scottish mortality records.
- Patients with pre-existing cancers (or developing cancer within one year of diagnosis of PHPT) were excluded from the analysis of subsequent cancer risks.
- The prevalence of new cancers and deaths was identified in these patients.
- The results were then compared with the risk of cancer and mortality in the general population living in Scotland.

Outcome/results
- Total number of patients diagnosed with PHPT: 3039
  - Females: 2350 (77.3%), Males: 689 (22.7%)
  - Mean age of patients: 63.5 years
  - Person years at risk of cancer: 22 710
  - New cases of cancer: 440/276
  - Standardised incidence rate of cancer: (SIR): 2.026, 95% CI (1.841–2.224), P<0.001
  - Person years at risk of death: 24 186
  - Number of deaths: 1601
  - Standardised Incidence Rate of deaths: (SIR): 3.085, 95% CI (2.936–3.240), P<0.001

Conclusions
- Individuals with PHPT have a two fold increased risk of developing subsequent cancer and a three fold increased risk of death as compared to the general population.
- The findings of this study have enormous implications for management and follow up of patients diagnosed with primary hyperparathyroidism.

HTC3 – ESE Young Investigator Award

Gene expression profiling reveals a new classification of adrenocortical tumors and identifies molecular predictors of malignancy and survival
Guillaume Assie1,2,3, Aurélien de Reyniére1,2, David Rickman4, Frédérique Tissier1,5,7, Lionel Groussin2,5,7, Fernande René-Corail1,7, Bertrand Dousset1,7, Xavier Bertagna2,7, Eric Clauser1,5,7 & Jérôme Bonthaërl1,2,7
1Department Endocrinology Metabolism Cancer, Institut Cochin, Université Paris Descartes, INSERM U567, CNRS UMRS104 Paris, France; 2Department of Endocrinology, Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris, Cochin Hospital, Paris, France; 3Department of Pathology, Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris, Cochin Hospital, Paris, France; 4Department of Digestive and Endocrine Surgery, Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris, Cochin Hospital, Paris, France; 5Department of Oncogenetics, Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris, Cochin Hospital, Paris, France; 6Cartes d’Identité des Tumeurs (CIT), Ligue Nationale Contre Le Cancer, Paris, France; 7Adrenal Cancer Network-COMETE, INCA, Paris, France.

Diagnosing malignancy and assessing the prognosis of adrenocortical tumors is challenging. The aim is to identify molecular predictors of malignancy and of survival.

Patients and methods
Of 153 unilateral adrenocortical tumors were studied by microarray (n=92) or RT-qPCR (n=61). A 2-gene predictor of malignancy was built using the disease-free survival as the end-point in a training cohort (n=47), then validated in an independent validation cohort (n=106). The best candidate genes were selected using Cox models, and the best gene combination was validated using the log-rank test. Similarly, for malignant tumors, a 2-gene predictor of survival was built using the overall survival as the end-point in a training cohort (n=43), then tested in an independent validation cohort (n=35).

Results
Unsupervised clustering analysis discriminated the malignant and benign tumors, and identified two groups of malignant tumors with different outcome. Predictors based on gene expression levels were determined. The substitution DCL7-PINK1 was the best predictor of disease free survival (log-rank P=10–12), could overcome the uncertainties of intermediate pathological Weiss scores, and remained significant after adjustment to the Weiss score (P<1.3×10–2). Among

the malignant tumors, the subtraction BUB1B-PINK1 was the best predictor of overall survival (P<2×10^-6), and remained significant after adjusting for MacFarlane staging (P<0.005).

Conclusion
Gene expression analysis unravels two distinct groups of adrenocortical carcinomas. The molecular predictors of malignancy and of survival are reliable and provide valuable independent information in addition to pathology and tumor staging. These original tools should provide important improvements for adrenal tumors management.

HTC4 – ESE Young Investigator Award

Functional analyses of four novel ret germline mutations: juxtaplasmembrane mutations display the highest level of autophosphorylation

Daniela Cordella1, Marina Muzzi1,2, Johny Bombled3, Brigitte Bressac-de Paillerets3, Paolo Beck-Peccoz1, Martin Schlumberger1, Luca Persani1 & Laura Fugazza1,2

1Department of Medical Sciences, University of Milan, Milan, Italy;
2Endocrine and Diabetological Unit, Fondazione Policlinico IRCCS, Milan, Italy;
3Laboratory of Experimental Endocrinology, Istituto Auxologico Italiano IRCCS, Milan, Italy; 4Service de Génétiq, Laboratoire Génomes et Cancer, FReE2938 CNRS2, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France;
5Department of Nuclear Medicine and Endocrine Oncology, Institut de Cancérologie Gustave-Roussy and University Paris-Sud 11, Villejuif, France.

Germline activating mutations of the RET proto-oncogene are associated with inherited medullary thyroid cancer (MTC) and can be also detected in about 10% of apparently sporadic MTC cases. In the present study, 4 novel RET mutations, located in the extracellular domain (A510V, E511K and C531R) and in the intracellular juxtaplasmembrane region (L66N), all identified by the genetic screening on sporadic MTC cases, are firstly reported and functionally characterized. RET Plasmysrs carrying Ret9-WT (the short isoform of protoRet gene) and RET mutants, obtained by site-direct mutagenesis, were transiently transfected in HEK cells. Ret9-C634R (the protoRet gene containing a MEN2A causing mutation) was used as positive control. The tyrosine phosphorylation level was evaluated by immunoprecipitation and Western blot analyses. The extracellular variants A510V, E511K and C531R were found to harbour an autophosphorylation higher than Ret9-WT, but significantly lower than Ret9-C634R. Differently, the L66N variant, located 8 residues downstream the transmembrane domain displayed a high kinase activity, similar to that observed with the Ret9-C634R mutant and consistent with a strong transforming activity.

In conclusion, functional analyses on four novel germline RET mutations are reported. Consistent with previous data on a complex mutation, the L66N variant is associated with a high constitutive activation indicating that alterations in the juxtaplasmembrane region can strongly activate RET in a ligand independent manner and be associated with a phenotype of intermediate-high severity. Therefore, we advocate strict follow-up since early age for carriers of mutations in this novel ‘hot’ region. Finally, present data confirm the need to routinely perform the genetic screening for RET in apparently sporadic MTC and to extend the molecular analyses to regions other than the cysteine residues and other classical hot spots.

HTC5 – ESE Young Investigator Award

Quality of life in acromegalic patients during long-term somatostatin analog treatment with and without pegvisomant

Sebastian Neggers3, Wouter Herder1, Richard Felders1, Xavier Badia5, Susan Webb5 & Aart-Jan Lely1

1Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; 2Health Economics and Outcomes Research, IMS Health, Barcelona, Spain; 3Department of Endocrinology, Hospital Sant Pau, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

Objective
To assess if weekly administration of 40 mg pegvisomant (PEG-V) improves quality of life (QoL) and metabolic parameters in acromegalic patients with already normal age-adjusted insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-I) concentrations during long-acting somatostatin analog (SSA) treatment.

Design
Prospective investigator-initiated, double blind, placebo controlled, cross-over study. Twenty acromegalic subjects received for two consecutive treatment periods of 16 weeks either PEG-V or placebo, separated by a wash-out period of 4 weeks. Efficacy was assessed as change between baseline and end of each treatment period. QoL was assessed by the Acromegaly Quality of Life Questionnaire (AcroQoL27) and the Patient-obsessed Acromegaly Symptom Questionnaire (PAQ58).

Results
The AcroQoL (P=0.008) and AcroQoL physical (P=0.002) improved significantly after PEG-V was added. The addition of PEG-V also significantly improved the PAQ5 (P=0.038) and the single PAQ5 questions, perspiration (P=0.024), soft tissue swelling (P=0.036) and overall health status (P=0.035). No significant change in Z-score of IGF-I (P=0.34) or the Z-score of serum IGF-I bioactivity (P=0.667) was observed during addition of PEG-V. The improved QoL in the AcroQoL physical was well correlated with weight loss (r=0.46, P=0.04) but not with change in Z-score of (bioactive) IGF-I. Transient liver enzyme disturbances were observed in five subjects (25%) and two patients also suffered from diabetes Mellitus.

Conclusion
Improvement in quality of life was observed without significant change in (the bioactivity of) IGF-I after the addition of 40 mg pegvisomant weekly to monthly long-acting SSA therapy in acromegalic patients who already did normalize in their IGF-I on SSA monotherapy. These data question our current insight in how to assess disease activity. Moreover, it questions the current step-up approach of medical treatment in which pegvisomant only has a role when SSA therapy has failed normalizing IGF-I.
Basic Highlights
Hot topics: Basic

HTB1
Characterization of a mouse model with mutagenesis induced hyperaldosteronism
Ariadni Spyrouglou1, Sylwette Wagner1, Jenny Manolopoulou1,
Constance Hantel1, Martin Retzke1, Martin Billingmaier1, Martin Hrabé de Angelis1 & Felix Beuschlein1
1Medizinische Klinik Innenstadt, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany; 2Institute of Experimental Genetics, Helmholtz Center, Munich, Germany.

Although primary aldosteronism (PA) is considered to be the most prevalent cause of secondary hypertension the underlying genetic mechanisms have been elucidated only for the rare familial forms of the disease. In an attempt to develop novel genetic loci involved in the pathophysiology of PA a phenotype-driven mutagenesis screening after treatment with the alkylating agent N-ethyl-N-nitrosourea was established for the parameter aldosterone. The aldosterone values of more than 2800 F1 offspring of chemically mutagenized inbred C3HeB/FeJ mice were measured and compared to aldosterone levels from untreated animals. Persistent hyperaldosteronism (defined as levels > 3 S.D. over the mean of untreated animals) upon repeated measurements was present in eight female and 1 male F1 offspring. Further breeding of these affected females gave rise to 2 F2 pedigrees from which eight lines with different patterns of inheritance of hyperaldosteronism could be established. Affected animals served for a detailed phenotypic characterization which revealed low renin values, an increased aldosterone to renin ratio (unaffected 1.83:±0.54 pg/ml per pg/ml; p < 0.01) and low potassium (unaffected 5.4±±0.05 mEq/l; versus affected 4.78±±0.23 mEq/l; P < 0.05) in line with the presence of primary aldosteronism. In addition, the investigation of their cardiac phenotype showed increased collagen deposits and subsequently cardiac fibrosis (picroc acid positive areas unaffected 0.16:±0.02% versus affected 2.00±±0.14%. P < 0.01). Histological examination of their adrenal glands revealed a thicker zona glomerulosa (zona glomerulosa/zona fasciculata ratio unaffected 0.23:±0.01 versus affected 0.39:±0.02 P < 0.001) without evidence of adrenal tumors. On the molecular level affected animals showed a significant increase of Cyp11b2 expression (unaffected 100:±2.8% versus affected 649:±76%. P < 0.001) which was accompanied by a significant downregulation of the genes Smoc, MTUS and Wnt4 in comparison to unaffected littermates. Ongoing SNP analysis will allow defining causative mutations to elucidate the molecular mechanisms of autonomous aldosterone secretion in the individual lines.

HTB2
Characterization of human adult stem cell populations isolated from subcutaneous and visceral adipose tissue
Silvana Baglioni1, Michela Francalanci2, Roberta Squecorc3,
Adriana Lombardi1, Giulia Cantini3, Roberta Angelil3, Stefania Gelmini3,
Daniele Giuri1, Susanna Benvenuti2, Francesca Ammarazzato1,
Daniele Bani3, Francesco Liotta3, Fabio Francini3, Giuliano Perigli3,
Mario Serto1 & Michela Luconi3
1Department of Clinical Physiopathology, Florence, Italy; 2Department of Physiological Sciences, Florence, Italy; 3Internal Medicine, Florence, Italy; 4Anatomy, Histology, and Forensic Medicine, Florence, Italy; 5Department of General Surgery, Florence, Italy.

White adipose tissue acts as an endocrine organ that secretes a variety of adipokines and coordinates a number of biological processes such as energy homeostasis, neuroendocrine and immune functions. Recent studies demonstrated that abundant adipose tissue deposits (particularly visceral adipose tissue), by producing inflammatory cytokines, contribute to chronic low-grade inflammation processes which may underlie the pathogenesis of metabolic disorders such as obesity, atherosclerosis, insulin resistance and diabetes. Functional differences in adipose tissue seem associated with the regional distribution of fat deposits, in particular in subcutaneous and visceral omental pads. The aim of our study was to obtain a human cell model that provides an useful system for the in vitro investigation of the pathophysiological processes leading to differentiation of mature adipocyte. For the first time we isolated human adipose-derived adult stem cells from visceral and subcutaneous abdominal fat (V-ASC and S-ASC, respectively) from the same subject. Flow cytometry immunophenotyping shows that plastic culturing selects homogenous cell populations of V-ASC and S-ASC sharing typical markers of mesenchymal stem cells. Electron microscopy, electrophysiological analysis of cell currents and quantitative real-time RT-PCR analysis of the expression of stemness markers confirm the mesenchymal stem nature of both V-ASC and S-ASC. Similarly to S-ASC, when cultured in the appropriate inducing media, V-ASC can differentiate not only towards adipogenic, osteogenic and chondrogenic lineages, but also towards muscle and neuronal cells, as demonstrated by immunofluorescence, quantitative real time RT-PCR and electrophysiological analyses, suggesting the multipotency of such adult stem cells. In conclusion both visceral and subcutaneous adipose tissues are a source of pluripotent stem cells with multi-germline potential. However, the visceral rather than the subcutaneous adipose-derived adult stem cells populations represent a more appropriate in vitro model for investigating the molecular mechanisms implicated in the pathophysiology of metabolic disorders such as obesity.

HTB3
Functional relevance of MC3R and GHSR heterodimerization in hypothalamic weight regulation
Anne Rediger1, Patrick Tarnow1, Annette Grüters1, Michael Schäfer2,
Rainer Strotmann3, Torsten Schoneberg1 & Heike Biehlermann1
1Institute of Experimental Pediatric Endocrinology, Charité, Berlin, Germany; 2Institute for Pharmacology and Toxocology, Leipzig, Germany; 3Institute of Biochemistry, Leipzig, Germany.

By a systematic approach we investigated the interaction of a selective number of GPCRs that are expressed in the arcuate nucleus and known to play an essential role in hypothalamic weight regulation. Based on the results on the mouse ELISA and fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) approach we report the interaction of the melanocortin three receptor (MC3R) and the growth hormone secretagogue receptor (GHSR) which are coexpressed on arcuate NPY/AgRP neurons. Furthermore, we demonstrated a co-localization of the heterologously expressed receptors on the cell surface of living cells by confocal laser scanning microscopy. Heterodimerization of unrelated receptors is well accepted today and examples implicate profound functional consequences. It is known that MC3R couple to the Gαs whereas GHSR couple to the Gqα signaling pathway. However, here we observed that co-expression of MC3R and GHSR profoundly increase cAMP-accumulation after melanocortin challenge, that is higher compared to MC3R activation alone. In-depth characterization of the new signalling properties of the MC3R/GHSR heterodimer revealed the activation of Gαi in the presence of both endogene agonists.

In summary, our results indicate a cross talk between the signaling pathways of the two hypothalamic receptors and adds to the understanding of the complexity of weight regulation. Maybe these findings provide an explanation for snacking between meals and the decision to eat a second slice of the cake because cAMP rising in the NPY/AgRP neurons supported the expression of the neuropeptide Y.

HTB4
Mice deficient for the Sam68 RNA binding protein are protected from dietary obesity and insulin resistance
Gillian Vogel & Stephan Richard
Lady Davis Institute, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The Src substrate associated in mitosis of 68 kDa (Sam68) is a KH-type RNA binding protein that has been shown to regulate several aspects of RNA metabolism. The tyrosine phosphorylation of Sam68 was shown to negatively regulate its RNA binding activity and hence it was termed a Signal Transduction Activator of RNA (STAR) protein. Although KH-type RNA binding domains are known to mediate specific protein-RNA interactions, their RNA targets remain elusive. Nevertheless, Sam68 has been shown to regulate HIV Rev nuclear export pathway, the constitutive transport element and alternative splicing. To define the physiological role of this RNA binding protein, we generated Sam68 deficient mice (Richard et al. 2005, PLoS Genetic 1: e74). Previously we reported that the Sam68 deficient mice were protected from age-induced bone loss (Richard et al. 2005, PLOS Genetic 1: e74) and delayed breast tumorigenesis (Richard et al. 2008 Oncogene 27:548). Here we report that homoygote Sam68+/− mice have a lower body and adipose tissue weight despite normal insulin sensitivity. These mice are protected against dietary obesity owing to deregulation in lipid metabolism associated with adipogenesis defects. Moreover, they remain insulin sensitive when placed on high-fat diet. We observed that the expression of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-γ (PPARγ) is reduced in Sam68−/− mice. Consistent with these results, differentiation ability of 3T3-L1 preadipocyte cells depleted of Sam68 is attenuated for adipocyte differentiation. These results suggest that the Sam68 RNA binding protein is a novel regulator of adipogenesis and represents a new target to treat type II diabetes and obesity.

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**HTB5**

**Mutations in a novel exon of the LH receptor gene cause male pseudohermaphroditism**

Joerg Gromoll1, Nina Kossack1, Annette Richter-Unruh2 & Manuela Simon1

1Centre of Reproductive Medicine and Andrology, Muenster, Germany; 2Endokrinologieum, Wattenscheid, Germany; 1Department of Medicine, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Modena, Italy.

**Objectives**

Male pseudohermaphroditism, or Leydig cell hypoplasia (LCH), is an autosomal recessive disorder in individuals with a 46, XY karyotype, characterized by a predominantly female phenotype despite the presence of testicular structures. It is caused by mutations in the luteinizing hormone/chorionic gonadotropin receptor gene (LHCGR), which impair either LHCG binding or signal transduction. However, molecular analysis has revealed that the LHCGR is apparently normal in about 50% of patients with the full clinical phenotype of LCH. We therefore searched the LHCGR for novel genomic elements causative for LCH.

**Methods and results**

In the present study we have identified a novel, primate-specific bona fide exon (exon 6A) within the LHCGR gene. It displays composite characteristics of an internal/terminal exon and possesses stop codons triggering nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (NMD) in LHCGR. Transcripts including exon 6A are physiologically highly expressed in human testes and granulosa cells, and result in an intracellular, truncated LHCGR protein of 209 amino acids. We sequenced exon 6A in 21 patients with unexplained LCH and detected mutations in four patients. Functional studies revealed a dramatic increase in the expression of the mutated internal exon 6A transcripts, indicating aberrant NMD. These altered ratios of LHCGR transcripts result in the generation of predominantly nonfunctional LHCGR isoforms, thereby preventing proper expression and functioning.

**Conclusions**

The identification and characterization of this novel exon identifies a new regulatory element within the genomic organization of LHCGR, important for receptor regulation at the transcriptional level. Mutations in exon 6A can be causative for disorders of sexual development.

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Debate
What to do next when Metformin does not work in Type 2 Diabetes?

D1.1

What to do next when metformin does not work in diabetes Type 2? add SU
Valdis Pirags
University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia.

Monotherapy with metformin is widely accepted as the second step in type 2 diabetes treatment after the failure to achieve glycemic goals with therapeutic education and lifestyle modification, including correction of diet and physical exercise habits. However, most of patients need combination therapy in first three to four years after metformin initiation. Obviously the efficacy of antidiabetic drugs used as add-on to metformin monotherapy could be different from those observed in monotherapy. In most of short-term comparative studies sulphonylureas showed greater reduction of HbA1c than other oral antidiabetics, and had a similar efficacy as insulin. However, the sustainability of this combination is limited to first two to three years and depends from the baseline HbA1c value. Concern about the cardiovascular safety of metformin and sulphonylurea combination is still under debate, but several large outcome studies didn’t show increased risk of this therapy. In conclusion, metformin and sulphonylureas are unable to prevent the long-term progression of hyperglycaemia in most of type 2 diabetes patients. The tailoring of treatment to the individual patient remains the most important key to successful diabetes therapy.

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D1.2

Add insulin
Tadej Battelino
UMC University Children’s Hospital, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

People with type 2 Diabetes (T2D) develop severe chronic complication early in the course of the disease if not treated optimally. Although lifestyle intervention and metformin clearly improve metabolic control with metformin having well established safety profile, both become insufficient in most patients with T2D. To achieve the current goal of HbA1c < 7% additional medication are introduced. By current recommendations, basal insulin or sulphonylurea are added to lifestyle intervention and metformin in majority of patients, with intensive insulin therapy following when needed to maintain the target HbA1c. Alternatively, pioglitazone or GLP-1 agonist may be added to lifestyle and metformin in selected patients. Data demonstrating the importance of regulating postprandial blood glucose early in the course of T2D may require modified clinical algorithms. Prandial insulin may be preferable for regulating postprandial blood glucose early in the course of T2D. Similarly, GLP-1 agonist may be beneficial in younger people with early stage T2D where weight reduction and regulation of the postprandial blood glucose can be primary goals. Diversified clinical recommendations focusing on distinct sub-groups of people with T2D are warranted with more focus on regulating postprandial blood glucose, along with additional clinical trials to verify the emerging concepts.

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D1.3

What to do next when metformin does not work in diabetes Type 2? add incretin
Baptist Gallwitz
Universitätsklinikum Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany.

Near-normoglycaemia should be reached as safely as possible. It should be considered, that at lower HbA1c concentrations, the proportional contribution of postprandial glucose to HbA1c is greater than at higher HbA1c values. Sulphonylureas, gliptins and insulin are associated with an increased risk for hypoglycaemia and weight gain. Therefore, these agents should not be considered in first line for the combination therapy in overweight patients with Type 2 diabetes and metformin monotherapy failure. Sulphonylureas and gliptins as insulin secretagogues act glucose-independently and have a disadvantage compared to the novel incretin based therapies that are safe regarding hypoglycaemia and weight development. The only advantage of the sulphonylureas may be their low cost, but this has to be outweighed against the costs for more frequent blood glucose testing and the costs caused by severe hypoglycaemic events. Insulin can be dosed in a manner to lower glycaemic parameters to any desired goal, but also has the above mentioned limitations regarding weight and hypoglycaemias. Acarbose has lowered cardiovascular events in IGT and in Type 2 diabetic patients. Gastrointestinal side effects are a barrier to a broad use of this compound. Glitazones are also associated with weight gain and with fluid retention. Cardiovascular safety and the incidence of bone fractures have been discussed recently in spite of the positive cardiovascular data of the PRO-Active study. A safe antihyperglycemic treatment not leading to hypoglycaemia and weight gain may be favourable, especially in patients with HbA1c values in the range below 7.5%, where postprandial hyperglycaemia contributes to a higher degree to the HbA1c reduction. Here, the incretin based therapies may become an attractive treatment option especially for overweight patients with Type 2 diabetes.

In general, however, we will need long-term intervention studies to investigate the durability of the effect of the novel drugs and their effect on vascular outcomes and hard endpoints. These studies will have to be very large and will need to have a long duration to clarify the open questions that still remain.
Oral Communications
Endocrine Tumours

OC1.1
Optimizing time of prophylactic surgery in ret gene carriers on the basis of serum calcitonin
Rossella Elisi, Cristina Romei, Valeria Bottici, Barbara Cosci, Giulia Renzini, Eleonora Polinomo, Laura Agate & Aldo Pinchera
Department of Endocrinology, Fisa, Italy.

Multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2 (MEN 2) is characterized by the presence of medullary thyroid cancer (MTC) and other benign pathologies. RET mutations are responsible of this disease and their screening is a very sensitive tool for the identification of gene carriers (GC). Aim of this study was to verify the relevance of the basal and pentagastrin (P Gstimulated serum calcitonin (CT) in the decision to perform TT in GC. We reviewed data of 35 GC found among 80? subjects screened for RET mutations. Twenty GC were negative for both basal and stimulated CT and, following our indications, did not undergo surgery. Thirty-five patients underwent TT on the basis of detectable levels of basal and/or stimulated CT. Twenty-one cases had an undetectable basal serum CT while 14 cases had detectable basal CT (15.922 pg/ml). All cases with undetectable basal CT levels or if detectable less than 60 ng/ml showed only C-cell hyperplasia (n=5) or microfoci of MTC without node metastases (n=22). Only cases with basal CT higher than 60 ng/ml (n=8) showed either small MTC associated with node metastases (n=4) or bigger MTC with or without node metastases (n=4). Six GC with positive Pg-test refused TT and 4 are under evaluation. The correlation with the RET mutation showed that all GC with a cysteine mutation had a detectable basal and/or a Pg stimulated CT while no cysteine mutations were found among the 20 GC with undetectable basal levels of metastases or stimulated CT. In conclusion, our data indicate that basal and stimulated serum CT plays an important role in taking the decision to perform TT in GC: the positivity of the Pg-test can safely suggest when TT should be performed and avoid to treat GC at very young age when surgical complications are more frequent and more difficult to manage.

OC1.2
Long-term outcome of laparoscopic versus open adrenalectomy for adenocortical carcinoma
Martin Fassnacht1, David Brix2, Wiebke Fenske3, Peter Langer3, Christoph Nies4, Ayman Agha5, Felix Beuschlein2, Sarah Johannsen1, Hubertus Riedmiller1 & Bruno Alloizio1
1Department of Medicine I, University Hospital, Würzburg, Germany; 2Department of Urology, University Hospital, Würzburg, Germany; 3Department of Surgery, University Hospital, Marburg, Germany; 4Department of Surgery, University Hospital, Regensburg, Germany; 5Department of Medicine I, University Hospital, München, Germany.

Introduction
Surgery is the established first line treatment in adenocortical carcinoma (ACC). For benign adrenal tumours, laparoscopic adrenalectomy (LA) has become the treatment of choice. However, the role of LA in ACC remains highly controversial. Data from the German ACC Registry were used to evaluate the technical feasibility of LA in ACC and to compare the long-term outcome after LA with the results of open adrenalectomy (OA).

Methods
Out of 521 patients in the German ACC Registry, we identified 135 patients with ACC stage I-II, a tumour size ≤ 10 cm, and a follow up time of at least 6 months. In this group 27 patients underwent LA. These patients were matched with regard to tumour size (mean diameter 7.0 ± 6.5 cm), tumour stage, adjuvant therapy, age, sex, and endocrine activity with 27 patients who underwent OA. Median follow-up was 35 months (6–138 months).

Results
The 5-year overall survival (OS) of the entire cohort of 54 patients was 62%. Time to recurrence (TTR) and OS did not differ significantly between LA and OA (TTR median 22 vs 15 months; HR 1.2; P=0.5; OS 40 vs 34 months; HR 1.7; P=0.2). In 11/27 patients, laparoscopic surgery had to be converted to an open procedure. Conversion had no negative impact on OS (P=0.4).

Conclusions
This is by far the largest series on LA in ACC and the first including matched controls. In contrast to previous concerns, our study indicates that LA in ACC patients with tumour size ≤10 cm does not lead to earlier recurrence or inferior survival when compared to OA. Our data justify a randomized trial in selected patients with ACC comparing the two surgical approaches. However, due to the rarity of ACC such a trial is challenging and unlikely to be performed in the foreseeable future.

OC1.3
131I-Iodomethomidate radiotherapy for metastatic adenocortical carcinoma: first clinical experience
Stefanie Hahner1, Michael Kreissl2, Martin Fassnacht1, Sarah Johannsen1, Herbert Haenschdel1, Christoph Reiners1, Bruno Alloizio1 & Andreas Schirbel1
1Endocrine and Diabetes Unit, Department of Internal Medicine I, Wuerzburg, Germany; 2Department of Nuclear Medicine, Wuerzburg, Germany.

Subject
Treatment options for adenocortical carcinoma (ACC) are still unsatisfactory. We could recently demonstrate that several patients with ACC exhibit a high and specific uptake of 123I-Iodomethomidate (123I-IMT). Therefore, we investigated if 131I-IMT holds potential for radiotherapy in ACC.

Methods
Dosimetry with 40 MBq I-131-IMT was performed over 5 days in 7 patients and calculated activities were administered on a compassionate use basis in 6 patients with ACC.

Results
Follow up data are available in 3 patients so far. The bone marrow proved to be the critical organ. Postulating that the bone marrow dose does not exceed a tolerable dose of 2 Gy, high therapeutic activities of up to 20 GBq were calculated. Patients received between 2 and 20 GBq 131I-IMT as treatment dose. A high and lasting uptake was observed in almost all metastases. Corresponding to the values calculated from dosimetry, tumour doses up to 41.3 Gy were reached. Elimination of 113I-IMT from whole body showed a half life of 20 h. In all patients treatment was very well tolerated. Transient thrombocytopenia and leucopenia was observed in most patients. At follow up patient 1 showed a decrease of the size of those lesions that had shown tracer uptake. Patient 2 demonstrated a lasting decrease in 18F-FDG uptake, however metastatic lesions slightly increased in size. Patient 3 had stable disease after 10 weeks follow up.

Conclusions
This is the first report of radiotreatment of metastatic ACC with 131I-IMT. Due to the high specificity of tracer uptake high activities can be achieved within the target tissue, comparable to those achieved by other radionuclide treatment regimens. Treatment is well tolerated. However, this method has to be further evaluated to better estimate its clinical value in treatment of ACC.

OC1.4 – ESE Young Investigator Award
MicroRNA expression profiling and target prediction in adenocortical tumors
1Second Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary; 2Department of Genetics, Cell- and Immunobiology, Faculty of Medicine, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary; 3First Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary; 4Department of Urology, Faculty of Medicine, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary; 5Gedeon Richter Ltd, Budapest, Hungary; 6Molecular Medicine Research Group, The Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary; 7Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Universite de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Introduction
MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are non-coding RNA molecules involved in the posttranscriptional regulation of gene expression. MiRNAs bind mRNA molecules at their 3′ untranslated regions and induce translational repression or target degradation. MiRNAs play important roles in the pathogenesis of several neoplasms. There are no reports, however, on the possible involvement of miRNAs in the pathogenesis of adenocortical tumors.

Objective
To study simultaneous miRNA and mRNA expression patterns in normal, hormonally inactive, cortisol-secreting benign and malignant adenocortical tissues (ACC), and to identify major pathogenetic pathways by bioinformatics analysis.

Methods
Thirty-two tissue samples were studied approved by the Ethical Committee of the Hungarian Health Council. MiRNA and mRNA expression profiling was performed in 16 samples by TLDNA Human MRB Panel and whole genome microarray platform, respectively. Results were further validated and sample sizes were extended by qRT-PCR. Tissue-specific miRNA target prediction was
achieved by an integrative bioinformatics method. Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA) was used as a system biology approach.

Results

Twenty-six miRNAs with significant expression differences were identified. Further validation was performed for 14 miRNAs. Expression of miR-214, miR-375 and miR-511 were significantly lower, whereas that of miR-184, miR-210 and miR-503 was significantly higher in ACCs in comparison with their normal and benign counterparts. By performing parallel miRNA expression profiling, we tried to achieve a tissue specific target prediction approach. Pathway analysis of the predicted targets with inverse expression alterations as compared with their potential regulator miRNA revealed the possible involvement of cell cycle damage at G2/M checkpoint (CDC25, RPRM), along with already described mechanisms (e.g. TGF2A, CCNB2) in the pathomechanism of ACC.

Discussion

miRNA expression patterns are significantly different in normal and neoplastic adenocortical tissues. Beside their possible pathogenic relevance, miRNA patterns may also be exploited in diagnostics, e.g. as an adjunct to histological diagnostics or for the determination of prognosis.

OC1.5
Bone morphogenetic protein 2 and 5 are down-regulated in adrenocortical carcinoma and modulate adrenal cell proliferation and steroidogenesis

Inga Joehnken 1-3, Roland Kappler 1, Christoph Aeurnhammer 1 & Felix Beuchlein 1,4

1Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital Innenstadt, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, Germany; 2Department of Pediatric Surgery, University Hospital Innenstadt, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, Germany; 3Department of Medicine II, University Hospital Munich-Großhadern, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany; 4Institute of Molecular Medicine and Cell Research, Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany.

Bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs) have been demonstrated to impact tumorigenesis in a variety of tumors. As for the adrenal cortex, quantitative real-time PCR analyses revealed down-regulation of various BMPs (e.g. BMP2, BMP5) in tissue samples from adrenocortical carcinoma and adrenocortical tumour cell lines in comparison to normal adrenal glands. Other members, by contrast, as seen for BMP6 remained unaltered. Integrity of BMP dependent pathways in the investigated cell lines could be demonstrated by activation of the Smad1/5/8 pathway with subsequent increase of ID protein expression upon incubation with BMP2 or 5. On a functional level, BMP incubation resulted in inhibition of cell proliferation and viability in a dose- and time-dependent manner. Notably, BMP2 (50 ng/ml) and BMP5 (100 ng/ml) treatment also reduced viability of cells, which were co-incubated with the insulin-like growth factor (IGF), 13 nM), a crucial mitogen of the adrenal and activator of the AKT pathway, by 17 and 40%, respectively. We further analyzed potential cross-signalling of BMPs with IGFs and detected a BMP dependent reduction of AKT phosphorylation under baseline conditions and under IGF co-stimulation. Furthermore, BMPs influenced steroidogenic function, whereas BMP treatment reduced MC2-R and steroidogenic enzyme expression which was accompanied by reduced aldosterone, cortisol and DHEA-S secretion. Notably, effects were more pronounced under forskolin co-treatment. Moreover, in vitro demethylation treatment resulted in re-activation of BMP dependent pathways with concomitant modulation of steroidogenesis. Taken together, we demonstrate that loss of expression of members of the BMP family of ligands is a common finding in adrenocortical tumors and we provide evidence that BMP dependent pathways are likely to be involved in modulation of the malignant and functional phenotype of adrenocortical cancer cells.

Diabetes & Obesity

OC1.1 – ESE Young Investigator Award

A novel gene therapy strategy involving immune-modulation relin-quished lymphocyte infiltration into islet grafted sites in STZ-induced diabetic rats

Ercument Dirice 1, Ahter Dilsad Sanlioglu 1, Sevim Kahraman 1, Abdulkadir Omer 2, Mustafa Kemal Balcı 3, Thomas S Griffiths 4 & Şelah Sanlıoğlu 1

1Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey; 2Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; 3University of Iowa, Iowa, USA.

Background

Because type 1 diabetes (T1D) results from the T cell-mediated destruction of the insulin-producing pancreatic beta cells, the depletion of the autoreactive T cells via apoptosis represents a viable strategy for the prevention of autoimmune diabetes. The functional role TNF-Related Apoptosis Inducing Ligand (TRAIL), a novel member of TNF superfamily, in autoimmune diabetes remains unknown. To understand this, TRAIL function was counteracted by an injection of soluble TRAIL receptor into NOD mice, which enhanced the degree of autoimmune inflammation in pancreatic islets and facilitated the onset of diabetes. Second, the delivery of multiple low-doses of STZ into TRAIL-deficient mice resulted in a higher degree of islet inflammation and an earlier onset of diabetes. All these results suggested that exogenous TRAIL expression in pancreatic islets may have beneficial results in the setting of type 1 diabetes by virtue of its potential to retaliate against the assault by CTL.

Methods

Phuorometric measurements revealed optimum doses of adenovirus vectors to transduce pancreatic islets. AdStTRAIL vector was used to overexpress TRAIL in islet cells. Cytotoxicity of TRAIL overexpression was assessed using Annexin V staining. AdShTRAIL or AdLacZ-transduced rat pancreatic islets were transplanted under the kidney capsule of STZ-induced diabetic rats. The diabetic status after islet transplantation was followed up for 90 days.

Results

No adverse event of TRAIL overexpression was detected in islet cells in vitro. Forty mg/kg per BW of STZ derived from the consideration of both blood glucose levels and survival rates, successfully induced T1D in rats. Histopathologic analysis of our transplantation set up demonstrated that non-infected and AdLacZ-infected islet grafts were heavily infiltrated with mononuclear cells following transplantation. In contrast, AdShTRAIL infected islets displayed noninflamatory mononuclear cell infiltration.

Conclusion

Only adenovirus mediated TRAIL gene delivery suppressed lymphocyte infiltration in islet transplanted sites and prolonged normoglycemia in STZ induced diabetic rats.

OC2.2 Thymocyte migration is impaired in NOD mice: combined role of extracellular matrix and chemokines
Daniella Mendes-da-Cruz1,2, Moisés Bauer3,4, Salete Smaniotto3,4, Alexandre Keller3,4, Wilson Savino5,6 and Mireille Dardeleme1
1Onwaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 2CNRS UMR-8147, University Paris V, Paris, France; 3Institute of Biomedical and Health Sciences, Federal University of Alagoas, Maceió, AL, Brazil; 4Institute of Biomedical Research, PUCRS, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil.

The NOD (non-obese diabetic) mouse remains the best experimental model of type I diabetes. We have previously described several thymic dysfunctions in these animals, including the presence of giant perivascular spaces (PVS) with arrest of mature T cells (including Treg cells) and partial impairment on fibroconnectin/VLA-5-dependent thymocyte migration. Here, we further studied the role of extracellular matrix (ECM) ligands, alone or in combination with the chemokine CXCL12 in NOD thymocyte migration. Intrathymic contents of CXCL12, fibroconnectin and laminin were evaluated by immunohistochemistry and the expression of corresponding receptors was assessed by flow cytometry. Thymocyte migration was assessed by transwell chambers and transendothelial migration evaluate through an endothelial cell monolayer. NOD thymocytes expressed much lower VLA-5 than C57BL/6 thymocytes. This defect was particularly severe in CD4+ thymocytes expressing Foxp3, thus in keeping with the arrest of Foxp3+ cells within the NOD giant PVS, as defined by immunohistochemistry. Accordingly, lower percentages of NOD Treg cells were observed in the spleen and subcutaneous lymph nodes. We also observed an enhanced expression of CXCL12, fibroconnectin and CXCL12 deposition and co-localization in the NOD thymus. Furthermore, we detected altered expression of the CXCL12 receptor CXCR4 and the laminin receptor VLA-6, as well as enhanced migratory capacity of NOD thymocytes towards these molecules, combined or alone. Moreover, transendothelial migration of NOD thymocytes was diminished in the presence of exogenous fibroconnectin. Our data unravel the existence of multiple cell migration-related abnormalities in NOD thymocytes, comprising both down- and up-regulation of specific migratory responses. It remains to be demonstrated if these events are correlated to the appearance of autoimmunity in NOD mice.

OC2.3 Central ghrelin administration reduces starvation-induced inflammation in rats
Darko Stevanovic1, Vladimir Trakovic1, Dejan Nesic1, Dragan Micic2, Mirjana Sumarac-Dumanovic1, Veda Popovic1 & Vesna Stacevic1
1School of Medicine, Institute of Medical Physiology, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia; 2School of Medicine, Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.

The aim of the study was to investigate the influence of intracerebroventricular (ICV) injection of ghrelin or ghrelin receptor agonist (IRX-1, IRX-7, IRX-10) and anti-inflammatory cytokines (TGF-β) in starved rats. Male Wistar rats (4 weeks old, 12 per group) were fed ad libitum or starved by caloric restriction (40% of chow consumed by their ad libitum fed controls from previous day) for 4 weeks. Afterwards, half of the animals in each group received ICV injections of ghrelin in PBS (0.15 nmol in 5 μl of PBS, daily for 5 consecutive days) or PBS alone. Rats were sacrificed two hours after the last injection, their blood was collected and serum concentrations of cytokines, ACTH and corticosterone were measured by ELISA. The concentrations of the pro-inflammatory cytokines TNF, IL-1 and IFN-γ were significantly increased in starved compared to rats fed ad libitum (P<0.01), while the levels of the anti-inflammatory TGF-β did not significantly differ between the two groups (P>0.05). The ICV application of ghrelin significantly reduced the blood levels of all three pro-inflammatory cytokines (P<0.05), while not affecting those of TGF-β. The observed anti-inflammatory effect of ICV applied ghrelin in starved rats was accompanied by activation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, reflected in the increase in serum levels of both ACTH and corticosterone (P<0.05). These results indicate that central ghrelin application might suppress starvation-induced systemic inflammation through activation of HPA axis and subsequent release of the anti-inflammatory corticosterone.

OC2.4 Mc2 receptor in adipocytes is significant for lipid composition and regular lipolysis
Nilay Hatiboglu1, Matthias J Betz2, Dirk Hadaschik1, Birgitte Mauracher1, Monika Rachl1, Johann Dzemmelma1, Berthold Koletzko1, Marc Slawik2 & Felix Buensch1
1Endocrine Research Unit, Medizinische Klinik-Innenaust, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany; 2von Hauner Children’s Hospital, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany; 3MRL, IMS, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

The melanocortin system is significant for energy homeostasis and receptors have distinct tissue specific expression. The melanocortin 2-receptor (Mc2r) transmits ACTH dependent signalling in the adrenal cortex. Increased expression in adipocytes during differentiation indicates relevance for lipid homeostasis. Mc2r activation in adipocytes results in increased lipolysis, however, implication compared to nonneuropeptide (NE) stimulated lipolysis is unknown. To further define functional significance of Mc2r dependent pathways for adipocyte physiology we used an in vitro system of stably expressing shRNA in order to knock down Mc2r expression in differentiated 3T3 L1 adipocytes. Using the pSilren retro-virus system 2 of 4 tested shRNA sequences reduced Mc2r expression in differentiated adipocytes by at least 75%. Knock-down (kd) cell lines showed less lipid accumulation. In parallel, ACTH and NE stimulated lipolysis were substantially reduced (control versus kd as compared to respective baseline: 1 nM ACTH, 174±22 vs 108±9%; P=0.028; 10 nM ACTH, 231±29 vs 147±8%; P=0.027; NE 1 μM, 560±100 vs 155±56%; P=0.007) demonstrating functional knockdown of Mc2r. Knock-down of Mc2r in 3T3 L1 cells significantly reduced Mc2r expression at the protein level and diminished the expression of many lipolytic markers with no influence on cell viability. Interestingly, the expression of stearoyl-Coenzyme A desaturase 1 and 2 was significantly reduced in kd cells (21±8 vs 100±13%, P=0.011 and 32±3 vs 100±15%, P=0.046). Gene chromatography was used to analyse lipid composition. Preliminary results indicate changed distribution of saturates vs. unsaturated fatty acids. In summary, Mc2r might play an important role in regular lipid accumulation. Moreover, changes in lipid composition indicate that Mc2r function has an impact on saturation of fatty acids.

OC2.5 Regular aerobic activity attenuates caspase-3 activity, oxidative stress, and progression of diabetic nephropathy in db/db mice, independent of hyperglycemia
Sanjory Ghosh, Bruce Verschere & Ismail Laher
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Diabetic nephropathy, the leading cause of end-stage renal disease, is characterized by a pro-apoptotic and pro-oxidative environment. The mechanisms by which lifestyle interventions, such as exercise, benefits diabetic nephropathy are unknown. We hypothesized that exercise inhibits early diabetic nephropathy via attenuation of the mitochondrial apoptotic pathway and oxidative damage. Type 2 diabetic db/db and normoglycemic wild type mice were exercised for an hour everyday at 5% TNE for 7 weeks. The kidney tissue inflammatory (IL-1, IFN-γ) and anti-inflammatory cytokines (TGF-β) were significantly increased in db/db mice in comparison to control. Exercise reduced kidney weight, albuminuria, and pathological glomerular expansion in db/db mice independent of hyperglycemic status. Changes in renal morphology were also related to reduced caspase-3 (main effector caspase in renal apoptosis), caspase-8 (main initiator caspase of the ‘extrinsic’ pathway) activities and TNF-α expression. A role for the mitochondrial apoptotic pathway was unlikely as both caspase-9 activity (initiator caspase of this pathway) and expression of regulatory proteins such as Bax and Bcl-2 were unchanged. Kidneys from db/db mice also produced higher levels of superoxides and had greater oxidative damage concurrent with downregulation of superoxide dismutase (SOD) 1 and 3. Interestingly, although exercise also increased superoxides, there was a concurrent upregulation of multiple SODs that likely inhibited lipid (hydroperoxides) and protein (carbonyls and nitrotyrosine) oxidation in db/db kidneys. In conclusion, exercise can inhibit progression of early diabetic nephropathy independent of hyperglycemia. Reductions in caspase-3 and caspase-8 activities, with parallel improvements in SOD expression and reduced oxidative damage, may underlie the beneficial effects of exercise in diabetic kidney disease. The study was supported by grants from the HSFSC (L), and the NIH (B C V) and fellowships for S G (CHBR and MSIRF).
Reproduction/Stress/Endocrine Disruptors

OC3.1
Gapapentin for the treatment of hot flushes in women with natural or tamoxifen-induced menopause: a systematic review and a meta-analysis
Konstantinos Toulis, Thirasivoulos Tzellos, Dimitrios Kouvelas, Dimitrios Goulis, Basil Tarlatzis & Ioannis Papadimas
Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Context
Evidence suggests that gabapentin, a γ-aminobutyric acid analogue, is effective in the treatment of hot flushes in women with natural or tamoxifen-induced menopause.

Objective and design
To investigate the efficacy and tolerability of gabapentin for the treatment of menopausal hot flushes in a systematic review of all pertinent trials and a meta-analysis of those that were randomized placebo-controlled (RCT) were performed.

Data sources and extraction
Literature search was conducted independently by two reviewers through MEDLINE, EMBASE, CENTRAL (all three from inception to June 2008); the perusal of references from relevant studies; a personal contact with experts. Percent (%) change in hot flush frequency and composite score were used as primary outcome measures. Dropout rates and incidence of common adverse effects, such as dizziness, somnolence and fatigue, were also investigated. Seven trials, reporting data on 821 subjects, were reviewed and four RCTs included in the meta-analysis.

Data synthesis
Women assigned to gabapentin demonstrated a significantly greater percent (%) reduction in both hot flush frequency (WMD (95% CI) = 23.7 (16.5 to 31.0), P < 10^-6) and composite score (WMD (95% CI) = 27.3 (21.2 to 33.2), P < 10^-4), yet with significant between-study heterogeneity (I^2 = 97.8 and 95.6%, respectively). Dropouts due to adverse effects were more frequent in women randomized to gabapentin compared to controls (Relative Risk (RR) (95% CI) = 2.1 (1.1 to 3.9), P = 0.02, I^2 = 0%). Risk of 'dizziness/unssteadiness' and 'fatigue/somnia/clusings' was also found significantly higher in the treatment group (RR (95% CI) = 6.9 (3.2 to 15.1), P < 10^-6, I^2 = 63.1% and RR (95% CI) = 4.8 (2.2 to 10.3), P < 10^-4, I^2 = 0%, respectively).

Conclusion
A 20–30% reduction in hot flushes frequency and severity could be anticipated with the use of gabapentin compared to placebo, although data across studies seem too heterogeneous to provide a reliable summary effect. Further investigations are needed to confirm these results. The clusters of dizziness/instability and fatigue/somnia are the more common adverse effects associated with gabapentin, that can lead to reduced compliance.

OC3.2
Variants in the ACVR1 gene are associated with AMH levels in women with polycystic ovary syndrome
Marlies E Kevenaar2, Axel PN Themmen1, Anke J van Kerkwijk1, Olivier Valkenburg2, André G Utterlinden3, Frank H de Jong1, Joop SE Laven & Jenny A Visser1
1Department of Internal Medicine, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; 2Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; 3Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is characterized by anovulation, hyperandrogenemia, and polycystic ovaries. Although the etiology of PCOS is poorly understood, the common denominator is a disturbance in the selection of the dominant follicle. TGFβ family members, such as anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH) and bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), suppress FSH sensitivity; therefore their signaling pathway may contribute to the aberrant follicle development in PCOS women. We have investigated the role of AK2, a type I receptor for AMH and BMPs, in PCOS using a genetic approach.

Seven single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the ACVR1 gene, encoding AK2, were genotyped in a large cohort of Caucasian PCOS women (n = 359). A cohort of 30 normo-ovulatory women and a population-based cohort of 3534 postmenopausal women served as controls.

Allele frequencies for the seven ACVR1 tagging SNPs were similar in PCOS women and controls. However, polymorphisms rs1220134, rs10497189 and rs2033962 were associated with AMH levels in PCOS women (P=0.001, 0.002 and 0.007, respectively). For each of these polymorphisms, carriers of the minor allele had respectively 30, 70 and 34% higher AMH levels compared with carriers of the major allele. Polymorphism rs10497189 was also associated with follicle number (P=0.001). Adjustment for follicle number revealed that the association with AMH levels was, in part, independent of follicle number (rs1220134, P=0.007). Consistent with the individual markers in haplotype block 1 (rs1220134 and rs10497189), the haplotypes TT and AC of this block were associated with serum AMH levels (P=0.001 and 0.002, respectively) and follicle number (P=0.01 and 0.001, respectively). No associations were observed between the different ACVR1 genotypes and LH, FSH, androgen and estradiol levels in the PCOS cohort.

In conclusion, genetic variation within ACVR1 is associated with follicle number and AMH levels in PCOS women, suggesting that AK2 signaling contributes to the disturbed folliculogenesis in PCOS patients.

OC3.3 – ESE Young Investigator Award
Variable phenotype of PROKR2 and PROK2 mutations in central hypogonadism
Marco Bonomi1,2, Domenico Libri1, Francesco Antoniotta1, Marta Busnelli1, Paolo Beck-Peccoz1, Roberto Maggi2,3, Csilla Krausz4 & Luca Persiani1
1 Dipartimento di Scienze Mediche, Istituto Auxologico Italiano IRCCS and Fondazione Ospedale Policlinico di Milano IRCCS, Università di Milano, Milano, Italy; 2 Centro Interuniversitario per la Ricerca delle basi Molecolari delle Malattie della Riproduzione (CIRMAR), Milano, Italy; 3 Istituto di Endocrinologia, Università di Milano, Milano, Italy; 4 Dipartimento di Fisiopatologia Clinica, Unità di Andrologia, Università di Firenze, Firenze, Italy.

Idiopathic central hypogonadism (ICH) is a rare and heterogeneous disease due to defects of GnRH secretion or action. Depending on the association with a normal or defective sense of smell, ICH could be respectively identified as normosmic ICH (nICH) or Kallmann’s syndrome (KS). Recent experimental evidences indicate the involvement of the new PROKR2/PROK2 pathway in GnRH neuron maturation and function and mutations affecting these two genes have been described in some ICH cases. We analyzed by direct automatic sequencing the genes encoding the ligand PROK2 and its related G protein-coupled receptor (PROKR2) in a series of ICH patients: 19 KS (16M, 3F) and 31 nICH (26M, 5F). Only one case is familiar, while all other presented as sporadic. We found 4 new (15X45, V15H, T265M, V334I and 1 known mutation (206X43) in PROKR2 gene and 1 new mutation (G62D) in PROK2. These variations are present in the heterozygous state in the patients according to the reported mechanism of haplo-insufficiency. While most of the carriers of these mutations exhibited typical ICH manifestations, two of them presented a particular phenotype. The nonsense mutation 15X45 was found in a nICH male patients, who was diagnosed with delayed puberty at 18 years and was then put on testosterone treatment. After 6 years, the medication was discontinued for revaluation and the patient presented a reversal of the ICH phenotype, with a spontaneous normal secretion of LH/FSH and testosterone. The mutation 206X43 was instead found in a 58 years old man who was referred to us for obesity accompanied by loss of libido. He reported a normal pubertal development at 13 years and fathered 2 daughters. At physical examination, he presented signs of normal sexual development and testes volume. Biochemically, he had a typical nICH hormone profile in the absence of any traumatic brain injury and hypophalamic–pituitary lesion at MRI. These two particular cases demonstrate the extreme variability in the expression of PROKR2 heterozygous mutations and the existence of ICH cases with adult onset that have a recognized genetic origin.

OC3.4
Reference ranges for sex hormone-binding globulin and free testosterone index in adult men
Nele Friedrich1,2, Heny Völzke3, Alexander Krebs1, Matthias Nauck1 & Henri Wallaschefschi3
1Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Greifswald, Germany; 2Institute for Community Medicine, Greifswald, Germany; 3Department of Internal Medicine A, Greifswald, Germany.

Objective
The majority of circulating testosterone is bound to sex hormone-binding globulin (SHBG), but also to albumin and corticoid-binding globulin. The remaining part is free-circulating testosterone unattached to serum proteins, which represents the active form of the hormone. A common measurement of the free testosterone is the calculated free testosterone index (FTI) = 100% (total testosterone/SHBG).


11th European Congress of Endocrinology, Istanbul, Turkey, 2009
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Testosterone is the principal male sex hormone and is involved in the regulation of fertility, libido, and muscle mass. The objective of the present study was to calculate age-specific reference ranges for serum SHBG and free testosterone index (FTI) using quintile regression.

Methods
From the cross-sectional population-based Study of Health in Pomerania (SHIP) 806 healthy men were included in the analyses. Serum testosterone and SHBG levels were measured using a competitive chemiluminescent enzyme immunoassay on an Immulite 2500 analyzer. All data were weighted to adjust for non-response and reflect age-sex distribution of the European adult population.

Results
The use of quintile regression provided exact reference ranges. Nearly exactly 5.0% of subjects (equal for SHBG and FTI) above 2.3%; below 2.4% with SHBG levels as well as FTI values outside the reference range were detected.

Conclusion
The present study established age-specific reference ranges for serum SHBG and FTI levels. Previous studies of our research group (1, 2) regarding reference ranges showed that quintile regression should be preferred to calculate reference ranges because a better concordance to original data is possible due to no distribution assumption are required and the robustness against outliers. These results confirmed this suggestion.

OC3.5
The xenoestrogen bisphenol A inhibits postembryonic vertebrate development by antagonizing gene regulation by thyroid hormone
Yun-Bu Shi
NCHD, NIH, Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

Bisphenol A (BPA) is an environmental estrogen that is globally used in the production of plastics. Studies on BPA as an endocrine disruptor have focused on its estrogenic activity in vitro and in adult animal models. Recently, the National Toxicology Program at the US National Institutes of Health raised concerns for the neural and behavioral effects of BPA in fetuses, infants, and children at the currently allowed human exposures. However, the difficulty in studying uterus-enclosed mammalian embryos has hampered the analysis of the effects of BPA on vertebrate development. In vitro studies have suggested that BPA can bind to and antagonize thyroid hormone (T3) activation of T3 receptor (TR). Because small perturbations in T3 homeostasis can severely and adversely affect human health and development, we propose the use of Xenopus laevis metamorphosis as a model to study the effect of BPA on T3-dependent vertebrate development. Amphibian metamorphosis requires T3 and encompasses the postembryonic period in mammals (a few months before and several months after birth in human) when T3 action is most critical. We show here that BPA inhibits T3-induced metamorphosis of Xenopus laevis by blocking T3-dependent gene regulation pathway. Importantly, microarray analysis also indicates that most of the genes affected by BPA are T3-response genes, suggesting that BPA mainly affects T3 but not the estrogen-signaling pathways during metamorphosis. Our finding that this endocrine disruptor well known for its estrogen-like activity in vitro functions to inhibit T3-pathway to affect vertebrate development in vivo thus not only implicates potential deleterious effects of BPA on human embryonic development but also demonstrates the importance of studying endocrine-disruption in a developmental context in vivo.

OC4.1
High-dose octreotide LAR in patients with acromegaly inadequately controlled by conventional somatostatin analogue therapy: a randomized, controlled trial
Andrea Giustina1, Stefania Bonadonna1, Giovanni Bugari1, Annamaria Colo2, Renato Cozzi1, Salvatore Cannavo3, Laura De Marinis1, Ettore degli Uberti4, Fausto Bogazzi1, Gherardo Mazzotti1, Francesco Minuto1, Marcella Montini1, & Ezio Ghigo10
1University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy; 2University Federico II, Naples, Italy; 3Niguarda Hospital, Milan, Italy; 4University of Messina, Messina, Italy; 5Catholic University, Rome, Italy; 6University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy; 7University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy; 8University of Genova, Genova, Italy; 9Bergamo Hospital, Bergamo, Italy; 10University of Turin, Turin, Italy.

Objective
In acromegaly, 25–50% of patients remain uncontrolled with conventional somatostatin analogue (SA) therapy. Evidence suggests that response may be improved by increasing the dose or frequency of administration of SAs. This study evaluated the efficacy and safety of octreotide LAR administered at a high dose or high frequency in patients with acromegaly.

Methods
This was a 24-week prospective, multicenter, randomized, open-label trial in patients with active acromegaly despite ≥6 months’ conventional maximal-dose SA therapy. Patients had baseline GH >2.0 µg/L, elevated IGF-I for age/sex-matched controls and had a ≥50% reduction in GH during previous SA treatment. Patients were randomized to receive high-dose (60 mg/28 d; n = 11) or high-frequency (30 mg/21 d; n = 15) octreotide LAR for 24 weeks. The primary endpoint was change from baseline in GH and IGF-I at week 24. Secondary endpoints included IGF-I normalization, tumor shrinkage, safety and tolerability.

Results
In the high-dose group only, a significant change from baseline was seen for GH (−28%; P = 0.046) and IGF-I (−27%; P = 0.023). In the high-frequency group, changes from baseline in mean GH (+6.4%) and IGF-I (−4.7%) were not statistically significant. Significantly more patients in the high-dose group achieved a reduction in IGF-I at week 24 than those in the high-frequency group (91 vs 53%; P < 0.05). IGF-I normalization or GH <2 µg/L occurred with only the high-dose regimen (IGF-I 36 vs 0%; P = 0.022; GH 27 vs 0%; P = 0.06). The proportion of patients experiencing tumor shrinkage was similar in the high-frequency and high-dose groups (14 vs 11%). Both regimens were well tolerated.

Conclusion
High-dose octreotide LAR (60 mg/28 d) is effective and well tolerated in patients with active acromegaly inadequately controlled with conventional SA therapy. These results suggest that in selected patients uncontrolled on conventional doses of SAs, high-dose octreotide LAR should be tried before switching to other treatment modalities.


OC3.6
Cortisol as a prognostic marker of outcome in acute ischemic cerebrovascular events
Stefanie Neiden1, Mira Katran1, Felix Fluri2, Nils Morgenthaler2, Philipp Schuetz1, Beat Mueller1, & Mirjam Christ-Crain1
1Department of Endocrinology, University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland; 2Department of Neurology, University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland; 3Research Department, Brahm AG, Henningsdorf/Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 4Department of Internal Medicine, Kantonsplitzer Aarau, Aarau, Switzerland.

Background
Stroke is the second commonest reason of mortality worldwide and a major cause of long term disability. Early prediction of outcome is important for allocation of therapeutic strategies. Endocrine alterations of the hypothalamus-pituitary-axis (HPA) are one of the first stress-induced alterations after cerebral ischemia. We evaluated the prognostic value of cortisol for outcome in acute cerebrovascular events.

Method
In an observational study including 362 patients with an ischemic stroke cortisol was measured on admission. We compared its prognostic accuracy to the National Institute of Health Stroke Scale Score (NIHSS) and to other known predictors with respect to functional outcome (as assessed by the modified Ranking scale) and mortality.

Results
Patients with an unfavorable outcome and non-survivors had higher cortisol levels on admission compared to patients with a good outcome and survivors, respectively (582 nmol/l (439–727) vs 444 nmol/l (318.5–585.5) and 681 nmol/l (573–1082) vs 466 nmol/l (337–598); P < 0.0001 and P < 0.0001). The area under the receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curve to predict mortality for cortisol with an AUC of 0.81 (0.76–0.86) was in the range of the NIHSS with an AUC of 0.85 (0.80–0.89). Cortisol had a higher prognostic accuracy as compared to glucose (AUC 0.69 (0.53–0.66), P = 0.004) and Charlson co-morbidity index (CCI) AUC 0.59 (0.53–0.65), P = 0.007). In univariate logistic regression analysis, cortisol was a significant predictor of death and functional outcome with unadjusted ORs of 1.004 (95% CI 1.003–1.006) and 1.003 (95% CI 1.001–1.004).

After adjusting for age, blood pressure, CRP, glucose, temperature and gender, cortisol remained an independent outcome predictor with adjusted ORs of 1.005 (95% CI 1.002–1.008) and 1.002 (95% CI 1.001–1.004).

Conclusion
Cortisol is a prognostic marker to predict functional outcome and death in patients with an ischemic stroke, comparable to the NIHSS.
**OC4.2**
Both insulin resistance and insulin secretion are involved in the pre-diabetes of acromegaly
Dan Niculescu1, Mariana Purice1, Radu Lichiardopol2 & Mihai Coculescu1
1Carol Davila University, Bucharest, Romania; 2C. I. Parhon Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania.

In acromegalic patients growth hormone (GH) excess induces insulin resistance but whether this is sufficient, is the face of normal insulin secretion, for pre-diabetes (impaired fasting glucose (IFG) and impaired glucose tolerance (IGT)) to occur is a matter of debate.

**Aim**
To assess the relative role of insulin resistance and insulin secretion in the pre-diabetes of acromegaly.

**Methods**
One hundred and twenty-four patients with acromegaly (78 women, 46 men, mean age 50±11 years) admitted to our department were included in the study. Plasma glucose, GH and insulin levels were measured basal and 30, 60 and 120 min during a 75 g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). Insulin resistance was assessed by HOMA-IR index (fasting plasma glucose (FPG) (mg/dl)/fasting plasma insulin (FPI) (μU/ml))21. Basal and stimulated insulin secretion was assessed using HOMA-B% index (FPI (μU/ml)/20×FPG (mg/dl)/18-3.5) and insulinogenic index (IGI) (Δ insulin(30'-0') (μU/ml)*100/glucose(30')/mg/dl) respectively. The local Ethic Committee approved the study.

**Results**
According to ADA criteria, there were 49 subjects with pre-diabetes (30 IFG, 11 IGT and 8 combined glucose intolerance). Seventy-five subjects had normal glucose tolerance (NGT). There were no significant differences between pre-diabetes group and NGT group regarding age (53±13 vs 48±7.11 years, P<NS), sex (53 vs 69.3% women, P<NS) and nadir GH in OGTT (18±17 vs 12.3±17 ng/ml, P<NS). The pre-diabetes group had a significantly higher HOMA-IR index (4.6±2.1 vs 2.6±2.1, P<0.001) and lower HOMA-B% index (159±108 vs 236±257, P=0.02) than NGT group. IGI did not differ between the two groups (39±48 vs 48±43, P=NS) but IGI/HOMA-IR was significantly lower, similar to pre-diabetes group (9.7±8 vs 24.5±6, P<0.001). Nadir serum GH correlated with HOMA-IR index (r=0.35, P<0.001) but not with HOMA-B% or IGI.

**Conclusions**
Our data suggest that reduced basal and stimulated insulin secretion, reflecting the failure of β-cells adaptation to increased, GH-induced insulin resistance, leads to pre-diabetes in acromegaly.

**OC4.3**
Homologous and heterologous in vitro regulation of pituitary receptors for somatostatin (SST), growth hormone (GH)-releasing hormone (GHRH) and ghrelin in a non-human primate (Papio anubis)
Jose Cordoba Chacon1,2, Justo P Cañiato1, Rhonda D Kineman1,3 & Raul M Luque1,2,3
1Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Universidad de Cordoba, Cordoba, Spain; 2Section of Endocrinology, Department of Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA; 3Research Development Division, Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Secretion of GH by pituitary somatotropes is primarily stimulated by GHRH and ghrelin and inhibited by SST through the activation of specific receptors (GHRH-R, GHS-R and Sst1-5, respectively). However, we have previously shown that SST, at low doses, can also stimulate GH release, directly and specifically, in primary pituitary cell cultures from baboons (Papio anubis) and pigs. To determine whether these primary regulators of GH release can also regulate directly the expression of their receptors (GHRH-R, GHS-R and Sst1-5) in primates, primary pituitary cell cultures from baboons (Papio anubis) and pigs. To determine whether these primary regulators of GH release can also regulate directly the expression of their receptors (GHRH-R, GHS-R and Sst1-5) in primates, primary pituitary cell cultures from baboons were treated for 4 h with 10-7 M of GHRH or ghrelin, or with high (10-15 M) and low (10-15 M) doses of SST and GH release and expression levels of all receptors were assessed by ELISA and real-time-PCR. Results show that GHRH and ghrelin decreased the expression of their respective receptors (GHRH-R and GHS-R) while both peptides increased Sst1, did not affect Sst2 and only GHRH decreased Sst5 mRNA levels. These effects of GHRH and ghrelin on receptor expression were mimicked by forskolin (adenylate cyclase activator) and TPA (PKC activator) respectively, indicating the regulation of receptor-isofrom levels by GHRH and ghrelin involved distinct signaling pathways. In contrast, high SST doses did not alter GH release but increased expression of Sst1, 2 and 5, and did not alter GHRH-R and GHS-R levels. Interestingly, low SST doses increased GH release and increased Sst5 and decreased Sst1 and GHRH-R mRNA levels, similar to that observed for GHRH. Taken together, our data show for the first time in a primate model that the primary regulators of somatostatope function (GHRH, ghrelin and SST) exert both homologous and heterologous regulation of their own receptor synthesis which is dose- and isofrom-dependent, and would involve distinct signaling pathways.

**OC4.4**
Development of a novel anti-IGF1 receptor immunoliposomal cancer therapy with enhanced therapeutic efficiency
Constanze Hantel1, Felicitas Lewrick2, Sebastian Schneider2, Oliver Zwermann2, Martin Reinecke1, Regine Peschka-Suiss3 & Felix Beuschlein1
1Endocrine Research Unit, Medizinische Klinik-Immenstadt, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany; 2Department of Pharmacetical Technology and Biopharmacy, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany.

Overexpression and aberrant activation of the insulin-like growth factor system plays a key role in tumor cell proliferation and tumorigenesis in many human tumors. Different therapies targeting IGF1-receptor (IGF1-R) have been developed and currently, some of these agents are evaluated in preclinical and early clinical trials with promising results. Moreover, recent studies have demonstrated that combined treatments with doxorubicin, enhance the efficiency of anti-IGF1-R therapies. To merge these therapies in one formulation we coupled a monovalent IGF1-R blocking antibody (IHT) to sterically stabilized liposomal doxorubicin (SSL-DXR). Flow cytometry analysis demonstrated high and significant cellular association of SSL-DXR-IHT in comparison to SSL-DXR or unspecified IGF coupled SSL-DXR with human neuroendocrine tumor cells (44.2±1.6 vs 0.5±0.3 vs 0.8±0.3%, P<0.001). Moreover, the lack of cellular association at 4 °C together with visualization of intracellular fluorescence of IHT coupled rhodamine-PE labeled liposomes by fluorescence imaging verified the otherwise rarely achieved event of liposomal internalization after binding to the target cell. In vivo, pharmacokinetic experiments with BON tumor xenografts in NMRI nude mice confirmed increased doxorubicin accumulation in the tumors after treatment with SSL-DXR-IHT (157±26%) in comparison to liposomes conjugated with unspecified IGF (100±18%, P<0.05). In a therapeutical study with large scale tumor bearing mice significant effects on mean survival time (days) were only detectable after treatment with SSL-DXR-IHT (31.5±2.2, P=0.0004) in comparison to untreated controls (8.0±0.6) and compared with all other treatments (free IHT, 20±1.8; P=0.0006; SSL-DXR-IgG, 20±1.4; P=0.0006; SSL-DXR, 22±1.8; P=0.0169; SSL-DXR + free IHT, 23±2.4; P=0.0344). Further flow cytometry analyses (SSL-DXR-IHT versus plain liposomes) with the tumor cell lines MCF7 (64.9±2.3 vs 0.04±0.1%; P<0.0001), Kelly (21.8±2.9 vs 0.02±0.009%; P=0.002) and DU145 (31.9±0.7 vs 0.06±0.02%; P>0.0001) indicate the suitability of the established therapy also for other human cancer entities as breast carcinoma, neuroblastoma and prostate carcinoma.

**OC4.5**
Regulation of obstetan levels during unacylated ghrelin infusions in normal and type 2 diabetic patients
David H St-Pierre, Fabio Sattanini, Ilaria Olivetti, Elena Grumaglia, Andrea Benso, Fabrizio Riganti, Elio Ghigo & Fabio Broglio
University of Turin, Turin, Piemont, Italy.

**Background**
Obestatin, a ghrelin gene product was recently isolated but important questions remain regarding its regulation and its physiological effects. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the effect of unacylated ghrelin (uAG) on obstetan levels in normal subjects and patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D).

**Methods**
Five normal subjects and 5 T2D patients were included in this study. Unacylated ghrelin (3 μg/kg per hour) or saline were continuously administrated i.v. for 5 h and a standardized lunch was served after 2 h of infusion (0 min). Blood samples were collected at –15, 15, 30, 45, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 180 min and obstetan, insulin, glycemic and FFA levels were assayed.

**Results**
Before meal, uAG or saline treatments did not induce a significant change in individual groups. However, obstetan levels were significantly increased in normal subjects versus T2D patients (P=0.04) following uAG pre-treatment. In postprandial conditions, a significant decrease in obstetan levels was observed at times 60, 90, 120, 150 and 180 min in normal subjects during saline infusion. In
addition, nadir and AUC values were both significantly elevated during treatment with UAG versus saline in normal subjects (P<0.05). Likewise, during treatment with UAG, peak, nadir and AUC values were significantly higher in normal subjects versus T2D patients (P<0.001).

Conclusion

This study is first to describe that the postprandial reduction of obestatin is abolished by a UAG infusion in normal subjects but not in T2D patients. Overall the present results suggest that UAG upregulates obestatin expression from the ghrelin gene only in normal subjects. Further studies will be needed to describe the mechanisms underlying the regulation of obestatin in normal subjects and T2D patients.

OC4.6

Cardiovascular effects of chronic Sildenafil treatment in men with type 2 diabetes
Andrea Isidori, Elisa Giannetta, Iacopo Carbone, Darío Vizza, Susanna Orano, Enzo Vingolo, Vincenzo Bonifacio & Andrea Lenzi University ‘Sapienza’, Rome, Italy.

In type 2 diabetes (T2DM), cardiomyopathy is characterized by an impairment of diastolic performance resulting in ventricular hypertrophy and dilatation. Heart remodelling leads to an increase in its angle of torsion, measurable by innovative cine-magnetic resonance imaging (MRi). To evaluate the impact of phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitors (PDE5i) on cardiovascular performance in T2DM, we designed a randomized, placebo-controlled, double blind (subject outcome assessor) study on chronic treatment (3 months) with high dose of Sildenafil (100 mg/5 3 daily doses). The study has been registered at US NIH clinicaltrial.gov (identifier NCT0069237). We have enrolled 50 diabetic men (35-75 years), metabolically controlled; 27 subjects have already ended the study; 2 patients drop out the study (1 for dyspepsia, 1 for non-compliance). Safety monitoring was taken monthly at follow-up visits. Primary outcome is the analysis of left ventricular torsion (cineMRD). Secondary outcomes reveal: (1) a significant improvement of heart remodelling parameter: end diastolic volume, ejection fraction and hypoxicypnic areas. (2) A significant improvement of cardiovascular risk parameters: reduction of post prandial glycaemia from 178±49 to 156±1.48; HbA1c from 7.8±1 to 7±1.9; waist to hip ratio and increase of HDL cholesterol from 39±7 to 43±2.9. (3) A significant reduction of P selectin on activated platelets-monoocytes interaction (cytometry), involved in atheromatosus process. 4) A significant reduction of systolic (136±12 to 131±12) and diastolic blood pressure (78±2.9 to 76±7) (Holter 24h). Our study documents the safety of prolonged chronic sildenafil treatment on the adaptive endothelial changes affecting cardiovascular response in T2DM.

We speculate that lack of functional complementation by LAT2 in developing human neurons may precipitate the devastating neurodevelopmental phenotype in MCT8-deficient patients, while Mct8-deficient mouse neurons are functionally complemented by Lat2.

OC5.2

Selenium and iodine determination from single murine thyroid lobes by TXRF-spectroscopy
Kostja Renko1, Thomas Behrends1, Hagen Stosnach2, Josef Kührle1 & Latz Schomburg1
1Institute for Experimental Endocrinology, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 2Bruker AXS Microanalysis, Berlin, Germany.

Iodine (I) and selenium (Se) are two essential trace elements for regular thyroid gland functioning and thyroid hormone metabolism. Most Europeans are only marginally supplied with both elements through their daily nutrition. The mammalian organism has developed efficient and highly complex mechanisms to control I and Se uptake, metabolism and recycling. The thyroid gland is equipped with the necessary transporters and metabolizing enzymes for I uptake and bioconversion into thyroid hormones. In addition, it appears extremely efficient in controlling its exceptionally high Se status by as yet poorly defined pathways. Se in the thyroid gland is pivotal for its defense against highly toxic peroxides generated continuously during thyroid hormone biosynthesis, and for the expression of active deiodinase isoforms which control thyroid hormone activation and inactivation. A number of genetically or chemically modified mouse models have been generated to study thyroid gland physiology and thyroid hormone biosynthesis. Until now, quantification of Se and I concentrations in the thyroid gland, peripheral tissues or murine serum samples has been hampered by the small amounts of material which is available from single mice. To circumvent these limitations, we have tested total reflection X-ray fluorescence (TXRF) spectroscopy as a very sensitive and fast method to measure the elementary composition of a single murine thyroid lobe (approx. 2 mg wet weight). In a first group of animals, we found an average content of 223 ppb (Se) and 543 ppm (I) which is inside the expected physiological ranges. As a proof of concept, we compare Se concentrations in small (thyroid, pituitary, adrenals) and large (liver, kidney, spleen) organs from Se-deficient and regular mice with their serum Se concentrations. Our results indicate that the TXRF-spectroscopy represents a fast and reliable method to determine trace element status from minute amounts of tissue or serum and might become an important technique for mouse experiments.

OC5.3

The role of N-linked oligosaccharides on the function of thyrotropin: development of new agonists and antagonists
Fuad Fares1,2, Naikel Azzam3,2, Rinat Bar-Shalom1 & Zakı Kraiem1
1Carmel Medical Center, Haifa, Israel; 2University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel.

Introduction

Thyrotropin (TSH) and the gonadotropins (FSH, LH, hCG) are a family of heterodimeric glycoprotein hormones comprised of two noncovalently linked subunits, α and β. hTSH, heterodimer was converted to a biologically active single-peptide chain, by fusing the common α subunit to the carboxyl-terminal end of hTSHβ subunit in the absence of hTSHα or presence of a ~30 aminoacid carboxyl-terminal peptide from hCGβ (CTF) as a linker (hTSHα/CTFβ). Ligation of CTF to the carboxyl-end of hFSH, hCGs subunit and to hTSH resulted in increasing the biological activity and longevity in vivo.

Objectives

Investigation the role of the N-linked oligosaccharides of α and β subunits on secretion and function of hTSH using the single chain variant, hTSHα/CTFβ Methods

Two deglycosylated variants were prepared using site-directed mutagenesis and gene transfer; one lacks both N-linked oligosaccharide chains on α subunit (hTSHα/CTFβα°, β), the other lacks also the N-linked oligosaccharide chain on β subunit of the single chain (hTSHα/CTFβα° (deg)). The single-peptide chain variants were expressed in CHO cells. Results

Absence of N-linked oligosaccharides on α or β subunits does not affect the secretion of the variants. These results indicate that the signal for the secretion exists in the single peptide chain is independent of the oligosaccharides. hTSH variants lack of the oligosaccharides chains is less potent than hTSHα/CTFβ on cAMP accumulation and T3 secretion in human cultured thyroid follicles. Moreover, both deglycosylated variants compete with normal hTSH and hTSH in a dose dependent manner in vitro and in vivo.
Conclusions
The N-linked oligosaccharides are not important for receptor binding, but they are critical for bioactivity of TSH in vitro and in vivo. This variant, behaves as potential antagonist, who may offer a novel therapeutic strategy in the treatment of Graves’ disease, the most common form of hyperthyroidism.

OC5.4
Selenium supplementation fails to improve thyroid hormone metabolism in subjects with SBP2 gene mutations
Lutz Schomburg1, Alexandra M Dumitrescu2, Xiao-Hui Liao2, Bassam Bin-Abbas1, Johanna Hoeflich1, Josef Köhle1 & Samuel Refetoff1
1Institute for Experimental Endocrinology, Charité Berlin, CVK, Berlin, Germany; 2Department of Medicine, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA; 3Section of Pediatric Endocrinology, King Faisal Specialist Hospital, Riyadh 11211, Saudi Arabia.

Selenium (Se) is an essential trace element needed for the biosynthesis of selenoproteins. Biosynthesis of such proteins depends on the selenocysteine incorporation sequence binding protein 2 (SBP2), which represents a key trans-acting factor during the translation process. We recently described children with mutations in SBP2 gene who displayed an abnormal thyroid function test(s) and reduced selenoprotein concentrations. Now we aimed to improve selenoprotein biosynthesis and thyroid hormone metabolism in SBP2 deficient subjects by supplementing an organic and inorganic Se form.

Three affected and two unaffected siblings received daily doses of 100, 200 or 400 μg selenomethionine-rich yeast and 400 μg sodium selenite for one month each. Serum was drawn at baseline and after supplementations. Thyroid function tests, extracellular glutathione peroxidase activity, Se and selenoprotein P concentrations were determined. Selenium methionine-rich yeast increased Se concentrations in all subjects irrespective of genotype. Sodium selenite was effective in increasing the selenoprotein P concentration in normal and to a lesser degree in affected subjects. Both forms failed to increase the glutathione peroxidase activity or to correct the thyroid function abnormalities in the SBP2 deficient individuals indicating that impaired deiodinase expression was not corrected. No adverse side-effects were observed.

We conclude that total serum Se concentrations in SBP2 deficient subjects respond to selenomethionine supplementation but this effect is not indicative for improved selenoprotein synthesis. Se is obviously not a limiting factor in the SBP2 deficient individuals when regular daily Se intake is provided. The phenotype does not depend on the daily Se intake and therefore would likely have a similar presentation in the different geographical areas of the world. These findings might help to identify and diagnose more individuals with selenoprotein biosynthesis defects who might present at young age with characteristic thyroid function test abnormalities, growth retardation, and reduced Se and selenoprotein concentrations.

OC5.5
Graves patients with high sCTLA-4 level are at risk of severe ophthalmopathy
Jacek Daroszewski1, Edyta Pawlak2, Lidia Karabin3, Marek Bolanowski1, Anna Jonkisz1 & Irena Frydecka4
1Department of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Isotope Therapy, Medical University, Wrocław, Poland; 2Institute of Immunology and Experimental Therapy, Polish Academy of Sciences, Wrocław, Poland; 3Department of Hematology, Blood Neoplastic Diseases and Bone Marrow Transplantation, Medical University, Wrocław, Poland; 4Department of Forensic Medicine, Medical University, Wrocław, Poland.

Objectives
Graves’ disease (GD) is an autoimmune disease caused by combination of environmental and genetic factors. The CTLA-4 gene is a candidate gene for conferring susceptibility to thyroid autoimmunity. Increased serum level of soluble isoform of CTLA-4 molecule (sCTLA-4), resulting by alternative splicing, was found in some autoimmune diseases. The role of this molecule in the pathomechanism of autoimmunity has not been defined.

The principal aim of the study was to test clinical utility of sCTLA-4 estimation as well as to study factors influencing serum concentration of this molecule in GD accompanied by Graves ophthalmopathy (GO).

Patients and measurements
The serum sCTLA-4 concentrations were determined using specific ELISA assay in 102 GD patients and 83 controls. g.319C>T; c.49A>G, CT60G>A, J631G>T

OC6.1
Psuedohypoparathyroidism type Ia and GNAS epigenetic defects: clinical evaluation and molecular analysis in 40 patients with Albright’s hereditary osteodystrophy
Giovanna Mantovani1, Luisa de Sanctis2, Annamaria Barbieri1, Pamela Labarile1, Erika Peverelli1, Andrea G Lammi1, Paolo Beck-Pecor3 & Anna Spad1
1Endocrine Unit, Department of Medical Sciences, Fondazione Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico Mangiagalli e Regina Elena IRCCS, University of Milan, Milan, Italy; 2Department of Pediatrics, Regina Margherita Children’s Hospital, University of Turin, Torino, Italy.

The two main subtypes of pseudohypoparathyroidism (PHP), PHP-Ia and -Ib, are caused by mutations in GNAS exons 1–13 and methylation defects in the imprinted GNAS cluster, respectively. PHP-Ia patients show Albright hereditary osteodystrophy (AHO) and resistance toward PTH and additional hormones, while PHP-Ib patients do not have AHO and hormone resistance is limited to PTH and TSH. Recently, methylation defects have been detected in 5 patients with PHP-Ia, indicating a molecular overlap between the two forms.

The aim of this study was to screen for methylation defects patients with clinically diagnosed PHP-Ia and to investigate the presence of correlations between the molecular findings and AHO severity.

We investigated differential methylation of GNAS regions and STX16 microdeletions in genomic DNA from 40 patients (28 females, 12 males) with clinical diagnosis of sporadic PHP-Ia, i.e. AHO with multi-hormone resistance, with no mutations in Gsa-coding GNAS exons. Molecular analysis showed GNAS cluster imprinting defects in 22 of the 40 PHP-Ia patients analyzed. No STX16 deletion was detected. No correlation was found between the severity of AHO and the presence or absence of imprinting defects. In conclusion, we report the largest series of the literature of patients with PHP-Ia and confirm the existence of an overlap between molecular and clinical features of PHP-Ia and PHP-Ib. These data provide new information on this rare disease and emphasize the clinical heterogeneity of genetic defects within the GNAS locus.

OC6.2
Recent decline in age at breast development and prolongation of puberty duration in girls
Lise Akslagløe1, Kaspar Sørensen1, Jørgen H Petersen1,2, Niels E Skakkebak1 & Anders Juul1
1University Department of Growth and Reproduction, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; 2Department of Biostatistics, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Objective
Recent publications showing unexpectedly early breast development in American girls created debate worldwide. However, secular trend analyses are often limited by poor data comparability among studies done by different researchers in different time periods and populations. Here, we present new European data, systematically collected from the same region and by one research group at the beginning and end of the recent 15 year period.
Methods
Two thousand and ninety-five girls aged 5.6 to 20.0 years were studied in 1991–93 (1991-cohort, n = 1100) and 2006–08 (2006-cohort, n = 995). All girls were evaluated by palpation of glular breast, measurement of height and weight and blood sampling (estradiol, LH and FSH). Age distribution at entering pubertal stages B2–B5, PH2–PH5 and menarche was estimated for the two cohorts.

Results
Onset of puberty, defined as mean estimated age at attainment of glular breast tissue ( Tanner stage B2+), occurred significantly earlier in the 2006-cohort (estimated mean age 9.86 years (95% confidence interval 9.70–10.01)) when compared with the 1991-cohort (10.88 (CI 10.69–11.06), P < 0.0001). The difference remained significant after adjustment for BMI. Estimated ages at menarche were 13.42 (CI 13.24–13.60) and 13.13 (CI 13.95–13.31) in the 1991- and 2006-cohorts, respectively (P = 0.023). The time between B2 and menarche increased from 2.54 years to 3.38 years. Serum FSH and LH did not differ between the two cohorts at any age interval, whereas significantly lower estradiol levels were found in 8–10 year old girls from the 2006-cohort compared to similarly aged girls from the 1991-cohort.

Conclusion
We found significantly earlier breast development and increased duration of the pubertal transition among girls born more recently. Alterations in reproductive hormones and BMI did not explain these marked changes, suggesting that other factors yet to be identified may be involved.

OC6.3
Ghrelin and obestatin levels in normal weight and obese prepubertal children
Flavia Prodam, Simonetta Bellone, Letizia Trovato, Erica Grassino, Stefania Mosia, Irene De Marchi, Francesca De Rienzo & Gianni Bordi
Division of Pediatrics, Department of Medical Sciences, University of Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Piemonte, Italy.

Introduction
Three peptides, acylated ghrelin (AG), unacylated ghrelin (UAG) and obestatin are derived from a common prohormone, preproghrelin by posttranslational processing, originating from endocrine cells in the stomach. Circulating ghrelin levels are decreased in obese subjects and increased by fasting and in patients with anorexia nervosa, but the physiological role of the three peptides is poorly understood in particular in childhood.

Aim
In order to understand the biological implications of these three peptides, we measured AG, UAG, obestatin, IGF-I, cortisol, TSH, prolactin, glucose, insulin, AST, ALT, and ALP levels at fasting in 25 normal weight (NW) and 35 obese (OB) prepubertal children.

Results
AG (8.62 ± 1.10 vs 21.66 ± 5.83 pg/ml, P < 0.005), UAG (25 91 ± 3.16 vs 63.36 ± 8.20 pg/ml, P < 0.0001) and obestatin (0.163 ± 0.40 vs 0.655 ± 0.134 ng/ml, P < 0.007) levels were lower in OB when compared to NW children. The levels of the three peptides were positively correlated each others (P < 0.004). AG levels were negatively correlated with height, height-SDS, weight and BMI (P < 0.01), and positively with AST (P < 0.002). UAG levels were negatively correlated with age, height-SDS, weight, BMI, ALP, IGF-I, cortisol, glucose, and insulin levels (P < 0.01), and positively with AST (P < 0.01). Obestatin levels were negatively correlated with height, BMI and glucose (P < 0.03). In the regression analysis, the best predictors were: 1) obestatin (β: 0.753) for AG; 2) IGF-I (β: −0.707), AG (β: 0.405), and glucose (β: −0.368) for UAG; 3) AG (β: 0.853) and glucose (β: −0.448) for obestatin.

Conclusions
OB children show lower levels of AG, UAG and obestatin. The evaluation of the two forms of ghrelin demonstrates a peculiar relationship between UAG levels and metabolic parameters. On the other hand, obestatin seems to be a regulator of AG circulating form.

OC6.5
Cortical bone size is associated with serum sex hormone-binding globulin levels in healthy men at the age of peak bone mass
Griet Vanbilloem1, Bruno Lapauw1,2, Youyi Tu3, Veerle Bogaert1, Stefan Goemaere1, Hans-Georg Zmierezck2, Dirk De Bacquer1 & Jean-Marc Kasman1
1Department of Endocrinology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium; 2Unit for Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Diseases, Ghent, Belgium; 3Department of Public Health, Ghent, Belgium.

Background
In elderly men, fracture risk is independently associated with higher serum sex hormone-binding globulin (SHBG) levels1. Previously, we observed lower free estradiol (E2) and higher SHBG levels in a three-generational family study of men with idiopathic osteoporosis2. Objective
To investigate associations between serum SHBG levels and cortical bone size at age of peak bone mass.

Design
Six hundred and seventy-seven healthy male siblings aged 25–45 years were recruited in a cross-sectional, population-based study. This study is part of SIBLOS a broader study designed to investigate determinants of sex steroid levels and peak bone mass in men.

Methods
Cortical bone parameters at the radius and tibia (66% site, 2/3 of bone length from distal) were assessed using peripheral quantitative computed tomography (XCT2000, Stratec GmbH). In a morning blood sample, testosterone (T), E2 and SHBG levels were measured using immunoassays. Cross-sectional relations were investigated using linear mixed-effects modeling analyses.

Results
After controlling for age, weight and height, SHBG levels were positively associated with total and cortical bone area and mineral content, and with peri and endosteal circumference at both radius and tibia (β = 0.09–0.17; P = <0.001–0.016). No associations with volumetric bone mineral density or cortical thickness were found. These findings remained significant after adjusting for T and/or E2 levels.

Conclusions
This study demonstrated that higher serum SHBG levels are associated with larger bone size and thus more favorable indices of bone strength in healthy men at the age of peak bone mass, which seems in contrast with observations in elderly men and men with idiopathic osteoporosis. The underlying mechanism is presently unknown, but the possibility of a differential role of SHBG depending on sex steroid status might be considered.

References
Reduced selenoprotein P expression affects bone formation
Antonia Hoß1, Kostja Renko1, Petra Seemann2, Uwe Kornak2 & Lutz Schomburg1
1Institute for Experimental Endocrinology, Charité, Universitätmedizin, Berlin, Germany; 2Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Berlin, Germany.

Selenium (Se) is an essential trace element and is important for maintaining health and preventing disease. Se exhibits its biological function as the 21st proteogenic amino acid selenocysteine (Sec). Different cis and trans acting factors are necessary for incorporation of Sec into proteins. Se can be transported and stored as Sec in selenoprotein P (SePP), a liver-derived protein which contains up to 10 Sec residues per protein in humans. Thus, SePP functions as both a systemic Se-transporter and a local Se-storage protein.

There are several hints demonstrating that Se and selenoproteins have an impact on bone physiology. Mutations in the Sec insertion sequence binding protein 2 (SIBP2) and nutritional Se deficiencies are known to induce growth retardation in human patients and rats, respectively. Bone mineral content (BMC) and bone mineral density (BMD) have been shown to depend on the Se status in rodents. In humans, Se deficiency is known to be associated with Kashin-Beck disease, an endemic osteoarthropathy.

Since SePP is the central factor controlling Se status, we investigated SePP mRNA and the importance of SePP gene expression for bone physiology. In mice, SePP mRNA was strongly expressed in the developing limb buds. For functional analysis, SePP wildtype and SePP knockout mice were fed with regular diet and their tibia were analyzed by micro computer tomography (μCT). In male SePP-KO mice, the ratio of mineralized bone volume per total bone volume (BV/TV) was significantly reduced to 60% of wildtype. We conclude that impaired SePP expression results in reduced Se concentrations in the developing bone leading to impaired bone formation in male mice. Whether these results also apply for female mice or for humans remains to be investigated.
Poster Presentations
Adrenal

P1
Hematomata: unusual presentation of adrenal masses
Alexandra Vieira1, Carla Baptista1, Isabel Paiva1, Luisa Barros1, Jacinta Santos1, Mariana Martinho1, Francisco Carrilho1 & Manuel Carvalheiro1
1University Hospital of Coimbra, EPE, Coimbra, Portugal; 2Portuguese Institute of Oncology, FG, EPE, Coimbra, Portugal.

Introduction
Adrenal hematomas are very rare entities. They occur often associated with trauma, anticoagulation, coagulopathy, septicemia, pregnancy complications or tumors. When none of these predisposing factors is present, diagnosis and treatment can become a real challenge.

Case report
A 19-years-old woman presented with complaints of astyly, loss of appetite, loss of 10 kg in a month, and pain in right lumbar and abdominal regions. No other complaints, such as increase of pilosity, menstrual irregularities, headache, palpitations or sweating. No previous diseases; no chronic medication. When subjected to palpation of right abdominal quadrants, a mass was found that revealed hard to define. Patient was then submitted to an abdominal computed tomography (CT) which revealed in place of right adrenal, an expansive formation of oval morphology, regular edges and well defined limits, with 7×6.5×5.5 cm, homogeneous texture, only with thin parietal calcifications which seemed like a complex cystic lesion. The most likely hypothesis was a residual hematoma. All laboratory findings were normal (hemogram with platelets, coagulation, renal and liver function, thyroid function, baseline hormone levels of pituitary, gonadal function, urinary free cortisol, ACTH-cortisol rhythm). Patient was submitted to a right adenectomy and no complications were developed. The final pathological diagnosis of excised specimen was compatible with an organized adrenal hematoma. Three weeks later the patient was admitted to our department for re-evaluation. At the time was completely asymptomatic; hormonal evaluation was normal. Abdominal CT showed only a right adenectomy. Study was made to rule out coagulopathy. Patient was then scheduled a hematology appointment.

Conclusions
When faced with an image on the adrenal gland compatible with a hematoma, it’s necessary to rule out underlying adrenal tumors (through hormonal evaluation) and to research the existence of predisposing factors for the formation of a hematoma. Only the pathological study of excised specimen allows a definitive diagnosis.

P2
Von-Hippel Lindau disease and pheochromocytoma – case report
J Daniel Silva Vaz, E Queiroz & Jorge Dorez Lima
Centro hospitalar do Porto, Oporto, Portugal.

Aims
VHL disease is an autosomal dominant syndrome that affects one in every 36 000 live births. The diagnosis is based on clinical criteria and the detection of the mutation on VHL gene. Most cases are diagnosed during the 2nd decade of life; this syndrome includes pheochromocytomas with the following characteristics: extra-adrenal location, bilaterality, multifocal lesions, age of onset <30 years and discrete manifestations of catecholamine overproduction. The authors present the case of a pheochromocytoma diagnosed in a patient with Von-Hippel Lindau disease.

Methods
We present the case of a 42-year-old female patient with Von-Hippel Lindau disease manifested by retinal angiomas (bilateral amaurosis at age 17), and cerebellar hemangioblastomas (ataxia at age 28). The patient was admitted to our clinic after detection of two right adrenal nodules with 2 and 3 cm each, and a hypodense mass on the left kidney. The patient complained of headaches and occasional palpitations; he had high blood pressure diagnosed 11 years ago controlled with two antihypertensive drugs. She denied previous hypertensive emergencies. There was no family history of high blood pressure or pheochromocytoma. Our investigation revealed:

-Orthostatic hypotension;
-5473 nmol/day of normetanephrine (laboratory range: 480–2424 nmol/day) in 24 h urine sample;
-Area of increased uptake in radionuclide scintiscan with 1131-MIBG in the right adrenal.

Right adenectomy was performed revealing two nodules of 2, 5 and 3 cm. Histology revealed two capsulated pheochromocytoma with low mitotic index, no vascular invasion and positivity for chromogranin, synaptofisin, NSE and S-100. Genetic study was requested but results are unavailable until now.

Conclusions
In this case we emphasize the age of diagnosis (later than usual), the presence of hypertension without paroxysms, the presence of orthostatic hypotension and the finding of multiple adrenal lesions.

P3
Effect of dietary protein on post-prandial salivary cortisol and androgen levels in healthy women volunteers
Alison Lyles & Emad Al-Dujaili
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Objective
Macronutrients such as protein and fat have been postulated to elicit post-prandial effects upon cortisol and testosterone concentrations. This pilot study was conducted to test the hypothesis that a meal high in protein content can elicit a positive effect on post-prandial cortisol levels whilst producing a negative effect on DHEA and testosterone levels.

Methods
In 13 healthy female volunteers (aged between 19–29 years; BMI ranged from 19.3 to 27.3 kg/m²), salivary cortisol, DHEA and testosterone were measured in saliva samples taken before and after two meals, one of high protein content (65% energy as protein); and the other of low protein content (12% energy as protein) in a randomised crossover design. Saliva samples from each participant at regular intervals on the day of intervention were collected (09.00 a.m. till 17.00 p.m). Steroid hormone concentrations were measured using specific and sensitive ELISA methods. Measures of mood, appetite and psychological well-being were also recorded.

Results
An acute and significant meal-dependent increase in salivary cortisol was detected at approximately 90 mins post-prandially which was dependent upon the proportion of protein in the meal (P=0.05 in absolute cortisol levels and P=0.04 in the difference at 90 min and 150 min versus premeal value). In addition, midday meal rich in protein appears to affect the latency of the post-prandial cortisol peak. No significant difference was elicited in DHEA levels following the two midday meals, but there was a trend increase following the low protein meal and a decrease in the high protein meal (P=0.06). No overall difference in testosterone levels, however a significant decrease between waking and 2 h post ingestion of low protein meal only was found (P=0.01).

Conclusion
This investigation suggests a role for macronutrients such as protein in influencing the transient daily steroid hormone levels and their subsequent implications with metabolic homeostasis and hormone-dependent disease.

P4
Correlation between development of testicular adrenal rest tumors and genotype in children, adolescents and adult males with congenital adrenal hyperplasia
Annette Mouriisen1, Niels Jørgensen1, Katharina M Main1, Marianne Schwartz2 & Anders Juel1
1University Department of Growth and Reproduction, Copenhagen, Denmark; 2Department of Clinical Genetics, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Background
Previous studies have demonstrated a high overall prevalence of testicular adrenal rest tumors (TART) in adults with congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), whereas little is known about the prevalence in children. The aim of this study was to determine the presence of TART according to age and genotype. Design
Retrospective study, tertiary University centre.

Patients and methods
In 47 male patients (age 2.6–40.3 years) with CAH due to 21-hydroxylase deficiency a testicular ultrasound was performed to evaluate the presence of TART and CYP21A1P genotypes were identified and divided in four groups according to the severity of the mutation (predicted activity of the 21-hydroxylase); null, A, B and C.

Results
TART were detected in 26 patients (overall prevalence of 55%). For the 23 patients younger than 18 years TART were present in 11 (48%). The youngest patient having TART was 7.5 years old. The presence of TART was highly

dependent of the specific CYP21A1P genotype: 26 of 35 patients (74%) with the most severe mutations (group null and A) had TART whereas none of 12 patients with the milder mutations (group B and C) had TART.

Conclusion: TART are frequently present in patients with severe CYP21A1P mutations in contrast to those having milder mutations. They may present in early childhood suggesting that testicular ultrasound should be included in the clinical follow-up of CAH children, especially those with severe CYP21A1P mutations.

P5

Abstract withdrawn.

P6

Unbiased stereological study of silymarin effects on adrenocortical structure of dexamethasone treated hamsters

Gholamreza Hamidian1, Naeem Al aoobgheshi1, Hossein Najafzadeh Varzi2 & Saleh Esmailzadeh3

1Department of Histology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Shahid Chamran University, Ahvaz, Khuzestan, Islamic Republic of Iran;
2Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Shahid Chamran University, Ahvaz, Khuzestan, Islamic Republic of Iran;
3Department of Pathology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Shahid Chamran University, Ahvaz, Khuzestan, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Adrenal cortex is an essential portion for life and its function can be affected by many chemical agents and drugs. This study was to investigate effect of silymarin, a flavonoid, on adrenocortical structure of male dexamethasone treated hamsters. In this study, 20 young adult male golden hamsters were randomly allocated to four groups: control group which received no drug; group two which received 7 mg/kg dexamethasone; group three which received 100 mg/kg silymarin; group four which received 7 mg/kg dexamethasone and 100 mg/kg silymarin. All animals were injected IP for seven consecutive days and conducted in accordance with humane care and ethical animal welfare. At the eighth day, the animals were euthanized and the adrenal glands were quickly removed, weighed and fixed in buffered formalin. The samples were processed by routine and standard paraffin embedding and serially sectioned in 5 μm thickness. The total volume of adrenal gland, adrenal cortex and cortical zone were estimated by Cavalieri’s point-counting principle using Weibel’s multipurpose test grid M22. Total number of adrenocortical cells in each zona was estimated by stereological methods. At least, statistical analysis was performed by ANOVA with LSD test to evaluate the means. The results showed that the adrenal gland mass of dexamethasone treated hamsters was significantly decreased in comparison to animals that received dexamethasone with silymarin. It was also obtained that there are no significant difference in the zona glomerulosa volume and cell number among examined groups. The volume of the cortex, zona fasciculata, zona reticularis and cell number of these regions were significantly reduced in dexamethasone treated hamsters compared to controls (P<0.05), whereas in group four, this reduction was not observed. Finally it can be concluded that silymarin seem to be a suitable protective drug for side effect of glucocorticoid therapy in adrenal glands.

P7

Use of diurnal rhythm in salivary aldosterone to discriminate between bilateral adrenal hyperplasia and aldosterone producing adenoma

Jenny Manolopoulou1, Sabine Gerum2, Paolo Mulatero2, Artaudi Spyrouglou1, Martin Reinecke1 & Martin Bidlingmaier1

1Department of Medicine, University Hospital Innenstadt, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany; 2Division of Medicine and Hypertension, Department of Medicine and Experimental Oncology, San Giovanni Battista Hospital, Torino, Italy.

Differential diagnosis between bilateral adrenal hyperplasia (BAH) and aldosterone producing adenoma (APA) in aldosteronism remains challenging in many cases due to the high prevalence of incidentalomas during imaging techniques, the limited sensitivity of orthostatic testing and the technical difficulties of adrenal vein sampling (AVS).

We investigated circadian variation in salivary aldosterone (SA) in patients with APA (n=22) and BAH (n=20). In 12 APA patients, we also compared plasma aldosterone (PLA) during orthostatic testing (4 h) to diurnal changes in SA. Interfering medication was discontinued before sampling (mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists 4 weeks; ACE inhibitors, AT2, beta-blockers, 1 week).

Patients underwent MR/CT scan and APA was defined by successful AVS and/or cure after operation. Paired saliva samples were collected between 0800–1200 and 2000–2400 h. SA was measured using an in-house fluorometric assay, salivary cortisol by luminescence immunoassay (IBL, Hamburg).

Overall, mean (± S.E.M.) SA in APAs decreased from morning (146±17 pg/ml) to evening (92±13 pg/ml, P=0.015), while in BAHs levels remained unchanged or increased (morning: 94±16 pg/ml; evening: 107±20 pg/ml (P=0.75). In the APA group, SA decreased in 18 patients (81.8%), was unchanged in one, and increased in three (15.0%). In 12 of these APA patients, PLA during posture testing was also available. PLA decreased in five, was unchanged in one and increased in six cases following posture. In these 12 patients SA decreased in 10 and increased only in two between morning and evening. Cortisol decreased diurnally in both groups as expected, excluding the influence of stress on evening aldosterone levels.

Compared to the 4-hour posture test, which shows increases in PLA in a significant number of APAs, the long-term diurnal decrease monitored by SA presents a more constant finding. Although a direct comparison between both methods of testing and SA measurements in patients with BAH is pending, our preliminary data suggest that SA could be a supporting tool in discrimination between BAH and APA.

P8

Effect of universal somatostatin analog (SOM230) on primary adrenal cell cultures

Barbara Marinelli, Isabella Finco, Beatrice Rubin, Anna Patalano, Sergio Ferasin, Maurizio Iacobone, Ambrogio Fassina & Franco Mantero

University of Padua, Padua, Italy.

Introduction

Somatostatin (SST) is a widely distributed polypeptide that modulates the endocrine and exocrine secretion, cellular proliferation and differentiation, and apoptosis via a G protein-linked receptor. Our previous studies showed high SSTR expression in adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC), aldosterone producing adenoma (APA) and in cortisol producing adenoma (CPA). Only very few information are available about the effectiveness of SST analogs in adrenal tumors.

Objective

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of SOM230 on hormonal secretion and apoptosis in human adrenal carcinoma cell line, H295R, and in primary cell cultures from adrenal tumors.

Material and methods

For our studies we collected three APA and two ACC primary cell cultures (one obtained from a cortisol secreting adrenocortical carcinoma and the other from a non secreting adrenocortical carcinoma). Cortisol and aldosterone concentrations in the medium were measured by RIA. The apoptosis evaluation was performed by immunofluorescence using MitoPT kit both in H295R cells and in two ACC primary cell cultures.

Results

Our data showed an inhibition of hormonal secretion after the treatment with SOM230 both in H295R cells and particularly in adrenal primary cell cultures. Nanomolar concentrations of SOM230 reduced the cortisol secretion in ACC primary cell culture and also reduced the aldosterone secretion in APA primary cell cultures. Furthermore, SOM230 at nanomolar concentrations showed a positive effect on apoptosis induction in H295R cells and in two ACC primary cell cultures.

Conclusion

SOM230 inhibitory effect on hormonal secretion in H295R and especially in adrenal primary cell cultures, the positive effect on apoptosis induction in adrenal cells suggests a possible therapeutic role of SSTR agonists in adrenal tumors. Supported by AIRC.
P9
Replcicing the normal cortisol circadian rhythm using a formulation of modified-release hydrocortisone
Miguel Debono1, Cyrus Ghobadi2, Amin Rostami-Hedjazian3, Hiep Huu Tran1, Mike Campbell1, John Newell-Price1, Ken Darzi1, DeborahAP Merke4, Wiebe Arti6 & Richard Ross1
1Academic Unit of Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK; 2H2 Pharma, Sheffield, UK; 3East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, Welwyn Garden City, UK; 4National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Bethesda, Maryland, USA; 5Section Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism, School of Clinical, & Experimental Medicine, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK; 6Academic Unit of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK; 7Health Services Research SchHARR, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Background
The adrenal glucocorticoid, cortisol, has a distinct circadian rhythm regulated by the brain’s central pacemaker. This cortisol rhythm acts as a secondary messenger to peripheral tissues and loss of the rhythm is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. This is a specific problem in adrenal insufficiency and congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH). Based on pharmacokinetic modelling we have developed a modified-release formulation of hydrocortisone (MR-HC) to test whether it can replicate normal cortisol rhythm.

Methods
Using historical data from normal subjects (n=33) we have defined the parameters of the physiological circadian rhythm of cortisol. We have then tested our MR-HC in healthy volunteers (n=28), defined its pharmacokinetic characteristics, compared these to physiological cortisol levels and modelled an optimal treatment regimen to replace circadian cortisol levels.

Results
The key cortisol concentration and time variables in the physiological cortisol profile were defined as: peak 400 nmol/l (95% reference range 296-540), acrophase (time of peak) 0832 h (95% CI 0759-0905 h), nadir 50 nmol/l (95% reference range 35-64), time of nadir 0018 h (95% CI 2359-0058 h), and quiescent phase 1943-0351 h. All MR-HC formulations tested demonstrated delayed and sustained release with MR-HC 15 mg having a mean (S.E.M.) Cmax 457 (38) nmol/l at 7.41 (0.57) hrs after drug. Bioavailability of MR-HC 5, 10, 15 & 30 mg was 100, 79, 66, & 69% that of immediate release hydrocortisone. By pharmacokinetic modelling we revealed that MR-HC 15-20 mg at 2300 h and 10 mg at 0700 h could replicate normal cortisol circadian rhythm.

Conclusion
We have shown that a modified-release formulation of hydrocortisone has the potential to imitate the physiological cortisol rhythm. The future of hydrocortisone replacement lies in the use of physiological therapy for patients with adrenal insufficiency and congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

P11
Are there some alterations of salivary cortisol dynamics in obese patients?
Svetlana Jelic, Zorica Caparevic, Sanja Ilic & Djordje Marina
Dr Dragisa Misovic-Dedjenje, Clinical-Hospital Center, Belgrade, Serbia.

The metabolic syndrome resembles Cushing’s syndrome in several clinical aspects. Main characteristic of both syndromes is obesity assessed by the body mass index (BMI) or waist circumference (WC). The aim of this study was to investigate cortisol dynamics in 20 healthy volunteers (BMI<27 kg/m2), 13 females, 7 males, age 42.1±12.39 years and 20 obese patients (BMI≥27 kg/m2); 13 females, 7 males, age 49.25±15.52 years. Screening tests included: 1) late-night (23:00 h) salivary cortisol; 2) morning to late-night (08:00/23:00 h) salivary cortisol ratio; 3) salivary cortisol response to 1 mg overnight dexamethasone suppression (post-DXM), and 4) basal morning to post-suppression (08:00 h/pot-DMX) salivary cortisol ratio. Results are given in following Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal controls</th>
<th>Obese patients</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23:00 h</td>
<td>3.83</td>
<td>6.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:00/23:00 h ratio</td>
<td>5.23</td>
<td>3.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-DXM</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td>6.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:00 h/pot-DXM</td>
<td>8.45</td>
<td>4.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In obese patients, late-night (23:00 h) salivary cortisol as well as the post-dexamethasone level was significantly higher than in age and gender-matched healthy controls. Consequences of these alterations in cortisol dynamics were significantly lower morning to late-night (08:00/23:00 h) as well as basal morning to post-suppression (08:00 h/pot-DMX) salivary cortisol ratios observed in obese patients.

It could be concluded that some subtle alterations in salivary cortisol dynamics exist in obese patients. This observation is in accordance with the literature data on the incidence of subclinical Cushing’s syndrome in patients with Metabolic Syndrome that is not negligible.

P10
The cortisone to cortisol conversion in autoimmune Type I diabetes
Katerina Simunkova1, Lubomir Kriz2, Martina Hil1, Janka Vrbikova3, Richard Hampl1, VACLAVZVUMAZIL1, DENISA JANICK5 & Karel Vondra1
1Institute of Endocrinology, Prague, Czech Republic; 2University hospital Motol, Prague, Czech Republic.

The aim of the study was to obtain data about peripheral metabolism of cortisol. We compared diabetics with low response (LR), and with normal response (NR) during low dose ACTH test, and a control group (C).

Twelve diabetics were investigated; LR (n=6), NR (n=6), age 44±10 year, mean (±S.D.), age at diagnosis of DM1 28±10 year, disease duration 15±8 year, BMI 24.5±2.7 kg/m2, HbA1c 7.2±2.1%. The control group had six healthy subjects; age 27±6 year, BMI 21.7±2.3 kg/m2. Neither group showed any clinical signs of adrenal disorders and adrenal autonomy.

The study was approved by the local Ethical Committee. At 23:00 on day 1, subjects were given 1 mg dexametasone orally. The following morning, cortisol acetate (25 mg) was administered orally. Serum cortisol (F) and cortisone (E) were then measured at 30 and 60 min intervals, respectively, for 240 min.

In diabetics the initial increase of F was delayed compared to C; the maximum was observed at 90th and 120th min (in C at 60th min). The following decrease of F was much slower in diabetics than in C but the levels of F in this phase were significantly higher then in C (P<0.05). When we compared LR to NR patients, the initial increase of F was delayed till 150th min in NR contrary to 120th min in LR. After that the levels of F in both groups decreased, but the concentration of F were significantly higher in NR.

P12
Short term regulation of aldosterone secretion after stimulation and suppression experiments in mice
Ariadna Spyrologou, Jenny Manolopoulou, Martin Reincke, Richard Bindlmaier & Felix Beuschlein
Medizinische Klinik Innenstadt, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany.

Aldosterone is synthesized acutely upon stimulation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system from the cells of the zona glomerulosa. Several enzymes are involved in this steroidogenic process including the steroidal acute regulatory protein (Star). In vivo side chain cleavage enzyme (Cyp11a1) and aldosterone synthase, the product of the gene Cyp11b2.

We investigated the short time transcriptional regulation of these genes in wild type mice at 10 min intervals for one hour following application of angiotension II (ANGII) and sodium chloride in comparison to sham injections. The aldosterone response after each stimulus was quantified through measurement by a fluorescent immunoassay. Using Real-Time PCR a fast upregulation of adenal Cyp11b2 expression (53±5% increase over baseline expression; P<0.05) could be observed 10 min after sham injection which was accompanied by a transient increase in aldosterone secretion (baseline, 88±10 mg/ml vs 10 min, 228±23 mg/ml; P<0.005) while STAR (20 min, 233±47%; P<0.05) and Cyp11a1 (20 min, 363±31%; P<0.001) upregulation was delayed and more sustained. ANGII caused an increase of STAR and Cyp11a1 expression similar to that observed after sham injection while Cyp11b2 upregulation was more pronounced (10 min, 236±39%) and reflected ANGII induced stimulation of aldosterone output. Sodium challenge was followed by a sustained reduction of all three genes examined (Cyp11b2 20 min, -63±6%) which was accompanied by significant

suppression of aldosterone secretion detectable after 60 min. These data suggest that acute regulation of aldosterone synthesis is accompanied by fast transcriptional modulation of steriodogenic enzymes. Parallel changes of Cyp11b2 and aldosterone levels are in line with the concept of Cyp11b2 being a rate limiting step for aldosterone output.

P13
Autoimmune adrenal insufficiency: Addison’s disease versus idiopathic isolated secondary adrenal insufficiency
Anna Kasprzik-Zalocka1, Barbara Czarnecka2, Wojciech Jeske3, Lucyna Papierk2a, Anna-Lena Hulting4, Sophie Bensing5, Patricia Crocker6 & Olle Kämpe7
1Department of Endocrinology, Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education, Warsaw, Poland; 2Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education, Warsaw, Poland; 3Department of Molecular Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden; 4John Hunter Children’s Hospital, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, Newcastle, Australia; 5Department of Medical Sciences, University Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden.

Studies on autoimmune Addison’s disease (AD) have a long tradition, while knowledge on idiopathic isolated secondary adrenal insufficiency (SAI), which also seems to be caused by autoimmunity, is not so popular. Our presentation aimed at comparing two groups of patients: 1) 238 patients with AD (183 women, F/M = 4:3), aged 8-61 years at time of diagnosis and 2) 301 patients with SAI (269 women, F/M = 8:4), aged 17-87 years at time of diagnosis. Maximum time of duration: 44 years in AD, 18 yrs in SAI. Hyperpigmentation in AD was the main clinical sign differentiating the both groups of patients; in AD clinical features were more dramatically manifested. Adrenal crisis was more frequent in AD while in SAI threatening adrenal crisis was not a rare finding. Cortisol levels were low in both groups in (lower in AD), however they rose significantly only in SAI after stimulation with synthetic ACTH. High ACTH levels in AD were in contrast with low ACTH values in SAI. Biochemical analyses revealed that hyperkalemia was typical for AD, while hypokalemia was more characteristic for SAI. Additional autoimmune disorders were present in 79% of AD and in 67% in SAI. The main autoimmune diseases in AD: thyroid diseases – 34%, premature ovarian failure (POF) – 14%, IDDM and vitiligo – 13%, while in SAI – 36, 4, 3 and 4% respectively. Thyroid autoantibodies were found in 72% in AD and in 60% in SAI. Adrenal autoantibodies were detected in 55% of 115 AD patients under study, while pituitary autoantibodies in 34% out of 65 patients with SAI. In AD group 33 women became pregnant and delivered healthy children, which contrasted with only one patient with SAI (mainly due to a higher age in SAI). Conclusions: apart of clinical picture and hormonal pattern the main differences between the both groups concerned age at time of diagnosis, F/M ratio, type of electrolyte disturbances, frequency of adrenal crisis, frequency of POF, IDDM and vitiligo.

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P14
Prediction of metabolic syndrome by low serum testosterone levels in men: results from the Study of Health in Pomerania
Robin Harang1, Henry Volzke2, Stephan B Felix3, Sabine Schipfl4, Marcus Dör1, Dietter Roskop1, Matthias Nauck5, Christof Schöp1 & Henrik Wallaschofski1
1Ernst Moritz Arndt University, Greifswald, Germany; 2Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany.

Aim
The aim of this analysis was to determine whether low serum testosterone (T) and dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEAS) levels predict the development of metabolic syndrome (MS) in men.

Methods
Data were obtained from the Study of Health in Pomerania (SHIP), a population-based prospective cohort of adults aged 20-79 at baseline. Analyses were conducted in 2004 men without baseline MS, defined by National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III (ATP III) guidelines. T and DHEAS were categorized by age-specific quartiles. To assess the association between sex hormone levels and MS risk factors (RR) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) were estimated from Poisson regression models.

Results
After a median follow-up time of 5.0 years, 480 men (47.8%) had developed MS. T levels decreased with increasing number of MS components. T levels in the lowest quartile predicted MS (RR 1.37, 95% CI 1.14-1.66), particularly among men aged 20-40 years (RR 2.03, 95% CI 1.28: 3.23). Low DHEAS levels were not related to incident MS after adjustment for age, smoking, alcohol consumption, physical activity, body mass index, and self-related health (RR 0.95; 95% CI 0.75; 1.21).

Conclusions
Low T but not DHEAS predict development of MS in a population-based cohort of men. Assessment of T in young and middle old men may allow early interventions in the general population.

P15
Prediction of fatal stroke by high serum aldosterone levels
Andreas Tomaschics1, Stefan Pilz2, Harald Dobry3, Bernhard R Winkelmann4, Wilfried Renner5, Bernhard O Boehm6 & Winfried Maerz7
1Division of Endocrinology and Nuclear Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria; 2Cardiology Group, Frankfurt-Sachsenhausen, Frankfurt, Germany; 3Clinical Institute of Medical and Chemical Laboratory Diagnostics, Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria; 4Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Ulm, Ulm, Germany; 5Syntlab Center of Laboratory Diagnostics Heidelberg, Eppelheim, Germany.

Background
There is increasing evidence that aldosterone exerts deleterious, blood pressure independent effects on cerebral blood vessels. We aimed to evaluate whether high aldosterone levels are related to fatal stroke.

Methods
Serum aldosterone concentrations (SAC, pg/ml) were measured in 3073 Caucasian patients, who were routinely referred to coronary angiography. We calculated Cox proportional hazard ratios for death due to fatal stroke according to SAC quartiles.

Results
During a median follow-up time of 7.75 years 769 patients died, including 37 individuals with a diagnosis of fatal stroke (ischemic or hemorrhagic). After multivariate adjustment for age, sex, common vascular risk factors including arterial blood pressure and statin use, the hazard ratio for death due to fatal stroke was 2.78 (95% CI 1.02-7.58; P=0.046), when comparing patients within the highest SAC quartile (median SAC 16.8) to the lowest SAC quartile (median SAC 3.4).

Conclusions
High aldosterone levels are associated with death due to fatal stroke independent of multiple vascular risk factors. Our results suggest that mineralocorticoid blocking strategy might be beneficial for prevention of fatal cerebrovascular events.

P16
Effects of castration and testosterone treatment on adrenal activity of a saharan gerbil, Meriones libycus in breeding and non-breeding season
Nawel Aknoun, Yamina Zatra, Farida Khammar & Zaina Amirat
USTHB Science and Technology University, Bab Ezzouar, Algiers, Algeria.

In the Saharan gerbil Meriones libycus, live trapped in the south west of Algeria, castration, carried out during the breeding season (Winter-Spring), induced, 50 days later, important modifications in adrenal gland activity. The adrenal weight and cortex volume increased by 11.7% and 25.0% respectively, with hypertrophy of reticularis zona (+5.7%; P<0.001) and hypotrophy of fasciculata zona (-13.4%; P<0.001) while glomerulosa exhibited only small height variations. However, the histological study showed significant increases in cellular height and nucleus diameter of reticularis cells. In the fasciculata zona, the height cells also increased (11.4%; P=0.04) whereas nucleus diameter decreased by 11% (P=0.003). On the other hand, adrenal content of cortisol decreased by 30% (absolute values, P=0.4) or 50% (relatively to adrenal or body weights, P=0.2). Plasma cortisol also decreased (~83%, P=0.3) in the castrated males.

Testosterone replacement was performed by twice daily of s. c. injections of 75 μg sesame oil diluted testosterone enantate, during 7 days in both 50 days castrated gerbils during breeding season and intact animals during resting season.
(autumn). This treatment induced adrenal hyper trophy due to that of cortex volume and fasciculata and reticularis zona in all testosterone treated animals. However, the adrenal cortisol content increased in all animals, whereas plasma cortisol values were restored in castrated ones (breeding season) and continue to decrease in non castrated (non breeding season). This study suggests that testosterone affects the adrenal structure and activity, particularly in cortisol production by inhibiting or stimulating its secretion either directly via adrenogen receptor or via hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal axis. Then, testicular androgens seemed to be implicated, at least in part, in the endogenous determination of annual cycle of adrenal activity in this desert species.

P17
Gitelman syndrome: clinical presentation and genetic analysis of 27 patients with hypokalemia caused by renal potassium wasting
Anne-Sophie Balavoine1, Pierre Bataille2, Philippe Vanhille3, Raymond Azar1, François Glowacki1, Rosia Varghas-Poussou1, Xavier Jeunemaitre1, Jean-Louis Weineau1 & Marie-Christine Vantyghem1
1CHRU, Lille, France; 2Centre hospitalier, Boulogne sur mer, France; 3Centre hospitalier, Valenciennes, France; 3Centre hospitalier, Dunkerque, France; 4HEGP, Paris, France.

Gitelman syndrome (GS) is a recessive salt losing tubulopathy caused by mutations in the SLC12A3 gene encoding the thiazide-sensitive Na+/Cl– cotransporter, and characterized by secondary hyperaldosteronism, hypokalemic alkalosis, hypomagnesemia and hypocalciuria. The aim Of the work was to investigate 27 adult patients with hypokalemia due to renal potassium wasting after exclusion of diuretics abuse, vomiting or diarrhea. Methods Clinical and biological data were recorded, and genetic analysis of SLC12A3 gene performed for each patient. Results Of 15 patients had two pathogenic mutations of SLC12A3 defining a true GS, two patients one single mutation, and nine no pathogenic mutation, but gene polymorphism in 69 cases. Patients with true GS were 35 ± 15 years old at time of diagnosis. Symptoms (dizziness, paresthesias, tetany or nystagmus) were present in 60% of cases. Complications of GS were found in five patients: two with chondrocalcinosis, two with growth delay, and one with syncope related to cardiac arrhythmia. Four patients had high blood pressure, while GS is usually associated with low blood pressure. All patients with true GS had hypokalemia (mean ± 2 s.e.m. 2.8 ± 0.3 mEq/l) and hyperreninemia (except for one patient), while hypomagnesemia (absent in 9/15 patients) and hypocalciuria (absent in 27/30 explored patients) were constant. Hypokalemia was mild in patients without pathogenic mutation of SLC12A3: 3.5 ± 0.3 mEq/l, and hyperreninemia lacking in most cases. Follow-up of patients with true GS during 9.6 ± 2.8 years was marked by a mild decrease of renal function (2.8 ml/min per year of creatinin clearance), correction of hypokalemia above 3 mEq/l in 73% of patient with treatment, and mild elevation of blood pressure. Conclusion In adult patients referred for hypokalemia, GS should be evoked especially in case of hyperreninemia that is a constant feature in patients with a confirmed genetic diagnosis. High blood pressure does not set the diagnosis aside. Mild hypokalemia are sometimes associated with heterozygous mutation of the SLC12A3 gene.

P18
Bilateral adrenal incidentaloma – a clinical study of 1710 patients observed at a single endocrinological centre
Anna Kasperlik-Zaluska1, Jadwiga Sliwinska-Szrednicka2, Elżbieta Rosłonowska1, Magdalenka Kochman1, Wojciech Zgliczyński1, Wojciech Jesie2, Maciej Otto1 & Andrzej Cichocki3
1Department of Endocrinology, Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education, Warsaw, Poland; 2Department of Endocrinology, Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education, Warsaw, Poland; 3Department of Endocrinology, Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education, Warsaw, Poland; 4Department of Endocrinology, Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education, Warsaw, Poland; 5Department of Endocrinology, Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education, Warsaw, Poland; 6Department of Endocrinology, Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education, Warsaw, Poland; 7Department of General, Vascular and Transplant Surgery, Medical University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland; 8Department of Surgery, Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland.

In the last 18 years 1710 patients with incidentally found adrenal tumours = adrenal incidentalomas (AI), 1300 women (F/M = 2:8), aged 10–87 years, were registered at our department. In 338 of them (20%) bilateral tumours were detected. This study aimed at analyzing character of bilateral tumours and defining methods of their management. The size: 1.0–13 cm (in the group of 1710 patients: 1.0–23 cm) most of them up to 3.5 cm. Hormonal and imaging studies were performed in all the patients. High density of the tumour in the native phase of CT with delayed washout and the size > 4.9 cm were considered as important indications for surgery. Of 66 patients with bilateral AI were treated by surgery for oncological or endocrinological purposes (mainly pre-Cushing’s syndrome). In case of malignancy bilateral operations were performed, in other cases unilateral adrenalectomy was usually done, but on individual indications (choosing the tumour greater in diameter or with a more evident progression or presenting higher density on CT).

Pathomorphology
The most frequent malignant tumours were metastases and lymphomas, more rare was cancer (four patients); non-malignant tumours – adenomas, adrenal hyperplasia and pheochromocytomas. Pre-Cushing’s syndrome was diagnosed the most frequently in adrenal hyperplasia; sometimes both hyperplastic adenals presented subclinical cortisol hypersecretion. Following removal of an adrenal adenoma causing subclinical Cushing’s syndrome secondary insufficiency of the remaining adrenal was observed. Replacement therapy with hydrocortisone in gradually reduced doses was withdrawn within 3–6 months in a majority of these patients.

The remaining patients, not qualified for surgery, have been carefully observed (imaging and hormonal examinations have been performed).

Conclusions
Endocrinological or oncological indications for surgery were recommended in 20% of patients with bilateral AI, the most frequent causes were adenomas, adrenal hyperplasia, pheochromocytomas, metastases and lymphomas. Supported by a 501-1-17/06/06 MKP Grant.

P19
Adipokine levels in patients with adrenal incidentaloma
Laura Iorio1, Valentina Morelli2, Francesco Di Giacomo3, Sonia Della Casa4, Maura Arosio5, Massimiliano Corsi5, Iacopo Chioldi6 & Bruno Ambrosi7
1Endocrinology Unit, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, IRCCS Policlinico San Donato, University of Milan, San Donato Milanese, Italy; 2Endocrinology Unit, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, IRCCS Fondazione Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Mangiagalli, Regina Elena, University of Milan, Milan, Italy; 3Endocrinology Unit, San Giuseppe-MilanCure Hospital, Aifa, Milan, Italy; 4Chair of Endocrinology, Catholic University, Rome, Italy; 5Laboratory of Clinical Pathology, Institute of General Pathology, Milan, Italy.

Patients (pts) with adrenal incidentaloma (AI) may show an increased incidence of several cardiovascular risk factors, as obesity, hypertension, diabetes mellitus and dyslipidemia. As previous data suggested that the increased cardiovascular risk in these pts could be in part mediated by alterations of adipokines, this study was aimed to evaluate plasma IL-6, resistin, CT-1 levels in a wide series of pts with AI.

Ninety-three pts (42 males; 51 females; aged 63.6 ± 9.1 years; BMI 28.2 ± 0.5 kg/cm², mean ± 2 s.e.m.) were studied. All adrenal masses were identified as cortical adenoma. In all pts serum cortisol (P), plasma ACTH and urinary free cortisol were determined in basal conditions and after an overnight 1-mg dexamethasone (dexam) test. Plasma IL-6, CT-1 and resistin levels were measured by ELISA methods.

In pts with AI plasma IL-6 levels were greatly elevated (26.5 ± 13 vs 2.9 ± 0.4 pg/mL, P < 0.001); resistin levels were also higher, though not significantly, than in normal subjects, while CT-1 levels were similar (11.6 ± 0.6 vs 9.6 ± 0.7 ng/mL; 19.2 ± 10 pg/mL vs 18.7 ± 1.3, respectively). In all pts adipokine levels did not correlate with cortisol/ACTH levels (either basal or after dexam) or with other clinical (adrenoma size, hypertension), metabolic (insulin resistance, diabetes mellitus), hormonal parameters (subclinical Cushing syndrome).

Interestingly, patients with visceral obesity more frequently showed a greater elevation of IL-6 (100 vs 96.6%), resistin (29.8 vs 22.5%) and CT-1 levels (8.8 vs 0%) than the remaining pts.

Conclusion
a) pts with AI may show increased levels of adipokines, apparently not related to the presence of diabetes, metabolic syndrome, insulin resistance, hypertension; b) a direct influence by the adrenoma itself on cytokine production has been suggested only by experimental studies; c) whether it is plausible to consider a role for cytokines in AI, starting before cardiovascular complications arise, it will be possibly clarified by future prospective studies.
P20
Chemokine receptor expression in the adrenal cortex and in adrenocortical tumours
Katharina Lang1, Andrea Stürmer1, Patrick Adam2, Martin Fassnacht3, Marcus Quinkler1, Michael Morcos2, Bruno Alloio1 & Stefanie Hahnen1
1Department of Internal Medicine I, Endocrinology, Wuerzburg, Germany; 2Department of Pathology, University of Wuerzburg, Wuerzburg, Germany; 3Department of Medicine, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endocrinology, Charite Campus Mitte, Charite University Medicine Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 4Department of Internal Medicine 1, Endocrinology, Metabolism and Clinical Chemistry, Heidelberg, Germany.

Introduction
Chemokines and their receptors (CR) have been demonstrated to be involved in tumour growth and site specific metastasis. Furthermore, several cytokines have been described to modulate adrenocortical function. Therefore, we have investigated the expression pattern and functional activity of chemokine receptors and of corresponding chemokines in adrenocortical tissue.

Methods
Chemokine and CR expression was assessed by RT-PCR in normal adrenals (NAG), NCI-h295-cells, SW13-cells and adrenocortical carcinomas (ACC). CXCR4-expression levels were quantified by qPCR and immunohistochemistry in 17 NAG, 23 benign adrenocortical tumours and 167 ACC tissues (135 primary tumours, 30 metastases and 18 local recurrences). Effects of the CXCR4 ligand CXCL12 on hormone production and signal transduction in NCI-h295-cells was assessed by radioimmunoassay and western blot, respectively.

Results
The adrenal gland expresses multiple chemokine receptors (CXC1R-1,CCR1,2,5,9,11 and CXCR1) and chemokines (CXCL1,3,8,12 and CCL22). CXCR4 was most abundantly detected in both NAG and in adrenocortical tumours. CXCL12 led to activation of the ERK signal cascade and slightly but significantly decreased cortisol production in NCI-h295-cells. Immunohistochemistry revealed positive CXCR4 staining mainly in the outer adrenocortical zone. Com and Cushing adenomas showed highest expression levels compared to NAG, whereas non secreting adenomas had only weak CXCR4 expression. In ACC, CXCR4 expression levels showed considerable variation with highest levels in metastases and lowest in local recurrences.

Conclusion
Chemokines and CR are expressed both in benign and neoplastic adrenal tissue. CXCR4 is one of the most abundant CR exhibiting functional activity in NCI-h295-cells. CXCR4 expression was significantly higher in endocrine active compared to inactive tumours, suggesting that CXCR4 plays a role in adrenal steroidogenesis. However, no significant differences in expression levels between benign and malignant tumours were detected.

P21
Bilateral macronodular adrenal hyperplasia versus bilateral micronodular adrenal hyperplasia
Nur Kebaci1, Belgin Erle1 & Mahmut Kebaci2
1Department of Endocrinology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey; 2Department of Radiology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey.

Bilateral macronodular or micronodular adrenal hyperplasia are related to ACTH-independent or ACTH-dependant pathologies. ACTH-independent bilateral macronodular adrenal hyperplasia (AIMAH) and primary pigmented adrenal adenomatous disease (PPNAD) are classical but rare examples of ACTH-independent pathologies, causing Cushing Syndrome. PPNAD is presented as bilateral macronodular adrenal hyperplasia. On the other hand, inherited defects in the enzymatic steps of cortisol biosynthesis result in a decrease in cortisol biosynthesis and a consequent increase in the secretion of ACTH, thereby stimulating adrenal hyperplasia. The groups of syndromes related to enzyme deficiencies is termed congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH). PPNAD can be found as bilateral diffuse, macronodular or micronodular adrenal hyperplasia.

We present five cases with different etiologies in order to review the topic which is sophisticated.

Case 1
A 68-year-old woman with a 40-year history of hypertension was referred for further evaluation of bilateral adrenal metastases. Endocrinologic data of the patient showed ACTH-independent hypercortisolemia, bilateral macronodular adrenal hyperplasia, type 2 DM and hypertension.

Case 2
A 43-year-old woman with a 10-year history of obesity was referred for further evaluation of adrenal adenoma. Endocrinologic data of the patient showed ACTH-independent hypercortisolemia, bilateral macronodular adrenal hyperplasia and type2 DM. Case 3
A 20-year-old woman with a 3-year history of hypertension was referred for further evaluation. Endocrinologic data of the patient showed ACTH-independent hypercortisolemia, bilateral macronodular adrenal hyperplasia (PPNAD).

Case 4
A 45-years-old man was referred because of ambiguous genitalia. Endocrinologic data of the patient showed 21OH deficiency, hyperandrogenism, bilateral macronodular adrenal hyperplasia. The karyotype was 46XX. He/she was diagnosed as simple virilizing form of CAH due to 21OH deficiency.

Case 5
A 35-year-old women with a 17-year history of hirsutism, and a 2-year history of hypertension was referred for further evaluation. Endocrinologic data of the patient showed partial 11beta-hydroxylase deficiency, hyperandrogenism and bilateral micronodular adrenal hyperplasia.

P22
Role of chemokines MIP1α and MIP1β in patients with Addison’s disease isolated or associated to autoimmune thyroid disease
Annamaria De Bellis1, Elena Pane1, Marina Battaglia1, Giuseppe Ruocco1, Gilda Tirelli1, Giuseppe Bellastella1, Antonio Agostino Sinisi2, Costantini Susan2, Francesca Capone2, Amaurita Acilio Talamanca2, Rosa Callemola1, Antonio Bizzarro1 & Antonio Bellastella1
1Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine and Surgery, Chair of Endocrinology and Chair of Immunology and Allergology, F. Magrassi, A. Lanzara’, Second University of Naples, Naples, Italy; 2Research Oncological Centre of Mercogliano, Mercogliano, Italy; 3UOS of Immunology, IRCCS National Tumoral Institute of Naples, Naples, Italy.

High levels of macrophage inflammatory proteins (MIP1α and MIP1β), related to the recruitment of Th1 and Th2 cells, respectively, have been evidenced in some organ and non organ-specific autoimmune diseases. CXCL10/IP10 has been evidenced in patients with autoimmune thyroid disease (ATD) and in Addison’s disease (AD); MIP1α and MIP1β chemokines have not been so far evaluated in these diseases.

Aim
To evaluate plasmatic levels of MIP1α, MIP1β and IP10 in patients with AD isolated or associated to ATD. MIP1α, MIP1β and IP-10 were evaluated in the plasma of 11 patients with AD associated to ATD (group 1), 8 patients (group 2) with isolated AD and 30 healthy controls (kit Bio-Plex Human Cytokine Assay). All patients were treated with an appropriate substitute therapy, except 1 patient of group 1 and 2 of group 2 who had a new diagnosis of AD. The levels of MIP1α and MIP1β resulted significantly high (P<0.001) in both groups with respect to controls. No significant difference was observed between the two groups. Moreover, levels of MIP1β were significantly and positively related to the titre of adrenal autoantibodies and were inversely correlated to the duration of the disease.

The presence of high levels of MIP1α and MIP1β not only in cases of autoimmune isolated AD, but also in those ones associated to ATD seems to indicate a role of these chemokines in the autoimmune patholgy of these glands mediated by the recruitment in loco of Th1 and Th2 cells. The reduction of MIP1β, inversely correlated to the duration of the disease, seems to indicate a predominant role of these chemokines in triggering an inflammatory process by a massive recruitment of Th2 cells. Instead, the persistent high levels of MIP1α during the disease seem to favour a chronic autoimmune process by constant recruitment of Th1 cells.

P23
IL-6 and osteoprotegerin levels in subjects with non-functioning adrenal adenomas
Serkan Yener2,3, Abdurrahman Comlekci1,2,3, Faize Yuksel1,2,3, Abdurrahman Comlekici1,2,3, Baris Akinci1,2,3, T-evick Demir2,3 & Sena Yesil1,2,3
1Division of Endocrinology, Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir, Turkey; 2Division of Hematology, Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir, Turkey; 3Division of Radiology, Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir, Turkey.

Data regarding cardiovascular risk in subjects with non-functioning adrenal adenomas is limited. The aim of this study is to investigate osteoprotegrerin (OPG) and Interleukin-6 (IL-6) levels in subjects with non functioning adrenal incidentalomas. Of 51 subjects without findings of hypercortisolism or other adrenal gland disorders (AI), 32 BMI-unmatched controls (C) and 20 BMI-matched controls

(BC) were enrolled. Participants underwent hormonal evaluation including morning cortisol, adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH), post dexamethasone suppression test (DST), dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEAS) and urinary free cortisol. In subjects with elevated post DST cortisol (>18 mcg/dl), elevated UFC (>110 mcg/day), and suppressed ACTH and DHEAS levels, midnight cortisol was evaluated (normal <7.5 mcg/dl). AI group had increased BMI, blood pressure, waist circumference, post DST cortisol, uric acid and HOMA levels when compared with C. Blood pressure, uric acid and post DST cortisol remained significantly elevated in AI versus BC. IL-6 and OPG levels were comparable among groups (AI versus C and AI versus BC). IL-6 and OPG were not significantly correlated with hormonal parameters. IL-6 was correlated with BMI, waist circumference, triglyceride and uric acid in subjects with adrenal incidentaloma. Despite the presence of several metabolic disturbances, subjects with AI did not feature IL-6 or OPG elevation. Exclusion of the patients with established cardiovascular events or diabetes might cause comparable levels of OPG and IL-6.

P24
Characterization of tyrosine hydroxylase expression in various adrenal tumors to confirm the diagnosis of adrenal phaeochromocytoma
Bianca Uechterberg1, Jakob Hinrichs1, Martin K Walz2, Kurt W Schmid1, Klaus Mann1, Stephan Petersen1
1Division of Endocrinology, Medical Center, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany; 2Department of Medicine and Center of Minimally Invasive Surgery, Klinikum Essen-Mitte, Essen, Germany; 2Institute of Pathology, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany.

Background
Tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) is the first enzyme in the pathway of catecholamine synthesis catalyzing the conversion of tyrosine to dihydroxyphenylalanine (DOPA). To establish a molecular marker for adrenal phaeochromocytomas, we compared the expression in various adrenal tumors in comparison to normal adrenal glands.

Methods
Tissue from 19 phaeochromocytomas (PHEO), 20 adrenocortical-producing adenomas (APA), 20 cortisol-producing adenomas (CPA), and 20 non-functional adenomas (NFA) was obtained following laparoscopic surgery. Seven normal adrenal glands were obtained during autopsy. The diagnosis was confirmed by various biochemical tests, histological investigation, and clinical follow-up. Extracted RNA underwent Real Time RT-PCR using TH specific primers and probe (detection limit 3.2×10^7 copies/μg RNA (cp)). mRNA levels were normalized to GAPDH mRNA levels. ROC analysis was performed to establish cut-off with specificity of at least 95%.

Results
PHEO demonstrated higher TH expression with a median of 8.6×10^5 cp (range 7.2×10^4–4.3×10^6 cp) than detected in normal adrenal glands with a median of 1.1×10^4–3.8×10^5 cp. In contrast, expression was significantly lower (P<0.001) in APA, CPA, and NFA with 2.8×10^5 cp (3.5×10^5–1.6×10^6 cp), 5.3×10^5 cp (7.5×10^5–2.5×10^6 cp), and 6.6×10^5 cp (3.2×10^5–1.5×10^6 cp), respectively. ROC analysis suggested a threshold of 1.1×10^5 cp with a sensitivity of 95% and specificity of 95%. No significant correlations were found between TH expression and age, or gender. Chromogranin A levels were found to be elevated in high expression tumors.

Conclusion
Characterization of TH expression may serve as a molecular marker to distinguish adrenal phaeochromocytomas from other adrenal neoplasms. Such criteria could be used to evaluate biochemical tests for the diagnosis of these tumors.

P25
Towards an aldosterone producing cell line from an aldosterone producing adenoma
Urs Lichtenauer1, Oliver Zwermann1, Igor Shapiro1, Thomas Mussack1, 2, Martin Reincke1 & Felix Feuselich1
1Endocrine Research Unit, Medizinische Klinik-Innenstadt, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany; 2Department of Visceral Surgery, Chirurgische Klinik-Innenstadt, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany.

To date, the in depth analysis of the key molecular mechanisms involved in functional autonomy and tumor formation in aldosterone producing adenomas has been hampered by the rarity of the disease and the lack of adequate tumor cell lines. Herein, we cultivated a primary cell culture of an aldosterone producing adenoma taken from a 40 year old male patient with a left sided adrenal tumor mass. The cells have been passed 24 times and still continue to grow after nearly 11 months in a stable, cell line-like fashion. Adherent monolayer growth was observed, when the cells were cultured in serum containing media, whereas they observed spheroid-like structures in EGF and FGF supplemented serum free media. Aldosterone output was measurable in spheroids (S) as well as in monolayer (M) cells (M: 7.7±7.0 pg/ml, P<0.001), and could be further increased by ACTH stimulation (3382±245.4 pg/ml vs 946±29.2 pg/ml, P=0.01). Real-time PCR analyses revealed that in comparison to a normal (N) human adrenal gland, mRNA levels of 36-HSD and Star - normalized to HPRT - were significantly lower in the cultured cells (36-HSD: 3.9±0.13; P<0.01 (S) and 0.2±0.03; P<0.01 (M); 36-HSD: 475±67.6; P<0.01(S) and 85±22.4; P<0.01 (M) vs 790±740.6 (N)). However, these expression levels were similar to those measured in the established adrenocortical cancer cell line NCIh2951 (36-HSD: 5.4±0.38; P<0.01; Star: 170±28.7; P<0.01). This holds also true for P450scc, which is the sole difference in mRNA expression between monolayer cells, spheroids, and NCIh2951 cells could be detected (234±51 P<0.01 (S) and 321±9; P<0.01 (M) versus 294±3.7 NCI). These results were supported by a clearly positive immunohistochemical staining for P450scc on embedded spheroids and monolayer cells, also verifying the adrenocortical origin of the cultured cells. Currently we are aiming at further defining the in vitro characteristics of the cultured aldosteroneoma cells, especially regulatory pathways involved, the reaction to different stimuli, and eventually the ability for in vivo engraftement.

P26
Cardiac structure and function in patients with adrenal incidentaloma: an echocardiographic study
Monica De Leo1, Maurizio Galderisi1, Maria Cristina De Martinis1, Alessia Cozzolino1, Annamaria Colao1, Rosario Pivonello1 & Gaetano Lombardi1
1Department of Clinical and Molecular Endocrinology and Oncology, University Federico II, Naples, Italy; 2Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University Federico II, Naples, Italy.

Subclinical Cushing’s syndrome (CS) is a mild autonomous cortisol hypersecretion without specific clinical syndrome of glucocorticoid excess. The aim of this study was to compare cardiac structure and function in patients with adrenal incidentaloma. Twenty patients and 20 sex- and age-matched healthy controls entered the study: among patients, 11 had SCs and the remaining nine had normal cortisol secretion. All patients and controls were submitted to Doppler echocardiography, with evaluation of left ventricular (LV) mass index (LVMI), ejection fraction (EF), main parameter of systolic function, and early (E) to late (A) peak velocity (E/A), main parameter of diastolic function, together with the measurement of systolic (SBP) and diastolic (DBP) blood pressure. PBP (P<0.001) but not DBP, was significantly higher in patients than in controls. At Doppler echocardiography, EF (P<0.01) and E/A (P<0.01) were significantly reduced in patients compared to controls. However, no significant difference was found in LVMI between patients and controls. In particular, both patients with and without SCs had significantly reduced EF and E/A compared to controls (P<0.01). A slight but not significant increase in LVMi (P<0.099) was found in patients with both but not in patients without SCs. No significant difference in SBP and DBP was found between patients with and without SCs. In conclusion, patients with adrenal incidentaloma have an impairment of cardiac performance, represented by both a systolic and diastolic dysfunction independently on the presence of SCs. These findings suggest that patients with incidentally discovered, or clinically non-functioning adrenal tumors need to be monitored for cardiac performance during their follow-up.

P27
Autoantibody screening of autimmune gastrointestinal disorders in patients with autoimmune Addison disease
Peter Kentos, Mikulas Pura & Peter Vanaga
Department of Endocrinology, National Institute of Endocrinology and Diabetology, Lubochna, Slovakia.

Background
Coexistent gastrointestinal pathology might alter hydrocortisone (HCT) and levothyroxine (LT4) absorption and gut transit times.
**Aims**

To screen patients with autoimmune Addison disease for the presence of serological markers of autoimmune gastrointestinal disorders, to compare doses of HCT and LT4 in patients with positive autoantibodies to those of patients without signs of autoimmune gastroenteropathy.

**Subjects and methods**

Of 62 patients with autoimmune Addison disease were investigated. Autoantibodies against tissue transglutaminase (t-TGA) were measured by CLIA; autoantibodies against gastric parietal cells (PCA) were measured by an indirect immunofluorescence method.

**Results**

Mean daily doses of HCT and LT4 were higher in patients (n = 13) with positive PCA and/or t-TGA – HCT 22.2 ± 5.9 vs 19.0 ± 2.9 mg (P < 0.05), HCTmax 37.0 ± 0.08 vs 32.0 ± 0.04 mg/kg (P < 0.05), HCTtmax 13.2 ± 3.0 vs 11.8 ± 3 mg/m² (P < 0.05); LT4 103.8 ± 21.4 vs 87.9 ± 28.0 mg (P < 0.05), LT4tmax 1.75 ± 0.46 vs 1.47 ± 0.55 µg (P < 0.05), LT4tmax 65 ± 14.3 vs 54.7 ± 16.9 µg/m² (P < 0.05).

**Conclusions**

Our results suggest for high prevalence of serological markers of autoimmune gastrointestinal disorders in APS. Already state of PCA and/or t-TGA positivity may alter the requirement of higher HCT and LT4 doses. Measurement of serum PCA and t-TGA should be part of the routine autoantibody screening and the diagnostic work up in Addison or APS patients with unexplained high HCT or LT4 doses.

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**P28**

Prior dexamethasone suppression test predicts development of adrenal insufficiency after a 14 days course of oral prednisone in healthy male volunteers

Stefanie Neider1, Philipp Schuetz1, Beat Mueller2 & Mirjam Christ- Craín3

1Department of Endocrinology, University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Kantonsspital Aarau, Aarau, Switzerland.

**Background**

Neither dosage nor duration of systemic glucocorticoid therapy are reliable indicators of subsequent adrenal insufficiency. The dexamethasone suppression test is a measure of feedback sensitivity of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis to cortisol. We hypothesized that this test predicts the later development of an adrenal insufficiency after a 14 days course of oral prednisone in healthy volunteers.

**Methods**

We analyzed data from 13 healthy males from a total of 30 who will be included in this prospective observational study. After getting routine laboratory tests, including a low dose (1µg) cosyntropin test, all patients underwent an overnight 0.5 mg dexamethasone suppression test. All subjects then took 0.5 mg/kg prednisone for 14 days. A low dose (1µg) cosyntropin test was performed on day 1, 3, 7, and 21 after withdrawal to assess adrenal axis function.

**Results**

Cortisol levels after the dexamethasone suppression test significantly correlated with cortisol levels after low dose cosyntropin testing on day 7 (r = 0.646, P < 0.02). In patients with a cortisol level after dexamethasone < 35 nmol/l or ≥ 35 nmol/l, respectively, median cortisol levels after low dose cosyntropin testing were significantly lower on day 3 (495 nmol/l (IQR 446.5-518.75) vs 593 nmol/l (IQR 563-646), P = 0.015) and day 7 (494 nmol/l (IQR 474-532.75) vs 690 nmol/l (IQR 619.5-722.8), P = 0.002). A suppressed adrenal function occurred in 87.5 and 83.3% on days 3 and 7, respectively in patients with a cortisol level after dexamethasone < 35 nmol/l as compared to 22.2 and 0%, respectively when cortisol after dexamethasone was ≥ 35 nmol/l (P = 0.007 and P = 0.002).

**Conclusion**

Cortisol levels after a 0.5 mg dexamethasone suppression test predict the development of a suppressed adrenal function at days 3 and 7 after a 14 days course of oral prednisone. With this information a more targeted concept for the need of stress prophylaxis after cessation of steroid therapy can be envisioned.

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**P29**

Glucocorticoid replacement therapy in adrenocortical insufficiency

Anna Rita Carli, Gianna Frigato, Marta Bondanelli, Maria Chiara Zatelli, Maria Rosaria Ambrosio & Ettore de gli Uberti

Section of Endocrinology, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Advanced Therapy, University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy.

The effectiveness of glucocorticoid replacement therapy is based on clinical criteria, since objectives parameters are not standardized. The purpose of our study was to assess the adequacy of replacement therapy with cortisone acetate, trying to identify parameters indicating proper replacement. We studied 22 patients with adrenal insufficiency (7 primary and 15 secondary) treated with cortisone acetate (mean daily dose 36.5 ± 1.2 mg at 0800 a.m. and 0300 p.m.), and six control subjects. Serum cortisol was evaluated in all the patients at 0800 and 0200, with drawings every hour, with parallel 24-h urinary free cortisol evaluation. The quality of life was assessed by standard questionnaires SF-36. The 12 h trend of serum cortisol in patients did not overlap with that of controls.

In patients, serum cortisol peak was noted 2 h after the morning dose and 1 h after the afternoon dose, being significantly increased compared with controls. Urinary free cortisol levels were normal in all patients. The quality of life was compromised in patients compared with controls, since greater impairment of physical or psychological well-being was associated with low serum cortisol levels recorded at 2 and 3 p.m., before the second drug dose. Our data suggest that plasma cortisol evaluation performed 2 h after the morning dose and 1 h after the afternoon dose may be useful to monitor the replacement treatment with cortisone acetate. In particular, the morning peak reflects the physiological peak, while the afternoon peak may provide useful information on a possible under-dosage, suggesting a different schedule of drug administration. In our study, impaired physical or psychological well-being is associated with low serum cortisol levels, suggesting that a three dose administration schedule might be useful to improve the quality of life.

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**P30**

Study of hormonal activity and insulin resistance in patients harbouring incidentally discovered bilateral adrenal adenomas

 Ioannis Androulakis, Lambirini Papanastassou, Ermioni Tsimikliou, Anastasia Prevoli, Paraskevi Kalitsea, Theodora Pappa, Varios Tsavos & George Pliaditis

Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes Center, General Hospital of Athens “G. Gennimatas”, Athens, Greece.

**Background**

Hormonal activity and insulin resistance (IR) in patients with incidentally discovered bilateral adrenal adenomas (BA) has not been evaluated until now. Therefore, we have investigated cortisol and aldosterone secretion in IR in 29 patients with BA, in 113 patients with unilateral adrenal adenomas (UA) and in 89 healthy subjects (C).

**Methods**

All subjects underwent the following investigation: 1) Low dose dexamethasone suppression test (LDDST) (0.5 mg DEX/h for 2 days) to access cortisol secretion, 2) NaCl (0.9%) infusion test (INF) (2h NaCl 0.9% i. v. in 4 h) following LDDST to access aldosterone secretion, 3) H. Oral Glucose tolerance test (OGTT) (75 g) with glucose and insulin measurements every 30 min. Homa [(fasting glucose (mmol/l)*fasting insulin (mIU/ml))/22.5] and Matsuda index [1000/(square root (fasting glucose*fasting insulin))*mean OGTT glucose*mean OGTT insulin)] were calculated for IR assessment.

**Results**

Cortisol and aldosterone cut-offs based on mean ± 2.5D values in CT group were calculated following LDDST and infusion test respectively. (cortisol cut-off: 34.11 (mmol/l) and aldosterone cut-off: 74.83 (pmol/l)). Autonomous cortisol or aldosterone secretion was found in 61.5% and 33.7% of patients with UA and in 65 and 28% of patients with BA respectively, whereas autonomous concomitant cortisol and aldosterone secretion was documented in 15.68% of patients with UA and 21% of patients with BA. The results of the performed tests are summarized below. (mean ± 2.5D, cortisol (mmol/l) aldosterone (pmol/l)).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BA</th>
<th>UA</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>BA unic</th>
<th>UA unic</th>
<th>BA + UA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cortisol after LDDST 88.3 ± 10</td>
<td>58.1 ± 7.5</td>
<td>22.8 ± 1</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.01</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.01</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldosterone after INF 101.7 ± 22</td>
<td>78.4 ± 12</td>
<td>39.8 ± 2</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.01</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.01</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMA index 3.2 ± 0.3</td>
<td>3.6 ± 0.2</td>
<td>4.6 ± 0.4</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.01</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.05</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matsuda index 2.4 ± 0.2</td>
<td>3.7 ± 0.2</td>
<td>4.5 ± 0.3</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.01</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.05</td>
<td>P &lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusions**

Autonomous cortisol and aldosterone secretion in patients with UA is more common than previously described. Hormonal activity of patients with BA is described for the first time. Patients harbouring BA appear to have more pronounced autonomous cortisol and aldosterone secretion and increased IR than patients with UA.
P31
Confounding variables for plasma metanephrines and normetanephrines may influence the diagnosis of pheochromocytoma
Timo Deutschbein, Andrea Jüger, Klaus Mann & Stephan Petersen
Division of Endocrinology, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, NRW, Germany.

Introduction
Measurements of plasma metanephrines (MET) and normetanephrines (NOR) have been advocated as first-line tests for the diagnosis of pheochromocytoma. This study assessed the impact of several potential confounders, which may influence the correct diagnosis.

Methods
Eight healthy males (age 26.8 ± 1.7, BMI 23.1 ± 0.8) were tested on 6 separate days. Tests were performed in supine rest with blood sampling via i. v. cannuli at 00:00 h following an overnight fast. Samples were taken after venipuncture (0.15, 30, 60, 90, 120), after caffeine (0.6%), after standard breakfast (0.6%), after physical exercise (0.15,30), and in various body positions (upright and lying each 0.120). Samples were centrifuged and frozen directly after collection. In addition, whole-blood and plasma samples were stored either at 4 °C or at room temperature (RT) for 0, 1, 3, 12, and 72 h. Plasma MET and NOR were measured by RIA (LDN, Nordhorn, Germany).

Results
MET and NOR were not significantly influenced by venipuncture. Caffeine (+23%) and food (+8%) elevated NOR significantly (P ≤ 0.05), while MET remained stable. Physical exercise increased MET (+82%) and NOR (+84%) significantly (P ≤ 0.05). Lying posture significantly decreased both MET (−34%) and NOR (−19%) compared to standing position (P < 0.01). In plasma, MET and NOR were stable at 4 °C for 72 h, but decreased significantly, when stored in RT. In whole-blood, NOR were significantly increased after 72 h, both at 4 °C and at RT.

Conclusion
Blood samples for determination of MET and NOR should be immediately centrifuged and stored at 4 °C to improve stability. Interestingly, levels of NOR increased in whole-blood, potentially due to ongoing enzymatic activity. Food, caffeine, and physical exercise should be avoided prior to sampling. Samples should be taken in a standardized posture. Significant changes due to confounders may lead to a misdiagnosis of pheochromocytoma.

P32
Is adrenal adenoma associated with the development of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease?
Serkan Yener1, Senem Ertulav1, Mustafa Secil2, Baris Akinski1, Tefik Demir1, Firat Bayraktar1 & Sena Yesil1
1Division of Endocrinology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey; 2Department of Radiology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

It has been previously shown that adrenal adenomas are associated with a variety of metabolic disturbances like glucose intolerance and obesity. The aim of this study is to demonstrate the risk of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease development in subjects with adrenal incidentalomas.

Among 302 subjects referred between 2001 and 2008 for the evaluation of incidentally discovered adrenal mass, 150 subjects with appropriate data were included. Computed tomography (CT) was the initial radiological intervention. Initial hormonal evaluation included 1 mg or 2 day 2 mg dexamethasone suppression test, urinary free cortisol (UFC), 0800 a.m. ACTH and DHEAS levels. In subjects with elevated post DST cortisol (> 1.8 mcg/dl), elevated UFC (> 110 mcg/day), and suppressed ACTH and DHEAS levels, midnight cortisol was evaluated (normal < 7.5 mcg/dl). Urinary catecholamine excretion and aldosterone/renin ratio were also measured. Hepatosteatosis was evaluated with liver ultrasonography or and magnetic resonance imaging. ALT, AST and GGT were also measured.

There were 101 subjects with non-functioning adrenal adenomas, 40 subjects with functioning adrenal adenomas (Cushing or subclinical Cushing syndrome) and nine subjects with myelolipomas. The rate of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease among these groups was 25.7, 22.7 and 11% respectively. After a median follow up duration of 22.5 months in a subgroup generated from study participants (n=35) without non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, we showed that 9% of subjects with non-functioning adenomas but 17% of subjects with sub clinical Cushing syndrome developed non-alcoholic liver disease.

Non-alcoholic liver disease, which is an important manifestation of insulin resistance is significantly associated with adrenal cortical adenomas rather than extra-cortical masses such as myelolipomas. The risk of developing non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is related with cortisol autonomy.

P33
A multi-institutional audit of laparoscopic adrenalectomy in Greece and the UK
Panagiotis Kekis1, Hariditmos Markogiannakis1, Nikolaos Michalopoulos1, Emmanuel Lagoudianakis1, Bill Fleming2, Alberto Martinez-Isla1, John Lymn3 & Andreas Manousakis1
1Department of Endocrine Surgery, 1st Department of Propaedeutic Surgery, Athens Medical School, Hippokration Hospital, University of Athens, Athens, Greece; 2Department of Endocrine Surgery, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Hammersmith Hospital, London, UK; 3Department of Upper Gastrointestinal and Laparoscopic Surgery, Ealing Hospital, Ealing NHS Trust, London, UK.

Objective
To evaluate the results of laparoscopic adrenalectomy in our institutions.

Methods
Prospectively collected data from 2000 to 2007

Results
During the 8-year study period, 160 laparoscopic adrenalectomies were performed in 150 patients. Mean age was 49.8 years (female: 60.7%). Twenty-seven patients (18%) had previous open abdominal operations. There were 10 bilateral (6.6%) for Cushing’s disease, 64 right (42.7%) and 76 left (50.7%) adrenalectomies. Diagnosis in unilateral cases was Conn’s syndrome in 43 patients (30.7%), non-functioning adenoma in 35 (25%), pheochromocytoma in 26 (18.6%), Cushing’s syndrome in 20 (14.3%), metastasis in 8 (5.7%) and other in 8 (5.7%). Median tumour diameter was 4.0 cm, with 48 (30%) tumours > 5.0 cm. In particular, tumours were < 3.0 cm, 75 (46.9%) were 3.0-5.0 cm, 5 (9.6%) 5.1-6.0 cm, 18 (11.2%) 6.1-7.0 cm, 14 (8.8%) 7.1-8.0 cm and 7 (4.4%) tumours were > 8.0 cm. Median operative time was 130 min for bilateral and 55 min for unilateral procedures. Eleven cases (7.3%) underwent concurrent laparoscopic surgical procedures. Three adenectomies (1.8%) required conversion; a 10 cm pheochromocytoma, a 4.5 cm pheochromocytoma involving the renal artery and a 6.2 cm metastatic tumour extending to extra-adrenal tissues. Mortality was 2.6% (n=4) and no mortality occurred. Median hospital stay was 48 h; five patients were discharged 5-8 h after the procedure.

Conclusions
Laparoscopic adrenalectomy, even for large tumours, is safe and effective when performed by surgeons highly experienced in laparoscopic endocrine surgery.

P34
The utility of the low dose dexamethasone suppression test in patients diagnosed with an adrenal incidentaloma
Miguel Debono, Charlotte Durrington, Scott Williams & John Newell-Price
Academic Unit of Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK.

Objective
The diagnosis of subclinical Cushing’s syndrome in patients with incidentalomas is not always straightforward forward and a number of different criteria have been used. The 1 mg overnight dexamethasone suppression test has been recommended as a screening test, followed up by other tests of the hypothalomo–pituitary–adrenal axis to confirm the diagnosis. In this study we investigate whether the low-dose dexamethasone suppression test offers additional information to the overnight dexamethasone suppression test in establishing diagnosis.

Design
Retrospective, observational study.

Patients and measurements
Demographic and clinical data were collected on 137 patients diagnosed with incidentalomas. A full endocrinology work up was performed.

Results
There were 76/137 (55%) patients who had either a positive overnight dexamethasone suppression test or/and a low-dose dexamethasone suppression test 60/103 (58%) patients were found to have a positive overnight dexamethasone test whilst 45/63 (71%) patients had a positive low-dose dexamethasone test. 29 patients had both tests done of which 20/21 patients with a cortisol level > 70 nmol/l after the overnight dexamethasone test had a positive low-dose dexamethasone test, whilst the other 8 patients, all of which had a cortisol level < 70 nmol/l post-overnight dexamethasone test, had a negative low-dose dexamethasone test. Correlation analysis revealed a significant positive correlation between cortisol levels for both tests (r=0.78; P<0.001). Mean cortisol levels after each test were similar (103 vs 104.5 nmol/l; P=0.9).

Conclusion
We have established that in patients with a cortisol level of > 70 nmol/l after an overnight dexamethasone test, the low-dose dexamethasone suppression test is
usually positive and will not offer more information than the oversight dexamethasone suppression test in the diagnostic work-up of subclinical Cushing’s syndrome.

P35
Synacten test in patients with adrenal incidentaloma
Miomir Iovic, Milos Stojanovic, Milena Tancic-Gajic, Lijalina Marina, Svetlana Vujovic & Milka Drezić
Institute of Endocrinology, Belgrade, Serbia.

Considering that adrenal tumors are frequent in patients with congenital adrenal hyperplasia (82% in homozygote and 45% in heterozygote), Synacten test was at first introduced as marker of congenital adrenal deficiency in patient with adrenal incidentaloma. Recent studies showed normal and exaggerated cortisol response in more than 50% of patient with nonhypercortisemic adrenal incidentaloma and at more than 70% of patients with adrenal incidentaloma and subclinical hypercorticism, which can not be explained by variant form of 21 hydroxylase deficiency.

The aim of our study was to test cortisol response in patients with adrenal incidentaloma. Of 208 patients (148 women and 60 men, mean age 55.08 ± 11.02 years and mean BMI: 27.91 ± 4.6 kg/m² with adrenal incidentaloma-CT/MR confirmed were admitted to our Institute, tested and divided in two subgroups: First: 46 patients (38 women and 8 men, mean age 56.6 ± 9.25 years and mean BMI 27.83 ± 4.37 kg/m²) with confirmed subclinical CS; Second: 162 patients (110 women and 52 men, mean age 54.66 ± 11.45 years and mean BMI 27.93 ± 4.67 kg/m²) with nonhypersecretory adrenal tumors. Cortisol response to ACTH stimulation was tested in 110 patients. Our results show cortisol value significantly higher in group with subclinical CS (Mann Whitney Test: W = 513; P < 0.01), AUC for cortisol during the test were significantly higher in patients with SCS (64 846, 15 vs 44 337, 59; Mann Whitney Test: W = 621.5; P < 0.01).

In conclusion, enhanced cortisol response to ACTH stimulation can be partially explained by altered intratumoral stereoidogenesis due to presence of some glucocorticoid receptor (GR) gene polymorphisms.

P36
Central ghrelin modulates morphology and function of adrenal cortex in male rats
Verica Milosevic¹, Branka Sosic-Jurjevic¹, Darko Stevanovic¹, Milica Terzic², Dejan Nesic², Vesna Starcevic² & Milka Sekulic¹
¹Institute of Medical Research "Sinisa Stankovic", Belgrade, Serbia, ²School of Medicine, Institute of Medical Physiology, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.

Ghrelin is a growth hormone secretagogue that plays an important role in appetite and weight regulation. We have previously demonstrated that central ghrelin stimulates pituitary ACTH synthesis and secretion. In this study we further examined the effects of intracerebroventricular (ICV) ad-mi-nistration of ghrelin on zona glomerulosa (ZG), zona fasciculata (ZF) and zona reticularis (ZR) of the adrenal cortex, as well as the blood concentrations of aldosterone, corticosterone and dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) in male rats. Rats received 1.0 µg of ghrelin dissolved in 5.0 µg of PBS ICV, whereas control rats received only ICV PBS, during five consecutive days. The rats were decapitated 2 h after the last ICV ghrelin injection. Blood samples were collected from each rat for hormonal analyses, while adrenal glands were excised and prepared for further histological and morphometrical measurements. Ghrelin treatment significantly increased (P < 0.05) body weight by 13% compared to controls. Absolute weight and volume of whole adrenal glands were significantly (P < 0.05) increased by 17.9% and 19.7%, respectively, in comparison with control values. The absolute volume of adrenal cortex, zona glomerulosa, zona fasciculata and zona reticularis were also significantly (P < 0.05) increased by 20.3, 20.9, 21.4 and 11.1%, respectively, in comparison with the corresponding controls. Serum concentrations of the aldosterone, corticosterone and DHEA were significantly (P < 0.05) increased by 32.3, 66.5, and 28.0%, respectively. These results indicate that central ghrelin acts stimulatory on growth and secretory function of all adrenocortical zone cells of adult male rats.

P37
Phaeochromocytoma: a retrospective study on clinical presentation, management and outcomes
Mariana Martinho¹, Isabel Paiva¹, Francisco Carrilho¹, Ana Fagulha¹, Jacinta Santos², Alexandra Vieira¹, Fernando Rodrigues² & Manuela Carvalheiro³
¹Coimbra’s University Hospital, Coimbra, Portugal; ²Portuguese Institute of Oncology of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal.

Phaeochromocytomas are rare, catecholamine-secreting, adrenal neoplasms. In about 25% of cases they arise in patients with germline mutations. Malignancy occurs in about 10%.

We retrospectively analysed the records of patients with histological diagnosis of phaeochromocytoma submitted to adrenal surgery between 1987–2008 and followed in the Endocrinology department. Thirteen patients were included. We evaluated age on diagnosis; clinical presentation, urinary concentration of catecholamine metabolites; imaging at diagnosis; pre-operative management; surgical complications and clinical evolution.

Mean age was 45.2 ± 20.2 years (20–77); seven patients (53.8%) were males. Six patients (46.2%) had sustained hypertension, two presented with acute pulmonary oedema. The mean delay of diagnosis after clinical presentation of hypertension was 5.6 ± 6.2 years. Four cases (30.8%) presented as incidentalomas. Mean tumor size was 6.4 ± 3.2 cm (1.4–13.8); six cases (46%) were on the right adrenal and two were bilateral. Mean urinary metanephrines increase was 8.9 times from the reference range; Vanillmandelic acid was normal in three cases. The mean fenoxibenzemine dose used in the pre-operative preparation was 28.3 ± 7.5 mg.

The most common surgical complication was hypotension after removal of the tumour. The surgical approach was made by laparotomy in six cases and by laparoscopy in three. Two patients had malignant sporadic phaeochromocytoma, one died 19 years after surgery, the other has been followed for 21 years and has received five MIBG treatments for bone metastasis. Four patients were lost to follow-up and eight (61.6%) are in remission for 6.5 ± 5.5 years. Four of them belonged to two different families and had MEN2A. In this cohort, tumour size did not significantly correlate with urinary metanephrines (r = 0.4; P = 0.35, Spearman test).

In conclusion, urinary metanephrines were the most useful method in confirming diagnosis. Incidentalomas were a frequent presentation. Establishing the prognosis of these situations remains difficult so close follow-up is required in order to prevent further complications.
P39
Anemia in male patients with cushing’s syndrome before and after cure
Francesca Pecori Giraldi, Paola Ascoli, Martina De Santis, Nicoletta Poli & Francesco Cavagnini
Department of Endocrinology, Chair of Endocrinology, Istituto Auxologico Italiano, University of Milan, Ospedale San Luca, Milan, Italy.

Glucocorticoids are known to exert a stimulatory action on white blood cell precursor proliferation but little is known on erythrocyte counts in patients with Cushing’s syndrome.

Aim
Of the present study was to assess red and white blood cell parameters in a large series of patients with Cushing’s syndrome and follow the blood cell changes after postsurgical remission or persistence of hypercortisolism.

Methods
Of 84 patients with Cushing’s syndrome (67 women, 17 men, age 38.9±9.98 year) were evaluated prior to surgery and for up to 257 months (mean 47.7±2.6 months) after pituitary/adrenal surgery.

Results
Leukocytosis (>9000/mm³) was detected in 46% of patients with Cushing’s syndrome; leukocyte counts fell promptly after remission of disease (9800±1350 vs 7200±1350/mm³ in cured patients, P<0.05; 9280±81 vs 8050±2100/mm³ in surgical failures, NS) with a consistent drop in neutrophils (68.9 vs 54.5%, P<0.05) and slight increase in eosinophils (1.1±2.4%, P<0.05) compared with presurgical values. Red blood cell counts were in the upper normal range in women with Cushing’s syndrome (Hb 13.7±0.17 g/dl; RBC 4.5±0.65×10¹²/mm³) whereas, unexpectedly, male patients presented with low-normal hemoglobin (14.4±2.22 g/dl) and RBC (4.5±0.13×10¹²/mm³) and four patients were frankly anemic (Hb <13 g/dl). Surgery per se was followed by a decrease in Hb levels by 1.5–2 g/dl, regardless of surgical outcome. Women cured of Cushing’s syndrome rapidly restored and stabilized their Hb levels around 13±2.1±0.19 g/dl whereas a longer time (up to 3 years) was necessary to achieve normal RBC counts in cured men. Indeed, mean Hb levels in the middle quartiles of the normal range (15±0.31 g/dl) were observed on average 36 months after surgery. The recovery of RBC appeared independent of replacement therapy and was correlated to testosterone levels (r=0.349, P<0.05).

Conclusions
Male patients with Cushing’s syndrome present relatively low RBC counts, possibly linked to the attendant hypopagocytosis, which resolve over time after surgery. This study highlights yet another unfavourable feature of men with Cushing’s syndrome (Pecori Giraldi et al. JCEM 88:1554–1558, 2003).

P40
Bilateral adrenal hemangioma cavernous: NMI and CT scanning as a complementary methods in newly detected degeneration in one gland
Dragan Tesic1, Tijana Icin1, Dragana Bogdanovic1, Olivera Nikolic1, Zoran djermanov1 & Pavle Budakov1
1Clinic of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, Novi Sad, Serbia; 2Institute for Radiology, Sremska Kamena, Serbia; 3Institute for Radiology, Novi Sad, Serbia; 4Clinic of Abdominal and Endocrine Surgery, Novi Sad, Serbia; 5Institute for Pathology, Novi Sad, Serbia.

Hemangiomas are the rare cases of adrenal incidentalomas, especially in their bilateral forms. Case study: male patient, 65 year, presented after the pain in right upper hemi abdomen, lasted half year. On ultrasonography there was an enlarged right suprarenal gland. Patient was on routine abdominal ultrasonography, with undetectable suprarenal glands, one year before. We concluded that something new happened in the meantime. On MRI the right suprarenal gland was 6.2±4.7 cm, with a peripheral spotty contrast enhancement and centripetal enhancement. Despite the highly suspected typical pattern of enhancement for the diagnosing of adrenal hemangioma, it was not possible distinguishing the adrenal tissue from the liver and kidney tissue making diagnosis of a benign lesion difficult. Later on adrenal gland was 3.7±2.8 cm with low signal and postcontrast patchy enhancement. Potassium, cortisol and catecholamines were in referent values. So we indicated CT scanning which clearly separated the liver from suprarenal tissue. Bone scintigraphy scans was normal. Pathohistology after operation confirmed the diagnosis of cavernous hemangioma with cystic cavities up to 1 cm, clotting blood, fibrosis, sclerosis and calcifications within the expurated suprarenal gland. After operation patient insisted that the remaining pain was 1/10 of that preoperatively present. Conclusion: Degenerative process in one adrenal cavernous hemangiomas led to the development of the pain in abdomen. In this case study MRI better described tissue characteristics and CT its shapes leading to a high suspected preoperative diagnosis.

P41
Prospective evaluation of metabolic and anthropometric parameters in non-functioning adrenal adenomas
Serkan Yener1, Senem Ertifalav2, Abdurrahman Comlekci1, Mustafa Secil2, Baris Akinci1, Teyfik Demir1 & Sena Yesi1
1Division of Endocrinology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey; 2Department of Radiology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Adrenal adenomas are characterised with metabolic disturbances. The aim of this study is to demonstrate the changes in some metabolic and anthropometric parameters after 24 months follow up in subjects with non-functioning adrenal adenomas.

Subjects referred between 2001 and 2008 for the evaluation of adrenal tumours were included. Computed tomography (CT) was the initial radiological intervention. Initial hormonal evaluation included 1 mg or 2 day 2 mg dexamethasone suppression test, urinary free cortisol (UFC), 08.00 a.m. ACTH and DHEAS levels. In subjects with elevated post DST cortisol (>1.8 mcg/dl), elevated UFC (>110 mcg/day), and suppressed ACTH and DHEAS levels, midnight cortisol was evaluated (normal < 7.5 mcg/dl). Urinary catecholamine excretion and aldosterone/renin ratio were also measured. BMI, waist circumference, blood pressure were recorded. Fasting plasma glucose, fasting insulin, lipid parameters, hsCRP and fibrinogen were measured.

Of 140 subjects with adrenal adenomas were included. There were 106 subjects with non-functioning adenomas and 34 patients with subclinical Cushing syndrome or overt adrenal Cushing Syndrome. Median follow up duration was 24 months. Mean age was 55 years and female dominance was present (104:36).

We showed that, in individual with non-functioning adrenal adenomas, after a 24 months follow up, new onset hypertension was diagnosed in 19% of the normotensive subjects (P<0.004, Mc-Nemar) and new onset hyperlipidemia was diagnosed in 46% (P<0.001, Mc-Nemar) of the subjects with normal lipid values. The rate of diabetes development was 5%. We also showed that BMI fasting glucose, total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol increased and DHEAS levels decreased significantly after follow up in subjects with adrenal adenomas. Adrenal adenomas even non functioning ones may be associated with future metabolic risks. Close monitoring and treatment of traditional risk factors should be taken into consideration in subjects with adrenal adenomas.

P42
Metastases of renal cell carcinoma to the adrenal glands: results of surgical treatment
Vladimir Koslovsk, Timur Britvin, Galina Polyakova, Mikhail Beloshitsky & Arian Kalinin
Moscow Regional M.F. Vladimirsky Clinical Research Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Renal cell carcinoma metastases to adrenal glands are indicative of a generalized tumor process, but in cases of solitary metastases, a radical surgical treatment of these patients is possible.

The object of the present study was an estimation of the remote outcome of surgical treatment of 18 patients with solitary renal cell carcinoma metastases to adrenal glands operated on in our clinic over the period from 1999 to 2008. Among them, there were 6 men and 12 women aged 52–77 year (mean age 65±5.7 years). In all cases, the renal cell carcinoma was verified during histologic investigation of the renal tumor. In 16 patients, adrenal metastases were unilateral, in 2 – bilateral; in 8 patients – synchronous, and in 10 – metachronous. Metachronous metastases were revealed 9–180 months later (mean 41.2 months) the radical nephrectomy. For topical diagnosis, US-scan, CT or MRI, and PET-scan were used. Adrenalectomy including tumor removal was an operation of choice (a total adrenalectomy was carried out in cases of bilateral adrenal metastases). A control group consisted of 8 patients who received only symptomatic treatment because of the multiple adrenal metastases from the renal cell carcinoma.

Follow up period after radical surgery of metastatic tumors was, on average, 40.4±6.2 months (variation limits – 4–110 months); 11 patients are still alive, and – died of tumor progression (metastases to contralateral kidney, liver, and pancreas). The 1-, 3-, and 5-year overall survival, calculated by the Kaplan–Meier method, was 71.4%, 64.9% and 43.2%, correspondingly. In the control group, the index of the 1- and 3-year overall survival formed 44.4% and 0%, accordingly (P<0.05). The median overall survival after adrenalectomy was 67.2 months that was reliably higher as compared with that of the control group (23.2 months, P<0.05). The 1-, 3-, and 5-year disease-free survival was 70.1, 33.1 and 27.3%, correspondingly. The median disease-free survival after the radical adrenalectomy was 57.1 months.
The outcome obtained allows, in our view, to recommend adrenalectomy as a method of radical treatment of patients with renal cell carcinoma metastases to adrenal glands.

Adrenal haemorrhage is a frequently fatal condition but if diagnosed, may be successfully treated. It may develop without predisposing conditions but more often occurs in patients subjected to severe stress such as in the described case. This rare case illustrates the importance of rapid onset hypotension and unexplained hypotension as markers of acute adrenal insufficiency.

P43
Iatrogenic Cushing’s syndrome induced by topical corticoid application in child and adult
Dumitru Brânisteamu, Serban Turluc, Blenda Veliaj, Simona Mogos, Eusebie Zbranca, Ionut Repede, Adrian Auncete & Voichita Mogos
University of Medicine and Pharmacy ‘Gr. T. Popa’, Iasi, Romania.

Topical application of corticosteroids is frequently used in the therapy of dermatological diseases due to their anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive effects. On the other hand, when reaching pharmacological levels, exogenous corticoids frequently lead to complete Cushing syndrome, including skin modifications, irrespective of the route of administration. We describe four cases of iatrogenic Cushing’s syndrome triggered by topical application of corticoids. The first two cases are those of VM, a 4-month-old girl and DAR, a 2-year-old boy treated for eczema with clobetasol propionate for 2 and 6 months, respectively. The third case is a 51-year-old woman, BE, who also used clobetasol propionate and applied it to generalized lesions of psoriasis for more than 1.5 years. Both children and patient BE developed overt iatrogenic Cushing’s syndrome, with centripetal obesity, typical cutaneous modifications and significant behaviour disturbances. Low morning plasma cortisol, urinary cortisol and ACTH confirmed the exogenous nature of hypercorticism. The children’s growth was slowed during therapy, with significant delay seen in DAR (–3.5 s) BE developed insulin-necessitating diabetes mellitus and hypertension. Therapy arrest provoked prolonged hypercorticism with asthenia, depression and low blood pressure in DAR and BE. The fourth patient, AN, an obese 24 year-old male adult, used topical axillary application of flumetasone pivalate for hydroadenditis. This patient developed cutaneous changes suggestive of Cushing’s syndrome that were limited to the surface of the application and showed no pathological modifications of the corticotropic axis or corticoid-related complications. Iatrogenic Cushing syndrome from topical application is common in children, but rare in adults. Individual sensitivity, local absorption capacity and the particularities of the topical corticoid used may all be responsible for the large variety of corticoid-related side effects in patients using topical corticoid therapy. Therapy should not be abruptly interrupted, but rather tapered for avoiding transient adrenal insufficiency.

P44
A rare cause of hypotension as presenting acute adrenal insufficiency: bilateral adrenal haemorrhage
Saket Gupta,1 Sarah Hyde,1 Babar Abbasi,1 Sam Thomas1,2 & Shu Hoon1,2
1Midlands Regional Hospital in Mullingar, Westmeath, Ireland; 2Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, Ireland.

We report a rare case of 37 years female of Greek and Irish extraction with a history of thalassemia trait, who presented with generalised weakness and severe loin and pelvic pain 9 days post vaginal hysterectomy and 3 days after hospital discharge. After readmission, she developed mild pyrexia (37.5 °C), hypotension, mild hypotension with plasma sodium which fell from 138 to 131 mEq/l and early signs of acute respiratory distress syndrome. A Short Synachten test was performed and the patient was empirically commenced on stress dose of intravenous hydrocortisone. CT scan of abdomen and pelvis revealed pelvic haematoma and bilateral adrenal haemorrhage. The infected haematoma was surgically drained and the patient was treated empirically with meropenem and gentamicin and later on with linezolid. Blood and pelvic haematoma culture failed to grow any organisms. Baseline plasma cortisol was 89 nM and 30 min post tetraacosan was 92 nM confirming adrenal insufficiency. The patient made a full recovery and was discharged on maintenance oral hydrocortisone. The diagnosis of adrenal insufficiency in patients with bilateral adrenal haemorrhage is challenging and requires clinical suspicion due to the subtle nature of its presentation, and has previously been well documented as a post-mortem diagnosis. The combination of hypotension, hypotension and generalised lethargy should lead to empirical glucocorticoid treatment until confirmation of adrenal insufficiency is made by hormonal evaluation.

P45
Long-term follow-up of a 46XX patient with congenital lipid adrenal hyperplasia due to a new mutation of the steroidogenic acute regulatory protein gene
Frédérique Albarèl1, Gilbert Simonin2, Yves Morel3, Thierry Brue1 & Rachel Reynaud2
1Department of Endocrinology, Hôpital Timone and Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France; 2Department of Pediatrics, Hôpital Timone and Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France; 3Laboratory of Biochemistry, Hôpital Dubeauve and Université Claude Bernard, Lyon, France.

Congenital lipid adrenal hyperplasia (CLAH) is a severe disorder characterized by early impairment of both adrenal and gonadal steroidogenesis, leading to early adrenal failure and male sex reversal. The most common aetiology of CLAH is mutation of Steroidogenic acute regulatory protein (STAR) gene.

Objective
We report evolution over 20 years of a 46XX patient harbouring a novel STAR gene mutation.

Methods
Clinical, hormonal and imaging data were retrospectively collected; molecular analysis was performed by direct sequencing of the STAR gene.

Results
This 46XX patient had a younger 46XY phenotypically female sibling who died of acute adrenal failure at 4 months of age. A novel homozygous 719delC STAR gene frame shift mutation was found, leading to large modifications of the C-terminal end. The child presented at 10 days of life with salt-wasting and recovered on adrenal replacement therapy. She had normal psychomotor development. Early overweight was observed despite elevated ACTH and plasmatic renin activity on high doses of hydrocortisone. Gonadal replacement therapy was initiated at age 13 year, while spontaneous onset of puberty was observed at age 12. After 2 months discontinuation of the oestrogenic therapy, no ovulation occurred, but development of large ovarian cysts was noticed. Imaging did not show any lipid deposit in adrenals or gonads during follow-up, but right adrenal hypoplasia. Cerebral MRI showed white matter abnormalities.

Conclusion
This long-term follow-up report illustrates spontaneous evolution of 46XX patients presenting CLAH due to a STAR gene mutation. In such patients, adrenal replacement therapy should be adapted on the basis of clinical rather than biological data and gonadal substitution should not be interrupted because of risks of life-threatening ovarian cyst.

P46
Insulin hypoglycemia test in the diagnosis of subclinical Cushing’s syndrome
Feyza Yener Ozturk, Erdine Erturk, Metin Gucu, Sinem Kiyici, Oguzkaan Ural & Sazi Imamoglu
Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey.

Although subclinical Cushing’s syndrome (SCS) is an important metabolic risk factor in patients with adrenal incidentaloma, the diagnostic criteria for SCS has not been established yet. The aim of this study was to evaluate the diagnostic measures of SCS and to investigate the availability of insulin hypoglycemia test (IHT) in the diagnosis of SCS. Twenty patients with adrenal incidentaloma CT characteristics highly suggestive of benign adrenal adenoma with no overt hormonal hyperfunction were included in the study. Increase in the basal serum cortisol concentration or in the urinary cortisol excretion, absence of diurnal cortisol rhythm, insufficient suppression of cortisol with dexamethasone, decrease in the concentrations of DHEA-S or ACTH were used as diagnostic parameters for SCS. According to these parameters, patients were grouped as definite (2/20), probable (5/20) and improbable (13/20) SCS. All the patients were underwent
insulin hypoglycemia test (IHT). Maximum increase in serum cortisol concentration after hypoglycemia (ΔF) was evaluated and borderline significance (P = 0.053) was noticed between definite SCS and the other groups. When ΔF was compared with the other diagnostic parameters of SCS, there was significant correlation only with post 3 mg DST serum cortisol concentration (r = -0.463, P = 0.04). The sensitivity and specificity of IHT in SCS was calculated 42 and 84%, respectively.

In conclusion, according to these findings sensitivity and specificity of IHT are not high enough to be used as a diagnostic test for SCS and also because of the risks, IHT is not suitable in the routine practice.

P47
Cardiot intima media thickness is increased and associated with morning cortisol in subjects with non-functioning adrenal incidentaloma
Serkan Yener1, Sinan Genc2, Baris Akinci1, Mustafa Seci2, Tevifik Demir1, Abdullahmeh Comlekli1, Senem Ertilav1 & Sena Yesil1
1Division of Endocrinology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey; 2Department of Radiology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Data regarding cardiovascular risk in subjects with non-functioning adrenal adenoma is limited. The aim of this study is to investigate cardiot intima media thickness (IMT) as a robust indicator of atherosclerosis in subjects with AI. Of 49 subjects without findings of hypercortisolism or other adrenal gland disorders, 34 BMI-unmatched controls (C) and 18 BMI-matched controls (BC) were enrolled. Participants underwent hormonal evaluation including morning cortisol, adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH), post dexamethasone suppression test (DST), dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEAS) and urinary free cortisol. Anthropometric and metabolic parameters and cardiot IMT were measured. AI group had increased BMI, blood pressure, waist circumference, post DST cortisol, uric acid and HOMA levels when compared with C. Blood pressure, uric acid and post DST cortisol remained significantly elevated in AI vs BC. Average IMT was increased significantly in AI vs C (0.74 vs 0.68 mm, P =0.029) and insignificantly elevated in AI vs BC (0.74 vs 0.67 mm, P=0.086). IMT was correlated with age, BMI, HOMA, waist circumference, morning cortisol and uric acid. Morning cortisol was independently associated with HOMA levels in both AI group and all participants. Increased IMT in non-functioning AI was a consequence of insulin resistant state associated with subtle cortisol autonoma rather than a direct effect of cortisol. The difference of IMT values between AI and BMI-matched controls and the linear association between morning cortisol and IMT favor but not exactly illuminate the direct effects of hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis disturbances on vasculature.

P48
Cannabinoids and regulation of adipogenesis in differentiating 3T3-L1 preadipocytes
Andrea M Isidori, Francesca Lolli, Silvia Pierotti, Carlotta Pozza, Vincenzo Bonifacio, Lorenaa Gandini & Andrea Lenzi1 'Sapienza' University of Rome, Rome, Italy.

Objective
Endocannabinoids (CBs) are novel lipid mediators that modulate appetite behaviour and energy metabolism. The overactivation of the endocannabinoid system plays an important role in obesity. Endocannabinoids may regulate the lipid metabolism through their receptors (CB1 and CB2) in liver and adipose tissue. 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (11β-HSD1) type 1 regulates the local availability of active glucocorticoid, potent inducers of adipogenic differentiation. We hypothesized that CBs are involved in adipogenesis and investigated whether this occurs via 11β-HSD1 modulation.

Materials and methods
Of 3T3-L1 cells were either differentiated with a cocktail containing dexamethasone + IBMX + insulin, or with insulin alone and treated with anandamide (AEa 100 nM–10 μM) for 48–96 h. Gene expression was analyzed by reverse transcription followed by PCR with specific murine primers for 11β-HSD1 and beta-actin as housekeeping gene. 11β-HSD1 activity was measured as [3H]-cortisone into [3H]-cortisol conversion estimated by TLC separation and beta-scanning.


Results
At day 7 of differentiation, with cocktail and insulin, AEa stimulates 11β-HSD1 expression compared to control (+30.4 ± 0.08% AEa vs C, P = 0.005) and induces a slight increase of its enzymatic activity (+15 ± 3.5% AEa vs C). In presence of insulin alone, AEa strongly increases 11β-HSD1 mRNA levels of three times when compared to C (P < 0.0012). In mature adipocytes AEa increases significantly 11β-HSD1 activity (+7,7 ± 3.6% AEa vs C, P = 0.0002) and mRNA levels (+23 ± 0.51% AEa vs C, P = 0.01). Preliminary results show that selective CB1 blockade is not effective in antagonizing AEa, whereas by itself seems to affect 11β-HSD1. CB2 blockade properly antagonizes the effects on 11β-HSD1.

Conclusions
CBs influence the expression and activity of 11β-HSD1 during adipogenesis, by promoting adipocyes maturation even in cells not receiving differentiation cocktail. Therefore, CBs not only has a lipogenic effect in mature adipocytes, but also induce adipogenesis in differentiating cells. The interplays between CB1 and CB2 seem to be involved in this process.

P49
Laparoscopic resection of a large adrenal oncocytoma
Nikolaos Michalopoulos1, Panagiotis Kekis1,2, Maria Liparak2, Emmanuel Evagelidakas3, Maria Natoudi4, Elefteria Kleidi1, Haridimos Markogiannakis1 & Andreas Manouras1
1Department of Endocrine Surgery, First Department of Propaedeutic Surgery, Athens Medical School, Hippokration Hospital, University of Athens, Athens, Greece; 2Athens Medical Center, Athens, Greece.

Background
Oncocytomas are predominantly benign tumors that are well described in the kidney, thyroid and salivary glands. They have also been reported in more rare sites including the pituitary and parathyroid glands, respiratory tract and choroid plexus. The occurrence of these tumors in the adrenal gland, however, represents an extremely exceptional finding.

Case presentation
We report the case of a 34 year-old male patient who presented with a right-sided renal colic. Abdominal ultrasonography revealed leftisias of the right kidney as well as a right adrenal mass. Computed tomography scan of the abdomen demonstrated a large suprarenal retroperitoneal tumor, 6.5 cm at its largest diameter, with no lymphadenopathy and no other intraadominal neoplastic sites. All blood and urinary tests were normal apart from elevated serum progestrone and testosterone levels. The latter finding leaded to an MRI scan of the hypothysis that revealed an oncocytoma. The patient underwent a laparoscopic right adrenalectomy via the lateral transperitoneal approach. A well-circumscribed, encapsulated right adrenal mass was identified. The tumor, with the perirenal fat, was dissected from the liver and superior pole of the right kidney, and completely resected. Gross inspection of the specimen during pathologic examination, revealed a grayish and soft mass, measuring 7.5 × 6.5 × 5.2 cm in diameter and weighing 168 g. Immunohistochemical stains for vimentin, synaptophysin and calretinin were positive. Ultrastructurally, the neoplastic cell morphology was consistent with adenocortical oncocytoma with the presence of myelolipoma foci.

Conclusions
Although very infrequent, oncocytomas should be included in the differential diagnosis of adrenal masses. The potential association of the presented lesion with the adenoma of the hypothysis and elevated progestrone and testosterone levels merit further study.

P50
Effects of corticosterone intake as stress-alternative hormone on broiler chickens: performance and blood parameters
Tohid Vahdatpour
Department of Animal Science, Islamic Azad University-Shabestar branch, Shabestar, Islamic Republic of Iran.

This study was conducted to determine effects of blood corticosterone (CS) increasing on some physiological parameters and performance of boiler chickens. To avoid treatment of birds with various forms of stress with administration of CS a model was developed to study the effect of stress in chickens. Total 180 1-day old chicks of the Cobb-500 strain from male sex were placed in 12 pens. CS at four

levels (0, 10, 20, and 30 mg/kg) in drinking water was provided ad libitum between 1 and 49 days of age. Continuous intake of CS for 49 d caused increasing in serum glucose, cholesterol, triglycerides, high and low density lipoprotein and mortality. Final body weight, total feed intake and abdominal fat deposition were decreased, whereas feed conversion ratio was constant. The relative weights of major immunobiological organs including spleen, thymus and bursa of fabricius were decreased (P<0.05). Numerically, weights of selected visceral organs especially liver were elevation in all groups that received higher levels of CS. Therefore, it seems that CS intake is an alternative tool and useful test for assess the effects of physical, psychological and physiological stress in researches on broiler chickens.

PS1

Evaluation of cardiovascular risk factors in patients with incidentally discovered adrenal adenoma during a follow-up longer than five years

Giuseppe Reimondo, Silvia Bovio, Anna Piza, Barbara Allasino, Arianna Arditto, Maria Micocici, Barbara Zaggia, Angela Termine, Alberto Angeli & Massimo Terzolo
Departmento di Scienze Cliniche e Biologiche, Università di Torino, Medicina Interna I, AOS San Luigi, Orbassano (TO), Italy.

The existing follow-up studies on patients with incidentally discovered adrenal adenoma (AA) focused almost exclusively on imaging and endocrine work-up on a short period.

Of consecutive 152 patients with AA referred to our center from 1989 to 2003, we have assessed the risk of developing metabolic disorders and vascular complications in the 74 patients who did not underwent surgery (51 women and 23 men, median age 57, range 25-74 years) during a follow-up of at least 5 years (median 84, range 60-228 months). The diagnosis of AA was based on either typical CT characteristics or repeat scan after 3-6 months; median size of AA was 2.9 cm (range 1-6 cm). Comparing the clinical and biochemical characteristics at diagnosis and at the last follow-up, we observed a slight worsening of the cardiovascular risk profile that was not statistically significant considering advancing age (obesity 12.1% at diagnosis vs 14.8% at the last follow-up, hypertension 48.6 vs 60.8%, metabolic syndrome, defined according to ATP III criteria, 22.9 vs 28.3%, impaired glucose tolerance 25.7 vs 27.0%, diabetes mellitus 6.7 vs 16.2%, dyslipidemia 45.9 vs 51.3%). At diagnosis, 4 patients had a previous cardiovascular event and 5 patients had a new cardiovascular event during follow-up. There was no correlation between hormonal data and the change of the cardiovascular risk profile. An increase in AA size of >0.5 cm was reported in 9 (12.1%) patients and 2 of them had an increase >1.0 cm.

We found a high prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors at diagnosis in patients with incidentally detected AA who, however, develop new metabolic and vascular complications infrequently in the long-term. Moreover, AA have a limited potential of growth. These data suggest that most patients with incidental AA should be managed conservatively.

PS2

Expression of mTOR pathway in human adrenocortical carcinomas and in vitro effects of human adrenocortical cell line

María Cristina De Martino1,2, Peter van Koetsveld3, Diana Sprj-Mooy3, Richard A Feelers3, Steven W Lamberts3, Wouter W de Herder3, Annamaria Colao3, Rosario Pivonello4 & Leo J Hollander5

1Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; 2Department of Endocrinology & Oncology, Federico II University, Naples, Italy.

Background

Adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC) is an uncommon malignancy with a still scantily understood pathogenesis and generally poor prognosis. Surgery, performed at early stages, offers the best chance for cure, but unfortunately, it is often noncurative. Medical treatment produced disappointing responses. mTOR inhibitors, such as sirolimus (S) and temsirolimus (T), are promising antineoplastic drugs in several types of carcinomas.

Methods

To evaluate whether ACC might be a candidate for treatment with S or T, we have studied the mRNA expression of mTOR, 4EBP1 and S6K, in 40 human adrenal samples (10 ACC, 16 adenomas (ACA), 10 hyperplasia (AH), 4 normal (NA)), and in NCI-H295 and SW13 cell lines, by qRT-PCR. T and S effects of S on cell growth (after 24 h, 3 d, 6 d and 9 d) and on the induction of apoptosis (after 24 h and 3 d) were studied by DNA-measurement and the analysis of DNA-fragmentation, respectively, in NCI-H295 and SW13 cell lines.

Results

In ACC, the expression of S6K was lower than in other adrenal samples (ACC = 0.13 ± 0.1 vs. ACA: 0.33 ± 0.16; AH: 0.36 ± 0.13; NA: 0.31 ± 0.12, P<0.01; median ± SD), and the expression of mTOR was significantly higher than in NCI-H295 and SW13 cell lines (0.34 ± 0.53 vs 0.18 ± 0.029 and 0.1 ± 0.02, respectively, P<0.01 median ± SD). A significant correlation was found among the mTOR, 4EBP1 and S6K mRNA levels in ACC (P=0.01). S and T were able to suppress the cell growth of both cell lines, in a similar and dose- and time-dependent manner. SW13 cells (EC50=7.5x10^-11) and maximum effect=90% at 10^-8 were significantly more sensitive to treatment with S and T than NCI-H295 cells (EC50=10^-10; maximum effect=50% at 10^-7). A slight induction of DNA-fragmentation, was observed only at the higher concentrations used.

Conclusion

The results of the current study demonstrated that sirolimus and temsirolimus inhibit the in vitro proliferation of ACC cell lines, suggesting that mTOR-inhibitory drugs may have a role in the treatment of ACC.

PS3

Prospective evaluation of tumour size and hormone secretion in adrenal incidentalomas

Serkan Yener1, Senem Ertılıç2, Mustafa Secili2, Burç Akinci2, Tevfik Demir3, Ahudurhan Comlekci1 & Sena Yesil1
1Division of Endocrinology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey; 2Department of Radiology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Increased use and improved technology of imaging procedures have led to increased recognition of adrenal incidentalomas. The aim of this study is to evaluate the natural course of benign adrenal tumours in terms of tumour growth and hormone secretion.

Subjects referred between 2001 and 2008 for the evaluation of adrenal tumours were included. Computed tomography (CT) was the initial radiological intervention. Initial hormonal evaluation included 1 mg or 2 day mg dexamethasone suppression test, urinary free cortisol (UFC), 08.00 a.m. ACTH and DHEAS levels. In subjects with elevated post DST cortisol (>1.8 mcg/dl), elevated UFC (>110 mcg/day), and suppressed ACTH and DHEAS levels, midnight cortisol was evaluated (normal<7.5 mcg/dl). Urinary catecholamine excretion and aldosterone/renin ratio were also measured.

Three hundred and two consecutive subjects with adrenal tumours were included. Fifty-six patients had adrenoleukony due to hyperfunctioning tumours or malignant appearance on radiological interventions. Among the remaining 246 subjects, 132 participants were selected with appropriate radiological and hormonal follow up data. Mean age was: 55 years and female dominance was present (99/53). There were 98 subjects with non-functioning adenomas, 26 subjects with subclinical cortisol syndrome, 5 subjects with myelolipomas and 3 subjects with primary hyperaldosteronism. Median follow up duration was 23.5 months. In 7 (5.3%) subjects, a decrease in tumour size was observed, while an increase was observed in 23 (17.4% participants). In 97 subjects with non-functioning adenomas, 3 (3.08%) patients developed subclinical cortisol syndrome while phaeochromocytoma or primary hyperaldosteronism were not diagnosed during follow up. Median follow up was significantly higher in subjects with tumour size increase (21 vs 32.5 months, P<0.05).

This prospective study demonstrates that malignancy and tumour hypersecretion do not frequently develop during short term follow up in subjects with benign adrenal tumours. Increase of tumour size is not rare and may be detected in patients with relatively longer follow up durations.

PS4

Rosiglitazone interferes with human adrenocortical carcinoma growth in a xenograft mouse model

Monica Mangoni1, Stefania Gelmini1, Gabriella Nesi2, Giada Poli2, Giulia Cantini1, Adriana Lombardi1, Claudio Orlando2, Mario Serio3, Massimo Mannelli1 & Michaela Lucaci1
1Department of Clinical Phsyiopathology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy; 2Department of Human Pathology and Oncology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy.

Adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC) is a rare and aggressive tumour with a poor prognosis, characterized by radio/chemotherapy resistance. The lack of an
effective medical treatment is due to the poor knowledge of the mechanisms underlying malignant tumour transformation and aggressiveness. In vitro studies on the ACC H295R cell model have demonstrated that RGZ, an anti-diabetic drug belonging to the thiazolidinedione ligands of PPARgamma, blocks cell proliferation/migration and induce cell differentiation/apoptosis. Moreover, PPARgamma ligands have been shown to inhibit primary tumour and metastasis growth in different cancers. This study aims at evaluating RGZ effects in a human adrenocortical carcinoma xenograft model. Tumour xenograft was obtained by subcutaneous injection of 7 x 10^6 H295R cells in nude Balb/c mice. When the tumour size reached 5 mm, the animals were randomly allocated to 2 groups orally treated with 5 mg/kg RGZ (n=9) or water (n=13), 6 days a week for 31 days. Tumour volume was measured twice a week. At the end of the treatment, mice were sacrificed and tumours were split for histological/immunohistochemical or RT-PCR analyses. A statistically significant reduction of tumour growth in the RGZ versus control group (P=0.007) was observed. Histological and immunohistochemical evaluation of the tumour revealed characteristics of invasiveness, richness in small vessels and mitotic figures in control group, while RGZ group tumours presented expanded and not infiltrating borders, with few vessel and many apoptotic bodies, and reduction in proliferation. Quantitative real time RT-PCR demonstrated a statistically significant reduction in the expression of angiogenic and vascular (VEGF and CD31), proliferation (BMH1) and anti-apoptotic (Bcl-2) genes as well as in the number of human H295R cells, in RGZ versus control group tumours (P<0.05, Student t-tests). In conclusion, our findings support a role of RGZ in controlling ACC proliferation and angiogenesis. Further investigations are needed to clarify the molecular mechanisms underlying RGZ anticancer effects.

Thyroid

P55

Report of twelve cases with thyroid hemiagenesis: single centre experience from Turkey
Abdurrahman Comlekci, Baris Akinci, Tefik, Demir, Orhan Ozdogan, Mustafa Secil, Ali Saklamaz, Serkan Yener, Serafettin Canda, Taluy Canda, Sena Yesil & Yigit Goktay
Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Thyroid hemiagenesis is a rare anomaly characterized with the absence of one thyroid lobe due to a failure in embryologic development of the thyroid gland. This anomaly is more frequent in women. It usually affects left side of the thyroid. Isthmus may be detected in half of the cases. Thyroid hemiagenesis is usually diagnosed after thyroid imaging due to other disorders, which might be related or unrelated to the thyroid gland. In this paper, we report clinical features of twelve patients with thyroid hemiagenesis who were diagnosed during the period of five years in Dokuz Eylul University Hospital Endocrinology Clinic.

P56

Severe obesity accompanied with subclinical hypothyroidism
Ketevan Asatiani, Shota Jangava, Lasha Uchava, Marina Tsagareli & Nana Tsagareli
Endocrine Disorders Department, City Clinical Hospital N4, Tbilisi, Georgia, USA.

Obesity is the modern medical problem. According to the WHO expert panel the prevalence of obese population worldwide is 300 million and overweight is 750 million. In the first trimester of 2007, we studied the obese patients in the Iv. Javakhishvili State Medical University’s Department of Endocrinology. The objective of our research was to study the course of subclinical hypothyroidism adjunct with severe obesity, its diagnostic criteria and treatment. Ninety-four patients were studied, with age range 14–53 years. The duration of subclinical hypothyroidism was from 6 to 18 months. There were 72 women and 22 men, who underwent following clinical, laboratory and topical diagnostic investigations: glucose tolerance test, biochemical analyses of blood, electrolytes, coagulation test, urine test, thyroid and abdomen ultrasound assessment, ECG, Laboratory evaluation of following hormones: TSH, FT3, FT4, leptin.

Fifty-five of 95 patients were diagnosed to have BMI more than 40; 4 patients BMI exceeded 30; 27 patients were diagnosed to have subclinical hypothyroidism. The treatment of the patients included individual low calorie diet, physical activity in combination with potassium iodide and levothyroxine in some cases. The doses of levothyroxine were decreased along with the loss of weight and normalization of TSH. Received results were positive.

P57

The psychovegetative status at patients with postoperative primary hypothyroidism, compensated by levothyroxin
Elena Smirnova, Klara Shtiyun, Natalia Suhaila, Irina Rusinova & Julia Belikova
Perm State Medical Academy, Perm, Russian Federation.

Purpose
To reveal changes of the vegetative status, namely vegetative maintenance, vegetative reactance, and infringement of emotional status at patients with postoperative primary hypothyroidism (concerning central or total crows), the compensated treatment by levothyroxin.

Materials and methods
Sixteen persons are included in research with primary hypothyroidism with various etiology, compensated by levothyroxin. The ages – 36–58 years, duration of diseases – 1–16 years. For an estimation of the psycho-vegetative status A M Vejna’s technique, an index of Kero, a refex of Danini-Ashmera, a hospital scale of alarm and depression, a scale of alarm of Hamilton, a scale of depression of Hamilton were used.

Results and discussion
Sixteen persons with postoperative primary hypothyroidism have been carried out psycho-vegetative tests. At research of an initial vegetative status prevalence of parasymphathetic department of nervous system is noted. At all investigated patients alarm symptoms, disturbing condition are revealed. Depression had more expressed character. On the basis of the received data at patients with the operated thyroid gland, influence of parasymphathetic department of vegetative nervous system prevails. Estimating changes of psycho-emotional status: the prevalence of depressions over the disturbing is noted.

P58

The influence of thyroxine replacement therapy on bone mineral density in hypothyroid subjects
Snezana Polovnja, Klara Ticic Nemet, Ivanja Pletikosic & Angelina Obradovic
General Hospital Subotica, Subotica, Serbia.

Recent studies have suggested that subjects receiving thyroxine replacement therapy are in potentially increased risk of osteoporosis. We set out to measure bone mineral densities by ultrasound bone densitometry (UBMD) in three groups: group A of post-menopausal women (N=25) mean age 65 ± 14), group B of women in generative period (N=20) mean age 41 ± 11), and group C (N=18) male mean age 54, receiving thyroxine replacement therapy during two years at least. The mean value of TSH was 2.5 mUI/L, and the limit for T score was – 2.5 s.d.

Results
Group A has a mean value of T score – 2.67 s.d. ± 0.7), although mean value of T score in group B was 1.8 s.d. ± 0.6) and in group C was – 0.6 s.d. ± 0.5). The difference between group A and group B, and group A and C was significant, P<0.001, between group B and C there was no significance.

Conclusion
These results suggest that thyroxine has potentially effect on increase of bone turnover in post-menopausal women, but there is no similar effect in women in generative period and males on thyroxine replacement therapy, it is possible due to lack of protective oestrogen action on bone turnover in post-menopausal period.
**P59**

**Real-time elastography and contrast-enhanced ultrasound for the assessment of thyroid nodules**

Mireen Friedrich-Rust, Andrea Sperber, Katharina Helzer, Frank Grauerwald, Klaus Badenhoop, Wolf Bechstein, Stefan Zeuzem, & Joerg Baumgart

1 Department of Internal Medicine 1, J.W. Goethe-University Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany; 2 Department of General and Visceral Surgery, J.W. Goethe-University Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany; 3 Department of Nuclear Medicine, J.W. Goethe-University Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany.

Background and aims

The aim of the present study was to evaluate real-time elastography (RTE) and contrast-enhanced ultrasound with Sonovue (CEUS) for the differentiation of benign and malignant thyroid nodules using cytologic/histologic analysis as reference method. While first studies have reported excellent results of RTE for the differentiation of thyroid nodules, data on CEUS of the thyroid are rare.

Methods

RTE was classified as: score 1 = soft, 2 = predominantly soft, 3 = predominantly hard, 4 = hard nodule. Power Doppler perfusion (PD) was classified as: pattern 1 = no/minimal perfusion; pattern 2 = periportal; pattern 3 = little intranodular; pattern 4 = hyperperfusion. Forty-six nodules of 45 patients were included in the present study. All examined nodules were ≤ 1 cm in size and non-functioning or hypo-functioning on radionuclide scanning. FNA was performed in 41 nodules, 13 of which received an operation due to a suspicious or non-diagnostic result. Five patients received primary operation.

Results

Five patients had to be excluded due to non-diagnostic FNA. Therefore, 41 nodules in 40 patients were available for analysis. FNA revealed cancerous tissue in 4 and suspicious tissue in one patient. All 5 patients were operated and papillary carcinoma was found in 4, and follicular carcinoma in one patient, respectively. In all other patients cytology/histology revealed benign tissue. A significant correlation between cytology/histology and ultrasound measurement was found only for RTE (r = 0.32, P < 0.05). When using PD pattern 3 & 4 for the diagnosis of malignant nodules sensitivity, specificity, PPV, and NPV were 80, 47, 17, and 94%, respectively. When using elastography score 3 & 4 for the diagnosis of malignant nodules sensitivity, specificity, PPV, and NPV were 80, 75, 31, and 96%, respectively. And when using PD and RTE criteria together sensitivity, specificity, PPV, and NPV increased to 80, 83, 29, and 97%, respectively. The only malignant nodules which both methods missed, was the follicular carcinoma, but no malignancy was diagnosed. The detection of papillary carcinoma was 100%. No specific CEUS pattern could be identified to differentiate between benign and malignant nodules.

Discussion

RTE can be used with high NPV in the work-up of thyroid nodules to exclude papillary thyroid cancer. However, follicular carcinoma remains a challenging problem. CEUS does not improve the characterization of thyroid nodules.

**P60**

**The value of TSH-assisted 18F-FDG PET in initial stage M0 thyroid carcinoma with suspension of residual or recurrent disease**

David Taeb, Cecile Gandler, Frederic Sebag, Laurent Tesniere, F Feusto Palazzo, Catherine De Micco, Jean-François Henry, & Olivier Mandler

CHU Timone, Marseille, France.

Purpose

Persistence of well-differentiated thyroid carcinoma most commonly involves cervical lymph nodes. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the ability of FDG-PET/CT imaging to localize residual disease in initial stage M0 thyroid carcinoma thyroid cancer patients and to compare FDG-PET/CT to neck US.

Methods

FDG-PET/CT and neck US results of 93 patients were retrospectively analysed. All FDG-PET/CT were performed during thyroidostatin suppression (34 patients after TH and 59 patients after rTSH).

Results

About 37/93 patients had a FDG uptake and 29/37 of the FDG avid lesions underwent re-operation. FDG-PET/CT findings were true-positive in 22 patients; cervical disease only (n = 17), cervico-mediastinal disease (n = 3), pulmonary metastases (n = 2). The sensitivity, PPV, specificity, NPV and accuracy of FDG-PET/CT were 35, 59.5, 50, 26.8 and 39.7%, respectively. All patients with persisting and aggressive papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) variants had FDG foci. Moreover, FDG-PET/CT uptake provided more frequently complementary information compared to neck US in aggressive PTC variants than in other PTC

**P61**

**Influence of pentoxifylline on peripheral blood mononuclear cells proliferation and apoptosis in Graves’ ophthalmopathy**

Irina Melnik, Anastasyia Hlazkova, Svetlana Kosmacheva, Natalia Goncharova, Larisa Danilova, & Alexsey Romanovsky

1 Belarusian Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Education, Minsk, Belarus; 2 Republic Scientific and Practic Center for Hematology and Transfusiology, Minsk, Belarus.

Pentoxifylline (PTX), a phosphodiesterase inhibitor, has a positive therapeutic effect in some autoimmune diseases due to immunomodulatory action. The aim of the study was to assess the influence of PTX on apoptosis and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) proliferation in patients with Graves’ ophthalmopathy (GO).

Twenty-four patients with GO and 32 healthy controls were investigated. GO patients were divided into two groups: I – 14 patients treated only with methimazole, II – 10 patients treated with methimazole and PTX. PTX retreatment dosage form was prescribed in a dose of 600 mg once daily/6 weeks. We assessed the proliferation of PBMC stimulated with phytohemagglutinin (PHA) 0.5 μg/ml, 10.0 μg/ml, 50.0 μg/ml, and 10.0 μg/ml. Both spontaneous and PHA-induced three-day apoptosis was evaluated by flow cytometric analysis. There was a significant difference of stimulated apoptosis between GO patients and controls before treatment (P < 0.0001). Following 6 weeks of therapy with pentoxifylline, the apoptosis value significantly increased among patients group II (3.54 ± 1.16 vs 21.99 ± 17.42%, P < 0.05). There was no significant difference in the levels of apoptosis in group I after treatment (4.23 ± 2.12 vs 8.6 ± 4.12%, P > 0.05).

Results of proliferation assay being expressed as stimulation index (SI). Mean SI for patients with GO prior to therapy was significantly higher then controls (PHA 0.5 μg/ml, P < 0.01; PHA 10.0 μg/ml, P < 0.05). After treatment SI decreased in both group of patients. However, significant differences observed in group II only (PHA 0.5 μg/ml vs 22.34 ± 4.82 vs 17.12 ± 2.6, P < 0.05; PHA 0.0 μg/ml vs 10.83 ± 10.28 ± 43.31. P < 0.001; P < 0.05). Calculation of stimulation index in group II showed a significant increase in the stimulation index (SI) after treatment with PTX (P < 0.001). In conclusion, we have demonstrated significant increasing of apoptosis and profound inhibitory effect of PTX on mitogen-induced proliferation of PBMC in GO patients. This results showed the potential of PTX in the management of GO.

**P62**

**Soluble CD40 and its ligand CD154 in patients with Graves’ orbitopathy during combined therapy with corticosteroids and teleradiodotherapy**

Janusz Mysliwiec, Dariusz Waligorski, Agnieszka Nikolajuk, & Maria Gorka

1 Department of Endocrinology, Medical University, Białystok, Poland; 2 Department of Endocrinology, Holycross Cancer Center, Kielce, Poland.

It was shown recently that orbital fibroblasts express intensively CD40 and its ligation stimulates proinflammatory cytokines, glycoalumycings and PGE2 production. CD40/CD154 interaction in the pathogenesis of Graves’ orbitopathy (GO) is suggested an important pathway of T cells induced fibroblast activation and proliferation.

**Aim**

To assess the role of CD40/CD154 interaction in GO pathogenesis and to estimate usefulness of soluble CD40 (sCD40) and CD154 (sCD154) measurements as markers of GO activity.

**Material and methods**

Fifty-five individuals in 4 groups: 1/15 euthyroid patients with clinical symptoms of GO who underwent corticosteroid therapy consisting of intravenous infusions of methylprednisolone (MP) and subsequent treatment with oral prednisone (P) and teleradiodotherapy (TR); 2/14 patients with hyperthyroid Graves’ disease (GOx); 3/22 patients with GO in remission treated with methimazole and 4/10 healthy volunteers and sex-matched to group 1–3. The serum

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samples were collected 24 h before MP, 24 h after MP, after TR and at the end of therapy. Serum CD40, CD154 and TPOab were determined by ELISA and TSHRab by RIA.

Results
Serum concentrations of CD40 (in pg/ml) and CD154 (in ng/ml) were increased in GO patients: 84.9 (74.9-93.9) and 4.0 (2.5-7.3) respectively in comparison to controls (P<0.001 and P<0.05 respectively). Serum CD154 in GO group was elevated as compared to both hyperthyroid and euthyroid GD without clinical ophthalmopathy (P<0.01). The amount of CD40/CD154 quotient was significantly elevated during in nonrespondent GO patients after MP (P<0.05) and at the end of the study (P<0.01).

Summary
Our data suggest an important role of CD40/CD154 interaction in the pathogenesis of autoimmune process leading to inflammatory infiltration in Graves' orbitopathy, which is over usefulness of CD40 and CD154 measurements in prediction of effects of GO treatment and its monitoring needs further investigations.

P65
Prevalence of growth hormone deficiency in autoimmune hypothyroidism
Silvia Eskes, Erik Endert, Eric Fliers & Wilmar Wiersinga
Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Background
Autoimmune hypophysitis can result in growth hormone deficiency (GHD). Although autoimmune hypophysitis is uncommon, it is associated with other autoimmune endocrine diseases like autoimmune hypothyroidism (AIH). Recent studies suggest a high prevalence (5%) of GHD in AIH, which could contribute to the reduced quality of life frequently observed in patients with AIH despite adequate treatment with thyroxine.

Objective
To establish the prevalence of growth hormone deficiency in patients with AIH. Patients
We included patients with AIH (TPO-Ab ≥ 100 kU/L), who were adequately treated with thyroid hormone substitution (TSH 0.2–5.0 mU/L). Exclusion criteria were prior 121 treatment, thyroid surgery, or a history of hypothalamic or pituitary disease. Patients were recruited via our outpatient clinics and via patient self-help organizations. Eight hundred and thirty-seven patients applied for the study. Research design and methods
We measured TSH, FT4, TPO-Ab and IGF-1. If the IGF-1 concentration was <10th percentile of age specific reference values, a GHRH/GHRP-6 test was done. GHD was defined as a growth hormone peak after GHRH/GHRP-6 below the 2.5th percentile according to age specific reference values.

Results
In total 837 patients applied for the study, 515 (476 female, 39 male) were included. Three hundred and twenty-two were not included (157 because TPO-Ab < 100 kU/L, 165 had TSH < 0.2 or > 5.0 mU/L). The IGF-1 concentration was <10th percentile in 49 of 515 patients. These 49 underwent a GHRH/GHRP-6 test. Two had a growth hormone peak < 2.5th percentile.

Conclusion
The prevalence of GHD in Dutch patients with AIH is 0.4% (2 out of 515 patients).
P66 Differences in expression pattern of all-trans retinoic acid and retinoid X nuclear receptor subtypes in papillary thyroid carcinoma: a comparison with anaplastic thyroid carcinoma
Dana Maceveaj, Slavomir Ondikova, Stefan Galbarv, Jan Podobz, Juraj Kasztr & Julius Birkto
1Institute of Experimental Endocrinology, Bratislava, Slovakia; 2Saint Elizabeth Institute of Oncology, Bratislava, Slovakia.

Retinoid receptors (RARs) upon a proper ligand binding act as all-trans retinoic acid-inducible transcription factors interacting as heterodimers with RXR receptors (RXRs). Predominantly, novel synthetic retinoid analogues acting through RARs as redifferentiation agents would be of great value in treating patients with advanced thyroid cancer.

The objective of this study was to investigate all-trans retinoic acid 9-cis retinoid nuclear receptor subtypes (RARalpha, RARbeta, RXRalpha, RXRbeta) expression pattern in papillary thyroid tumour tissue of patients in order to compare it with that of anaplastic thyroid carcinoma and the intact thyroid tissue of the corresponding patients. The expression of the retinoid/retinoid nuclear receptor subtypes has been analyzed by the RT-PCR technique.

The data has shown that papillary thyroid carcinoma of investigated patients expressed all subtypes of RARs and RXRs when compared to intact thyroid tissues of the corresponding patients that were lacking to express RXR gamma.

In papillary thyroid carcinoma, expression of RXRgamma was enhanced in comparison with that of RXRa alpha or RXRbeta. Expression of RXRgamma in the papillary carcinoma was found to be lower than that of in patients with papillary carcinoma.

In conclusion, this type of diagnostic approaches enlisted into the diagnostic algorithm of patients before their possible treatment with retinoid acids or retinoid analogues might thus enhance therapeutic potentials and bring positive results in the treatment of thyroid cancer.

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P68 Treatment of patients with Graves’ orbitopathy (GO) with rituximab: effects on humoral immunity
Guia Vannuccci, Irene Campi, Marco Bonomi, Nicola Curro, Davide Dazzi, Danila Corvelli, Paola Bonora, Luca Persani, Jean Wall, Paolo Beck-Peccoz & Mario Salvi
1Endocrine Unit, Department of Medical Sciences, Fondazione Policlinico IRCCS, University of Milan, Milan, Italy; 2Istituto Auxologico, Milan, Italy; 3Ophthalmology, Fondazione Policlinico IRCCS, Milan, Italy; 4Internal Medicine, Fondazione Policlinico IRCCS, Milan, Italy; 5University of Sidney, Sydney, Australia.

Rituximab (RTX) is a monoclonal antibody which binds CD20 antigen and induces B cell depletion. It is not known if its therapeutic effect in autoimmune diseases is mediated by modifications of the humoral immune response, namely the antibody production. Aim of the present study was to evaluate the effect of RTX on serum TSH-receptor antibodies, both binding (TBI) and stimulating (TSAb) and on serum antibodies against three orbital antigens, calasequstrin, XIII collagen and the flavoprotein subunit of succinate dehydrogenase (FP-SDH). Nine patients, 7 with active GO and 2 with only lid signs have been treated with two infusions of RTX at two week-interval with a follow-up of 50 weeks. At each visit patients were assessed by measuring peripheral blood lymphocytes count, thyroid function, TBI and TSAb and the antibodies anti-orbit. The ophthalmological evaluation aimed at defining the disease activity (CAS) and severity (NOSPECS). TSAb serum activity was tested in a CHO-TSHR stable cell line. Cells were incubated with 5% serum in hypotonic medium and cAMP accumulation was determined by RIA. The anti-orbit antibodies were measured by ELISA. We did not observe significant reduction of TRAb in relation to peripheral B cell depletion (P=NS) and to the clinical activity of GO (P=NS). TRAb had a slight significant negative correlation with time (P<0.01) due to the attainment of euthyroidism in all patients at the end of follow-up. Serum TSAb did not change after RTX therapy and significantly correlated with serum TRAb concentrations (P<0.001). Finally, no significant changes of serum anti-orbit antibodies were observed at each time of the follow-up (P=NS). In conclusion, the effect of RTX in GO does not seem to be mediated by changes of anti-thyroid and anti-orbit antibody production. It is reasonable to hypothesize that the effect of RTX is mediated through the pathway of B cell antigen presentation.

P67 Rapid preparation of patients with hyperthyroidism for thyroideectomy
Sinem Kiyici, Ozen Oz Gul, Soner Canler, Turkyar Kicak, Oguz Kana Unal, Canan Erozy, Ercan Tunecil, Erdinc Erturk & Sari Imamoglu
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Medical Faculty, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey; 2Department of General Surgery, Medical Faculty, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey.

Thyroideectomy is an alternative treatment in the therapy of hyperthyroidism in patients who are non-compliant, drug-resistant or have various side effects to the antithyroid drugs. Preoperative preparation of hyperthyroid patients is extremely important to avoid per operative complications due to severe thyrotoxicosis. We investigated the effects of lugol solution use or without thionamides in the rapid preparation of thyroid surgery retrospectively. Twenty-two patients with Basedow-Graves disease, 19 patients with toxic nodular goiter and 3 patients with toxic adenoma were enrolled into the study. Mean ages of patients were 46.6±14.7 years and mean duration of hyperthyroidism was 38.2±35.9 months. The indications of surgical treatment were as follows: unresponsiveness to medical treatment (n=19), pancytopenia (n=9), hepatotoxicity (n=6) allergic reactions (n=3) and noncompliance (n=7) with antithyroid drugs. To restore euthyroidism before surgery, 27 patients treated with lugal solution whereas 17 patients treated with lugal solution and thionamides. Mean dose of lugal solution was daily 27.7±5.5 drops and the mean usage of lugal solution was 9.7±2.3 days. Beta-blocking agents were used in 31 patients. After lugol treatment serum free T4 decreased 2.5±1.6 to 1.37±0.71 ng/dl (normal range=0.7-1.48 ng/dl) while serum free T3 concentrations decreased from 10.0±7.3 to 3.9±7.4 pmol (normal range=1.71-3.71 pmol/ml). Percentage changes of serum free T4 and free T3 levels were not different in patients treated with lugol solution alone as compared with patients treated lugal solution and thionamides. All patients were clinically in euthyroid status before surgery. Uneventful total and subtotal thyroideectomy performed in 37 patients while hemithyroideectomy was performed in 7 patients.

In conclusion, lugal treatment with and without antithyroid drugs is safe and effective choice in rapid preparation of patients with hyperthyroidism to thyroideectomy when surgery cannot be delayed.

P69 Diagnostic ability of computed tomography to assess Graves ophthalmopathy
Adina Dragomir, Anda Dumitrescu, Ileana Marinescu, Constantin Dumitrache, Anca Dalea, Ruxandra Hristea, Laura Icomaru & Sabina Oroş
National Institute of Endocrinology C. I. Parhon, Bucharest, Romania.

Objective
CT findings indicating that a patient is at risk for developing optic neuritis are worth- while observations.

Aim
The aim of our study was to determine the utility of CT imaging in identifying patients at risk for optic neuritis and to compare quantifiable nonvolumetric CT data from a large series of orbits with Graves ophthalmopathy.

Method
A total of 226 patients (452 orbits), 175 women (350 orbits) and 51 men (102 orbits) with Graves ophthalmopathy were enrolled. These patients were referred to National Institute of Endocrinology C. I. Parhon between 2002 and 2008. All subjects were scanned in both axial and direct coronal planes with a high-resolution CT scanner and normal criteria from literature were used. Maximum diameters of orbital muscles, muscle diameter index, muscle enlargement index, optic nerve sheath retrobulbar and waist, maximum superior ophthalmic vein diameter and proptosis have been calculated for all patients. The patients were subgrouped into those with optic nerve involvement and those without optic nerve involvement based on CT findings.

Results
The mean age was 48 years, no statistical differences between women and men. The most prevalent pattern of muscle involvement was enlargement of a solitary muscle, the superior muscle group (60 patients). Optic nerve involvement was seen in 142 patients, with mean diameter of the retrobulbar optic nerve sheath at axial CT increased. The muscle diameter index was statistical correlated with optic nerve involvement (P<0.01). Mean superior ophthalmic vein diameter and proptosis were significantly increased (P=0.0082 and 0.0013) in the subgroup with optic nerve involvement.

Conclusions
One hundred and forty-two patients were seen with optic nerve involvement as an increase in the retrobulbar portion of optic nerve sheath. The optic nerve
P70
Recombinant-human TSH (rhTSH) testing in patients with history of thyroid microcarcinomas
Selene Capitano, Francesca Cecoli, Lorenzo Mortara, Francesco Fiz, Valeria Caorsi, Francesco Minuto & Massimo Giusti
Dipartimento di Scienze Endocrinologiche e Medicina, Università di Genova, Genoa, Italy.

Papillary thyroid microcarcinoma (mPTC) is being diagnosed increasingly frequently. Multifocality and nodal involvement are sometimes reported on diagnosis. Management ranges from observation to total thyroidectomy. It is followed by radioiodine (RAI) ablation. The role of rhTSH testing in mPTC has not been fully investigated. Torlontano et al. (2006) recently observed that rhTSH-stimulated Tg levels mainly depend on normal thyroid tissue remnant. Aim of this study was to further evaluate the role of rhTSH testing in mPTC. From a cohort of 52 subjects with mPTC (52±4.15 years, 44 females; average follow-up 4.6 years, range 1–26 years) 66% underwent total Tx and 39% Tx plus RAI; 24 subjects were also evaluated by standard rhTSH testing. Tg levels were measured in diagnosis, after 12 months of RAI. In 1 subject treated with total Tx plus RAI and in 3 treated only with Tx, increased Tg levels after rhTSH were interpreted as a consequence of a remnant of normal thyroid tissue, as revealed by neck sonography, and length of time from diagnosis. In only 1 patient were Tg-stimulated levels 12 months after RAI regarded as probably due to persistence of thyroid disease. In conclusion, our experience shows that undetectable Tg levels can be observed long after Tx, even in 50% of mPTC not ablated with RAI. RAI ablation increases the rate of patients in whom a disease-free condition can be recognized early. rhTSH testing is also useful in non-ablated patients without evidence of disease on neck sonography, in whom undetectable Tg levels may indicate a disease-free condition sooner than clinical follow-up.

P71
Comparison of the analgesic efficacy of lidocaine/prilocaine (EMLA) cream and needle-free delivery of lidocaine during the fine-needle aspiration biopsy of thyroid nodules
Alptekin Gürsoy, Cüneyd Anıl, Semsa Aytırcı, Aslı Nar & Neslihan Basçil Tüttüncü
Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Baskent University, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Efficacy of eutectic mixture of local anesthetics (EMLA) cream and the needle-free injection of local anesthesia for reducing the pain associated with fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) of thyroid nodules was previously reported. However, direct comparison of the analgesic efficacy for both methods has not been established yet. The aim of this study was to compare the analgesic efficacy of EMLA cream and needle-free injection of lidocaine for FNAB-associated pain.

Subjects and methods
One hundred and thirty-eight patients having their first ultrasonography-guided thyroid nodule biopsy were allocated to receive either EMLA cream (n=68) or needle-free injection of lidocaine (n=70) 1 h and a few minutes, respectively, before FNAB of thyroid nodules. Patients rated pain associated with the procedure according to a 100-mm visual analog scale (VAS), an 11-point numeric rating scale (NRS), and a 4-category verbal rating scale (VRS).

Results
When the EMLA group was compared with the lidocaine group, there were no significant differences with respect to age, sex, thyroid volume, nodule size, or nodule site. Significant differences were noted in the pain ratings of those 2 groups according to all 3 pain scales. When the effectiveness of EMLA was compared with that of needle-free injection of lidocaine, the mean VAS score was 23.4±20.5 vs 12.7±15.5 mm (P=0.001) and the mean NRS score was 2.8±2.1 vs 1.6±1.7 points (P<0.001). The absolute numbers according to VRS score in each group was also significantly different (P=0.001).

Conclusion
Needle-free injection of lidocaine provides more effective and faster analgesia than EMLA cream application during the FNAB.

P72
The role of anti-DNA antibodies in pathogenesis of Hashimoto’s thyroiditis
Gülnar Vagapova1,2 & Liylia Sattarova1
1 Kazan State Medical Academy, Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation; 2 Interregional Clinical Diagnostic Centre, Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation.

Introduction/objective
The exact mechanism of autoimmune thyroid destruction in patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (HT) remains unclear. Recently it has been found that the HT patients demonstrate increased levels of anti-DNA antibodies, which may be directed against various nuclear structures and may be involved in process of apoptosis. In this study, we examined the potential association between anti-DNA antibodies levels, thyroid function and activity of autoimmune process in patients with HT.

Patients and methods
The study included 183 females with mean age of 35±14.6 years who had various clinical and morphological types of HT. 40 patients with euthyroid endemic goiter (EEG) and 30 healthy donors equal by sex and age. The diagnosis was confirmed according to the standard criteria. The concentrations of free thyroid hormones, TSH, antibodies to thyroglobulin (TG), thyroid peroxidase (TPO) and to double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) were measured by ELISA.

Results
All patients with HT showed a significant elevation (P<0.05) of anti-dsDNA antibodies in comparison to donors and patients with EEG. Sensitivity of anti-dsDNA antibodies detection in HT diagnostics was 94.5%. Serum anti-dsDNA antibodies in HT patients showed a significant positive non-linear correlation both with anti-TG antibodies (r=0.79, P<0.001) and anti-TPO antibodies (r=0.99, P<0.0001). Investigation of serum anti-dsDNA antibodies in HT patients with different thyroid function demonstrated a significant positive linear correlation between this antibodies and TSH levels (r=0.87, P<0.001).

Conclusions
In patients with HT concentrations of anti-dsDNA antibodies in serum are positively associated with anti-TG and anti-TPO antibodies levels and TSH. These results suppose possibility that anti-dsDNA antibodies may have a role in pathogenesis of autoimmune thyroid destruction and hypofunction.

P73
Effects of 900 MHz electromagnetic fields emitted from cellular phone on T3, T4 and cortisol hormones of Syrian Hamsters (Mesocricetus auratus)
Habib Aghdam Shahryar & Alineza Lotfi
Islamic Azad University, Shahed Branch, Shahed/Arzaban-I-E-Shahrgh, Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this study, the effects of exposure to a 900 MHz electromagnetic field (EMF) on serum cortisol and triiodothyronine–thyroxin (T3–T4) hormones levels of adult male Syrian Hamster were evaluated. Seventy two hamsters were used in three independent groups, 24 of which were control (without stress and EMF), 24 of which were exposed to 900 MHz EMF for 10 days and 24 of which were exposed to 900 MHz EMF for 50 days. The exposures were performed 1 h/d to 900 MHz EMF emitted from cellular phone. The concentration of cortisol and T3–T4 hormones in the hamster serum was measured by using an immunoradiometric assay (RMA) method. Results showed cortisol values at the 900 MHz EMF group for 50 days higher than the other groups (P<0.01). Concentration of T4 in the control group higher than the other groups (P<0.01) and Concentration of T3 in the 900 MHz EMF group for 50 days higher than the other groups (P<0.01). These results indicate that 900 MHz EMF emitted by cellular telephones in long term exposure increased serum cortisol and T4 levels and decreased T3 level in Syrian Hamster, and it can destroy endocrine system generally.
P74
The effect of overt and subclinical hypothyroidism on the development of nondiaper blood pressure pattern
Salih İnal, Mehmet Ayhan Karaçoğlu, Erdal Kan, Füsun Balos Türünler & Metin Aslan
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Gazi University Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Gazi University Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

‘Nondippers’ are individuals with absence of anticipated nocturnal decrease in blood pressure (BP) and increased incidence of target organ damage. The pathogenesis of nondipper hypertension is not clear at present. We aimed to investigate the effect of overt and subclinical hypothyroidism on the development of nondiaper blood pressure pattern via 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring. One hundred and nine normotensive patients with overt and subclinical hypothyroidism were evaluated and 95 of these patients without reverse dipping and masked hypertension were included in the study. Seventy-five out of 83 normotensive and euthyroid individuals were included in the control group. Median serum TSH levels were 7.61 and 1.59 in patient and control groups, respectively. The number of dipper individuals according to systolic (SBP), diastolic (DBP) and mean arterial pressure (MAP) measurements were 28/95 (29.5%), 55/95 (57.9%) and 38/95 (40%) in the patient group and 43/75 (57.3%), 61/75 (81.3%) and 54/75 (72%) in the control group, respectively. The differences between groups were significant for all 3 parameters (P<0.001). When patients with overt hypothyroidism and subclinical hypothyroidism were individually compared with control group, the differences were still significant for dipping pattern in SBP, DBP and MAP measurements. Spearman’s test was used to analyze the correlations between nondiaper pattern and serum TSH, FT3, FT4 levels, smoking status, BMI, age and sex; the only significance was a negative correlation between TSH and dipping in SBP, DBP and MAP. Consequently, despite the fact that how hypothyroidism affects nondiaper BP pattern is not known, this pattern is more frequent in patients with hypothyroidism. It has an increased frequency even in patients with subclinical hypothyroidism. When the adverse effects of nondiaper BP profile is taken into consideration, the necessity of thyroid hormone replacement therapy in patients with subclinical hypothyroidism becomes more clear.

P75
Influence of thiamazole, lithium carbonate or prednisone administration on the efficacy of radiodine treatment (131I) in hyperthyroid patients
Lidia Oszukowska, Malgorzata Krupka-Kucharska, Malgorzata Karbowik-Lewinska & Andrzej Lewinski
1Department of Nuclear Medicine and Oncological Endocrinology, Medical University, Lodz, Poland; 2Department of Nuclear Medicine, Medical University, Lodz, Poland; 3Department of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Medical University, Lodz, Poland; 4Research Institute, Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital, Lodz, Poland.

Introduction
Effects of selected drugs on the efficacy of 131I radiodine therapy were examined.

Material and methods
The study involved 200 hyperthyroid patients, treated with radioactive iodine. They were divided into five (5) groups (40 persons in each). In group I – beside 131I patients were additionally administered antithyroid drugs, in group II – 131I and lithium carbonate, in group III – only the assumed radiodine dose – 150–200 Gy, the same as in groups I and II, controls, in group IV – 131I and lithium carbonate and in group V – 131I only (250–350 Gy, the same as in group IV, controls). Therapeutic results were evaluated after 6 months on the basis of clinical and hormonal status. The evaluation included also effects of the initial hormonal status on the outcome of 131I therapy in groups II and IV (versus respective controls, groups III and V); such an analysis was not performed in group I because all the patients in that group were initially hyperthyroid. The results of treatment were assigned into 2 classes in each of the study groups: effective therapy – euthyroidism or hypothyroidism, ineffective therapy – persistent hyperthyroidism.

Results
In 145 patients (72.5%), the therapy with 131I was effective (group I – 55.0%, group II – 72.5%, group III – 75.5%, group IV – 87.5%, group V – 70.0%). In 55 patients (27.5%), the therapy with 131I turned out ineffective.

Conclusions
The application of thiamazole during peritherapeutic period in patients, treated with 131I, reduced the effectiveness of radiodine, while lithium carbonate had no effect on the therapy outcome. Prednisone increased the effectiveness of the therapy with radiodine. Normalisation of the initial concentration of TSH was favourable for the 131I therapeutic outcome only when the assumed absorbed doses of 150–200 Gy were applied.

P76
BRAFV600E mutation and timp-1 hyper-expression in classical variants of papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC)
Alessandra Bommarito, Elvira Carissimi, Pierina Richiusa, Marco Calogero Amato, Leonardo Russo, Giovanni Zito, Giuseppe Pizzolattini & Carla Giordano
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy.

BRAFV600E mutation is considered useful in recognizing thyroid cancer aggressiveness or poor prognosis particularly in certain variants of papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC). A recent meta-analysis identified 12 cancer-versus-non cancer gene candidate as markers of thyroid cancer; among these TIMP-1 (tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases) was found consistently up-regulated. Our aim was to evaluate BRAFV600E mutation and TIMP-1 expression in 14 PTC classical variants (CV) in comparison to 14 PTC other variants (2 tall-cell, 8 follicular, 4 sclerosant variants; OV). BRAFV600E mutation was detected in 11 (78.6%) CV-PTC and in 3 (21.4%) OV-PTC. Using qRT-PCR TIMP-1 was found significantly hyper-expressed in CV-PTC harbouring BRAFV600E mutation (median 14.3 (interquartile range: 8.2–40)) in comparison to respective normal tissues (1.2 (1–2.2); P=0.004). A significant TIMP 1 hyper-expression was confirmed in all 14 BRAF-mutated PTC (median 22.9 (9.2–89.3)) with respect to 14 wild type PTC (median 6.3 (2–13.8); P=0.024). The proof-of-principle was assessed in vitro using BCPAP cell line, which harbours BRAFV600E mutation, and was found to hyper-express TIMP-1. When BCPAP cells were transiently transfected with target-specific BRAF-siRNA (MU-A) TIMP-1 was significantly down-regulated. Our data prove that BRAFV600E mutation is strongly associated with TIMP-1 up-regulation in CV-PTC, suggesting their potential invasiveness through the well-known TIMP-1 anti-apoptotic activity.

P77
Analysis of sonic hedgehog gene in patients with thyroid hemiagenetic: preliminary report
Ewelina Szczepanek, Marek Ruchala, Witold Szlafsrski, Bartłomiej Budny, Michal Nowicki, Maciej Zabel & Jerzy Sowiński
1Department of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Internal Medicine, University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland; 2Department of Histology and Embryology, University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland; 3Department of Medical Genetics, University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland.

Thyroid hemiagenesis (TH) is a rare inborn anomaly presenting as failure of the development of one thyroid lobe. Recent research on the molecular background underlying thyroid dysgenesis have mainly focused on patients with congenital hypothyroidism; in contrast, subjects presenting TH were only sporadically involved. Changes in transcription factor genes, including TTF1, TTF2 and Pax8, which play an important role in thyroid embryogenesis, have been postulated. However, causative mutations that correlate with the phenotype of TH were found in only a few cases. The mechanism which governs the process of symmetric bilateralization of the thyroid is still unknown. In addition, whether the same factors are responsible for development of TH and other forms of thyroid dysgenesis is still to be elucidated.

Recent experimental study has identified a novel role of Sonic Hedgehog protein (SHH) in indirect control of thyroid development. In Shh knock-out mice, the thyroid develops as unilobate structure, while the process of differentiation in thyrocytes is undisturbed. We assume that dysfunction of human ortholog SHH could have similar phenotypic consequences and determine TH. To date, screening of SHH gene in patients with TH has not yet been performed. The aim of this study is to search for SHH gene mutations in a large cohort of subjects diagnosed with TH.

The studied group consists of 40 patients presenting TH, including 4 familial cases. The condition was diagnosed during medically indicated or performed as screening examination, thyroid ultrasonography. Complete unilateral absence of functional thyroid tissue was confirmed by thyroid scintiscan. Three exons of SHH gene were amplified using standard PCR conditions and were subsequently subjected to bidirectional sequencing. The preliminary results of the SHH analysis in 5 out of 40 patients did not reveal any abnormalities in coding sequence. Therefore a screening of the entire, representative cohort of patients needs to be conducted to provide more comprehensive knowledge in regards to the key factors in pathogenesis of TH in humans.
P78
Value of ultrasound elastography of the thyroid gland in differentiating malignant nodules

Cristina Ghervan1, Dana Dumitru2, Sorin Dudea2, Valentin Muntean2 & Ileana Dunea2
1Endocrinology Department, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 2Radiology Department, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 3Surgery IV Department, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Background and objective
One of the key features of thyroid gland cancer evaluated at palpation is the degree of firmness: malignant lesions tend to be much harder than benign ones. US elastography is combining the diagnostic advantages of high-frequency US examination and the accuracy of thyroid cancer diagnosis based on the lesion’s stiffness. The aim of our prospective study was to evaluate the elastographic appearance of thyroid gland tumours and to explore the sensitivity and specificity of US elastography for differential diagnosis of thyroid cancer, with histopathologic analysis as a reference standard.

Materials and methods
A total of 34 patients (2 male and 33 females; 48.8±13.71 years) were included in the study, presenting one or several suspicious thyroid nodules diagnosed by sonography. Local Ethical Committee approval has been obtained concerning the design of the study. Elastography was performed by the same examiner with the same settings of the machine. The nodules were classified in five classes of tissue stiffness (class 1 for soft nodules, class 2 and 3 for intermediate inhomogeneous stiffness and class 4 and 5 for hard, homogenous nodules) similar to the classical score established for the breast nodules. All the patients were operated and the results of elastography were compared with pathological results. Results
The 34 patients had 99 thyroid nodules that were investigated. 65 nodules were soft in elastography (score 1–3) and 34 were hard (score 4–5). At pathological exam all the 65 soft nodules were benign and from the 34 hard nodules 17 were benign and 17 malignant. In 4 patients multiple malignant nodules were found. Conclusion
Elastography showed a sensitivity of 100% and a specificity of 79% in diagnosing malignant nodules. With a positive predictive value (PPV) of 50% and a negative predictive value (NPV) of 100% it seems more valuable in excluding malignancy than in affirming it.

P79
Autoimmune thyroiditis: ultrasound phenotypes in 1500 patients

Dan Peretianu1, Mara Carsote2, Andrei Goldstein1 & Corina Chirita1
1SCM Poviernei, Bucharest, Romania; 2Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania; 3CI Parhon National Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania.

Introduction
Autoimmune thyroiditis is a disease where the immune system attacks and destroys the thyroid gland. If the pathological exam lacks, the serum antithyroid antibodies are used to diagnosis it. Also a useful tool is represented by the anterior cervical ultrasound. Aim
Our aim was to study the ultrasound phenotype in patients diagnosed with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (HT +).

Material and methods
The patients were investigated by anamnesis, serum analysis as thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), antithyroglobulin antibodies (ATPO) and anterior cervical ultrasound. In order to perform the statistical analyses based on echographic aspects, 7 phenotypes were described. They refer to the echogeneity, thyroid nodules and homogeneity. The patterns are 0 – no thyroid presented at the moment of investigation, 1 – hypoechogenic and pseudonodular, 3 – hypoechogenic and homogenous, 4 – hypoechogenic and micronodular (nodules <1 cm), 4 – macronodular (nodules >1 cm), 5 – hypoechogenic, inhomogenous and pseudonodular, 6 – anechogenic micronodular, 7 – diffuse hypoechogenic (normal). Results
We studied 1500 patients. The sex ratio was 1483 women and 17 men. The HT + group included 755 patients with levels of serum ATPO>34 IU/ml. The control group (HT-) included 745 patients with levels of ATPO<34 IU/ml. The mean age was 50.71 years in the first group and 55.19 years in the second group. For each pattern, the sensitivity, the specificity and the positive predictive value were the following: pattern 0-0.46%, 99.36%, 50%, pattern 1-57.58, 93.07, 92.07%, pattern 2-13.41, 88.06, 61.09%, pattern 3-5.14, 87.29, 36.13%, pattern 4-8.17, 60.46, 22.42%, pattern 5-11.2, 93.97, 72.19%, pattern 6-0.64, 95.25, 15.91%, and pattern 7-3.4, 82.54, 21.39%.

P80
Association between BMI and serum TSH in euthyroid subjects: the Tehran thyroid study

Alirej Amozegar, Fathad Hosseinpanah & Fereidoon Azizi
Research Institute of Endocrine Science, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
It is evident that hypothyroid patients have higher BMI than euthyroids. Until recently, much attention has been focused on finding whether minor abnormalities of thyroid function or differences in thyroid status of euthyroid subjects are related to body weight. Contrary, however, exists regarding the role of TSH in weight changes of euthyroid subjects. Objective
The aim of this study, the Tehran Thyroid Study, was to determine any possible relationship between thyroid function tests and BMI in euthyroid subjects. Material and methods
From the cross sectional phase of the Tehran Lipid Glucose Study (TLGS), a population based study of 15 005 participants, 1107 euthyroid subjects (506 male and 601 female, mean age of 37 ± 8 years) with normal serum TSH (0.4–3.5 mU/L), aged over 20 years, were randomly selected. Multiple linear regression analysis was used to investigate the role of TSH in BMI changes, after adjustment for confounding factors. Results
After adjustment of age, sex and physical activity, no significant relationship was found between serum TSH concentration and BMI (r=0.7, P=0.1); results were the same in men and women. Subjects were divided through categories of TSH (low 0.4–0.9 mU/L, middle 1–1.9 mU/L and upper 2–3.5 mU/L tertiles) and the median BMI was found to be similar in all three groups (26.5, 26.9, 27.3 kg/m² respectively). Conclusion
No association was found between thyroid status and BMI in euthyroid subjects.

P81
Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-γ (PPARγ) expression in parathyroid adenomas in primary hyperparathyroidism

Güngör Akçan1, Müide Nuran Akçan1 & Remzi Arslan1
1Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Atatürk, Erzurum, Turkey; 2Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, University of Atatürk, Erzurum, Turkey; 3Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Atatürk, Erzurum, Turkey.

Background
Primary hyperparathyroidism (pHPT) is an important endocrinologic cause of metabolic bone disorder in human. The regulatory mechanism of the cells of parathyroid gland proliferation is not exactly known. Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-γ (PPARγ) is a member of nuclear receptor superfamily. PPARγ is expressed in adipose tissue at a high level. It plays a role on number of disorders such as adipose tissue differentiation, insulin sensitivity, lipid metabolism, osteoporosis, arteriosclerosis, cancer, inflammation, antiangiogenesis, and cell differentiation. Methods
This study was carried out to evaluate PPARγ expression with immunohistochemical staining in parathyroid adenomas in pHPT. Twenty surgically removed parathyroid adenomas diagnosed with the biochemical and imaging methods preoperatively in the patients with pHPT and 10 normal parathyroid tissue samples which were obtained from the archives of the Pathology Department were included in the study. The samples were incubated in mouse monoclonal antibody against PPAR gamma. Results
Two (10%) of 20 adenomas with pHPT had ++ + +, 14 (70%) had +, 4 (20%) had − (negative) staining. However, 7 (70%) of 10 normal parathyroid gland samples had ++ + +, 1 (10%) had +, and 2 (20%) had − (negative) staining. There was a significant difference between parathyroid adenomas and normal parathyroid tissues (P<0.001).

Conclusions
PPARγ expression was insufficient in pHP7. We concluded that PPARγ expression deficiency in parathyroid adenomas may explain the pathogenesis of the development of adenomas, insulin resistance and glucose intolerance in the patients with pHP7.

P82
Somatostatin receptor 2 expression in cold thyroid nodules exceeds that of hot thyroid nodules, papillary thyroid carcinoma and Graves’ disease
Seda Sancak1, Anna Hadli1, Jorg Singer1, G Klöppel3, Funda Tanyel Eren1, Leyla Semia Sen2, Bahadir M Guiltoglu2, Zeynever Sever3, N Sema Akalin1, Markus Esslinger1 & Ralf Paschke3
1Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism of Marmara Medical School, Altunizade/İstanbul, Turkey; 2Third Medical Department, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany; 3University Clinic Schleswig-Holstein, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany; 4Department of Pathology of Marmara Medical School, Altunizade/İstanbul, Turkey; 5General Surgery Department of Marmara Medical School, Altunizade/İstanbul, Turkey.

Objective
The specificity and cellular origin of the SSR5 findings in CN, HN, PC and GD is currently unclear and partially contradicts the well defined action of somatostatin on thyroid cell signaling. Therefore, we systematically evaluated SSTR2 expression in benign cold (CN) and hot thyroid nodules (HN), papillary carcinomas (PCs) and Graves’ disease (GD) (in comparison with intracellular control surrounding tissues (ST) by means of immunohistochemistry.

Design and methods
Tissue sections from 29 CN, 22 CN, 19 PC and their surrounding tissues and 8 GD thyroids were immunostained for SSTR2 with an affinity-purified rabbit polyclonal antibody against SSTR2 (Bio Trend, Cologne, Germany) in a final dilution of 1:1000. Membranous SSTR2 staining was quantitated by evaluating 10 high power fields (HPF) systematically distributed along the largest diameter of the tissue section. Results

The area covered by thyroid epithelial cells in 10 HPF expressed as median in mm² was 0.53 for CN, 0.44 for HN, 1.5 for PC and 0.3 for GD and 0.3 for the surrounding tissues. The percentage of SSTR2 positive thyroid epithelial cells/area covered by thyroid epithelial cells in 10 HPF expressed as % was 16.6% for CN, 2.0% for HN, 3.7% for PC and 3.9% for GD and 2.4% for the ST of all groups.

Conclusions
Our study shows that SSTR2 can be immunohistochemically demonstrated in normal, hyperplastic and neoplastic thyroid cells. In addition to the immunocompetent cells infiltrating the thyroid gland in Graves’ disease also the thyroid epithelial cells in Graves’ disease express SSTR2 receptors. The repeated SSR5 detection in PC is mostly related to SSTR2 expression on thyroid epithelial cells and not dependent on their lymphocytic infiltration. The highest density of SSTR2 receptors was detected in CN. This has to be considered when using SSR5 for the diagnosis and localisation of radiodine negative thyroid cancer.

P83
The role of repeat fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) in the management of thyroid nodule
Ignasi Castells, Nuria Pardo, Gabriel Gimenez, Olga Simo, Asumpta Recasens, Guzman Franch, Xavier Guizao & Angel Serrano Hospital General de Granollers, Granollers, Barcelona, Spain.

Introduction
In 2004, the multidisciplinary thyroid nodule committee of our centre adopted the cytological classification from the British Thyroid Association for reporting fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) results and agreed about its proper management: Thy1, inadequate sample, repeat FNAB; Thy2, benign; follow up, repeat FNAB if nodule growth; Thy3 indeterminate or follicular lesions; surgery or repeat FNAB at 6 months if low clinical, sonographic or cytologic suspicious; Thy4, suspicious and Thy5, malignant; surgery. Aim
To assess the role of repeating FNAB in the evaluation of thyroid nodules initially classified as benign (Thy2) or indeterminate (Thy3).

Results
We reviewed a cohort of 149 patients: 108 classified as benign nodule (Thy2) and 41 as follicular lesion (Thy3) over a 5 years period (2004–08). Repeat FNAB under ultrasound guidance was performed in all patients. Surgical pathology results were available in 44 patients. Among 108 Thy2-patients, 93 continue as Thy2 (86%): 23 (25%) have undergone surgery; 21 adenomatous nodules and 2 follicular adenomas. Fifteen patients (14%) changed to Thy3: 8 had surgical excision: 1 adenomatous nodule with a papillary carcinoma focus, 1 follicular adenoma and 6 adenomatous nodules. Among 41 Thy3-patients, 30 change to Thy2 (73%): 3 have been operated, all without neoplasia. Eleven patients (27%) maintain the Thy3 score or change to Thy4: All have been managed with surgery except one patient who refused: 2 follicular adenomas (20%), 2 papillary carcinomas (20%), and 6 non-neoplastic results (60%).

Conclusions
Repeat FNAB in thyroid nodules diagnosed as thy3, could avoid surgery in 70% of cases if there is no clinical or sonographic suspicion. This approach could delay surgery in less than 5% of patients with malignancy. Repeat FNAB for growing thyroid nodules, when the initial diagnosis is thy2, is not useful and only rare cases of adenomatous nodules with carcinoma focus, could be missed.

P84
Clinicopathological features of incidental and nonincidental papillary thyroid microcarcinoma
Uluk Orzuoz, Dilek Berker, Yusuf Aydin, Serhat Isik, Yasemin Tutuncu, Tuncay Delibas & Serdar Guler
SB Ankara Numune Research and Training Hospital, Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinic, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Most of the papillary thyroid microcarcinomas (PTMC) are incidentally discovered in pathological examination after the surgery of benign thyroid disorders. The purpose of the present study was to evaluate clinicopathological features of incidental and nonincidental PTMC.

Material and methods
We evaluated 56 patients with PTMC between 2003 and 2008 at the Division of Endocrinology of the Numune Training and Research Hospital. We analyzed the tumor size, multicentricity, capsular and vascular invasion, lymph node metastases, extrathyroid extension and distant metastases.

Results
Fifty-two of 56 patients were women and 4 were men. Mean age of the patients was 47.5 ± 11.4 years and mean follow-up period was was 2 years. Patients with incidental PTMC (n=25) had been operated on for Graves’ disease in two patients (7.2%), toxic multinodular goiter in one patients (3.6%), multinodular goiter in 22 patients (78.5%) and parathyroid adenoma n nodular goitre in three patients (10.7%). There were no differences in the tumor size, multicentricity, capsular and vascular invasion, lymph node metastases, extrathyroid extension and distant metastases between those with incidental PTMC and those with nonincidental PTMC (P=0.179, P=0.451, P=1.00, P=1.00, P=0.275, P=1.00 respectively). There was no extrathyroidal metastases and distant metastases.

Nine patients had cervical lymph node metastases at the time of diagnosis (16.1%). Among these patients 3 were incidental, 7 patient’s tumor size were ≥ 5 mm, 5 patient’s tumor were multicentric and bilateral and 2 patient had capsul invasion.

Conclusion
Our results suggest that there was no significant differences in clinical and histopathological characteristics between incidental and nonincidental PTMC. The presence of cervical lymph node metastases at the time of diagnosis were more common in patients with tumor size ≥ 5 mm.

P85
Is there any beneficial effect of L-thyroxine replacement therapy on cardiovascular risk factors in patients with subclinical hypothyroidism?
Oguz Kaan Unal1, Erdinc Erturk2, Emre Sarando3, Esma Erozu4, Sinem Kiyci1, Metin Guclu1 & Sazi Imamoglu1
1Endocrinology and Metabolism Department, Faculty of Medicine, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey; 2Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey.

The relationship between increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and atherosclerosis in subclinical hypothyroidism (SHT) have been demonstrated in several studies. This relation was attributed to dyslipidemia which is common in SHT. Apo A1, apo B100, Lp (a), hsc-reactive protein (hsCRP), fibrinogen and total homocysteinemia (tHcy) are the main non-traditional cardiovascular
risk factors. In addition, paracetamol (PON 1) activity is an enzyme responsible for the anti-inflammatory effect of HDL cholesterol. We aimed to investigate the effects of \( \text{L-thyroxine} \) (L-T4) treatment in women with sHT on the anthropometric and hemodynamic properties, lipid parameters, hCRP, hCy, fibrogen and PON 1 activity. We enrolled 27 women with mild sHT referred to our out-patients’ clinics. All patients underwent TRH stimulation test. Subsequently patients were randomized into two groups. Twelve patients were received 100 \( \mu \text{g/day} \) levothyroxine (LT4) and 15 patients were observed without treatment for four months. LT4 dose adjustment was made to maintain TSH level between 0.5 and 2 \( \mu \text{g/mL} \) in every month. We did not find any significant difference in anthropometric parameters, lipid parameters, hCRP, hCy, fibrogen and PON 1 activity between two groups at the end of the study. In conclusion, we could not find any evidence that levothyroxine treatment has beneficial effects on lipid parameters and non-traditional CVD risk factors in patients with mild sHT.

**P86**

A comprehensive surgical approach of persistent cervical papillary thyroid carcinoma based on initial surgery and modern preoperative imaging techniques

Fares Bennmiloud, David Taieb, Frederic Sebag & Jean-François Henry

La Timone Hospital, Marseille, France.

**Context**

Reoperative surgery is the most efficient treatment of cervical persistent thyroid carcinoma. The extent of the surgery should be guided by the preoperative imaging findings, the primary surgery and the patient’s prognosis. However, there is no consensus concerning the optimal surgical strategy.

**Objective**

Primary objective was to evaluate morbidity of a reoperative surgery. Secondary objectives were to evaluate performances of preoperative modalities, clinical and biochemical outcomes.

**Methods**

Thirty-two consecutive patients were operated on, by the same experienced surgeon, for cervical persistent disease. Surgical approach was based on imaging findings and initial surgery. Patients with initial adequate surgery were treated with focalized approach. By contrast, in patients with inadequate initial surgery, surgical re-dissection was performed. Follow-up included laryngeal examination, calcium measurement, assessment of TSH stimulated-Tg levels (after THW or rTSH) and imaging procedures.

**Results**

Among 32 patients, mean age ranged from 13 to 76 years. All tumors corresponded to papillary carcinomas with aggressive histotypes in 41%. Initial pTNM stages were pT3-T4 and/or N1 in 81% of patients. Preoperative stimulated-Tg was positive in 87% of patients \((n=30)\). Palpation was positive in only 21% of patients. Sensitivity, specificity, PPV and NPV of combination of neck US and FDG-PET scan were 95.8, 96.2, 82.1 and 99.2%, respectively.

Most of patients (11/12) with persistent disease in the central compartment have been previously operated with an ‘inadequate central LN dissection’. In patients with ‘inadequate lateral LN dissection’, residual LN were distributed throughout the both lateral compartments. By contrast, only superior and inferior groups of the ipsilateral lateral compartment were concerned in patients who were previously treated with an ‘adequate lateral LN dissection’. Morbidity rate related to reoperation was low (6%) and transfusion at the end of follow up, 53% reached remission criteria, 20% had low TSH-stimulated Tg levels, Tg <5 mg/ml under rTSH or Tg <10 mg/ml under THW) with negative imaging study and 27% had high residual Tg values.

**Conclusions**

Surgical strategy for persistent/recurrent disease based on imaging study and compartment oriented approach can be performed with low morbidity and acceptable efficacy rates.

**P87**

Long-term exogenous subclinical hyperthyroidism is not associated with decreased bone mineral density in men with differentiated thyroid carcinoma

Eulália Colomé\(^1\), Jordi L Reverte\(^1\), Susana Holgado\(^2\), Rocío Puig\(^3\), Núria Alonso\(^3\) & Anna Sammarti\(^3\)

\(^1\)Department of Endocrinology and Nutrition, Germans Trias i Pujol University Hospital, Badalona, Spain; \(^2\)Department of Rheumatology, Germans Trias i Pujol University Hospital, Badalona, Spain; \(^3\)Department of Endocrinology, Germans Trias i Pujol University Hospital, Badalona, Spain.

**Objectives**

To determine the effect on bone mineral density (BMD) of the sub clinical hyperthyroidism (sHT) due to TSH-suppressive treatment with levothyroxine after thyroideectomy in men with differentiated thyroid carcinoma (DTC).

**Materials and methods**

Cross-sectional and retrospective study in 32 men (56±14 years) treated with levothyroxine for a minimum of 5 years, with TSH concentrations <0.05 mU/mL and normal T3 levels in all determinations performed every 3-6 months during the follow-up. The control group included 32 men matched for age and body mass index. Exclusion criteria: patients under treatment or diseases that could interfere with the BMD.

**Determinations**

TSH, T4L, T3, calcium, alkaline phosphatase, PTH, vitamin D, testosterone, urinary calcium excretion in 24h and urine N-terminal telepeptides of type I collagen. BMD was measured by DEXA (proximal femur, distal radius and lumbar spine). Calcium intake, physical activity, toxic habits and history of bone fractures were collected using a questionnaire.

**Results**

Duration of levothyroxine treatment: 15±5 years. Dose: 2.6±0.7 mg/cap/kg per 24 h. There were no significant differences in anthropometric data, physical activity, unhealthy habits or calcium intake between patients and controls. TSH concentration was lower in patients compared to controls \((0.11±0.24 vs. 2.15±1.12 \text{MCR/UL} \text{ per ml}, \text{respectively, } P<0.01)\), and FT4 values higher \((1.87±0.39 \text{ vs. } 1.17±0.15 \text{ mg/dL}, \text{respectively}, P<0.01)\).

No significant differences were found between patients and controls in serum calcium, alkaline phosphatase, PTH, Vitamin D and testosterone, 24 h urinary calcium excretion and urinary N-telepeptides. There was no difference in BMD (Table) and neither patient nor control had a history of bone fracture.

**g/cm²**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Controls</th>
<th>( P \text{ value} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Femoral neck</td>
<td>0.948±0.128</td>
<td>0.968±0.154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distal radius</td>
<td>0.628±0.137</td>
<td>0.637±0.688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbar spine</td>
<td>1.253±0.156</td>
<td>1.240±0.173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusions**

Long-term suppressive levothyroxine treatment for DCT was not associated with decreased BMD or increased risk of fracture in men.

**P88**

What is the outcome of combined therapies in amiodarone-induced thyrotoxicosis?

Kaluca-Alexandra Trifanescu\(^1,2\), Horea Ursu\(^1,2\) & Mariana Puric\(^2\)

\(^1\)Carol Davila, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania; \(^2\)C.I. Parhon Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania.

**Objective**

To assess the outcome of medical and ablative therapies in amiodarone-induced thyrotoxicosis (AIT).

**Subjects and methods**

Seventy patients (32 M/38 F, aged 59.7±1.4 years) with AIT (24-type 1, 20-type 2 and 26-mixed forms) were followed-up 13.4±2.3 months. TSH was measured by immunoradiometric assay, TT\(_3\) and TT\(_4\), by chemiluminescence.

**Results**

Antithyroid drugs (ATD) were used as single therapy in 44 patients and combined with glucocorticoids in 22 patients. Glucocorticoids were used in monotherapy in 3 patients. Mean duration of treatment was 9±1.1 months for ATD and 2.1±0.2 months for glucocorticoids. Radioiodine was administered in 9 patients and thyroidectomy was performed in 4 patients. Amiodarone was withdrawn in 66 patients (94.3%). TSH normalized in 5.7±0.5 months, and TT\(_3\) and TT\(_4\) in 3.8±0.4 months under ATD and/or glucocorticoids. Thyrotoxicosis control was noticed in 17/24 patients with type 1 AIT: after 8±0.5 months of ATD \((n=7)\), after ATD+radioiodine \((n=6)\) and after ATD+thyroidectomy \((n=4)\). Seven patients received ATD for less than 3 months. Thyrotoxicosis control was noticed in 15/20 patients with type 2 AIT: after ATD and/or glucocorticoids \((n=14, \text{mean period } 5.3±1.1 \text{ months})\) or spontaneously after amiodarone withdrawal \((n=1)\, \text{subclinical AIT}\). 5 patients received ATD+glucocorticoids for less than 3 months. Thyrotoxicosis control was noticed in 10/26 patients with mixed type AIT: treated 11.9±3.4 months; 3 patients developed hypothyroidism after radioiodine; 13 patients are still on therapy.
Medical treatment duration was significantly longer in type 1 and mixed type AIT as compared with type 2 AIT, $P=0.04$, t test. Remission rate was similar in type 1 after medical and ablative therapy (17/24 patients, 70.8%) and in type 2 AIT after ATD and/or corticosteroid (19/20 patients, 75%), $P=0.7$, $x^2$ test. One patient died despite PT normalization on ATD + glucocorticoids.

Conclusions

Combined medical and ablative therapies were effective in most patients with AIT, decreasing mortality rate.

**P89**

Our experience in visualization of non-radioiodine-avid differentiated thyroid carcinoma (NRADTC)

Zhigiew Podgajny \(^1\), Grzegorz Kaminski \(^1\) & Norbert Szaluz \(^2\)

\(^1\)Endocrinology and Radiosiope Therapy Department, Military Institute of Health Services, Warsaw, Poland; \(^2\)Nuclear Medicine Department, Military Institute of Health Services, Warsaw, Poland.

**Introduction**

Lack of radioiodine uptake in differentiated thyroid carcinoma (DTC) is a big diagnostic and therapeutic problem. This sign is associated with worse prognosis. In NRADTC patients with elevated thyroglobulin levels with no evidence of disease in radioidine scintigraphy, scintigraphy with the somatostatin analog labeled with \(^{99m}\)Tc seems to be an alternative imaging method.

**Assessment of scintigraphy with the somatostatin analog labelled with technetium \(^{99m}\)Tc-HYNIC-TATE in visualization of NRADTC.**

Materials and methods

Ten patients with metastatic NRADTC (6 with papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) and 4 with follicular thyroid carcinoma (FTC) underwent neck, chest and upper abdomen scintigraphy with \(^{99m}\)Tc-HYNIC-TATE produced by OBRI POLA-TOM Swieck/Poland.

Results

Pathological uptake of \(^{99m}\)Tc-HYNIC-TATE were found in metastatic lesions located in neck, mediastinum, lung and scapula in seven patients with DTC (6 PTC and 3 FTC). In two patient with PTC and metastatic lesions in neck, lung, mediastinum and mesenteric lymph nodes we found pathological uptake of \(^{99m}\)Tc-HYNIC-TATE only in neck and mediastinum (lung’s lesions was lower then 1 cm in CT; mesenteric lymph nodes metastases we found only in \(^{18}F\)-FDG PET/CT). In one patient with FTC we found pathological uptake in neck’s lymph nodes, mediastinum, lung and scapula but we didn’t find two metastatic lesions in the ribs (diagnosed in skeletal scintigraphy with \(^{99m}\)Tc-MDP). In one patient with local recurrence of FTC (in CT) there wasn’t observed any pathological uptake of radiopreparation.

Conclusion

Non-radioiodine-avid differentiated thyroid carcinoma can be visualized with \(^{99m}\)Tc-HYNIC-TATE scintigraphy. This method can be useful for qualification to surgery and/or further receptor radionuclide therapy.

**P90**

Long-term follow-up of antithyroid peroxidase antibodies in patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis

Kemal Aghaib, Ilari Dagdelem & Sevim Gullu

Faculty of Medicine, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey.

**Background**

Although a number of studies show that the serum levels of antithyroid peroxidase antibodies (TPO-Ab) in patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis decline during levothyroxine treatment, only a few provide quantitative data. The objective of the present study was to provide this information.

**Methods**

This was a retrospective study of TPO-Ab concentrations in 44 women and 4 men (median age 45.5 years; range 17–76 years) with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis as defined by the following criteria: elevated plasma TPO-Ab and typical hypochogenicity of the thyroid in high-resolution sonography at first presentation or during follow-up. The decrease in percentage of the TPO-Ab level during follow-up was calculated.

**Results**

At the study entry 31 had elevated TSH and t-thyroxine treatment was started. Ten became hypothyroid in follow-up, and then t-thyroxine treatment was started. The remaining 5 patient followed without treatment (median 4 years). The 41 patients who started t-thyroxine treatment were analysed in quartiles based on duration of t-thyroxine treatment. In the first quartile, the median decrease in TPO-Ab level was 57.8% (follow-up ≤ 1.5 years). The median decrease in TPO-Ab level was similar in all groups receiving t-thyroxine (in the second quartile 54.7%, follow-up duration was 1.5–3 years; in the third quartile 57.4%, follow-up duration 3–7 years; in the last quartile was 55.9%, follow-up ≥7 years). The median decrease in TPO-Ab level was 33.7% in Hashimoto thyroiditis group without treatment. Although the number of patients without treatment was small, yet it was statistically significant ($P=0.02$).

**Conclusions**

TPO-Ab immediately decreases following the start of t-thyroxine treatment for Hashimoto thyroiditis, and the decrease remain stable during long-term follow-up.

**P91**

Evaluation of chronic urticaria in patients with autoimmune thyroid disease

Evangeline Vassilatou \(^1\), Dimitrios Hajijikakis \(^1\), Anagnostis Mellios \(^2\), Michael Makris \(^3\), Ekaterini Chilia \(^3\), Theophanis Economopoulos \(^1\)& Dimitrios Kalogeromitros \(^2\)

\(^1\)Endocrine Unit, Second Department of Internal Medicine, Attikon University Hospital, Athens, Greece; \(^2\)Allergy Unit, Allergy Clinical Research Center, Attikon University Hospital, Athens, Greece.

**Background**

Chronic urticaria (CU) is defined as recurrent episodes of hives with or without angioedema of at least 6 weeks’ duration; in almost 40% of the cases an underlying autoimmune process is implicated. Increased prevalence of autoimmune thyroid disease (ATD) has been reported in patients with CU, however the clinical significance of this finding remains controversial. Moreover, data concerning the prevalence of CU in patients with ATD are few.

**Objective**

To evaluate the presence of CU in patients with newly diagnosed thyroid disease in order to assess possible association of ATD with CU.

**Patients and methods**

Thirty seven patients (28 women (14 pre- & 14 postmenopausal), 9 men) aged 19–78 years (50.7 ± 17.6) underwent a clinical examination, a biochemical evaluation (routine biochemistry, thyroid function tests, anti-TPO and anti-Tg levels, total IgE levels, CRP), skin prick tests (SPTs) in 13 common inhalant allergens and a thyroid ultrasound. No patient was receiving any medication affecting thyroid function at the time of the study. CU diagnosis was based on documented history of typical lesions while the presence of atopy was assessed by medical history of atopic diseases (allergic rhinitis, asthma) and/or positive SPTs.

**Results**

ATD was diagnosed in 25/37 (67.6%) patients: Hashimoto thyroiditis in 24 (18 euthyroid, 6 with subclinical hypothyroidism) and history of Graves’ disease in 1 euthyroid patient with nodular goiter. The remaining 12/37 patients (32.4%) had non-autoimmune thyroid disease (non-ATD). CU was diagnosed in 8/25 (32.0%) of patients with ATD and in 2/12 (16.7%) patients with non-ATD and atopy was assessed in 12/25 (48.0%) and in 3/12 (25.0%) respectively. Although a tendency for higher prevalence of CU and atopy was observed in ATD compared to non-ATD patients, this difference did not reach statistical significance.

**Conclusion**

These findings suggest that CU affects a large proportion of patients with ATD. It is uncertain whether these diseases share common autoimmune mechanisms, especially in atopic individuals, or their concurrence is accidental. Further investigation is needed in large series of patients with ATD and CU, especially in those with the autoimmune form of CU.

**P92**

Autoimmune thyroiditis, Graves’ disease and cardiovascular risk factors

Celestino Neves 4, Marta Alves 4, Luis Miguel Pereira 1, Epn Carvalho 5, Joelina Pimentel 4, Renata Carvalho 4, Cristina Guimarães 4, João Pedro Ramos 4, Davide Carvalho 4, José Luís Delgado 7 & José Luís Medina 4

Endocrinology Service, Faculty of Medicine, S João Hospital, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; 1Immunology Service, Faculty of Medicine, S João Hospital, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal.

**Aims**

To examine whether treated autoimmune thyroiditis (AIT) and Graves’ disease (GD) are associated with increased cardiovascular risk factors.

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Patients and methods

We analysed the total levels of cholesterol (TC), HDL, LDL, triglycerides (TG), ApoB, ApoA1, Lp[a], homocysteine, CRP, folic acid and vitamin B12 in 50 patients with GD and in 130 patients withAIT, after normalization of thyroid function. Patients with GD were treated with propylthiouracil until they normalized TSH, FT3 and FT4 levels. Patients with AIT were treated with levothyroxine, in order to normalize FT3, FT4 and TSH levels. Statistical analyses were made with t-Student and with Pearson’s correlation test. A two-tailed P < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results

The ApoB levels were significantly higher in patients with AIT than in patients with GD (102.9±21.7 vs 94.73±24.64 mg/dl, P < 0.05). The TG levels were also significantly higher in patients with AIT than in patients with GD (0.12±0.77 vs 0.11±0.25 mg/dl, P < 0.05). We found that patients with AIT had significantly higher levels of CRP (0.50±0.60 vs 0.23±0.16 mg/dl, P < 0.05), anti-TPO (805.56±587.14 vs 403.18±495.18 Um/I; P < 0.05), and anti-Tg (127.53±116.43 vs 74.64±69.68 Um/I; P < 0.05). In patients with AIT there were positive correlations between TSH and CT (r = 0.83, P < 0.01), LDL (r = 0.75, P < 0.01), TG (r = 0.76, P < 0.01), and ApoB (r = 0.56, P < 0.01). In patients with GD, HDL negatively correlated with FT3 (r = -0.37, P < 0.05), and there were significant correlations between TG and TRAb (antibody against receptor for TSH), (r= 0.37, P < 0.05).

Conclusions

Even in the euthyroid range, TSH was positively associated with total cholesterol, LDL. Apo B and TG, in this group of patients with autoimmune thyroid disease. These findings suggest a pro-atherogenic pattern associated to the low grade of chronic inflammation in euthyroid patients with autoimmune thyroid disease.

P94

Results of the 2007 follow-up monitoring survey for iodine status in Turkey

Murat Faik Erdogan1, Kernal Agbahti1, Tanju Altunsoy2, Sema Ozbars3, Fatma Yucesan4, Basak Tezel3, Cenan Sargin5, Ibrahim Ilbeg5,
Nezvat Artik6, Rifat Kose7 & Gurbuz Erdogan1

1Faculty of Medicine, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey; 2The Ministry of Health of Turkey, Directorship of Health of Mother and Child and Family Planning, Ankara, Turkey; 3UNICEF-Turkey, Ankara, Turkey; 4The Ministry of Agriculture of Turkey, Directorate of Prevention and Control, Ankara, Turkey.

Objectives

Assessment and monitoring which are two major components of a sustainable programme to eliminate IDD is being performed in Turkey since 1997. The initial survey, for the assessment of the iodine status, carried out between 1997 and 1999, showed that the country was severe to moderately iodine deficient (national median UIC: 36 μg/l; goiter prevalence % 31.8). Therefore, a national IDD control program had been implemented and mandatory salt iodization were applied by July 1999 with 50-70 mg/kg KI or 25-40 mg/kg KIO3, to the household salt. The second survey was performed in 2002 in 30 cities. Over 7000 UIC of school-aged children (SAC) were determined, and the result demonstrated an obvious improvement (median UI 53 μg/l). In 2007, with the follow-up monitoring purposes, we conducted this survey in the same areas as previous surveys and studied UIC concentrations of 2280 SAC living in urban areas were examined. The overall median UIC was 140 μg/l. Median UI was ≥ 100 μg/l in 20 of 30 cities surveyed. In 8 areas (Burdur, Hatay, Kahramanmaras, Kayseri, Bayburt, Corum, Erzurum and Van) median UIC was between 50 and 100 μg/l and in 2 (Bitlis and Deyrakkar) it was between 20 and 50 μg/l. Median UIC did not exceed 200 μg/l in any of the areas studied.

Conclusion

Eight years following the mandatory iodization of salt in Turkey, iodine status has reached to optimal levels in about two third of the cities studied, and ID has been eliminated in most of the urban areas. However another study reported in the meeting, showed that the situation is different in rural areas and thus needed further attention for elimination of IDD.

UIC did not exceed 200 μg/l in any of the areas studied.

P95

Evaluation of metabolic and endocrine complications in β-Thalassaemia major: cross sectional study of 65 patients

Farzad Najafipour & Amir Bahrami

Endocrinology and Metabolism Section, Department of Medicine, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction

Blood transfusion is critical for survival in Thalassaemia major. Hypertransfusion therapy increased the frequency of complications due to iron overload. The aim of this study was evaluation of endocrine disturbances in patients with thalassaemia major older than 10 years old.

Materials and methods

Fifty six patients with thalassaemia major greater than 10 years enrolled. Patients have been examined to determine their pubertal status and standard deviation score of height for evaluation of short stature. For evaluation of glucose tolerance, fasting blood glucose and oral glucose tolerance test were performed. Evidence for diabetes mellitus was American Diabetes Association and World Health Organization criteria. Serum level of calcium, phosphorous, thyroid stimulating hormone, free thyroxin, lutropin, follicle stimulating hormone, estradiol in girls and testosterone in boys were measured.

Results

Fifty-six patients with thalassaemia were evaluated (mean age15.62±4.44 years). In this study prevalence of diabetes mellitus was 5 patients (8.9%), impaired fasting glucose was 16 patients (28.6%) and impaired glucose tolerance test was 4 patients (7.1%). Short stature (SDS ≤ -2) was seen in 25 patients (70%) of boys and 14 patients (73%) of girls. Impaired puberty occurred in 40 patients (71%) of our patient. Hypocalcaemia and primary overt hypothyroidism were present in 23 patients (41%) and 9 patients (16%) respectively.

Conclusion

Despite therapy with Desferal in the management of beta-thalassemia the risk for secondary endocrine dysfunction remains high. Hypogonadism is one of the most frequent endocrine complications. Endocrine evaluation in patients with thalassaemia major must be carried out regularly.
P96

When antithyroid drugs must be started in patients with hyperemesis gravidarum?

Farzad Najatipour & Amir Bahrani
Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Eram Reza Hospital, Tabriz University of Medical sciences, Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hyperemesis gravidarum is characterized by prolonged, severe nausea and vomiting in early pregnancy that occurs in about 1.5% of pregnancies and is more common in Asian women than in white women. Many patients do not need anti thyroid drugs, except in patients with severe nausea and vomiting and thyroid dysfunction after 18-20 weeks of pregnancy.

Material and methods
One hundred and thirty-five patients with hyperemesis gravidarum whom admitted to Ob- Gyn hospital were selected. After excluding criteria, 103 patients underwent investigations including thyroid function test and β-HCG. Results
Thirty-five women were found abnormal thyroid function test with FT3 4.74± 0.54 and in another group (68 women) was 2.9±0.39 (P<0.0001). β-HCG in first group was 59.406±34.949 mIU/ml and in second group was 6750±3476 mIU/ml (P<0.0001). In 5 patients PTU was started due to severe sign and symptoms of hyperthyroidism. Thyroid function test rechecked for all of 35 patients after 4 weeks routine therapy for hyperemesis gravidarum. Thyroid function test was normalized in 11 patients with hyperemesis gravidarum but was abnormal in 22 patients so PTU was started and anti-TPO anti-body was measured. Thyroid function test was done for all of them monthly and PTU adjusted with the thyroid function test. Means of the therapy was 2.76 months and 60.63 mg/d for Anti-TPO negative and 5.33 months and 170 mg/d for anti-TPO positive patients.

Conclusion
In our study, thyroid dysfunction in hyperemesis gravidarum was 35% and, 29% of patients needed anti-thyroid therapy. Routine assessment of thyroid function is necessary for women with hyperemesis gravidarum especially in patients with clinical features of hyperthyroidism. We must consider PTU in hyperemesis gravidarum with severe weight loss, vomiting and biochemical hyperthyroidism. We reported a female predominance among offspring of mothers with hyperemesis gravidarum.

P97

Frequency of metabolic syndrome in hypothyroid patients

Sencer Gamdedil1, Mehmet Erdogan2, Aybike Koruelli1, Mustafa Kulaksizoglu3, Soner Solmaz4, Nabi Sokmen5 & Abdullah Canataroglu3
1Department of Internal Medicine, Numune Education and Research Hospital, Adana, Turkey; 2Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism Disease, Ege University Medical School, Izmir, Turkey; 3Department of Endocrinology, Numune Education and Research Hospital, Adana, Turkey; 4Department of Family Practice, Numune Education and Research Hospital, Adana, Turkey.

Objective
One of the common features of hypothyroidism is weight gain or failure to lose weight. Also bradycardia and mild hypertension can be seen. Impact of thyroid hormone deficiency on glucose and insulin metabolism is not fully understood. Thyroid hormones play role in lipid synthesis, metabolism and mobilization. Metabolic syndrome is a state which most features of hypothyroidism can be seen. Our aim is to investigate the frequency of metabolic syndrome in hypothyroid patients.

Methods
Overt hypothyroid 100 patients, subclinical hypothyroid 100 patients and 200 healthy controls enrolled in this study. NCEP-ATP III criteria was used for metabolic syndrome diagnosis.

Results
Body mass index was similar between the groups. Waist circumference was lower in the control group according to hypothyroid patients (P=0.0001). HOME insulin resistance was higher in the hypothyroid group according to controls (P=0.008) and subclinical hypothyroid group (P=0.014). Metabolic syndrome prevalence was 44% in the hypothyroid group, 35% in the subclinical hypothyroid group and 33% in the control group. (P=0.016 for hypothyroid group versus controls and P=0.002 for hypothyroid group versus subclinical hypothyroid group). Waist circumference was higher in hypothyroid metabolic syndrome patients according to subclinical hypothyroid group and controls (P=0.001).

Blood glucose, lipid parameters and blood pressure were similar between the groups.

Conclusions
Metabolic syndrome is increased in patients with hypothyroidism therefore hypothyroidism should be considered in newly diagnosed metabolic syndrome patients.

P98

Lipid oxidation, antioxidants and paraoxonase enzyme activity in subclinical thyrotoxicosis

Mehrdad Solati1, Ladan Atai2 & Fereidoon Azizi2
1Hormogran University of Medical Sciences, Bandar Abbas, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Patients with thyroid dysfunction are more susceptible to oxidative stress, and may show enhanced LDL-C oxidation. The purpose of this study was to evaluate serum paraoxonase activity and antioxidants in patients with endogenous subclinical hyperthyroidism.

Forty-one subclinical hyperthyroid patients, 30 women and 11 men, aged 47±13 years, and 40 age and sex matched healthy controls were studied. Serum paraoxonase activity, lipid, lipoprotein, oxidized-LDL, Total antioxidant capacity (TAC), vitamin A, E and β-carotene levels were measured in fasting samples. In subclinical hyperthyroid patients, significantly lower serum paraoxonase activity (53±26 vs. 77±35 in/mL, P<0.001), oxidized-LDL (50±12 vs. 65±25 mg/dL, P<0.001), TAC (1.6±0.2 vs. 1.9±0.3 μg/L, P<0.001), FON/HDL (0.96±0.65 vs. 2.1±1.1, P<0.001), vitamin A, β-carotene and uric acid were found. The results show significant changes of lipid oxidation and antioxidant levels in subclinical thyrotoxicosis. In addition, the significant reduction in serum paraoxonase activity observed in these patients may predispose lipids to oxidation.

P99

The prevalence and the significance of nodular thyroid disease (NTD) in thyroid autoimmune disease (TAD)

Ioana Zoriu1, Marioula Corina2, Mihaela Vlad3, Melanie Balas4, Ioana Golo5, Daniela Amza6 & Roland Schmid7
1Department of Endocrinology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara, Romania; 2Department of Morphopathology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara, Romania.

The aim of this study was to analyze retrospectively (2003-2007) the coexistence of NTD with TAD (Graves’ and Hashimoto’s diseases) in an iodine-replete area. The first study group included 381 cases with Graves’ hyperthyroidism, not previously treated with surgery or radioiodine therapy. The second group comprised 213 patients with hyperplastic Hashimoto’s disease and heterogeneous functionality.

NTD was diagnosed by: clinical examination, thyroid ultrasonography (performed at the time of diagnosis and repeated annually) and fine-needle aspiration (FNA – repeated after 2 years).

About 7.34% of Graves’ patients presented NTD at the time of first examination. FNA performed in the nodules showed the following types of smears: 23 benign, 3 indeterminate and one non-diagnostic. The morphopathological diagnosis in patients with indeterminate cytological aspect showed 2 follicular carcinomas. Among other 6 operated cases (compressive signs), 2 presented papillary hyperplasia and 4 collodion goiters, one associated with a micro papillary carcinoma. Among the cases with goitrous chronic autoimmune thyroiditis (CAT), 7.98% presented NTD.

The cytological examination revealed the following types of smears: 6 benign (5 of them with specific aspect of CAT), 5 indeterminate and 6 malignant. The morphopathological diagnosis in cases with indeterminate smears was as following: follicular adenomas with CAT (4 cases) and an oxyphilic adenoma with a papillary microcarcinoma and CAT.

The histological analysis showed in malignant smears 6 papillary carcinomas (2 classical forms, 1 multicentric form, 3 papillary carcinomas, follicular variant, all associated with CAT). Clinical and mainly ultrasonographical evidence of NTD was frequently observed among patients with TAD.

The ultrasonography and the cyt-morphological examination showed in TAD a large variety of nodular lesions, with a relative high incidence of malignancy. NTD associated with TAD poses sometimes difficult diagnostic problems, imposing in correctly selected cases an aggressive therapeutic approach.

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P100
Correlation of sonographic findings with thyroid function and autoimmune activity in patients with vitiligo
Parvin Layegh, Pouran Layegh, Masoud Peseshki Rad, Ahmad Sahebalam, Parvaneh Layegh & Mohammad Taghi Shakeri
Masshad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
Vitiligo is an acquired depigmenting disorder due to destruction of melanocytes. Most authorities believe that the most important pathogenetic mechanism of the disease is autoimmunity. Other autoimmune disorders such as thyroid autoimmune diseases occur commonly in association with vitiligo. This study was designed to determine the role of thyroid ultrasonography as a noninvasive and cost effective diagnostic method for early detection of thyroid disorders in patients with vitiligo.

Methods
Fifty patients with vitiligo were evaluated in this case-control study. Control group (35 cases) were matched with case group respecting confounding factors such as age and sex. Comprehensive dermatological examinations, thyroid autoimmunity and function tests and thyroid ultrasonography were performed for all cases (in both case and control groups). Sonographer was blind to dermatologic and endocrinologic findings of cases. Mean thyroid volumes, echopattern and texture of thyroid in sonographic studies and mean levels of thyroid autoimmunity and function tests were compared between case and control groups. P < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results
Although mean total thyroid volume and mean left and right lobes volumes were not significantly different between cases and controls, but texture and echopattern of thyroid gland as well as mean serum Anti-TPO levels were significantly different between two groups (P<0.05). Serum anti-TPO levels had significant correlation with thyroid volume changes.

Conclusion
Thyroid ultrasonography, as an accurate and noninvasive diagnostic method, can be used to study morphology, size and parenchyma of thyroid gland in patients suspected to have autoimmune thyroid diseases.

P101
Thyroid node pathology: correlation between cytology, histology and radiology using a new cytological classification
Ignasi Castells, Nuria Pardo, Guzman Franch, Olga Simo, Asumpita Racasens, Xavier Guixau & Gabriel Gimenez
Hospital General de Granollers, Granollers, Barcelona, Spain.

Introduction
A modification of the cytological classification from ‘British Thyroid Association – Royal College of Physicians’ has been adapted for reporting fine-needle-puncture (FNP) cytology results since 2004 (Thy score). Five diagnostic categories have been agreed by our multidisciplinary committee: Thy1, inadequate sample; Thy2, benign, Thy3 indeterminate; Thy4, suspicious; Thy5, malignant.

Aim
Evaluate the correlation between cytology reports (Thy score), definitive histology and radiology findings. The new score specially aims to discriminate the former unspecific category of ‘fOLLiculum lesion’ reports into 2 new categories (Thy3 and Thy4) for more accurately selecting those cases advisable for surgical treatment (follicular adenomas and differentiated carcinoma).

Methods
All FPN cases undertaken between January 2004 and February 2007 later on surgically treated have been included. Correlation and discordances between Thy score and definitive histology has been studied. Available ultrasound information is also evaluated for the presence of suspicious criteria.

Results
Surgical treatment was undertaken in 132 patients with one or more previous FNP with the following reporting results: Thy1 8.5%, Thy2 42.4%, Thy3 16.6%, Thy4 16.6% and Thy5 15.9%. All cases with Thy2 and Thy5 were congregate with definitive histology reports (benign no neoplastic and malignant respectively). Unspecific categories (Thy3 and Thy4) had less congruent results, with a rate of neoplasia (benign or malign but advisable for surgery) of 36.3% and 77.2% respectively. Ultrasound malignity suspicious criteria increased the congruence of Thy4 cases to 90%. Ultrasound findings do not improve congruence in Thy3 cases.

P102
Levothyroxine suppression treatment for benign thyroid nodules alters coagulation
Tevfik Demir, Baris Akinek, Abdurrahman Comlekci, Oguzhan Karaoglu, Mehmet Ali Orman, Serkan Yener, Fatize Yuksel, Mustafa Secel & Sena Yesil
Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Objective
Endogenous hyperthyroidism is associated with altered coagulation. The aim of the present study is to investigate the effect of levothyroxine (LT4) suppression treatment for benign thyroid nodules on coagulation system.

Design
Prospective case-control study.

Patients
Thirty consecutive euthyroid pre-menopausal women with nodular goitre disease and 28 healthy controls were included in the study.

Measurements
Plasma fibrinogen, d-dimer, von Willebrand factor (vWF), tissue factor (TF), tissue plasminogen activator (fPA), plasminogen activator inhibitor (PAI-1) and tissue factor pathway inhibitor (TFPI) levels were measured at baseline and after LT4 suppression therapy.

Results
Plasma levels of fibrinogen, d-dimer, vWF, TF and PAI-1 increased significantly after treatment with LT4 for one year. Serum FT4 was a significant predictor of increased fibrinogen, vWF and PAI-1 levels, when the data was controlled for age and BMI.

Conclusions
Our results suggest that LT4 suppression therapy for benign thyroid nodules is associated with enhanced coagulation.

P103
The role of large-needle biopsy (LNB) in thyroid nodules: validation with surgical results in more than 100 cases
Miguel Paja¹, Josfa Pérez-Yelóje³, Maida Sánchez¹, Ana Izuzquiza¹, Estibaliz Ugaré¹, Rosa Zabala², Jose I López¹ & Amelia Oleaga³
¹Endocrinología. Hospital de Basurto, Bilbao, Spain; ²Radiología. Hospital de Basurto, Bilbao, Spain; ³Anatomía Patológica. Hospital de Basurto, Bilbao, Spain.

Fine-needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) remains the mainstay in the study of thyroid nodules, with cytologic adequate specimens in almost 85% of cases in expert hands. Apart from the limitation of inadequate samples, there are false negative diagnoses in some cases, particularly in larger (>3 cm) nodules. Considering this, Large-needle biopsy (LNB) could be useful to improve diagnostic precision. We review the pathology reports (PR) of more than 100 patients operated since 2005, in whom LNB had been carried out previously.

Material and methods
We evaluated by LNB 116 thyroid nodules in 114 patients (16 men) aged 14–89 years. They included 64 multinodular, one diffuse and 49 uninnodal goitres. LNB were carried out with an automated ultrasound guided spring-loaded device of 18G, and two fragments were obtained for each nodule. LNB were classified as follows: Hyperplastic (HYP), Inflammatory (INF), Follicular tumour (FOL), Hurthle cell tumour (HCT), Papillary carcinoma (PTC), Medullary carcinoma (MTC) and others. Surgical specimens (PR) were classified in the same way and then compared.

Results
We found inadequate tissue results in two LNB, one suspicious necrotic tissue showing necrotic CPT in PR. HYP appears in 53 LNB, coincident with nodular hyperplasia in 46 PR. 3 follicular adenomas, three with thyroids and one multicentre microscopic CPT. FOL was diagnosed in 15 nodules, two with follicular carcinoma, 10 with adenoma and three hyperplastic. PR included 30 CPT, five of them incidental, in nodules different of the selected for LNB. LNB diagnosed 21 out of the other 25, being one the necrotic, other HYP in little fragments, and 2 HCT in LNB. Both CMT and one mucoepidermoid carcinoma were correctly identified by LNB.
Conclusion
Our results indicate that LNB could be an useful technique for the evaluation of nodular disease, particularly with high sample accuracy and diagnostic precision.

P104
Ca 19-9 levels in Hashimoto’s thyroiditis
Kerem Sezer1, Mesut Ozkaya2, Erman Cakal1 & Esen Akbay1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, School of Medicine, Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey; 2Department of Endoc-
ринology and Metabolic Diseases, School of Medicine, Svetcuiman University, Kahramanmaras, Turkey; 3Department of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Yıksik Ihtisas Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Introduction
Carbohydrate antigen 19-9 (CA 19-9) is a glycoprophilopid of the Lewis blood group that for years has been used as a useful marker for epithelial type gastrointestinal cancers. It is well known that moderately increased concent-
trations of CA 19-9 can be found in 15-36% of patients with benign conditions such as pancreatic, liver, biliary diseases and benign hydropsphrosis. In current study, we aimed to investigate whether there was any tendency CA 19-9 elevation in patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis.

Patients and method
Seventy one patients with diagnosis of Hashimoto’s thyroiditis were included in the study. Patients with malignancy, benign pancreas, liver, lung and biliary diseases, inflammatory bowel diseases, urinary tract infection, hydropsphrosis, endometriosis, diabetes mellitus and chronic renal failure were excluded from the study.

Results
In patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis, mean serum CA 19-9 level was 12.5 ± 10.4 (range, 2.5–55) while it was 11.9 ± 2.9 (range, 2.5–29.3) and 10.3 ± 8 (range, 2.5–28.9) in patients with Graves’ and healthy volunteers respectively. There was no significant difference between Hashimoto’s thyroiditis and control groups with regard to the serum CA 19-9 levels.

Conclusion
Although the American Society of Clinical Oncology does not recommend tumor markers like CA 19-9 in screening for malignancies, they may be used for this purpose. In contrast to case reports showing the possible elevation of CA 19-9 in Hashimoto’s thyroiditis, we did not detect such a relation. Moreover, there was no clue for the change in CA 19-9 levels in patients with hype, hyper or euthyroidism.

P106
The ratio of malignancy in patients who underwent thyroidectomy due to follicular lesion/neoplasia
Kamile Gul1, Didem Ozdemir Sen1, Husniye Baser1, Ali Erkan2, Rehyan Ersoy3 & Bekir Cak1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ankara Atlaturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of 2. General Surgery, Ankara Atlaturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
We aimed to evaluate the frequency of malignancy in patients with follicular lesion or follicular neoplasia in cytological examination.

Method
About 29 patients who had follicular neoplasia or follicular lesion in cytological examination after ultrasound guided thyroid fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) were included in the study. Histopathologic results were evaluated after thyroidectomy in all patients.

Results
There were 28 female and one male patient. Ten of the patients had nodular, 18 had multinodular and one had recurrent multinodular goiter preoperatively. One of the nodules was infracentimetric, 28 were supracentimetric. Mean age was 42.27 ± 11.06 (21–65). Postoperatively, thyroid malignancy was determined in 12 patients in histopathologic examination. Therefore, the frequency of thyroid malignancy in patients with follicular lesion/neoplasia was found to be 41.4%. All of malign nodules, except one, was supracentimetric. Six of the patients had nodular and 6 had multinodular goiter. The distribution of thyroid cancer was as follows: 3 follicular thyroid carcinoma, 7 papillary thyroid carcinoma and 2 follicular variant of papillary carcinoma. Three of the histopathologically benign cases had hashimotio’s thyroiditis, 2 had hurtle cell adenoma, 2 had follicular adenoma and 10 had nodular hyperplasia.

Conclusion
It is difficult to differentiate follicular and hurtle cell carcinoma from follicular and hurtle cell adenoma cytologically. These nodules are diagnosed as carcinoma if vascular and capsular invasion is seen histopathologically. Studies showed no benefit of frozen sections on differential diagnosis. In the literature the rate of malignancy in follicular neoplasia/lesion is 6–47%. In our study, we found 41.4% malignancy rate in patients who underwent surgery due to follicular lesion or neoplasia. About 75% of the malignant cases were papillary carcinoma. We accept this group of patients as malignant and suggest that total /near total thyroidectomy should be performed.

P107
Concomitant thyroid carcinoma and Hashimoto thyroiditis: effect of thyroiditis on ultrasonographic and histopathologic features of nodules
Kamile Gul1, Dilek Tunuz1, Ahmet Diriköz1, Gulten Kiyak1, Rehyan Ersoy3 & Bekir Cak1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ankara Atlaturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of 2. General Surgery, Ankara Atlaturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Incidence of concomitant thyroid cancer and Hashimoto thyroiditis (HT) is found to be 0.3–5% in different series. In this study, we aimed to find out HT incidence in thyroid cancer patients in our clinic and we tried to determine ultrasonographic and histopathologic features of tumor in these patients.

Method
About 165 patients diagnosed with thyroid carcinoma between 2005 and 2008 were included in the study. Patients with Graves’ disease were excluded.

Preoperative and postoperative data were evaluated retrospectively.

Results
Patients were grouped into 2 according to the presence of HT histopathologically. In Group I HT was not detected and 129 patients were in this group. Of these, 112 were female and 17 were female with mean age of 46.28 ± 10.86. In this group, mean antithyroidperoxidase antibody (anti-TPO) was 34.59 ± 69.16 IU/ml and mean antithyroglobulin antibody (anti-TG) was 82.67 ± 207.42 IU/ml (0–60 IU/ml). In Group II HT was present with thyroid carcinoma and there were 36 (21.8%) patients in this group. About 34 of these patients were female and 2 were male, mean age was 42.86; 12.67. Mean anti-TPO and anti-
TG antibody were 272.83 ± 329.58 IU/ml and 442.32 ± 826.5 IU/ml, respect-
ively. Nodular features in ultrasonography were compared in two groups. There was no statistically significant difference between two groups in regard of echogenicity, microcalcification, macrocalcification, halo sign and margin irregularity (P>0.05). Additionally, histopathologically, tumor diameter, presence of capsule invasion and vascular invasion, multifocality were similar.
in two groups (P > 0.05). Nonetheless, extrathyroidal invasion was found to be more in HT patients (P = 0.023). Also, thyroid autoantibodies were significantly higher in this group (P < 0.001).

Conclusion
In this study we found HT in 21% of thyroid carcinoma patients. Besides, we concluded that presence of HT has no effect on ultrasonographic appearance of nodules. However, histopathologically in patients with HT, extrathyroidal invasion was more common. This result suggests that tumors may behave more aggressive in the presence of HT.

P108
Quality of life changes, clinical outcomes and radiation protection issues in thyroid cancer patients undergoing radioactive remnant ablation with recombinant human thyrotropin: a randomized controlled study
Taieb David, Sebag Frederic, Cherenko Maria, Baumstark-Barrar Karine, Bardia Farman-Ara, Catherine De Micco, Jean François Henry & Olivier Mandel
CHU Timone, Marseille, France.

Background
Recombinant human TSH (rhTSH) has become the modality of choice for radiodine remnant ablation of residual thyroid cancer tissue in low-risk patients. Methods
The FACT-F was administered from the early postoperative period to 9 months. Socio-demographic parameters, anxiety and depression scales were also evaluated. At 24, 48 h and 66 post-therapy, dose rate were measured. Using a simplified model, radiation exposure to public was estimated in both groups. At 9 months, patients underwent an rhTSH stimulation test, diagnostic 131-Iodine whole body scan (ixWBS) and neck ultrasonography. Results
About 74 patients were enrolled in the study. There was a significant decrease in QoL from baseline (0) to 1 (RRA period) in the hypothyroid group with significant differences in FACT-F TOI (P < 0.01), FACT-G total score (P = 0.008) and FACT-F total score (P = 0.003). By contrast, QoL was preserved in the rhTSH group. In the multivariate analysis, FACT-F TOI changes were only affected by the modality of TSH stimulation performed for RRA. No difference in ablation success was observed between rhTSH and hypothyroid groups, 91.7% and 97.1% respectively. A higher rate of persistent thyroid remnants was observed in the rhTSH arm, although in most cases uptake was <0.1% and of no clinical significance. At 48 h, dose rate were lower in the rhTSH-group. Radiation exposure to public is also reduced in the rhTSH arm. Conclusions
rhTSH preserves QoL of patients undergoing RRA with similar rates of ablation success compared to hypothyroidism. The use of rhTSH decreases the duration of hospitalization and is in line with the current legislation.

P109
Incidental and nonincidental papillary thyroid microcarcinomas in the material of Endocrinology Clinic and Institute of Pathology, Targu Mures
Zsusanna Szanto1, Inre Zoltan Kuri2 & Janos Jung2
1Endocrinology Clinic, Targu Mures, Romania; 2Institute of Pathology, Targu Mures, Romania.

Objective
To study thyroid microcarcinomas in surgical samples obtained by thyroidectomy.

Material and methods
We studied 311 patients thyroidectomized for different thyroid diseases in 2007, histology being made in the Institute of Pathology Tg. Mures. Results
Surgery was made for uni- and multinodal goiter in 278, for Graves-disease in 28, and for other forms of hyperthyroaidism in 5 cases. Thyroid cancer was diagnosed in 65 cases (20.9%), 53 being papillary carcinomas. Almost half (31 subjects - 47.7%) of these well-differentiated forms were microcarcinomas, and the main part of them (21 cases - 67.7%) were detected incidentally by histology. From the total of 21 incidental papillary thyroid microcarcinomas (PTMCs) 4 (19%) harbored potential aggressive behaviour (capsular invasion, multifocality, lymph nodes micro-metastasis, Whartin-like variant). From the 10 non-incidental PTMCs 8 were unifocal and 2 multi-focal, but these 2 multifocal PTMCs were diagnosed before surgery as unifocal forms, and other foci of 1–2 mm were detected histologically in the contralateral lobe only after total thyroidectomy. Half of the 10 PTMCs diagnosed nonici-den–tally by histology had potential aggressive behaviour. From all incidentalomas 17 were resolved by total thyroidectomy (± lymph node dissection) and 4 by hemithyroidectomy and isthmectomy (all 4 unifocal, but 1 with extrathyroidal extension).

Conclusions
Microcarcinomas presented 47.7% out of papillary thyroid cancers. Most of them were detected incidentally (67.7%). About 1/3 of all PTMCs (9 out of 31 cases, 29%) showed signs that suggest an aggressive evolution: 3 multifocal growth (1 Whartin-like variant), 2 extra-thyro-dal extension, 2 regional lymph node micro-metastases, 2 trabeicular histological variant. From the 21 incidentalomas 4 (19%), and out of the 10 nonincidental microcarcinomas 5 (50%) had aggressive behaviour.

P110
Erythrocyte membrane cholesterol concentration in patients with hyperthyroidism
Constantinos Lempesopoulos1, Constantinios Timbas2, Georgeta Parvoulesko1 & Athanasios Yalouris1
1A.Fleming General Hospital, Athens, Greece; 2Elpis General Hospital, Athens, Greece.

Background
Cholesterol is a major component of the cell membrane. It plays an important role in its physiology affecting vital properties, such as membrane fluidity, cation transport, cell receptors, osmotic resistance etc. Abnormal conditions that change serum cholesterol concentration (SC) can also alter erythrocyte membrane cholesterol concentration (EMCC) possibly resulting in differentiation of several membrane functions. Aim
To investigate whether changes in SC, usually observed in hyperthyroidism, affect EMCC.

Patients and methods
About 35 healthy controls (24 male, 11 female, age: 39.46±8.106) and 23 patients with hyperthyroidism (3 men, 20 women, age: 36.00±8.19) were studied. SC: EMCC, triiodothyronine (T3), thyroxine (T4) and thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) were measured in all. Results
Serum T3 did not differ between the two groups (1.22±0.30 versus 1.10±0.24). In the patients as compared to the controls T4 was significantly (P<0.001) higher (11.51±0.59 versus 8.22±1.70) and TSH significantly (P<0.001) lower (0.12±0.06 versus 2.59±1.14). SC was significantly lower (P<0.001) in the patients (151.21±29.27) than in the controls (216.49±21.28). EMCC was also significantly lower (P<0.001) in the patients (36.08±9.95) than in the controls (145.37±17.06). The ratio of SC/EMCC was significantly (P<0.001) higher in the patients (4.68±2.23 versus 1.51±0.23). In the patients with hyperthyroidism there was a significant negative correlation of SC to T3 (P=0.023) and a positive one of EMCC to TSH (P=0.031).

Conclusions
Hyperthyroidism seems to decrease both SC and EMCC in a degree related to its severity. However the decrease of EMCC is much greater, thus resulting in a considerable depletion of erythrocyte membrane from its structural component. The possible consequences of this depletion to cell physiology have to be investigated.

P111
Association of thyroid function tests with thyroid malignancy
Kamide Goi, Rehyun Esooy, Ahmet Dirlikoc, Ayten Oguz, Diltek Tuzun, Husniye Basir & Bekir Cakir
Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ankara Ataturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Role of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) in thyroid oncogenesis is not clear. There are few trials about relationship of TSH, thyroid hormones and autoantibodies with malignancy. We aimed to investigate thyroid function tests and malignancy in patients evaluated in thyroid disease council and decided to be managed with thyroidectomy.

Method

About 272 patients were included in the study. Hyperthyroid and hypothyroid patients, patients on 1-thyroxine and antithyroid treatment and those with previous thyroidectomy were excluded. Thyroid function tests (TSH, free T3, free T4, anti-TPO, anti-TG) were recorded before thyroidectomy. Patients were grouped in 2 according to histopathological results. benign and malignant; and grouped in 3 according to TSH levels, group 1 TSH <0.9 μIU/mL, group 2: TSH 0.9-1.49 μIU/mL, group 3: TSH ≥ 1.5 μIU/mL.

Results

There were 224 female and 48 male patients and mean age was 44.4 ± 11.7 (18-75). Histopathologically, there were 174 benign and 98 malignant reports. TSH levels and malignancy was found to be correlated significantly (P<0.001).

Although there was no difference between group 1 and 2, difference between 2 and 3 was significant (P<0.001, OR=2.87). Malignancy was higher in patients with TSH ≥1.5 μIU/mL. Median free T3 was 3.55 pg/ml (1.4-5.24) in patients with benign pathology whereas it was 3.35 pg/ml (1.8-4.79) in patients with malignant pathology. There was statistically significant difference (P=0.006, OR=0.61). Anti-TPO was positive in 17.7% of benign group and 31.1 in malignant group. Again, these results were statistically significant (P=0.014, OR=2.10).

Antithyroglobulin was present in 19.9% and 32.2% of benign and malignant patients, respectively (P=0.028, OR=1.92). Multiple regression analysis also showed TSH and free T3 effect on malignancy.

Conclusion

Our results showed that, in euthyroid patients, presence of autoantibody, low free T3 even in normal ranges and TSH levels above 1.5 μIU/mL are all related to malignancy.

P112
Preoperative thyroid problems in a cardiovascular hospital
Dilek Yaziç1, Eylem Tuncer1, İker Mataraci2 & Veda Erentüz1
1Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Kartal Koşuyolu Heart Education and Research Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Kartal Koşuyolu Heart Education and Research Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey.

Changes in thyroid hormone function may have deleterious effects during cardiovascular surgery. Merciful endocrinology consultation is demanded preoperatively. Thyroid dysfunction may present as subclinical or overt hypothyroidism, subclinical or overt hyperthyroidism, euthyroid sick syndrome, nodular goiter or minor elevations in thyroid hormone levels with normal TSH. The aim of the study was to determine retrospectively the prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in patients undergoing cardiac surgery. Data from the endocrinology consultations for thyroid problems preoperatively for patients operated between the dates of 1st of June 2008 to the 15th of November 2008 at Kartal Koşuyolu Heart Education and Research Hospital were examined. Patients were operated for coronary bypass surgery, cardiac valvular surgery or peripheral bypass surgery. Total number of cardiovascular surgery was determined from the hospital database.

Of the 1615 patients operated 106 (6.5%) patients were consulted. Twenty patients (18.8%) had overt, 37 patients (34.8%) had subclinical hypothyroidism, 22 patients (20.7%) had overt, 9 patients (7.6%) had subclinical hypothyroidism, 11 patients (10.5%) had minor elevations in free T4 levels, 3 patients (2.8%) had nodular goiter and were euthyroid and 5 patients (4.8%) had euthyroid sick syndrome. Among the patients with overt hyperthyroidism, 11 patients had diffuse uptake on thyroid scan, 6 had uptake suggestive of toxic nodules and 3 had no uptake. All patients had undergone angioigraphy in a period of one to 2 months prior to consultation.

In conclusion among thyroid disorders for which patients are consulted prior to cardiovascular surgery, subclinical followed by overt hyperthyroidism are more common than the other disorders. This may possibly be due to previous contrast patients are receiving during angioigraphy.

P113
The changes of the IL-2,IL-4,IL-12, TNF-α and IFN-γ levels with t-thyroxine treatment in patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis
Feyzullah Güçlü1, Bilgin Ozmen2, Cengiz Kırızma3, Sabriye Kafesçiler2, Fatma Taneli2 & Zelilha Hekimsoy4
1Department of Endocrinology, Antakya Hospital, Antakya, Turkey; 2Department of Endocrinology, Celal Bayar University Faculty of Medicine, Manisa, Turkey.

Background

Hashimoto’s thyroiditis is a chronic autoimmune thyroiditis. It is the most common cause of primary hypothyroidism in adolescent period, via autoimmune thyroid tissue destruction and affecting 2% of the population. In this study we want to investigate the role of the cytokines such as IL-2, IL-12, TNF-α and IFN-γ in the pathogenesis of the disease and the changes of cytokine levels with the l-thyroxine treatment.

Methods

About 65 female patients, aged 18-73 years with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis referred to Celal Bayar University Medical Faculty Endocrinology Policlinic were included in this study. After a 10–12 weeks l-thyroxine therapy period, all of the patients were turn into euthyroid state. There was a statistically significant decrease in the levels of TSH (P<0.0001) and increase in the levels of FT4 (P<0.0001) at the same time. Also, the levels of anti-Tg (P<0.01) and anti-TPO (P<0.001) were significantly lower than pre-treatment period. After the l-thyroxine treatment, a statistically significant decrease was shown (P<0.001) for the IL-12 levels. But decreasing of the IFN-γ levels was not statistically significant (P=0.276). On the other hand, no changes were determined of the IL-2 and IL-4 levels.

Conclusion

In our study which took a 10–12 week treatment (therapy) period, although there was a statistically significant decrease in serum IL-12 level, the statistically insignificant decrease in IFN-γ level can be interpreted as the inflammatory process in Th 1 type was stopped or slowed down.

P114
Analysis of demographic and clinical factors, affecting the outcome of radioiodine therapy in patients with hyperthyroidism
Malgorzata Kaniska-Kucharska1, Lidia Oszczakowska2, Malgorzata Karbownik-Lewinska3,4 & Andrezj Lewinski3,4
1Department of Nuclear Medicine and Oncological Endocrinology, Medical University, Lodz, Poland; 2Department of Oncological Endocrinology, Medical University, Lodz, Poland; 3Department of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Medical University, Lodz, Poland; 4Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital – Research Institute, Lodz, Poland.

Introduction

The influence of demographic and clinical factors on the outcome of 131I therapy in hyperthyroid patients has been examined, based on a retrospective evaluation of results obtained in patients, submitted to 131I treatment. The goal of the study was an analysis of factors, including the age and sex of patients, disease duration time, as well the hormonal status before 131I application, which could have influenced the effects of therapy with radioiodine 131I.

Patients, materials and methods

The study involved five hundred (500) randomly selected patients with hyperthyroidism, treated with 131I radioiodine. The following three (3) groups were defined: Group 1 – patients with multinodular goitre – n = 200; Group 2 – patients with a single autonomous nodule of the thyroid – n = 100; Group 3 – patients with Graves’ disease – n = 200. The local ethics committee approved the study.

Results and conclusions

The obtained results indicate that the efficacy of therapy with 131I, applied in patients with multinodular goitre, single thyroid nodule and Graves’ disease, does not depend on either patient sex or patient age. The length of antithyroid treatment before 131I therapy onset does not appear to have any effect on the therapy outcome, while the baseline TSH concentration seems to be significant only in case of Graves’ disease.

P115
Thyroid function and volume disorders correlates with IQ in mental retard children (interim report)
Hamid Reza Bazrafshan1, Syrous Vahedi1, Ghiam Jafari2 & Ali Reza Maleki2
1Department of Endocrinology, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Golestan, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Faculty of Medicine, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Golestan, Islamic Republic of Iran; 3Assistant Professor of Clinical Radiology, Azad University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.
Background and objectives

Goitre is still one of endemic health problems in Gorgan city after one decade of universal salt iodization in Iran. Hypothyroidism have different complications in children that between them, developmental disorders of CNS are so important. This study proposed to determine that prevalence of thyroid function and volume disorders and its correlation with IQ in the mental retard (MR) children.

Material and methods

This cross-sectional study was carried out on 120 mental retard students of twobohabilitation center of Gorgan city, north of Iran. We exclude the cerebral palsy and major metabolic disease suffering patients from this study. Thyroid volume was measured by an ultra-sonography (US) specialist. IQ was evaluated by standard questionnaire.

Results

Mean age of children was 11.7 years. Goitre prevalence in physical examination was 42% but it was 84% in US evaluation. Mean concentration of TSH and T4 in all cases was 3.9 and 5.7 respectively. TSH concentration had a reverse linear correlation with IQ but T4 concentration was opposite this (P<0.05). About 34 cases (28.3%) had TSH concentration upper than normal range. About 45 cases had low IQ score and 42 was moderate and 33 had high IQ score.

Conclusion

We found that serum TSH and thyroid volume have a reverse correlation with IQ in MR children. Thyroid enlargement and hypothyroidism is more prevalent in mental retard children than others. So we should make some decisions to screen and cure thyroid disorders in this high risk population. We consider to evaluate the iodine intake status and thyroid autoimmunity in this population for future investigation.

P116 Application of flow cytometry for evaluation of the phenotype of lymphocytes, present in the thyroid glands of patients with lymphoma in extrathyroidal localisation

Zbigniew Adamczewski1,2, Jan Dubrowski1,2 & Andrzej Lewinski1,2

1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Medical University, Lodz, Poland; 2Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital – Research Institute, Lodz, Poland.

Introduction

Cytological diagnostics has got an established position in thyroid diseases. In the recent years, attempts have been undertaken to use the biological material, left in needles after cytological preparation is ready, to obtain additional diagnostic data.

Goal of study

The goal of the study was evaluation of the possibility to use the results of fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) for confirmation of either the presence or the absence of lymphomatous cells in patients with thyroid disease and with coexisting lymphoma in extrathyroidal localisation.

Methods

The evaluation was performed in two (2) patients with non-Hodgkin lymphoma of low malignancy and with coexisting thyroid disease. The first patient was with diagnosed, chronic, autoimmunological thyroiditis with status of compensated hypothyroidism (anti-TPO > 600.00 IU/mL, anti-TG > 401.60 IU/mL). The other patient had a non-toxic, nodular goitre. FNAB of the thyroid gland was performed in either of the patients. Following smear preparation, the aspiration needles were flushed with PBS solution. Then, an analysis of the lymphocyte phenotype was done by means of flow cytometry, using a panel of commercially available monoclonal antibodies.

Results

In both studied cases, the material, obtained in FNAB, was diagnostically sufficient and appropriate for the evaluation to be accomplished. No features of clonal lymphocyte proliferation were found in result of the analysis. Regarding the cytodiagnostic categories of thyroid diseases, the result of FNAB in the patient with Hashimoto’s disease was non-diagnostic, while in the patient with nodular goitre, it did confirm the clinical diagnosis.

Conclusions

The presence of proliferative cells, identified by flow cytometry, is a simple method to make complete cytological diagnostics in patients with parallel thyroid pathologies and diseases of the haematopoietic system. It can be used to extend the diagnostics of focal changes in the thyroid gland, especially in patients with chronic thyroiditis.

P117 Subjective and objective sleep evaluation in patients with hypo- and hyper-thyroidism

Fabrizio Riganti, Fabiana Di Noi, Maria Angela Seardo, Elena Gramaglia, Nadia Bonelli, Ruth Rossetto, Ezio Ghigo & Fabio Breglio

Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Turin, Turin, Italy.

Hyper- and hypo-thyroidism are considered as clinical conditions of sleep alterations. At present, however, these clinical reports have never been confirmed by studies providing a structured description of subjective and objective sleep quantity and quality. To this aim, we enrolled 15 patients with naïve overt hyperthyroidism (HYPER), 9 with naïve overt primary hypothyroidism (HYPO) and 15 healthy age-, sex- and BMI-matched control subjects (CS). Clinical conditions or drug therapies known to affect sleep per se were considered as exclusion criteria. In all the subjects sleep quantity and quality were evaluated by: 1) self-reporting questionnaires; 2) wrist actigraphy (Actiwatch, Mini Mitter Co., Inc.; Bend, OR, USA) on three consecutive days in free living conditions. The self-reporting questionnaires revealed a reduction in sleep time and an increase in sleep latency in HYPO versus CS (P<0.01) without alterations in the perceived sleep quality. The actigraphic study, however, did not show differences between HYPO and CS in terms of actual sleep time, actual sleep percentage, assumed sleep, sleep latency, sleep efficiency, fragmentation index and moving time percentage. Unexpectedly, both the questionnaires and the actigraphy failed to reveal differences in sleep quality and quantity between HYPER and CS. Notably, however, in the whole cohort of subjects, positive correlations between T4 levels and fragmentation index (R=0.542, P<0.01) and moving time percentage (R=0.545, P<0.01) and a negative correlation between T4 and actual sleep percentage (R = 0.560, P<0.01) were found. In conclusion, our preliminary data show that hypothyroidism, but not hyperthyroidism, seems to be associated with some subjective impairment of sleep quantity that, however, is not confirmed by the actigraphic evaluation. The existence of positive correlations between T4 and some actigraphic parameters still supports some influence of thyroid function on sleep that, however, seems not to be clinically detectable.

P118 Demographic, clinical, laboratory, ultrasonographic and cytological features of patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis: results of a university hospital of 769 patients in Turkey

Mehmet Erdogan1, Nihat Erden2, Sevki Cetinkap1, Gokhan Ozgen1, Fusun Saygil1, Canedejer Yilmaz1, Mehmet Tuzun1 & Taylan Kabalak1

1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ege University Faculty of Medicine, Izmir, Turkey; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey.

Background

We investigated the demographic and clinical features of patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis who had been diagnosed and treated in Ege University, the main referral center in the Aegean region of Turkey.

Methods

Medical records of patients who had been followed in the endocrinology clinic of Ege University were retrospectively evaluated. Patients who had been diagnosed as having any thyroid disorder were determined. Patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis were selected among those patients.

Results

Seven hundred and sixty-nine patients fulfilled diagnostic criteria for Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (725 females, 44 males; mean age 41.76±12.49 years). 62.7% of patients were between 30–50 years of age. 53.3% of females and 63.6% of males had diffuse enlargement of the thyroid gland. TSH level was above 4.0 IU/L in 25.6% of females, and 27.4% of males. Anti-thyroglobulin antibody was positive in 92% of females and 93.2% of males. Anti-thyroid peroxidase antibody was positive in 98.4% of females (713 patients), and 100% of males. Thyroid ultrasonography demonstrated single nodule in 52.2% and multiple nodules in 11.5% of female patients; and single nodule 32% and multiple nodules in 20% of male patients. Fine-needle aspirations of the nodules were performed in 207 patients, and none of those biopsies were diagnosed as malignant.

Conclusion

Age and sex distribution and laboratory findings of our patients were comparable to the previous reports. Nodule formation was the most common ultrasonographic finding in our patients, probably due to pseudonodularity. We found no patient with thyroid cancer in our population.

P119
Assessment of the thyroid hormone’s profile during pregnancy
Alicja Hubalewska-Dydejczyk, Marta Kostecka-Matyza, Dorota Pach, Monika Buziak-Berezka, Malgorzata Trofimuk, Justyna Gil & Edyta Polak. Department and Clinic of Endocrinology, Cracow, Poland.

Introduction
In accordance with a rising number of pregnant women with thyroid gland dysfunctions, The Thyroid Gland’s Disorders Outpatient Clinic for Pregnant Women has started its activity in our Endocrinology Department in January 2008. Patients with or without thyroid gland dysfunction in history have been under medical care.

During pregnancy thyroid gland is prone to the number of physiological changes, which cause difficulties in the interpretations of thyroid hormones results. Changes in estrogens level and TBG concentration, activity of hCG make TSH level inadequate. Transitory increase of FT4 and FT3 levels in first trimester is observed. However, in second and third trimester mainly FT4 level could be slightly decreased. Increased aTPO level detected during pregnancy has been shown to be associated with 2-4X higher risk of miscarriage.

Aims
(1) Attempt of establishing the referential norms of the FT3, FT4 in each trimester.
(2) Establishing the referential norms of TSH in each trimester.
(3) Morphological changes in thyroid gland in usg examinations during pregnancy
(4) Evaluation of the aTPO/Trab level for post partum thyroid disease risk assessment

Method
Assay of the FT3, FT4, TSH level and aTPO/Trab in blood serum (ECL) during 1st, 2nd and 3rd trimester of pregnancy, thyroid USG.

Results
About 173 pregnant women were examined from January 2008 till present day. Mean value of TSH for healthy women was as follows: 0.65 uIU/ml (±0.6), 1.16 uIU/ml (±0.48), 1.35 uIU/ml (±0.51) in 1st 2nd, 3rd trimester respectively. Abnormal result of aTPO have 45 patients (24.7%).

Conclusion
Establishment of reference values for each trimester is fundamental for correct assessment of thyroid function in pregnancy. About 1/4 patients have increased result of aTPO and required further observation. Our researches need to be continued.

P120
Seasonal occurrence of Graves’ disease and associated orbitopathy at diagnosis
Irene Campi1, Giuta Vannucchi1, Danila Cavelli1, Nicola Curri2, Davide Duzz1, Paolo Beck-Peccoz1,2 & Mario Salvi1
1Department of Medical Sciences, Endocrine Unit, University of Milan, Fondazione Policlinico IRCCS, Milan, Italy; 2Ophthalmology, University of Milan, Fondazione Policlinico IRCCS, Milan, Italy.

A seasonal occurrence of Graves’ disease (GD) has been reported in previous studies, with a peak of frequency in the warmer half of the year (Ford 1988, 1991, Westphal 1994) or the period of the year with a higher iodine intake (Phillips 1985); other studies (Facchini 2000) have failed to find a different seasonal occurrence of Graves’ orbitopathy (GO). Aim of the present study was to evaluate a possible seasonal difference in the onset of GD and GO in a series of outpatient followed in our Department from April 2002 to October 2008.

About 551 patients with GD and GO were studied retrospectively by analyzing our database. Patients were seen in 1500 consecutive ophthalmological examinations. The mean (±2.5%●%●) age at diagnosis was 44.2±0.6 years. Mean (±2.5%●%●) time interval between the diagnosis of GO and GD and the onset of symptoms was 5.32±0.5 and 4.61±0.3 months, respectively. We found an increased prevalence of the diagnosis of GO in May (P< 0.03) and from August to September (P<0.004 and 0.045) compared to the rest of the year. Similarly, a diagnosis of GD was more frequent in the months of July, August and September (P<0.032, 0.014 and 0.005, respectively). In conclusion, our study shows that although both GD and GO are more frequently occurring during the warmer periods of the years, in accordance to previous studies, GO has a characteristic peak of frequency also in the month of May. These findings suggest perhaps some environmental factors may act as initial triggers of thyroid autoimmunity, similarly to what reported in other autoimmune disease such as type 1 diabetes.

P121
The incidence of thyroid cancer in the North-Eastern Region of Poland: a twelve year follow-up
Anna Zonenberg1, Beata Telejko1, Agnieszka Nikolajuk1, Katarzyna Siewko2, Lech Zimmoch1, Jacek Dadan1, Ida Kinalska1 & Maria Gorka1
1Department of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Internal Medicine, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland; 2Department of Clinical Pathomorphology, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland.

Before the introduction of mandatory salt iodination in 1997 the North-Eastern Region of Poland was known to be a moderate iodine deficiency area. It was also exposed to ionizing radiation after the Chernobyl accident in 1986. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the descriptive epidemiological features of incident thyroid cancers diagnosed among the residents of this area between 1996 and 2007. The Regional Cancer Surveillance Program was used to collect data on 834 newly diagnosed thyroid cancers registered during a 12-year period. The average annual incidence of all types of thyroid cancer per 100 000 residents rose from 3.9 in 1996 to 8.8 in 2000 and then decreased slightly to 6.8 in 2006 (mean—5.8 cases per 100 000 inhabitants). Thyroid cancer was more frequently diagnosed in women (81.9%) than in men. The majority of all cases was diagnosed in the age group of 46-55 years. There were 12 newly diagnosed cancers in children under 15 years of age (4 cases among children born after the Chernobyl disaster). The commonest histological type was papillary carcinoma (73.3%). Follicular type accounted for 11.4%, oxyphilic—6.4%, medullar—4.0%, anaplastic—3.1% and other types—for 1.8% of cases.

Conclusion
The increased incidence of thyroid cancers observed in a 12-year period is most likely explained by the improvement in diagnostic techniques. Iodine deficiency seems to be a less probable factor in view of the predominance of the papillary type of carcinoma.
P123
The outcome of radioidine therapy in Graves’ hyperthyroidism: thyroid size as prognostic factor
Jolanta Kijek1, Jerzy S Tarach1, Maria Kurowska2 & Helena Jankowska1
1Department of Nuclear Medicine, Medical University, Lublin, Poland; 2Department of Endocrinology, Medical University, Lublin, Poland.

Aim
The aim of the study was the evaluation of the relationship between thyroid size and the result of radioactive iodine therapy in patients treated due to Graves’ hyperthyroidism.

Material and methods
The study group included 150 subjects (127 M and 23 F), aged from 20 to 78 years (mean 48.33 years) at the moment of ¹³¹I therapy. In all patients the thyroid technetium-99m scan and determination of the serum levels of fT₃, fT₄, fT₃A (Delta method), TSH (IFMA ‘Delta’ method), TSHRAB (radioceptor method ‘TRAK assay’) were performed. Iodine uptake was measured at 24-h, 48-h, then half-life has been determined. The thyroid weight was estimated on the basis of thyroid technetium-99m scan. The therapeutic activity of ¹³¹I was calculated according to Marinelli’s formula.

After one year follow-up, the thyroid function has been estimated.

Successful therapy was defined as euthyroidism or permanent hypothyroidism.

Results
The thyroid weight in the group of patients before treatment ranged from 54 to 367 g (mean 72.34 ± 47.24 g). After one year, euthyroidism was observed in 47 patients (31.55%), hyperthyroidism in 47 Parsons (31.55%). In 56 subjects (37.3%) persistent hyperthyroidism have been diagnosed. Among patients with successful therapy, the thyroid mass ranged between 5.4 and 367 g (mean 61.97 ± 45.5 g), but in ineffective therapy group ranged between 8.2 and 196.0 g (89.59 ± 45.36 g).

The difference of thyroid mass was statistically significant (P = 0.0004).

Conclusions
The obtained results confirm, that ¹³¹I therapy is effective method of hyperthyroidism treatment, but patients of the ineffective therapy group presented larger goiter.

P124
Prognostic role of sub-clinical hypothyroidism in chronic heart failure outpatients
Edoardo Guastamachini1, Vincenzo Triggiani1, Massimo Iacoviello2, Pietro Guida1, Cinzia Forlò1, Raffaella Catanzaro1, Emilio Tafaro1 & Stefano Favale2
1Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, University of Bari, Bari, Italy; 2Cardiology, University of Bari, Bari, Italy.

The aim of this study was to evaluate the prognostic role of sub-clinical hypothyroidism in patients with chronic heart failure (CHF). We evaluated 338 consecutive outpatients (260 male; age 64 ± 13) with stable CHF (NYHA class 2.3 ± 0.6) receiving conventional therapy (ACE inhibitors and/or ARBs 95%, Beta-blockers 88%, Digitalis 26%, Diuretics 85%, Spironolactone 54%, Amiodarone 32%). The patients underwent a physical examination, electrocardiography and echocardiography. Blood samples were drawn to assess renal function, and Na+, haemoglobin, NT-proBNP, fT₃, fT₄ and TSH levels.

Results
TSH levels > 5.5 mIU/l were found in 34 patients (10%): none of these had low fT₄ levels even though they show fT₃ and fT₄ values lower than subjects with normal TSH values. The patients with sub-clinical hypothyroidism were older, more frequently affected by diabetes and atrial fibrillation, and often treated with amiodarone; they had higher mean NYHA class, worse renal function, and lower mean arterial pressure. During the follow-up (mean 15 ± 8 months; median 16 months), the progression of heart failure led to the hospitalization of 79 patients, of whom 18 died after hospitalization and six underwent transplantation. One patient experienced sudden death, and three died of non-cardiac causes. At univariate analysis, progression was significantly associated with age, diabetes, NYHA class, mean arterial pressure, heart rate, atrial fibrillation, LVEF, LVEDD, MR, QRS, hemoglobin, natriemia, NT-proBNP, the absence of ACE inhibitor/ARB therapy, and the absence of beta-blocker therapy. Further, univariate regression analysis showed that TSH (P<0.0001), fT₃ (P=0.0001), fT₄ (P=0.016) and NT-proBNP (P<0.0001) were associated with heart failure progression but multivariate analysis showed that only TSH considered as a continuous variable (P=0.001) as well as subclinical hypothyroidism (TSH> 5.5 mIU/l, P=0.014) remained significantly associated with the events as did mean arterial pressure (P=0.003).

Conclusions
In CHF patients TSH levels even slightly above normal range are independently associated with a greater likelihood of heart failure progression. Routinely monitoring of TSH could be useful to identify high risk patients and to improve their prognosis through levothyroxine administration.

P125
Cognitive functions and concentrations of thyroid hormones and thyrotropin in hyperthyroidism in the course of Graves’ disease
Karolina Jabłkowska1, Katarzyna Nowakowska1, Joanna Klubo-Gwiazdinska1, Roman Junk1 & Alina Borkowska1
1Department of Medical Psychology, Lodz, Poland; 2Department of Endocrinology and Diabetology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz, Bydgoszcz, Poland.

Cognitive dysfunctions, observed in the course of thyroid diseases (hyper- and hypothyroidism), have - in the recent years - been the subject of interest for many research teams. Even mild disorders of thyroid functionality are associated with hormone concentration changes which affect the general mood and cognitive functions. The efficiency of cognitive functions, which allow the man’s adaptation to environment al conditions, is determined by the activities of particular brain areas, while normal concentration of thyroid hormones is important to maintain proper brain functionality.

The goal of the reported study was an evaluation of the relationship between the efficiency of cognitive functions and concentrations of thyroid hormones (fT₃ and fT₄) and thyrotropin (TSH).

Fifty (50) patients with Graves’ disease (39 female and 11 male) were qualified into the study, the mean age: 41±10.7 years. Graves’ disease was confirmed in laboratory tests by increased concentrations of anti-TSH-R antibodies. The control group comprised 31 healthy volunteers (23 female and 8 male), the mean age: 40±10.3 years. The study group and the control group were matched with regards to their sex and age. Serum concentrations of TSH, fT₃ and fT₄ were measured in both groups.

The following neuropsychological tests were applied for assessment of cognitive functions: the Trail Making Test A&B (MTM A&B), Stroop Colour-Word Interference Test, the Verbal Fluency Test (FAS), the N-back Test and the Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST).

The results, obtained in the group of patients with Graves’ disease, do not indicate any significant relationships between the concentrations of thyroid hormones and TSH and the efficiency of studied cognitive functions. Only in case of the WCST test, were significant correlations noted with the concentrations of the evaluated hormones, what provides some evidence for the higher sensitivity of working memory and executive functions to disorders resulting from hormonal variations.

P126
Antitumor effects of aminobisphosphonates on anaplastic thyroid carcinoma cell lines
Maria Pitrone, Giovanni Zito, Elvira Carissimi, Alessandra Bommartito, Pierina Richiusa, Aldo Galluzzo, Carlo Giordano, Giuseppe Pizzolanti & V Bullara
Lab. of Molecular Endocrinology, University of Palermo, DOSAC, Palermo, Italy.

Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma (ATC) is one of the most aggressive endocrine tumors with morphological features of undifferentiated neoplasm. Patients with ATC have a poor prognosis with a mean survival time of 2-6 months. Surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy do not improve survival rate. Bisphosphonates, analogs of endogenous pyrophosphates in which a carbon atom replaces the central oxygen atom, are successful agents for the prevention and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis and also an emerging class of drugs mostly used in the palliative care of cancer patients. Our aim was to investigate the in vitro activity of different bisphosphonates – clodronate, pamidronate, alendronate and zoledronic acid – in four human anaplastic thyroid cell lines. For this purpose, we studied KAT-18, SW1736, 8505C and C63 cell lines by MTT assay and flow cytometry (propidium iodide) after addition of different bisphosphonates ranging from 0 to 100 μM. A cell growth reduction in all anaplastic cell lines treated with pamidronate, alendronate and zoledronic acid at different concentrations was observed. Reduction of viability was founding cytometric analysis (10.6%, 18.8% and 42.5% respectively). Apoptosis was also assessed by DNA ladder. Our preliminary data confirm that the bisphosphonates can induce apoptosis in anaplastic thyroid carcinoma.

P128

Coexistence of hyperparathyroidism and non-medullary thyroid carcinoma

Leonidas Alevizos, Haridimos Markogiannakis, Panagiotsis Kekis, Artemisia Papadima, Frantzeska Sigala, Konstantinos Felis, Konstantinos Toutouzas & Andreas Manousas

Department of Endocrine Surgery, 1st Department of Propaedeutic Surgery, Hippokrationion Hospital, Athens Medical School, University of Athens, Athens, Greece.

Background – objective

Medullary thyroid carcinoma and hyperparathyroidism coexistence is well described in the literature. On the other hand, data regarding the coexistence of non-medullary thyroid cancer and hyperparathyroidism are scarce. The aim of this study was to evaluate the occurrence of such coexistence.

Methods

This is a retrospective study of all patients with primary or secondary hyperparathyroidism who underwent parathyroidectomy in our endocrine surgery unit from 2003 to 2006. Thyroid surgery was additionally performed in those cases that preoperative or intraoperative findings were suspicious of thyroid cancer.

Results

Sixty consecutive patients (38 female: 63.3%) were included in our study. Mean age of the patients was 56.3±7.4 years (range: 26-80 years). Twenty-nine patients (48.3%) had primary and 31 (51.7) secondary hyperparathyroidism. Total thyroidectomy was performed in 15 cases (25%). Thyroid cancer was found in 7 cases (11.6% of the total study group and 46.6% of the patients with thyroidectomy). In all cases the final histopathology report was consistent with primary papillary thyroid cancer. One patient with thyroid carcinoma had secondary hyperparathyroidism (3.2%) and 6 primary disease (20.7%). This difference was found to be statistically significant (P=0.04).

Conclusions

Non-medullary thyroid cancer may be identified in a substantial proportion of patients with hyperparathyroidism that preoperative or intraoperative findings suggest thyroid disease. In our study, there was a significant coexistence of papillary thyroid carcinoma and primary hyperparathyroidism. The surgeon should, therefore, not overlook the thyroid gland when medullary carcinoma is excluded and focus merely on the evident parathyroid disease in such a setting.

P129

The effect of radiodine therapy in patients with non-toxic goitre

Sacid Abdelrezek1, Franciszek Rogowski2, Anna Zoneberg2, Maria Gorskia2, Malgorzata Malgorzata Szlachowska2, Piotr Piotr Zuzowsk1, Malgorzata Malgorzata Fruckik1, Katarzyna Siewks2 & Malgorzata Malgorzata Karolczuk-Zarachowicz2

1Department of Nuclear Medicine, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland; 2Department of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Internal Medicine Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland.

There is no consensus regarding the optimum treatment of benign non-toxic goitre. Randomised studies have shown that levotiroxine has poor evidence of efficacy and is inferior to radiodine therapy regarding goitre reduction.

The aim of our study was to assess the efficacy of radiodine therapy (RIT) to reduce thyroid volume with minimal risk of hypothyroidism in patients with non-toxic nodular goitre.

Material and methods

During the last 7 years we treated 150 patients, aged 22–76 years; 88% female and 12% male; initial RAIU after 24 h was ranged between 22 and 44%, and thyroid volume ranged between 44 and 170 ml. Qualifications of these patients were based on normal levels of serum TSH, FT3, and FT4, and characteristic appearance on thyroid scans and ultrasound. Some of the patients complained of compressive symptoms (65 patients). Malignant changes were excluded in all nodules by fine needle aspiration biopsy. The therapeutic radioactivity was calculated by the use of Marinelli’s formula and ranged between 400 and 800 MBq. The absorbed dose (Gy) ranged between 180 and 300, and was proportional to thyroid volume. Follow up control was done every 6 weeks.

Results

After 12 months of radiodine therapy a mean thyroid volume reduction of 46% was achieved in all the patients, euthyroidism persist in 93% of patients, and hypothyroidism develop in eleven patients (7%). All patients were highly satisfied; the compressive symptoms relieved and exercise tolerance improved.

Conclusions

Radioiodine is non-invasive, safe and cost effective method of therapy for reduction of goitre and should be used as first choice in every patient with non-toxic nodular goitre (>40 ml) especially in patients with special professions (singer, teacher) or in patients who wish a non-invasive treatment modality. The reduction of thyroid volume with low percent of hypothyroidism, were due to accurate measurement of administered activity, relatively high effective half-life, and well-organised follow up.

P130

A case of complete deficiency of total thyroxine-binding globulin (TBG) associated with Graves’ disease

Doo-Man Kim1, Hyoon Kyu Kim1 & Soon Jib Yoo2

1Department of Internal Medicine, Hallym University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Republic of Korea; 2Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine, Catholic University, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Thyroxine-binding globulin (TBG), the major transport protein for thyroid hormone in circulation, is synthesized in the liver. Complete TBG deficiency was first reported in 1964, and in 1991 a single nucleotide deletion was found in the first base of the codon for amino acid 352 of the common type TBG molecule. This mutation causes a frameshift in translation and premature termination. Most people with abnormal TBG concentrations are euthyroid. Cases of Graves’ disease with periodic paralyzis and complete deficiency of TBG have rarely been reported.

We here describe a 28-year-old male with total thyroxine-binding globulin (TBG) deficiency associated with Graves’ disease. He experienced symptoms of periodic paralysis for several days before admission. His thyroid function showed low TSH (<0.01 mU/l) and elevated free T4 level (3.86 ng/dl), but total T3 concentration was normal (100 ng/dl). Other test results are as follows: total T4: 4.04 ng/dl, TSH binding inhibitory immunoglobulin (TBII): 51.1%, and TBG level <1.0 ng/ml.

Allele specific PCR and DNA sequencing of the patient revealed a single nucleotide deletion was found in the first base of the codon for amino acid 352 of the TBG. We treated him with methimazole and followed.
P131
Regression of pulmonary arterial hypertension after treatment of hyperthyroidism
Anita Rosa Quidute1, Joyce Paiva1, Virginia Fernandes1, Clarisse Ponte1, Rejane Magalhães1, Renan Montenegro1, Ana Gardênia Farias1, Carlos Roberto Rodrigues Soebrinho2 & Renan Montenegro Junior1,3
1Endocrinology and Diabetes Service, Walter Cantidio University Hospital, Federal University of Ceará, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil; 2Cardiology Service, Walter Cantidio University Hospital, Federal University of Ceará, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil; 3Community Health Department, Faculty of Medicine, Federal University of Ceará, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil; 4Clinical Medicine Department, Faculty of Medicine, Federal University of Ceará, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil.

Several pathological processes contribute to the development and progression of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), which is a disorder with high morbidity and mortality rates. However, although cardiac manifestations are common in hyperthyroidism (HT), they have been seldom described in association with HT. Thus, the objective of this study was to evaluate echocardiographic parameters in patients with Graves Disease, showing uncontrolled hyperthyroidism and after its reversion with radioactive iodine therapy. We evaluate prospectively six patients with GD, (41.0±14.6 years), of whom four were female. The PAH was defined using Systolic Pulmonary Arterial Pressure (SPAP) ≥30 mmHg. The SPAP was determined by measuring the average of the regurgitation flow through the tricuspid valve (Bernoulli’s equation). Tricuspid insufficiency (TI) was classified as mild, moderate and severe. In the initial evaluation these six patients had suppressed TSH, raised free T3 (5.4± 0.9 ng/dL) and raised T3 (43.5± 137.0 ng/dL). In the initial evaluation all the patients had raised SPAP (61.0± 9.7 mmHg), 16.6% (1/6) had severe TI, 66.6% (4/6) moderate TI and 16.6% (1/6) mild TI, and five patients had severe manifestations of right cardiac insufficiency. After the normalization of thyroid function they all presented a reversal of the PAH (SPAP 30.8± 3.0 mmHg) and mild TI. There was no correlation between the free T3 and SPAP during HT (r=0.00621; P>0.05). This data suggests an association between hyperthyroidism and PAH. The observation of this abnormality in patients with hyperthyroidism as well as its regression after euthyroidism reestablishment demonstrate the importance of systematic echocardiographic evaluation of hyperthyroid patients, especially of those who present right cardiac insufficiency.

P132
Thyroid function, serum lipids and insulin resistance in patients with autoimmune thyroiditis
Celestino Neves1, Marta Alves1, Luís Miguel Pereira1, Isolina Pimentel1, Ema Carvalho1, Renata Carvalho2, Cristina Guimarães2, João Pedro Ramos1, Davide Carvalho1, José Luis Delgado1 & José Luis Medina1
1Endocrinology Service, São João Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Portugal; 2Immunology Service, São João Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Portugal.

Objective
The aim of this study was to examine the hypothesis that thyroid function, in euthyroid subjects with autoimmune thyroiditis (AIT), is associated with insulin resistance, serum lipid concentrations, and other cardiovascular (CV) risk factors. Subjects and Methods: We recorded thyroid function tests, BMI, insulin resistance markers comprising the Homeostasis Model Assessment for insulin resistance (HOMA-IR), the Quantitative Insulin Sensitivity Check Index (QUICKI), HSI (Hepatic Insulin Sensitivity Index), WBISI (Whole-Body Insulin Sensitivity Index), IGI (Insulinogenic Index) and the levels of total cholesterol (TC), HDL, LDL-cholesterol, triglycerides (TG), apolipoprotein B (ApoB), ApoAI, lipoprotein(a) (Lp(a)), homocysteine, CRP (C-reactive protein), folic acid and vitamin B12 levels, in 250 patients with AIT. A 75-g OGTT was performed in the morning (before 11 AM), and blood samples were obtained every 30 min for 120 min for measurements of plasma glucose, insulin, and C-peptide. Statistical analysis was performed with ANOVA and Pearson’s correlations test. Results are expressed as means ± s.d. or percentages. A two-tailed P value <0.05 was considered significant.

Results
There were significant positive correlations between TSH and serum total cholesterol (r=0.382, P=0.01), LDL (r=0.384, P=0.01), TG (r=0.278, P=0.01), and ApoB (r=0.341; P=0.01). BMI was positively associated with FT4 (r=0.274; P=0.01) and negatively associated with HDL (r=−0.279; P=0.01) and Apo A1 (r=−0.299; P=0.01). There were significant negative correlations between CRP and HDL (r=−0.269; P=0.01) and a significant positive correlation between CRP and TG (r=0.567; P=0.01), and homocysteine (r=0.234; P=0.05). There were significant positive correlations between IGI and TG (r=0.264; P=0.01) and TSH (r=0.217; P=0.05), and between WBISI and HDL-C (r=0.203; P=0.05).

Conclusion
Thyroid function and lipid levels are associated even in subjects classified as being euthyroid, thereby extending the established relation between (subclinical) hyperthyroidism and hyperlipidemia in the normal range. These findings are consistent with an increased cardiovascular risk in subjects with low normal thyroid function.

P133
Association of HTLV-I with autoimmune thyroiditis in patients with myelopathy/tropical spastic paraparesis and in HTLV-I carriers in Mashhad, North East of Iran
Morteza Taghavi
Ghaem Hospital, Mashhad Medical Science University, Mashhad, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Objectives
There are some reports about association of autoimmune thyroid diseases with human T cell leukemia virus type 1 (HTLV-I) infection. The objective of this study was to estimate the seroprevalence rates of anti-thyroid antibodies in HTLV-I carriers and HTLV-I-associated myelopathy/tropical spastic paraparesis (HAM/TSP) patient of Iran, to determine any association between HTLV-I infection and Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (HT).

Materials and methods
About 46 HTLV-I infected patients (24 patients with HAM/TSP and 22 asymptomatic carriers) and 40 HTLV-I seroreactive healthy individuals were screened for the presence of thyroid autoantibodies. The diagnosis of HT was based on the presence of positive thyroid autoantibodies (Anti thyroid peroxidase and/or Anti thyroidoglobulin) and at least one of two additional criteria (hypothyroidism and/or goiter). Analysis of data was done using Fisher-Exact test by statistical software SPSS version 13.0. A P value below 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results
Positivity for thyroid autoantibodies was found in 14 (63.6%) of 22 asymptomatic carriers, 6 (25%) of 24 patients with HAM/TSP and 5 (7.5%) of 40 HTLV-I seroreactive healthy individuals. HT found in 45.4% of asymptomatic carriers, 25% of HAM/TSP patients and 7.5% of seroreactive healthy individuals.

Conclusion
This study demonstrates a high prevalence of HT in the HAM/TSP patients and the HTLV-I carriers in Mashhad. Our findings suggest an association between HLV1-I infection and HT in our region.

P134
Influence of thymoembolic state on distribution of subpopulations and phenotypes of dendritic cells in peripheral blood of the patients with chronic thyroiditis and patients monitored because of differentiated thyroid cancer
Marek Dedejczyk1, Mariusz Staśiök2, Jan Brzezinski1, Krzysztof Selma1 & Andrzej Lewinski1
1Department of General and Endocrine Surgery, Chair of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Medical University of Lodz, Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital – Research Institute, Lodz, Poland; 2Department of Neurology, Medical University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland; 3Department of General and Endocrine Surgery, Chair of Endocrinology and Endocrine Diseases, Medical University of Lodz, Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital - Research Institute, Lodz, Poland; 4Department of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Chair of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Medical University of Lodz, Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital – Research Institute, Lodz, Poland.

Considering, the pivotal role of DC in formation and development of autoimmune neurological processes, the investigation of the thymoembolic status on maturation and function of subtypes of human peripheral blood DC, seems to be reasonable and of particular interest. The AIM of the present study was a complex analysis of the dendritic cell subsets and phenotypes in patients with chronic thyroïditis (ChT) as well as the patients monitored for differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC).

Patients and methods
Blood samples were collected from patients suffering from ChT before and after treatment with l-T3 (N=18). Moreover, to investigate the influence of thyroid
hormones, blood samples for ex vivo analysis were collected from thyroidecto-
mised (because of differentiated thyroid carcinoma) patients (n=21) at two time
points: (i) after withdrawal of l-T4 treatment group before treatment, and (ii)
during 2 months of l-T4 administration in order to suppress TSH concentration
group after treatment. FACS analysis of expression of selected molecules on the
blood dendritic cells was performed. Furthermore, the investigation of the DC cell
culture was performed in the conditions of deficiency and excess of T3.

Results

We found that the percentage of pDCs and mDC in peripheral blood was
dependent on thyrotrypsin and that in patients with CH this regulation was
partially impaired. Additionally, we observed lower expression of CD86 on
myeloid DCs in hypothyroid CH patients as compared to thyroidecetomised
patients. Interestingly this difference was attenuated by l-T4 treatment. The effect
of thyroid hormones on surface expression of co-stimulatory molecules was then
confirmed in vivo in experiments with freshly sorted human DCs.

Conclusions

Results of our study indicate that thyroid hormones influence the biology of
peripheral blood DCs. This regulatory effect was furthermore affected by chronic
thyroiditis. This observation might be of great importance for understanding of
immune disorders of endocrine system.

P135

Evaluation of cyclins a and b1 expression in classical and nonclassical
variants of papillary thyroid carcinoma

M Naze1, M Dedecus1, G Stasikowska1, S Sporny2 & J Brzezinski1
1Department of General and Endocrine Surgery, Medical University of
Lodz, Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital – Research Institute, Lodz,
Poland; 2Department of Pathomorphology, Medical University of Lodzi,
Lodz, Poland.

The loss of regulatory control of the cell, leading to uncontrolled cell proliferation,
is a hallmark of cancer. In a number of cancers, over expression of cyclin A and
cyclin B1 proteins has been reported and in some instances the level of expression
correlates with the grades of malignancy. In the present study, we analyzed,
by immunohistochemistry, the expression of cyclins A and B1, proteins enabling
passing G2-restriction point, in different histological variants of papillary
thyroid carcinomas (PTC). We investigated immunostaining patterns in 40 tissue
specimens of PTC for cyclin A and B1 which were divided into 3 groups: 20
classical PTC, 9 follicular variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma (FVPTC) and
11 other that FVPTC nonclassical PTC. Nuclear and/or cytoplasmic immunostaining
detecting > 5% of tumor cells was considered the cut-off for both cyclins. We
observed a significant differences in expression of cyclin A and B1 between the
groups. The highest expression was observed in group of other that FVPTC
nonclassical PTC, the lowest expression was observed in group of classical PTC.
The results of the study may potentially explain more aggressive character of
other that follicular, nonclassical, variants of PTC. Evaluation of cyclins A and B1
in various thyroid lesions may be helpful in diagnostically doubtful cases. However,
we cannot yet consider cyclins as a prognostic markers because the group of
nonclassical PTC is to small.

P136

Alterations in TSH and thyroid hormones following mobile phone use

S Mohammad, J Mirtazavi, Asadollah Habib, A H Ganj-Karimi & Razieh
Samimi Doost

Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences, Rafsanjan, Islamic Republic of
Iran.

Background

In recent years, the widespread use of mobile phones has lead to a public debate
about possible detrimental effects on human health. In spite of years of research,
there is still a great controversy regarding the possibility of induction of any
significant physiological effects in humans by microwave radiations emitted by
mobile phones. This study is an attempt to investigate the effects of
electromagnetic fields induced by GSM mobile phones on the TSH and thyroid
hormones in humans.

Materials and methods

Seventy seven healthy university students participated in this study. The levels of
T3, T4 and TSH were measured by using appropriate ELISA kits (Human,
Germany).

Results

The average levels of T3, T4 and TSH in the students who moderately used
mobile phones were 1.25±0.27 ng/ml, 7.76±1.73 μg/dl and 4.25±2.12 μU/l
respectively. These levels in the students who severely used mobile phones were
1.18±0.30, 7.75±1.14 and 3.75±2.05 respectively. In non-users, these levels were
1.15±0.27, 8.42±2.72 and 2.70±1.75 respectively. The difference among
the levels of TSH in these 3 groups was statistically significant (P<0.05).

Conclusion

Based on our findings: a higher than normal TSH level, low mean T4 and normal
T3 concentration in mobile users, it seems that minor degrees of thyroid
dysfunction with a compensatory rise in TSH may occur following excessive use
of mobile phones. It may be concluded that possible deleterious effects of mobile
microwaves on hypothalamic-pituitary-thyroid axis affects the levels of these
hormones.

P137

Prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in the elderly women of Iran

Mitra Niafar, Akbar Aliasgharzadeh, Amir Bahrami & Farzad Najafipur
Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Objectives

The present study aimed to investigate the prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in
the elderly women of Tabriz city, the largest city in North West Iran.

Design

Cross-sectional study.

Setting and participants

By using the records of the local household registry, a sample of 1150 subjects
was drawn by simple random sampling. After the exclusion of nonresponse
subjects, 1000 subjects aged between 60 and 89 years (mean 64.5±4.5) were
included in our survey.

Measurements

Tests of thyroid function including TSH concentration in all subjects; and free T4
concentration, free T3 concentration and anti-microsomal antibodies in those with
abnormal TSH were conducted.

Results

Seventy-three (7.3%) participants had high (>4.5 mU/l), and 54 (5.4%) had low
(<0.3 mU/l) TSH levels. The overall prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in the
sample was 12.7%. Of the 73 participants with high TSH levels, 15 (20.5%) had
overt hyperthyroidism, and of the 54 participants with low TSH levels, 12 (22.2%)
had overt hypothyroidism. Only 1 participant (1.85%) had T3 toxicosis. High
titers of anti-microsomal antibodies were found in 60.6% of those with high TSH
levels.

Conclusion

The prevalence of abnormal biochemical thyroid function reported here is
substantial and confirms previous reports in other populations. Individual
symptoms were not very sensitive, but patients who report multiple thyroid
symptoms warrant serum thyroid testing.

We found that the prevalence of thyroid dysfunction is high in elderly female
population of East Azerbaijan. The results provide baseline information to settle
public health plans and to track the changes.

P138

Experimental method of post-surgery hypothyroidism treatment

Sergey Astapenko, Oleandr Kostyno, Oleandr Butysky & Dmytro Shestopalov

Crimean State Medical University, Simferopol, Ukraine.

Growth of morbidity with thyroid nodes and increase of thyroidectomy in
Ukraine to 4000-5000 annually forces to find more efficient methods of correction
of post-surgery hypothyroidism as the most frequent complication after thyroid
surgery. In 10-20% of cases reach adequate euthyroidism by exogenous
l-thyroxin is impossible.

Methods

Experiments were performed on A (control) and B (experimental) groups of dogs
(20). All were made thyroidecctomy to model hypothyroidism. Removed thyroid
was cut into plates and undergone for cryopreservation (-196 °C). In the group
B thyroid tissue was exposed to processing by oxygen under pressure 3 atm in
pressure chamber before freezeing and before transplantation. In both groups on
the 20th day after surgery we made thyroid autotransplantation. All the dogs
before surgery, on the 40th and 60th day after thyroid removal determined clinical
and hormones level (TSH, T4).

**Results**
By the end of the 2nd week after thyroidecтомy all the dogs had the symptoms of hypothyroidism: weight loss, decrease of fatty tissue thickness, decrease of $T_4$, and increase of TSH.

**Dynamics of hormonal status of animals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before surgery</th>
<th>On the 40th day</th>
<th>On the 60th day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TSH, mIU/l</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5 ± 0.05</td>
<td>0.5 ± 0.05</td>
<td>0.65 ± 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_4$, nmol/l</td>
<td>33.6 ± 0.04</td>
<td>33.6 ± 0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusions**
(1) We improved the method of thyroid autotransplantation and treatment of post-surgery hypothyroidism in experiment.
(2) Our method of thyroid tissue cryopreservation under hyperoxygenation is simple, oxygenated thyroid grafts function more efficiently. $T_4$ on the 40–60th day exceeds the control group for 8%. TSH is averagely less for 12%.

This method of hypothyroidism treatment enables to restore physiological hormonal status of experimental animals.

**P139**
**Physical and psychological well-being in adults with thyroid abnormalities**
Gideon Mlawa1,2, Charles Bodmir1,2,3 & Ryod D’Souza1,2
1Colchester Hospital, Colchester, UK; 2Colchester Hospital, Colchester, UK; 3Chasey Farm Hospital, London, UK.

**Methods**
A total of 102 patients who were referred to thyroid clinic were enrolled in the study in consecutive order. Enrollment criteria comprised patient aged 20–60 with no major life events, previous history of depression, anxiety, or any other significant co-morbidities. Patients were actively excluded if they had postpartum depression, previous history of overdoes or were on antidepressant or previous psychiatric history. These comprised 32 patients with hypothyroidism, 34 patients that were euthyroid and 36 patients that were hyperthyroid.

**P140**
**Anemia frequency and etiology in primary hypothyroidism**
Aybüke Kosenli1, Mehmert Erdogu1, Sencer Canadaloglu2 & Abdullah Canadaloglu1
1Department of Internal Medicine, Numune Education and Research Hospital, Adana, Turkey; 2Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism Disease, Ege University Medical School, Izmir, Turkey.

**Background**
A total of 102 patients who were referred to thyroid clinic were enrolled in the study in consecutive order. Enrollment criteria comprised patient aged 20–60 with no major life events, previous history of depression, anxiety, or any other significant co-morbidities. Patients were actively excluded if they had postpartum depression, previous history of overdoes or were on antidepressant or previous psychiatric history. These comprised 32 patients with hypothyroidism, 34 patients that were euthyroid and 36 patients that were hyperthyroid.

**Results**
Patients with hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism were more likely to experience a poor quality of life that patients that were euthyroid. Hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism were more likely to be associated with depression or anxiety than euthyroid patients. Anxiety, depression and quality of life were evaluated using Hamilton Anxiety rating scale and shortform 36.

**Conclusions**
Treatment of hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism and return to euthyroid status is accompanied by improvement in quality of life and psychological symptoms. Larger controlled randomised studies are required in future that assest anxiety, depression and quality of life in thyroid patients and follow through treatment so that they can act as their own control.

**P141**
**Thyrotropin suppression by metformin in a cohort of patients with differentiated thyroid cancer in follow-up**
Roberto Citarella, Luciana Palero, Francesca Chiosfalo, Lucia Smalderi, Miriam Nucera & Pierina Richiusa
Endocrinology Section of Universitary Policlinic, Palermo, Italy.

**Background**
It has been reported that metformin might modify thyroid hormone economy. This pharmacological tool appears very useful in patients with differentiated thyroid cancer usually receiving high Levo-tiroxine (L-T4) doses to suppress thyrotropin (TSH). In those patients that after five years of follow-up showed no persistence of disease, it’s useful to abolish the iatrogenic hyperthyroid condition.

**Objective**
To evaluate metformin efficacy to suppress TSH.

**Methods**
From a population of patients with differentiated thyroid cancer in follow-up we selected a cohort of 30 long-standing subjects (mean age: 48.1 ± 9.52; F/M: 24/6) in which oral glucose tolerance test documented an insulin-resistance syndrome.

**Results**
Patients were in l-T4 substitutive/suppressive therapy at the dose of 2.2–3 mcg/kg body weight. BML, TSH, FT4 were measured at baseline, after two and four months. At baseline l-T4 therapy was reduced to 2 mcg/kg body weight, aimed to reduce subclinical hyperthyroidism, and after two months metformin 500 mg tid was introduced.

**Conclusions**
At the study start patients showed undosable TSH (0.22 ± 0.20); in this stage l-T4 therapy was reduced to 2 mcg/kg body weight. Two months after reduction of l-T4 therapy TSH levels were in the normal range (0.96 ± 0.62) showing statistical difference from baseline ($P=0.003$). After four months TSH levels were suppressed (0.21 ± 0.29) showing significant difference from the value obtained after two months of l-T4 reduction ($P=0.03$) but not from baseline ($P=ns$). There was no change in FT4.

**Initiation of treatment with metformin caused suppression of TSH to subnormal levels without clinical symptoms of hyperthyroidism in any patients. No other potential causes of TSH suppression, including medication changes or interference in the TSH assay, could be identified. Thus, metformin administration is associated with a significant fall in TSH useful to avoid iatrogenic subclinical hyperthyroidism.**
P142

Human thyroid tissue HCO₃⁻-ATPase in norm and pathology
Nana Koshoridze, Manana Chipashvili, Ketri Menabde & Zurab Kuchukhashvili
Tbilisi IV. Javakhishvili State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Scientific literature contains data on HCO₃⁻-activated and Mg²⁺-stimulated ATPase detected in various tissues of vertebrate animals, specifically in the pancreas mucus, liver, kidneys, erythrocytes, diaphragm and various structures in the brain. It has been discovered that maximum enzymatic activity is characteristic to secretory tissues. The nature and function of this ferment has not been fully discovered, although several assumptions do exist. One of them maintains that HCO₃⁻-ATPase is an active participant in the regulation of intracellular pH. This research has aimed at the study of human thyroid gland HCO₃⁻-ATPase and changes in its activity under various pathologies (gland adenoma, carcinoma and diffusive-toxic goiter).

In order to achieve the goals set before the research we have studied distribution of enzymatic activity in the mitochondrial, nuclear fractions and those taken from endoplasmic reticulum and plasma membranes from healthy and affected human thyroid tissues, for which a relevant permit was pre-obtained from the Ministry of Health. The received data have shown an especially high enzymatic activity in the mitochondrial and plasma membrane fractions. Alongside we have observed radical changes in HCO₃⁻-ATPase activity under various gland pathologies, such as adenoma, carcinoma and diffusive-toxic goiter.

In order to establish the nature of HCO₃⁻-ATPase activity changes we have studied kinetic properties of the enzyme, such as Vₘₐₓ and Kₘ in healthy and sick gland tissues and determined kinetic parameters of the enzyme.

Based on the available data we have assumed that formation of various thyroid pathologies is accompanied by changes in HCO₃⁻-ATPase activity, which could possibly lead to the gland-related diseases.

P144

Targeted high-risk case finding of thyroid dysfunction in an Iranian pregnant population
Khatereh Mahoori, Mohsen Dehghani Zahedani, Azadeh Azizfar & Mehrdad Solati
Hormozgan University of Medical Sciences, Bandar Abbas, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
To evaluate efficacy of universal screening versus high risk group screening for thyroid dysfunction in pregnant women.

Method
From February to July 2008, prospective study was performed on 608 pregnant women in Bandar Abbas, Iran. All of pregnant women were tested for T4, T3, T3RU, FT4, TPO Ab in the first pre natal visit. Then, were assigned into two groups in order to have positive history of thyroid dysfunction or first degree family history and other autoimmune disorders in high risk group or not in low risk group. The rate of thyroid dysfunction (hypothyroid and hyperthyroid) in two these groups compared together.

Results
Of the 608 pregnant women 85.4% were euthyroid, 12.3% hypothyroid (0.5% overt and 11.8% subclinical hypothyroidism) and 2.3% hyperthyroid. 14.7% of hypothyroid women and none of hyperthyroidism reported a positive history of thyroid dysfunction. 17.6% of cases with hypothyroidism and 14.3% of hypothyroidism had family history of thyroid dysfunction. In this study, only one subject had diabetes mellitus. The correlation between thyroid dysfunction in pregnancy and personal history of thyroid dysfunction in past was significant (P value: 0.00) but not family history of thyroid dysfunction (P value:0.3). 26.7%of hypothyroid women and 14.3% of hyperthyroidism fall in high risk group and 73.3% of hypothyroid and 85.7% of hyper thyroid women were in low risk group.

Conclusion
In this study, more than three quarter of woman with thyroid dysfunction would not be screened because they were in low risk group. It shows Targeted High risk case finding is not enough efficacies for detection thyroid dysfunction during pregnancy.

P143

Clinical and epidemiological characteristics of thyroid hemiagiosis: ultrasound screening in patients with thyroid disease and normal population
Alptekin Gürsoy1, Cineyed Ansı1, Aslı Dogruk Unal1, Aslı Nar1, Neslihan Basci Türkmenç1 & Murat Faik Erdogdu2
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Baskent University, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Thyroid hemiagiosis is a rare form of thyroid dysgenesis, in which one thyroid lobe fails to develop. The true prevalence of this rare abnormality is about 0.05-0.2% in normal population. We aimed to determine prevalence of thyroid hemiagiosis in patients with various thyroid disorders and a normal population in a mild to moderate iodine-deficient area.

Subjects and methods
The clinical and thyroid ultrasonographic records of 4,833 patients who presented with various thyroid disorders were reviewed. In addition, ultrasonographic data of two large surveys carried out for the community screening of iodine status of children (n=4,772) and thyroid disorders of adult subjects (n=2,935) were analyzed.

Results
In patients with thyroid disorders, we found 12 cases with thyroid hemiagiosis (0.25%). Thyroid hemiagiosis was due to the agenesys of the left lobe in all cases. The underlying thyroid diseases were Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (n=4), euthyroid multinodular goiter (n=4), and toxic adenoma (n=1). Three subjects have no underlying thyroid disease. In ultrasonography screening of normal population, altogether, the absence of the left lobe was detected in only two cases, indicating a true prevalence of thyroid hemiagiosis of 0.025%. None of the reviewed patients had thyroid dysfunction.

Conclusion
Our community-based data on thyroid hemiagiosis is in accordance with previous studies in terms of prevalence and male-to-female ratio.

P145

Assessment of biochemical parameters during Levothyroxine replacement therapy in hypothyroid patients
Romana Mjovuc1, Milica Medic-Stojanoska1, Nikola Curic1, Stanislava Tonici1, Branika Kovacev-Zavicic2 & Ljiljana Djilas-Todorovic2
1Center for Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Center of Voivodina, Novi Sad, Serbia; 2Clinic for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Disease, Clinical Center of Voivodina, Novi Sad, Serbia.

Aim of this study was to evaluate biochemical parameters of thyroid gland function, used in evaluation of levothyroxine (l-T4) dose titration during a long time period in hypothyroid patients.

Patients and methods
About 32 hypothyroid women were included in our study. All patients were euthyroid for a long time, treated with levothyroxine replacement therapy, taking an individually titrated daily dosage (50-100 µg). Blood samples were taken from all the patients before therapy (on empty stomach), and two hours after therapy administration. In both blood samples, the following parameters were estimated: TT3, TT4, FT3, FT4 & TSH. Those parameters were measured at once by immunometric assays on ARCHITECT i2000SR. All data were processed by standard statistical analysis.

Results
There is statistical significant increment (P<0.05) of FT4 (X=14.9 µmol/l; s.d. = 1.9) and TT4 (X=118 µmol/l; s.d. = 21.2) values after levothyroxine administration regarding the values measured before therapy (FT4-X=13.6 µmol/l; s.d. = 1.7; TT4-X=107.5 µmol/l; s.d. = 19.2). There is no statistical difference between values of TT3 and TT3 before and after administration of replacement therapy (P>0.05). After therapy administration, there was an estimated decrement of TSH values (X=1.67 µIU/l; s.d. = 1.45) regarding the values of TSH before the therapy (X=2.76 µIU/l; s.d. = 1.98), but with no statistical difference (P=0.06) due to high s.d.

Conclusion
Time interval between levothyroxine administration and blood sampling for FT4, TT4 and TSH measurements should be accounted for order to evaluate the applied levothyroxine dose. Due to these results, it is recommended that blood samples should be collected before l-T4 therapy administration in clinically euthyroid and overtly hypothyroid patients, but when there is a suspicion of
P146
Nondiagnostic fine needle aspiration biopsy results
Kamil Gu1, Çevdet Aydin1, Fevzi Balkan1, Ali Erkan2, Reyyan Eroşy1 & Bekir Çakır1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ankara Ataturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of 2. General Surgery, Ankara Ataturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) is a reliable and safe method to distinguish benign and malignant thyroid nodules. FNAB has two major limitations: nondiagnostic and suspicious cytology results. There is uncertainty about clinical approach to the nondiagnostic FNAB in thyroid nodules. Our aim was to evaluate the ratio and reasons of nondiagnostic results, and the ratio of malignancy in these nodules.

Method
About 2082 patients and 3404 nodules in these patients who referred to the thyroid disease outpatient clinic between 2005 and 2008 were analyzed, retrospectively. Nodules with suspicious ultrasonographic images and two nondiagnostic cytology were given to surgery. Nodules reported as nondiagnostic in two cytologies, but without suspicious ultrasonographic images were taken to clinical and ultrasonographic follow-up.

Results
FNAB was performed in 3404 nodules. After the first ultrasonography guided FNAB, the rate of nondiagnostic cytology was 9.3% and a second FNAB was repeated in this group. Cytology was reported as nondiagnostic again in 10.8% of these. According to nodule size, 14.6% of infranodular intranodular and 7.9% of supraclavicular lymph node were nondiagnostic (P < 0.001). The ratio of nondiagnostic results was 8.9% in solid nodules, 12.3% in mixed nodules and 13.8% in cystic nodules (P = 0.08). 14 patients with nondiagnostic cytology underwent operation and histopathologically malignancy ratio was found to be 64.5% (n = 9).

Conclusion
According to our results, the ratio of nondiagnostic cytology results was 9.3%. Nondiagnostic cytology was found to be related to the size of the nodule. In the literature malignancy ratio in nondiagnostic cytology is reported between 9 and 37% in different studies, but ours was 64.5%. The reason for higher malignancy rates in our study may be preference of surgical management not in all patients with nondiagnostic cytology but in patients with clinically and ultrasonographically suspicious cytology. Considering this result, nondiagnostic cytology might not be of benign cytology and should be evaluated carefully.

P147
Concurrency of primary hyperparathyroidism and thyroid diseases
Kamil Gu1, Reyyan Eroşy1, Birol Korukluoglu1, F. Eren Eroşy2, Raci Aydin1, Olcay K Bellenli1, Nevzat Serdar Ugras1 & Bekir Çakır1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ankara Ataturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of 2. General Surgery, Ankara Ataturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Thyroid diseases are reported to be in 22–70% of primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) patients in different studies. Thyroid pathology is detected during neck exploration in some of these patients. In this study we aimed to investigate thyroid pathology in patients operated for PHPT in our clinic.

Method
About 32 PHPT patients were included in the study. Patients were evaluated with thyroid function tests, antithyroglobulin antibody, antithyroid peroxidase antibody, TSH receptor antibody, thyroid ultrasonography (US), and fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB). All patients were operated including neck exploration.

Results
Thyroid US before operation yielded thyroid nodule in 21 patients. 17 patients were euthyroid before operation of which 12 had multinodular goiter (MNG), 3 had nodular goiter (NG) and 2 had postoperative recurrent MNG. One of two hyperthyroid patients had toxic MNG whereas the other had toxic diffuse goiter. Chronic thyroiditis and MNG with thyroiditis were responsible from hypothyroidism in 4 and 3 patients, respectively. Thyroid autoantibodies were high in 7 patients. Summing these, preoperative thyroid pathology was found to be in 27/84% patients. Preoperatively 33 of 54 nodules were aspirated and all were reported as benign. 24 patients had parathyroidectomy with thyroid operation. Among these patients, it was reported that 3 had papillary microcarcinoma(9%), 7 had chronic lymphocytic thyroditis(21%) and 15 had nodular hyperplasia(47%) histopathologically. PHPT was due to parathyroid adenoma in 31 patients and carcinoma in 1 patient.

Conclusion
In our study, there was concurrent thyroid pathology in 84% of patients operated for PHPT. We like to draw attention to 3 patients (9%) who had incidental thyroid malignancy postoperatively. With minimal invasive surgical approach used much more common in recent years, dual pathology operations are not evaluated particularly Therefore, patients should have detailed neck US and FNAB when needed before operation and surgical approach should be determined considering thyroid pathologies.

P148
Incidental thyroid carcinoma in patients with thyrotoxicosis
Serhat Isik, Dilek Berker, Yusuf Aydin, Uluk Ozuzug, Gulhan Akcil, Tuncay Delibasi & Serdar Guder
S.B. Ankara Numune Research And Training Hospital, Endocrinology And Metabolism Clinic, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Thyroid malignancy detected incidentally in patients who underwent surgery for thyrotoxicosis has been reported at different rates. The aim of this study was to investigate the rate of incidental thyroid carcinoma (ITC) in thyrotoxic patients underwent surgery in our institution.

Methods
The prevalence of ITC was investigated in patients who underwent surgery for Graves’ disease (GD), toxic adenoma (TA) or toxic multinodular goiter (TMNG) from 2006 to 2008. Fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) was done for cytological evaluation in all patients with TMNG when we determined a ‘cold’ nodule on scintigraphy, and in those with GD and a concomitant solid nodule. Among patients who had side effects of antithyroid therapy or developed multiple relapses after therapy withdrawal or responsiveness to antithyroid drugs those who refused radioactive iodine treatment and a goiter causing symptoms of compression underwent surgery.

Results
Among 316 thyrotoxic patients (231 women and 85 men; mean age =48.9 years), 54.1% (n = 171) had TMNG, 13.9% (n = 44) had TA and 32% (n = 101) had GD. Thyroid carcinoma was determined in 27 (8.5%) patients. Fifteen (8.8%) of TMNG, 3 (6.8%) of TA and 8 (9.9%) of GD patients had thyroid carcinoma. The incidence of thyroid carcinoma was similar between subjects with GD, TMNG and TA (P = 0.906). Histologic examination revealed 24 papillary (23 microcarcinoma), 2 follicular, and 1 anaplastic carcinoma. Mean diameters of carcinoma was 0.64±0.29 cm (range, 0.10–1.50 cm). While one patient had multifocal tumor tissue (3.7%) 2 patient had vascular invasion (7.4%) and 3 patient had capsular invasion (11.1%).

Conclusion
Our results also suggest that total thyroidectomy was preferable to subtotal to prevent the need for reoperation for patients with thyrotoxicosis after a detailed preoperative evaluation for malignancy including FNAB and cervical lymphadenopathy investigation.

P149
The influence of radioiodine therapy on some parameters of oxidant/antioxidant balance in patients with toxic nodular goitre
Saeid Abdelrazek1, Franciszek Rogowski2, Anna Zonnenberg2, Małgorzata Szlachowska2, Maria Gorska2, Agnieszka Nikolajsk2, Adam Parliczcyk1, Piotr Szmowski1, Małgorzata Frackiel1 & Małgorzata Karolczuk-Zarachowicz2
1Department of Nuclear Medicine, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland; 2Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland.

Objective
Oxidative stress plays an important role in hyperthyroidism-induced tissue damage.
We aimed to determine whether radiodine therapy has benefit effect on the oxidant and antioxidant status in patients with toxic nodular goitre.

Material and methods
We studied 40 patients with toxic nodular goitre, (31 female, 9 male), aged 21–65 years. 12 normal adult volunteers (age and sex-matched) were studied as control group. All the patients were in mild hyperthyroidism with serum TSH levels was less than 0.1 mU/l and effective half-life was more than 3 days at the time of treatment. Malignant changes were excluded in all nodules by fine needle aspiration biopsy. In the investigated groups, we evaluate malondialdehyde (MDA) as a marker of oxidative stress, glutathione (GSH) and glutathione peroxidase (GPx) activity as a parameters of antioxidant system before and 6 months after radioiodine therapy. The serum T4, FT3 and TSH were evaluated before and monthly up to 12 months after RT. Thyroid ultrasound, and thyroid scan were done after12 months of ¹³¹I therapy to assess thyroid volume. The activity dose was calculated by Marinelli’s formula and ranged between 280 and 800 MBq. The absorbed dose ranged between 160 and 300 Gv, and was proportional to thyroid volume.

Results
A Significant increase in MDA level with significant decrease in GPx activities and GSH level were observed in these patients before treatment compared to controls subject. Achievement of euthyroidism after 6 months of radioiodine administration resulted in a significant decrease of MDA level, significant increase of GSH level and in GPx activities. Euthyroidism was achieved in 36 patients and hypothyroidism developed in 4 patients. Thyroid volume reduced to about 46% (average).

Conclusions
Our results confirm the imbalance of the antioxidant/oxidant status in patients with toxic nodular goitre. Radioiodine therapy was more effective to improve these balances.

P150
Fever in the debute of the diffuse toxic goiter
Tamara Kamynina, Valeria Gubkina & Alexander Drealv
Moscow Regional Research Clinical Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Aim
To pay attention to the so rare symptom of diffuse toxic goiter (DTG) as fever. Materials and methods
We report about 5 patients (all females, aged 18–38, mean – 31). Before, all patients were examined for fever of unknown origin of long duration. After the others reasons of the febrile body temperature were excluded, DTG was diagnosed. DTG was confirmed by the clinical, hormonal and immunological investigations (T- and B-cell immunity were assessed).

Results
Median TSH was 0.09 μU/mL and FT4 26.9 pmol/l. Thyroid volume was exceeded normal (varied from 21 to 35 cm³, median 22.4 cm³). The immunological disturbances were revealed: decreased suppressor (6.1%, 15% in control) and helper T-cells (6.1%, 15% in control) count, decreased phagocytes activity in NST test (9.7%, 79% in control), increased β-cells count (33%, <23% in control) and high level of immunoglobulin IgG class (16.4%, 11.5% in control). The TSH+ antibodies titre (Radioassay RAST, Germany) was studied in 3 patients and achieved 36.5%, 56% and 76% respectively (in comparison with <1% in controls). Antithyroid therapy (adequate methimazole daily doses) was used. Febrile temperature decreased to normal after euthyroidism was achieved.

Conclusion
The hyperthyroidism must be taken into account among the different reasons of fever of unknown origin. That rare clinical symptom mirrored the impaired temperature regulation due to increased thermogenesis and due to possible immunological disorders in DTG patients with hyperproduction of the thyroid hormones and may be the consequence of the negative influence of the pyrogenic cytokines (IL1, IL6) on the PgE2 production.

P152
Comparing the Outcome of radioactive iodine treatment for hyperthyroidism in a Jordanian and British cohorts
Ahmad Omari, Fares Haddad, Omar Malkawi, Jonathan Thaw & Paul Jennings
1 King Hussein Medical Center, Amman, Jordan; 2 York District Hospital, York, North Yorkshire, UK.

Radioactive iodine (RAI) has been in use for more than 60 years with satisfactory results RAI and safe profile, there has been a different outcome of treatment in different ethnic groups. We assessed the demographic features and clinical outcome of a Jordanian and British cohorts of patients treated with RAI.

Methods
Hyperthyroid patients who opted RAI as a primary therapy and those who had relapse after treatment with antithyroid drugs (ATD) or had significant side effects. All patients were advised to stop ATD 3–5 days before RAI dose and special precautions to avoid contact with others according to international standards were fully explained. Thyroid function tests were checked every 12 weeks for the first year after RAI dose. Clinical outcome of euthyroidism, hypothyroidism or persistent hyperthyroidism after at least one year of FU were reported and doses of RAI were compared.

Results
There were 242 patients who received 258 doses of RAI in the Jordanian cohort and 234 in the British cohort.

The demographic features and clinical outcome are shown in table 1. Discussion and conclusion
There was a significant difference in the hypothyroid and euthyroid rates between the two cohorts being better in the British cohort, while the relapse rate was significantly lower in the Jordanian cohort. The interpretation might be in the dose delivered to the Jordanian cohort was higher. More patients in the Jordanian cohort received ATD that might affect the final outcome.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jordanian cohort</th>
<th>British cohort</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number (males)</td>
<td>242(33.5%)</td>
<td>234(20.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grave’s disease</td>
<td>132(54.5%)</td>
<td>158(78%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxic adenoma</td>
<td>81(33.5%)</td>
<td>44(18.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>29(12.9%)</td>
<td>27(22.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dose of RAI mCi</td>
<td>15.9 ± 2.5</td>
<td>8.4 ± 0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroid dose</td>
<td>114.4 ± 5.4</td>
<td>101.9 ± 4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pal received ATD</td>
<td>203(83.9%)</td>
<td>159(67.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
P153
Primary hyperparathyroidism and synchronous thyroid disorders: a single center experience
Arzu Gedik, Duygu Yazgan Aksoy, Ayla Harmanci, Bülent Ökan Yildiz & Miyase Bayraktar
Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey.

Background
High association of concomitant thyroid and parathyroid disorders has been reported. The aim of this study was to determine the characteristics and thyroid diseases associated with primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) in Turkey, a country with mild iodine deficiency.

Material and method
We retrospectively reviewed the records of patients diagnosed with PHPT between 1980 and 2007 at our clinic and analyzed the data related to thyroid.

Results
There were 166 cases available. One hundred and thirty two patients had data regarding thyroid status: (Age 50.8 ± 12.6, F/M: 109/23). One hundred and twelve (67.5%), 1 (0.6%), 7 (4.2%) were euthyroid, hypothyroid and hyperthyroid respectively. Five (3%) and 7 (4.2%) had subclinical hypothyroidism and subclinical hyperthyroidism respectively. Ultrasound was available on 104 of 132 patients. Among those who had autoantibodies and fine needle aspiration biopsy; 36 (34.6%) had multinodular goiter, 12 (11.5%) had solitary nodule, 5 (4.8%) had Graves’ Disease, 10 (9.1%) had Hashimoto’s Disease, 2 (1.9%) had toxic adenoma and 6 (5.8%) had Plummer’s disease. Eight patients (7.7%) had thyroid malignancy. (7 papillary, 1 follicular carcinoma). MEN was not detected. Rhesus normal morphology. Among 124 (74.6%) out of 166 patients had thyroid pathology either related to function or morphology.

Conclusion
We report here a 74.6% prevalence of coexisting incidental thyroid disease in PHPT patients. Our results suggest that it is necessary to evaluate the thyroid before parathyroid surgery for PHPT particularly in areas with iodine deficiency.

P154
Primary thyroid lymphomas
Amada Guiméon, Dolores Moure, Teresa Ruiz de Arzu, Javier Santamaria & Sonia Gaztambide
Hospitale de Cruces, Barakaldo, Vizcaya, Spain.

Primary lymphomas of the thyroid are uncommon tumours, constituting fewer than 2% of all thyroid malignancies. For this reason their clinical features are not very well known. It seems that most of them arise in patients who have chronic autoimmune thyroiditis.

From our patients with primary thyroid cancer since 1995, we selected those with pathological diagnosis of thyroid lymphoma. Epidemiological data, clinical features and response to treatment were analysed.

We found 7 patients, all of them women, with an age of 66 ± 25.3 years (X ± t.n.). They were referred as a painless, rapidly enlarging (median 3 months), neck mass (7 ± 2.2 cm). Six out of seven cases presented lymph node enlargement. Thyroid function was normal in 5 cases, and subclinical hypothyroidism was present in the other two. Anti-TPO antibodies were positive in 2 out of 7 cases. The diagnosis of lymphoma was established by FNA in 6 out of 7 patients. Chemotherapy was indicated in all cases except in one patient who was older and had a short life prognosis. Neck radiotherapy was associated in 2 cases. The mean time of follow up was 40.43 ± 25.56 months. Two patients died 3 and 24 months after the diagnosis. These patients were older than the others (87 ± 7.07 versus 57 ± 6.3; 25.35 years.

In summary, thyroid lymphomas are referred as a rapidly enlarging neck mass. The absence of thyroid autoimmunity does not rule out the diagnosis. A good response to chemotherapy was observed, except in older patients.

P155
Iodine metabolism in hyperthyroidism
Jolanta Kijek1, Jerzy Skarzuch2, Maria Kurawska2 & Beata Chełpko1
1Department of Nuclear Medicine, Medical University, Lublin, Poland; 2Department of Endocrinology, Medical University, Lublin, Poland.

Introduction
Iodine is critical for thyroid morphology and function. On the one hand, iodine is a factor leading and permitting to origin of disturbances of thyroid follicular cells function, on the other hand, it’s therapeutic agent.

Aim
The aim of the study was to evaluate iodine metabolism in different forms of hyperthyroidism and to analyze relationship between metabolism and thyroid size and function.

Material and methods
The study group consisted of 300 patients (236F and 37M) aged 20–80 years (mean 50.5). About 150 patients with Grave’s disease (GD) and 150 with toxic nodular goiter (TNG). Thyroid technetium-99m scans was performed and serum levels of fT3, fT4 (fIA method), TSH (fIFMA method) and TSI (radioceptor method) were determined. Iodine uptake (RIU) was measured after 24 and 48 h, then effective half-life (EHL-RIU) was determined. In 200 patients PBI was measured after 24 and 48 h, then effective half-life (EHL-PBI) was estimated.

Results
RIU and PBI values are higher and effective half-life is shorter in GD than in TNG. In 300 patients, correlation was found between RIU and age. fT3, fT4, TSI, thyroid mass. PBI was related to TSH, fT3, fT4, TSI, thyroid mass. EHL-RIU was related to TSH, fT3, fT4, thyroid mass. EHL-PBI was related to TSH, fT3, fT4 and TSI. In GD, EHL-RIU was related to fT3, fT4 and TSI, PBI and EHL-PBI were related to TSI. In TNG correlation was found between RIU, effective half-life, PBI and fT3, fT4, TSH, thyroid mass.

Conclusion
In GD, RIU is higher and iodine turnover is faster that in TNG. In TNG relationship between RIU and thyroid mass, function can be found. In GD, iodine kinetics are related to thyroid function, immunization level; in TNG to thyroid mass and function. It’s necessary to determine form of hyperthyroidism while analyzing results.

P156
Analysis of ghrelin and obestatin levels in children with thyroid disease
Artur Bosowski1, Beata Sawicka1, Mieczyslaw Szalecki1, Mirosława Urban1, Franciszek Rogowski1, Alicja Koput1, Beata Zelazowska-Rutkowski2 & Jolanta Tobolszyk3
1Medical University in Bialystok, Bialystok, Poland; 2Department of Endocrinology IHC, Warsaw, Poland; 3Department of Nuclear Medicine, Bialystok, Poland; 4Department of Ped. Laboratory Diagnost. MU in Bialystok, Bialystok, Poland; 5Department of Children’s Allergology, MU in Bialystok, Bialystok, Poland.

Thyroid disease let to change of weight – in hyperthyroid body mass is reduced, but in hypothyroid it is increased. Recently researches suggest that many new bioactive substances, like ghrelin and obestatin, play a role in regulation of body mass. These closely related hormones have paradoxically different effects: ghrelin increases, but obestatin decreases appetite. The aim of the study was to evaluate ghrelin and obestatin levels in young patients with untreated Graves’ disease, subclinical Hashimoto’s thyroiditis and in children with struma nodosa in euthyroid clinical state. The study group formed 78 patients suffering from Graves’ disease (29 girls and 2 boys; aged from 6 to 21- mean 15.2 yrs) and Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (29 girls and 3 boys; aged from 9 to 18- mean 14.5 yrs). The control group consisted of children with struma nodosa (in euthyrosis) – 13 girls and 2 boys; aged from 9 to 18 – mean 14.8 yrs. All patients were performed ghrelin and obestatin levels – RIA’s method (firmi Phoenix Pharmaceuticals, USA). In children and adolescents with hyperthyroid in Graves’ disease we found lower levels of ghrelin compared to group of children with struma nodosa and with subclinical hypothyroiditis in Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (123 ± 23 vs 151 ± 36, vs 140 ± 45 pg/ml P < 0.02, NS). On the other hand obestatin levels was lower in children with untreated subclinical hypothyroiditis in Hashimoto’s thyroiditis compared to group with struma nodosa or Hashimoto’s thyroiditis in euthyroid (203.28 ± 49 vs 222.49 ± 59; 267.24 ± 67 P < 0.03, P < 0.02). In group of untreated hypothyroid in Graves’ disease we found relationship between ghrelin and fT3 (r = – 0.36, P < 0.04) and fT4 levels (r = – 0.45, P < 0.01).

Conclusion
The disturbances in thyroid hormones in thyroid diseases have an essential effect on changes of hormones controlled appetite: ghrelin (in hyperthyroid) and obestatin (in hypothyroid).
P157
Bronchiectasis as a false-positive on Iodine-131 scintigraphy in thyroid papillary carcinoma: three case reports
Anabela Martins1, Francisco Rosário1, António Garraio2, Pedro Quaresma2, Teresa Ferreira2, Rita Santos1, Maria Bugalho1 & Valeriano Leite1
1Portuguese Institute of Cancer, Endocrinology, Lisbon, Portugal; 2Portuguese Institute of Cancer, Nuclear Medicine, Lisbon, Portugal.

Introduction
After treatment with Iodine-131 (I-131) in differentiated thyroid cancer, a diagnostic scintigraphy is performed. We selected three cases in which bronchiectasis appear as a false-positive on the scintigraphy after treatment with I-131.

Case reports
Three women, respectively 62, 64 and 65 years old, being followed in the Endocrinology Department of our Institute, with the diagnosis of papillary carcinoma of the thyroid, were submitted to I-131 therapy, the last one under recombinant thyroid-stimulating hormone and the others under hypothyroidism. In all of them, the scintigraphy showed hypoperfusion in the lung, consistent with pulmonary metastases. In the first two, the thyroglobulin value was under 0.2 ng/ml and in the last one the value was 1.6 ng/ml; the antithyroglobulin antibodies were undetectable. Chest computed tomography held later did not define nodules considered suspicious, referring to the presence of bronchiectasis lung changes, overlapping with the images of the scintigraphy. In all these cases the value of thyroglobulin and the title of antithyroglobulin antibodies remained undetectable, with no evidence of recurrence or persistence of disease.

Discussion
In the cases above, the scintigraphy performed after treatment with I-131 showed abnormal fixation in the lung territory, when clinical, biochemical and imaging there was no evidence of recurrence. The presence of bronchiectasis in overlapping locations supports the hypothesis of false-positive in the scintigraphy, already described in the literature.

P158
Combined doxorubicin and hyperfraccionated radiation therapy of anaplastic thyroid carcinoma: case report
Anabela Martins1, Francisco Rosário1, Candida Trindade2, Rita Santos1, Maria Bugalho1 & Valeriano Leite1
1Portuguese Institute of Cancer, Endocrinology, Lisbon, Portugal; 2Portuguese Institute of Cancer, Radiotherapy, Lisbon, Portugal.

Introduction
Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma, either by its low frequency, or by its poor prognosis, is still as a therapeutic challenge. One of the options available is the combined chemoradiation therapy, the basis of the following case.

Case report
Male patient, 76 years old, with a history of neck swelling for 4 months. The cervical ultrasound showed a nodule in the right lobe of the thyroid with 7 by 5 cm and the cytology revealed follicular tumor. Submitted to total thyroidectomy, the histopathology was of papillary carcinoma with anaplastic transformation. Given the fact that the thyroid resection was complete and that the patient had no pulmonary metastases, the patient started chemotherapy with doxorubicin (10 mg/kg) weekly, followed by hyperfraccionated radiotherapy, 1.6 Gy, 2 times a day (with a four hour break), 3 times a week, for 6 weeks. By the fifth week of treatment, the patient had already evidence of pharyngoesophagitis and skin erythema, reactions that subsided 4 weeks after the completion of the treatment. At six month follow up, there is no clinical, analytical or imagiological evidence of relapse.

Discussion
In this case, the hyperfraccionated radiation resulted in increased survival. In our Institute, this treatment has been used in 4 other patients with complete remission longer than 5 years in 2 cases and inconclusive in other 2 (death by suicide and sudden death after treatment).

Although there are no randomized trials published, the likelihood of partial or even complete remission of the disease is still better than expected with other treatments.

P159
Three cases with thyroid lymphoma
Bunu Akats Yilmaz, Erdal Kan, Fusun Balo Torun, Aysun Karakoc, Mustafa Benekli, Nuri Cakir, Suleyman Buyukberber & Metin Arslan
Gazi University Medical Faculty, Ankara, Turkey.

Thyroid lymphomas are very rare diseases of the thyroid. We present three patients with thyroid lymphoma administered our department last year. Two of the patients presented with rapidly enlarging neck mass with pressure symptoms, and the other was diagnosed during the evaluation of a thyroid nodule. Two patients had the Hashimoto’s thyroiditis diagnosis. All the patients underwent surgery, since no exact diagnosis could be established with fine needle aspiration biopsy (US-FNAB). Decompression surgery or total thyroidectomy could not be performed because of hypervascularity of the masses in first two cases. Severe compression signs improved dramatically with the CHOP-R chemotherapy protocol in these patients. Third patient is still being evaluated for staging of lymphoma.

The differential diagnosis of thyroid lymphoma may be problematic since most common presentation which is rapidly enlarging neck mass can be confused with anaplastic thyroid cancer and B-symptoms are recorded only 10% of the patients. Relationship between Hashimoto’s thyroiditis and lymphomas still remains obscure. Suspicion is the most important step for diagnosing thyroid lymphoma. Ultrasonography, US-FNAB and adjunctive techniques (e.g. cytromorphological immunophenotypic and molecular techniques) appear to have an improved overall diagnostic accuracy. Surgery is not a treatment modality for thyroid lymphoma. Surgery may be performed because of the limitations of ultrasonography and US-FNAB for diagnosis or subclassifications of lymphoma.

P160
Autoimmune thyroid disease functional evolution: the role of thyroid volume
Pierluigi De Remigis1, Gaetana Parisi2, Teresa Consiglio2, Elisabetta Ciccarone3, Alessandra De Remigis1, Luigi Vianale1 & Gaetano Fraiisse1
1Endocrine Unit-General Hospital, Chieti, Italy; 2Endocrine Unit-General Hospital, Pescara, Italy; 3Endocrine Clinic-University-Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy.

Autoimmune Thyroid Disease (ATD) is associated with normal thyroid function (type 1) in most cases with variable incidence of functional evolution toward either hypothyryroidism (type 2a, A or B if present or not goiter) or hyperthyroidism (type 3).

To study the evolution of thyroid function in a longitudinal study, along a scale of six years, in relationship to thyroid volume, 128 subjects (80 females and 48 males), aged from 28 to 78 years, were considered, with the first diagnosis of ATD put in 2002 on the basis of high thyroid antibodies (TAb) and normal TSH (ATD type 1). They were rechecked after 6 years. TSH and TAb were tested by commercial chemiluminescent assay. Echography was performed with high resolution technology, applying a 7.5 MHz probe, both to calculate thyroid volume (multiplying the three diameters×π/6) and to evaluate echostucture considering three grades of hypoechogenicity.After 6 years TSH was stable in normal range in 71.5% of subjects (group LG1); sub clinical hypothyroidism (withTSH progression between 4.5 and 10 mIU/ml) was showed in 19% (G2); overt hypothyroidism (TSH>10) was demonstrated in 9.5% (G3). Only one subject has reached hyperthyroidism stage (TSH<0.01).

No relationship was demonstrated between TAb levels or thyroid echogenicity and TSH evolution, on the contrary for the thyroid volume.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial volume (ml)</th>
<th>Volume after 6 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G 1</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G 2</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G 3</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our study seems to demonstrate no role of TAb or thyroid echogenicity in the functional evolution of TDA. Instead a significative reduction of thyroid volume should influence the evolution of the function of TDA to overt hypothyroidism. When the progression is limited to subclinical hypothyroidism no variations of thyroid size were found.
P161
Predictors of incidental parathyroidectomy during thyroid surgery
Nikolaos Michalopoulos, Leonidas Alevizos, Haridimos Markogiannis, Nikolaos Memos, Aggelos Giannopoulos, Sofia Malacharti, Panagiotis Kekis & Andreas Manousas
Department of Endocrine Surgery, 1st Department of Propaedeutic Surgery, Hippokration Hospital, Athens Medical School, University of Athens, Athens, Greece.

Objective
To identify incidental parathyroidectomy predictors in thyroid surgery.

Methods
All thyroid operations during 4 years were reviewed (n=1010). Patients were divided into those with (parathyroidectomy group) and without incidental parathyroidectomy (no-parathyroidectomy group).

Results
Incidental parathyroidectomy occurred in 198 patients (19.6%). The groups were comparable in age, thyroid weight and pathology, hyperthyroidism, operative time, surgeon’s experience (high/low volume), operative technique (suture-ligation/Lagasse/Ultrasound), surgical procedure (total, near-total, subtotal, hemi-thyroidectomy), modified radical or central neck dissection, reoperation, postoperative calcium, transient and permanent hypocalcemia. Women comprised 87.9% of the parathyroidectomy and 70.3% of the no-parathyroidectomy group (P=0.0001), and 83.2% of patients with intrathyroidal but 73% of non-intrathyroidal parathyroid glands (P=0.001). Female gender was the only predictor in multivariate analysis (P=0.001, OR=3.28, 95%CI: 2.04-5.27).

Conclusions
In contrast to all other analyzed parameters, female gender was an independent risk factor of incidental parathyroidectomy in all types of thyroid surgery, probably due to higher likelihood of intrathyroidal parathyroid glands.

P162
Thyroid surgery with the new harmonic scalpel: a prospective randomized study
Leonidas Alevizos, Nikolaos Michalopoulos, Haridimos Markogiannis, Nikolaos Memos, Dimitrios Tsamis, Dimitrios Linardoutous, Panagiotis Kekis & Andreas Manousas
Department of Endocrine Surgery, 1st Department of Propaedeutic Surgery, Hippokration Hospital, Athens Medical School, University of Athens, Athens, Greece.

Background-objective
Although the harmonic scalpel has been shown to be safe and effective in thyroid surgery, several surgeons consider the previously available instruments to be large and cumbersome, especially in terms of dissection capabilities. To this context, an innovative technical improvement of the device for thyroid surgery has very recently been implemented and has been made available in 2008. Utilization of this new device, however, has not been evaluated in any study. We hypothesized that this instrument may result in further operative time reduction due to its greater tissue grasping and dissection capability. The aim of this study was to compare the results of total thyroidectomy using the new harmonic scalpel (FOCUS) to that with the previously available device (HARMONIC ACE).

Methods
Prospective randomized study of all total thyroidectomies between February and July 2008. Patients (n=90) were randomized into those submitted to total thyroidectomy with FOCUS (group A, n=45) and those with HARMONIC ACE (group B, n=45).

Results
No significant differences were identified between the two groups in terms of demographics, reoperative thyroid surgery, thyroid gland weight and diameter, pathologic diagnosis, preoperative and postoperative calcium, complications, hospital stay, and final outcome. Mean operative time was significantly shorter in group A than group B (63 ± 7 vs 76 ± 8.5 min, P=0.0009).

Conclusions
The new harmonic scalpel device is a very useful adjunct to the thyroid surgeon’s armamentarium. It is safe, effective and hand-friendly, offering great tissue delicate grasping and dissection capabilities. Utilization of this device significantly reduced operative time compared to the previously available instrument.

P163
Hashimoto’s thyroiditis: the value of antithyreoperoxidase antibodies measurement
Dan Peretzi1, Mara Carsote2, Ramona Samoila3, Cristina Ene3, Florin Alexiu1 & Catalina Poliana3
1SCM Povarni, Bucharest, Romania; 2Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania; 3CT Parhon National Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania.

Introduction
Hashimoto’s Thyroiditis is a part of the spectrum of thyroid autoimmune diseases. Even the proper diagnosis is obtained by pathologic exam; usually the detection of high serum antithyroid antibodies is enough to diagnose the disorder. It also represents the most frequent cause of hyperthyroidism in non-iodine deficient areas. Nevertheless the presence of the antithyroid antibodies does not always correlates with thyroid dysfunction.

Aim
Our aim was to study the correlations between the level of plasma antithyreoperoxidase antibodies (ATPO) and the value of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), the age of the patient, as well as the presence of a second autoimmune disease (AID).

Material and methods
We studied 1500 patients. They were investigated by anamnesis (age, the presence of an already diagnosed AID). We also performed lab exams (TSH, ATPO).

Results
The sex ratio was 1483 women versus 17 men. The Hashimoto’s Thyroiditis (HT+) group included 755 patients with levels of serum ATPO above 34 IU/ml. The control group (HT–) included 745 patients with levels of ATPO below 34 IU/ml. The mean age was 50.71 years in the first group and 55.19 years in the second group. We found no TSH-ATPO correlation (r=0.16, slope=9.65, P=NS), neither ATPO-age correlation (r=0.08, slope=0, P=NS). In the HT+ group, 118 patients had a second autoimmune disease like vitiligo, anemia, and drug allergies. In the HT– group, there were 78 patients with another AID. The correlation ATPO-AID was statistically significant (χ²=0.879, P=0.003).

Conclusions
Higher levels of ATPO do not necessary associate with anomalies of the thyroid function as shown by serum TSH. Advanced age of the patient does not correlate with higher level of plasma ATPO. The increased values of ATPO as seen in Hashimoto’s Thyroiditis showed a higher chance for having a second autoimmune disease.

P164
Propylthiouracil-induced anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies positive vasculitis
Marta Alves1, Celestino Neves1, Ângela Magalhães1, Ana Varella1, Fernanda Guerra1, Lídia Pereira-Monteiro1, Davide Carvalho1, Paulo Morais2, Ana Calistru2, Teresa Braude2, A Moză2, J A Cape1, P S Couto1, R Ramalho2, J P Ramos1, C Guimarães1, J L Delgado1 & J L Medina1
1Endocrinology Department, S. João Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; 2Dermatology Department, S. João Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; 3Surgery Department, S. João Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; 4Immunochemistry Department, S. João Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal.

Introduction
Graves’ disease treatment with antithyroid drugs may be associated to several side effects. Vasculitis development is rare.

Clinical case
The authors present the history of a 41-year-old woman with Graves’ disease followed at endocrinology consultation since February 2004. Three years and half after starting treatment with propylthiouracil (PTU), she developed erentumatose and itching stains in the inferior limbs that spontaneously resolved in 3 days. Some weeks later, ecchymosis and a hematric blister appeared in the side face of the right leg. This lesion biopsy revealed ‘vascular thrombosis with epidemic necrosis’. PTU was stopped and oral corticotherapy began. After corticoid withdrawal she developed a necrotic plate with blisters and an inflammatory halo in the right arm, purple plates in the right leg and bilateral malar eritema. Biopsy of the superior right member lesion showed ‘vasculitis with leucocitoclasia and thrombosis’. The analytical study was positive for anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA), circulating immune complexes, anticytokinin antibodies and antithyroid antibodies, and was negative for antinuclear antibodies, anti-dsDNA antibodies, anti-desmossoma antibodies, complement, rheumatoid factor, anti-ENA.
antibodies and anti-substance P antibodies. Treatment with PTU was interrupted. She was treated with prednisolone and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. She underwent total thyroidectomy. We observed progressive resolution of cutaneous lesions and normalization of ANCA levels.

Conclusion
PTU can induce ANCA positive vasculitis. Generally, therapeutic withdrawal leads to sомнatomology resolution and drop of ANCA levels.

P165
New clinical feature in hypothyroidism: paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia: case report
Cristina Olareanu, Cristina Ghervan, Georgea Hazi & Beana Duncea
University of Medicine and Pharmacy ‘Iuliu Hatieganu’, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Background
The aim of this case report is to underline the possible etiological link between paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia (PSVT) and hypothyroidism, although supraventricular arrhythmias are ordinary features of hyperthyroidism. We present the case of a patient with repetitive episodes of PTU whose autoimmune hypothyroidism was diagnosed and thyroxin replacement therapy led to remission of arrhythmia.

Methods
A 47 year old women with a long history of smoking, coffee drinking and stressful environment presented two episodes of palpitation, dyspnea, dizziness and anxiety. The electrocardiogram revealed supraventricular tachycardia with 200 beats/minute (PSVT). The possible triggers of arrhythmia were investigated.

Results and discussion
In our patient, hypothyroidism was diagnosed (FT4=11.25 pmol/l (normal range: 12–22) and TSH=26.37 µIU/ml (normal range: 0.27–4.2)) as a result of chronic Hashimoto Thyroiditis (anti TPO >16/60). Laboratory analysis showed just a slightly increase of cholesterol level, with no electrolyte disturbances. Structural heart disease and systemic vasculitis were investigated and excluded. Thyroxin replacement therapy was started first 25 μg/day, then 50 μg/day. Clinical signs improved substantially and no other episode of PSVT was noted.

Although we cannot deny the possible contribution of coffee, smoking and stress in revealing PSVT, the disappearance of the arrhythmia after restoration of euthyroidism suggests that hypothyroidism might serve as a trigger for PSVT.

Conclusions
Prolonged/conduction, low voltage, sinus bradycardia and different atrio-ventricular or brachied blocks are classical sings of hypothyroidism, however, our case suggests that PSVT can also be part of the cardio-vascular anomalies during hypothyroidism. The mechanisms involved in the occurrence of tachyarrhythmia in hypothyroidism could be: alteration of myocyte-specific gene expression, interstitial edema, myofibril swelling with loss of striation, increased arterial stiffness, endothelial dysfunction, premature atherosclerotic, disturbances of the sympathetic-vagal tone with a relative increase in sympathetic tone and autoimmunity.

P166
Frequency of subclinical hypothyroidism (SH) and autoimmune thyroiditis (AT) in pregnancy
Hernando Hernandez, Tatiana Escobar
Cauca University, Popayan, Colombia.

Background
The frequency of SH and AT in pregnancy is of the 3%, and diagnosis is determinant because of the high risk of complications (postpartum hemorrhage, abruptio placenta, gestational hypertension in the mother and disordered brain development and/or intrauterine growth retardation in the fetus).

Objective
Determine the frequency of SH and AT in 300 pregnant women.

Materials and methodology
About 300 pregnant women were screened. In accordance to gestation time the criterions of exclusion enclosed antecedents of replacement with thyroxine or previous thyroid disease. Blood samples were drawn for TSH, FT4, FT3 and TPO antibodies.

Results
From the 300 women, 120 (40%) were in first trimester; 88 (29.3%) were in second trimester and 92 (30.7%) were in third trimester. Prevalence of SH was found in 25 women (8%) of which 10 were diagnosed in the first trimester, 8 in the second trimester and 7 in the third trimester. All of the patients presented high levels of TSH with normal FT4 and FT3. The TPO antibodies were positive in 8 of the 10 women in the first trimester; 7 of the 8 in the second trimester and in 5 of the 7 in the third trimester. There was no difference in the TSH, FT4, FT3 and TPO antibody levels along of the studied trimesters (P > 0.21).

Conclusion
(1) The prevalence of SH and AT can be higher than normally described, in our series it was of the 8.3%.
(2) The high prevalence of SH and AT in different populations can cause high frequency of maternal and fetal complications.

P167
Evaluation of thyroid disorders in patients with alopecia areata
Pouran Layegh1, Parvin Layegh2, Narges Sadeghi1 & Mohammad Khajedalalv1
1’Quem Hospital, Mashad University of Medical Sciences, Mashad, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2’Imam Reza Hospital, Mashad University of Medical Sciences, Mashad, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
Alopecia areata is a common disorder presenting with severe hair loss in a specific site. This condition is usually accompanied by autoimmune diseases such as autoimmune thyroidsitis, lupus erythematosus, vitiligo, myasthenia gravis, diabetes type II, etc. Considering high incidence of thyroid disease in Iranian population, we decided to evaluate the frequency of thyroid disorders especially autoimmune thyroidsitis in patients with alopecia areata.

Methods
A total of 45 patients with alopecia areata and 35 age and sex matched patients without any evidence of autoimmune disease, as a control group that referring to dermatology clinic of Quem hospital from October 2006 till July 2008 participated in this study. Questionnaires were filled by data of histories, demographic characteristics, physical examinations and laboratory tests of thyroid gland. Collected data were analyzed statistically using SPSS software.

Results
Incidence of thyroid disorders in patients was higher than control group. (P=0.035) 11.1% of cases showed goiter. Thyroid dysfunction was detected in 13.6% of patients with no significant difference between male and female groups. (P=0.13) Hashimoto thyroiditis was reported in 27.9% of cases which was significantly different between men and women (P=0.025).

Conclusion
Incidence of thyroid disorders in patients with alopecia areata was higher than normal group. This finding confirms the need for thyroid function test screening in alopecia areata patients in our population.

P168
Unusual onset of subacute thyroiditis
Ioana Stoica, Alina Plesa, Delia Gabriela Ciobanu, Roxana Dinu, Eusebi Zibrana & Carmen Vulpoi
University of Medicine, Iasi, Romania.

Subacute thyroiditis (SAT) is a self-limited inflammatory disease of presumed viral etiology, characterized by pain and thyrotopic functional thyroid evolution. We report the case of an 54-years-old woman hospitalized in 02.2008 in the Gastroenterology Department for fever, diarrea, significant weight loss (5 kg in one month), with the suspicion of Crohn’s disease (CD). Two weeks before she presented a subfebrile episode with bilateral jugular lymphadenopathy, dysphagia, myalgia, treated with antibiotics. High ESR and CRP values confirmed the inflammatory syndrome, but normal irrography and colonoscopy unifred the suspicion of CD. The adenopathy suggested infectious mononucleosis (IMN) sustained by positive Epstein-Barr antibodies (IgG=18.1), and high hepatic enzymes. During the hospitalization she presented tachycardia, tremor, thyroid enlargement, and was transferred in the Endocrinological Department. High FT4 (3.6 ng/dl) with inhibited TSH (0.1 ml/10) confirmed thyrotoxicosis. Thyroid ultrasound (US) revealed inhomogeneous hypoechoic pattern with the presence of a 18/16 mm nodule with imprecise limits, and internal Doppler signal. She had moderate sensitivity at thyroid palpation but when FNAB was performed she presented intensive pain. Cytology was suspicious. CT normal 2.2 pg/ml. The persistence of the inflammatory syndrome (ESR 90 mm/h) with the suspicion of IMN determined corticotherapy followed by a spectacular improvement: dispersion of fever, diminution of ESR (51 mm/h), amelioration of the US (inhomogeneous, hypoechoic zone on the nodule topography, no vascularization). Corticotherapy continued and 2 months later, after a short period of hypothyroidism, thyroid function, ESR (5 mm/h) and hepatic enzymes were normalized. lymph nodes were no more palpable and she had no phisical complaints.
SAT may mimic various thyroid and systemic diseases. Particularly for our case were the mild pain, dominance of digestive symptoms and the presence of the adenopathy, which first suggested CD or IMN. The association of signs suggesting thyrotoxicosis impose, in such cases, the investigation of the thyroid function.

**P169**

Frequency of thyroid function test abnormalities in an open population in Queretaro, Mexico

Ma. Ludivina Robles Osorio, Hebert Luis Hernandez Montiel, Juan Carlos Solis Sainz, Pablo Garcia Solis, Ernesto Francisco Sabath Silva, Adrian Hernandez Lomeli, Victor Eduardo Maya, Nestor Ramirez, David Gonzalez & Alejandro Alcantara

Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro, Queretaro, Mexico.

It is important to know the prevalence of common diseases in every country in order to guide us to take decisions regarding public health benefits in screening, in Mexico we do not have information regarding thyroid abnormalities.

Methods

We designed a cross-sectional study in the city of Queretaro (Mexico) in order to know the prevalence of altered thyroid function tests in our population, since we do not have any previous study. We calculated the sample size with the statistical program Epi Info according to the population size and prevalence from previous reports and we obtained a number of 210 individuals.

We went to different public places and factories to invite in a random way the people to participate in the survey; they signed informed consent approved by the local bioethics committee.

We asked questions related to thyroid disease, then we withdrew a blood sample for TSH and free T4.

Results

We included 212 individuals, 119 (56.4%) were female, 92 (43.6%) males. The mean age was 38 ± 9.95 years old. We found 3 (1.4%) with TSH >10 uIU/mL; 10 (4.8%) patients with TSH >4 and <10 uIU/mL; 2 (1%) patients with TSH <0.4 uIU/mL and high free T4; 3 (1.4%) with TSH <0.4 uIU/mL and normal free T4 level. In total we found 18 (8.6%) patients with abnormalities in the thyroid function tests. According to previous reports our population has a prevalence similar to other populations. It is very important to have this data since we do not have information in order to encourage screening programs in our country. This is a relatively young population and it can be due to the open invitation that we did to the people in public places and at work places. It will be interesting to design a specific survey in older people that we did not find at public places, since they are expected to have higher prevalence.

**P170**

Primary cavernous hemangioma of the thyroid gland

Nikolaos Michalopoulos, Artemisia Papadima, Emmanuel Lagoudianakis, Sotirios-Georgios Panoussopoulos, Levon Toufekztian, Leonidas Alevizos, Haridimos Markogiannakis & Andreas Manousas

Department of Endocrine Surgery, First Department of Propaedeutic Surgery, Hippokration Hospital, Athens Medical School, University of Athens, Athens, Greece.

Background

Hemangiomas of the thyroid gland are extremely rare.

Case presentation

We report a case of a 78-year-old euthyroid male patient with a primary cavernous hemangioma of the thyroid gland. The patient presented for evaluation of a symptomatic, slowly growing neck mass. He did not have any previous medical history and, moreover, had no history of trauma. FNA or other neck procedures. Ultrasound scan revealed a multinodular goiter and a hypoechoic nodule of the right thyroid lobe. Total thyroidectomy was performed and the lesion was completely excised. Definite diagnosis was feasible after the histological examination of the surgical specimen.

Conclusions

Cavernous hemangiomas of the thyroid gland are infrequent lesions which may escape diagnosis preoperatively, either due to the complexity of the examinations needed to differentiate them from other typical thyroid diseases or due to the similar pattern they show in common examinations performed such as the ultrasound scan. An effort should be made to dissect free the thyroid gland without rupture of these lesions in order to ensure a bloodless procedure.

**P171**

Heart ischemic disease patients with mild thyroid failure

A Volkova, E Grineva & E Krasilnikova

Saint-Petersburg State Medical University, Petersburg, Russian Federation.

It is well known that subclinical hypothyroidism (SH) more often can be revealed in patients with heart ischemic disease (HID). Mild thyroid failure can cause decrease of catabolism at atherogenic lipoproteins, decrease of cardiac output and diastolic dysfunction of left ventricle. Results of coronarography (CG) can reliable reflect the severity of coronary atherosclerosis. It seems to us very important to compare the results of CG with TSH level and lipoproteins in heart ischemic disease patients.

Methods

About 863 patients participated in our study. In all patient CG was performed by standard methodology of M. Judkins et al. We studied age, gender, body mass index (BMI) of patients, their smoking history, genetic predisposition, treatment with statins. Fasting blood samples were taken for measuring of lipoproteins and TSH level by reagents of third generation.

Results

There were 77.6% of men and 22.4% of women. Middle age was 56.85 ± 0.29 years. To investigate relationship between TSH level and lipoproteins concentration we selected patients without statin therapy. In this group SH was revealed in 10.8% of patients (middle TSH was 7.66 ± 1.1 IU/L). In patients with SH levels of cholesterol and low density lipoproteins were significantly higher than is euthyroid patients (P = 0.004 and P < 0.001). Multivessel damage of coronary vessels was revealed in 40.2% of patients and correlated with man gender, age, duration of smoking, genetic predisposition, hypertension, hyperlipidemia and TSH level more than 4 IU/L. The truncal damage of left coronary artery was in 38% of patients with SH and in 19.3% of euthyroid patients.

**Endocrine tumours and neoplasia**

**P172**

Manifestations of Hyperprolactinemia and its Management by Bromocriptine and Cabergoline

Faiza Qari

KUH, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

This is a prospective study analyzing gender differences in the presentation of hyperprolactinemia as well as the efficacy and tolerance to cabergoline and bromocriptine. Thirty-six patients (23 women, 13 men) were recruited and divided into two groups; Group One received bromocriptine and Group Two received cabergoline for three months. The prolactin level was measured before and after treatment in both groups. Galactorrhea and infertility were more common symptoms in women; however, 100% of men with micro or macroprolactinoma had libido disturbances. The prolactin level was higher in men than in women whether they exhibited macro (7640 ± 80 vs. 6230 ± 71 ng/Ml) or microprolactinomas (6167 ± 895 vs. 5998 ± 775 ng/ml). The prolactin level was significantly higher in women with non-tumor hyperprolactinemia (3390 ± 164 vs. 1279 ± 53, P = 0.038). The mean serum prolactin level was significantly decreased in both groups whether they received bromocriptine or cabergoline (5790 ± 370 vs. 2725 ± 124 ng/ml, P < 0.001). The prolactin reduction was more prominent in the cabergoline group whether in men or women, than in the bromocriptine group at the end of the three months of treatment (5791 ± 723 ± 1725 ± 318 ng/ml, P = 0.001).

**P173**

Von-Hippel-Lindau disease: clinical report

Jacinta Santos 1, Isabel Paiva1, Mariana Martinho1, Alexandre Vieira1, Diniz Vieira2, Lurdes Cunha3, Fernando Martinho & Manuela Carvalheiro2

1Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, University Hospital of Coimbra, EPE, Coimbra, Portugal; 2Medicine 2 Department, University Hospital of Coimbra, EPE, Coimbra, Portugal; 3Surgery 2 Department, University Hospital of Coimbra, EPE, Coimbra, Portugal.

Background

Von-Hippel-Lindau disease (VHL) is a rare (1/136,000 newborns), autosomal, dominant inherited tumour syndrome. A germine mutation in VHL tumour suppressor gene predisposes carriers to tumours in multiple organs. In the presence of positive family history, it can be diagnosed clinically in a patient with at least one typical VHL tumour.
Clinical report

In December 2007, a 34-year-old woman presented with palpitations and tachycardia, but normal blood pressure. She had a previous history of surgeries, performed in another hospital: left adenectomy due to phaeochromocytoma, spinal and cerebellar hemangioblastomas. Her mother and three aunts had VHL disease. Biochemical study revealed: urinary metanephrines 120.75 µg/24 h (25–312), vanillylmandelic acid 11.44 mg/24 h (<15), ACTH 15 ng/ml (8am) (normal: 9–52) and 9.6 ng/ml (1pm), plasmatic cortisol 24 ng/ml (8am) (normal: 5–25) and 9.7 ng/ml (1pm). I131-Metaiodobenzylguanidine scanning: ‘...right adrenal phaeochromocytoma’. Normal ophthalmologic evaluation. Preoperative medical management was performed with a daily dose of phenytoin 20 mg, amlopidine 10 mg and propanolol 10 mg. A right adenectomy was performed. Histology confirmed the diagnosis. Six months after surgery, an abdominal CT revealed a solid pancreatic mass with 4.5 × 3.5 cm., Laboratorial study: plasma insulin 10 µU/ml (<30), C-peptide 2.4 ng/ml (1.0–7.6) and chromogranin A 60 ng/ml (19–98). A distal pancreatectomy was performed without complications (pathology: ‘...Well differentiated, intrapancreatic, endocrine tumour.’). Two months later, a somatostatin receptor imaging with octreotide didn’t show fixation. At this moment, the patient maintains normal blood pressure, under treatment with hydrocortisone (20 × 5 + 5 mg) and fludrocortisone (0.05 mg). In the last evaluation (September 2008), she had normal plasmatic somatostatin, ACTH<5 pg/ml, plasmatic cortisol 40 µg/dl and urinary free cortisol 108 µg/24 h (10–80). Conclusion: The authors present this case due to its rarity and point out the need of follow-up during the entire patients’ life due to the possible development of other tumours. Finally, the importance of family vigilance and genetic study, which allows a precocious diagnosis and treatment.

P174

Assessment of interferon γ-2a in pharmaceutical formulations by liquid chromatography methods

Sérgio Luiz Dalmora, Lucélia Magalhães da Silva, Estevan Sonego Zimmermann, Aline Jacobi Dalla Lana, Maximiliano da Silva Sangoi & Felipe Bianchini D’Avila

Federal University of Santa Maria, Santa Maria, Brazil.

The recombinant human interferon γ-2a (rhIFN-γ-2a) is a cytokine with antiviral, antiproliferative and immunomodulatory properties, indicated for the treatment of hepatitis B and C and leukemias. The rhIFN-γ-2a consists of a 165–166 amino acids with molecular mass of 19.5 KDa. The aim of this work was to develop and validate the reversed-phase method (RP-LC) and size-exclusion (SE-LC) liquid chromatography methods for the physico-chemical characterization of rhIFN-γ-2a in pharmaceutical formulations. The RP-LC method was carried out on a Jupiter C8 (250 × 4.6 mm I.D.) with detection at 214 nm. The mobile phase A consisted of water with 0.1% TFA, and the mobile phase B was acetonitrile with 0.1% TFA. The SE-LC method was performed on a BioSep-SEC-S 2000 column (300 × 7.8 mm I.D.), using the mobile phase with 0.001 M monobasic potassium phosphate, 0.008 M dibasic sodium phosphate and 0.2 M sodium chloride buffer pH 7.4 with detection at 214 nm. The procedure was applied for the potency evaluation of rhIFN-γ-2a, dimers and higher molecular mass substances. The separation by the RP-LC method was obtained with the retention time of 32.6 min and the method was linear in the range of 0.5–50 MIU/ml (r² = 0.9999). The SE-LC method yielded results with quantitation limit of 0.5 MIU/ml and detection limit of 0.19 MIU/ml. Eight batches of pharmaceutical formulations were analyzed in parallel by RP-LC and SE-LC methods giving results respectively, within 91.53–100.75%, with sulfonamides and deamidates content (<0.78%), and within 91.53–104.56% of the stated potency, with dimers and aggregates lower than 0.21%. The results were correlated to the anti-proliferative cell-based assay demonstrating the validity of the methods which can contribute to improve the quality control of rhIFN-γ-2a in pharmaceutical formulations, and to assure the therapeutic efficacy and safety of the biotherapeutic.

P175

Pregnancy and childbirth in active acromegaly patient treated with long acting somatostatin analog

Olga Nechaeva, Julia Pokravchonok & Alexander Drevdal

Moscow Regional Research Clinical Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation.

In 24 years old woman in March 2007 was diagnosed acromegaly (somatotropinoma) an active phase, hyperprolactinemia. Manifestations: ruged features, amonethrea, galactorrhea, fasting GH - 144 ng/ml (N<10 ng/ml), IGF-1 - 586 ng/ml (N 48-450 ng/ml), PRL - 6726 mU/l (N 40–530 mU/l). According to pittuiary MRT a tumor volume was 14.4 cm³, with supra- and infrasellar growth. She was operated in May 2007: transanal transphenoidal subtotal removal of the pittuiary adenoma. After adenomectomy: GH nadir in OGTT was 28.1 mU/l (N <2.7 mU/l), IGF-1 - 952 ng/ml, PRL - 111 mU/l. Pituitary MRT: endo- and para-sella adenoma components 5.7 cm³ volume. Galactorrhea persists. Long acting somatostatin (Octreotide-depot) was prescribed in July 2007 in start dose 20 mg/month, and it was increased in Sept 2007 to 30 mg to suppress GH secretion (GH nadir 26.4 mU/l, IGF-1 601 ng/ml). Octreotide-depot treatment induced a reduction in volume postoperative adenoma components from 5.7 cm³ to 4.5 cm³. After 4th Octreotide-depot injection (30 mg/m) 24 weeks pregnancy has been diagnosed. Octreotide-depot treatment has been continued up to physiological childbirth at 40th weeks. The child was healthy: weight - 3 250 g, growth - 52 cm, 9 points on Apgar scale. Acromegaly signs did not worsen during pregnancy and after childbirth.

P176

Ecotopic growth hormone-releasing hormone secretion by a neuroendocrine tumor causing acromegaly: long-term follow-up results

Nese Colak Ozbek1, Vercel Kaptan1, Alp Bobbora2, Yesim Erbas1

1Division of Endocrinology, Department of Medicine, Istanbul Medical Faculty, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Division of Endocrinology, Istanbul Medical Faculty, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.

A 25-year-old woman was admitted to the hospital, with iron deficiency anemia, acromegaly and a 6 × 6 cm mass in infrahepatic location near to the pancreatic head. Sellar magnetic resonance (MR) imaging indicated pituitary enlargement with obvious evidence of a pituitary adenoma. The patients underwent abdominal exploration. Histopathological diagnosis was a well-differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma of duodenum with the invasion of theca muscularis and 9 metastatic lymph nodes (the greatest size 5 × 5 × 2.5 cm in diameter). Neoplastic cells showed cytoplasmic immunoreactivity to GHRH and GHRH-receptor. Because increased IGF-1 concentrations persisted after the operation, octreotide LAR 20 mg/month was begun. Growth hormone and IGF-1 levels normalized. At the end of six years of follow-up, a left paraaortic mass, showing uptake of indium111 octreotide was detected. Operation showed a metastatic lymph node of 2.5 × 1.5 × 1.4 cm in diameter. After the operation IGF-1 concentration was mildly elevated. Octreotide–LAR 10 mg/day was begun and continued until the present time.

We suggest that octreotide treatment may lead to a delay in tumor growth and the clinical and radiological diagnosis of recurrence and have a beneficial effect on disease course during a total follow-up of 7 years for our case. Expression of both GHRH and GHRH-R may indicate the autocrine/paracrine role of GHRH for proliferation of tumor tissue itself.

P177

MTC represents still a diagnostic challenge in thyroidology. A case is here reported with some misleading signs that was finally solved with a calciumin assay. A 50 years woman was referred for a thyroid nodule incidentally discovered at echography in the right lobe; it appeared round, hypoechogenic, without halo sign, well-defined edges, with a diameter of 7 mm. At the first evaluation with echocordodoppler there was no appearance of intraläsion vascularization. TSH was 0.19, thyroid antibodies were absent. A TC90 scintiscan demonstrated an iso-uptake area in correspondence of nodule. The subject was put in ultrasound follow-up: a size evolution to 12 mm was shown, while ECD demonstrated an...
appearance of intra lesion color sign. A citology showed a follicular pattern. At this time a calcitonin assay was done that demonstrated high levels; she was referred to surgery. MTC emerged in the nodule. Some considerations arise about this case: A) the initial signs were confounding because the presence of low TSH with not clear scintiscan suggesting the possibility of an autonomous thyroid nodule; and indeterminate result of citology and ECG. C) for this kind of small nodule, even if a cytology is not indicated, an accurate follow-up with ultrasound is recommended; to arise the diagnostic doubt about the nature of the nodule; D) the solution of the diagnostic challenge derived by an intuition of an assay of calcitonin, owing to growing even if minimal, of nodule size.

Once again the importance of calcitonin assay is demonstrated. If screening is not acceptable for cost benefits, this test has to be well present in our mind, both at starting nodule work-up or doubts emerged from ultrasound, ECG, citology point of view and in the case, along the course of echography follow-up, that is advised in guidelines for small nodule less than 1 cm.

P178
Predictive value of interleukin-10 promoter genotypes and haplotypes in determining the susceptibility to nephropathy in type 2 diabetes patients
Nabil Murqou1, Jinissiar Ezzidi2, Molka Chieb2, Maha Kacem3
Toshanni Mahdouri4 & WassimY Almawi5

1Research Unit of Biology and Genetics of Cancer and Haematological and Autoimmune diseases, Faculty of Pharmacy of Monastir, Monastir University, Monastir, Tunisia; 2Nephrology and Internal Medicine Service, EPS F. Bourguiba of Monastir, Monastir, Tunisia; 3Department of Medical Biochemistry, College of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Arabian Gulf University, Manama, Bahrain.

Background
The IL-10 promoter polymorphisms −1082G/A, −819C/T, and −592C/A have been consistently associated with type 2 diabetes (T2DM). We examined whether these polymorphisms variants are also associated with progression of diabetic nephropathy (DN).

Methods
These promoter variants were genotyped in 917 T2DM patients comprising 515 DN patients and 402 DN-negative patients without nephropathy (DWN), together with 748 non-diabetic control subjects. Haplootype analysis and multivariate regression analysis were employed in assessing the contribution of IL-10 haplotypes to DN risk, using genotype, clinical and biochemical profile, and their interactions as predictors of DN.

Results
Carriers of mutant −592A and −819T alleles, and −819T/−592A, and −819C/−592T haplotypes were more frequent in T2DM. However, the −819C/−592T genotype appeared to be protective of DN, since lower frequency −819C allele and −819C/−592T genotype were seen in DN patients. Regression analysis identified −1082G/−819T/−592C (GTA) and −1082G/−819T/−592C (GTC) haplotypes as DN-protective haplotypes. Relative to the −1082G/−819C/−592C haplotype, GTA (P = 0.044; odds ratio (OR) = 0.54, 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.30–0.98) and GTC (P < 0.045; OR = 0.56, 95% CI: 0.31–0.99) haplotypes were associated with decreased odds ratio OR for DN, after controlling for a number of covariates (age, sex, body mass index (BMI), hypertension, glucose, HbA1c, DN duration, total cholesterol).

Conclusions
Our results indicate that genetic variations at the IL-10 promoter influence the risk of nephropathy in T2DM patients and thus represent a potential DN genetic-susceptibility locus worthy of replication.

P179
AIP immunostaining is increased with lanreotide therapy in individuals with acromegaly and predicts changes in IGF-1 levels in female patients
Harvinder Chahal1, Olaf Ansgore2, Niki Karavitaki3, Evind Carlsem4, John Wass1, Ashley Grossman4 & Marta Korbonits1
1Centre for Endocrinology, Barts and the London School of Medicine, London, UK; 2Department of Neuropathology, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK; 3Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Churchill Hospital, Oxford, UK.

Background
Recently mutations in the aryl hydrocarbon receptor interacting protein (AIP) gene have been found to occur in familial and sporadic somatotroph adenomas. These tumours tend to respond less well to somatostatin analogues, are diagnosed at an earlier age and behave more aggressively. AIP is expressed in sporadic somatotroph adenomas (Leontiou, JECM, 2008).

Aim
To evaluate the change in AIP immunostaining in sporadic acromegaly patients treated with lanreotide prior to transphenoidal surgery.

Methods
About 17 patients with sporadic acromegaly were treated with lanreotide 30 mg weekly or fortnightly for a 16 week period prior to transphenoidal surgery. 17 patients, who had no pretreatment with lanreotide prior to surgery were matched for age, sex and size of tumour. The change in AIP immunostaining was measured by immunohistochemistry.

Results
After 16 weeks lanreotide treatment there was a 33.9±17.1% mean tumour volume reduction, 49.8 ± 33.5 mL/mU mean GH change (day curve) and 53.6±93.6 mL/mU mean IGF-1 change. Strong AIP immunostaining was significantly increased in the lanreotide group (60.3±19%) versus the control group (27.9±11.7%) in both sexes; P<0.001. In the lanreotide group as a whole there were no associations between AIP staining and changes in GH or IGF-1 levels, or tumour volume reduction, after lanreotide treatment. However, in female patients there was a positive correlation between AIP staining and changes in IGF-1 levels after lanreotide treatment (R = 0.66, P<0.05).

Conclusion
AIP protein expression was significantly increased in sporadic acromegaly patients who were treated with lanreotide, as compared to controls. In female acromegaly patients AIP immunostaining positively correlated with changes in IGF-1 levels after lanreotide therapy. These results suggest that AIP may play a role in the mechanism of action of somatostatin analogues in sporadic acromegaly patients.

P180
Papillary thyroid carcinoma associated with thyroid autoimmune: clinical and molecular characterization
Marina Muzza1,2  Carla Colombo1,2, Michèla Perrino1,2, Stefania Rossi3, Valentina Cirelli2, Paolo Beck-Pecco2 & Laura Fogazzola3
1Department of Medical Sciences, University of Milan, Milan, Italy; 2Endocrine-Diabetological Unit, Fondazione Policlinico IRCCS, Milan, Italy; 3Pathology Unit, Department of Medicine, Surgery and Dentistry, University of Milan, Ospedale S. Paolo, Milan, Italy.

It is still debated if the coexistence of papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) with a thyroid autoimmune process is associated with a better or worse outcome. Moreover, though a direct relationship between oncocenes and the activation of a pro-inflammatory process has been documented, the genetic background of PTCs with associated autoimmune is not known. Aim of the present study was to to investigate the clinical and molecular features of PTCs associated or not with autoimmunity. A large series of PTCs associated or not with thyroiditis and followed up according to recent guidelines has been clinically evaluated. Moreover, the genetic background of these two Groups of tumors was studied by means of RET and BRAF molecular analyses. In some cases, the thyroid issue of the lobe controlateral to the tumor was also analyzed. No significant differences were found between the two Groups regarding either the clinical and pathological features, or the outcome. Interestingly, the molecular defects were significantly different among patients with PTC associated or not with thyroiditis (P = 0.001), being ret/PTC1 significantly more represented in patients with PTC and autoimmunity, and BRAF in patients with PTC alone. A ret/PTC rearrangement was also found in 41% of non-neoplastic thyroiditis tissues controlateral to tumours harbouring either ret/PTC or BRAF or none mutations.

In conclusion, the whole of present findings extend the knowledge about the tight relationships between oncocenes, thyroiditis and thyroid cancer. A significantly different genetic background between PTCs with or without associated autoimmune was firstly demonstrated, well in agreement with the recent finding that, in normal human primary thyrocytes, ret/PTC1 activates a transcriptional program related to inflammation. Moreover, the presence of ret/PTC in inflammatory tissues associated with non-ret/PTC tumors, indicate that inflammation could predispose to carcinogenesis even if this is driven by different genetic alterations.
Results
The mRNA of EG-VEGF and its receptor were highly abundant in most ACC samples and the expression in ACC was comparable to the normal adrenal gland and the adenomas. EG-VEGF protein was detectable in the cytoplasm of 150/151 (99%) and in the nucleus of 131/151 (87%) ACC samples including 90 (60%) and 27 (18%) samples with strong staining. There was no significant correlation with tumor stage. In >90% of ACC samples at least one of the receptors PKR1 or 2 was detectable. Patients with no nuclear staining for EG-VEGF had a significantly better, stage-adjusted overall survival (hazard ratio for death: 0.33 [95% CI 0.12-0.90]; P = 0.03).
Conclusion
EG-VEGF and its receptors are expressed in the vast majority of ACC samples and EG-VEGF expression correlates with clinical outcome. Therefore, EG-VEGF seems to be an interesting therapeutic target for future studies.

Parathyroid carcinoma is a rare cause of primary hyperparathyroidism. Though the loss of the oncosuppressor HRPT2 gene product, parabromin, has been involved in the hyperparathyroidism-jaw tumor syndrome and in a consistent set of sporadic parathyroid carcinomas, parathyroid carcinogenesis remains obscure. MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are a new class of small, non-coding RNAs implicated in embryonic development and cancer. A deregulated miRNA can induce the aberrant expression of several target genes. The aim of the present study was to identify differentially expressed miRNAs in parathyroid cancers compared to normal parathyroid tissues. We performed a TaqMan low-density array-based profiling of 4 parathyroid cancers harboring an inactivating mutation in HRPT2 gene and negative for parabromin immunostaining. Their miRNA profiling was compared with that of two normal parathyroid biopsies. Out of 362 human miRNAs assayed, 279 (77%) were expressed above background levels in all samples. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering correctly classified the normal specimens from the tumors. Fourteen and 3 miRNAs were significantly down- and over-expressed in parathyroid cancers, respectively. Of these, SAM analysis identified 2 miRNAs (296 and 139) and 2 miRNAs (503 and 222) significantly down- and over-expressed, respectively, with a null false discovery rate. In particular, miRNA-296 was able to discriminate with the highest accuracy between parathyroid cancers and normal glands (P=0.0012). To further investigate the expression of miRNA-296, we analyzed its expression profile in 13 parathyroid sporadic adenomas, 4 atypical adenomas and two metastasis. miRNA-296 expression levels were definitely low in parathyroid cancers and metastasis as well as in atypical adenomas, while in sporadic adenomas they were reduced but not significantly different from normal samples. These results suggest a potential role of miRNA-296 as an oncosuppressor gene and indicate this miRNA as an exploitative tumor marker useful for clinical diagnosis.

Methods
We correlated the expression data with clinical and pathological features of the tumors using Kaplan-Meier survival analysis and the log rank test.
diagnostic value of radioactive whole body scanning and serum thyroglobulin (Tg) measurement is most accurate during thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) stimulation. The introduction of recombinant human TSH (rhTSH)-stimulated testing offers the possibility to avoid hormone withdrawal associated with the morbidity of severe hypothyroidism. Recent clinical trials have shown that measurement of the rhTSH-stimulated serum Tg concentration (rhTSH-Tg) alone is the most sensitive way to detect residual or recurrent thyroid cancer.

Objectives

The aim of the study was to investigate rhTSH-Tg in patients considered to be cured with already finished radioiodine treatment 1–3 years after (routine follow-up) and in patients more years after radioiodine therapy with a new indefinite (mild) suspicion for DTC recurrence.

Patients and methods

RhTSH-Tg was examined in 84 patients (72 women and 12 men) clinically free of disease, 1–3 years after finishing radioiodine therapy. Second group consisted of four patients (2 women and 2 men) 5, 9, 12 and 38 years after 131I treatment with a mild suspicion of DTC recurrence based on routine neck ultrasonography (USG).

Results

RhTSH testing was well tolerated. No adverse events were detected. In the first group clinically free of disease undetectable rhTSH-Tg (<0.2 ng/ml) was found in 77 patients (91.7%), Tg above diagnostic cutoff (≥2 ng/ml) in four patients (4.8%) and Tg in the range of 0.6–2 ng/ml in three cases (3.6%). In all patients of second group previous indefinite suspicion of DTC recurrence was confirmed by the rhTSH-Tg rise (2.9–7.3 ng/ml).

Conclusions

We detected persistent disease in 4.8% of patients considered to be cured and confirmed recurrent disease in all patients with mild USG suspicion. In accordance with the literature rhTSH-Tg concentration in combination with neck USG has the highest sensitivity and negative predictive value in detecting residual or recurrent DTC.

P186

mTOR inhibition influences cell viability of mediulary thyroid carcinoma primary cultures

Carlo Filieri, Mariella Minoa, Federico Tagliati, Daniela Mólè, Mattia Buratto, Angelo Margotti, Ettore degli Uberti & Maria Chiara Zatelli

Section of Endocrinology, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Advanced Therapies, University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy.

Effective medical therapy for persistent/recurrent mediulary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) is not available, yet. Everolimus (RAD001) is a Rapamycin derivative, a potent mTOR pathway inhibitor. RAD001 has been employed in several clinical studies demonstrating antiproliferative and apoptotic effects in human tumors, both in vitro and in vivo, also in combination with somatostatin analogs. The aim of our study was to investigate the antiproliferative effects of RAD001 in human MTC primary cultures. Of 10 MTC have been dispersed in primary culture and incubated for 24 h in culture medium without serum. Cells have been then treated without or with increasing concentrations of RAD001 (10 nM – 1 µM) and/or 10 nM SOM230 (a multitargeted somatostatin analog) and/or 50 nM IGF-1. Cell viability has been evaluated after 24 h with a colorimetric method. Somatostatin receptor (SSTR) expression has been evaluated by quantitative PCR. We found that RAD001 10 nM slightly (−17%) but significantly reduces cell viability in five MTC, and that this effect is blocked by co-treatment with IGF-1. SOM230 alone did not modify cell viability but enhanced the antiproliferative effects of RAD001 (−23%). In this group of patients, with the three SSTRs subclassified (72×10^6 molecules × μg total RNA), while SSTR4 and SSTR5 were not expressed. Both RAD001 and SOM230 do not affect cell viability in the other five MTC, which expressed SSTR1, SSTR2, SSTR3 and SSTR5 (3, 32, 35, and 16×10^6 molecules × μg total RNA). These results indicate that Everolimus might represent a possible medical therapy aimed at controlling MTC cell growth in some cases, in association with somatostatin analogs.

P187

Presence and potential pathophysiological relevance of GOAT, the ghrelin O-acetyltransferase, in human pituitary tumors

Ana Quintero1, Antonio J Martinez-Fuentes1, Carlos Dieguez2, Pedro Benito-Lopez1, Alfonso Leal1, Susan Webb1, Maria M Malagon1, Raúl M Lugo2 & Jasto P Castano3

1University of Cordoba, CIBERobn, Cordoba, Spain; 2University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; 3IBIS-Hospital Virgen del Rocio, Sevilla, Spain; 4Hospital Sant Pau, UAB, CIBERER, Barcelona, Spain.

Ghrelin is isolated from stomach by its ability to stimulate growth hormone (GH) release through the GH-secretagogue receptor (GHS-R1a). However, ghrelin/GHS-R expression in multiple tissues and tumor types suggested additional roles for this tandem. Ghrelin, a 28-aminoacid peptide, requires a unique O-acylation at its Ser-3 residue to bind GHS-R1a and release GH. Conversely, unacylated ghrelin (DAG) is a ghrelin circulating form, seems to play distinct metabolic roles. Recent identification of GOAT, the enzyme that acylates ghrelin, opens novel strategies to understand and clinically manipulate this axis. Pituitary tumors often express ghrelin and/or GHS-R, yet their pathophysiological relevance is still unclear. To investigate this expression of GOAT, ghrelin, GHS-R1a, and truncated GHS-R1b was evaluated by qPCR in 35 non-functioning pituitary adenomas (NFPA), 13 somatotropinomas, and seven corticotropinomas. Additionally, functional relevance of ghrelin acylation was assessed by evaluating calcium kinetics in single living somatotropinoma cells in response to acylated ghrelin (AG) or UAG. Results showed that ghrelin was expressed at moderate, comparable levels in the three types of adenomas. Conversely, GOAT expression was higher in somatotropinomas than in NFPA, which expressed similar levels than corticotropinomas. Accordingly, relative GOAT levels only surpassed those of ghrelin in somatotropinomas. GOAT was also expressed in normal human pituitary. GHS-R1a and GHS-R1b were also expressed in all three tumor types, whiat somatotropinomas showed the highest GHS-1a levels. GOAT activity can be determinant for ghrelin function, since AG increased [Ca2+] in single cells derived from three different somatotropinomas, whereas UAG did not alter calcium levels nor affected AG action in these cells. These results demonstrate a differential expression of GOAT in human NFPA, corticotropinomas, and somatotropinomas, and support the notion that, at least in somatotropinomas, GOAT can play a functionally significant role by modulating the effects of ghrelin (AG versus UAG) upon somatotropinoma cells. Support: BIO394/CTS1705-J. Andalucia;BFU2004-03883&BFU2007-60180-MEC/FEDER-Spain.
The optimal treatment of recurrent adenocortical cancer (ACC) remains to be established since there are discrepant opinions on the value of repeat surgery. We did a retrospective analysis of clinical data of some patients who were retreated units from 1988 to 2006 for a recurrence of ACC, which occurred 2–83 years after radical removal of the tumor. In that period, the treatment policy of ACC recurrence differed among our units, since oncologists were more accustomed to use chemotherapy while endocrinologists recommended surgery more frequently. Patients were stratified in two groups according to the treatment received: group one included 33 patients (18 W, 15 M, aged 21–64 years, median 38) who underwent repeat surgery, while group 2 included 16 patients (8 W, 8 M aged 18–69 years, median 48) who were treated with chemotherapy (EDP + mitotane). Repeat surgery was radical in 25 patients while eight patients were left with residual ACC and were treated with the same chemotherapeutic regimen. The 2 groups did not differ as to demographic characteristics, ACC stage, Weiss score, use of adjuvant mitotane therapy and secreting status, while the disease-free survival (DFS) after the first operation was significantly longer in group 1 (19 mos (5–83)) than in group 2 (10 mos (2–44); (P = 0.05). Survival after recurrence was significantly longer for group 1 (36 mos (8–168)) than in group 2 (15.5 mos (6–109); (P = 0.01). In-group 1, 56% of patients are alive at the last follow-up, 27% of whom are free of disease, while only one patient is alive in group 2. DFS after repeat surgery was 22 mos (4–132) in the 25 patients who had radical surgery. Such patients had the greatest survival when compared to patients in whom repeat surgery was incomplete or patients treated with chemotherapy alone (P < 0.001). The present data suggests that re-operation for recurrence of ACC is beneficial when a complete removal of tumor can be attained, while debunking does not give any advantage in comparison to medical therapy. Even if this is a retrospective analysis, the patients treated surgically or medically were rather well matched for the most important prognostic factors; however, we cannot exclude selection of less aggressive ACCs in group 1. Notwithstanding these limitations, these data are of interest because they show that surgical treatment of recurrence is worth doing also in some patients with advanced ACCs. An extended DFS following primary surgery may be an important factor for proper selection of patients.

P190

Serum chromogranin A assay in the biological diagnosis of pheochromocytomas and/or parangangiomas: results in 146 patients

Michele d’Herbomez1, Catherine Baupers2, Philippe Caron3, Christine Do Cau2, Pascal Pigny4, Emmanuelle Leteurtre5, Bruno Carmaux6 & Jean-Louis Wémeau7

1Department of Nuclear Medicine, CHRU, Lille, France; 2Clinic of Endocrinology, CHRU, Lille, France; 3Clinic of Endocrinology, CHRU, Toulouse, France; 4Department of Biochemistry, CHRU, Lille, France; 5Department of Pathology, CHRU, Lille, France; 6Department of Endocrine Surgery, CHRU, Lille, France.

The biological diagnosis of pheochromocytoma (P) and/or parangangioma (Pg) relies on the identification of excessive secretion of the metanephrines. Chromogranin A (CgA) is a general indicator of neuroendocrine tumours that is highly expressed in P and correlate with tumour mass and secretory activity. The CgA test could be indicated as a useful test in patients with false positive metanephrines results. The aim of our prospective bi-centre study, is to evaluate the performances of the CgA assay in the diagnosis of the P and Pg according to the hereditary context and the localization of these tumours. One hundred forty six patients (67 females and 79 males) have a P and/or Pg. All patients have had surgery and the diagnoses were confirmed by histological examinations. Thirty eight patients (26%) have a hereditary disease We used a radioimmunometric assay (Cis Bio-international, cut-off level to 120 mg/ml). The overall sensitivity of the CgA was equal to 92.7, 95.3% in a sporadic context and 84% in a hereditary context. The means CgA are significant different between the hereditary or sporadic diseases (P < 0.01) as for the metanephrines concentrations. In patients with Pgg, (11 sporadic, 19 hereditary) the mean CgA was significant higher in the sporadic than in the hereditary Pg (P < 0.05). The means CgA in patients with sporadic P did not differ significantly from those of patients with sporadic Pg. The means CgA appears also to be different regarding the genetic forms of P and Pg. In conclusion, CgA assay is a useful tool for the diagnosis of P and Pg with a high sensitivity, better for sporadic than for hereditary diseases. CgA is a biochemical marker for the diagnosis of the P as for the majority of the Pg with some variations according to the genetic context.

P191

Clinical features and outcome of thyroid lymphoma: the Auvergne registry

Beatrice Roche1, Caroline Solmon1, Elena Robi1,2, Françoise Desbizet1, Philippe Thiebolid2 & Igor Tavuterson

1CHU Endocrinology, Clermont Ferrand, France; 2UFR Medecine Université d’Auvergne, Clermont Ferrand, France.

Introduction

Thyroid lymphoma is a rare thyroid disease, occurring mostly in the elderly. We report a series of 13 cases from a single centre.

Material and methods

Among our regional registry (1294 cases of thyroid cancer), we report 16 cases of thyroid lymphoma (with sufficient data on follow up for 13).

Results

Mean age was 68.3 years (range 38–85) and included 12 women for 1 man. Nine patients also presented with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis. All but three were euthyroid. A cervical rapidly growing mass was the major revealing symptom (10/13). Diffuse giant cell B lymphoma (DCG BL) was more common (10/13) with anti CD 19 +, CD20+ and CD30+ immunostaining. One patient had DBCBCL issued from mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) and two ad Burkitt lymphoma (BL).

Follow up after appropriate therapy, ie conjunction according to staging of chemotherapy, radiotherapy or surgery, lead to remission in BL and MALT lymphoma, and in 3/10 DBCBCL. The survival rate was 78.5 and 48.5% at 5 and 10 years respectively.
Conclusion
Thyroid lymphoma is a rare thyroid disorder, traditionally linked with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis. Prognosis of lymphoma is far better than anaplastic carcinoma which it may mimic. Yet the most frequent form, DGCBIL, keeps a poorer prognosis than BL or MALT lymphoma.

P192
The comparison of serum endostatin levels between patients with metastatic and non-metastatic well differentiated thyroid cancer
Joanna Klubo-Gwiazdzinska1, Junik Roman1 & Kopeczyńska Ewa1
1Department of Endocrinology and Diabetology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz, Bydgoszcz, Poland; 2Department of Biochemistry, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz, Bydgoszcz, Poland.
Tumor growth is limited by its neangiogenesis, which is dependent on dynamic balance between it’s activators and inhibitors. One of the most important antiangiogenic factor is endostatin. Therefore we hypothesized, that serum endostatin concentration would differ between patients with metastatic and non-metastatic thyroid cancer, with multinodular goiter and healthy subjects. We also hypothesized that endogenous TSH stimulation would effect serum endostatin levels.
The study group consisted of 64 (55 females, 9 men), aged 44-92; 12.3 year, with differentiated thyroid cancer, treated in our department in the years 2003–2006. All patients had undergone total or near total thyroidectomy and radioactive iodine treatment, that had resulted in remission in 52 patients and persistent/recurrent disease in 12 patients. The study included two control groups – 30 patients with non-toxic multinodular goiter and 30 healthy subjects. Serum endostatin concentration was significantly higher in patients with distant metastases than in patients with remission (141.95 vs 105.345 ng/mL, P<0.05). This was not observed in patients with locoregional metastases. During endogenous TSH stimulation, endostatin levels significantly decreased (122.94 vs 9360 ng/mL, P<0.05). Serum endostatin levels in patients with metastases correlated with Tg levels. This was not observed in patients with remission. Serum endostatin levels might be used as an additional marker of thyroid cancer with distant metastases. Endogenous TSH stimulation decreases endostatin levels in patients either with and without thyroid tissue, suggesting its regulatory effects through receptors located outside the thyrocytes.

P193
Effectiveness and safety of combined therapy with low dose ketocona-zole and carbogel in patients with Cushing’s disease partially responsive to monotherapy with carbogel
Rosario Pironello, Monica De Leo, Maria Cristina De Martino, Alessia Corzollo, Renata S Auriemma, Mariano Galdiero, Gaetano Lombardi & Annamaria Colao
Department of Molecular and Clinical Endocrinology and Oncology, Federico II University, Naples, Italy.
The first-line treatment of Cushing’s disease is surgery, although it is effective in inducing a long-term remission in around 50% of patients with Cushing’s disease (CD). Nowadays, no pituitary tumor-directed medical treatment is available with the exception of carbogel, which has been recently demonstrated to control cortisol secretion without major side effects in around 40% of patients with Cushing’s disease. Carbogel has been recently demonstrated to induce cardiac valve insufficiency in patients with Parkinson’s disease, usually long term treated with high dose of the drug. A widely used adenral-directed palliative medical treatment is represented by ketoconazole, which however can be associated with different side effects mainly including liver damage especially when used at high dose (until 1200 mg/day) for a long period of time. The aim of the current study was to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of the combined treatment with carbogel and low-dose ketoconazole in patients with Cushing’s disease partially responsive to carbogel monotherapy. Six patients with post-surgical persistent Cushing’s disease had been treated with carbogel at the maximal dose of 3.5 mg/week with a significant reduction but not normalization of urinary cortisol levels (from 530.5±136.2 to 258.0±107.1 µg/day, P<0.05) associated with a partial clinical improvement after 6 months of treatment. Ketoconazole at the initial dose of 50 mg was added to carbogel in all patients, and increased by 50 mg every month until normalization of urinary cortisol levels had been achieved. After 6 months of combined treatment with carbogel (3.5 mg/week) and ketoconazole (50-200 mg/day), urinary cortisol levels were 107.8±

19.8 µg/dl (P<0.05), and were in the normal range in all patients. A significant clinical improvement was observed in parallel with the decrease and normalization of cortisol levels. No cardiac valve disease occurred or worsened during the 1-year treatment with carbogel, except a worsening of tricuspid regurgitation in one patient. No liver damage was observed in any patient. In conclusion, the combined treatment with carbogel and low dose ketoconazole seems to be effective and safe in the management of patients with Cushing’s disease, and can be considered in patients who had unsuccessful surgical treatment or are not candidates for alternative definitive treatments.

P194
Impact of surgery on clinical outcome in patients with recurrence of adrenocortical carcinoma
Ilknur Erdogan1, Stefanie Hahn1, Sarah Johansen1, Wiebke Fenske1, Marcus Quinkler2, Holger S Willenberg2, Felix Beuschlein1, David Brix2, Bruno Allof2 & Martin Fassnacht1
1Department of Medicine, University Hospital, Würzburg, Germany; 2Department of Medicine, Charlie University, Campus Mitte, Berlin, Germany; 3Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes, Rheumatology, University Hospital, Düsseldorf, Germany; 4Department of Medicine, Innenstadt Klinikum, University Hospital, Munich, Germany; 5Department of Urology, University Hospital, Würzburg, Germany.
Introduction
The role of surgery for recurrent ACC is not well defined. Therefore, we used the German ACC Registry to evaluate treatment modalities after first recurrence in patients amenable to surgery.
Methods
Patients with recurrence after radical resection and follow-up data were included. Patients with extensive metastasized disease (>2 tumors organs, peritoneal carcinomatosis) were excluded. Progression-free and overall survival (PFS/OS) were analyzed using the Kaplan-Meier and cox regression methods.
Results
In 351/506 patients registered with the German ACC Registry radical resection was performed. Of 223 of these patients experienced recurrence during follow-up and 76 fulfilled all inclusion and exclusion criteria. Patients presented with local recurrence (n=23), liver, lung, or lymph node metastases (n=15, 11, 2 respectively). In 15 patients two organs were affected. Median follow-up was 30 (6–250) months. Of 68 patients underwent second surgery (R0=9, R1/R2=32; R2=7). Patients voting against surgery were treated with mitostane (n=6) or mitostane plus cytotoxic drugs (n=2). Of 68 patients experienced progressive disease after a median of 7 (2–144) months. PFS after recurrence was prolonged in patients with time to first recurrence (TTFR) > 12 months (14 vs 6 months; P<0.001), but PFS was not significantly associated with surgery, resection status, or number of lesions. In contrast, TTFR and surgery were associated with reduced risk for death after recurrence (HR 0.23 [95% CI 0.11–0.50) and HR 0.38 (0.16–0.94), respectively). However, in multivariate analysis only TTFR was of prognostic value (HR 0.25 [0.11–0.56] P<0.001). There was a clear trend favouring patients with R0 resection (HR 0.44 (0.14–1.37)), but not with R2 resection (HR 1.43 (0.42–4.88)).
Conclusion
In ACC, after first recurrence 90% of patients experience progression of disease independent of therapy. The best predictor for survival after recurrence is time to first recurrence. Our study suggests that surgery is of benefit only if complete resection is feasible.

P195
Microalbuminuria and insulin resistance in nondiabetic acromegalic patients
Ayse Serap Yalın, Seda Şancak, Oguzhan Beyneli, Multu Günes, Dilek Gözü, Yavuz & Nejse Sener Akbulut
Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism, School of Medicine, Marmara University, Ataköprü/Istanbul, Turkey.
Growth hormon (GH) counteracts the effects of insulin on glucose metabolism and GH excess may result in insulin resistance (IR). Impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) and diabetes mellitus (DM) are frequently associated with acromegaly. Microalbuminuria (MAU) is a well established cardiovascular (CV) risk factor and a predictor of CV mortality in both diabetic and nondiabetic subjects. The aim of this preliminary study was to investigate the MAU levels as a marker of CV disease in patients with acromegaly but without DM.

Forty-one acromegalics without DM with a mean age of 43.86 ± 11.7 years, mean BMI 29.74 ± 4.7 kg/m² and median disease duration 48 (IQR 21–108) months and age, sex and BMI matched 18 healthy controls were included. Patients and controls underwent OGTT and hormonal/biochemical evaluation and 24-hour urinary microalbumin. IR was measured with the homeostasis model insulin resistance index (HOMA-R). HOMA-R was not different between patients and controls (P > 0.05). Mean nadir GH level was 4.36 ± 14.71 mg/ml. In nondiabetic patients with normal IGF-1 levels for age, HOMA-R was found to be lower than nondiabetic patients with elevated IGF-1 levels for age (1.06 ± 0.99 and 1.82 ± 1.27, P < 0.05). However, in nondiabetic patients HOMA-R values were not statistically different between patients who achieved the nadir GH level of less than 1 mg/ml after OGTT and who did not achieve the nadir GH level (P = 0.063). We demonstrated a positive but weak correlation between HOMA-R values and MAU in nondiabetic acromegalic patients (R = 0.105, P < 0.05), but not in the control group. In conclusion, daily urinary albumin excretion in acromegaly seems to be correlated with IR (HOMA-R) even before developing overt DM. Since, both IR and presence of MAU are CV risk factors, MAU may be important in the assessment of nondiabetic acromegalic patients.

P196
Safety of long-term combined therapy with somatotatin analogues and cabergoline (CAB) on cardiac valve in acromegaly: an echocardiography study
Renata Simona Ariuviema1, Maurizio Galdersi2, Mariano Galdieri3, Ludovica Francesca Stella Grassi1, Maria Cristina De Martinis1, Monica De Leo1, Amamaria Colas1 & Rosario Ponzellom3
1Department of Clinical and Molecular Endocrinology and Oncology, University ‘Federico II’, Naples, Italy; 2Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University ‘Federico II’, Naples, Italy.

The aim of the present study was to evaluate cardiac valve insufficiency prevalence after 12-month combined treatment with somatostatin analogues (SA) and CAB in acromegalic patients partially responsive to high-dose and long-term SA monotherapy. Twenty-four patients entered the study. A standard echocardiography was performed in all patients at diagnosis, after high-dose and long-term SA therapy and 12 months after CAB addition to SA to evaluate ejection fraction (EF) and mitral (M), tricuspidal (T), aortic (A) and pulmonar (P) valve regurgitation (R). CAB was administered at an initial dose of 1 mg weekly, then increased to 0.5 mg daily after 3 months on the basis of GH and IGF-I levels. Compared to baseline, SA treatment induced a significant decrease, but not normalization, in GH (P < 0.001) and IGF-I (P < 0.001). After CAB addition, GH (P < 0.001) and IGF-I (P < 0.002) were furtherly decreased until normalization in all patients. Compared to baseline, EF was increased (P < 0.001) after SA monotherapy, whereas CAB addition induced only slight, but not significant, further increase in EF. At the study entry, patients showed: mild MR in 85%, moderate MR in 4.2%, mild TR in 41.2%, moderate TR in 8.3%, mild AR 8.3%, moderate AR in 8.3% and mild PR in 16% of patients, respectively. After treatment with SA, mild MR (P = 0.002), moderate TR (P < 0.05) and mild PR (P < 0.05) were decreased compared to baseline. After the addition of CAB to SA, mild MR and AR were furtherly reduced (< P < 0.001 and P < 0.01 respectively); mild PR was increased (P < 0.05) compared to SA therapy. However, no case of severe or moderate to severe valvular abnormality was observed. In conclusion, valve dysfunctions, particularly mild MR and AR, seem to be improved after CAB addition, although a slight impairment in mild PR was found. Therefore, long-term combined treatment with SA and CAB is effective and safe in acromegaly.

P197
Incidence of benign and malignant neoplasms in acromegalic patients at a single institution
Agata Baldys-Walgorska, Filip Gółkowski, Anna Krzemiowska, Gregorzz Sokolowski & Alicja Hubalewska-Dudejczyk
Department of Endocrinology, Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

Introduction
In acromegalic patients the incidence of benign and malignant neoplasms, appears to be higher than that in the standard population. Our aim was to evaluate the incidence of tumours in acromegalic patients treated at our Department.

Materials and methods
Over the years 1983–2008, 101 acromegalic patients (mean age 51.8 ± 15.4 years), were diagnosed and treated in our Department. Pituitary macroadenoma and microadenoma were stated in 63.4 and 25.7% of these patients, respectively (no data available for 10.9%). Mean observation period was 9.4 ± 6.5 years. We only scored neoplasms in patients primarily diagnosed with acromegaly. Our study was based on retrospective analysis of patient history and on recent screening for colon, breast, thyroid and prostate cancer.

Results
The median concentrations of hGH and IGF-1 prior to treatment were 20.2 (IQR = 13.4–34.9) ng/ml and 764.5 (IQR = 569.6–1067.8) ng/ml, respectively. The current median hGH and IGF-1 concentrations were 2.1 (IQR = 4.3–40.7) ng/ml and 304.3 (IQR = 397.3–569.6) mg/ml, being statistically different from the former values (P < 0.01). We observed incidences of adenoma in 63.0%, polyps of the colon-13%, uterine myoma and polyps-12% and 4.0%; prostate adenoma-2.0%; meningioma-4.0%; adrenal adenoma-2.0%; parathyroid adenoma-1.0%. Thyroid cancer, endometrium and cervix cancer were the most frequent malignant tumours (3% each); colon cancer incidence was 2.0%. Single cases of breast, stomach, skin and small-cell lung cancer were also observed. The dependence of the number of malignant neoplasms on the duration of uncontrolled disease: less than 5 years and over 5 years, was found to be statistically significant (P < 0.05).

Conclusions
1. We suggest an overall increase of tumour incidence in acromegalic patients.
2. The number of malignant neoplasms was significantly higher in patients with over 5 years of uncontrolled disease. No difference was found in the number of malignant neoplasms over the total duration of acromegaly (< 10 years and > 10 years).

P198
Gastric neuroendocrine tumors – new diagnostic and therapeutic approach
Alicja Hubalewska-Dudejczyk1, Aleksandra Gils-Jamuszewska2, Anna Sowa-Staszczak3, Dorota Pach1, Malgorzata Trojniak1, Monika Tomaszczyk4 & Jan Kulig5
1Chair and Department of Endocrinology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; 2Gastrointestinal and General Surgery Department, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

The incidence of gastric neuroendocrine tumors (GNT) is increasing, which can be explained by the increased detection caused by the common use of the endoscopy and the pervasive use of acid suppressive therapy leading to enterochromaffin-like cells proliferation. There are numerous new diagnostic/therapeutic GNT methods in use like: EUS, SRS, somatostatin therapy and 90Y/177Lu-DOTA-TATE radiotherapy.

Materials and methods
In 1998–2008 37 patients were diagnosed with the hist.path. confirmed GNT (mean age = 61 ± 12; 27F, 10 M). Gastroscopy, CT/MRI, EUS 99Tc-EDDA/HYNIC-Octreotate scintigraphy, chromogranin A serum level, clinical manifestation of the disease and type and efficacy of the therapy were assessed.

Results
Among 37GC patients in 26 patients type I in 2 type II and in 3 type III was diagnosed. During 4 years of the observation seven patients died (two patients-type I, death not related to GC, 2-type II and 3-type III). The best diagnostic value was found for the 99Tc-EDDA/HYNIC-Octreotate scintigraphy both for the primary and the metastatic lesions. The mean increased level of chromogranin A was found (366 ± 587.2 U/l; n=2–18 U/l), with maximum value in patients with dissemination (over 1000 U/l). In 43% of patients partial/galal resection was performed. However in four patients with type I GNT treated with the somatostatin analogue complete endoscopic remission was observed.

Conclusion
As the number of GNT is increasing the extensive diagnostic and therapeutic methods development are needed. However the endoscopic or surgical gastric resection are still a basic treatment, the use of somatostatin in type I, somatostatin and 90Y/177Lu-DOTA-TATE radiotherapy in nonoperative, disseminated cases seems to be very promising. Due to the different clinical course of the disease it seems that the treatment should be individually tailored to reach the best and optimal effect.

P199
The German NET-registry: an audit on the diagnosis and therapy of neuroendocrine tumours
Ursula Ploßkinger1, Günther Köppl2 & Rüdiger Lohmann3
1Charite-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 2Universitätsklinikum Schloßvogtholen, Kiel, Germany; 3Lohmann&Böhm Health Care Consulting, Berlin, Germany.

Introduction
Clinical experience with neuroendocrine tumors (NET) is difficult to acquire because they are rare and heterogeneous. The impact of recently published guidelines on diagnosis and therapy of NET is not known. The German NET-Registry offers a unique possibility to analyse data on diagnostic/therapeutic performance in a wide range of institutions. This study posed three questions: who provides the care for patients with NET; do the diagnostic/therapeutic procedures comply with guidelines; and are the results comparable to the literature?

Patients and methods
Centres were defined as any institution that cares for at least five NET patients. Data were accrued from patients’ files by two study-nurses and transferred to a dedicated database (160 questions). Between 2004 and 2007, 1263 patients from 21 centres were included.

Results
Data on tumour location, age and sex, compared well with published data. Most patients were cared for in very large (>100 patients, 47.9%) or large (20–99 patients, 46.1%) centres. Imaging results (MRI, CT, US) were available for 79% of the patients, laboratory tests (chromogranin A, 5-hydroxyindolacetic acid, specific hormones) for 67%, somatostatin receptor scintigraphy for 56% and pathological findings for 79%. High-quality pathology reports were rare (2%). Surgery was the first therapy in 70.9%, nonsurgical treatment the second therapy in 45.7% of the patients. Peptide radio-receptor therapy was used more often than ablative therapy as second-line treatment. Median follow-up was 2.8 years (0.4–6.4), median overall survival was 2.5 years (0.34–6.3). Mortality was unrelated to tumour location.

Conclusions
Very large centres treated the majority of patients. These centres adhered best to the guidelines. However, there were still significant deficiencies in the documentation of diagnostic results, mainly concerning pathology reports. These deficits may negatively interfere with therapeutic decision-making. The therapeutic strategies used were comparable between the centres. These data provide a basis for quality management in NET.

P200
Adrenocortical carcinoma: results of surgical treatment and clinicomorphologic prognostic factors
Denis Pirogov, Timur Britvin, Galina Polyakova & Oleg Bogatyrev
Moscow Regional M. F. Vladimirsky Clinical Research Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation.

The aim of the study was analysis of long-term results of surgical treatment in patients with adrenocortical carcinoma as well as definition of prognostic factors. From 1998 to 2008, examination and treatment of 53 patients with adrenocortical carcinoma (31 women and 22 men, mean age 52.8 years) was carried out in our institute: 13 patients had Cushing syndrome, 1 – virilization, 2 – total adenohypertosism, and 37 – nonfunctioning tumors. The mean tumor diameter was 8.7 cm (range, 3–21), weight – 301.2 g (range, 21–2000). Four patients were treated at stage I, 8 – at stage II, 25 – at stage III, and 16 – at stage IV; 48 patients were operated on, and in five cases, surgical intervention was abandoned because of the multiple distant metastases (the diagnosis was confirmed by cytologic analysis of the fine-needle aspiration biopsy tumor samples). Radical surgery with complete resection of the primary tumor was performed in 42 patients. Among them, four patients underwent combined resection on bloc with adjacent organs (kidney, spleen and pancreas), three patients – liver segmentectomy, and one – lung resection. Incomplete tumor resection was performed in two patients. In four other patients, only tumor biopsy was performed. Patients not treated surgically died 3–7 months later diagnosis. Patients, who underwent incomplete tumor resection or only tumor biopsy, died 5–24 months later surgery. The mean follow-up after radical surgical treatment was 48.2 months (range, 2–86): 28 patients are still alive and 14 died. The 5-year overall survival and disease-free survival, calculated by the Kaplan–Meier method, was 58.3 and 55.1%, respectively. There were no reliable differences among overall and disease-free survival rates and tumor functional activity depending on patient age and sex. The 5-year overall and disease-free survival rate for patients at stage I and II was 100%, for patients at stage III – 51.9 and 47.4%, for patients at stage IV – 0%. The 5-year overall and disease-free survival for patients with tumors less than 10 cm (60.6 and 59.2%) was significantly higher than those for patients with tumors more than 10 cm (6%).

Complete resection of primary tumor (with adjacent organs and, when feasible, solitary metastases) and pathological tumor stage are the most significant prognostic factors in patients with adrenocortical carcinoma.

P201
Parathyroid cancer
Irina Kotova, Timur Britvin, Mikhail Beloshitsky & Arian Kalinin
Moscow Regional M. F. Vladimirsky Clinical Research Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation.

From 1987 to 2008, 226 patients were operated on for primary hyperparathyroidism (pHPT). In 17 (men and women, aged 21–71 years) of them, parathyroid carcinoma (PC) was verified by histologic analysis. Mixed pHPF form was noted in 12 patients, visceralopathic one – in 4, and asymptomatic – in 1. Hypocalcemia was revealed in 14 of 17 patients, and elevation of parathyroid hormone (PTH) level (426–1160 pg/ml) – in 12. In 5 patients operated on before 1990, serum PTH level was undetectable. Neck palpation revealed tumor-like neoplasms in 14 patients. US neck scan showed tumor-like neoplasms in 10 patients. CT demonstrated one tumor in anterosuperior mediastinum, the second one – behind trachea (at the level of C6). Three patients underwent only tumor resection because thyroid invasion wasn’t suspected by that time. In addition to PC resection, one patient underwent thyroid lobe resection, 4 – hemithyroidectomy, 3 – subtotal thyroidectomy, and 5 – total thyroidectomy. In one patient, sternotomy allowed to reveal a tumor with multicentric degeneration in the right superior thymic limb. It was woody-dense and intimately connected with a sternoclavicular joint, subclavian artery, and brachiocephalic vein. Thymectomy and subtotal thyroid resection were performed. In postoperative period, in 16 of 17 patients, clinical manifestations of differently pronounced hypocalcemia were noted and was confirmed by laboratory data. One patient died after operation due to pancreanecrosis. Remote outcome (later than 6 months – 15 years after operation) was studied in 11 patients. By the time of the last examination, all these patients were alive and no signs of tumor recurrence or regional and remote metastases were revealed. When suspecting PC, careful following ablation technique during surgery is needed which can help avoiding capsule damage especially as parathyroid tissue is markedly capable of implantation. After urgent histologic investigation and diagnosis verification, it’s necessary to be sure that operation was radical enough. As a rule, resection of PC is associated with simultaneous removal of adjusting thyroid lobe. Revision of ways of the regional metastatic spreading is obligatory as well as lymphadenectomy, if necessary.

P202
A National survey of neuroendocrine lung tumors
Bojana Popovic, Tatjana Isailovic, Ivana Batic, Djuro Macut, Sanja Ognjanovic, Milan Petakov, Valentina Elezovic & Svetozar Damjanovic
Institute of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, Belgrade, Serbia.

Neuroendocrine lung tumors represent approximately 20% of all lung tumors. They range from low-grade well-differentiated NETs and well-differentiated neuroendocrine carcinomas (typical and atypical carcinoids) to aggressive poorly differentiated small-cell and large-cell neuroendocrine carcinomas. They can develop different clinical syndromes due to ectopic hormone secretion.

We analyzed 178 patients with neuroendocrine tumors (age range: 17–79 years, 51.4 mean) treated at our department in last 5 years. The diagnosis was based on histological and immunohistochemical examinations and they were classified according to the WHO classification. Neuroendocrine lung tumors occurred in 35 (19.7%) patients (age range 24–79, 51.4 mean). Among those, 14 (40%) patients had well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor, 16 (45.7%) had well-differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma, SCLC was found in 4 (11.4%) cases, and one patient (2.8%) had mixed endocrine/adenocarcinoma of the lung. Two patients (8.6%) with well-differentiated NETs had ectopic secretion of ACTH. Four patients had clinical presentation of MEN1 syndrome while no mutations in MEN1 gene were found. Eight patients (22.8%) had carcinoid syndrome. At the time of diagnosis in 12 (34.3%) patients distant metastases were evident: 9 with well-differentiated neuroendocrine carcinoma, 2 with SCLC, and 1 with mixed carcinoma. Primary tumor was operated in 23 (60%) patients. In neuroendocrine tumors locally recurrent tumor occurred (occurrence range: 8–120 months, mean 37.5), 2 with atypical and 2 with typical carcinoid tumors. Four patients with atypical tumors (11.4%) developed distant metastases after 3 years of observation. Four patients with atypical tumors died during observation: 45–120 months, mean 96.0). They mostly metastasized in the liver (55.5%), bones (33.3%) and adrenal glands (33.3%). Twelve patients (34.3%) with metastatic disease died during this period. 7 with atypical carcinoids and 3 with poorly differentiated carcinomas, 2 patients died due to non-tumor related causes.

Our data are in concordance with literature, local recurrences and distant metastases are more frequent in aggressive tumors. Tumor biology as defined by WHO classification is most relevant prognostic factor.
**P203**

Efficacy and safety of 131I-DOTATATE therapy in neuroendocrine tumours (NETs)

Anna Sowa-Staszczak1, Alicja Hubalewska-Dydejczyk2, Jolanta Kumioska1, Leszek Krolicki1, Renata Mikolajczak1, Darius Pawlak1, Aleksandra Gils-Jamiszewska3, Małgorzata Trofinik1 & Agnieszka Stefanska1

1Nuclear Medicine Unit, Endocrinology Department, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; 2Nuclear Medicine Department, Medical Academy, Warsaw, Poland; 3Research and Development Department, IAE Radioisotope Centre POLATOM, Otwock-Swierk, Poland.

Therapy with labeled somatostatin analogues is the modern approach to patients with disseminated or unsectectable NETs expressing somatostatin receptors (SSTR). Octreotide is the somatostatin analogue with high affinity to SSTR type 2, most commonly present in NETs. The aim of the study was to assess the efficacy and toxicity of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) with the use of 131I labeled Tyr3-octreotide, (131I-DOTATATE) in NETs.

**Material**

Thirty-six patients with positive U10-Tricyn-Tate receptor scintigraphy (23 females, 13 males; Kamofsky’s index >70-83%, <70-17% of the patients) were referred to the therapy. The study group comprised 22 patients with foregut, 11 with midgut, 2 with hindgut tumours, 1 with NET of unknown origin and 3 patients with unresectable tumour, but no metastases.

**Methods**

Each patient received 7.4 GBq(200 mCi) of 131I-DOTATE divided in 3-7 doses (most often in 4-5 cycles) repeated every 4 to 9 weeks. For neoprophtection amino-acids formula, before and after each cycle of PRRT was administered.

**Results**

After the PRRT partial remission was observed in 45%, stabilization in 24% and disease progression in 31% of patients. Seven patients died before completing PRRT. No worsening in renal function was observed after PRRT. In 5 cases after 18 months the creatinin level increased. A drop in WBC was observed mostly after 3-4 cycle of PRRT, with transient grade 3 toxicity in 4 patients. Mean PLT count was within normal limit during the therapy. In 3 patients the value of Hb was assessed as toxicity grade 3. One patient, previously with chemotherapy developed myelodysplastic syndrome. In 76% patients chromogranin A level decreased after therapy.

**Conclusions**

(1) Therapy with 131I-DOTATATE results in partial remission or stabilization of the disease in most patients. (2) Treatment with labelled somatostatin analogue usually does not induce clinically important haematological or renal toxicity.

**P204**

The variability of clinical presentation of multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome type 1 as the reason of the underestimated diagnosis

Elwira Elwira1, Alicja Hubalewska-Dydejczyk, Dorota Pach, Sylwia Kumiak2 & Marta Tracze

Chair and Department of Endocrinology, Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

**Introduction**

Multiple endocrine neoplasia (MEN) is a rare disease. Apart from the well recognised MEN2 syndrome the MEN1 is less common diagnosed. The MEN1 gene is localised on the 11q13 chromosome and encodes menin. There is no simple definition of MEN1 syndrome because of heterogeneous combination over 20 different endocrine and non-endocrine tumours. According to the Gubbio consensus, MEN1 is diagnosed by the occurrence of two of the three main MEN1-related endocrine tumours: parathyroid adenoma, enteropancreatic tumours (GEP) and pituitary tumours (‘3P’) independently from different endocrine and non-endocrine tumours in the same patient. It seems that over-simplified definition leads to MEN1 incidence being underestimated.

**Material and Methods**

Over the years 1994-2008, 42 cases (11 males and 31 females) of MEN (non MEN2) syndrome were diagnosed at our Department of Endocrinology. Hormone tests, and imaging (USG, CT, MRI, SRS) were carried out in all patients.

**Results**

The most common pathology was parathyroid adenoma or hyperplasia (26 patients) and pituitary adenoma (26 patients: 4 somatotropic, 4 lactotropic and 18 non-secretory). GEP tumours were diagnosed in 16 patients: 2 patients glucagonoma, in 3 gastrinoma, in 2 somatostatinoma in 7 serotoninoma and in 2 patients non-secretory tumours. In 14 patients (4 males and 10 females) of mean age 49.8 ± 14 years ‘classic’ MEN1 was diagnosed. These patients mean age 56-12 years had three tumours of the main glands. The others 16 patients (7 male and 9 female) 22 females) mean age 52 ± 9 years, had only one main MEN1-related tumour and other less essential, but connected with MEN1 abnormalities. The last group of 6 patients mean age 47.3 ± 8 years had no main MEN1-related tumours but had adrenal tumours (pheochromocytoma, adenoma or adrenal carcinoma) and adenoma or thyroid carcinoma.

**Conclusions**

(1) Variability of the clinical presentation of MEN1 syndrome and variability of occurrence at different times, lead to underestimation of MEN1 incidence; (2) better specification of criteria for diagnosing the MEN1 syndrome need to be urgently established; (3) long-term observation of MEN1 patients may increase the number of cases established and decrease mortality due to tumour progression to malignancies.

**P205**

Acromegaly in the Swedish pituitary register: background data and up to 10 years follow-up

Britt Edén Engström1, Margareta Brummer1, Bertil Ekman2, Charlotte Höby3, Anders Karlsson4, Cecilia Mattsson5, Thord Rosen6, Sig Valdemarsson7 & Sigbritt Werner1

1Uppsala University Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden; 2Malmö University Hospital, Malmö, Sweden; 3Linköping University Hospital, Linköping, Sweden; 4Karolinska University Hospital, Solna, Sweden; 5Umeå University Hospital, Umeå, Sweden; 6Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg, Sweden; 7Lund University Hospital, Lund, Sweden; 8Karolinska University Hospital, Huddinge, Sweden.

**Background**

The aim of the Swedish Pituitary Register – the Swedish Pituitary Study Group’s quality register – is to guarantee that all patients with pituitary tumours get equivalent diagnostic evaluation and treatment, as well as to evaluate given therapy. In this study, patients diagnosed with acromegaly from 1991 are described.

**Methods**

Data from 557 patients (275 men/282 women), median age 51 years (range 4-87), with acromegaly were registered.

**Results**

The incidence 1991-2007 was 3.7 cases/million per year. Thirty-eight percent were classified as micro- and 58% as macroaromedonas. According to SPAP classification system for tumour extension 44% had suprasellar, 27% infrasellar, 28% parasellar, 6% anterior and 6% posterior extension. Twenty-one percent had visual field defects and 13% impaired visual acuity. Pre-operatively LH/FSH, ACTH, TSH and ADH deficiencies were reported in 21, 6, 7 and 1%. Four hundred and three patients were operated once, and 47 patients 2-3 times. Fractionated radiotherapy was given to 28 patients and treatment with Gamma Knife to 44 patients. One hundred and seventy-one patients received medical treatment. Follow-ups after 1, 5 and 10 years were registered for 91, 75 and 51%. The overall cure rate (normal IGF-1 for age and mean GH <5 mU/l or 2.5 µg/l after 1.5 and 10 years was 42, 51 and 62%. Improvement was reported in 44, 36 and 24%. Of these, further 31, 54 and 58% normalized their GH- and IGF-1 values on medical treatment. After 1, 5 and 10 years, 51, 58 and 68% of cases with primary surgery were cured, and well controlled in further 9, 17 and 11%.

**Conclusion**

Baseline registration appeared to be complete and treatment in accordance to international guidelines. Number of cured patients seemed to increase over time. Further efforts will be made to increase the frequency of follow-up registrations also after long time.

**P206**

Percutaneous laser ablation for palliative treatment of neuroendocrine liver metastases

Silvia Naissi1, Claudio Maria Pacella1, Antonio Bianchini2, Giancarlo Bizzarri3, Zaccaria Rossi4, Enrico Papini5, Irene Missischi6 & Franco Grimaldi7

1Endocrinology Unit, University Hospital, Udine, Italy; 2Endocrine & Metabolic Diseases, Regina Apostolorum Hospital, Albano Laziale, Italy; 3Imaging and Interventional Radiology, Regina Apostolorum Hospital, Albano Laziale, Italy.

**Background**

Liver metastases occur in about 40-85% of patients with neuroendocrine tumours (NET). NET usually run a rather indolent course but the 5-year survival is about 40% in patients with liver metastases versus 75-99% in subjects free of hepatic lesions. The most effective management and timing of treatment for patients with surgically resectable metastases remains still unsettled.
Purpose
To evaluate the feasibility, safety, and clinical benefits of percutaneous laser ablation (PLA) in patients with unselectable and progressive NET hepatic metastases.

Patients and methods
Eleven patients (6 male, mean age 54, range 24–79) with NET hepatic metastases and progressive disease under medical treatment underwent PLA. Primary tumors were localized in the pancreas and intestine in 4 and 2 patients respectively, five patients had lung NET. The lesions treated with PLA were 15; the number of treatments was 24. The mean diameter of metastases was 3.5 cm (range 1.5–12 cm) at baseline. Nine of eleven patients had symptoms related to either hormone secretion or mass effect. PLA was performed under ultrasound guidance. The treatment efficacy was assessed by CT and contrast-enhanced Ultrasound examination 24 h after PLA. Clinical and CT controls were performed every 3 months.

Results
Mean follow-up was 84 months (range 18–200). Nine hepatic tumors ≤4.0 cm appeared completely ablated by PLA treatment, while larger metastases (diameter from 5.5 to 12 cm) showed over 60% ablation. Most patients (88%) reported symptom relief. Progression-free mean survival after PLA was 16 months (range 2–48). No major complications were observed during and after the procedures.

Conclusions
PLA is a feasible and well tolerated procedure for the palliative treatment of unselectable NET hepatic metastases. In the present series, most patients showed an improvement in their performance status and a long progression-free survival. Further controlled studies are required to evaluate the impact of PLA on the overall survival.

The change of aminomelic Arginine (CGG) to Glutamine (CAG) at position 171 (R171Q) in the MEN1 gene has been occasionally reported in MEN1 carriers, but also in 1.4 to 5% subjects among the general population, therefore it is still unclear whether it might represent a polymorphism and/or it has a role in tumourigenesis. The aim of our study was to evaluate the presence of R171Q polymorphism in patients with MEN1-related states presenting for MEN1 genetic screening. Fifty-seven patients (16 men, 41 women, mean age 55.1±2.3) were evaluated for the R171Q polymorphism, that was detected in 1 patient presenting with a parathyroid adenoma and an ACTH-secreting pituitary adenoma, in her two sons, and in her father. The R171Q polymorphism was found in an unrelated patient with parathyroid adenoma and mild hyperparathyroidism, in her unaffected father, and in a third patient with parathyroid adenoma and paraganglioma. Moreover, the same polymorphism was found in an unrelated family, with primary hyperparathyroidism, non-functioning pancreatic neuroendocrine tumour and a non-functioning adrenocortical adenoma. As controls, a panel of 50 healthy subjects from the same geographical area was screened, and the R171Q aminomelic change was not detected. The R171Q was present in 8 out of 57 (14%) patients undergoing MEN1 genetic screening, in 34.8% of the cases presenting with hyperparathyroidism. Our results indicate that MEN1 patients carrying this genetic alteration, as well as clinically unaffected carriers, should undergo a careful endocrine investigation and a close clinical and biochemical follow-up.

Before the use of potent acid suppressing drugs and in particular proton pump inhibitors (PPI), most patients with gastrinoma presented with Zollinger–Ellison syndrome and diagnosis was problematic in only a few. In recent years, the syndrome is rarely seen and gastrinoma patients present with less overt symptoms and hypergastrinemia which may be mild. Increasingly patients present later.


Recurrence in patients with pituitary nonfunctioning adenoma
Grazia De Paoli1, Rosana Elena Buonaiu1, Maria Bondanelli1, Giorgio Trasforini1, Maria Chiara Zatelli1, Marcello Laparelli1, Luigi Cavazzini1, Maria Rosaria Ambrosio1 & Ettore degli Uberti1
1Section of Endocrinology, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Advanced Therapies, University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy; 2Neurosurgery Unit, Ferrara, Italy; 3Section of Pathology, Department of Experimental Medicine and Diagnostics, Ferrara, Italy.

Nonfunctioning adenomas (NFA) are 30% of all pituitary adenomas. Transphenoidal surgery is the first line therapy, but recurrences are frequent (12% at 69%). NFA treatment and follow-up are controversial. Aim of our study was to evaluate the recurrence prevalence and the factors associated with tumor aggressiveness in patients with NFA. We studied 30 patients that underwent surgery: 14 patients (group A, 7F, 30.2–12.48 years) with and 16 patients (group...
B. 4F, 56.5 ± 12.1 years) without recurrence, with a follow-up of 7.2 ± 4.49 years. At baseline, signs frequently observed were visual field defects (90%), headache (33%) and reduced energy (27%). In our study recurrence prevalence was 47%, mostly within 48 months after surgery. Only one patient recurred 156 months after surgery. In group A and B, 29% and 37% patients had normal pituitary function, respectively. In group A PRL level was significantly increased (P<0.05) compared to group B. No significant difference in neuroradiological imaging was observed between the two groups, but suprasellar extension and chiasmal compression were more frequent in group A, where we also observed cavernous sinus invasion. Tumor size was greater in group A compared to group B (P<0.05). In group A, LH immunostaining was more frequently observed (P<0.05), while group B showed a higher number of null-cell adenomas (P<0.05). In our study 6 patients were treated with radiotherapy after first surgery and 3 patients after second or third surgery, but recurrences were observed also in early radiotherapy treated patients. In conclusion, in this study, we observed that tumor size, cavernous sinus invasion, suprasellar extension, chiasmal compression, and LH immunostaining are associated to a higher recurrence rate after surgery. Our data confirm that long term follow-up is necessary, mostly within the first 5 years after surgery.

P211
Clinical feature and genetic testing in patients with multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome type 2
Elwira Przybylinski-Mazurek,1 Alicja Hubalewska-Dydejczyk,1 Dorota Pac1h,2 Sylwia Kuzniarz,1 Barbara Jarzab,2 Elżbieta Gabala,2 Agnieszka Pawłczek3 & Małgorzata Oczko-Wojciechowska2
1Chair and Department of Endocrinology, Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Krakow, Poland; 2Department of Nuclear Medicine and Endocrine Oncology, Maria Sklodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology, Glivice Branch, Glivice, Poland.

Background Multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN2) is a rare disease characterised by inheritance in each patient medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC), pheochromocytoma and in type MEN2a primary hyperparathyroidism, in type MEN2b marfanoid habitus and neurofibromatosis. Mutation in RET proto-oncogene at chromosome 10 is a molecular cause of MEN2 syndrome.

Methods
Eighteen patients with MEN2 syndrome were enrolled: (10 women and 8 men) mean age 22.7 years. An average follow-up period was 10.2 ± 2.9 years. Every patient was examined by the thyroid gland ultrasonography and computed tomography of the abdomen. TSH, IT4 and IT3, PTH, calcium and calcitonin serum level were measured. Also methoxytyrosolamines in urine and genetic testing were undertaken. Furthermore, scintigraphy scans were performed (SRS, DMSA, MIBG).

Results
Multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome type 2 was primary diagnosed in 7 patients and the rest 11 patients had MEN2 diagnosed because of positive genetic findings. Currently 5 patients are in remission of disease after the thyroid gland surgery and do not reveal symptoms of pheochromocytoma so far. Rest of patients, even though early diagnosis was established and the operation was performed in preclinical stadium, have MTC relapse and symptoms of pheochromocytoma. Two patients with MEN2b syndrome died because of progression and complication.

Conclusions
The first symptom, both of MEN2a and 2b syndrome is MTC, but the cause of the first consultation are symptoms related to pheochromocytoma. Early treatment based on genetic tests improve asymptomatic survival and extend remission period. The prognosis in MEN2b is worse than in MEN2a syndrome.

P212
Pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors: a national survey
Tatjana Isailovic, Bojana Popovic, Milan Petakov, Sanja Ognjanovic, Djuro Macat, Ivana Bozic, Valentina Elezovic & Svetozar DaD Institute of Endocrinology, University Clinical Centre, Belgrade, Serbia.

Pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (PNTs) occurs in approximately 1 per 100 000 people per year and account for only 1–2% of all pancreatic tumors. Most of them are hormonally active, while about 30% secrete no detectable hormones and are discovered due to a tumor mass effect.

Material and methods
We analysed 178 patients with neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) treated at our department in the last five years. The diagnosis was made by pathohistological examination and patients were classified according to the WHO criteria.

Results
In our group of patients with NETs there were 45 (25.3%) patients with PETFs (age range 25–71, 51.8 mean). MEN1 was diagnosed in 5 (11.1%) patients and one patient had VHL-syndrome (4%). Almost half of them (44%) were functional (11 insulinomas, 5 gastrinomas, 4 somatostatinomas). According to WHO classification, 17 were well-differentiated tumors (37.7%), 20 well-differentiated carcinomas (44.4%), 6 poorly-differentiated carcinomas (13.3%) and two mixed endocrine-exocrine carcinomas (4.4%). At the time of diagnosis in 19 (42.4%) patients metastatic disease was diagnosed. Primary tumor was operated in 26 (57.7%) patients. Tumor recidive was diagnosed in 7 (15.5%) patients (occurrence range 1–3 months, 10 months mean). All of these patients had partial pancreatic resections, with one having pathologically proven infiltration of operative margins. Metastatic disease developed in 6 (13.3%) patients (occurrence range 11–60 months, 2.7 years mean). All the patients with locally reccidivant tumor or who developed metastases postoperatively belong to the groups of well- or poorly-differentiated carcinomas. Unoperated patients were treated with chemotherapy, biotransfer, PRRT or combined. During this period 15 patients died, one patient with well-differentiated tumor died due to non-tumor related cause.

Conclusion
Our data are concordant with the data previously presented in literature. We conclude that the tumor biology as defined by WHO classification is most relevant for the clinical outcome of these patients.

P213
Image-guided radioiodine therapy of HCC following AFP-promoter targeted in vivo sodium iodide symporter (NIS) gene transfer
Katrin Klutz,1 Michael J Willhauck,1 Nathalie Wunderlich,1 Christian Zach1, Reingard Senekowitsch-Schmiedt2, Martina Anton,1 Burkhard Göke3 & Christine Sprunger1
1Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany; 2Technische Universität, Munich, Germany.

Due to limited treatment options the prognosis of patients with advanced hepatocellular cancer (HCC) has remained poor. We therefore examined the feasibility of radioiodine therapy of HCC after human sodium iodide symporter (hNIS) gene transfer, using the tumor-specific alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) promoter for transcriptional targeting. For this purpose NIS gene transfer was performed in vivo in human HCC cell ( HepG2) xenografts, using replication-deficient adenoviral vectors carrying the NIS gene linked to the AFP-promoter fragment ( Ad5-AFP-NIS). Functional NIS expression was confirmed by immunostaining as well as in vivo 125I gamma-camera imaging followed by application of a therapeutic 131I dose. HepG2 cell xenografts in nude mice injected intratumorally with Ad5-AFP-NIS accumulated 10–15% ID/g (percentage injected dose per gram tumor tissue; 3 × 106 PFU) with an average biological half-life of 8.3 ± 1.8 h resulting in a tumor-absorbed dose of 215 ± 77 mGy/Mbq. After Ad5-AFP-NIS-mediated NIS gene transfer in HepG2 cell xenografts administration of a therapeutic dose of 55.5 MBq of 131I resulted in a significant reduction of tumor growth associated with significantly improved survival. We conclude that a therapeutic effect of 131I was demonstrated in vivo in HCC cell xenografts after adenovirus-mediated induction of tumor-specific iodide accumulation by AFP promoter-directed NISN expression.

P214
The retrospective analysis of the phaeochromocytoma diagnostic procedures in patients after laparoscopic adrenalectomy
Alicja Hubalewska-Dydejczyk1, Andrzejj Budzynski1, Monika Buziak-Bereza,1 Dorota Pac1h,2 Elwira Przybylinski-Mazurek1, Robert Chrzanki1, Danuta Karcz2 & Andrzejj Urbanik1
1Chair and Department of Endocrinology, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; 2Endocrine Surgery Department, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; 2Chair of Radiology, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

The phaeochromocytoma (PH) diagnosis is often very difficult, particularly in asymptomatic or oligosymptomatic patients. Every subject with adrenal tumor should be screened for PH, although many factors may interfere with biochemical

evaluation. The false positive testing for PH may result in unnecessary surgical treatment.

Methods
Retrospective analysis of 45 patients after laparoscopic adrenalectomy due to suspicion of PH (based on biochemical testing) was performed. The subjects were divided into 2 groups according to the results of histopathological examination: group 1–27 PH positive patients (mean age 46.8 ± 14.4 years), group 2–18 PH negative patients (mean age 55.7 ± 13.7 years). Following parameters were analyzed: presence of PH related symptoms, urinary excretion of metanephrine (MN), normetanephrine (NMN), MN + NMN and pre-operative imaging (multi-phase CT) results.

Mean value of MNM, NM and NMN + MN were statistically significant in group 1 (P value: 0.002, 0.001, <0.001 respectively). The highest sensitivity (81.5%) for PH diagnosis, as well as true negative predictive value, had MN + NMN. The highest true positive predictive value was stated 44%. The estimated cut-off level for our laboratory: were: 713.6, 1598.6, 1396.1 for NM, NMN, NM + NMN, respectively.

Adrenal CT had the highest sensitivity for PH diagnosis (100% for cut off point of 59 HU in venous phase) and highest specificity (100% for cut-off point 48 HU) for wash-out phase.

Results
The biochemical testing alone may be misleading particularly for only slightly elevated metanephrines excretion. Imaging results are the most sensitive tool for proper diagnosis of PH, and should be always considered while deciding on surgical treatment of patients suspected for phaeochromocytoma.

P215
Neuroendocrine disorders of patients with pituitary tumours
Said Ismailov, Kozim Makhkhamov, Michael Powell, Ashley Grossman, Zamira Khaliyova & Yulduz Urmanova
Institute of Endocrinology, Taskent, Uzbekistan.

Aim
Aim of research is to study special features of pituitary adenoma (PA).

Materials and methods
Seventy-four operations on CST were performed. Outcomes of surgery in 66 patients with PA were analyzed. Age of patients at surgery was from 18 to 71 years. All operations were performed at our hospital. Four patients (6%) had a corticotropinoma, 11 patients (17%) had somatotropinoma, 11 patients (17%) had prolactinoma and remaining 40 patients (60%) had non-functioning pituitary adenomas (NFPA). Analyzed patients with PA undergone transsphenoidal selective hypophysectomy surgery (TSS).

Results
In patients with NFPA manifestation of disease signs of cerebral hypertension (100%), visual disturbances (83.2%), secondary hypopituitarism (59%) and hyperprolactinemia (56.5%). Among operated patients with ACTH-secreting PA, all patients were females including 3 cases (75%) with obesity, 4 cases with hyperuricemia (100%), 3 women with amenorrhea and 1 female (25%) with myopathy. Fifty-six cases (85%) neurological symptoms regressed right after TSS, in 8 cases (12%) focal signs regressed partially and worsening of presented neurological deficiency have seen in 2 cases (3%). Eleven patients with acromegaly after TSH have shown signs such as changes in facial appearance (100%), headaches (88.9%), increased sweating (68.7%), in men, decrease of libido and erectile dysfunction (91.2 and 58.7% respectively).

Conclusion
(1) During the analysis of clinical manifestation and hormonal activity of PA there characteristic features revealed in clinical and neurological course (2). Among the histological types of pituitary tumours in prolactinomas and somatotropinomas there are acidophilic adenomas prevail in comparison with less rare chromophobe adenomas. (3) As somatotropinomas have invasive growth and recurs postoperatively there is need in radiotherapy. (4) NFPA characterized with consecutive manifestation; initially, brain and focal symptoms occur as the result of tumor focal effects and then endocrine symptoms appear which are result in secondary endocrine deficiency with obliterated flow.

Background
Insulinomas are rare neuroendocrine tumours (4 cases/million patients per year), representing an important cause of hypoglycemia. Usually are benign and sporadic, but can be part of multiple endocrine neoplasias. To establish the diagnosis it is essential to document appropriately high levels of insulin during episodes of hypoglycemia.

Aim
Retrospective analysis of the clinical files of the patients followed in our department since January 1997.

Patients and methods
The analysed parameters were: age, gender, clinical presentation, biochemical and imaging diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.

Results
We studied nine patients (5M: 4F), mean age 57.2 ± 18.1 years old and body mass index 31.7 ± 7.5 kg/m². Six patients were symptomatic, all with neuroglycopenic symptoms, four of them also with adrenocortical symptoms and one reporting increase of weight. Three patients were asymptomatic, but fasting hypoglycemics were detected in routine analysis. One patient was already diagnosed as MEN-I. Eight patients performed the 72-hours fasting test (minimum glucose 31.9 ± 6.0 mg/dl, insulinemia 15.7 ± 7.2 μIU/ml and C peptide 4.2 ± 3.9 μg/ml). Mean HbA1c was 4.8 ± 0.6%. Tumour localization: pancreatic head (2), body (3), tail (2), body-tail transition (2). Mean diameter was 2.6 ± 2.2 cm. Three patients were submitted to preoperative medical treatment with octreotide, and one of them also with diazoxide. Surgical procedures were the following: pancreaticoduodenectomy (1), tail pancreatectomy (1), body, tail pancreatectomy (4) and enucleation (3, one of them reoperated – partial pancreatectomy). There were several surgical complications: one ileum perforation and death, three pancreatic fistulas, one transverse colon perforation, two pseudocysts and one case of pancreatic abscess. Surgery was curative in all patients alive. Anyone developed diabetes.

Conclusions
The authors emphasize the serious difficulties in the diagnosis, namely the preoperative localization of the insulinoma, which sometimes is only recognized during surgery. Treatment is also a delicate matter, since these surgical procedures are extremely invasive, with a high level of complications.

P217
The ectopic adrenocorticotropic hormone syndrome in carcinoid tumors (case report)
Nino Gabidzashvili1, Olga Vinogradskaya2, Polina Zykova3 & Vyatcheslav Pronin1
1Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Academician N Kipshidze Central University Clinic, Tbilisi, Georgia, USA.

Ectopic production of adrenocorticotropic hormone by carcinoid tumors is relatively uncommon. This report describes a woman who had Cushing syndrome from the ectopic secretion of adrenocorticotropic hormone by a carcinoid tumor. Before her hospitalization the patient’s conditions was misdiagnosed as disease of connective tissue and thus the patient was treated inadequately. The untreated hypercortisolism caused bilateral pneumonia and sepsis. There are three instructive elements of this case: (1) the recognition of Cushing syndrome, (2) the association of Cushing syndrome with thymic carcinoma (3) the need to treat the hypercortisolism and its complications as well as the tumor.

In April 2007, a 23-year-old woman presented to hospital with following symptoms: general weakness, progressive hyperpigmentation and facial rounding.

Physical examination revealed moon face, violaceous striae, easy bruising, biorusinum, pedomeda, hypertension, nuchal rigidity; the auscultation revealed diminished breath sounds. Laboratory results showed hypokalemia, hypoproteinaemia, hyperglycemia, and anemia. A random serum ACTH and cortisol levels revealed significant elevation (ACTH = 387 pg/ml (N <46), Cortisol = 1592 nmol/l (N 119–618)). The computed tomography (CT) of the chest showed thymic tumor and bilateral multisegmental pneumonia. She was treated with amphotericin, insulin, anhyduretan, potassium, albumin, antimicrobial therapy, ketokonazole. In spite of the treatment she got weakness and an abscess of the right upper lobe of the lung. In July, the patient underwent surgery (thyomectomy with right upper lobectomy). Histological examination revealed the presence of small-cell carcinoma with invasion to surrounding fatty tissue. Immunohistochemical staining defined the tumor as an ACTH-secreting (Ki67-14%). After surgery and further treatment with Octreotide and chemotherapy the patient’s symptoms completely resolved and the ACTH and Cortisol levels were normalised. For the last 6 months the patient has not been given any therapy, her general condition remains satisfactory.

This case demonstrates the successful diagnosis and treatment of the ACTH-ectopic tumor as well as hypercortisolism and its complications.

P216
Insulinomas: experience of Coimbra’s University Hospital, Endocrinology Department
Jacinta Santos, Isabel Paiva, Marianna Martinho, Alexandra Vieira & Manuela Carvalheiro
Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism Department, University Hospital of Coimbra, EPE, Coimbra, Portugal.

P219
Parathyroid surgery a paradigm shifts from inpatient to a day case surgery
Apurva Sinha, Afaq Siddiqui, Raj Siddhan, Makam Kishore & V Parkinathan
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust, Nuneaton, West Midland, UK.

Introduction
There has been an increasing trend towards outpatient and short stay surgery in UK in last 20 years. This leads to reduced costs, reduced inpatient waiting lists, increased availability of inpatient beds and has the psychological benefit of avoiding prolonged hospitalisation. We liked to evaluate the feasibility of day case and short stay surgery for parathyroid disease in our district general hospital. Material and methods
It was retrospective audit of 48 patients in our district general hospital undergoing parathyroid surgery over the period of 7 years (2000–2007) by a single endocrine surgeon.

Results
In our study the average hospital stay was ~1.5 days with minimal morbidity of 0.5% and mortality rate. Most of the patients had preoperative scan with either sestamibi or ultrasound or both for pre operative localization of the gland.

Conclusion
It can be seen that in our district general hospital the Parathyroid surgery can be performed with minimal morbidity with an early post operative discharge. The hospital stay can further be reduced by using focussed parathyroidectomy in our hospital after adequate preoperative localization of the gland.

In most of the regional centres there is a shifting trend to perform focussed-parathyroidectomy as a day case procedure after adequate preoperative localization of the gland for uni glandular adenoma. However, we feel that this procedure needs to be discussed and made easily available to patients in all endocrine units performing parathyroid surgery. There need to be a national consensus with clear guideline made available to surgeons performing these complex procedures, so that, more and more patients can benefit by day case surgery especially for adenoma in all units performing these operations.

P220
Oktreotid-depot therapy of acromegaly with long action somatostatin analogue
Julia Pekomzovich1, Alexandre Drevet1, Olga Nechaeva1, Viacheslav Pronin2,2, Dmitry Koloda2 & Evgeny Gitel1
1Moscow Regional Research Clinical Institute of M.F. Vladimirsky, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Moscow Medical Academy of LM.

Aim
To estimate efficiency of long acting somatostatin analog (Oktreotid-Detop, Ltd 'FarmingSyntze', Russia) in acromegaly treatment.

Material and methods
Twenty-five patients with the confirmed acromegaly diagnosis, active phase, receiving Oktreotid-Detop therapy within 6–12 months in a single dose of 20–40 mg/mo. Every three months dynamics of clinical signs, basal IGF-1 and GH levels and pituitary adenoma size were analyzed.

Results
The most pronounced and significant (P < 0.0001) decrease in clinical and laboratory acromegaly signs was observed in first three months of treatment: GH from 18.1 (7.7, 3.3) to 4.2 (1.9; 13.5) mU/L, IGF-1 from 566 (445; 813) to 235 (188; 391) ng/ml. By third month of Oktreotid-Detop therapy, IGF-1 normalisation was observed in 52% patients, by sixth month in 32%, to the ninth in 10%, and to the twelfth in 5% patients. In all patients with normalised IGF-1 level basal GH level was normal (<2.5 mg/ml) too. In group of patients with normalised IGF-1 level by third month, its normal values were supported till the end of the period of supervision in the majority of patients. In other patients the incidental deviation from norm was insignificant usually no more than 10%. In patients with elevated IGF-1 level in 3 months its decrease was more than 50% and remains at the reached level within 12 months.

Before Oktreotid-Detop treatment the median macroadenomas size was 2.3 (1.1; 4.85) cm³ and in 6 months therapy it decreased to 1.4 (0.75; 4.6) cm³. In three of eight patients a reduction of the adenoma size was significant: 21, 39.2, and 74%. In four patients in 6 months of treatment a stabilisation tumour sizes was marked.

Conclusion
Oktreotid-Detop – an effective medication for acromegaly treatment in active phase which in some cases causes reduction of tumour size.

P218
Growth hormone deficiency problems in adult patients with pituitary adenomas
Yulduz Urmanova & Mikhaila Shakhrova
Institute of Endocrinology, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Aim of the research
To study neuroendocrine disorders at growth hormone deficiency (GH) in adult patients with various pituitary tumours.

Materials and methods
There 27 adult patients with GH due to different sellar region neoplasms were evaluated in 2008. Among them, there were 20 women and 7 men. Average age of patients constituted 36.3 years. All patients evaluated with clinical, biochemical, hormonal, instrumental, roentgenologic (CT in 15 patients and MRI of pituitary in 23 patients) methods as well as evaluation of quality of life according to questionnaire (QoL).

Results
Study shown that non-functioning pituitary adenomas seen in 21 (77.7%) patients whereas pro lactinoma, acromegocytoma, craniopharyngioma and germinoma have seen in 2, 1, 1 and 1 patients respectively. Sixteen patients undergone transnasal surgery and 1 bifrontal surgery for pituitary tumor. Our patients revealed various neuroendocrine disorders: partial hypopituitarism in 81.5%, panhypopituitarism in 7.4%, postoperative GH in 72.7%, postoperative panhypopituitarism in 29.6%, secondary hypothyroidism in 14.8%, secondary hypogonadism in 11.1%, functional hyperprolactinemia in 11.1%, secondary amenorrhea in 29.6%, diabetes insipidus in 15%, bitemporal hemianopsia in 59.2%. Quadrant hemianopsia in 14.8% scotoma in 3.7% praxis in 3.7% and so on.

Conclusions
1. GH with various sellar region neoplasms revealed in 81.5% cases (22 patients of 27 evaluated) whereas postoperative GH have seen in all operated patients in early postoperative period – 16 patients (72.7%).
2. The feature of GH manifestation is significant decrease of psycho-emotional condition of patients along with neuroendocrine disorders.
3. Patients with GH require biochemical evaluation, hormonal measurements, stimulating tests for GH evaluation, quality of life evaluation, anthropometry (BMI, VVS/I), CT, MRI of pituitary, densitometry.
4. Patients with non-functioning pituitary adenomas with postoperative GH require GH replacement therapy.
**P222**

Treatment of active acromegaly with the somatostatin analogue lanreotide SR

Myroslava Mykytyuk, Oksana Khyzyhnyk & Yuriy Karachentsev
Institute for Endocrine Pathology Problems, Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Background and aims

The long-acting somatostatin analogs represent are nowadays the first-line medical treatment of acromegaly. To assess the efficacy and tolerability of lanreotide SR (LRS) in the treatment of active acromegaly.

Subjects and methods

Eleven patients (2 men and 9 women; aged 27–75 years, median 47.4 years) were treated in an open-label fashion with the aim of controlling disease activity. Adverse effects and insulin sensitivity index after OGTT were recorded before and during treatment with lanreotide SR. The treatment was well-tolerated by the majority of patients, and insulin sensitivity index increased significantly during treatment. The combination of lanreotide SR with IGF-1 levels and symptoms and is well tolerated in the majority of patients.

**P223**

Should we offer combination scan in all patients with parathyroid disease: a district general hospital experience

Aparna Sinha, Afzal Siddiqui, Raj Siddhan, Makam Kishore & V Parkeshan
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust, Nuneaton, West Midlands, UK.

Introduction

Tc 99m sestamibi scan and ultrasound are used most frequently than other imaging techniques for the pre operative localization of parathyroid gland in primary hyperparathyroidism. We like to evaluate our hospital experience with the scan in pre operative localization of the glandular disease.

Method and material

It was a retrospective audit of 7 years from 2000-2007 of 48 patient whom underwent open explorative procedure by single surgeon.The scans were compared with that of histology report and data analysed.

Result

Parathyroid adenoma was the most common pathology in our patient cohort (44/49-88.8%). Approximately half of the patients had combination scan (sestamibi and ultrasound) with high preoperative localization in 92% (24/26). Ultrasound and sestamibi scan done alone had low preoperative sensitivity in gland localization.

Conclusion

We can conclude that if we use the combination scan then there is high probability (93% from our study) of gland localization preoperatively. We should offer the combination scan routinely to all patients in preoperative work up our patients. This is more likely to localize gland early and help surgeon in discussing focused parathyroidectomy as a day case surgery in a unilagulindar parathyroid adenoma.

**P224**

Lanreotide effects on glucose metabolism in evolutive acromegaly in remission during chemotherapy

Simona Galoiu1,2, Mariana Purice3, Dan Hortopan3, Anda Dumitrascu1 & Mihai Cuculescu1
1Carol Davila, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania; 2Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania.

Lanreotide has long been used in the therapy of GH secreting pituitary adenomas and other somatostatin receptor positive neuroendocrine tumors.

Aims

To determine the impact on glucose metabolism of the 6 months of lanreotide therapy, beside of the antisecretory and antiproliferative effects.

Patients and methods

Seven patients with active acromegaly treated with lanreotide, admitted in the Department of Neuroendocrinology, Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest. They were evaluated by oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) with serum glucose, GH (IRMA-sensitivity 0.02 ng/ml) and insulin (RIA-sensitivity 1 mU/ml), serum IGF-I/upper limit for age and sex ratio, HOMA-INS and insulin sensitivity index during OGTT (HOMA-OGTT) were calculated for insulin sensitivity measuring and computed tomography.

Results

Seven patients (3 males), aged 44+19 years were treated with lanreotide for 6+3 months after unsuccessful surgery and radiotherapy. Basal GH decreased to normal values (<2.5 ng/ml) in 5/7 patients, most being after minimum 6 months after radiotherapy. In 3/7 patients, nadir of GH during OGTT decreased to <1 ng/ml and IGF-I/upper limit for age and sex ratio became <1. Tumor diameters did not change with >25% in neither of patients. Before lanreotide treatment, 1 patient had secondary diabetes mellitus and 1 had impaired glucose tolerance. During chemotherapy, basal glycemia insignificantly decreased from 115.8+48.9 to 103.5±39.9 mg/dl and 120 min glycemia after glucose load from 138.2±90.7 to 111.1±83.9 mg/dl. Indexes of insulin sensitivity increased significantly and insulin tolerant impaired glucose tolerance showed normal glucose tolerance after 6 months of lanreotide therapy. HOMA-INS was 0.19±0.05 vs 0.47±0.031 mU/ml and HOMA-OGTT was 2.2±0.7 vs 5.3±0.3 during treatment.

Conclusion

Six months of lanreotide, a long acting somatostatin analogs therapy showed antisecretory effect in 5/7 acromegalic patients, without altering glucose metabolism.

**Bone/Calcium**

**P225**

The study of bone turnover biochemical markers in delayed puberty

Julia Bistricame1, Ajorora Cove1, Elena Negescu1, Ionut Vasile1,
Magda Elvira Preda2 & Marian Bistricame2
1Department of Endocrinology, Emergency Hospital, Craiova, Romania; 2University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Craiova, Romania.

Background

The delayed puberty is defined by absence of secondary sexual characters until the age of 16 or lack of puberty development until the limit of +2 SDS in regard to the age when the pubertal begin normal at considered population. After the major factor implied in delayed puberty etiology, can be distinguished three mechanisms: hypothalamic, hypophyseal and gonadal. It is recognized the fact that the osteoporosis process is, in the first place, independent and interdependent by the deficiency of one or all of sexual hormones, arisen during the ontogenesis process.

Methods

Have been included in the study 26 cases with delayed puberty, with ages between 12 and 35 years old, where 14 cases (53.85%) with hypergonadotrophic hypogonadism (female Turner syndrome – 4 cases; Klisnelfert – 4 cases) and 12 cases (46.15%) with hypogonadotrophic hypogonadism (hypophyseal dwarfism with sexual infantilism – 3 cases; functional adipose-genital syndrome – 7 cases; tumor-like hypophyseal insufficiency – 2 cases). Was evaluated the plasmatic level of the 2 markers of bone turnover (ostocalcine and CrossLap) trough ELISA method. The measuring of the bone mineral density was made by dual absorption with X-rays.

Results

Were identified trough DXA. 10 cases (38.46%) with osteoporosis, where the ostocalcine values (29.4±112.96 ng/ml) and CrossLap (0.197–1.768 ng/ml) were comparable with those of women in postmenopausal period, 6 cases (23.08%)
with osteopenia, and at 10 cases (38.46%). T score value and of biochemical markers were in normal limits.

Conclusions

The paper is suggesting two major objectives in therapeutically strategy of existent osteoporosis/osteopenia at delayed puberty cases: precocious diagnosis of gonadal insufficiency, in the purpose of some prophylaxis measures for bone modifications beginning from pre-pubertal, for insuring the stabilizing or amounting of bone corresponding to sex and age; therapeutically solution associates estrato-progestative/androgenic substitution with antiosteoporosis or proformation medication.

P226

The new biology of pituitary natriuretic peptides: novel signalling from guanylyl cyclase–B (GC–B) receptors

Bucurșu Dana1,2, Poenaru Dan3,4, & Golecia Ovidiu5

1University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara, Romania; 2OCTPN Clinic I, Dr D Popescu Hospital, Timisoara, Romania; 3Otorrhinolaryngology and Traumatology Clinic II, County Hospital, Timisoara, Romania; 4Haemodialysis and Transplantation Clinic, County Hospital, Timisoara, Romania.

Background

ESRD is associated with reduced bone mineral density compared with age-matched healthy population. DXA is the standard noninvasive method to assess BMD. It is expensive, needs special equipment. X-ray exposure, movement of the patients. QUS is inexpensive, mobile, easy to perform, radiation free, recognize for screening abilities and risk fracture prediction in normal population. This study assessed the ability of QUS versus DXA in determine BMD in haemodialysed population.

Materials and methods

Patients randomly selected from all patients active in the evidence of the Haemodialysis and Renal Transplantation Center from the County Hospital no. 1, performed DXA (anteroposterior technique, Delphi W device, Hologic Inc.), and also QUS (Sahara device, Hologic Inc.). Correlation between DXA and QUS parameters were performed. Receiver operator characteristic curves (ROC) were plotted for BUA, SOS and QUI and used to define cut-off values for best sensitivities and specificities for all parameter. WHO T score diagnosis of osteoporosis and osteopenia were used. We also used the UK NOS strategy to define the interval of the best QUS diagnostic parameter, to identify with 90% sensitivity and 90% specificity different degrees of bone demineralization.

Results

One hundred and thirty-one patients (63 females and 68 males), mean age 47.77 ± 12.32, years, being in haemodialysis for a mean period of mean 51.488 ± 4868 months. BUA (r = 0.6130.447) and QUI (r = 0.6130.502) seem to be the parameters of choice when considering BMD at cortical area. Levels under ROC for BUA and SOS in diagnosis of osteoporesis and osteopenia, have a sensitivity of 76, 1%–76, 1%, respectively a specificity of 72, 5%–77, 8%. The values for osteopenia are even better, for 77% and 84%. The identified cutoff levels for QUI are 76.1 (osteopenia) and 69.6 (osteoporosis). The diagnostic value of QUI when reporting QUI are even higher when we did define the proper interval.

Conclusion

DXA and QUS parameters correlate significantly. The best QUS diagnostic parameter is QUI. The high negative predictive value of different cut-off point suggests a very good screening power of QUI in identifying cases without bone demineralization. Cut-off values for QUI associated a high sensitivity (between 60 and 80%) respectively specificity of over 75% in diagnosis osteopenia and or osteoporosis. Using the 90-90 approach, we identify the precise interval for QUI that allows the best diagnostic of bone demineralization.

P227

Experience with cinacalcet in primary hyperparathyroidism: results from the Swiss primary hyperparathyroidism cohort study

Christian Meier1, Andrea Trombett1, Christoph Henzen1, Andreas Rohrer2, F Hermann1, Michael Braendle1, Emanuel Christ1, Rene Rizzoli1 & Marius Krumlin1

1Division of Endocrinology and Diabetology, University Hospital, Basel, Switzerland; 2Bone Disease Service, University Hospital, Geneva, Switzerland; 3Department of Internal Medicine, Kantonsspital, Lucerne, Switzerland; 4Endocrine Clinic, Chur, Switzerland; 5Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Kantonsklinik, St Gallen, Switzerland; 6Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes, University Hospital, Berne, Switzerland.

Objective

Cinacalcet, a calcimimetic that reduces parathyroid hormone (PTH) secretion and serum calcium (S-Ca) levels by increasing the sensitivity of calcium-sensing receptors has been introduced for the treatment of patients with persistent or recurrent primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT). Within a prospective, non-interventional cohort study we identified patients with newly diagnosed PHPT who have started on cinacalcet treatment. Patient characteristics, treatment indications and biochemical follow-up are presented.

Methods

The Swiss Primary Hyperparathyroidism Cohort Study is an ongoing prospective project initiated in June 2007. Clinical, biochemical and densitometric data are recorded systematically at least every 6 months according to NH guidelines. Currently 110 patients with PHPT (74% female) have been included. Thirty patients with PHPT (12%) have been started on cinacalcet treatment.

Results

As compared to the entire cohort of patients with PHPT, patients starting cinacalcet were younger (57.7 ± 17.1 vs 70.0 ± 14.4 years, P = 0.021) and had higher S-Ca levels (3.19 ± 0.61 vs 2.74 ± 0.30 mmol/l, P < 0.001). Serum iPTH levels were comparable (19.0 ± 10.6 vs 16.9 ± 13.4 pmol/l, P = 0.28). Reasons for starting cinacalcet were progressive (n = 7) or symptomatic (n = 3) hypercalcaemia, patient refusal to parathyroidectomy (PTX, n = 2), or recurrent PHPT after unsuccessful PTX (n = 1). Median daily cinacalcet dose was 60 mg (range, 30–420 mg). During cinacalcet therapy S-Ca levels decreased from 3.19 to 2.55 mmol/l (P = 0.008); normocalcaemia (S-Ca < 2.60 mmol/l) was achieved in 55% of patients. The treatment was well tolerated. All patients had at least partial relief of hypercalcaemia-related symptoms (depression, fatigue, musculo-skeletal symptoms). Conclusion

Our preliminary results show that cinacalcet use results in biochemical and clinical improvement in patients with PHPT and therefore may have the potential as a non-surgical alternative in patients with recurrent disease or in case of surgical contraindications. Furthermore, cinacalcet may be warranted in the preoperative management to test reversibility in patients with symptomatic hypercalcaemia.
P229
Swiss hyperparathyroidism cohort study
Andrea Trombetti, Christian Meier, Marius E Kraenzlin, François R Herrmann, Christoph H Henzen, Emmanuel R Christ, Michael Brändle & René Rizzoli
1 Bone Disease Service, University Hospital of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland; 2 Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Clinical Nutrition, University Hospital of Basel, Basel, Switzerland; 3 Medizinische Klinik, Kantonsspital Luzern, Luzern, Switzerland; 4 Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Kantonsspital St Gallen, St Gallen, Switzerland; 5 Department of Endocrinology and Diabetology, University Hospital of Bern, Bern, Switzerland.

Objective
The Swiss Primary HyperParathyroidism (PHPT) Cohort Study is an ongoing, prospective, non-interventional project collecting clinical, densitometric, biochemical and ultrasound data in patients with PHPT. The aims are to describe the profile of these patients particularly neurobehavioral and cognitive symptoms, changes in calcium and PTH over time and treatment modalities.

Methods
Patients newly diagnosed with PHPT and with high serum calcium levels were enrolled. Physicians recorded data on a web-based system (https://www.phpt-registry.ch). Follow-up data were recorded at least every 6 months according to NIH guidelines. If a parathyroidectomy (PTX) was decided, a final visit took place within 6 months after surgery. Changes in neuropsychological functioning are evaluated yearly and within 3 to 6 months after PTX.

Results
From June 2007 to September 2008, 99 patients (mean age 69.3 ± 16.6 years; 73% female) have been included. Median preoperative calcium and PTH levels were 2.72 mmol/L (Inter-Quartile Range: 2.61–2.86 mmol/L, normal range: 2.20–2.60 mmol/L) and 13.8 pmol/L (IQR: 9.2–17.6 pmol/L, N: 1.1–7.8 pmol/L), respectively. Densitometric osteoporosis was documented in 27 cases (out of 66 measurements). Forty eight patients presented with a classic symptomatic form of PHPT (history of renal lithiasis, low-trauma fractures, or muscle weakness).

Twelve asymptomatic patients were considered as candidates for surgery, having at least one of the 2002 NIH criteria. Of the 39 patients who were not candidates for surgery (with no NIH criteria), 10 had non-specific symptoms and 29 were truly asymptomatic. Twelve patients were started on cinacalcet, including one post-operatively.

Conclusion
Our preliminary results show that although many patients undergoing parathyroidectomy have a pauci-symptomatic profile of PHPT, the classic form remains frequent. Sixty patients were symptomatic or fulfilled at least one criterion of the NIH guidelines, and were referred for surgery. Among the medical options, cinacalcet was prescribed in 12% of patients.

Conclusions
Our data indicate that in PHPT, as reported in the general population of Type 2 DM, the presence of diabetes is associated with increased BMD at femur and thus with a reduced fracture risk; on the other hand, a poor glycemic control seems to influence negatively BMD at lumbar spine, indicating a peculiar sensitivity of trabecular bone to this metabolic impairment.

P231
Bone and mineral metabolism before and after kidney–pancreas transplantation in patients with type 1 diabetes
Centro Hospitalar do Porto, Porto, Portugal.

Aims
End stage renal disease is associated with disorders of calcium and phosphate metabolism that favor the loss of bone mass. Kidney transplant may alter this imbalance restoring bone mass. Nevertheless, recent studies showed that 48 months after transplant, the loss of bone mass still is superior to general population. Post-transplant corticosteroid therapy is considered the main responsible for the loss of bone mass.

The authors present a 5 year retrospective analysis of markers of bone metabolism after kidney–pancreas transplant.

Methods
The study included 40 transplant recipients (25 women; 15 men), age between 20 and 47 years (33.6 ± 6.3 years), that have completed 5 years of follow-up.

We analyzed the following markers of bone metabolism until the 5th year post-transplant:
- Lumbar spine and hip Bone mineral density (BMD) determined by DXA;
- Plasma levels of calcium, phosphorus, parathyroid hormone (PTH), vitamin D, bone-specific alkaline phosphatase, osteocalcin and Beta Cross Laps

Results
Five years post-transplant, lumbar spine and femoral BMD (T score) increased 42.2% and 15.9% respectively.

Plasma levels of calcium, phosphorus and PTH decreased 5.4%, 25% e 66.8%, respectively.

Plasma levels of bone-specific alkaline phosphatase, osteocalcin and beta cross laps decreased 63%, 65.8% e 93% respectively.

Vitamin D levels increased 86.7%.

Conclusions
In our population of transplant recipients, there was an increase in BMD at the 5th year post-transplant, bone turnover decreased favoring bone formation.

P232
Clinical and molecular characterization of Spanish patients with pseudohypoparathyroidism
Maria Dolores Moure1, Eduardo Fernandez-Rebollo1, Sonia Gaztambide1, Gustavo Perez-Nancelay2, Luis Castano2, Guiomar Perez de Nancelay2 & Spanish PHP Group1
1 Endocrinology and Diabetes Research Group, Hospital de Cruces, Barakaldo, Bizkaia, Spain; 2 CIBERER, Barakaldo, Bizkaia, Spain.

Pseudohypoparathyroidism (PHP) is a term applied to a heterogeneous group of disorders whose common feature is resistance to parathyroid hormone. Most of the PHP forms are caused by defects in GNAS: PHP-1a (characterized by PTH and TSH resistance with Albright Hereditary Osteodystrophy) is caused by heterozygous inactivating mutations in those exons of GNAS encoding the a subunit of the stimulatory G-protein, and the autosomal dominant form of PHP-B (PTH and TSH resistance without phenotypic manifestations) is caused by alteration in the methylation pattern of the locus, usually associated with microdeletions at STX16 gene that are maternally transmitted.

Aim
To analyze the complete GNAS locus, including deletions at STX16, in order to investigate the underlying molecular mechanisms involved in the etiology of pseudohypoparathyroidism.

Methods
GNAS activity, GNAS mutation and haplotype, and GNAS methylation analyses were performed for the probands and family members.

Results
The genetic and epigenetic study of 60 PHP patients revealed 25 point mutations (all associated with PHP-1a), two paternal 20qUPD (one PHP-1a and one PHP-1b).

and 23 loss of imprinting at GNAS locus (nearly half of them associated with PHP-La), only 5 associated to previously described STX16 deletions. A 3q37 deletion was also identified.

Very preliminary studies on genotype-phenotype correlations showed that patients with epigenetic alterations are diagnosed later than those with genetic mutations.

Conclusion

There seems to be an overlap between the molecular and clinical features of PHP-La and PHP-IB as molecular alterations previously associated with PHP-IB are also present in patients diagnosed as PHP-La.

**P333**

Is parathyroid function abnormal in active acromegaly?

Constantinos Tziouaras, George Ioannidis & Andromasi Vrionidou

Red Cross Hospital, Athens, Greece.

Introduction

Acromegaly is associated with skeletal changes that are characterized by appositional bone growth, increased bone dimensions and increased bone turnover. PTH is an important regulator of bone remodeling and its anabolic action requires the presence of GH. The strong correlation found between PTH concentrations and bone turnover markers in active and treated acromegaly has led to the suggestion, that the effect of GH on bone turnover may be mediated by PTH. Successful treatment of acromegaly results in a reduction of bone turnover markers but previous reports on the effect of PTH concentrations have been inconsistent. The aim of the present study was to evaluate parathyroid function in patients with acromegaly after surgical treatment.

Patients and methods

We studied 47 acromegalic patients (27 females and 20 males) aged 62.4±8 who were treated with transphenoidal surgery. Serum concentrations of IGF-1, iPTH, calcium, phosphorus, alkaline phosphatase, creatinine and albumin as well as 24 h urinary calcium and creatinine were measured. Patients were divided in 3 groups according to GH levels after an oral glucose tolerance test with 100 g glucose: group A 18 patients (11F/7M) with GH<1 ng/mL, group B 17 patients (10F/7M) with GH between 2 and 10 ng/ml and group C 12 patients (6F/6M) with GH>10 ng/ml.

One way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used for comparisons between the three groups and correlations were sought using Pearson correlation coefficient.

Results

As expected, GH and IGF-1 levels were significantly different between the three groups of patients (P<0.001). iPTH levels did not differ between groups and no correlation was found with any of the measured variables. Serum calcium, phosphorus and alkaline phosphatase levels were not different between groups while 24 h urinary calcium was significantly higher in group B compared to patients in group A (250.2±22.4 vs 184.4±21.4, P<0.04). In all patients, a positive correlation was found between serum calcium with GH and IGF-1 levels (r=0.33, P<0.05 and r=0.35, P<0.05 respectively) and alkaline phosphatase with IGF-1 levels (r=0.4, P<0.02).

Conclusions

In active acromegaly, parathyroid function as expressed by iPTH levels does not seem to be influenced while the augmented levels of GH and IGF-1, have a positive effect on bone metabolism via the increased calcium intestine absorption on one hand and the increased osteoblastic activity on the other.

**P335**

Glucose tolerance, insulin secretion and insulin sensitivity before and after radical treatment of primary hyperparathyroidism

Dragan Micic¹, Goran Cvetkovic¹, Aleksandra Kendeški¹, Mirjana Sumarac-Dumanovic¹, Svetlana Zoric¹, Snezana Polovina¹ & Danica Stamenkovic-Pejkovic¹

¹Institute of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Diseases of Metabolism, Belgrade, Serbia; ²Department of Endocrinology, Medical Center Subotica, Subotica, Serbia.

It was previously shown that patients with primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) are insulin resistant.

Aim

The aim of our study was to evaluate the effect of surgical treatment on glucose tolerance, insulin secretion and sensitivity (SI) in patients with PHPT.

Material and methods

In 26 patients with PHPT (57.15±9.54 years; BMI 26.00±4.55 kg/m²; 276.61±64.83 ng/mL; Calcium 2.95±0.19 mmol/l) AIR and SI were determined before and 4 months after surgical treatment. Insulin sensitivity was evaluated using euglycemic hyperinsulinemic clamp (M index), while acute insulin response (AIR) was calculated as the mean increment above basal of insulin values measured at 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 min after intravenous glucose bolus (IVGTG). Glucose and insulin response during OGTT were evaluated as area under the curve (AUC). AUCs was calculated using Trapezoidal rule. Paired t-test and Wilcoxon test were used for statistical analysis as well Pearson correlation test. Statistical analysis.

Results

After operation PTH (51.47±8.57 ng/l) and serum calcium (2.33±0.12 mmol/l) were normalized. There was significant improvement in insulin sensitivity (M index: 3.91±2.01 vs 6.08±4.48, P<0.05), while there was no significant difference in AIR (44.77±6.71 vs 35.14±2.77, P=0.05), AUC GLUCOSE 855.88±188.37 vs 823.84±130.39, P=0.05) and AUC INSULIN (6270.2±3870.05 vs 6351.55±3820.44, P=0.05) after surgical treatment. There was no change in BMI after operation (26.02±2.45 vs 26.36±2.41, P=0.05). There was no correlation between PTH and M index (r=-0.169, P>0.05), AIR (r=0.160, P>0.05), AUC GLUCOSE (r=0.231, P>0.05) and AUC INSULIN (r=-0.110, P>0.05) as well as between serum calcium levels and M index (r=0.214, P>0.05), AIR (r=-0.167, P=0.05), AUC GLUCOSE (r=0.298, P<0.05) and AUC INSULIN (r=-0.009, P<0.05).

Conclusion

Radical treatment improves SI in patients with PHPT. Non-significance of changes in AIR, AUC GLUCOSE and AUC INSULIN might be due to fact that testing was performed relatively short period after surgical treatment.

P236
Bone mineral density and bone turnover markers in patients with schizophrenia treated with atypical antipsychotics
Mirjana Doknic1, Nadja Marie2, Dubravka Britvic3, Sandra Pekić1, Aleksandar Damjanovic1, Marina Djurovic1, Marko Stejanovic1, Miroslava Jasovic-Gasic1 & Vera Popovic1
1Institute of Endocrinology, University Clinical Center, Belgrade, Serbia; 2Institute of Psychiatry, University Clinical Center, Belgrade, Serbia.

According to the novel concept bone remodeling is centrally regulated (CNS). Leptin had an adipocytokine derived hormone acts on hypothalamus and by increasing sympathetic activity acts on osteoblasts to regulate bone formation. In patients with schizophrenia several factors have influence on bone metabolism. Schizophrenia per se, as a disease of central nervous system is associated with increased occurrence of osteoporosis. Hyperprolactinemia as consequence of antipsychotic treatment in these patients has impact on both bone mineral density (BMD) and bone metabolism by increasing bone resorption. On the other side, weight gain which is the commonly observed on antipsychotic therapy may be protective factor against osteoporosis.

Aim
The aim of our study was to investigate the effects of BMI and insulin on bone mineral density and markers of bone metabolism in 23 patients (12 males, mean age 32.2±1.3 years, BMI 29.2±1.0 kg/m²) with schizophrenia treated with atypical antipsychotic (depo risperidone 100 mg monthly, during 1.4±0.5 months). The control group included healthy 35 individuals sex, age and BMI matched (11 males, mean age 32.2±1.4 years, 28.0±1.2 kg/m²). After fasting in the morning serum leptin, prolactin-PRL, osteocalcin, B-cell C-reactive protein serum, LH, and GH were measured. The control group included healthy 35 individuals sex, age and BMI matched (11 males, mean age 32.2±1.4 years, 28.0±1.2 kg/m²). After fasting in the morning serum leptin, prolactin-PRL, osteocalcin, B-cell C-reactive protein serum, LH, and GH were measured. The control group included healthy 35 individuals sex, age and BMI matched (11 males, mean age 32.2±1.4 years, 28.0±1.2 kg/m²). After fasting in the morning serum leptin, prolactin-PRL, osteocalcin, B-cell C-reactive protein serum, LH, and GH were measured.

Results
We found significant positive correlation between BMI and BMD in healthy control (r=0.05). BMI had positive correlation with Z score of the spine in controls (r=0.027). Correlation between insulin levels during OGTT (AUC) and parameters of BMD and Z score of spine in control (P<0.001; P=0.001, respectively). In patients group no significant correlation between BMI and insulin levels (AUC) with BMD and Z score were found.

Conclusion
BMI and insulin levels did not affect bone mineral density and bone metabolism in patients with schizophrenia which is different from healthy control. Central control of bone remodeling might be disturbed in schizophrenia.

P238
Evaluation of the association between bone turnover markers and OPG/sRANK-L levels in relation with the changes of thyroid function in women with thyroid cancer
Serip Salman1, Ferhan Aral2, Harika Boztug3, Nese Colak1, Beyhan Omer1, Refik Tanakol1, Furak Alagol1 & Ayse Kabul-Uzum1
1Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Central Laboratory of Biochemistry, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Aim
Thyroid hormones play an important role in bone remodeling. The aim of the study was to evaluate the changes of bone markers and osteoprotegerin (OPG)sRANK-L levels during follow-up in a group of patients with thyroid cancer.

Material and methods
Twenty women – patients with the diagnosis of differentiated thyroid cancer were enrolled to the study (39.25±13.46 years, 6 postmenopausal) before thyroidectomy. Samples were collected before the operation ( euthyroid status) (EU), before radioactive iodine administration (hypothyroidism) (HYPO) and under thyroxine suppressive therapy (subclinical hypothyroidism) (SHYPER). In addition to OPG and sRANK-L, the markers of bone formation (BALP, osteocalcin and P1NP) and resorption (urinary DPD) were also evaluated. To determine the independent effect of bone formation markers and TSH on OPG, a multiple logistic regression model was used after pooling all the 3 visits’ data. Statistical analysis were performed on SPSS 15.0.

Results
The level of all bone formation markers except urinary DPD decreased in HYPO when compared to EU period (P=0.047 for BALP, P=0.003 for osteocalcin, P=0.024 for P1NP). However no significant change was observed in urinary DPD. In SHYPER period all of the bone formation markers increased and reached to the levels of EU period. OPG levels increased in HYPO period (P<0.001) and returned to comparable levels in SHYPER period. RANK-L levels did not change during the 3 different periods of the study. In multiple regression analysis, the only significant variable was TSH (r²=0.446, P=0.001).

Conclusion
In this study, we tried to investigate the relationship of thyroid dysfunction and skeletal system. The results indicate that there is a decrease in bone formation and an increase in OPG levels in HYPO but no change in SHYPER period. The increase in OPG level was related to increase in TSH but not to any of the bone formation markers.

P237
Thin healthy women have a similar low bone mass as women with anorexia nervosa
Diego Fernández-García, Arántzazu Sebastian, Jorge Garcia-Aleman, Jose Manuel Garcia-Almeida & Francisco Tinahoes
Hospital Virgen de la Victoria, Malaga, Spain.

Association between anorexia nervosa (AN) and low bone mass has been demonstrated. Bone loss associated with AN involve hormonal and nutritional impairments, though their exact contribution is not clearly established. We compare bone mass in AN patients with women of similar weight with no criteria for anorexia nervosa, and a third group of healthy, normal-weight, age-matched women. The study included 48 patients with AN (DSM-IV criteria), 22 healthy eumenorrheic women with low weight (LW, BMI <18.5 kg/m²) and 20 healthy women with BMI >18.5 kg/m² (Control Group), all of similar age. We measured by DEXA lean body mass, percentage of fat mass, total bone mineral content (t BMC) and bone mineral density in lumbar spine (BMD LS) and total (BMD T). We measured androstrogen and andoniastron serum, leptin and GH. The AN group had greater BMD T and BMD LS than the other groups, with no differences between the AN and LW groups. No differences were found in BMD T, BMD LS and t BMC between the restrictive (n=25) and binge-purge type (n=23) in AN patients. In AN, minimum weight (P=0.002) and percent of fat mass (P=0.02) explained BMD LS variation (r²: 0.48) and minimum weight (r²: 0.42; P=0.002) for BMD T in stepwise regression analyses. In LW group, BMI explained BMD LS (r²: 0.72; P=0.03) and BMD T (r²: 0.57; P=0.04). We concluded that patients with AN had similar BMD as healthy thin women.

Anthropometric parameters could contribute more significantly than estrogen deficiency in achievement of peak bone mass in AN patients.

P239
The results of cinacalcet therapy in patients with severe or refractory hyperparathyroidism
Jolanta Krajewska, Ewa Paliczka-Cieslik, Aleksandra Krawczyk, Sylwia Szpak-Ulczo, Barbara Michalik, Kornelia Hase-Lazar & Beata Jurczyk-Lubienska
MSC Memorial Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology, Glivice Branch, Glivice, Poland.

Refractory or severe hypercalcemia is important clinical problem as it can lead to serious complications such as arthromias, acute or chronic pancreatitis, gastric ulcer, water and electrolyte balance disturbances, osteoporosis, psychosis and even to hypercalcemic crisis. Most often it is diagnosed in parathyroid cancer (PC). It is also observed in benign primary hyperparathyroidism (HPTH) in case of difficulties with adenoma’s localization. Routine treatment includes forced diuresis and/or bisphosphonates. Calcimimetics are a new group of drugs which increase the sensitivity of the calcium sensing receptor (CaR) to extracellular calcium and due to that reduce serum calcium and PTH level.

Aim
The aim of the study was to assess the efficacy of cinacalcet in the treatment of refractory hyperparathyroidism due to primary hyperparathyroidism.

Material and methods
Seven patients (6 women and 1 man, mean age 49 years) have been treated with cinacalcet for 3–117 weeks (median 31 weeks). In 1 patient PC, whereas in 6 of them benign HPTH were stated. Two of them were operated before cinacalcet therapy, In 3 patients the treatment was carried out to prepare them for surgery.
Applied doses of cinacalcet ranges from 30 to 180 mg. In all patients forced diuresis and/or bisphosphonates were given before and during treatment.

Results
All patients responded to cinacalcet therapy. Serum total and Ca++ levels decreased significantly (P<0.05) whereas serum PTH level did not differ before and during the treatment. Only in one calcium was normalized. Mean serum PTH, total and Ca++ before therapy were 744 pg/ml, 2.75 mmol/l, 1.47 mmol/l and during the treatment respectively 780 pg/ml, 2.55 mmol/l, 1.37 mmol/l. Usually the medication was well-tolerated. Most common adverse events were nausea and vomiting, especially at the beginning of therapy.

Conclusion
Cinacalcet is an effective, safe and well-tolerated treatment of patients with severe or refractory hypercalcemia due to primary hyperparathyroidism.

P240
The effect of short term human chorionic gonadotropin treatment on the improvement of bone mass in patients with hypogonadotropic hypogonadism
Erol Bulun1, Alper Sonmez2, Mehmet Apikoglu3, Hasan Gurel3, Ozdes Emre4, Abdulhamit Taslihan1, M Ali Orzoven5 & Mustafa Kutlu1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Gulhane Military Medical School, Etilk, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Gulhane Military Medical School, Etilk, Ankara, Turkey; 3Department of Nuclear Medicine, Gulhane Military Medical School, Etilk, Ankara, Turkey.

Background
Idiopathic hypogonadotropic hypogonadism is a congenital abnormality due to GnRH deficiency which is associated with severe osteoporosis. Testosterone replacement has been shown to improve the loss in the bone mass. The aim of the present retrospective analysis was to measure the effect of human chorionic gonadotropin treatment on the improvement of bone mineral density.

Methods
A total number of 96 young male (mean age 21±3.7 years) patients with hypogonadotropic hypogonadism who were not currently under any drug treatment were enrolled. The baseline bone mineral densities were measured from the lumbar region and femur neck by using dual X-ray absorbiometry (DEXA). All patients were treated with human chorionic gonadotropin (1500 Units 3 times/week for 6 to 9 months.

Results
The patients had severe osteoporosis according to the measurements from different regions (L1-4 BMD: 0.742 g/cm2, L1-4 Z-score: -3.04; Femur Neck BMD: 0.809 g/cm2, Z-score: -0.81; Distal Radius BMD:0.622 g/cm2, Z-score: -3.38). After the treatment period (7.4±2.1 months), significant improvements were observed the lumbar regions and femur neck (P<0.001 for both), but no significant short term effect was seen in the distal radius.

Discussion
The results of the present study show that short term human chorionic gonadotropin treatment improve bone mineral density in the lumbar vertebrea and femur neck but has not significant effect on distal radius. Further studies in different regions with longer periods are warranted to assess the differential effect of gonadotropins on the bone mineral density.

P242
Peculiar features of bone disease in thalassemia: comparison with anorexia nervosa
Agnese Cattaneo1, Leila Danesi1, Massimo Scacchi1, Chiara Carzaniga1, Silvia Vai1, Sergio Orlonti2, Maria Domenica Cappellini1 & Francesco Cavagnini1
1Chair of Endocrinology, Ospedale San Luca IRCCS, Istituto Auxologico Italiano, University of Milan, Milan, Italy; 2Bone Metabolism Unit, Ospedale San Micheele IRCCS, Istituto Auxologico Italiano, Milan, Italy.

In thalassemic patients individual values of BMD measured by traditional DEXA are lower than those determined by QCT. The reason for this discrepancy is still controversial.

Aim
To investigate bone features in a large group of thalassemic patients, compared with patients with anorexia nervosa, also characterized by precocious osteoporosis.

Study design
Forty-six adult thalassemic subjects and 25 anorectic women were studied. In all patients lumbar BMD was determined by DEXA and standard QCT. In a subset of 22 thalassemic and 13 anorectic patients, a modified QCT was also performed: this technique allows to include the measurement of the cortical component of the vertebra, at variance with standard QCT which measures volumetric BMD in a limited trabecular portion.

Results
In the whole group of thalassemic patients the mean lumbar Z-score measured by QCT was significantly higher than that measured by DEXA. On the contrary, in anorectic women the mean Z-score values measured by the two techniques were not significantly different. While in thalassemic patients the correlation between QCT and DEXA values was weakly positive, in anorectic women the same correlation was highly significant. Interestingly, when considering the BMD values determined by the modified QCT, these correlations were highly significant in both groups.

Conclusions
(a) Our data point to the peculiarity of bone disease in thalassemia in comparison with other forms of juvenile osteoporosis. (b) In thalassemic patients the degree of lumbar osteopenia appears to be more severe when estimated by DEXA compared to standard QCT, however, the correlation between the two techniques improves when including the whole vertebra using QCT measurement. (c) The discrepancy between the two methods might be accounted for by a greater involvement of cortical bone in thalassemia. (d) Standard QCT seems to underestimate the degree of bone damage in this haematological condition.

**P243**
The influence of other hormonal disturbances on the bone density and turnover in women with hyperprolactinemia of various origin
Marek Bolanowski, Beata Zadrożna-Słowka, Aleksandra Jawiarczyk & Joanna Szyrycka
Medical University, Wrocław, Poland.
Hyperprolactinemia may lead to bone loss, both due to hypogonadism and other hormonal disturbances.
**Aim**
Aim of the study was the analysis of influences of hormonal profiles associated with hyperprolactinemia on bone mineral density (BMD) and bone turnover in women with hyperprolactinemia of various origin. The subjects were 32 patients with prolactinoma, 43 ones with functional hyperprolactinemia and 29 healthy controls.
All of them were studied BMD (lumbar spine, proximal femur, forearm, total body) using DXA; bone turnover markers (BAC, OC, ICTP) and hormones levels (proglastrin, estradiol, LH, FSH, SHBG, testosterone, DHEA-S and iPTH) using Spearman’s correlation analysis and multiple regression analysis model. Correlations revealed the anabolic influence of FTH on lumbar spine in women with prolactinomas and hyperprolactinemia of various origin. In all investigated parameters SHBG correlated positively, and SHBG negatively with ICTP in prolactinoma patients. In multiple regression analysis, estradiol had greatest influence on lumbar spine and total body BMD. Moreover, positive influence of testosterone, SHBG on spine BMD, and of estradiol, testosterone, SHBG and DHEA-S on total body BMD were observed in patients with prolactinoma. LH had positive, FSH and estradiol negative influences on BAP. LH had positive and estradiol, testosterone and FSH negative influences on OC in patients with prolactinoma.
**Conclusion**
Hormonal disturbances associated with hyperprolactinemia influence both bone mineral density and bone turnover more in patients with prolactinoma than those with functional hyperprolactinemia.

**P244**
Effect of one year treatment with strontium ranelate on bone mineral density in women with established osteoporosis previously treated with teriparatide
Athanasios Anastasilakis1, Stergios Polyzos2, Yaavra Avramidis2, Athanasios Papatheodorus & Evagelos Terpos3
1424 Military Hospital, Thessaloniki, Greece; 2Hipppokration General Hospital, Thessaloniki, Greece; 3251 General Air Force Hospital, Athens, Greece.
Teriparatide (TPTD – recombinant human parathyroid hormone 1–34) markedly increases bone mineral density (BMD) and reduces fracture risk. Sequential treatment with an antiresorptive agent is believed to preserve or further increase BMD. Strontium ranelate (SR) is thought to uncouple bone remodeling resulting in increased BMD and reduced fracture risk. In this prospective study, we aimed to evaluate the effect of SR on BMD in women with established osteoporosis previously treated with TPTD. Nineteen postmenopausal Caucasian women (aged 65.9 ± 18 years) with established osteoporosis previously treated with TPTD, 20 μg daily for 18 months, sequentially received SR 2 g daily for 12 months. Lumbar spine BMD was measured by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) pre- and post-TPTD administration, as well as twelve months post-SR administration. Blood samples for bone-specific alkaline phosphate (BSAP) and C-terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen (CTXs) were obtained at the same time points. Lumbar spine BMD increased significantly after 18 months of TPTD (P < 0.001) and further improved with sequential SR treatment (P = 0.035). Serum BSAP and CTX increased significantly with TPTD (P = 0.008 and 0.017, respectively) and reduced to baseline levels after SR treatment (P = 0.031 and 0.019, respectively). The change in BSAP was positively correlated with the change in CTXs during both TPTD (r = 0.641, P = 0.007) and SR treatment (r = 0.539, P = 0.026). In conclusion, our data suggest that SR following TPTD administration further increases BMD and could be used as an alternative to bisphosphonates’ sequential treatment.

**P246**
The relationship between serum TSH, free T4 and bone mineral density in pre- and postmenopausal women
Lahim Baqi1, Pavel Langer2, Zdenko Kullinger3, Zuzana Homorova1, Jana Kollerova1, Adriana Banarova1 & Jaruj Payer1
1FiBth Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty Hospital Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovakia; 2Institute of Experimental Endocrinology, SAS, Bratislava, Slovakia.
**Background**
Thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) might influence bone mineral density (BMD) through its regulation of the thyroid hormones thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3). Direct effect of TSH on bone turnover, mediated through its receptors on both osteoblast and osteoclast precursors, has been suggested. We wanted to explore the relationship between serum TSH, fT4 and BMD in women with different TSH levels after a long-term observation of thyroid function and bone status.
**Methods**
This study included 151 premenopausal women (age 36.4 ± 6.8 years) and 153 postmenopausal women (age 60.9 ± 7.7 years) with valid measurements of BMI at the hip and lumbar spine by dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA). Based on the TSH levels (ref. 0.32 – 5.0 mU/L), Premenopausal women were divided into two different groups: group 1 (n = 101) with normal serum TSH (2.38 ± 1.24 mU/L) and group 2 (n = 50) with low TSH (< 0.5 mU/L). Postmenopausal women were divided also into two groups: group 1 (n = 79) with the upper normal TSH (2.5 – 4 mU/L) and group 2 (n = 74) with lower normal TSH (0.5 – 2.5 mU/L) and we compared these groups each other.
**Results**
After multivariate adjustment, in premenopausal women, the group 1 with normal serum TSH, had significantly higher TSH (P < 0.001), lower fT4 (P < 0.001) and higher BMI at the lumbar spine and hip (P < 0.01), as compared to group 2. In postmenopausal women, group 1 had significantly higher serum TSH (P < 0.001), higher BMI at the lumbar spine and hip (P < 0.05). No difference between these two groups has been found in the level of fT4.
**Conclusions**
Generally, we have demonstrated that lower serum TSH (In premenopausal women TSH < 0.5 mU/L, and in postmenopausal women TSH > 2.5 mU/L) associated with significant decrease of BMD. Serum TSH below 2.5 mU/L was associated with higher BMI mainly in postmenopausal women. The results support clinical attention toward skeletal health in the patient with low TSH.
P247
Changes in adipokines serum levels after antidiabetic drugs in postmenopausal osteoporosis
Arántzazu Sebastian-Ochoa1, Diego Fernández-García1, Rebeca Reyes-García1 & Manuel Muñoz-Torres3
1Hospital Virgen de la Victoria, Malaga, Spain; 2Hospital Rafael Mendez, Lorca, Murcia, Spain; 3Hospital Clínico San Cecilio, Granada, Spain.

Adiponectin and leptin have been described as potential contributors to bone metabolism. The effect of antidiabetic drugs on these adipokines and their relationship with bone metabolism have not been clearly clarified.

Aims
(1) Evaluate adiponectin and leptin levels in osteoporotic postmenopausal women and their relationship with BMD, bone turnover and osteoclastogenesis markers.
(2) Analyze changes on adiponectin and leptin levels after treatment with raloxifene or alendronate. We selected 53 untreated women (63 ± 7 years) with postmenopausal osteoporosis divided into two groups: women treated with raloxifene (60 mg/day; n = 20) or alendronate (70 mg/week; n = 33) during one year. All of them received calcium and vitamin D supplements. We determined at baseline and after 12 months of treatment: anthropometric data, OPG, E2, IGF-I, adiponectin, leptin, 25-hydroxyvitamin D, sST, osteocalcin, BALP, ALP, TRAP and BMD in lumbar spine (LS), femoral neck (FN) and total hip (TH).

Results
At baseline, leptin and adiponectin serum levels were 1371 ± 822.44 pg/mL and 42.24 ± 2.61 ng/mL respectively. Adiponectin was significantly correlated with BAP (r = −0.413; P < 0.003), OPG (r = 0.51; P < 0.001), years since menopause (r = 0.295; P = 0.05), but was not with BMD in any site. Leptin was significantly related to weight (r = 0.41; P < 0.001), BMI (r = 0.47; P < 0.001) and waist (r = 0.38, P = 0.01), osteocalcin (r = 0.285; P = 0.038) and IP3 (r = 0.33; P = 0.016). Leptin was correlated with LS T-score (r = −0.301; P = 0.04) and BMD LS (r = −0.266; P = 0.05) after adjustment for age and weight. After 12 months, no changes were observed in leptin (P = 0.46) and adiponectin (P = 0.55) in alendronate group; however, a significant increase in leptin levels (973.47 ± 637.37 vs. 1305.72 ± 793.4 pM/mL; P = 0.031) was detected only in the raloxifene group, while adiponectin levels showed no significant changes (P = 0.46). Moreover, the percentage changes of adiponectin levels did not differ between the two groups (P = 0.79), while the percentage changes in leptin were near significance, between the two groups (P = 0.07).

Conclusions
Adiponectin and leptin levels contribute at least in part to BMD in patients with postmenopausal osteoporosis. Changes in leptin levels after raloxifene treatment could be indirectly implicated in raloxifene bone effects.

P249
Bone mineral density, bone turnover, serum osteoprotegerin and soluble receptor activator of nuclear factor kij ligand levels in patients with differentiated thyroid cancer
Sabriye Ozkaya Kafeşçi, Zelilha Hekimsoy, Fatma Taneli, Feray Aras, Bilgin Ozmen & Feyzullah Gıçlı
Celal Bayar University Medical Faculty, Manisa, Turkey.

Thyroid hormones play an important role in bone metabolism. The potential action of prolonged levothyroxine therapy on bone mass reduction is still a matter of debate.

The aim of our one year prospective study was to elucidate whether longterm suppressive thyroid hormone therapy in patient with differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC) affects bone metabolism, osteoprotegerin (OPG) and soluble receptor activator of nuclear factor kij ligand (sRANKL) and is a risk factor for osteoporosis. Forty-nine patients with DTC (17 premenopausal, 22 postmenopausal women, 10 men) were investigated. All of them had undergone a total thyroidectomy and subsequent 1-31 radio-sodium ablation therapy. The levels of free triiodothyronine (FT3), free thyroxine (FT4), tSH, osteocalcin (sST), parathyrohormone (IP3), serum calcium (Ca), phosphorus, alkaline phosphatase (ALP), osteocalcin (OC), OPG, sRANK-L, urinary deoxypyridinoline (DPD) and 24-hour urine calcium were assessed before and after one year suppressive thyroid hormone therapy. Bone mineral density (BMD) (g/cm2) in lumbar spine (L1-L4), femoral neck, trochanter and total hip was measured by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) before treatment and after one year of treatment.

In the first year of suppressive thyroid hormone therapy, a statistically significant increase was found in serum Ca, ALP, urinary DPD and calcium in each of the three subgroups; and a statistically significant decrease was found in serum OPG levels in pre- and postmenopausal groups. No difference was noted in serum sRANK-L before end of one year of treatment in each group. We detected significant decreases at post treatment DXA values in comparison to basal DAXA values in lumbar BMD in premenopausal women (1.12 ± 0.10 vs 1.08 ± 0.10, P = 0.01) and similarly at post treatment femoral neck BMD (1.12 ± 0.27 vs 1.02 ± 0.16, P = 0.02) in men.

In conclusion, our results of the study revealed that longterm suppressive thyroid hormone therapy in patients with DTC may affect bone metabolism and OPG/RANK-L system.

P250
Colecalciferol loading dose guideline for vitamin D deficient adults
Lenneke van Groningen, Adriaan van Sorge, Darryl Telting, Astrid Giesen & Hans de Boer
Rijnstate Hospital, Arnhem, The Netherlands.

Introduction
Severe vitamin D deficiency is very common in northern Europe. It is not limited to the elderly, but occurs in a large variety of subjects. Colecalciferol dosing guidelines for rapid correction of vitamin D deficiency are not available.

Objective
To assess the optimal Colecalciferol dose regimen, based on body weight, for rapid correction of vitamin D deficiency, in a variety of subjects.

Materials and methods
One hundred and twenty-three subjects (age ranging from 20 to 90 years, female/male ratio 1:9.1, body weight ranging from 41 to 175 kg) with vitamin D deficiency (defined as serum vitamin D level <50 nmol/l) were treated with subolubilised Colecalciferol 50.000 IU/ml, in a dose of 25.000 IU every 2 weeks during 8 weeks (total dose 100.000 IU), 25.000 IU every week during 6 weeks (total dose 150.000 IU), or 25.000 IU every week during 8 weeks (total dose 200.000 IU). The Colecalciferol dose per kilogram body weight ranged from 625 to 4000 IU/kg. Serum creatinine, calcium, phosphate, albumin, PTH, 25-OH-D, were measured at baseline and 10 days after the final dose of Colecalciferol.

Results
Mean 25-OHD increased from 20.2 ± 7.0 to 69.5 ± 2.9 nmol/l (mean ± s.e.m., P < 0.001). Serum calcium, phosphate, albumin and PTH levels did not change significantly. The Colecalciferol dose required to achieve the optimal serum level of 75 nmol/l was related to the vitamin D deficit (Δ25-OH-D, 75 = actual


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25-OH(D) level) and body weight. The dose per kg body weight required to achieve normalisation of serum 25-OH-D was:

\[
\text{Dose (IU/kg)} = 40 \times (25\text{-OHD}) + 400 \quad (R^2 = 0.42, \ P < 0.0001).
\]

Conclusion
Correction of vitamin D deficiency by Calcitriol should be based on the degree of vitamin D deficit and body weight.

P251
The incidence of osteoporotic hip fracture in north west of Iran
Akbare Aliasagarzadeh, Amir Bahrami, Majid Ramazani, Farzad Najafi-Dor & Amir Moradi
Tabriz University, Medical Science, Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
Osteoporotic hip fracture is one of the serious complications of bone loss. These fractures constitute almost 20% of orthopedics wards admissions. Due to lack of precise statistical data of osteoporotic fracture rate in Iran, and absence of previous investigations regarding the problem in Tabriz (a large city in north west of IRAN), we planned a study to survey frequency of this epidemic in over 50 years old residents of Tabriz.

Material and methods
In a retrospective – descriptive study we reviewed medical records of all over 50 years old patients who was inhabitant of Tabriz, and admitted with hip fracture in citywide hospitals (private or governmental), during 24 months from March 2005 to February 2007. Data regarding age, sex, type of trauma, type of fracture, and in-hospital morbidity and mortality were extracted. Data analysis was performed by SPSS11 software.

Results
During the study period there were 878 admissions for hip fracture in over 50 years old subjects. There were 779 patients with nontraumatic hip fracture including 398 males and 381 females with a mean age of 75.1 ± 9.1. It is estimated that, the rate of nontraumatic hip fracture in over 50 years old citizens of Tabriz to be 175 for each 100,000 population. The rate was 174 for females and 176 for males with a female to male ratio of 0.96.

Conclusion
The frequency of nontraumatic hip fracture in over 50 years old population of Tabriz (a large city in northwest Iran) is high. These rates are lower than those reported from Sweden and the Netherlands, and similar in France and Portugal. Age related surge of osteoporotic hip fracture occurs 10 years earlier in our country. Female to male ratio is lower than those of other countries.

P252
Metabolic and cardiovascular risk in primary hyperparathyroidism
Maria Dolcino, Francesca Massaro, Lara Vera, Silvia Oddo, Guido Rodriguez, Diego Ferone, Francesco Minuto & Massimo Giusti
Dipartimento di Scienze Endocrinologiche e Mediche, University of Genova, Genoa, Italy.

Background
Primary hyperparathyroidism (PHP) is associated with increased rates of cardiovascular (CV) risk. Moreover, it is not fully clear whether surgery can attenuate CV risk. The intima-media thickness (IMT) of carotid vessels is considered a marker of atherosclerosis and CV events.

Aim
Of the study was to evaluate IMT and some metabolic parameters in PHP patients.

Subjects
Of 56 subjects were studied. Patients were divided into two groups: those with normal calcium levels (Gr 1, n=31) and those with still elevated levels (Gr 2, n=25) after surgical or medical therapy. Surgery was performed in 60% and 71% of patients from Gr 1 and Gr 2, respectively.

Protocol
In all subjects, we measured BMI, blood pressure (BP), IMT by color-duplex sonography, serum Ca, PTH, HOMAIR, Hba1c, serum lipids, and osteoprotgerin.

Results
BP was similar in both groups. Gr 2 patients were significantly older (65 ± 3 years) than Gr 1 patients (56 ± 3 years; P < 0.02). BMI > 30 kg/m² was found in almost five times as many patients in Gr 2 (47%) as in Gr 1 (10%). Serum Ca levels were 9.8 ± 0.1 mg/dL in Gr 1 and 12.4 ± 0.4 mg/dL in Gr 2 (P < 0.0001). PTH levels were elevated in 68% and 52% of Gr 1 and 2 patients, respectively. Osteoprotgerin, total cholesterol, triglycerides, and HOMA-IR levels were higher and HDL-cholesterol was lower in Gr 2 than in Gr 1 patients, while Hba1c levels were similar in both groups. A significant increase in IMT was observed in 22% and 32% of Gr 1 and Gr 2 patients, respectively.

Conclusion
Age and BMI seem to be the best predictors of the increase in IMT, osteoprotgerin and some other factors involved in CV risk in PHP patients. These clinical and biochemical abnormalities persist after surgery and may explain the lower survival in PHP patients than in the general population.

P253
Vitamin D inadequacy in patients who are screened for osteoporosis
Rebeca Reyes-Garcia1, Diego Fernández-Garcia2, Arantzáza Sebastián-Ochoa3 & Manuel Muñoz-Torres4
1Endocrinology Division, Rafael Mendez Hospital, Murcia, Spain; 2Endocrinology Division, Virgen de la Victoria University Hospital, Málaga, Spain; 3Endocrinology Division, San César University Hospital, Granada, Spain.

Low concentrations of vitamin D leads to secondary hyperparathyroidism, bone loss, and an increase of osteoporotic fractures in populations at risk. Adequate vitamin D and calcium intake is considered an essential component of postmenopausal osteoporosis management. Several epidemiological studies have assessed the prevalence of low serum vitamin D concentrations, indicating that vitamin D inadequacy (< 30 ng/ml) is a problem world-wide. Aim
To evaluate vitamin D inadequacy in patients who are screened for osteoporosis, and in postmenopausal osteoporotic women after one year of treatment. Patients and methods
In 126 postmenopausal women (mean age 63 ± 7 years) who were evaluated for osteoporosis at the Bone Metabolic Unit we determined: BMD by DXA (Hologic QDR 4500 w) at lumbar spine, femoral neck and total hip, bone turnover markers, PTH and 25(OH) vitamin D. 76% of the women were diagnosed of osteoporosis (T-score < -2.5 z) and started treatment with antiresorptives, calcium and vitamin D (1200 mg and 800 U Daily).

Results
At baseline 90% of the women had serum levels of 25 (OH) vitamin D less than 30 ng/ml, and 42% less than 15 ng/ml. There was no correlation between vitamin D levels and age. After one year of treatment, serum 25(OH) vitamin D was less than 30 ng/ml in 68% of patients, and less than 15 ng/ml in 12%. There was no correlation between vitamin D levels and BMD changes after treatment.

Conclusions
There is a high prevalence of vitamin D inadequacy among women screened for osteoporosis. A significative percentage of osteoporotic patients treated during one year including calcium and vitamin D supplementation remains with inadequate levels of serum vitamin D.

P254
Renal function before and after radical treatment of primary hyperparathyroidism
Goran Cvijovic, Dragam Micic, Aleksandra Kandreskeris, Svetlana Zoric, Mirjana Sumarac-Dumanovic & Danica Stamenkovic-Pejkovic Institute of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Diseases of metabolism, Belgrade, Serbia.

Objective
It was previously shown that primary hyperparathyroidism (PHP) might induce impaired renal function and chronic renal failure. The aim of our study was to evaluate the effect of surgical treatment on parameters of calcium and phosphate renal metabolism and renal function in patients with PHP.

Material and methods
In 36 patients with PHP (age: 57.15 ± 9.54 years, BMI 26.00 ± 4.55 kg/m², PTH 276.61 ± 64.83 ng/L, Calcium 2.95 ± 0.19 mmol/L) serum creatinine, urine calcium levels, phosphate (CPH) and creatinine clearance (CCR), tubular phosphate reabsorption (TPR), proteinuria and microalbuminuria were determined before and 4 months after surgical treatment. Paired t-test and Wilcoxon test were used for statistical analysis as well Pearson correlation test. Statistical analysis.

Results
After operation PTH (51.47 ± 8.57 ng/L) and serum calcium (2.33 ± 0.12 mmol/L) were normalized There was significant improvement in urine calcium levels (398.37 ± 181.2 vs 107.07 ± 53.41 mg/day, P < 0.05). CPH (22.27 ± 11.67 vs 12.41 ± 5.24 ml/min, P < 0.05) and TRP (70.55 ± 10.56 vs 82.31 ± 11.37.

P255
Preoperative parathyroid hormone levels are correlated with parathyroid adenoma volume, bone mineral density but not serum calcium levels
Sinem Kiyici¹, Soner Can dever², Ozen Oz Gul³, Deniz Sigirli³, Ozgu Kaur¹, Unal¹, Ozlem Saraydogru¹, Canan Ersoy⁴, Erdinc Erturk⁵, Ercan Tuncel⁴ & Sazi Imamoğlu⁶
¹Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Medical Faculty, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey; ²Department of Bio-Statistics, Medical Faculty, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey; ³Department of Pathology, Medical Faculty, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey.

The aim of this study was to determine the relationship between biochemical parameters, parathyroid adenoma volume, and bone mineral density with respect to intact parathyroid hormone (iPTH) levels in patients with primary hyperparathyroidism. Data were collected retrospectively from patients with primary hyperparathyroidism who were diagnosed and followed-up at our clinic between 2004 and 2008. Forty-eight (female/male=42/6) patients with a mean age of 52±13.1 years (range 23–75) years were enrolled into the study. Bone pain was the most common presenting feature in 41.7% of patients, while 45.8% of patients were asymptomatic. The mean serum calcium and iPTH concentrations were 11.5±2 mg/dl and 567±1±682.0 pg/ml, respectively. The mean total ZIF and total T scores of DXA were used respectively. Parathyroidectomy was performed in 39 patients while nine patients were observed with medical treatment. The sensitivity of ultrasound and TC-99 m sestamibi scintigraphy for parathyroid adenoma localization was 31 and 79%, respectively. Preoperative iPTH levels were correlated with serum phosphate (r=–0.412, P=0.005), alkaline phosphates (r=0.698, P=0.000), serum calcium (r=–0.402, P=0.020) and lumbar spine total Z scores (r=–0.441, P=0.013) whereas parathyroid adenoma volume was correlated with iPTH (r=0.367, P=0.036) and alkaline phosphates (r=0.570, P=0.001). There was no correlation between iPTH, serum calcium levels and T score at femur and lumbar spine. Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25-OHD) levels were below <10 ng/ml in 16 patients. After excluding patients with 25-OHD insufficiency there was still no correlation between serum iPTH and calcium levels. Parathyroid adenoma volume, serum iPTH and calcium levels were also not different between patients with and without 25-OHD insufficiency.

In conclusion, these results suggest that iPTH levels may be useful to predict parathyroid adenoma volume and it is also well correlated with femur and lumbar spine total Z scores.

P256
The change of bone mineral density in postmenopausal women treated by combined agent alendronate and alfacalcidol assessed by digital X-ray radiodensitometry
Corina Galesanu¹, Natalia Lisińc³, Mihail-Romeo Galesanu¹, Ciprian Ciobutariu¹, Roxana-Gabriela Galesanu¹, Rodica Vasilea¹, Dan Radu³ & Dan Ursuleanu³
¹Department of Endocrinology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Gr. T. Popa, Iasi, Romania; ²Department of Osteodensitometry, Centre of Imaging and Radiologic Diagnosis, Iasi, Romania; ³Department of Endocrinology, County Hospital, Botosani, Romania.

Hypovitaminosis D is frequent in population over 65 years age, producing a secondary hyperparathyroidism, increase the bone remodeling, bone loss and osteoporotic fractures, loss of the muscle force. Daily dose of 0.5 mg alfacalcidol was effectively in improved muscle strength in elderly and reduced falls. The bisphosphonates have been shown to increase Bone Mineral Density (BMD) and reduce bone turnover in postmenopausal osteoporosis. The combined agent Bisphosphonates and Alfacalcidol can be an alternative treatment. We are proposed to evaluate the effect of combinat agent Alendronate (Fosamax®) and Alfacalcidol (Alpha D³) on BMD changes in postmenopausal osteoporosis compared with Fosamax® only.

We studied 10 105 healthy women with ages between 20 and 89 years referred to our department of densitometry using Digital X-Ray Radiodensitometry – BMD (DXR-BMD). 7103 of them being in postmenopause: 830 from them presented osteoporosis (WHO criteria). Among 414 patients selected from Fosamax® - treatment 70 mg/week, 138 were under the treatment after 5 years or more. 104 women were treated with Fosamax® 70 mg/week and Alpha D³ 1 µg/daily. The mean age of osteoporotic treated women was 61.3±7.8 years. BMD by DXR was measured at each 12 months. The BMD mean changes under Fosamax® was: +3.5% after 1 year, +4.6% after 2 years, +5.4% after 3 years; +6.3% after 4 years and +7.2% after 5 years. The BMD mean changes at the patients treated with Fosamax® and Alpha D³ was: +3.8% in the 1 year; +5.8% after 2 years; +6.7% after 3 years; +7.4% after 4 years and +8.5% after 5 years. Three patients (2.1%) suffered a fracture under Fosamax®. We conclude that BMD changed under the both treatments. The combined – treatment Fosamax® + Alpha D³ increased BMD significantly more than Fosamax® only. DXR-BMD is a good method for diagnosis and monitoring osteoporosis therapy.

P257
Primary hyperparathyroidism surgery: team report 2002–2008
Miguel Allen, Ana Rafael, Carlos Xiré, Luis Fernandes & Joaquim Torrinha Hospital de Egas Moniz, Lisboa, Portugal.

Introduction
Single adenoma is the most frequent cause of Primary hyperparathyroidism (HPT1). Surgical excision has a high success rate, particularly when associated with a fast intraoperative intact parathyroid hormone assay (ITH). Aim
Evaluate the success rate of primary hyperparathyroidism surgery in our unit. Methods
Descriptive study of the last 33 consecutive HPT1 patients who undertook surgery, 27 of which withPTH. The PTHI assays were performed at 10, 15 and 30 min after adenoma excision. Mean age was 57.56±14 years. Results
The sensitivity of the localization exams was >75%. Minicrilectomy was the preferred surgical approach, and was associated with a >50% decrease in the PTHi intra-operatotria at 10 min in all patients. No surgical complications were subsequently observed (mean follow-up 13 months, range 3–48). On average, calcium levels decreased from 10.9±0.8 (range 9.2–13) pre-surgery to 9.2±0.5 (range 8.5–10) mg/dl at the last follow-up appointment. Similarly, PTH decreased from 203±131.2 (range 89.4–754) to 53.3±50 (123–151) pg/ml. Symptoms improved in all patients. Conclusions
Pre-surgery localization exams increased the number of unilateral and mini-invasive explorations, making this the preferred surgical approach. Intraoperative PTHs played a crucial role in the success rate of the approach by decreasing the operative time and the post-operative hypercalcaemia.

P258
Growth hormone secretory status and bone mineral content in postmenopausal women
 Akbar Aliavazadeh, Majid Moubassery & Mehrnoosh Moubasseri Tabriz University (Medical Sciences), Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Background
Although the decline in sex steroid levels, particularly estradiol, may be largely responsible for age-related bone loss and osteoporotic fractures in older women, the insulin-like growth factor (IGF) system may also play a key role. This study aimed at evaluating the relationship between the secretory status of growth hormone (GH) with the bone mineral content (BMC) in postmenopausal women. Methods and materials
In a descriptive cross-sectional study, 150 postmenopausal healthy women out of 1328 patients referred to Tabriz Sina Hospital for bone densitometry were selected. They were a matched population of normal, osteopenic and osteoporotic subjects. The GH response to provocation by clomidone was assessed in all patients. The radioimmunoassay (RIA) employed to measure the serum level of the GH Bone Mineral Content was measured DEXA using LUNAR version DPQ-MD apparatus. The correlation between basal and stimulated GH and BMCs of femoral and lumbar bones were studied.

Results
One hundred and fifty patients with a mean age of 65.6 ± 2.6 years were enrolled in this study. The correlation coefficient of BMC of total lumbar area with basal GH, GH 60 and 90 min were —0.04, —0.06 and 0.04 respectively. The correlation coefficient of BMC of total femoral area with basal GH, GH 60 and 90 min were —0.07, —0.08 and —0.09 respectively. None of the correlations were statistically significant (all Ps were > 0.05).

Conclusion
Based on this study results we cannot show any correlation between BMC of evaluated skeletal areas and secretory pattern of GH in a population of postmenopausal women composed of osteoporotic, osteopenic and normal subjects.

P259
Vitamin D status in healthy postmenopausal Iranian women
Mitra Niafar, Naser Aghamohammadzade, & Majid Mobasseri
Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran.

There have been few epidemiologic studies on vitamin D status in postmenopausal women of Middle East countries. The purpose of this study was to investigate the 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels in postmenopausal women of Iran. By using the records of the local household registry, a sample of 300 subjects was drawn by simple random sampling. Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels were determined with full automated chemi-luminescent immunoassay. In addition, the study included survey questions regarding age, body weight and height, occupation, use of skin protection, clinical and reproductive histories.

Means of age and duration of menopause were 63.4 ± 4.64 and 16.7 ± 2.6 15 years, respectively.
The mean concentrations of 25-hydroxyvitamin D were 23.75 ± 24.06 ng/ml.
Hypovitaminosis D (25(OH) D < 10 ng/ml) affected 38.3% of our population.
These findings indicate that 25(OH) D levels in postmenopausal women of Iran are low.

Studies to elucidate and assess the dietary intake of vitamin D in Iranian women can be of further benefit.

P260
Could neonatal hypocalcaemia have a cultural origin?
Elke Mueller, Klara Niethammer, Gudrun Schmidel & Carl-Joachim Partsch
Klinikum Esslingen, Klinik fuer Kinder und Jugendliche, Esslingen, Germany.

Introduction
A newborn baby boy of a family of Asian origin with an uncommon, but logical diagnosis.
Case
Of 8 days old, term baby boy. Normal pregnancy, spontaneous delivery, uncomplicated postnatal period. On day 5, jerking movements of the whole body, Fully breastfed, not feeding well lately. Medical and neurological clinical examination normal. Tonic-clonic epileptic fit during the 1 h of admission.

Blood results: Calcium 1.48 mmol/L, phosphate 3.52 mmol/L, magnesium 0.57 mmol/L, alkaline phosphatase 301 U/L.

EEG: During the EEG left sided focal fit with cyanosis; rhythm 3/6 spike-waves predominantly central with movements to the right side. Inter-ictal EEG normal.

EEG-monitoring: Series of rhythmic spike waves, lasting 1–3 min up to 10 times/h with bilateral focal fits.

Therapy: IV Calcium gluconate and magnesium. Convulsions stopped after the calcium level normalised.

Usual differentials were excluded. Observation of the mother revealed the likely diagnosis as she is of Asian origin and wears a full facial veil for religious reasons. Further blood results: Parathyroid hormone 28 ng/l (normal 12–45 ng/l), 25-hydroxy-vitamin D 1.0 ng/l (normal 20–70 ng/l).

Mother’s blood results: Calcium 2.19 mmol/L, Phosphate 4.2 mg/dl and alkaline phosphatase 173 U/L (all normal), 25-hydroxy-vitamin D < 1.0 μg/l and Parathyroid hormone 61 ng/l (normal 12–45 ng/l).

Diagnosis
Congenital vitamin D deficiency with hypocalcaemic convulsions in a child born to a mother with vitamin D deficiency and secondary hyperparathyroidism.

Discussion
Vitamin D deficiency in pregnant and lactating veiled immigrants is usually precipitated by the lack of sunlight due to religious dress codes. Newborns of veiled mothers do have significant lower vitamin D levels e.g. 10.4 μg/l (25 nmol/l) than newborns of unvelied mothers: 63 vs 15.8%.

Pregnant women with poor exposure to sunlight should have a good vitamin D-substitution. Newborns of veiled mothers should be examined and treated for vitamin D deficiency as soon as possible.

P261
Bone mineral density and bone metabolism in hemodialysis patients. correlation withPTH, 25(OH)D and leptin
Antonis Polymertos1, Helen Karga2 & Euripis Grapas2
1Second Department of Endocrinology, Alexandria Hospital, Athens, Greece; 2Renal Unit, Alexandria Hospital, Athens, Greece.

Background
Bone metabolism is affected in haemodialysed patients (HD) and PTH plays central role. Additionally leptin which is increased in renal failure may be linked with bone metabolism. We investigated the BMD and bone metabolism in comparison with serum PTH, 25(OH)D3 and leptin in HD patients.

Methods
We measured in 37 HD patients bone alkaline phosphatase (bALP), NTx, PTH, 25OHD3 and leptin. We evaluated BMI and BMD in lumbar spine (LS) and in femoral neck (FN) by DEXA. Correlation coefficients were calculated by simple regression analysis.

Results
1. Osteoporosis had 32.1% in LS and 50% in FN and osteoporosis had 14.3 and 21.4% respectively. LS or FN Z score had no correlation with HD duration.
2. Bone markers, PTH, phosphorus and leptin were increased.
3. 25(OH)D3 was low and had no correlation with NTx, bALP or PTH.
4. PTH correlated with bone markers and Z score in LS and FN.
5. Leptin as expected, was strongly correlated with BMI. In contrast leptin had no correlation with bone markers or Z score.

In haemodialysed patients bone metabolism is increased in relation with the increased PTH resulting to low bone density which is independent of high serum leptin or 25OHD3 deficiency. Additionally the duration of hemodialysis does not seem to affect bone density.

P262
Thyrotoxicosis presenting as severe life-threatening hypocalcaemia – a case report
Vooi-Lee Loh, Edney Boston-Griffiths, Andrew Rodin & Steve Hyer
St Helier Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey, UK.

Introduction
Hypocalcaemia is a rare presentation of thyrotoxicosis. We describe a patient with severe life-threatening hypocalcaemia and suggest pathogenic mechanisms.

Case report
A 66-year old lady with long-standing insulin-treated type 2 diabetes presented acutely with generalised weakness and a collapse at home. Prior to admission, she had been treated for an infected neuro-osteoclastic plantar ulcer with broad-spectrum antibiotics. She had developed nausea and diarrhoea during the week before admission. She had chronic kidney disease (stage 4) with an eGFR of 25 ml/min. In the past she had undergone partial thyroidectomy for nodular goitre. There was also a history of hypertension and BID. On examination, T 34.1 °C, Trousseau sign +ve, Chvostek +ve, BP 90/60. Investigations: HB 10.2 g/dl, WCC 11.6 x 10^9/l, urea 39.6 mmol/l, creatinine 260 mmol/l, eGFR 15 ml/min, CK 720 rising to 3406 U/l after 2 days, calcium 0.85 mmol/l, corrected calcium 0.90 mmol/l, albumin 33 g/l, phosphate 2.78 mmol/l, alkaline phosphatase 141 U/l, parathyroid hormone 61.3 pmol/l (NR 1.5–7.5), Vitamin D 24 nmol/l, FT3 43.8 pmol/l, TSH <0.05 U/l. She received intravenous saline, intravenous calcium 2 g/dl for 72 hr. oral Vitamin D and calcium supplements, and carbamazepine 20 mg daily. By the time of discharge her renal function had returned to pre-morbid levels and she was eucalcaemic on oral Vitamin D with planned radio-iodine therapy for her toxic remnant goitre.

Discussion
The cause of this lady’s profound hypocalcaemia is likely to be multi-factorial. We postulate that impaired phosphate excretion as a result of her worsening renal function combined with a high phosphate load from thiazide diuretics secondary to her fall and to thyrotoxic myopathy, led to hyperphosphataemia. This in turn, resulted in hypocalcaemia by precipitating calcium and inhibiting parathyroid hormone-mediated bone resorption. Clinicians need to be aware of hyperthyroidism as a rare but treatable cause of severe hypocalcaemia.

P263
Bone resorption and antiresorptive effect of bisphosphonates related to homeostyneaema
Tijana Icin1, Branka Kovacev-Zavisic1, Milica Medic-Stepanoska1, Velibor Cgabenj1
1Clinic of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, Clinical Centre of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia; 2Centre of Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Centre of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia.

Introduction
Some recent data indicates that high levels of homeostynea (Hcy) can be independent risk factor for osteoporosis and fractures in elderly. There are few explanations how homeostynea influence bone resorption and probably modify effect of therapy for osteoporosis. 1. Hcy interferes with collagen cross-linking
2. High levels of Hcy specially stimulate resorptive activity of osteoclasts in vitro.
3. Hcy interfere bisphosphonates binding to hydroxyapatite.

The aim
To investigate is there a connection between levels of homeostynea and changes in levels of osteocalcin, β-crosslaps and ionized calcium during the therapy.

Materials and methods
We examined 40 women’s with diagnosed osteoporosis (DXA of lumbar spine or hip: T score or X-ray of the spine). All patients use alendronate 10 mg per day with 500 mg of calcium and 0.25 µg of activated vitamin D. Levels of homeostynea, osteocalcin (OC), β-crosslaps (CL) and ionized calcium were measured on baseline and after 6-8 weeks during the therapy. Results were linearly correlated.

Results
There was no significant correlation between baseline levels of homeostynea and osteocalcin (r = −0.1618, r = 1.01, P > 0.05) and β-crosslaps (r = −0.0199, r = 0.123, P > 0.05) before therapy. There was no correlation between levels of homeostynea with change in levels of β-crosslaps and osteocalcin during the therapy (CL: r = 0.0373, r = 0.3696, P > 0.05, OC: r = −0.1126, r = 0.55526, P > 0.05). Homeostynea levels before therapy are slightly negatively correlated with levels of ionized calcium before therapy. (y = −0.306, r = 0.1982, P > 0.05, P < 0.1).

Conclusions
In this preliminary study, there was no significant correlation between levels of homeostynea and biochemical bone markers before and during the antiresorptive treatment with alendronate. Although there is a suggestion for further investigations with more patients included.

Conclusions
BMD stays as the most powerful predictor of osteoporotic fractures, but it should be combined with clinical risk factors in order to improve the strategy of diagnosis. The presence of certain described risk factors is sufficient for recommending bone densitometry in individual cases.

P265
Lipid levels before and after radical treatment of primary hyperparathyroidism
Aleksandra Kendricke, Dragan Micic, Goran Cevijovic, Svetlana Zoric, Mirjana Sumarac-Dumanovic & Danica Stamenkovic-Pejkovic
Institute of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Diseases of Metabolism, Belgrade, Serbia.

Objective
It was previously shown that patients with primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) have hyperlipidaemia. The aim of our study was to evaluate the effect of surgical treatment on lipid levels in patients with PHPT.

Material and methods
In 26 patients with PHPT (age: 57.15 ± 9.54 years, BMI: 26.00 ± 4.55 kg/m², PTH: 276.61 ± 64.83 ng/ml, Calcium: 2.95 ± 0.19 mmol/l) Total cholesterol (TC), HDL-C, LDL-C, triglyceride (TG), ApoA1, ApoA2, ApoB, ApoL (Lp(a) levels were determined before and after surgical treatment. Paired t-test and Wilcoxon test were used for statistical analysis, as well Pearson correlation test. Statistical analysis. Results
After operation PTH (51.47 ± 8.57 ng/l) and serum calcium (2.33 ± 0.12 mmol/l) were normalized. there was no change in BMI index before and after operation (26.00 ± 4.55 vs 26.36 ± 4.33 kg/m², P > 0.05). There was increase in ApoL levels (46.20 ± 11.46 vs 57.49 ± 13.86, P < 0.05) after operation. There was no change in TC (0.02 ± 1.33 vs 6.00 ± 1.11 mmol/l, P > 0.05), HDL-C (1.26 ± 0.32 vs 1.28 ± 0.30, P > 0.05), LDL-C (3.64 ± 0.27 vs 3.94 ± 1.01, P > 0.05), TG (1.78 ± 0.76 vs 2.04 ± 0.97, P > 0.05), ApoA1 (1.637 ± 0.305 vs 1.627 ± 0.302, P > 0.05), ApoB (1.165 ± 0.276 vs 1.145 ± 0.325), Apo A2 (288.57 ± 56.42 vs 305.08; 52.56, P > 0.05) and Lp(a) (0.19 ± 0.05 vs 0.16 ± 0.04, P > 0.05) after operation. There was significant correlation between PTH and Lp(a) levels (r = 0.534, P < 0.05). CONCLUSION, radical treatment did not improve dyslipidaemia in our group of patients with PHPT.

P264
A simple method for osteoporotic fracture risk assessment in women of all ages, using computed clinical and densitometrical data
George Dorin Pop, Stefan Petcu, Paul Lazar, Marius Mihaila & Ileana Duncea
University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca, Cluj, Romania.

Introduction
The combined influence of risk factors on osteoporosis being known, the problem whether it is correctly identified and quantified arises, aiming to the improvement of populational screening. The correct judgment related to osteoporotic pathology refers to fracture risk assessment.

Materials and methods
We investigated 2149 women aged 20–91, without treatment for osteoporosis, for anthropometric, anamnestic and bone densitometry features. Relations between fracture history, clinical factors, anamnestic, bone mineral density (BMD) at different sites, were computed using bivariate analysis (chi-square or ROC curve method) and stepwise logistic regression, in order to assess the probability of clinical osteoporotic fracture.

Results
Of 271 women had a history of frailty fractures, mostly nonvertebral. They are statistically negatively associated to lumbar spine BMD, total femur, femoral neck, whole body and distal radius BMD; also, there are associations to numerous clinical factors. We retained, as independent predictors, function of the site taken into the logistic equation: fractures in first-degree relatives, renal lithiasis, age, body height and weight. We computed the probability of existing clinical osteoporotic fractures and drawn risk maps for each densitometric region of interest. These maps can be used as quick screening methods.

Discussion
Describing fracture risk groups, even in nonosteoporotic patients, by the means of a tool like the fracture risk map, adapted to regional populational features, is a step towards improving therapeutic protocols in osteoporosis.

Background
There is increasing body of evidence suggesting for low vitamin D levels in humans. The levels of vitamin D in nonselect populations of Europe, Middle East, Asia and Latin America had been repeatedly shown to be as low as 20-30 µg/l.

Aim
The aim of our study was to examine serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25-(OH)D) levels in young healthy premenopausal females in Slovakia

P266
Vitamin D levels in young healthy premenopausal females in Slovakia
P Vanam1, Z Klinger2, P Masaryk3, S Tomkova3, Z Kmeceva3, V Spisovat1, A Scetova1 & J Payer2
1Osteocentre, National Institute of Endocrinology and Diabetology, Lubochna, Slovakia; 2 5th Clinic of Internal Medicine, Faculty Hospital of Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia; 3 National Institute of Rheumatic Diseases, Piešťany, Slovakia; 4Osteocentre, Kosice, Slovakia; 5Osteocentre, FD Roosevelt Faculty Hospital, Banska Bystrica, Slovakia; 6 Clinic of Pharmacotherapy, Slovak Medical University, Bratislava, Slovakia; 7 Department of Laboratory Medicine, Medipex, Bratislava, Slovakia.

The aim of our study was to examine serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25-(OH)D) levels in young healthy premenopausal women in Slovak population.

Subjects and methods
The participants (n = 162, mean age 30.40 years), regularly cycling, fertile females with normal BMD and no risk factors of osteoporosis were recruited in six centres. The blood procedures were performed during one month (October 2007), after highest exposure to sunlight in our region. Serum 25-(OH)D levels were measured by HPLC method (Shimadzu, Chromsystem).

Results
The mean 25-(OH)D levels were 32.6 µg/l (min. 6.7 µg/l, max. 69.5 µg/l). In females at the age of 25–40 years, tendency to decrease of 25-(OH)D levels with increasing age was observed. Up to 80 (49.4%) subjects had their 25-(OH)D levels lower than 30 µg/l, the level generally accepted as the lower limit of normal for 25-(OH)D.

Conclusions
In conclusion, the prevalence of low 25-(OH)D concentration in healthy young female in Slovakia is very high and general vitamin D supplementation in our population should be considered.
Clinical case reports and clinical reports

P267

Graves’ disease accompanied by pheochromocytoma presenting with normal levels of catecholamines: report of a case
Sang-Yong Kim & Hak-Yeon Bae
Chosun University, Gwang-Ju, Republic of Korea.

We present a rare case of Graves’ disease accompanied by pheochromocytoma, which showed normal urine and serum levels of catecholamines and their metabolites. A 45-year-old woman was referred to our hospital for the evaluation of a right adrenal incidentaloma detected by computed tomography. She was diagnosed with Graves disease at 6 months ago. Initially she got an antihypertrophy medication include methimazole, but her thyroid function could not control easily. So, radioactive iodine therapy was performed then her thyroid function returned normal values. She had no symptoms of pheochromocytoma such as hypertension or a history of hypertension attack. Two consecutive 24-hour urine samples were sent for measurement of catecholamines, both of which showed normal levels of free cortisol, metanephrine, VMA, epinephrine and norepinephrine. After right adrenalectomy was performed, the final pathological diagnosis was adrenal pheochromocytoma. This case suggests that the Graves’ disease may be associated with excess catecholamine secretion by pheochromocytoma. In addition, although the conventional method for detecting pheochromocytoma is to identify an increase in urine catecholamines, physicians should be aware of the possibility of false negativity.

P268

Toxic liver damage after antithyroid drugs – 2 cases. The role of 131-I in treatment
Renata Orlowska-Florek & Marek Grzywa
Department of Internal Medicine, Rzeszow, Poland.

Antithyroid drugs frequently used in management of hyperthyroidism may lead to liver damage. Hepatotoxicity is a rare but potentially fatal complication. The aim of this study was to present two cases of severe liver damage and the role of 131-I in treatment in such cases.

Case 1
A women 49 years of age with Graves hyperthyroidism was treated with methimazol (30 mg next 10 mg). After 1 month the urciatral skin rash was observed and the drug was changed to PTU 100 mg/day. After 6 weeks, the patient developed cholestatic jaundice. Lab tests: total bilirubin 17.8 (N 0.3–1.1 mg/dl) GOT 31 IU/L (N 1–37 IU/L) GPT 421 (N 1–40 IU/L) AP 394 (N 30–123 IU/L) GGTP 97 (N 9–37 IU/L). Toxicological and immunological labs were negative. The tests showed that she had suffered from viral hepatitis A and B. Despite of drug discontinuation the increase of total bilirubin was observed during 2 weeks. The treatment with glucocorticoids was ineffective. The recovery started after introduction of urosodesoxycholic acid. 7.7 mcg 131-I was administered at 30 day of hospitalization. Normalization of liver and thyroid parameters was observed after 12 weeks.

Case 2
A women 49 years of age with Graves disease was treated with methimazol (15 mg next 10 mg). After 3 months of treatment jaundice was observed and the drug was changed to PTU. The worsening of jaundice was observed. At admission to our hospital lab tests: total bilirubin 35.3 mg/dl, GOT 47 IU/L, GPT 82 IU/L. The viral and immunologic labs were negative. The treatment with glucocorticoids and urosodesoxycholic acid was ineffective. 13.1-I was administered at 16 day of hospitalization. Normalization of liver and thyroid parameters was observed after 12 weeks.

Conclusions
The liver dysfunction can progress even after discontinuation of the drug. We should not change the antithyroid drug when the liver damage is observed. In our observation there was no improvement after glucocorticoids. In 1 case, we observed improvement after urosodesoxycholic acid. The best treatment of thyrotoxicosis in such cases is the 131-I therapy.

P269

Lymphocytic hypophysitis case who developed empty sella to follow up
Sebila Dokmetas1,2,3, Fatih Kilici2,3,4, Meryem Timucin1,2,3,4 & Fettah Acibacak3,4
1Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Cukurova University, Sivas, Turkey; 2Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Cukurova University, Sivas, Turkey; 3Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cukurova University, Sivas, Turkey; 4Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cukurova University, Sivas, Turkey.

Lymphocytic hypophysitis (LH), an uncommon pituitary disorder that is considered an autoimmune disease. The disease shows a striking female predilection of ~9:1 and commonly affects young women during late pregnancy or in the postpartum period. Less frequently, it has also been observed in men and postmenopausal woman. Partial or total hypopituitarism can be in LH. In the early stage, the pituitary gland is enlarged like a pituitary tumor, from which it cannot be distinguished on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanning. Spontaneous resolution of both the mass and the hypopituitarism may be possible. In the later stages, the gland may atrophy, leaving an empty sella, as occurs in Sheehan’s syndrome. A 53-year-old postmenopausal woman had image mimic adenoma on pituitary MRI and total pituitary insufficiency. Biopsy was offered the patient but she declined this procedure. Total pituitary deficiency was observed in dynamic tests of patient and l-thyroxin 100 mg/d and prednisoloin 5 mg/d was started. She stopped treatment herself after 2 months. She did not come to control for 5 years. Five years later, in dynamic tests of patient was observed that there is a recovery for hypocortisolemia without treatment and MRI imaging adenoma was disappeared and empty sella has developed.

P270

Liver manifestation of poorly controlled Type 1 diabetes mellitus: hepatic glycogenosis
Serkan Yener1, Erdener Ozer1, Ozlem Yuce1, Firat Bayraktar1 & Sena Yesil1
1Division of Endocrinology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey; 2Department of Pathology, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

We report an 18 years old female with hepatomegaly and elevated liver function tests. She had been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes mellitus when she was 13 years old. She was referred to our division because of diabetic ketoadipos. Evaluation of her previous records revealed the presence of liver function abnormalities for 4 months. At physical examination she had an enlarged liver. ALC level was 13%. She was treated initially with intravenous insulin. Following the achievement of acceptable plasma glucose levels, negative urinary ketone bodies and normal bicarbonate levels, insulin detemir and insulin aspart were suggested. Ultrasonography revealed the presence of hepatomegaly with 200 mm longitudinal axis. Viral hepatitis markers including hepatitis B, hepatitis C and CMV, ANA and AMA were negative. Serum alpha-1 AT, ceruloplasmin, copper, iron and ferritin levels were in normal ranges. Liver biopsy revealed glycogen deposition that was consistent with hepatic glycogenosis. Subsequent to the achievement of glycemic control, liver enzymes started to decline and 50% reduction was achieved in ALT in 1 week. Hepatic glycogenosis is associated with poor metabolic control and high amount of insulin that is required to maintain euglycemia. Hepatic glycogenosis may resolve following glycemic control.

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Concurrent thyroid medullary, papillary carcinoma and Hashimoto thyroiditis: case report
Kamile Gul1, Didem Ozdemir Şen1, Nevzat Sedar Ugras2, Serap S Inanç1, Rehyen Eroşy3 & Bekir Cakir1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ankara Atakaş University Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of Pathology, Ankara Atakaş Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Introduction
The incidence, cell origin, histopathologic features and prognosis of papillary and medullary carcinoma are considered to be completely different. Simultaneous occurrence of medullary and papillary thyroid carcinoma in the same patient is rare. Here, we present a patient with synchronous medullary thyroid carcinoma and papillary microcarcinoma occurring in a thyroid with chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis.

Case
A 47 years old woman with no history of chronic illness and no pathologic sign except palpable nodules in thyroid applied with swelling and intermittent pain in the neck. She was euthyroid both clinically and laboratory. In thyroid ultrasonography, multiple hypoechoic nodules with microcalcifications in left lobe of thyroid were detected. Because, fine needle aspiration biopsy of the 13X10 mm nodule in superior posterior lobe was reported as suspicious for medullary carcinoma, she underwent bilateral total thyroidectomy and left radical neck dissection. In pathologic examination, in superior part of left lobe a
medullary thyroid carcinoma of 15 mm with thyroid capsule infiltration and lymphovascular invasion was found. Tumor cells were strongly positive for calcitonin, chromogranin and carcinoembryonic antigen, immunohistochemically. Additionally, there was a papillary microcarcinoma foci of 1 mm in lateral part of the same lobe. Three lymph nodes were positive for medullary carcinoma metastases also, and chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis was detected in remaining thyroid tissue. MEN was excluded with laboratory and imaging studies. Postoperative serum calcitonin was <2 pg/ml. She was treated with radioactive iodine.

Conclusion
It is still not obvious whether coexistence of medullary carcinoma and papillary carcinoma in thyroid is just incidental or due to a common stem cell or genetic alteration. Also, role of lymphocytic infiltration in this coexistence remains unidentified. Further investigations and genetic analyses are needed to explain the pathogenesis of simultaneous lymphocytic thyroiditis and papillary and medullary carcinoma in the same thyroid.

P272
The study of an immunohistochemical aggressivity marker in mammary carcinomas
Muresan Anca Maria, Lazar Elena, Dema Alis, Faur Alexandra, Cornea Remus, Herman Diana, Sucu Cristian & Sargan Izabela
University of Medicina and Pharmacy, Timisoara/Timis/Romania, Romania.

Introduction
The mammary cancer is the most frequent malignant tumor encountered in females, characterized by a high distant metastasis tendency. Among the potential prognostic factors, we mention the biomarkers that measure or are associated with biologic processes involved in the tumorous progression. The study analyzes the p53 protein’s positivity in correlation with the mammary cancer’s classical prognosis factors: the histologic type, the histopathologic degree, the clinical stage and the status of the axial lymphonodules.

Purpose
The immunohistochemical evaluation (IHC) of an aggressivity marker in mammary cancer.

Methods
Using the immunohistochemical method of ABC Elite avidin-biotin complex staining and the p53 human anti-protein mouse monoclonal antibody, the DO 7 clone (1:500 dilution) on tissue sections fixed in 10% formaldehyde and included in paraffin, we have obtained a red staining of the tumorous cells’ nuclei.

Results
Out of 40 mammary carcinomas where we have immunohistochemically determined the p53 protein, we have assessed that 29 of them proved to be negative, six had a moderate staining and five had an intense staining. Several studies estimate that the over-expression of the p53 protein is comprised between 25 and 50% of the cases.

The p53 immunoreactivity was more frequently encountered in pre-menopausal women and in invaded axial lymphonodules tumors. We remarked a strong connection between the p53 over-expression and the studied tumors’ grading.

Conclusions
The results of the p53 staining present some variations, depending on the laboratories where the research has taken place (between 21.5 and 52% with different antibodies and on a different number of cases). In the studied cases, the percentage of p53 positive cells was of 27.5%. The p53 protein over-expression can be useful in establishing the mammary carcinomas prognosis, only if it is analyzed in connection with other factors, thus improving the information provided by them; therefore it contributes to the identification of the patients with an increased risk of disease progression.

P274
Hypopituitarism revealed after repetitive hyponatremia as complication of hemorrhagic fever
Matej Zavzsnik & Tanja Kok
University Clinical Center Maribor, Maribor, Slovenia.

Six years after hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) 73 years old man was admitted in hospital because of hyponatremia (Na 129 mmol/l) and abdominal pain. Before HFRS he was treated for pancreatitis, hypertension, ulcerative colitis and gallstones. In the year 2002 he was admitted with fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache and blurred vision. Serologic immunofluorescence testing was positive for Hantaan (Puumala) virus. During the hospital course haemodilatation was necessary and disseminated intravascular coagulation was present. Despite renal recovery he described loss of appetite and weight, tiredness, occasional constipation, bradycardia and cold intolerance. Slowly he lost libido and axillary hair. In 6 years he was eight times hospitalized. Urethral stricture and scierosis coli vescice urinariae was operated (2002, 2004). Blooded in stool with diarrhoea, later he was treated for constipation. Because of syncope and bradycardia was implanted pace maker. In the year 2005 he was again on infection dep. With disorientation, fever, prostration and hypotension. Virus pneumonia was suspected. He prepared himself for colonscopy and was admitted in hospital in the year 2006 because of hypoglycaemia (glucose 2.2 mmol/l) and hyponatraemia. Two days after discharged he was admitted in neurological dep. because of vertigo and diplopia. In four of this eight hospitalisation patient was hyponatremic (lowest value 125 mmol/l) what was corrected during hospital treatment.

On last hospitalisation endocrine functions was examined. Hypothyrosis (TSH 0.297 mIU/L, FT4 6.68, FT3 < 0.4 pmol/l), adrenal insufficiency (moming cortisol < 20, short ACTH stimulation test: cortisol 53 l121 mmol/l) and hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (FSH 0.5, LH < 0.1 ml/um, testosterone 0.4 nmol/l) were found out. Prolactin level was low-normal. Brain computer tomography was normal. Hypopituitarism was established and replacement therapy was begun. Hypopituitarism is rarely considered after HFRS. We should suspect it, even after many years.

P275
Paget’s disease of sacrum: a case report
Goknar Yorulmaz1, Aysem Acalin2 & Baru Sensoy Sorbetci2
1Department of Endocrinology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey; 2Department of Radiology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey.

Background
Paget’s disease may affect as many as 3% of adults older than 40 years of age; it is often asymptomatic and usually progresses slowly. Paget’s disease involves men

and women almost equally, but men tend to be more symptomatic. The disease is usually not clinically apparent until age 50–60 years. It usually progresses slowly and does not develop in new sites. Many different bones can be affected, and the lesions can vary from single, monostotic lesions to involvement of almost the entire skeleton. The pelvis, femur, spine, skull, and tibia are most commonly involved, whereas hands and feet are rarely affected. Paget’s disease of sacrum is rare. A monostotic lesion in the sacrum is reported.

Introduction

A 58 years old man was referred to us for diabetes mellitus treatment. The routine chemistry screen showed an elevated serum alkaline phosphatase concentration. Serum Ca and P levels were normal. Thyroid hormones showed normal values. PTH level has elevated and 1.25 (OH)2D3 level has decreased. The urinary deoxysipirdinium level was elevated to 7.8 nmol/dl and serum osteocalcin was 3.4 in normal range. A history of low back pain was noticed. A plain X-ray and MRI scan of pelvis reported a paget disease located at sacrum.

Bone scintigraphy demonstrated strong accumulation of 99mTc on the sacrum. With the diagnosis of monostotic Paget’s disease of sacrum, treatment with bisphosphonate was started.

Conclusion

This case was unusual in term of clinical presentation and location.

P276

Possible effects of IGF-1 and IGF-3 in the development of growth failure, type 2 diabetes mellitus and severe insulin resistance in a case of Seckel syndrome

Nur Kebapçi1, Kevser Onbası1, Göknum Yusufali2, Belgin Efe1 & İkmet Büke1

1Department of Endocrinology, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey; 2Department of Ophthalmology, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey.

Seckel syndrome (SS) is described as the prototype of the primordial bird-headed type of dwarfism (Seckel 1960). It represents a spectrum of multisystem abnormalities. We present a case of SS and discuss the possible effects of IGF-1 and IGF-3 in the development of growth failure, type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (DM) and severe insulin resistance (IR).

Case

A 21-year-old female was referred to our clinic because of growth retardation and anemia. At birth, she was small for gestational age, she walked at the age of 7 years.

She was anemic during infancy at 18-year-old. Physical examination: BP 120/80 mmHg, central obesity (15 kg, 94 cm, BMI 17 kg/m², W/H 1.3), microcephaly, bird-headed appearance, mental retardation, acanthosis nigricans (AN). Ophthalmoscopy: non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy. Biochemical analyses: FPG: 332 mg/dl, TG: 1046 mg/dl, T-C: 270 mg/dl, HDL-C: 22 mg/dl, elevated liver function test, HOMA-IR index: 17.7, microalbuminuria: 137 mg/dl, CCR 142 ml/min. GH, IGF-1, cortisol levels were normal. IGF-3 and LH levels were elevated. Insulin tolerance test showed markedly increased GH and cortisol levels. Her bone age was higher than 18. Pelvic US: multiple anechoic cysts in ovaries and markedly increased endometrium thickness. She was diagnosed as SS with early onset type 2 DM and severe IR. To our knowledge, DM is not common in SS, only 3 cases of early onset of type 2 DM with progressive ataxia were reported by Bangstad in 1988. Insulin resistance is an important etiologic factor in the pathogenesis of DM, however, more important factor in our case is that IGF-1 resistance leading to both growth failure and IR. Despite sufficient GH, normal IGF-1 and elevated IGFBP3, the growth failure implicated an IGF-1 resistance. Moreover, AN in IR results from increased bioavailability of IGF-1. Finally, IR constitutes an important risk for an increased risk for CVD and endometrium ca in her life.

P277

Polyuria as a main feature of parathyroid crisis due to parathyroid glands hyperplasia

Oleg Bogatyrnov, Richard Puthimovich & Irina Kotova

Moscow Regional Research Clinical Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Aim

To present a case of severe primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) manifested predominantly with polyuria.

P278

Cushing syndrome caused by topical corticosteroids coexistent with pituitary incidentaloma – case report

Monika Karaczewska-Kępczewska, Agnieszka Adamska, Irina Kowalska & Maria Görka

Department of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Internal Medicine, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland.

Iatrogenic Cushing syndrome caused by the use of steroid medications is common because of the widespread use of these medications for the treatment of many diseases, however development of Cushing syndrome from the topical corticosteroids is very rare in adults. A 45-year-old man (BMI: 44 kg/m²), with a history of psoriasis, developed manifestations of Cushing syndrome, which included weight gain, central obesity, moon face, facial plethora, buffalo hump, red-purple striae, proximal muscle weakness and hypertension. It was discovered that over the past several years the patient had been applying to his total body skin surface ointment containing steroids which was combined with the use of occlusive dressings. Laboratory studies were consistent with suppression of the hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis. Plasma and urinary cortisol levels and plasma ACTH concentration were undetectable. A computed tomography (CT) scan of the adrenal glands was normal. A pituitary magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan showed a 2 mm tumor. We diagnosed this tumor as a pituitary incidentaloma. The discontinuation of the use of topical steroids was recommended. The 15-months follow-up revealed the gradual improvement of the clinical symptoms and laboratory tests. The plasma and urinary cortisol and plasma ACTH were within the normal range.

Treatment even with topical steroids could be dangerous for patients because of development of cushingoid symptoms. We described the case of patient with iatrogenic Cushing syndrome coexistent with pituitary incidentaloma.

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Long-term follow-up of a 46XX case with congenital adrenal hyperplasia and male gender identity

Nur Kebapçi1, Belgin Efe1, Mahmut Kebapçi2, Turgut Dönmez1, Cengiz Çetin3 & İkmet Hassa2

1Department of Endocrinology, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey; 2Department of Radiology, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey; 3Department of Urology, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey.

Aim

To present a case of severe primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) manifested predominantly with polyuria.

Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) owing to 21 hydroxylase deficiency (21OHDS) is an inherited autosomal disorder characterized by diminished glucocorticoid and aldosterone biosynthesis. Partial 21OHDS leads to the classical simple virilizing form, characterized by prenatal virilization of external genitalia in female fetuses without salt wasting. Ambiguous genitalia in a genetically female infant is frequently due to CAH. The uncertainty about the sex of a newborn is often incomprehensible to most parents. Undiagnosed females can be grown as males and they are faced to multiple clinical, hormonal and metabolic abnormalities.

Case
A 33-year-old man was referred because of ambiguous genitalia. His history was unremarkable except micturition while sitting. He was married. Physical examination: He had gynoid body habitus (147 cm, 66 kg, W/H 0.78). He was bearded. He had hypoplasia and micro penis or clitoris hypertrophy. We found out that when he was 9-year-old, he was recorded in our hospital registrations as having ambiguous genitalia with female internal genitalia. The records marked a strict male gender identity by a psychosocial evaluation and refusal of therapeutic managements by his parents. After 2 years, we reevaluated the case. The karyotype was 46XX. Testosterone and 17OHP were markedly elevated. Abdominal CT showed ovaries, uterus and bilateral adrenal hyperplasia with right sided mass (30x30 mm). Biopsy was performed. Pathologic examination was consistent with adrenocortical adenoma. He/she was diagnosed as CAH due to 21OHDS. Because of his/her strict male gender identity and his marriage, his/her decision was to live as a man. Accordingly, she underwent hysterectomy, oophorectomy, clitoral phallicoplasty, and operations for labia were given glucocorticoids and androgen replacement therapy. During follow-up, 5 years later, adrenocortical adenoma was enlarged up to 8 cm. Unilateral adrenalectomy was performed. This case underlines the importance of diagnosis of CAH during infancy/childhood and lifelong follow-up which is a difficult but important task for physicians.

P280
An unusual presentation of autoimmune polyendocrine syndrome: a case report
Oguz Kaan Unal1, Sinem Kiyici2, Tunay Sentürk2, Tülay Sahin1, Mahmut Yavuz1, Murat Kiyici1 & Sazi Imanoglu1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Bursa, Turkey; 2Department of Cardiology, Bursa, Turkey; 2Department of Haematology, Bursa, Turkey.

In new classification of autoimmune polyendocrine syndromes (APS), APS-3 has defined as combination of autoimmune thyroid disease and other autoimmune disease except hypothyroidism and Addison’s disease. The present report describes a patient with APS-3 and pseudomalaporsition of levothyroxine (LT4). Twenty-three year old woman was referred to our center with hypothyroidism due to Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (HT) despite the usage of high dose LT4 treatment. HT was diagnosed firstly eight years ago and she had been treated with 125 μg/day LT4. In March 2007, thyroidopathy with bleeding was developed and she was diagnosed as idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. Subsequently, in August 2007, she was admitted to hospital with palpitation and diagnosis as silent myocardial infarction. Serum IgG anticardiolipin antibodies were found positive but no further evaluation was made at that time. In October 2007, splenectomy was performed because her thrombocytopenia was refractory to the medical treatment. After splenectomy, she was maintained complete remission but eutryroidism could not be achieved despite escalating doses of oral LT4. After referral to our center, patient characteristics, nutritional habits, drug interference, gastrointestinal diseases and the other known reasons of LT4 malabsorption were evaluated but no pathology was defined. Oral LT4 load test was performed with 400 μg of LT4 to investigate pseudomalabsorption. A peak increment of 3.8 μg/dL in serum total T4 levels was observed and pseudomalabsorption of LT4 was proven after the test. Serum IgG anticardiolipin antibody measurements were repeated and found positive. Primary antiphospholipid syndrome (PAPS) was diagnosed after evaluation of PAPS’s criteria.

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P281
Amiodarone-induced thyrotoxicosis – case report
Selma B Souto, Maria J Matos, Paula Freitas, Joana Queiros, Ángela Magalhães, Daniel Carvalho-Braga & José Luís Medina
Endocrinology Department, São João Hospital, Porto, Portugal.

Introduction
Amiodarone-induced thyrotoxicosis (AIT) is a condition fraught with difficulties from the diagnostic and therapeutic endpoints. It can be developed precociously or years after the beginning amiodarone intake and after its suspension. AIT may be subdivided in three different forms. Type 1 is developed in subjects with underlying thyroid disease, being caused by an exaggeration by iodine load of thyroid autonomous function. Type 2 is a form of destructive thyroiditis and the majority of the cases is developed in normal thyroid glands. Mixed forms of AIT may also be observed.

Case report
Man, 60 years-old, revealing history of tetany of Fallot surgically corrected and atrial fibrillation since 2005, under therapeutic with amiodarone(200 mg/day), digoxin and hypogugulation therapy since diagnosis. He was hospitalized due to a bradycardia, submitted to a pacemaker implant, suspended amiodarone therapy and started the study for future heart transplant. He re-started atrial fibrillation and amiodarone was reintroduced(400 mg/day). Six days after thyroid function test results were compatible with thyrotoxicosis(TSH=0.01 UI/mL; FT3=1.88 ng/dL; FT4=1.82 μg/dL) with negative antithyroid antibodies and TSH receptor antibodies. The colour flow Doppler sonography showed a normal thyroid gland with normal vascularity and the 24-h thyroid radioactive iodine uptake value was 19%. Results obtained from complementary clinical examinations point out evidences of AIT type 2. Nevertheless, due to the non-normalised thyroid function controlled by hidrocortisone, the patient started combination treatment with propiclitocuacil(100 mg/day) and prednisolone. This therapy was effective in reducing the serum concentration of thyroid hormones.

Discussion
The type of AIT could not be assessed in most of the reported cases.


P282
Breast metastases by medullary thyroid carcinoma: case report with an update
Elisa Moya Chimenti, Beatriz Lecumberri Santamaría, Jose Antonio Rosado Sierra, Beatriz Barquiel Alcalá, Luis Felipe Pallardo Sánchez & Cristina Alvarez Escolá
La Paz University Hospital, Madrid, Spain.

Introduction
Medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) commonly metastasizes to cervical lymph nodes, liver, lungs and bone. Metastatic lesions in the breast have been previously reported but they are extremely rare and to our knowledge, this is the first case in literature described on an male patient. We report a case of a 49-year-old man with a 23-year history of sporadic MTC with bone, liver and lung metastases treated with somatostatin analogues for 6 years, who developed a painful breast metastasis. Case report
A 49-year-old man was diagnosed in 1985 of a MTC. Total thyroidectomy was performed and from then onwards he had been followed up in our hospital for this purpose. In 1992 he received external radiotherapy for a neck mass. In 1994 he presented bone and lung metastases. In 2002 as Calcitonin levels increased (55 000 pg/ml) he started with incompcerilic diarreha. Treatment with Lanzestide was initiated and a marked control of the disease was obtained in 2004, when liver metastases appeared, he has had a stable control of the disease, until last year, when he presented painful bilateral gynecomasia and a 1 cm left breast mass on ultrasonography. Fine needle aspiration biopsy revealed a metastatic MCT. Although his disease was widely spread, because of the palp, he underwent left mastectomy. The pathologic examination of the specimen revealed metastatic MTC with positive immunologic staining for Calcitonin.

Conclusions
(1) This case illustrates a rare site for thyroid metastases and differs form other cases reported, in the patients gender. Breast metastases should be considered a diagnostic possibility in patients with MTC presenting with breast lesions.
(2) Cytological features and a positive immunocytochemistry for Calcitonin can be useful to confirm the diagnosis of metastatic MTC.
(3) Somatostatin analogues have played an important role on controlling the diarrhe and the course of our patient’s disease.
P283

Nesidioblastosis in a patient with gastrinoma
Cristina Alvarez Escolá, Elisa Moya Chimenti, Virginia Martin Borge, María García Domínguez, Susana Ayuela & Luis Felipe Pallardo Sánchez
La Paz University Hospital, Madrid, Spain.

Introduction
Islet hyperplasia and nesidioblastosis are described in the non neoplastic pancreas of patients with gastrinoma. It is not definitively established whether hypergastrinemia can influence these changes. Moreover, rarely insulinoma and gastrinoma occur in the same patient but cases of single tumors secreting both insulin and gastrin have been described. Otherwise, the syndrome of hyperinsulinemic hypoglycaemia with nesidioblastosis after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass has been previously reported and it is controversial.

Case report
We report on a 53-year-old woman suffering from multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 (MEN1) confirmed by menin gene mutation analysis. MEN1 disease started with gastrinoma followed by primary hyperparathyroidism. Gastrinoma was located in gastrinoma triangle and presented gastric implants. She underwent tumor resection and Roux-en-Y gastrojejunostomy. Of 17 months later she began with symptoms of neuroglycopenia owing to endogenous hyperinsulinemia. Suspecting multiple microinsulinomas, a subtotal pancreatectomy was performed. Histopathologic examination revealed nesidioblastosis and several microadenomas. None of them expressed gastrin nor insulin but they expressed glucagon.

Conclusions
This case illustrates a rare cause of hypoglycaemia in a patient with gastrinoma. Although different causes can produce hypoglycaemia in these patients, in our case, the possibility of it being a coexisting tumor or a tumor of nesidioblastosis secondary to hypergastrinemia is unlikely since there were no signs of persistent disease by the time hypoglycaemia started. However, it could be related to nesidioblastosis after Roux-en-Y gastric resection, as it has been reported after bariatric surgery.

P284

Common variable immune deficiency as a rare cause of osteoporosis
Kevser Onbas, Nur Kebapci & Belgin Efe
Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey.

A 27 year-old-man was admitted to our hospital with pain in the back. Bone mineral density evaluation revealed severe osteoporosis at L1-L4 vertebrae, as well as on femur. Too, secondary osteoporosis reasons like thyrotoxicosis, glucocorticoid therapy, hypercortisolemia, hypercalcemia, hyperparathyroidism were excluded. Laboratory examination of the patient revealed to a hypoglycemia. Further evaluation of the immunoglobulin levels were in concordance with hypoglycaemia. The patients vit D level was also low. The patient had been diagnosed as to having a ‘Common variable Immune Deficiency’. Common variable immunodeficiency (CVID) is characterized with B-cell and T-cell dysfunction and hypogammaglobulinemia. Recurrent bacterial infections, diminished Ig levels and impaired antibody production are frequent observed problems of CVID. The most common infections are recurrent otitis media, chronic sinusitis and recurrent pneumonia sometimes leading to bronchiectasis. Almost half of the patients experience problems in the gastrointestinal tract and these may be associated with malabsorption due to chronic diarrhea. Malabsorption may be observed among CVID patients. Our patients’ low vit D level was attributed to malabsorption. Osteoporosis at a young age especially in young men should be always extensively evaluated and accompanying hypoglycaemia maybe a clue for CVID.

P285

Treatment of metastatic medullary thyroid carcinoma with sorafenib
Philippos Kaldyrimides1, Ilgenia Kostoglou-Athanassiadou 1, Anastasios Goudovas1, Eirini Vemou1, Theodoria Bakola1, Anastasia Agelopoulou1, Dimitrios Thomas2 & Nikolaos Ziras2
1Department of Endocrinology, Metaxa Hospital, Preaus, Greece; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Metaxa Hospital, Piraeus, Greece.

Medullary thyroid carcinoma is an uncommon malignancy of hereditary and sporadic presentation. Mutations in the RET-protooncogene are involved in the pathogenesis of >50% of the sporadic cases. Currently, there is no effective treatment for metastatic medullary thyroid carcinoma. The aim was to present a case of metastatic medullary thyroid carcinoma that was treated by the administration of sorafenib, a multiple kinase inhibitor.

A patient, female aged 38 years with no family history of MEN syndrome or familial medullary thyroid cancer, presented with a diffuse enlargement of the thyroid gland. The patient underwent total thyroidectomy and left modified radical neck dissection, revealing a left lobe medullary carcinoma invading the right lobe with transcapsular extension and extensive lymph node invasion. Two years later she presented with persistent disease and underwent a radical neck dissection and neck radiotherapy. Four years later an 11C-in-octreotide scintigram performed showed signs of possible somatostatin receptor positive lung and bone metastatic disease. Four consecutive doses of 150 mCi 11C-in-octreotide were administered. Calcitonin levels were 12.851 pg/ml (normal values <13 pg/ml). Two years later she presented with extensive metastatic disease, calcitonin levels being 14 914 pg/ml. She was started on sorafenib 400 mg orally twice daily. A month later calcitonin levels were 7322 pg/ml, 2 months later being 8392 pg/ml. The patient developed a malar rash, malaise and transient diarreha. Surgical resection is the mainstay of treatment for mediullary thyroid carcinoma. However, once the carcinoma becomes unrectactable there is no effective treatment. Easily administered, active and tolerable agents, such as sorafenib, are clinically relevant when they offer disease progression or prolonged disease stabilization. Further studies are needed to examine the effect of sorafenib in metastatic medullary thyroid carcinoma.

P286

Gasser ganglion as pituitary tumor – case report
Mara Carsote1, Dan Peretani1, Adriana Gruia1, Cristina Ene1, Dan Hortopan2 & Catalina Poesan1,4
1Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania; 2SCM Povarni, Bucharest, Romania; 3Medlife Medical Centre, Bucharest, Romania; 4CI Pathon National Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania.

Introduction
The Gasser Ganglion is a large semi lunar-shaped ganglion of the trigeminal nerve. It contains the cells of origin of the most sensory fibers of the fifth cranial nerve.

Aim
Our purpose is to describe a case where Gasser ganglion has an anatomic variant (near the sella turcica), mimicking a hypophyseal tumor.

Case presentation
Of 17 years female patient has a history of bradipsiomenoterotheca (menes at 30–50 days) since the last year with no galactorexia. She associates increased serum prolactin (816 µIU/ml, with normal level below 492), and 6 months later 65.31 ng/ml (normal limit below 24). No other causes of hyperprolactinemia were detected except from a pituitary hypodense tumor of 0.6 by 0.52 cm, having a density of 41 Hounsfield Units, as revealed by computed tomography (CT). But also right retrosella it was discovered another hypodense area, on the median line, which seemed to be an evidential gasserian ganglion. The diagnosis of microprolactinoma was considered and treatment with dopamine agonists (bromocriptine 7.5 mg per day was recommended. 6 months later, the patient tried to stop the medication by her own initiative. The prolactin raised to 117.43 ng/ml (normal below 24 ng/ml). The CT scan showed mainly the same dimensions of the tumor, but a higher density (92HBU). The therapy was initiated again.

Conclusion
The anatomic disturbance of the Gasser ganglion represents a differential diagnosis for pituitary or retrostellar masses as microprolactinoma in our case.

P287

Progression of endocrine hypofunction: a case of polyglandular autoimmune syndrome type 2
Risheka Ratnasabapathy1 & Akila De Silva1
1Hillington Hospital, Northwest Thames, UK; 2Imperial College, London, UK.

A 52-year-old, previously well Indian lady was admitted in May 2008 with pneumonia. Concurrently, she was diagnosed with diabetes mellitus (blood
glucose 20 mmol/l. Her BMI was 19 kg/m² and she was initially commenced on sulphonylurea therapy. She had a further admission in July 2008 with dizzy episodes, falls, postural hypotension (systolic postural drop 75 mmHg) and erratic blood glucose levels (range 1.1–30 mmol/l). Blood ketones were 3.6 mmol/l without acidois. C-peptide (702 pmol/l) was present and islet cell antibodies were negative, but anti-GAD antibodies were positive. The diagnosis was modified to Latent Autoimmune Diabetes in Adults (LADA) and insulin was initiated. An initial short synacthen testing (SST) revealed low basal cortisol but adequate rise post synacthen. Basal ACTH and plasma renin activity were not elevated (8.3 ng/l and 1.17 mmol/l per h respectively), although adrenal antibodies were positive. Fludrocortisone therapy led to some clinical improvement. Further testing revealed subclinical hypothyroidism (free T4 14 pmol/l, thyroid stimulating hormone 13 mIU/l) with strongly positive thyroid peroxidase antibodies (>910 u/ml). She was commenced on levothyroxine. During further admissions with unrelenting dizziness and nausea, further SSTs revealed an increasingly suboptimal response to synacthen. In summary, we present a case of autoimmune polyglandular syndrome type 2 in development, characterised by autoimmune Addison’s disease in combination with autoimmune hypothyroidism and autoimmune diabetes. It is particularly interesting to observe the progression of endocrine hypofunction over time. Furthermore, we hypothesise that the absence of expected rise in plasma renin activity is due to diabetic hyperreninaemia secondary to renal juxtaglomerular glycosylation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adrenal investigations</th>
<th>July 2008</th>
<th>September 2008</th>
<th>October 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plasma rennin (ng/ml per h)</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldosterone (pmol/l)</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTH (ng/l)</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SST cortisol (nmol/l)</td>
<td>0 mins: 117</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 mins: 519</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60 mins: 681</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P288
Glucocorticoid resistance syndrome: treatment with ketoconazole, an efficient therapy solution – case report
Erika-Emoke Molnar, Cristina Ghervan, Georgeta Hazi & Ileana Duncea
University of Medicine and Pharmacy ‘Iuliu Hatageanu’, Cluj Napoca, Romania.

Background
Glucocorticoid resistance syndrome is a rare, familial or sporadic disease, caused by genetic mutations of the glucocorticoid receptor or at any other level of the signaling pathway. It is characterized by general, partial, target-tissue insensitivity to glucocorticoids, leading to activation of the hypothalamo–hypophysis–adrenal axis resulting in compensatory increased levels of cortisol, but also increased concentrations of adrenal products with mineralocorticoid and androgenic activity by stimulating the adrenal with the excessive ACTH concentration. The clinical presentation is chronic fatigue, anxiety, symptoms and signs of mineralocorticoid excess (hypertension, hyperkalaemic alkalosis) and of androgen overproduction (acne, hirsutism, infertility, precocious puberty). The usual treatment consists in administration of high doses of Dexamethasone.

Case report
We present three cases (2F, 1M, 21–28 years old) with glucocorticoid resistance syndrome. The two female patients presented severe hirsutism, menstrual irregularities and anxiety; all patients presented early-appeared hypertension and obesity. All patients had high plasma cortisol levels, normal to high ACTH levels, increased 24-hour urine excretion of steroid-metabolites (17OHC, 17CS), elevated androgen concentrations, normal circadian pattern of cortisol and resistance of HPA axis to dexamethasone suppression. All patients received treatment with ketoconazole 800 mg/day and were evaluated at 3 months, then every 6 months. All patients had a favorable clinical evolution with remission of hypertension, amelioration of hirsutism, weight-reduction and also normalized biological parameters. The male patient presented mild hepatocytolysis, as a side effect of the drug, that remitted after reducing the dose to 400 mg/day.

Conclusions
We consider that treatment with ketoconazole in glucocorticoid resistance syndrome is an efficient and safe alternative to therapy, with favorable effects on clinical and biological features of the disease.

P289
Retrosopicphageal parathyroid adenoma – scintigraphic and intra-operative scintimetric localization of an ectopic parathyroid adenoma with Tc-99m tetrofosmin: a case report
V Capova 1, J Lepej 1, J Marin 1 & M Kudlac 2
1Institute of Nuclear and Molecular Medicine, Kosice, Slovakia;
2Second Clinic of Surgery, Medical Faculty UPJS, Kosice, Slovakia.

Background
Primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) is nowadays an asymptomatic disease characterized by mild hypercalcemia and elevated parathormone (PTH) levels. PHPT is caused by parathyroid adenoma in 80–85% of patients, up to 20% are located ectopically and therefore an ultrasound investigation is not helpful. SPECT sestamibi or tetrofosmin scintigraphy of the neck and thorax is considered to be the optimal method for the evaluation of ectopic parathyroid adenoma.

Case presentation
We report a case of 62-year old female patient with history of left thyroid lobectomy in 2003 presenting with back pain. Biochemical investigations confirmed primary hyperparathyroidism with reduced bone density (T score: –1.6). Ultrasound examination was unsuccessful. Tc-tetrofosmin parathyroid scan and SPECT of the neck and thorax showed uptake of radiotracerc in retro-esophageal space. In February 2008 patient underwent primary operation without success. Biochemically significant hypercalcemia (Ca 3 mmol/l per N: 2.25–2.75 mmol/l, Ca 0.5 1.53 mmol/l per N: 0.9–1.3 mmol/l) with elevated intact PTH level (206 ng/ml per N: 9–72 ng/ml) persisted until the radioanaged neck exploration. Perioperative histological study confirmed parathyroid adenoma. Definitive histology revealed a 32 × 15 × 10 mm parathyroid adenoma. After surgery the patient was normalcalcemic with a normal intact PTH levels.

Conclusion
We report a role of preoperative scintigraphic and intraoperative scintimetric localization and confirmation of an ectopic parathyroid adenoma and their positive impact on the parathyroidectomy success.

P290
Intramuscular testosterone undecanoate – the experience of 11 years
Michael Zitzmann 1, Farid Saad 2 & Eberhard Nieschlag 1
1University Clinics, Muenster, Germany; 2Medical University, Ajman, UAE; BayerSchechterHealthCare, Berlin, Germany.

A reliable form of androgen substitution therapy in terms of favorable kinetics and tolerance as well as effective restoration of androgenicity is paramount in hypogonadal men. A feasible modality is the intramuscular injection of the long-acting ester testosterone undecanoate (TU). We report data from 183 patients (99 with primary, 70 with secondary hypogonadism and 14 with late-onset hypogonadism) aged 15–70 years (mean 37 ± 12 years) receiving altogether 2135 intramuscular injections of 1000 mg of TU during a maximal treatment time of 11 years. The medication was well tolerated and local irritation of the injection site was moderate and did not exceed a duration of 3 days. Serum trough levels of testosterone were generally within the low normal range, indicating sufficient substitution. Individual dosing intervals ranged from 10 to 14 weeks. In accordance, patients reported restoration of sexual functions and convenient changes in mood patterns, e.g. gain of vigor and loss of depressiveness. In contrast to short-acting testosterone esters, sensation of fluctuations in androgen concentrations was rarely reported. Hematocrit was significantly elevated under treatment but remained within the normal range, except for 13 measurements (maximal value 54.4%). PSA concentrations did not exceed 4.0 μg/l, except for one measurement (5.5 μg/l) in a case of later confirmed prostatitis. Bone density generally improved in all patients.

In summary, intramuscular injections of testosterone undecanoate represent a feasible, safe and well tolerated modality of androgen substitution in hypogonadal men of a wide age-range, also on the basis of more than one decade of experience.
P291
The R106C mutation of the V2 vasopressor receptor gene (AVPR2) causing X linked congenital nephrogenic diabetes insipidus is responsive to short term desmopressin challenge
Martinos Fysekið,1, Jean-Jacques Boffà2, Laurent Baud1 & Jean-Philippe Haymann1
1Tenon Hospital, Service d’ Explorations Fonctionnelles Multidisciplinaires, Paris, France; 2Tenon Hospital, Service de Néphrologie et Dialyse, Paris, France.

Background and aims
Patients with AVPR2 gene mutations present nephrogenic diabetes insipidus (NDI) resulting to a severe deficit in urine concentration despite high levels of circulating Antidiuretic Hormone (ADH). The mutation in codon 106 of the AVPR2 gene leading to the substitution of arginine by cysteine (R106C) is known to produce a mild disease while in vitro characterization revealed a complete loss of function. We report the case of a 24-year-old male member of an Algerian family with the R106C mutation. His work and social life was severely affected by a polyuria of 01 of urine per day. He presented hydro ureteronephrosis and hypotonic enlarged neurogenic bladder needing 7 to 8 intermittent characterizations on a daily basis. He was referred to our clinic for a desmoprespin (dDAVP) urine concentration test.

Materials and methods
Blood and urine samples were collected hourly for a period of 6 h. The patient received 2 dDAVP (4 µg) subcutaneous injections at +90 and +180 min. Baseline ADH values were at 27 pg/ml (Reference values: 1.9–2.1).

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plasma osmolality (mOsm/l)</th>
<th>306</th>
<th>306</th>
<th>298**</th>
<th>308</th>
<th>303</th>
<th>306</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urine osmolality (mOsm/l)</td>
<td>183*</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>288**</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free water clearance (µl/min)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.05**</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>-0.21</td>
<td>-0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secreted AMP (pmol/ml GFR)</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>2.8**</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine Clearance (ml/min/1.73m²)</td>
<td>80.3*</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td>97.8**</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>103.9</td>
<td>94.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rise in urine osmolality, the negativization of free water clearance, the rise in nephrogenic AMPs shows in vivo that the R106C mutation is responsive to dDAVP. Hence assuming a mean urine osmolality of 300 mOsm/l under dDAVP treatment the urine output could be limited to less than 3 l.

Conclusion
This case emphasizes that the R106C mutation can present with urological complications and that dDAVP test is useful to predict patient response to treatment in the case of partial NDI.

P292
Clinical analysis of 150 patients with pituitary insufficiency (20 years experience)
Cristina Preda, Letitia Leustean, Maria-Christina Ungureanu, Cristina Cristea, Voichita Mogos, Corina Galesanu, Carmen Vulpoi & Eusebie Zbranca
University of Medicine and Pharmacy gr. T. Popa, Iasi, Romania.

Background
Pituitary insufficiency is an uncommon endocrine disorder (incidence 2-4 per 100 000 per year), which clinical symptoms depend on the degree of hormone depletion and the rapidity of onset.

Aim
To determine the clinical presentation, aetiology and clinical forms in 150 patients diagnosed with pituitary insufficiency.

Material and methods
Retrospective study of clinical records of 150 patients with pituitary insufficiency diagnosed during a 20 years period. Data regarding clinical, biological and radiological work-up were recorded.

Results
Of 115 (76.6%) patients were females and 35 (23.4%) were males; clinical signs at presentation: weakness (96%), amenorrhea (53.3%), loss of pubic hair (53.3%), loss of axillary hair (50.6%), dizziness (37.3%), hypertension (14%), headache (12%), visual disturbances (10.6%); aetiology: ischaemia (47.3%), pituitary tumour (18.6%), pituitary surgery or radiation (18%), head trauma (6%), hypothalamic disorders (5.3%), idiopathic (3.3%), infections (1.3%); clinical forms: panhypopituitarism 40 subjects (26.6%), anterior pituitary insufficiency 87 subjects (58.6%), partial deficiency of anterior pituitary hormones 23 subjects (14.6%).

Conclusions
Female patients are more affected by pituitary insufficiency than male patients; most common clinical sign was weakness followed by amenorrhea and loss of pubic hair; ischaemia and pituitary tumors represented the major causes of pituitary insufficiency; major clinical form was complete deficiency of anterior pituitary hormones; anamnesis and clinical examination completed by hormonal assessment and radiological investigations are essential for an accurate diagnosis.

P293
Prevalence and peculiarity of arterial hypertension treatment in acromegaly patients
Galina Melnichenko, Abram Sjyrkin, Vyachelav Pronin, Alexey Svet, Ekaterina Chaplygina, Evgeniy Gitel & Yuriy Poteshkin
I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Occurrence of arterial hypertension (AH) in acromegaly (A) is the significant risk factor for sudden death. The study group included 232 patients with A aged 47–67 year (mean age 54). The duration of active phase of A was 7–17 years (median 11), GH levels were 23–192 ng/ml (mean 6.5), IGF-1 were 223–560 ng/ml (mean 354). AH was found in 186 patients (80.2%): 1st degree – 27%, 2nd – 32%, 3rd – 41%. Of 24-hour arterial blood pressure monitoring showed primary night increase of blood pressure (BP) in 45 patients. Mean levels of systolic and diastolic BP is strongly correlated with the duration of an active phase of A (r=0.57 and r=0.68) and GH level (r=0.51 and r=0.58) (P<0.0001). Remission in patients with an age of A onset <45 year leads to normalization of BP (P<0.005), but this was not found in patients with an onset of A >45-year-old. (P=0.24). To estimate the efficiency and safety of cardioselective beta-adrenoblockers in patients with A, we created the study group included 19 patients with an onset of disease >45-year-old (53.62-year-old) (mean age 59-year-old). All of them had high BP levels despite the remission of A and the management of antihypertensive therapy (ACE inhibitors – 95%; diuretics – 53%; dihydroprydine calcium-channel blockers – 37%). Criteria of exclusion was occurrence of coronary heart disease, heart failure, rhythm and conductivity disorders in the past. Of 13 patients received Bisoprolol and 6 patients – Nebivolol.

Result
In 52% patients treatment with beta-adrenoblockers led to severe conductivity disorders or sick sinus syndrome that is higher than prevalence of all recorded adverse reaction of Bisoprolol (11.2%).

Conclusions
Prevalence of AH in patients with A is 1.5-fold higher than in general population. The treatment of AH with beta-adrenoblockers in patients with myocardial dysfunction require caution, careful screening and ECG monitoring.

P294
The Ramadan: do Muslim diabetes patients adhere to their religion or to the doctor?
Gyven Yıldız1,2, Yeter Oztürk1,3, Marina Hertogen1, Veerle Van Vlasselaere3 & Dirk Avonts4
1University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium; 2Huisartsenpraktijk Vrijhoek, Antwerp, Belgium; 3Plantinohogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium.

Muslims with diabetes are confronted with a dilemma during the annually fasting period: the Ramadan. The Islam foresees a delay of fasting for sick people, but Muslim patients with diabetes do not feel themselves as sick people. How they cope with it?

Muslim diabetes patients are contacted in the outpatient department of three hospitals in Antwerp. Well educated students in diet education with a Muslim tradition, question the patients about their food consumption, treatment and attitudes concerning the Ramadan.

In this ongoing study 64 questionnaires are collected and analysed: 42 females and 22 men. The mean age is 55 years. The median duration of their disease is 10 years and 80% remains more than 10 years in Belgium.
P295

Adherence of internists and family physicians to SEMT guidelines for type 2 diabetes mellitus in Turkey
Ilhan Suman1, Sazi İsmagilov2, Cänder Öztemiz3, R Demet Orzaya1 & Oktay Ozdemir1
1Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Faculty of Medicine, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey; 3Faculty of Medicine, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey.

Background
Clinical practice guidelines on diabetes mellitus (DM) have been developed in 2006 by The Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism of Turkey (SEMT). The ongoing ADMIRE Project is designed to evaluate the effect of implementation of various activities to increase the awareness of physicians on the adherence to SEMT guidelines. The first phase results of the project is presented.

Methods
Of 180 physicians evaluated previous 12 months' medical records of their type 2 DM patients with special emphasis on whether the patients were followed consistently with SEMT guidelines. This report depends on the analysis of 602 visits of 1790 patients.

Results
Of 62% of patients were women, mean duration of DM 7.7 years and mean age 58.7 years. Of 60% of the patients had one or more complications within previous year. Of 96% was under pharmacotherapy (61% OAD, 15% insulin and 20% OAD + insulin). The rate of SMBG was 40% at that time, and increased to 51% by the end. Overall 30% of the patients was not in full compliance with SEMT guidelines in any visit within the previous year (DM symptoms 6%, acute 12% and chronic complications 10%, CV risk factors 6% and family history of DM 15%). In only 8% of patients, physical examination was performed in full compliance with SEMT guidelines at least once (height 48%, weight 40%, waist 74%, BP 11%, thyroid 35%, neurologic 46%, feet 35% and eye 57%). In only 18% of patients, laboratory evaluation was performed in full compliance with SEMT guidelines at least once (lipid profile 6%, creatinine 15%, microalbuminuria 72% and ECG 21%). Only 16% of patients were A1C target (≤6.5%) at first visit, this gradually increased to 23% (proportions at target at first FBG 14%, PPIB 10% and increased to 29 and 17% by the end of the year). Mean A1C decreased from 8.5% at first visit to 7.6%, FBG from 190 mg/dl to 155 mg/dl, and PPBG from 236 mg/dl to 195 mg/dl during the previous year. Proportion of patients with good glycemic control was lower in females (P=0.042), with longer duration of DM (P=0.38), and the number of chronic complications (P=0.002). Adherence to physical and laboratory recommen-
dations was associated with good glycemic control.

Comment
The level of medical care offered to patients with DM in Turkey is not sufficient. Physicians should be specifically trained to increase the level of adherence to guidelines during their clinical practice.

P297

Sustained response to interferon α in a patient with an advanced metastatic serotonin secreting endocrine tumour – case report
Joy Ardill1,2, Brian Johnston1,2, David McCance1 & Martin Eaton2
1Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, East, UK; 2Queens University Belfast, Belfast, Belfast, UK.

This 52-year-old lady presented in 2001 at a GI clinic complaining of occasional abdominal cramps, which could be severe and prolonged. Her symptoms were not associated with diarrhoea or constipation. Weight loss of 4.5 kg over 4 months was noted. Colorectal disease was excluded and a diagnosis of severe irritable bowel syndrome was made. In January 2002 she returned to the clinic with further weight loss (total 8 kg), cyclical symptoms of diarrhoea lasting 3-5 days and occasional flushing.

Neuroendocrine tumour markers were measures. Urinary 5HIAA was grossly elevated at 637 (RR<10-47), 5HT 12.05 (RR<30-1.30), pancreaticostatin (PST) >1000 ng/l (RR<50) and neurotensin (NT) >200 ng/l (RR<20). The most sensitive marker of poor prognosis was 350 ng/l (RR<20). CT and Octreotide scintigraphy showed extensive hepatic metastases with para-aortic and iliac lymphadenopathy. No primary tumour was identified. The surgical team considered hepatic disease to be inoperable.

Treatment with somatostatin analogues was commenced. Symptoms continued, urinary 5HIAA remained grossly elevated and PST and NKA continued to rise dramatically. The somatostatin analogue dose was increased on two occasions with no improvement. Interferon α, concomitant with somatostatin analogues, was commenced, 1.5 MU 3 times weekly increasing to 9 MU 3 times weekly. Within 2 months symptoms eased and this regime was continued. By 6 months symptoms had abated. Urinary 5HIAA settled around the upper limit of normal and 5HT returned within the reference range after 18 months. Circulating NKA was secured below 100 ng/l within a year and has been maintained 40-80 ng/l thereafter. Both PST and Chromogranin A have remained >10 fold reference range. Scans showed stable/reduced disease.

Due to symptoms of migrane and fatigue the dose of interferon has been reduced from time to time and the drug has been withdrawn for short periods. This has resulted in an immediate rise in NKA. Survival, post diagnosis now approaches 7 years.

P298

Primary hyperparathyroidism in the eastern black sea region of Turkey: a description of 101 cases
Cihanır Erem, Mustafa Kosacak, Arif B Hacphasansoglu, Irfan Nuhoglu, Orze Ucuncu, S Tuba Kaplan & H Onder Erozso
Endocrinology and Metabolism Department, Medical Faculty, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey.

Background
The most common etiolog of hypercalcemia is primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT). PHPT is a disorder of calcium, phosphorus and bone metabolism.
secondary to uncontrolled increased parathyroid hormone secretion. PHPT has a variable clinical expression. Symptomatic PHPT is still the predominant form of the disease in many parts of the World, especially in developing countries.

**Methods**

We summarized the clinical presentation, biochemical and radiological features, and operative findings from the case records of the last 16 (1992-2008) years including 101 patients at a tertiary care centre in the Eastern Black Sea region of Turkey who had documented PHPT.

**Results**

The female:male ratio was 4.9:1 with ages ranging from 19 to 84 years (mean±s.d., 56.0±13.54 years). Renal symptoms were the major symptoms in 61 patients (60.3%) followed by gastrointestinal symptoms in 59 patients (58.4%) and weakness/fatigue in 54 patients (53.4%). Common clinical manifestations included nocturia (40.5%), bone pain (36.8%), constipation (32.6%), polyuria (31.6%). Renal stone was present in 31 patients (30.6%). Hypertension was observed in 43 patients (42.5%). Only two patients were asymptomatic. In seven patients, serum calcium level were in normal range while serum calcium levels were higher than normal in other patients. Mean intact PTH level (±s.d.) was 461.27±553.14 ng/ml. In direct bone X-rays examination had 49 patients (48.5%) that had salt-pepper appearance of cranium, 37 patients (36.6%) had subperiosteal resorption. Multiple fractures, four patients (3.9%) had bone cysts and Brown tumor and six patients (5.9%) had pathologic fractures. Seventy patients (69.3%) underwent operation.

**Conclusion**

Almost all of the patients presented with late symptoms and complications of PHPT. Serum calcium and phosphorus were the best screening tests for the diagnosis of PHPT in this series. The diagnosis should be further confirmed determining the intact PTH level.

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**P300**

Successful pregnancy in a patient with Carney’s complex, primary pigmented nodular adrenocortical disease and biochemical cortisol excess

David Cole & Steven Soule

Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Primary pigmented nodular adrenocortical disease (PPNAD) is a rare cause of ACTH independent adrenal Cushing’s syndrome. A 32-year-old female with atrial myxomas was found to have Carney’s complex (PKRAB1 mutation negative). Screening showed biochemical Cushing’s syndrome (24 h urine free cortisol 918 nmol – nr 100-400) and the characteristic paradoxical increase in UFC during the 48 h dexamethasone suppression test was confirmed: 24 h UFC: pre-dex 340 and 316, low dose dexamethasone 472 and 583, high dose dexamethasone 1261 and 1699 nmol. CT adrenals showed bilateral nodularity. She had impaired 75 g glucose tolerance (24 h glucose 10.8 mmol/l), HbA1c 5.5% (nr 4.4-6.4%). Clinically BMI 22 kg/m², normotensive, mild skin thinning over hands and forearms and mild facial plethora. Prior to planning IVF pregnancy bilateral adrenalectomy was recommended, but declined. Untreated Cushing’s in pregnancy is associated with hypertension (68%), diabetes (25%), pre-eclampsia (14%), septicemia and wound infection (2%) as well as adverse effects on the fetus, although the natural history of pregnancy with PPNAD unknown. The presence of a mechanical mitral valve (failure resection of two large atrial myxomas) raises additional concerns. Close monitoring was maintained throughout pregnancy. Late fetal growth deceleration prompted delivery by caesarean section at 36 weeks (live female 2010 g), the only other complications being haemotoma and blood loss relating to anticoagulation. Both are we well 1 year later. Glucose tolerance and blood pressure were normal throughout, with no clinical or biochemical features of disease progression. 24 h UFC near term was 457 nmol (normal for pregnancy). We are aware of only one published case of PPNAD in pregnancy which reports that hypercortisolism was exacerbated. In-vitro studies revealed dose-dependent stimulation of cortisol production by oestradiol. The patient reported here emphasises that the pregnancy outcome of patients with PPNAD is not universally poor and hints at phenotypic heterogeneity possibly related to genetic heterogeneity in this rare condition.

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**P299**

Neuroendocrine tumours of unusual localization

Malgorzata Trofimiuk, Alicja Hubalewska-Dydekczyk, Dorota Pach, Anna Sowa-Staszczak, Piotr Szypinski, Jan Kedli, Ryszard Amiecki, Stanislaw Cichon, Maciej Matlok, Danuta Karce & Wieslaw Bonicki

1Chair and Department of Endocrinology, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; 2Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; 3Endocrine Surgery, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; 4Department of Endoscopic Surgery, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; 5Department of CNS Neoplasms, Oncology Centre, Warszawa, Poland.

Neuroendocrine tumours (NETs) are rare neoplasms arising from dispersed endocrine system. Their incidence is estimated to be five cases per 100,000 population, although the true incidence may be higher as the consequence of often oligosymptomatic course of disease and indolent behaviour of NETs. The most typical localization of NETs is gastrointestinal tract and bronchus. However they may develop in every organ of the body containing neuroendocrine cells. The diagnosis of NET is usually made based on symptoms related to (1) the endocrine function of the tumour and the type of the secreted biologically active molecules and (2) local invasion. NETs of atypical presentation are most often found because of the local symptoms or incidentally. The possibility that type of the tumour is the distant metastasis of the more common type of NETs should also be considered. It is obligatory in every case of rare NET (including rare localization within gastrointestinal tract, i.e. gallbladder or Meckel’s diverticulum) to search for other possible primary lesion, particularly by scintigraphic methods. The aim of the study is to present NETs of rare localization from the material of The Chair and Department of the Endocrinology, CM UJ. In NET database of Chair and Department of Endocrinology of the Medical College of the Jagiellonian University, comprising 244 patients mostly from south-eastern part of Poland, 11 tumours of unusual origin has been registered so far. They are: 4 NET of Vater’s ampulla, 2 NET of gall bladder, 1 NET of Meckel’s diverticulum, 1 ovarian NET, 1 isletic NET, 1 thymic NET and 1 NET arising from spleen sinus. All of them were diagnosed because of the local symptoms. Early excision of the lesion resulted in achieving disease regression. Based on that cases descriptions authors will discuss diagnostic and therapeutic pathway in NETs of rare localization.
P302
Paraneoplastic Cushing’s syndrome due to prostate cancer: a rare occurrence
Subhash Sivaraman & David Jenkins
Worcestershire Royal Hospital, Worcester, Worcestershire, UK.

We present the case of a 72-year-old gentleman was admitted to our hospital with atrial fibrillation secondary to severe hypokalemia of 1.8 mmol/l, but normal serum sodium and creatinine. He had prostate cancer with extensive liver and bone metastases. After potassium supplementation 180-200 mmol/day for 10 days serum levels persisted between 2.3 and 2.9 mmol/L. During this short period he developed early Cushingoid features, jaundice and diabetes. After overnight dexamethasone 1 mg, his serum cortisol was 1988 mmol/l with corresponding ACTH of 434 ng/l (0–46). Free cortisol in 24 h urine was >2942 mmol/l (<350). We treated him with metyrapone which normalised potassium levels at 3.7 mmol/l within 4 days enabling us to stop supplements. Unfortunately he died from metastatic prostate cancer 6 weeks after initial presentation.

Cushing’s syndrome as a paraneoplastic manifestation of prostate cancer is rare and prognosis after its onset is poor, survival ranging from a few days to 3.5 months in various case reports. We metyrapone as it is short acting, has few adverse effects and is effective in doses from 250 mg to 6 g daily thus lending itself to precise titration. Prolonged therapy with metyrapone can cause production of adrenal androgens which could be detrimental in a patient with prostate cancer. However it is unlikely to be significant in this setting where the life expectancy is very short.

There is one previous case report of metyrapone being successfully used as single agent to control steroid excess in the setting of prostate cancer. Metyrapone is underused probably because of restricted availability and unfamiliarity of oncologists with the drug.

P303
Large intrathoracic goiter mimicking lung cancer
Kevser Onbasli, Aysen Akalin, Goknur Yorulmaz, Nur Kebapci & Belgin Elc
Eskisehir Osmangazi University School of Medicine, Eskisehir, Turkey.

Herein, we present a case of a 68-year-old woman who had hyperthyroidism and a large mass lesion in the upper portion of her right lung. The patient had a history of previous subtotal thyroidectomy 40 years before. A few years after the operation she noticed some enlargement on her neck. Two years before the admission she was evaluated for some unrelated complaint and a large mass was discovered on her right lung on X-ray examination and she was considered to have a lung cancer at first sight. Tomographic examination revealed a big mediastinal mass of 120x100 mm compressing and displacing the adjacent structures on the right upper lung region. Biopsy of the lesion was in concordance with thyroid tissue. A scintigraphic evaluation revealed a big thyroid tissue extending from the right thyroid lobe and was in concordance with a large intrathoracic goiter. Her TSH <0.005 μU/ml (N: 0.27-4.2), FT3 was 5.65 (N: 2.0-4.4), and FT4 was 2.45 ng/ml (N: 0.93-1.7) and she was thyrotoxic. Despite long-term antithyroid medication at maximal doses she remained in hyperthyroid status. Before surgery plasmapheresis was performed several times in order to achieve an euthyroid status.

P304
Double primary ovarian malignancies in a patient with bipolar disease complicating Swyer syndrome
Evangelia Zampini1, Athanasia Giakoumi2, Konstantinos Terzidis3, Nikolaos Thomakou2, Alexandros Rodolakis2, P. Grigori2 & Maria Alexaki2
1Department of Clinical Therapeutics, Alexander Hospital, Athens University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece; 2First Department of Obstetrics-Gynecology, Alexander Hospital, Athens University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece; 3Department of Genetics, Alexander Hospital, Athens, Greece.

Background
Swyer syndrome is a type of pure gonadal dysgenesis 46 XY karyotype in phenotypically female patients. A rare case of Swyer syndrome complicated by dysgerminoma and Retiform Sertoli-Leydig cell’s tumor is reported.

Case presentation
A 20-year-old phenotypically female patient presented to our department with primary amenorrhea. She was 1.68 m and weighed 82 kg (BMI 28). She presented with minimal breast development, sparse axillary and pubic hair and normal female external genitalia. Medical history included bipolar depression with two severe suicidal attempts. Endocrinological evaluation demonstrated hypergonadotropic hypogonadism. Abdominal imaging revealed hypoplastic uterus and streak gonads. Chromosomal analysis was performed and the karyotype proved to be 46 XY. The patient underwent diagnostic laparoscopy; this confirmed the ultrasonographic diagnosis and bilateral gonadectomy was performed.

Results
The histopathologic examination revealed dysgerminoma in the left gonad and Retiform Sertoli-Leydig cells tumor in the right gonad. Surgical staging was performed via bilateral pelvic lymphadenectomy accompanied by omentectomy. Peritoneal random biopsies and histology did not reveal metastatic disease. Two sessions of carboplatin chemotherapy were administered and treatment with estrogen was prescribed. Three months later the patient presented with deterioration of her psychiatric condition with frequent episodes of mania in spite of medical therapy.

Conclusion
Because the occurrence of malignancy in dysgenetic gonads is high, early diagnosis and prophylactic removal of the dysgenetic gonads is essential. Hormonal replacement therapy should be given with caution in patients with underlying bipolar disease because of the possible destabilizing effects of estrogens.

P305
Three cases with inappropriate TSH syndrome
Sebila Dokmetas1, Fatih Klicl1, Fetah Acibucu2 & Mahmut Ucar2
1Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey.

Patients with inappropriate TSH syndrome have elevated serum free thyroxine (FT4) and free triiodothyronine (FT3) concentrations and normal or slightly elevated serum thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) level. Inappropriate TSH syndrome include generalized resistance to thyroid hormone (GRTH), pituitary resistance of thyroid hormone (PRTH) and TSHoma.

We report here three cases that the first patient has GRTH, the second has TSHoma and third patient has PRTH. Patient with GRTH has goitre and normal TSH and high serum levels of FT3 and FT4. The patients with GRTH and PRTH have sufficient TSH respond to TRH stimulation test. After T3 suppression test, patient with GRTH has unexplained SHBG but ferritin level was elevated. Whereas patient with PRTH has elevated SHBG and elevated ferritin levels. The patient with GRTH and the patient with PRTH has not pituitary adenoma on pituitary MRI. Patient with TSHoma has inappropriate TSH secretion, pituitary adenoma on pituitary MRI and elevated subunit/TSH molar. The patient with TSHoma has insufficient TSH respond to TRH stimulation test.

As a result; if the relation between T3, T4 and TSH can not be explained, GRTH, PRTH and TSHoma diseases should be kept in mind and the necessity tests for differential diagnosis should be made for inappropriate TSH syndrome.

P306
Stromal luteoma of the ovary: case report
Selma B Soula1, Daniel Carvalho-Braga1, Pedro Vieira Baptista2, Ana S Fernandes3, Jorge Beires4 & José Luís Medina
1Endocrinology Department, São João Hospital, Porto, Portugal; 2Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, São João Hospital, Porto, Portugal.

Introduction
The stromal luteoma of the ovary is a rare tumour occurring mostly in post menopausal women. Endocrine symptoms and sometimes virilizing signs may be observed, although abnormal vaginal bleeding is the most frequent manifestation. This tumour is surrounded by ovarian stroma being entirely composed of luteinized cells devoid of crystals of Reinke. Hyperthecosis of ovarian stroma is often observed. Its evolution is always benign.

Case report
Women, 64 years old, revealing history of hypertension, obesity, primary infertility and obstructive sleep apnoea. The patient was sent to the outpatient clinic for hirsutism, alopecia androgenetic for the last three years and reduced
libido. Her physical examination revealed hirsutism (score >6, Ferriman-Gallwey scale) and frank virilization. She had a normal gynecological examination. Her serum testosterone and 17-hydroxyprogesterone levels were increased with normal serum androstenedione and DHEA levels. The abdominal-pelvis axial computerized tomography and the pelvis magnetic resonance imaging showed a solid nodule, with 16–19 mm in the diameter of the ovary, confirmed by endovaginal ultrasound. The patient underwent a bilateral oophorectomy and the histology revealed a stromal luteoma of the ovary. After surgery, the patient revealed clinical improvement and rapid normalized the androgen levels.

Discussion

The diagnosis of virilizing tumours of the ovary is often difficult and challenge, especially in small tumours, not detectable in gynecological examination. In a women with virilization signs is essential a careful gynecological examination, the measure of serum androgens and the axial computerized tomography of adrenal and ovary to exclude an androgen production tumour. Nevertheless, the transvaginal ultrasound is the most sensitive method for the detection of an ovarian tumour.

P307

Coincidence of primary hyperaldosteronism with thyrotoxic nodular goiter presenting as hypokalemic periodic paralysis: complicating or mimicking one another?

Inan Anafotoglu & Ekrem Algin

Department of Endocrinology, Trabzon Numune Training and Research Hospital, Trabzon, Turkey.

Thyrotoxicosis and primary hyperaldosteronism both cause hypokalemic periodic paralysis. A 51-year-old woman, with a history of 3 episodes of transient muscle weakness, was admitted to the emergency unit with complaint of the weakness of legs. Her medical history included hypertension for 10 years. A nodule approximately 3 cm in diameter was palpated in the left anterior neck. Decreased strength (2/5) and deep tendon reflexes in lower extremities symmetrically with normal sensory examination were detected. Initial laboratory findings were significant for a potassium of 1.5 mmol/L and sodium of 148 mmol/L. Thyroid function tests were compatible with primary hyperthyroidism with a hyperactive nodule in scintigraphy. The patient was prescribed propylthiouracil. Her potassium was replaced. She completely regained muscle strength. A diagnosis of thyrotoxic hypokalemic periodic paralysis was supposed. Nevertheless, a decrease in potassium level was observed in each time, immediately when replacement of potassium was stopped. A high level of aldosterone 51.6 ng/dL with supressed renin 0.2 ng/ml per hour, and the high ratio of aldosterone to renin (258) were compatible with the diagnosis of primary hyperaldosteronism. Plasma aldosterone was found to be 66.8 ng/dl after saline infusion test. Imaging of surrenal glands showed an adrenal mass on the left side. The diagnosis of hyperaldosteronism was supposed. Spironolactone, 200 mg/day, was started gradually. On the second week of therapy, the patient became normokalemic without support of oral potassium perchloride. Spironolactone 200 mg/day and amloidipin 10 mg/day was enough to control her blood pressure. Whether thyrotoxicosis or hyperaldosteronism triggered hypokalemic periodic paralysis in this patient is a matter of debate. Two cases of thyrotoxicosis and primary aldosteronism complicating with hypokalemic periodic paralysis have been introduced to literature to date. In conclusion, adrenal function should be considered in a patient with hypertension and hypokalemia whatever the presentation of cases are.

P309

A case of giant-cell jaw tumour and primary hyperparathyroidism

Voichita Moges, Eugenia Popescu, Teodora Popa, Cipriana Stefanescu, Eusebio Zbranca, Alexandra Grigorovici, Sultana Mihailovic & Dumitru Braniste

University of Medicine and Pharmacy Gr T Popa, Iasi, Romania.

Patient DE, a 49-year-old woman, was operated in 2005 for two giant-cell tumours of the mandible, and in 2008 for another tumour with the same localisation and histology. Inferior cervical ultrasound after the second surgery revealed a parathyroid adenoma of 20×27×15 mm behind the lower pole of the right thyroid lobe, confirmed by Tc tetrofosmin scintigraphy. The patient had metabolic features suggestive for primary hyperparathyroidism: calcium − 10.9 mg/dl (normal range − 8.5−10.2), phosphate − 1.6 mg/dl (2.4−4.1), calcitria − 376 ng/ml (50−250), in the presence of very high serum levels of parathyroid hormone − 1311 pg/ml (10−60). DXA evaluated BMD was in the osteoporotic range at the spine (T score of −3.3), but not at the hip and radius level. The patient was submitted to parathyroidectomy. The lower right parathyroid gland contained a parathyroid adenoma with oxyphilic cells. The surgery was a second lesion at the opposite side, suspected to be a second parathyroid adenoma, but proving by histology to be a thyroid adenoma. PTH levels remained however increased one month after surgery (124.5 pg/ml) with abnormal metabolic profile, suggesting remnant hyperparathyroidism and implicitly the presence of at least one other parathyroid adenoma. A new surgical intervention was therefore scheduled. Jaw brown tumours with giant cells may represent the unique symptom of primary or secondary hyperparathyroidism, but may equally be a sign for the rare hyperparathyroidism−jaw tumour syndrome produced by autosomal dominant mutations of the HRPT2 gene (1q12), encoding parafibromine, a tumour suppressor with apoptotic effect. Although no familial aggregation was known, the presence of multiple adenomas and the histological aspect, with frequent nuclear inequalities, were suggestive for the hyperparathyroidism−jaw tumour syndrome, and investigation of the HRPT2 gene was therefore initiated. If mutation is found, genetic screening of all first degree relatives is of importance.

P310

α-adrenergic blockade with doxazosin: case report

Maria Raquel Carvalho1, Teresa Dias1, António Pedro Machado2, Rui Esteves3 & Isabel do Carmo1

1Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Department, Hospital de Santa Maria, Lisbon, Portugal; 2Internal Medicine 1 Department, Hospital de Santa Maria, Lisbon, Portugal; 3Surgery Department 1, Hospital de Santa Maria, Lisbon, Portugal.

Pheochromocytoma is a catecholamine-secreting tumor that arises from chromaffin cells of the adrenal medulla. In general, they are unilateral and the treatment of choice is complete surgical resection. Surgery and other medical procedures such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy may result in massive catecholamine release that can be fatal. Some form of preoperative pharmacologic preparation is indicated for all patients to control blood pressure, arhythmia and promote intravascular volume expansion. Combined α and β-adrenergic blockade is the adopted approach by most centers. Until now, phenoxybenzamine has been the preferred α-adrenergic blocking agent. However, due to the its recent unavailability, we

<10 ng/dl) with increased levels of LH;29.26 mIU/ml) and FSH (120.48 µIU/ml). The chromosomal analysis discloses a 46, XY karyotype. He underwent a surgical exploration laparoscopy, where no testis were found, followed by a bilateral inguinal exploration that showed the spermatic vessels and vas deferens exiting a closed internal inguinal ring. The diagnosis of vanishing testis syndrome was then established and where implanted testicular prostheses. The remnants were removed and underwent pathologic examination, which identified the presence of tissue compatible with vas deferens; no viable germ cell elements were identified. The patient is nowadays under androgen replacement therapy.

Discussion

There is controversy regarding the optimal management of the testicular remnant associated with the vanishing testis syndrome. Some urologists suggest surgical exploration, either via laparoscopy or an inguinal/scrotal approach, whereas others believe these procedures may be omitted. Although the differences in the reported incidence of viable germ cell elements within these remnants and the subsequent concern for future malignant degeneration.
used other agent, a selective α1-adrenergic blocking agent – doxazosin. The authors report three different clinical cases in which doxazosin was used.

Case 1
A 58-year-old woman with a malignant pheochromocytoma with hepatic and vertebral ganglia metastatic lesions in whom bilateral adrenalectomy had previously been made. She was now submitted to tumor irradiation with therapeutic doses of 131I-MIBG.

Case 2
A 65-year-old woman submitted to right adrenalectomy for a pheochromocytoma.

Case 3
A 36-year-old woman with MEN2A who had been previously submitted to bilateral adrenalectomy and radical thyroidectomy in another institution. She had a biochemical and imaging confirmed relapse of disease (left adrenal lobe, node, localized by 131I-MIBG) and refused surgical management. She came for the first time to our department already pregnant – 26th week of gestation. Elective cesarean section was performed in the 38th week of gestation. Doxazosin was a safe and effective alternative in these three cases. There is no great experience with this agent, specially during pregnancy. Its more favorable side effect profile compared to fenoxycbenzamine may be an advantage and will be reviewed in this presentation.

P311
Graves’ disease and thymic hyperplasia: case report
Maria Raquel Carvalho, Teresa Dias, Fernando Baptista & Isabel do Carmo Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism Department, Lisbon, Portugal.

Graves’ disease is characterized by the occurrence of antibodies against thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) receptor that stimulate the gland to produce T4 and T3. It can be accompanied by an infiltrative orbitopathy and opthalmopathy. Another seldom-recognized feature of this disease is thymic hyperplasia.

The authors report the case of a 22-year-old woman with Graves’ disease (TSH receptor antibodies 178 U/l) with exuberant ophthalmopathy and an incidentally discovered anterior mediastinal mass with no invasive characteristics. She began treatment with a thionamide agent (tiatizol) with great improvement of the thryotoxic state and concomitant reduction of the thymic mass dimension. This patient was submitted to total thyroidectomy and one year later the thymic mass had totally regressed.

Although thymic hyperplasia is a common and reversible feature in Graves’ disease, in most of the cases thymic enlargement is minimal and a radiologically detectable massive enlargement of the thymus is infrequently reported. The recognition of this association is very important. If the thymic mass radiological characteristics suggest benignity and if it shrinks with Graves’ disease improvement, one should treat Graves’ disease and radiologically watch the mass. This attitude will spare a major surgery – thymectomy.

It has been suggested that the thymus gland has TSH receptors and that might be the pathophysiological explanation for this association.

P312
Case report: papillary thyroid carcinoma in a patient with Pendred syndrome
Ayten Oguz1, Kamile Gul1, Serap S Inancil1, Birok Korkulukgul1, Reyhan Ersoy1 & Bekir Cakil1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ankara Ataturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of General Surgery, Ankara Ataturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Pendred syndrome is an autosomal recessive disorder characterized by sensorineural hearing loss, goiter, and a partial defect in iodide organification. Pendred syndrome is caused by mutations in the SLC26A4 gene. Here, we report a patient with pendred syndrome and papillary thyroid carcinoma.

Case report
A 19-year-old man admitted to our clinic with swelling in his neck. Congenital hypothyroidism was diagnosed at the age of one. His twin brother and his sister had been diagnosed as congenital hypothyroidism when they were one year old. In physical examination, a visible goiter was present and the thyroid was enlarged with multiple palpable nodules. In laboratory examination serum TSH was 2.1 µIU/ml (0.4 to 4.0), free T4 was 0.87 ng/dl (0.85–1.78), free T3 was 4.21 pg/ml (1.57–4.71) and Thyroglobulin was >300 ng/ml (0–55).

Ultrasoundographically, there were multiple nodules in thyroid. Thyroid scintigraphy showed hypovacous nodular goitre. Perchlorate discharge test revealed increased uptake and washout. Increased discharge pointed to an organisation defect as in Pendred syndrome. Fine needle aspiration biopsies were benign. Sensorineural hearing loss was not detected. Bilateral total thyroidectomy was performed because of cosmetic complaints and enlarged multinodular goitre. Postoperative histopathology was reported as papillary thyroid carcinoma of 13 mm. There was no capsular or vascular invasion. After surgery L-thyroxine and 131I radioactive iodine was given to the patient and also t-thyroxin was started.

Conclusion
Goiter is the most frequent symptom of Pendred syndrome and associated with an insufficient thyroid hormone synthesis caused by a defect in iodide organification. Pendrin expression has been studied in various human benign and malignant thyroid neoplasms. Thyroid carcinoma can be seen in patients with Pendred syndrome. Recurrence of benign thyroid nodules after thyroidectomy in these patients is common. Therefore, if surgical management is considered for any reason in these patients, total/near total thyroidectomy should be preferred.

P313
The study of an immunohistochemical aggressivity marker in mammary carcinomas
Muresan Anca Maria, Lazar Elena, Dema Alis, Taban Sorina, Cornianu Mariarosa, Costi Simona, Ciorobor neuta Ramona & Sargan Izabela University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara/Timis, Romania.

Introduction
The mammary cancer is the most frequent malignant tumor encountered in females, characterized by a high distant metastasis tendency. Among the potential prognostic factors, we mention the biomarkers that measure or are associated with biologic processes involved in the tumorous progression. The study analyzes the p53 protein’s positivity in correlation with the mammary cancer’s classical prognostic factors: the histologic type, the histopathologic degree, the clinical stage and the status of the axillary lymphnodes.

Purpose
The immunohistochemical evaluation (IHC) of an aggressivity marker in mammary cancer.

Methods
Using the immunohistochemical method of ABC Elite avidin–biotin complex staining and the p53 human anti-protein mouse monoclonal antibody, the D0 7 clone (1:500 dilution) on tissue sections fixed in 10% formaldehyde and included in parafin, we have obtained a red staining of the tumorous cells’ nuclei.

Results
Out of 40 mammary carcinomas where we have immunohistochemically determined the p53 protein, we have assessed that 29 of them proved to be negative, 6 had a moderate staining and 5 had an intense staining. Several studies estimate that the over-expression of the p53 protein is comprised between 25 and 50% of the cases.

The p53 immunoreactivity was more frequently encountered in pre-menopausal women and in invaded axillary lymphnodes tumors. We remarked a strong connection between the p53 over-expression and the studied tumors’ grading.

Conclusions
The results of the p53 staining present some variations, depending on the laboratories where the research has taken place (between 21.5 and 52% with different antibodies and on a different number of cases). In the studied cases, the percentage of p53 positive cells was of 27.5%. The p53 protein over-expression can be useful in establishing the mammary carcinomas prognosis, only if it is analyzed in connection with other factors, thus improving the information provided by them: therefore it contributes to the identification of the patients with an increased risk of disease progression.

P314
Schmidt’s syndrome atypical case
Larsa Dzeranova & Olga Gerasimenko National Research Centre for Endocrinology, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Thyroid pathology, as a part of Schmidt’s syndrome, could be presented as a chronic autoimmune thyroiditis (95–97%) or as a Grave’s disease (3–5%). Usually refractory hypothyroidism develops after a chronic autoimmune thyroiditis occurs, so the permanent thyroid hormone replacement is necessary during all life. But we are investigating a different course of that disease.
A 31-year-old woman had been sick from 2003. When Schmidt’s syndrome was
diagnosed by typical clinical and laboratory symptoms. Thyroid pathology was
presented as a hypothyroidism after autoimmune thyroiditis, so a replacement
therapy by thyroid hormones, mineralocorticoids, corticosteroids was adminis-
tered. After hormones administration her general condition improved quickly
and had been good until 2007; laboratory data demonstrated compensation of thyroid
and adrenal insufficiency. In 2007, the patient appeared with weight loss,
weakness, severe tachycardia, anxiety. Laboratory data revealed that a thyroid-
stimulating hormone (TSH) serum level decreased below 0.01 mIU/L, free
thyroxin – elevated to 58.8 pmol/L. L-thyroxin dose was reduced, but symptoms of
thyrotoxicosis appeared. After that a thyrostatic therapy with thyroxin
administration was provided. The patient’s condition and laboratory data were
controlled each three months, so the therapy type – thyroxin or L-thyroxin, or
combination – was changed according to the investigation results. In June 2008, it
was decided to cancel the whole thyroid therapy, after that and until recent time
the patient felt good, and the laboratory investigation during this period
demonstrated euthyroidism.

It’s well known that a similar disease course of thyroid pathology could occur in
the case of an isolated autoimmune thyroiditis, but we did not find such a clinical
case as a description of Schmidt’s syndrome in literature. Thyrotoxicosis
combined with the adrenal insufficiency becomes a more dangerous condition
than when alone, so in Schmidt’s syndrome case that condition should be
diagnosed and treated in early stages.

P315
Non-insulinoma pancreaticogenic hypoglycemia syndrome (NIPHS): 
recently described disease entity: case report
Aldona Kowalska, Iwona Palyga, Damita Gassor-Perczak, Jacke Sygut,
Janusz Słusznak & Stanisław Gozdzi
Holycross Cancer Centre, Kielce, Poland.

Introduction
Case reports of individuals with non-insulinoma hyperinsulinemic hypoglycaemia of
organic origin has been more frequently described in literature. This syndrome
has been described as a rare complication of bariatric surgeries and the term of
NIPHS (non-insulinoma pancreaticogenic hypoglycemia syndrome) has been
proposed.

Aim
The aim of our study is to present patients case who had previously undergone
the gastric surgery. Bilroth II and finally diagnosed of NIPHS.

Case description
A 45-year-old man who had previously undergone gastric surgery, was referred to
our hospital for evaluation of hypoglycaemia. At the beginning, the patient
experienced only episodes of postprandial hypoglycaemia and subsequently
episodes of fasting hypoglycaemia appeared. Diagnostic imaging including
ultrasound, CT, Octroscan and EUS were negative for the patient. Post-operative
changes and chronic pancreatitis impeded the interpretation of obtained results.
Pharmacological treatment with Proglucicem or somatostatin analogues led only
to transient improvement in control of hypoglycemic status.

Because pharmacological treatment was ineffective patient undergone partial
pancreatectomy.

Final diagnosis of NIPHS has been established based on postoperative histological
diagnosis established after partial pancreatectomy.

Conclusion
1. NIPHS must always be considered in differential diagnosis of adult patients
with hypoglycaemia.
2. NIPHS may occur not only in patients after bariatric surgeries but also after
gastric surgeries caused by peptic ulcer.

P317
Postmenopausal hyperandrogenism: report of two cases
Miguel Paia1, Aitzol Lizarraga1, Nerea Egutx1, Rafael Ibarrola2 &
Alvaro Gorostiaga3
1Endocrinologia, Hospital de Basurto, Bilbao, Spain; 2Anatomía Patológica,
Hospital de Basurto, Bilbao, Spain; 3Ginecología, Hospital de Basurto,
Bilbao, Spain.

In postmenopausal women with clinical hyperandrogenism Cushing’s syndrome
and adrenal/ovarian neoplasms must be excluded, but radiological and
biochemical studies are not always useful for localizing the source of androgens.

Case 1
A 75-year-old woman developed alopecia and progressive hair growth on the
chest and abdomen over 4 months. Five years before a successful parathy-
rdoxectomy had been carried out. Hormonal evaluation: Testosterone (T):
5.84 ng/ml; DHEAs: 0.44 mg/l; Androstenedione (A): 2.76 ng/ml. Abdominal
CT found no tumours. Transvaginal ultrasound of the ovaries was normal, and
MRI identified an uncertain small nodule in the left parametrium. Anexxtomy and
bilateral oophorectomy was performed, and histology identified two mesovarian
tumours of 6 and 12 mm (right and left), both Leydig cell tumours.

One month after, hormones were: T: 0.1; A: 2.9. Six months later alopecia and
hirsutism were resolved.

Case 2
A 53-year-old woman referred by dyslipidemia and hypertension. She had
suffered an acute myocardial infarction 3-year before. She had noticed hair
growth for the last year, particularly in shoulders, acral enlargement and
increasing weight. Acromegaly was ruled out by oral glucose tolerance test but
revealed DM2. Hormonal evaluation: T: 2.98; DHEAs: 0.4; A: 4.8 ng/ml.
Abdominal CT: 27 mm right adrenal hypointense mass and normal ovaries.
Transvaginal ultrasound: ovaries slightly enlarged. After uneventful laparoscopic
adrenalectomy, androgen levels remained high. Bilateral oophorectomy was
performed. Histology identified ovaries of 60x30x20 mm with diffuse stromal
hyperplasy, and scattered groups of luteinized cells. Three months later, she had
T: 0.2 and A: 1.6 mg/ml. Glycemic control improved and hirsutism reverted 6
months later.

Conclusion
We described two unusual cases. The first emphasizes the finding of bilateral
Leydig’s tumour, scarcely reported. The second pays attention on the association
of stromal hyperthecosis, hyperandrogenism and metabolic disturbances. Finding
an incidental adrenal adenoma illustrates the troublesome diagnosis in this
pathology.

P316
Malignant pheochromocytoma with brain metastases and coexisting
meningioma: case report
Aldona Kowalska & Kataryzna Lizioz-Note
Holycross Cancer Centre, Kielce, Poland.

Introduction
Pheochromocytoma is usually benign neuroendocrine tumor arising from
chromaffin cells. Malignant tumors which account for 5-26% mainly metastize to
bones, lungs, liver, but very rarely to brain. The coexistence of pheochromocytoma
with brain meningioma may hinder the diagnosis.


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P318
Prader-Willi syndrome: case report
Denise Rosso1,2, Arnaud Resende1,2, Alisson Valle1,2, Fauzi Neto1,2, Ana Paula Zanini1,2 & Alberto Arbes1,2
1Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 2Institute of Medical Research-IPEMID, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Angelman syndrome (AS) and Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) are distinct neurogenetic disorders involving the imprinting mechanism at 15q11–13 region. We report on 4 years and 9 months old boy who was referred to our laboratory in order to investigate a clinical bilateral cryptorchidy. The patient was born to non-consanguineous and healthy biological parents. Informed consent for publication was obtained from the parents. After normal pregnancy, the patient was delivered by cesarean section at full term, with a birth weight of 2600 g, but his height and head circumference were unknown. When he was born, he presented bilateral cryptorchidy and also he showed feeding problems. His development progress was delayed. He walked and developed speech at 3 years old. When he was examined at the age of 4 years, his head circumference was 50 cm, height 1.05 m and weight 41 kg. Fluorescence in situ hybridisation using probes for SNRPN and D15S521 loci, which map at X-linked and autosomal regions at 15q11– 15q13 deletion or disomy of only maternal pattern. Methylanalysis at SNRPN showed an alpha atom, which carried out by Southern blot analysis revealed an abnormal only maternal methylation pattern. Microsatellites analysis of the patient showed the presence of only one region in three heterozygous loci inside the 15q11– 15q13 region. The main PWS typical fractures in the patient are hyperagia with obesity, mental deficiency and bilateral cryptorchidy. The predominant genetic defects in PWS are 15q11–13 deletions of paternal origin or only maternal chromosome disomy. In contrast to that, AS occurs in the presence of maternal deletions or paternal chromosome 15 uniparental disomy. In conclusion, we report this case with the objective of reinforce the necessity of analysis DNA methylation within the 15q11–13 region, which is an important tool for the correct diagnosis among children who presents with mental deficiency, bilateral cryptorchidy and obesity.

P319
Dwarfism and female external genitalia due to congenital partial hypopituitarism in a 46XY Seckel syndrome with microcephaly and multiple skeletal deformities
Nur Kebapçi1, Belgin Efe1, Ayten Yakut2, Baki Adapinar3 & Hikmet Basmak1
1Department of Endocrinology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey; 2Department of Pediatric Neurology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey; 3Department of Radiology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey; 4Department of Ophthalmology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey.

Seckel syndrome (SS) is a rare disorder of severe growth retardation and craniofacial-skeletal abnormalities. In scant number of reports, neonates had intact hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis before they die because of cardio-pulmonary abnormalities. We present an unique case of SS at the age of 18 years and discuss the possible explanations of his growth retardation and sex reversal. Case A 18-year-old female presented with short stature and primary amenorrhea. There were first degree consanguinity between parents. At birth, she was small for gestational age. She couldn’t walk and speak until the ages of 6 and 10 years, respectively. Physical examination: central obesity (17 kg, 107 cm), mental retardation, microcephaly, bird head-like facial dysmorphism, corneal opacity, syndactyly, female external genitalia. Her height and bone ages were consistent with 5 and 10 years-old, respectively. Hormonal analyses: GH and IGF-1 were low; GH and cortisol responses to insulin tolerance test showed GH deficiency and normal cortisol response. Testosterone and estradiol levels were low with inadequately low levels of LH. Testosterone response to LHRH was markedly increased. Chromosomal analysis: 46XY (SKY +). Pelvic US revealed a blinded vagina and absence of gonads and internal genitalia. Brain MRI: cerebral and cerebellar atrophy and cortical dysplasia. He was diagnosed with SS with partial hypopituitarism. We evaluated that the dwarfism was related to congenital GH deficiency. He had also gonadotropin deficiency. In early fetal life, normal male karyotype directed the development of gonads to testis as Mullerian duct development was inhibited. However, because of LH deficiency, gonads might be repressed. Testosterone is essential in developing male external genitalia, its deficiency causes sex reversal as in our case. Moreover, the existence of tests supported by LH-RH test, is another assignment for us to locate. Our case had a CNS developmental pathology, with endocrine insufficiency unlike reported cases.

P320
A case of adenomyeloneuropathy and Addison disease
Goknur Yorulmaz1, Nur Kebapci, Kerem Ouna1, Aysem Akalan1, Belgin Efe2 & Demet Ozbakalik3
1Department of Endocrinology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey; 2Department of Neurology, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey.

Adrenoleukodystrophy has a prevalence rate of 1:200 000 and is a cause of adrenal insufficiency in association with demyelination within the nervous system due to a failure of β-oxidation of fatty acids within peroxisomes due to reduced activity of very long chain acyl-CoA synthetase. Several forms are recognized; a childhood cerebral form (30 to 40% cases), adult adrenomyelo- neuropathy (40% cases), and Addison’s disease only (7% cases). Adrenomyeloneuropathy, by contrast, presents later in life with the gradual development of spastic paraparesis and peripheral neuropathy. Here, we describe an illustrative case of adrenomyeloneuropathy and discuss the clinical presentation, diagnosis and management.

Case The patient was healthy until the age of 15. He had progressive gait disturbance and urinary incontinence after he had progressive neurological abnormalities. He was diagnosed as adrenal insufficiency and neurologic sequela related with meningitis at the age of 18. In his first admission to our clinic at the age of 25, he showed acute adrenal insufficiency. After he recovered, we evaluated muscle strength as weak (3–4/5) and deep tendon reflexes as hyperactive in the lower extremities while normal in the upper extremities. Babinski signs were elicited bilaterally. Accordingly, these neurologic findings excluded sequela related to meningitis. He had urinary incontinence, eery disfunction with preserved libido and ejaculation. The patient’s ACTH levels were elevated despite low levels of serum cortisol. Abdominal CT demonstrated adrenal atrophy. T2-weighted cerebral MRI showed a high signal intensity lesion in the occipital subcortical area. EMG demonstrated sensorimotor denervating polyneuropathy. Clinical features and laboratory findings confirmed the diagnosis of AMN. This case indicates the importance of neurological findings in Addison disease not to overlook this rare pathology, adenomyeloneuropathy.

P321
A primary differentiated carcinoma of ectopic mediastinal thyroid: report of two cases
Arbi Yamina, Ould Kablia Samia, Akrout Rosa & Kermali Zahra
Department of Endocrinology, Central Hospital of the Army, Algiers, Algeria.

Thyroglossal duct cyst is the most common congenital cervical pathology. Abnormalities in the embryologic development and migration of the thyroid gland can result in this ectopic thyroid tissue, which may occur in the midline in any position from the base of the tongue to the mediastinum. They are rarely seen in adults. Malignant transformation of the cyst is quite rare and is encountered mostly in adults. We retrospectively reviewed two cases of thyroglossal duct carcinoma diagnosed in the central hospital of the army of Algiers from 1990 to 2008. The two patients are females, a 64 and 43 year-old with ectopic thyroid tissue in the mediastinum associated to a multinodular goiter. A surgical excision plus thyroideectomy was performed and histology showed in one case a follicular carcinoma and in the other a papillary carcinoma. The ectopic thyroid tissue was clearly separate from the thyroid gland and there was not malignant tissue in the thyroid gland. Propylthiouracile radioactive iodine treatment was done. The two patients are still in follow-up and no pathology was detected 3 years later. This type of carcinoma is usually an incidental finding and has a good prognosis, with only rare instances of metastasis close follow-up is need for recurrence and distal metastasis may be possible.
P322
Triple X syndrome (47, XXX) with infertility and obesity
Mustafa Koçak1, Cihanur Eren1, Irfan Nuhoglu1, Figen Celen2,
Ozge Ucuncu1, Mustafa Karagulle1 & H Onder Ersoy2
1Endocrinology and Metabolism Department, Medical Faculty, Karadeniz
Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey; 2Medical Biology and Genetics
Department, Medical Faculty, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon,
Turkey.

Background
Triple-X (Trisomy X) is found in approximately 1 per 1000 females. Mental
retardation is the most common feature in Triple-X females. Women with Triple X
usually are fertile, but they sometimes get the menopause earlier than other
women. They are not generally phenotypically abnormal. Although reproductive
organs, pubertal development, and fertility are normal in most cases. Some are
first identified in infertility clinics, others in institutions for the mentally retarded,
but probably many of them remain undiagnosed.

Case
A 31-year-old woman was referred to the endocrinology clinic of our hospital due
to amenorrhea for 1 year. She had been married for four years and with no
children. She first menstruated at the age of seventeen and then menstruated at
2-3 months intervals (oligomenorrhea). She is 155 cm in height and 80 kg in
weight and BMI: 33 kg/m². She had no eunuchoid body habitus. System and
genital examination were phenotypically normal. However vulva and vagin
atrophy, labium minus were hypoplastic. She has average intelligence.
Laboratory findings were shown hypergonadotropic hypogonadism: concordant
with (FSH: 12.05 mIU/mL, LH: 13.58 mIU/mL, Estradiol: 24.35 pg/ml) other
previous pituitary hormones were normal. Uturus size was found normal in pelvic
ultrasonography. She had streaked gonads on both sides. In the analysis of chromosoms,
47,XXX formation (Triple-X syndrome) was detected.

Conclusion
While Triple-X females are usually fertile and thin, this syndrome should be taken
into consideration in the cases of fertility and obesity.

P324
Insulin autoimmune syndrome in a patient with type 2 diabetes: a case report
Leone Duarte1,2, José Silva-Nunes1, Zulmira Peirally2, Lurdes Gomes3, Maria-Cristina Rogado3, Ana-Filipa Lopes4, João-Filipe Raposo4 &
Fernando Malheiro5
1Hospital Curry Cabral, Lisbon, Portugal; 2Portuguese Diabetes Association,
Lisbon, Portugal.

Introduction
Insulin autoimmune syndrome (IAS) is a clinical condition characterized by the
presence of autoantibodies to insulin or insulin receptors in patients not
previously treated with insulin. This syndrome has been reported mainly in
Asia, and it is a rare cause of hypoglycemia in Caucasians. So far there are no
reports of IAS in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus never treated with insulin.

Case Report
The authors describe a 59-year-old Caucasian male, diagnosed type 2 diabetes 5
years previously, treated with metformin and glitazone, referred for hypogly-
cemic episodes in fasting and late postprandial period. Initial laboratory
evaluation revealed fasting glucose = 123 mg/dL, HbA1c = 7.1 %, fasting insu-
lin = 1173.3 uIU/mL (normal range: 5-20 uIU/mL), fasting proinsulin = 89.6
pmol/l (normal range: <0.9 pmol/l), C-peptide = 8.64 ng/ml (normal range:
0.9-7.1 ng/ml), anti-insulin antibodies = 201.1 U/ml (positive if >0.5), anti-
nuclear antibodies >1/160, and negativity for anti-IgA, anti-GAD and anti-ICA
antibodies. Further serological and hormonal examination was unremarkable.
During a 72 h fasting test, the patient had glucose levels between 51 mg/dl (at 6 h fast)
and 153 mg/dl (at 15 h fast), and C-peptide levels of 2496 uIU/mL at the beginning
and 705 uIU/mL at the end of the test. Imaging study using angio-CT-scan did not
show any morphological pancreatic abnormality. HLA class II typing revealed the
presence of DRB1*04, DRB1*03 and DQB1*02 alleles. After one year of follow-up,
our patient, treated with metformin, has less frequent symptomatic hypoglycemia.
Nevertheless, continuous glucose monitoring for 72 h, revealed repeated fasting
hypoglycemia, with minimum level of 40 mg/dl, and postprandial hyperglycemia.
Recent laboratory examination showed fasting insulin = 233.8 uIU/mL, C-peptide = 4.44 ng/ml, HbA1c = 7.9% and anti-insulin antibodies = 157.2 U/ml.

Conclusion
This is a rare case of IAS in a patient with type 2 diabetes mellitus not previously
exposed to insulin. The development of these antibodies may be related to a
genetic susceptibility, since HLA-DRB1*04 has been reported in strong
association with this syndrome.

P323
Treatment of a case of metastatic thyroid cancer with sorafenib
Philippos Kaldymyrides1, Ilgenia Kostoglou-Athanassious1, Anastasios Gouvdouas1, Dimitrios Thomas1, Athanasia Tertip1 &
Nikolaos Zitas2
1Department of Endocrinology, Metaxa Hospital, Piraeus, Greece; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Metaxa Hospital, Piraeus, Greece.

Although the prognosis of thyroid cancer is in general quite favorable when
standard management paradigms are applied, some patients do much less well.
Radioactive iodide resists, recurrent or metastatic disease is prognostically
more worrisome. Sorafenib, a multitargeted small molecule kinase inhibitor,
including the VEGF receptor and BRAF kinase, has been evaluated in patients
with thyroid cancer. The aim of the study was to present a case of metastatic
thyroid cancer and the clinical course after administration of sorafenib.
A patient, male, aged 54 years, had been operated upon for a multifocal papillary
thyroid carcinoma in the left lobe of the gland 12 years ago. The patient had not
received radioiodine treatment after surgery. During the preoperative evaluation
for coronary bypass surgery lung lesions were discovered. On biopsy the lung
lesions proved to be metastatic disease from the papillary thyroid carcinoma.
Consequently, radioactive iodine 150 mc was administered, followed by two
other 150 mc doses of radioactive iodine. Evaluation with a positron emission
tomography scan with 18-fluorodeoxyglucose revealed widespread metastatic
disease in the lungs, the neck and a metastatic area in the liver. The patient was
administered sorafenib 400 mg twice daily. Thryoglobulin levels decreased
immediately from 226 ng/mL before to 45 ng/mL after treatment and the decrease
was sustained. The patient developed transient diarrhea lasting a few days,
tiredness and face paleness.
A case of a patient with metastatic thyroid cancer was presented who received
sorafenib showing signs of a possible beneficial effect. The sustained decrease
in thyroglobulin levels in a sign of a potential beneficial effect of sorafenib in metastatic thyroid carcinoma. However, an evaluation of objective
tumor regression and larger trials are needed for the complete evaluation of the
effect of sorafenib on the clinical course in patients with metastatic thyroid
cancer.

P325
Malignant struma ovarii: a case report
María Gryczynska, Magdalena Masytiak-Grzes, Aleksandra Klimowicz, Rafał Czepczynski, Paweł Gut, Katarzyna Wachowiak-Ochmanska,
Blazej Nowakowski & Jerzy Sowinski
Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland.

Background
Struma ovarii is a rare form of the ovarian germ cell tumors composed
predominantly of mature thyroid tissue. It occurs mostly in the fifth decade. About
5-10% of these tumors are malignant. The disease in a 20-year-old
woman with papillary thyroid carcinoma arising in struma ovarii.

Case Report
A 20-year-old woman presented to her gynecologist with pelvic pain. A right
ovarian tumor was discovered at ultrasound examination. The patient was treated
by complete right ovariectomy – histopathology revealed papillary thyroid
carcinoma arising in struma ovarii (intratumor metastasis). The patient
underwent total thyroidectomy – the thyroid was found to be normal on histology.
After operations the patient received ablative radioidine treatment (200 mCi
131-I). An I-131 posttherapeutic whole-body radioidine scintigraphy was
performed and showed uptake in bone metastases. Thyroid hormone therapy
using suppressive doses was introduced after radioidine ablation. Thyroglobulin
level is monitored. Next doses of radioidine has been scheduled.

Discussion
The treatment of malignant struma ovarii remains controversial. We think that the
management of malignant struma ovarii could be the same as in case of thyroid
carcinoma, so after surgical removal of ovarian neoplasm, we recommend
thyroidectomy, radiotherapy with 131-I and levothyroxine suppressive therapy.
Long-term follow-up for the detection of metastases or tumor recurrence by serial
serum thyroglobulin measurements and 131-I scan may be required in patients
with this rare tumor.
Cushing's syndrome in a patient with bilateral adrenal masses and pituitary incidentaloma: case report
Catalina Poiana1, Mara Carsoe1, Radula Trifanescu2, Dan Hoftopan2, Anda Carageorgheopol2, Ramona Samoila3 & Bogdan Stanescu1
1Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania; 2CT Parhon National Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania.

Introduction
Incidentalomas are a randomly discovered tumor with no apparent secretory activity. The term is mainly used for hypophysis and adrenals. There are relatively few situations where a patient has more than one such mass.

A 37-year-old female patient who had for the last three years weight gain (15 kg), abdominal stria, ecchymosis, asthma, insonmia, emotional lability, hypercholesterolemia, arterial hypertension (maximum 230/120 mmHg), type 2 diabetes mellitus. The hormonal profile showed hypercortisism: basal plasma cortisol of 38.6 μg/dl (normal <22 μg/dl). The low-dose dexamethasone suppression test showed no suppression, neither did the high-dose dexamethasone test (plasma cortisol 30.86 μg/dl). The basal level of ACTH was 8.08 μg/dl. The computed tomography (CT) scan showed a pituitary tumor of 0.7 by 0.3 cm. The adren CT revealed bilateral masses of 3.2 by 2.4 cm on the right, and 1.2 by 0.85 cm on the left. The right adrenalecology was performed, considered as the cause of the Cushing’s syndrome. Immediately after surgery, acute adrenal insufficiency was diagnosed and treated with hemuscimudio of hydrocortisone and electrolyte solutions. The patient recovered but for the next 2 years she had adrenal insufficiency, which was properly substituted. The CT scan showed the reduced dimensions of the left adrenal tumor (0.69 by 0.51 cm) and constant diameters of the pituitary tumor, as they were both incidentalomas.

Conclusion
The difficulties in a patient with Cushing’s syndrome with bilateral adrenal masses and also hypophyseal tumor come from the low specificity of the dexamethasone suppression test. Nevertheless, the triple tumor phenotype is extremely rare but the correct therapeutically management was confirmed by the presence of post surgery adrenal insufficiency and the unchanged diameters of the other two tumors.

Cerebrospinal fluid rhinorrhea following dopamine agonist therapy for large macroadenomena
Mahmood Edalvabadi1, Ravi Nannapaneni2 & M Keaton Jones1
1Singleton Hospital, Swansea, UK; 2University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, UK.

Introduction
Dopamine agonists have been routinely used in the treatment of prolactinomas since 1971. Increasingly, cabergoline is used as first-line treatment because of its tolerability and improved patient compliance. CSF rhinorrhea is a rare but recognised adverse effect of rapid tumour shrinkage following dopamine agonist therapy. We report a case of cabergoline induced CSF rhinorrhea in a young man with macroadenoma.

Case
A 26-year-old student presented with a 6 year history of bilateral spontaneous galactorrhoea and three months left visual field impairment. Initial investigation showed a markedly elevated serum prolactin of 215 000 μIU/l and normal basal cortisol, IGF-1, testosterone, gonadotropin and thyroid hormone levels. MRI pituitary showed a large macroadenoma (5.5×3.6×3.1 cm) with downward extension in to sphenoideal sinus. Perimetry was essentially normal. He was commenced on cabergoline 0.35 mg thrice weekly increased after a week to 0.5 mg three times a week. Four weeks later he developed CSF rhinorrhea and cabergoline was abruptly discontinued. Repeat MRI pituitary demonstrated considerable tumour shrinkage. He underwent surgical repair of CSF leak following which cabergoline was restarted. He has subsequently remained well without recurrence of CSF leak.

Conclusion
CSF rhinorrhea following rapid tumour shrinkage after dopamine agonist therapy is rare and there is no consensus regarding patient management. Patients with large prolactinomas on dopamine agonist therapy should be warned of this potential problem and monitored closely.

Comparative Endocrinology
Characterization of a vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor type 2 (VAPACR2) in an early jawed vertebrate, sturgeon (Acipenser schrenckii)
Billy KC Chow, Elisa HY Lau & Leo TO Lee
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, People’s Republic of China.

Vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) and pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating peptide (PACAP) are important neuropeptides that are structurally related. They have been found to exert many physiological and pathophysiological effects through the activation of three specific receptors: PAC1R, VPAC1R, and VPAC2R. In tetrapods, PACAP and VIP are potent agonists to VPAC2R. In teleosts, we have previously identified a PHR in goldfish which shares high level of sequence similarity with tetrapod VPAC2Rs. However, this PHR does not interact with PACAP or VIP, while fish PH1 was able to activate this receptor. Here, we report the identification a full-length VPAC2R from an Actinopterygian, sturgeon (Acipenser schrenckii). This receptor contains 427 amino acid residues. In phylogenetic analysis, the receptor clusters with tetrapod VPAC2Rs and teleost PHRs. Tissue distribution analysis by real-time PCR showed high levels of expression of this receptor in gut and liver. Interestingly, after stable transfection into CHO-K1 cells, this receptor could be stimulated by human VIP, but not goldfish PHV or human PACAP as shown in functional cAMP assays. These data suggested that the ability of VPAC2R to bind PACAP was not found in sturgeon, a representative of an early jawed vertebrae (Gnathostomata), nor goldfish. This function of the receptor could be evolved from the teleost/tetrapod split and therefore is present only in the tetrapod lineage.

Influence of orchidectomy and testosterone replacement on adrenal cortex activity in the Saharan gerbil Gerbillus tarabuli
Yamina Zatra, Nawel Aknoun, Farida Khammar & Zaina Amirat
USTHB, Algiers, Algeria.

Orchidectomy performed during breeding season (winter) in the adult male gerbil, Gerbillus tarabuli, live trapped in its natural biotope in Béni Abbès area (30°7 N., 21°0’ W) in Algerian Sahara desert, induced 50 days later, important weight, histological and hormonal changes on the adrenal gland. Adrenal weight increases by 69.7% (P=0.06) and adrenal cortex by 48.6% (P=0.00) with hypertrophy of reticularis zona (+124%, P=0.00) while glomerulosus and fasciculata zones exhibited only small height variations. Important increases were also observed in the cell height and nuclear diameter of fasciculata cells (respectively 40.2 and 10.8%; P=0.00) and reticularis cells (respectively 23.0 and 6.6%; P=0.00). Moreover, connective tissue was well developed in the inner reticularis of castrated gerbils suggesting activation of extracellular matrix. Orchidectomy induced also increases of lipidic droplets especially in the reticularis zona when adrenal and plasma contents of cortisol exhibited non significant decreases (−6.9%; P=0.78 and −30.4%; P=0.26 respectively). Testosterone replacement, carried out by twice daily injection of enanthate testosterone (75 μg diluted in 40 μl sesame’s oil) during 7 days on 50 days castrated animals, restored adrenal weight as well as all histological parameters but didn’t restore adrenal and plasma contents of cortisol which showed an even more important reduction. These results showed clearly an inhibitory effect of testosterone on the activity of the adrenal gland in this Saharan rodent. Testosterone could act either directly or by means of its endogenous regulators, such as pituitary ACTH. So, testosterone could be involved, at least in part, in the determination of the annual variations of the adrenocortical activity and contribute to the adaptation of this species to its arid environment requiring important metabolic adjustments.

Comparative analyses between the glycoprotein-hormone receptors and the orphan leucine-rich repeat containing G protein-coupled receptor 4 (LGR4)
Gunnar Kleinian1, Annette Grüters2, Heike Biebemaars3 & Gerd Krause3
1Leibniz-Institut für Molekulare Pharmakologie, Berlin, Germany; 2Instiute for Experimental Pediatric Endocrinology, Charité Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany.

In recent decades intensive studies on the glycoprotein-hormone receptors (GPRs) and their respective hormones have provided a number of molecular
insights into the relationship between the structure and function of these proteins. This knowledge includes an understanding of hormone binding, of naturally occurring mutations nad mechanisms of signal transduction and G-protein binding processes.

Together with the relaxin family peptide receptors (RxFP) the GPHRs belong to the Leucine-rich repeat containing receptors (LGRs), a subgroup of class A G-protein coupled receptors (GPCR). The orphan Leucine-rich repeat containing receptors 4-6 (LGRs 4-6) are partially more homologous to the GPHRs by amino acid sequences than the RxFP receptors 1-2 (formerly LGR 7 and 8, respectively). In contrast to a growing number of data for the RxFP receptors, the functional and physiological role of the orphan LGRs 4-6 has not yet been determined. We analysed and provide here sequence-structure similarities between the homologous GPHRs and LGR4 regarding potential ligand binding sites and structural determinants of intramolecular signal transduction.

Additionally, interesting new findings concerning the ancient glycoprotein-hormone (GPH) thyrotropin have been published previously. Thyrotropin is an agonist for the TSHR. Utilizing the knowledge about structure–function relationships in GPHRs and their hormones, we initially built homology models of thyrotropin. In comparison to GPH/GPHR complexes these models not only help to describe properties of thyrotropin more precisely, but also to draw conclusions regarding potential modes of hormone binding.

In summary, we attempt to extract new molecular information concerning proteins with unknown but potentially important function in physiological processes by comparative analyses between homologous family members.

P331
Diabetes insipidus prevalence in the Republic of Uzbekistan according to national register
Said Ismalov, Zamira Khalimova, Yulduz Urmanova, Dinara Alieva & Gulchekhra Narimova
Institute of Endocrinology, Taskent, Uzbekistan.

Aim of the research
To study diabetes insipidus (DI) prevalence in the Republic of Uzbekistan (RZU) according to National Register.

Materials and methods
Computerized database has developed which covers all 12 regions of RZU and Republic of Karakalpakstan. Database includes 1822 patients with diabetes insipids. Results
According to the register there are 1822 patients with DI which occurs in men and women with similar rate – 968 (53.2%) and 854 (46.8%) respectively. The study of disease form has shown that in most cases central form of DI has seen – 896 (49.2%) patients, whereas idiopathic, renal, gestational and inherited forms have been seen in 829 (45.5%), 87 (4.7%), 7 (0.4%) and 3 (0.2%) cases respectively. We revealed, that DI caused by stresses in 20.4% (372 patients) whereas neuroviral infection, hypothyalsmus and pitutary region tumors, heritage and pregnancy take place as a risk factors in 16.2% (295 patients), 4.8% (87 patients), 7 (0.4%) and 0.9% (16 patients) respectively. Idiopathic diabetes insipids has diagnosed in overwhelming majority of patients – 48.9%. Among the ethiopathogenic factors we should distinguish postoperative DI which occurs in 7 (0.4%) while postablative, after born trauma DI, autonomous endocrinopathy, hypothyalsmus and sellar region tumors seen in 5 (0.3%), 22 (1.2%), 38 (2.1%) and 67 (3.7%) patients respectively. Manifestation features of DI were following: headaches in 905 (49%), whereas dizziness, dry mouth, polyuria, vision disturbances, dysmennorhea, heartaches and fatigue in 698 (37.7%), 1331 (71.9%), 1325 (72.6%), 1279 (69.1%), 63 (3.4%), 11 (0.5%), 207 (11.2%) and 829 (44.8%) patients respectively. Also, we registered complications such as cardiovascular disease in 62 (3.4%) cases while dehydration, psychomotor excitement, coma, dysmennorheal and renal disease in 60 (3.5%), 47 (2.6%), 18 (0.1%), 67 (3.7%) and 164 (9.0%) cases respectively.

Conclusion
(1) Algorithm for the management of DI should include CT or MRI imaging of hypothyalsmus and pitutary region, (2) Register for DI allows studying epidemiology of the disorder as well as its evaluation and develop new treatment regimens, and improve prevention of DI in regional endocrine dispensaries and implement in everyday practice.

P332
Cortisol and biochemical changes in pregnant women
Ohyemen Akintuye, Olabisi Motunrayo Gbagbey & Pius Dolapo Oparinde Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria.

Pregnancy is characterized by profound changes in woman’s hormonal and metabolic status. Cortisol has been postulated to play a central role in the physiological changes associated with pregnancy. The extends of this effect in the three stages of pregnancy remain to be fully investigated. The current study investigates the level of serum cortisol in the three stages of pregnancy and correlates this with reproductive hormones and electrolye balance. These changes were further compared with non pregnant controls. Two hundred volunteer women were recruited from our Lady Catholic Hospital, Olayoyer Oke Ota, Ibadan, Nigeria. These subjects consist of 50 women in each of the three trimester and 50 non-pregnant, none lactating, apparently healthy, aged matched controls. Serum cortisol, progesterone and prolactin were measured by ELIZA using commercial kits other biochemical assay where done using conventional methods. The results shows significant progressive increase in the BMI of pregnant women compared with controls. The diastolic pressure was significantly increased only in the first trimester. While glucose and protein levels were significantly depressed, total cholesterol concentration increased progressively in pregnant women. Serum cortisol concentration increased significantly as early as first trimester, reach the peak in second trimester and came down in third trimester. This increase was accompanied by increase in progesterone and prolactin. Increase in serum cortisol correlate positively with increase in serum chloride and inversely with decreased serum potassium and bicarbonate. This study shows clearly that cortisol plays a central role in the biochemical changes in pregnancy. The increase in serum cortisol is a possible indicator of emotional stress and physiological challenges in pregnancy and also, possibly risk signal. The concurrent increase in progesterone and prolactin are compensating mechanism in response to these challenges. It may therefore be of clinical relevant to monitor the serum cortisol levels and some of the compensating/associated variables, especially in threatening pregnancy.

Diabetes and Cardiovascular P333
Characterization of a young population of type 1 diabetics
Alexandra Vieira1, Ana Fagulha1, Luisa Barros1, Juliana Figueredo1, Jacinta Santos1, Mariana Martinho2, Francisco Carrilho2 & Manuela Carvalheiro2
1 Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism Department, Coimbra’s University Hospital, EPE; 2 Endocrinology Department, Portuguese Oncology Institute, FJ, EPE, Coimbra, Portugal.

Introduction
Type 1 diabetes is one the most common chronic diseases found in children and youngsters.

Objectives
Characterization of a sample of young type 1 diabetic patients, treated with multiple daily injections of insulin.

Patients and methods
Analysis of patients files with ages between 11 and 26 years observed on diabetesology consultation of the outpatient during the first semester of 2008, with diagnosis of diabetes for at least 6 months. Parameters evaluated: gender, age, diagnosis age, diabetes duration, A1C, BMI, self-monitoring of blood glucose, insulin scheme, carbohydrates counting (CC) and complications. It was considered effective self-monitoring of blood glucose (ESMIG) when effectuated 2-4 times a day. For classification of glucose control (good/bad) were used the ADA criteria.

Results
It was analyzed the data of 108 patients, 55.6% male, 44.4% female; age 20.12±3.11 years; age at diagnosis 10.69±2.41 years; duration of diabetes 9.28±5.15 years. Actual A1C 8.13±1.58%; A1C on the last year 8.01±1.43%; BMI 24.12±3.40 kg/m²; ESMIG 67.14%. Everyone was treated with intensive insulinotherapy. About 81.5% did CC. About 30.93% presented dyslipidemia and 18.52% hypertension; nephropathy and retinopathy were presented in 7.41 and 2.78% respectively.

It wasn’t verified significative statistical relationship between A1C and age, gender, duration of disease, diagnosis age, BMI CC, dyslipidemia, nephropathy and retinopathy. It was verified significative statistical relationship between A1C e ESMIG (P=0.004). Patients with a bad glycemic control presented higher incidence of hypertension (P=0.027; OR=2.5); Hypertensive patients presented a higher incidence of nephropathy (P=0.001; OR=9.4).

Conclusions
One should enhance the difficulty of obtaining the therapeutic objectives for the referred ages. ESMIG is fundamental for obtaining such objectives. Bad glucose control was associated to a higher incidence of hypertension which was associated to a higher incidence of nephropathy.

**P334**

How diabetic children’s families inject them insulin at home

Marjan Kouhnavad1, Mahin Kohankary1 & Alavieh Razavi1

1Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Iranian Society of Diabetes, West Azerbaijan/Urmiah, Islamic Republic of Iran; 3Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Urmia, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Background
Diabetes mellitus type one is a common metabolic disorder among pediatrics. Diabetic children’s families should be able to measure the blood sugar of their children and inject them insulin correctly.

Materials & methods
Thirty-six families which had diabetic children were recruited to this study and were asked about the way they were injecting insulin to their children.

Results
Forty-eight percent of the clients were injecting insulin at the scheduled time according to their physicians’ order. Thirty percent had injections with the correct angle and in appropriate sites. And only 14% were changing the injection sites daily.

Conclusion
According to the results, diabetic children’s families still need education on how to inject insulin to their children.

**P335**

HLA DQB1 and HLA DQA1 genotypes prevalence in children and adolescence with new-onset diabetes type 1 in the lower Silisea region

Teresa Zak, Malgorzata Malodobra, Agnieszka Zubkiewicz & Anna Noczyńska

Department of Endocrinology and Diabetology for Children and Adolescents, Wrocław, Poland.

The first degree relatives of patients with diabetes type 1 have increased genetic risk of developing clinical disease. In the population of Polish diabetic subjects the most frequent alleles are HLA-DRB1*04, DRB1*03, DQA1 and DQB1. The ‘high-risk genotype’ may differ among populations.

The aim of this paper was to analyze prevalence of genetic risk factors in patients with new-onset diabetes in Lower Silesia and to compare with the data with Polish population and Caucasian one.

The study involved 58 patients with new-onset diabetes type 1, 34 boys and 24 girls, 9 months to 18 years of age, admitted to the Department of Endocrinology and Diabetology for Children and Adolescence, Wrocław Medical University, from June 2007 to May 2008. HLA DQB1 and HLA DQA1 genes were analyzed:

- SNP polymorphism of HLA DR gene locus was assessed using ABI 3130 gene analyzer with GENEScan software.

**P336**

Comparative molecular analysis of TRAIL ligand and receptor expression profiles in cyclophosphamide versus streptozotocin-induced diabetes in non-obese diabetic (NOD) mice

Sevim Kahraman1, ERCument Dirice1, Ozlem Elinek2, Mustafa Kemal Balci1, Abdullah Omer1, Salih Sanlioglu1 & Ahmet Sanlioglu1

1Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey; 2Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Background
NOD mice are the most frequently preferred animal models in type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. They develop spontaneous diabetes in 24 to 30 months. T1D can also chemically be induced in NOD mice for a faster disease progression. Two commonly used diabetes-inducing agents are Streptozotocin (STZ), which destructs pancreatic beta cells mainly through DNA fragmentation, and Cyclophosphamide (CY), which acts on suppressor T cells. TNF-Related Apoptosis-Inducing Ligand (TRAIL) has recently been implicated in T1D development.

Although its exact role is unknown, blockage of TRAIL sensitized animals to T1D development. Here, we aimed to examine the effects and diabetes-inducing profiles of Streptorotocin and Cyclophosphamide in NOD mice, while comparatively analysing alterations in TRAIL ligand and receptor expression profiles.

Materials and methods
Diabetes development was accelerated in mice by IP injection of 200 mg/kg CY or 150 mg/kg STZ. Blood sugar measurements were used to monitor development of diabetes. Pancreatic tissues were collected at days 0, 1, 2, 4, 7, 14, 21, and 28. Alterations in TRAIL ligand and receptor expression profiles were detected by immunohistochemistry.

Results
STZ produced a faster T1D profile, as reflected by blood sugar levels of 250 mg/dL and over at day 4, accompanied by a 10% weight loss. Nearly 90% of mice were diabetic at day seven. CY-induced NOD mice, on the other hand, did not develop any signs of diabetes until after day 10. Both agents were generally well-tolerated in mice at the mentioned doses. STZ- or CY-induced pre-diabetic to severely diabetic mice revealed significant alterations in TRAIL ligand and receptor expression patterns.

Conclusion
Both agents induced prominent manifestation of T1D, although at different time intervals. Comparative analysis of alterations in TRAIL ligand and receptor expression patterns revealed an important insight into the molecular pathogenesis of T1D.

**P337**

Association of IL-4 promoter polymorphisms in Taiwanese patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus

Ming-Yuh Shiau1, Chien-Ning Huang2, Kuo-Ting Ho3 & Yi-Hsin Chang1

1Hung Kung University, Taichung, Taiwan, ROC; 2Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan, ROC; 3Chung Hsing University Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan, ROC.

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a common endocrine disease. Many factors can lead to the onset of T2DM, however, host genetic factors and environmental factors are the focus of discussion. The aim of this study is to investigate the putative correlation between the promoter polymorphisms of interleukin-4 (IL-4), one of the immune-regulatory type 2 helper T cell cytokines, and T2DM. Genomic DNA from 425 Taiwanese T2DM patients and 148 non-diabetic control study subjects were extracted, and their IL-4 promoter polymorphisms were analyzed by polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism. Both of the distribution of IL-4 C-589T (P=0.013) and C-34T (P=0.05) genotypes were significantly different between type 2 diabetic patients and control subjects. Significant association between IL-4 C-589T alleles (P=0.002) and T2DM, as well as C-34T alleles and T2DM (P<0.024), was also identified. Additionally, we found a statistically significant association between homologous IL-4 -589 C/C genotypes and lower circulating high density lipoprotein (HDL-C) levels using multiple linear regression analysis with adjustment for subjects’ age, sex and diabetic status. Our results suggested that IL-4 promoter polymorphisms are associated with T2DM. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of the significant association between IL-4 promoter polymorphisms and type 2 diabetes mellitus as well as the IL-4 homologous C/C genotypes and the lower circulating HDL-C level.

**P338**

Saxagliptin added to a thiazolidinedione, metformin or a sulphonylurea improves glycaemic control in patients with inadequately controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus

Pierre Malherbe1, Elise Allen2, Shoba Ravichandran3, James List2 & Roland Cher2

1AstraZeneca ISMO Europe, Brussels, Belgium; 2Clinical Research, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

Saxagliptin (SAXA) is a potent, selective dipeptidyl peptide-4 (DPP-4) inhibitor, specifically designed for extended inhibition of the DPP-4 enzyme. The efficacy and safety of SAXA 5 mg add-on therapy to a thiazolidinedione (TZD), metformin (MET), or an intermediate dose of glibenclamide (GLY), was investigated in patients with inadequately controlled (HbA1c > 7.9%) type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) in three randomised, double-blind trials (CV181-013, CV181-014 and CV181-040, respectively). Following a placebo run-in period, patients (aged 18-77 years) were randomised to receive SAXA 5 mg or placebo once daily plus their stable TZD, MET or GLY dose. Blinded titration of GLY was allowed in the GLY-only arm to a maximum daily dose of 15 mg. All studies’ primary endpoint was HbA1c change from baseline. Changes in fasting plasma glucose (FPG) and postprandial glucose (PPG) were also measured. Baseline characteristics within each study were well balanced across treatment groups. At Week 24, SAXA 5 mg add-on treatment provided significant (P<0.01) reductions from baseline in HbA1c, FPG and postprandial glucose area under the curve (AUC), with increased proportions of patients achieving therapeutic glycaemic response.
(HbA1c <7%), compared with matched controls (Table). In each study, SAXA was well tolerated. SAXA add-on therapy to ongoing T2DM, MET or GLY provides significant and clinically meaningful reductions in key parameters of glycemic control and is well tolerated in patients with inadequately controlled T2DM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Add-on to T2D</th>
<th>Add-on to MET</th>
<th>Add-on to GLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SAXA (n=186)</td>
<td>Placebo (n=184)</td>
<td>SAXA (n=191)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HbA1c (%)</td>
<td>−0.9</td>
<td>−0.3</td>
<td>−0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPG (mmol/l)</td>
<td>−1.0</td>
<td>−0.2</td>
<td>−1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPG AUC (mmol/min)</td>
<td>−515</td>
<td>−149</td>
<td>−532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HbA1c (&lt;7%) (%)</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>43.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Changes from baseline. All P<0.01 versus placebo group.

**P339**

**Change of physical activity, diet habits and risk of diabetes after lifestyle intervention. Diabetes in Europe: prevention using lifestyle, physical activity, and nutritional intervention: the DePlan Project Krakow**

Aleksandra Gilis-Januszewska1, Alicja Hubalewska-Dydejczyk1, Beata Piwonska-Solinska1, Zbiegniew Szybinski1, Joanna Linström2, Marko Peltomäki3, Peter Schwarz4, Noel Barengo5 & Jakko Tuomilehto6 1Chair and Department of Endocrinology, Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; 2Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland; 3Diabetes Unit, Department of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention, National Public Health Institute, Helsinki, Finland; 4Department of Medicine III, Medical Faculty Carl Gustav Carus of the Technical University Dresden, Dresden, Germany.

Aim

Aim of the study was to assess the effectiveness of the structured lifestyle intervention in diabetes type 2 high risk people.

Methods

The De-Plan Project participants were selected based on FINDRISK over 14. Exclusion criteria were known or OGTT diabetes. Intervention completed by 175 participants consisted of 10 group sessions on lifestyle changes, diet and physical activity education, and 6 telephone motivation sessions and voluntary physical activity sessions 1-2 a week. Fasting and OGTT blood glucose, blood pressure, fasting lipids, weight, dietary and physical activity habits were assessed twice, before and after one year of intervention.

Results

Fasting and after OGTT gloriaemia lowered in 38.9 and 51.4% participants. Fasting cholesterol, HDL and triglycerides lowered in 53.7, 44.6 and 50.3% of intervened respectively. SBP and DBP decreased in 26.9 and 33.7% participants. Weight was lowered in 63.4% of study participants, 24.6% participants lost more than 5% of initial body weight (P<0.05). Changes in physical activity and nutritional patterns are given in the Table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Weight loss ≥5%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Before</td>
<td>After</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity</td>
<td>7.4*</td>
<td>25.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diminished during last year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diminished total amount of fat in diet</td>
<td>25.1*</td>
<td>52.6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changed fat to unsaturated</td>
<td>29.1*</td>
<td>61.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>24.0*</td>
<td>51.4*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P<0.05.

After the intervention FINDRISK diminished in all study participants from 18.31 to 15.95 (P<0.05) and in those with weight loss ≥5% from 18.23 to 16.29 (P<0.05).

Conclusions

Intervention on lifestyle changes, diet and physical activity education is possible and may produce diminished risk of type 2 diabetes.

**P340**

**Limits in using brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) as a biomarker of acute right ventricular dysfunction in pulmonary embolism**

Alina Mihaela Pascu1, Mariana Radoi2 & Mihai Coculescu3 1Department of Pathophysiology, Clinic of Cardiology, Faculty of Medicine, Transilvania University, Brasov, Romania; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Clinic of Cardiology, Faculty of Medicine, Transilvania University, Brasov, Romania; 3Department of Endocrinology, C.I. Parhon Institute of Endocrinology, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania.

Background

Risk stratification could be lifesaving in acute pulmonary embolism (PE). Echocardiographic (ECHO) acute right ventricular dysfunction (RVD) is the actual ‘gold standard’ in risk assessment of patients with PE. We previously demonstrated that plasma BNP levels were significantly higher in patients with PE and acute RVD on ECHO versus patients with normal right ventricular (RV) function on ECHO.

Aim and objective

Evaluation of the limits of plasma BNP in signalling acute RVD in patients with PE.

Methods

Seventy patients with confirmed PE were prospectively investigated: 42 men (60%), mean age 52.5±9.8. Plasma BNP levels were measured on admission using a quantitative fluorescence immunoassay (Triage BNP). ECHO evaluation of the RV function was performed in the first hour after admission. Study protocol was approved by local Ethical Committee. Patients were divided in two groups: group 1 – with acute RVD on ECHO, n=24 patients (34.3%); group 2 – without acute RVD on ECHO, n=46 patients (65.7%).

Statistics


Results

Plasma BNP proved good in discriminating between patients with and without acute RVD – area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC) = 0.86 (95% Confidence Interval C.I. 0.77-0.94), P<0.000. The cut-off level of plasma BNP=50 pg/ml showed the best sensitivity=0.84 (95% C.I. 0.79-0.88) and specificity=0.80 (95% C.I. 0.75-0.85) in the same time in identifying acute RVD. Eight patients from group 1, with acute RVD on ECHO, all admitted soon (<12 h) after the onset of their PE symptoms, and all experiencing at least one syncopal episode had BNP under the cut-off level.

Conclusions

Plasma BNP under the cut-off level of 50 pg/ml obtained by a unique assay could not exclude even a severe pulmonary embolism and should be interpreted with caution, especially in patients with significant and recent onset (<12 h) pulmonary embolism symptoms.

**P341**

**Determination of oxidized LDL and anti oxidized LDL antibody in patients with type 2 diabetes**

Mitra Niafar1, Manouchehr Nakhjavani1,2 & Alireza Esteghamati1 1Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Background

Oxidized low-density lipoprotein (Ox-LDL) is a key factor in the development of arteriosclerosis. It can cause endothelial dysfunction and augment lipid accumulation within the arterial wall. Increased oxidative stress in diabetes contributes to this process. Ox-LDL is a highly immunogenic molecule and it is not clear whether oxidized LDL antibodies (OLAI) are pathogenic or protective in arteriosclerosis? The aim of this study was to evaluate Ox-LDL and its antibody in type 2 diabetes and healthy subjects.

Methods

This nested case-control study included 81 type 2 diabetic patients and 69 non-diabetic healthy persons aged 40 to 65 years. Controls were sex and BMI matched with diabetic patients. Patients with history of cigarette smoking, antioxidant or
antihyperlipidemic use, coronary heart disease, hypertension, and renal impairment were excluded. We measured serum level of Ox-LDL (two monoclonal antibody of Merckodia co.) and OLGAR by ELISA. Lipid profile, serum electrolytes, and HbA1C (HPLC) were also determined. Ox-LDL and its antibody were compared between diabetic patients and controls and the correlation with lipid profile, HbA1C and BMI were assessed.

**Results**

Serum Ox-LDL concentration and Ox-LDL to LDL ratio were distinctively higher in controls 
$$(15.7 \pm 6.9 \text{ vs } 11.8 \pm 5.6, P < 0.005)$$

Ox-LDL concentrations were correlated with LDL-C (r=0.36, P<0.0005) and total cholesterol (r=0.31, P<0.0005) in both groups but not with age and Hba1c. In diabetic patients Ox-LDL and its antibody were positively correlated (r=0.26, P<0.05). Obese diabetic patients (BMI>30) had higher Ox-LDL concentrations compared to diabetic patients with BMI less than 30.

**Conclusion**

In diabetic patients, Ox-LDL level is lower than non-diabetics and is correlated with its antibodies. Based on previous findings we suppose that the pattern of LDL oxidation enhances Ox-LDL recognition by macrophage via specific legends. This results in low serum Ox-LDL concentrations in diabetes.

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### P342

**Relationship between lipid oxidation and insulin resistance in type 2 diabetes mellitus**

Mitra Niayar1,2, Manouchehr Nakhjavani1,2, Alireza Esteghamati1,2 & Mehrshad Abasi1,2

1Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The endothelial dysfunction and atherosclerosis. Recent studies have demonstrated that the amount of oxidized LDL (Ox-LDL) in plasma is correlated with IR in non-diabetic population. The intent of this study was to evaluate correlation of Ox-LDL and IR in diabetic patients, and to compare it with normal individuals.

**Methods**

A total of 150 individuals aged 40 to 65 years were studied including 81 type 2 diabetic patients and 69 non-diabetic sex and BMI matched healthy persons. Demographic characteristics and anthropometric data of participants were recorded. Levels of circulating Ox-LDL were measured with 2 monoclonal antibody-based competitions ELISA. Oxidized LDL antibodies (OLAB), glucose, insulin, and Hba1c were also determined in fasting blood samples. Insulin resistance was estimated according to homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR).

**Results**

After considering all the relevant factors including age, duration of diabetes, BMI, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, serum lipids, and HOMA-IR, regression analysis demonstrated that there was a significant correlation of Ox-LDL with cholesterol and HOMA-IR in all participants 
$r=0.39, P<0.005$. This was also true for diabetic patients but in non-diabetic group Ox-LDL was only correlated with cholesterol. OLAB had weak but significant correlation with BMI in both diabetic and non diabetic groups
$r=0.23$ and 0.24 respectively, 
P<0.05.

**Conclusion**

Our results suggest an association between insulin resistance and increased LDL oxidation independent of the effect of other contributing factors.

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### P343

**Role of soluble fas/fas ligand pathway and osteoprotegerin levels in patients with diabetic foot**

Sibel Guldiken1, Bengur Taskiran1, Muzaffer Demir2, Armanag Turgul1 & Betul Ugur Altun1

1Department of Endocrinology, Trakya University Medical Faculty, Edirne, Turkey; 2Department of Hematology, Trakya University Medical Faculty, Edirne, Turkey.

**Aim**

Diabetic foot is a devastating complication of diabetes mellitus. Many factors such as neuropathy, vascular injury and infection contribute in the development of diabetic foot. Programmed cell death is a pathway that causes a tendency for the development of atherosclerosis. Whereas Fas/Fas ligand pathway induces apoptosis, osteoprotegerin (OPG) causes calcification in vascular area and also affects apoptotic pathway. In the present study, we aimed to investigate the role of Fas/Fas ligand and OPG in the pathogenesis of diabetic foot.

**Materials and methods**

Thirty-eight patients with type-2 diabetes and diabetic foot, 25 patients with type-2 diabetes but without diabetic foot and 25 healthy control subjects were enrolled in the study. Diabetic foot lesions are scored according to Wagner classification. Soluble Fas, Fas ligand and OPG levels were measured in serum samples by ELISA method.

**Results**

OPG, sFas and sFas ligand levels were found significantly higher in diabetic foot group than the patients without diabetic foot, and controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Type-2 Diabetic Foot</th>
<th>Type-2 Diabetes</th>
<th>Healthy Controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fas (ng/ml)</td>
<td>20.1 ± 1.6</td>
<td>18.2 ± 2.1</td>
<td>15.8 ± 3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fas ligand (ng/ml)</td>
<td>20.1 ± 1.6</td>
<td>18.2 ± 2.1</td>
<td>15.8 ± 3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion**

In this study, we assessed that the apoptotic pathway in the development of diabetic foot increases by means of the Fas/Fas ligand, and that the OPG levels are associated with the apoptosis in diabetic foot. We consider that the development of new effective treatment strategies against apoptosis will play an important role in the future management of diabetic foot lesions.

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### P344

**Evaluation of coronary artery disorders in diabetic patients with no or atypical cardiac symptoms**

Rasoul Zakavi1,2, Haleh Rokni1,2, Zohreh Mousavi1,2, Mahdi Taherpouni1,2, Reza Rajabian1,2 & Mohammad Khajeh Dalooei1,2

1 Mashhad Medical Science University, Mashad, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2 Razavi Hospital, Mashad, Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Introduction**

Coronary artery disorder has been featured as the leading cause of death in diabetics. This study was designed to assess the prevalence of silent myocardial ischemia in asymptomatic patients with diabetes.

**Methods and patients**

One hundred and thirty asymptomatic type 2 diabetic patients were enrolled in the study. A questionnaire was filled including patients’ demographic information and routine laboratory tests. HbCRP was measured for all patients. All patients underwent transthoracic echocardiography Exercise test was done for those without proliferative retinopathy and severe degenerative joint disease. Patients with positive or strongly positive ETT were directly referred for angiography. Gated myocardial perfusion SPECT was performed in 108 patients with negative or mild positive ETT.

**Results**

The mean age of the patients was 51.8 ± 7.3 years and the mean weight was

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Type-2 Diabetic Foot</th>
<th>Type-2 Diabetes</th>
<th>Healthy Controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>51.8 ± 7.3</td>
<td>51.2 ± 7.1</td>
<td>51.4 ± 7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>72.9 ± 9.6</td>
<td>72.7 ± 9.8</td>
<td>72.4 ± 9.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion**

Silent ischemia was relatively prevalent among our patients. Traditional and emerging risk factors were not significant different between patients with or without ischemia.

**Keywords**

Cronary artery disease, Diabetes, Cardiac symptoms.

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**Endocrine Abstracts (2009) Vol 20**
P346
Impaired glucose regulation and arterial stiffness
Marina Shargorodsky
Wolfson Medical Center and Sakler School of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Background
Glucose intolerance produces structural and functional changes in the arterial wall which contribute to the excess cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. The present study investigates an association between glucose tolerance status and arterial stiffness in subjects with normal and impaired glucose regulation (IGR).

Methods
The study group consisted of 283 Caucasian subjects, including 111 subjects with normal glucose tolerance (NGT), 61 subjects classified as impaired fasting glucose (IFG) according to the new fasting blood glucose (FBG) cutoff point of 100 mg/dl and 111 patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. All patients were evaluated for glucose, HbA1C, insulin, lipid profile, hs-CRP, HOMA-IR, PWV and AI were performed as a noninvasive recording of the two artery sites pressure waveform using SphygmCor (version 7.1, AtCor Medical, Sydney, Australia).

Results
PWV values increased significantly and consistently with deterioration of glucose tolerance status from NGT to IFG and DM. AI and central arterial pressure differed significantly between groups and increased from group 1 to group 3 in a continuous fashion. Arterial stiffness parameters remain significantly higher in both IFG and DM groups compared to subjects with NGT after adjustment for cardiovascular risk factors and concomitant medications. The positive correlations between FBG and arterial stiffness parameters were found in all groups.

Conclusions
Arterial stiffness parameters varied significantly across subgroups of patients with different degree of IGR, such that more alterations in glucose homeostasis were consistently associated with an increased arterial stiffness. Deteriorating glucose tolerance was associated with an increased PWV, AI and central aortic pressure even after correction for cardiovascular confounders.

P347
Association between polymorphisms in the promoter of heme oxygenase-1 and vascular complications in type 2 diabetic patients
Yong-Ho Lee, Eun Seok Kang, Chul Woo Ahn, Bong Soo Cha & Hyun Chul Lee
Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) catalyzes the conversion of heme to carbon monoxide, free iron, and biliverdin, which is then changed into bilirubin. These substances have been recently demonstrated to have antiatherogenic and antioxidative properties. The GT-repeat polymorphism is reported to be an independent risk factor for restenosis after coronary stenting and T (–413) A. A polymorphism increased the activity of HO-1 promoter, leading to reduce the incidence of ischemic heart disease in Japanese population. The aim of the present study was to investigate association between polymorphisms in the promoter of HO-1 and the prevalence of vascular complications in type 2 diabetic (T2DM) patients. We genotyped rs2071746 (–413T/A) and rs3761439 (–1135G/A) in the promoter region of HO-1 in 601 T2DM patients. Clinical and biochemical parameters were measured and random urine albumin and creatine ratio or 24 h urine analysis were performed to diagnose diabetic nephropathy. The extent of atherosclerosis was determined by the measuring intima-media thickness (IMT) of carotid artery with B-Mode ultrasound. The TT genotype of rs2071746 was associated with high prevalence of nephropathy (odds ratio (OR): 1.58, 95% CI: 1.09–2.29, P = 0.016) comparing to the AA + AT genotypes. Patients with AA allele of rs3761439 increased IMT than subjects with AG + GG alleles (0.883 vs.0.761 mm, P = 0.002). The OR of the TT genotype for the presence of carotid plaques in lower BMI (<25) groups was 1.74 (AA + AT versus TT, CI = 1.008–3.026, P = 0.043). The T (–413A) and G (–1135A) polymorphisms in the promoter of HO-1 in type 2 diabetic patients have the risk of diabetic nephropathy and subclinical atherosclerosis in T2DM patients, respectively.


P348
Paradoxical effects of GABA on glucose-stimulated insulin secretion from isolated islets in rat
Farzaneh Faraji Shahriariv, Asghar Ghasemi, Ferestdh Motamedi & Saleh Zahedi Asl
Endocrine Physiology Laboratory, Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Endocrine Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (M.C.), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; Neuroscience Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (M.C.), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
The islets of pancreas contain relatively high levels of Gamma-amino butyric acid (GABA). This study was designed to determine the role of the GABA and GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor on glucose-stimulated insulin secretion of isolated islets in rats.

Materials and methods
The Collagenase digestion technique was used to isolate the islets from male Wistar rats and insulin secretion was assessed in islets exposed to glucose (8.3, 16.7 mM) in presence and absence of GABA (25, 50, and 100 μM), a GABA<sub>B</sub> agonist, baclofen (10, 20, and 50 μM) and GABA<sub>A</sub> antagonist, saclofen (50 and 100 μM); islets were incubated in Krebs-Ringer solution at 37 C in the presence of different drugs. Following this insulin secretion was measured by the ELISA method and reported as mean ± s.e.m. μU/islet per minute. One-way analysis of variance was used for comparing means between groups.

Results
When 50 μM GABA was added 45 min before glucose, insulin secretion was found to be increased during 60 min incubation time; however adding GABA and glucose simultaneously caused a significant decrease in insulin secretion. Baclofen had no significant effect on glucose-induced insulin secretion, whereas 100 μM Saclofen significantly increased glucose (16.7 mM) stimulated insulin secretion (91 ± 8.8 vs 67.7 ± 2.58 μU/islet per 60 min, P < 0.05).

Conclusion
GABA could have both stimulatory and inhibitory effects on glucose-stimulated insulin secretion, depending on the time of exposure.

P349
Inspiratory muscle strength is correlated with carnitine levels in type 2 diabetes
Faith Kicici<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Hatice Sebila Dokmetas<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ferhan Candan<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Sefa Levent Ozşahin<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Serdal Köroğlu<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Elvan Arısayalı<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Koray Fakiroğlu<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Fethal Acıbucu<sup>1,2,3</sup> & Kursat Dal<sup>1,2,3</sup>
<sup>1</sup>Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey; <sup>2</sup>Department of Nephrology, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey; <sup>3</sup>Department of Chest Disease, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey; <sup>4</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey.

Background
Plasma carnitine insufficiency has been caused muscle weakness. Carnitine levels and pulmonary functions were lower in patients with diabetes. Objective To determine whether pulmonary functions are correlated with carnitine levels in patients with type 2 diabetes. Setting Internal medicine outpatient clinic of a university hospital. Methods Forty-nine patients with type 2 diabetes and 34 healthy controls were evaluated. Pulmonary functions and carnitine concentrations were studied. Results Carnitine levels were lower in type 2 diabetes group than control group (52.56 ± 12.38 and 78.96 ± 10.66 nmol/ml, respectively, P < 0.0001). Pulmonary functions were not significantly different between groups. Carnitine levels were not correlated with age, duration of diabetes, fasting blood glucose levels and, glycemic control (%HbA1c) in patients with type 1 diabetes. However, carnitine levels in patients group were correlated with % forced vital capacity (%FVC) (r = 0.35, P = 0.016), % forced expiratory volume in one second (%FEV<sub>1</sub>) (r = 0.318, P = 0.029), FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC (r = 0.302, P = 0.039), inspiratory muscle strength (Pmax) (r = 0.407, P = 0.023) and, %Pmax (r = 0.423, P = 0.018). Multiple regression analysis including above parameters reveals %Pmax was significantly associated with carnitine levels (β = 0.431, P = 0.019).

Conclusions The present study suggests that low carnitine levels may be associated with lower %Pmax in type 2 diabetes.
P350

Mildronate positively affects compensation of diabetes in streptozotocin rats and alters iNOS gene expression in rat tissues
Jelzaveta Sokolovska, Ivans Kalvins, Jelena Sharipova, Lasma Lauberte & Nikolajs Sjaskste

Mildronate, a γ-butyrobetaine analogue is actually used as an antischismic drug. It was also shown to have effect on mechanisms of glucose utilization.

Methods
Diabetes mellitus in Wistar rats was induced by injection of streptozotocin (50 mg/kg). Experimental rats were treated with Mildronate (100 mg/kg daily, per os) for 6 weeks. Weight, blood glucose concentration, blood triglyceride concentration, blood ketone body concentration, glycated hemoglobin percent (HbA1c%), glucose tolerance were monitored throughout the experiment. iNOS gene expression was evaluated by qRT-PCR in heart, muscle, liver and kidney of diabetic animals.

Results
In diabetic rats, Mildronate treatment caused a significant decrease in mean blood glucose concentration after 4 weeks of treatment (streptozotocin group – 40.27 ± 3.34 mmol/l, streptozotocin + Mildronate group – 29.82 ± 2.12 mmol/l). Mildronate produced positive effect on triglyceride level in diabetic rats: after 4, 5 and 6 weeks of treatment streptozotocin + Mildronate group showed lower triglyceride levels, than streptozotocin group (after 4 weeks – 1.29 ± 0.10 vs 1.91 ± 0.26 mmol/l; after 5 weeks – 1.10 ± 0.03 vs 1.23 ± 0.08 mmol/l; after 6 weeks – 1.12 ± 0.09 vs 1.77 ± 0.30 mmol/l). Mildronate was able to slow down significantly the rise of HbA1c% in treated diabetic group (after 6 weeks of treatment HbA1c% in streptozotocin group – 9.66 ± 0.21%, in streptozotocin + Mildronate group – 8.75 ± 0.33%). Oral glucose tolerance test after 4 treatment weeks revealed significantly better glucose tolerance in streptozotocin + Mildronate group at 120 min after glucose ingestion. iNOS gene expression was altered by Mildronate treatment in liver, muscle and heart. This might indicate on stimulatory effect of Mildronate on insulin-independent glucose transport in tissues of diabetic rats.

Conclusion
Mildronate improves carbohydrate metabolism in experimental diabetes mellitus model, possibly via insulin-independent mechanisms.

P351

Topical Atorvastatin may be beneficial in the treatment of the wounds in diabetic rats
Ermin Ogulcan1, Kasim Çağrı2, Sedar Toker1, Esra G Olgun1 & Yusuf Ozay2
1Department of Internal Medicine, Orthopaedics and Pathology, Dumulpi- nar University School of Medicine, Kutahya, Turkey; 2Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Dumulpiinar University, Kutahya, Turkey.

Background
Currently, it is reported that statins may be useful in the treatment of DM foot ulceration. The aim of the study was to evaluate treatment with topical atorvastatin of the wounds of streptozotocin induced diabetic rats.

Materials and methods
Fifteen × fifteen mm sized wound were created in streptozotocin-induced rats. A total of twenty-eight diabetic rats were studied in 4 groups (n = 28). Any treatment was not administered in the first group. Second, third, fourth groups were performed: 1:1 mixture of lanolin and vaseline; lanolin-vaseline plus 1% atorvastatin and lanoline-vaseline plus 5% atorvastatin, respectively. On seventh and fourteenth days, the state of the wound healing was observed and the percent of wound healing was determined by being measured its size. The statistical analyses were carried out by One way Anova Tukey HSD test.

Results
On the fourteenth day, the rates of wound healing in first, second, third and fourth groups were 14.40, 96.59 and 96.51%, respectively. Accordingly, in the multiple comparisons; the rates of wound healing were found to be significantly higher in the diabetic rats administering 1 and 5% atorvastatin compared with those administering mixture of lanolin-vaseline and untreated (for comparison each one P < 0.001).

Conclusion
Topical atorvastatin therapy may be useful on the wound healing in diabetic rats. Further clinic and experimental studies are needed to confirm detail these results.

P352

Coronary heart disease risk reduction in obese patients submitted to adjustable gastric band
Leone Duarte, José Silva-Nunes, Ana-Fláipa Lopes, Cristina Santos, José-Mário Coutinho, Maria-Manuel Botelho, António Albuquerque & Fernando Malheiro
Hospital Curry Cabral, Lisbon, Portugal.

Background
Obesity is related to an increased cardiovascular risk, namely coronary heart disease risk (CHDr). Type 2 diabetes (T2D) is frequently associated with obesity and, by itself, is an important CHDr factor. Interventions that induce weight loss would be expected to attenuate CHDr in obese patients.

Aims
To evaluate variation in cardiovascular risk profile one year after adjustable gastric banding (AGB), in obese patients (with and without T2D); to correlate variation in CHDr estimate with variation in anthropometric parameters after surgery.

Methods
We studied 80 obese patients (11 men) that were characterized by BMI, waist circumference (WC) and blood pressure levels; a fasting blood sample was collected for glucose, total cholesterol (t-cholesterol) and HDL-c. Smoking habits and previous diagnosis of diabetes was checked. We used the Framingham risk equation for CHDr assessment. Patients were submitted to AGB and all parameters were reassessed 12 months after surgery.

Results
Before surgery, patients were characterized by mean age = 43 ± 10 years, weight = 124.6 ± 20.7 kg, BMI = 48.2 ± 6.3 kg/m², WC = 126.4 ± 13.8 cm, systolic blood pressure (SBP) = 135 ± 21 mmHg, diastolic blood pressure (DBP) = 87 ± 11 mmHg, t-cholesterol = 193.8 ± 38.7 mg/dl, HDL-c = 50.2 ± 12.2 mg/dl and Framingham score = 6.5 ± 1.6%. Twelve patients were smokers and 26 were diabetic. Twelve months after AGB there was a significant decrease in BMI (P < 0.001), WC (P < 0.001), DBP (P < 0.001), fasting glucose (P < 0.001), HbA1c (P < 0.001), t-cholesterol (P < 0.001), and CHDr prevalence (DM = 23.0% and Framingham score = P = 0.022) and a significant increase in HDL-c (P = 0.009).

No significant correlation was present between Framingham score and anthropometric variations. There was no significant difference in anthropometric or in Framingham score variations between patients with and without T2D.

Conclusions
There is an important amelioration of several cardiovascular risk factors and of CHDr estimate in obese patients one year after AGB. No major difference in CHDr variation is observed between diabetic and non-diabetic patients. The reduction observed in CHDr is independent from the direct effect of fat mass loss.

P353

Atherogenic and anti-atherogenic risk markers in subjects with obesity and/or type 2 diabetes
Denise Rosso, Valeria Bender & Valeria Furtado
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Introduction
A subclinical inflammatory state in obesity may be the link between diabetes mellitus (DM) and atherogenesis. This study aimed to investigate the relationship between pro atherogenic factors (C reactive protein (CRP), interleukine 6 (IL-6), vascular adhesion molecular type 1 (VCAM-1)), and anti-atherogenic factor adiponectin in subjects with obesity and DM.

Methods
One hundred and twelve subjects (51 men, 103 women) were enrolled: group DM (lean subject with DM, n = 21), group OB (obese non-diabetic subjects, n = 52, BMI ≥ 27 kg/m²) and group OB + DM (obese diabetic subjects, n = 49). A healthy group of 32 subjects with normal BMI was the control group (CG). CRP, IL-6, VCAM-1, adiponectin, glucose and lipid profile were determined in blood. Body composition was estimated by BIA.

Results
Obese subjects had higher CRP (OB = 6 ± 4.3 and OB + DM = 6.0 ± 4.0 versus CG = 1.7 ± 2.0, P < 0.001), VCAM-1 (OB = 518 ± 122.5 versus CG = 453.8 ± 119, P < 0.001), and lower adiponectin (OB = 0.87 ± 0.17, OB + DM = 0.88 ± 0.19 versus CG = 1.04 ± 0.19, P < 0.001) and HDL (OB + DM = 46.4 ± 10.2 and OB = 48 ± 4 versus CG = 55 ± 3.0, P < 0.001). DM subjects had lower adiponectin (DM = 0.91 ± 0.21 and OB + DM = 0.89 ± 0.19 versus CG = 1.04 ± 0.19, P < 0.001) and higher VCAM-1 (DM = 570 ± 132 and OB + DM = 572 ± 158 versus CG = 453.8 ± 119, P < 0.001), TG (DM = 157 ± 45 and OB + DM = 176 ± 119 versus CG = 83 ± 40, P < 0.001) and total cholesterol (DM = 230 ± 37 and OB + DM = 220 ± 36 versus CG = 206 ± 37, P < 0.001).

IL-6 was not
significantly different between groups. Multivariate analysis adjusted for sex and age showed that adiponectin was inversely and independently associated with BMI ($r = -0.300, P = 0.003$) and directly with HDL ($r = 0.299, P = 0.024$) in the whole population. Adiponectin was inversely and independently associated with TG only in OB + DM group ($r = -0.224, P = 0.028$). CRP was independently associated with visceral fat and total body fat ($r = 0.610, P = 0.0001$) in DM groups. The VCAM1 was not correlated with any variable.

Conclusion
We found significant increases on pro atherogenic markers CRP and VCAM-1 in obese subjects, as well as decreases on protective factors adiponectin and HDL, independent of the presence of type 2 diabetes.

P354
Optimal fasting plasma glucose level for diagnosis of diabetes in a Singaporean population
Joan Kho
Changi General Hospital, Singapore, Singapore.

Aim
Diabetes mellitus is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as fasting plasma glucose (FPG) ≥ 7.0 mmol/l (mM) or 2-hour post-load glucose (2HFG) ≥ 11.1 mM in the 75-gm oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). However, reported FPG cut-off levels that correspond to this 2HFG level are below 7.0 mM in Asian studies. Our study thus aims to find the optimal FPG cut-off that corresponds to 2HFG of 11.1 mM in an Asian population in Singapore.

Methods
Seven hundred and eighty-seven subjects were screened for diabetes with a 75-gm OGTT at the outpatient clinics of a Singapore hospital from 2001 to 2007. Plasma glucose levels were measured using a Beckmann-Coulter analyser. Regression models and receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves in SPSS 16.0 were used to define the optimal FPG cut-off. Stratified analyses were performed for age and sex.

Results
The mean age of our patients (393 males, 49.9%) was 50.0 ± 15.4 years (range 14–91). Their average FPG was 6.5 ± 2.8 mM (range 3.0–24.5), and mean 2HFG was 11.0 ± 5.6 mM (range 3.2–36.4). Exponential regression models were the best fit (higher $R^2$ value than linear, quadratic and logarithmic) for the whole population. The FPG level corresponding to 2HFG 11.1 mM using the exponential model was 6.1 mM. Patients aged 50 years and above had lower FPG cut-off (6.1 mM) corresponding to 2HFG 11.1 mM than younger patients (6.2 mM). The FPG cut-off derived from ROC analysis of the whole population was 6.0 mM (sensitivity 81.5%, specificity 82.0%, area under curve 0.90). Both age groups had FPG cut-off of 6.0 mM in the ROC analyses. Men and women had similar FPG cut-offs in both quadratic models and ROC analyses.

Conclusion
The FPG cut-off for diagnosis of diabetes in our Asian population is lower than the current WHO criteria.

P355
Endogenous estrogen levels are associated with endothelial function in males independently of lipid levels
Katerina Saliiti1,2, Kimon Stamatelopoulos1, Paraskevi Voidonioka1, Emily Mantzou1, Christos Papamichael1 & Maria Alevizaki1,2
1Endocrine Unit, Evgenidon Hospital, Athens University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece; 2Endocrine Unit, Department of Medical Therapeutics, Alexandra Hospital, Athens University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece; 3Vascular Laboratory, Department of Medical Therapeutics, Alexandra Hospital, Athens University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece.

Introduction-aim
It has been suggested that estrogen may play an important role in the regulation of endothelium-dependent vasodilatation in both sexes. Especially in men, estradiol administration has been shown to improve endothelial function; however such reports are conflicting. The aim of our study was to examine the relation of endogenous sex hormone levels with markers of early atherosclerosis in a cohort of apparently healthy individuals.

Methods
One hundred and forty-three males (age 46.25 ± 9.56 BMI 20.4 – 43.3, median 26.36 kg/m²) attending a preventive medicine program were examined for unrecognised features of the metabolic syndrome. Early markers of atherosclerosis such as endothelium dependent vasodilatation (flow-mediated dilatation, FMD) and intima media thickness (IMT) of the common carotid artery were recorded. BMI, waist and hip circumference and arterial pressure were also recorded. Estradiol, testosterone, SHBG, free testosterone, insulin, as well as glucose and lipid levels were measured.

Results
Higher estrogen levels were associated with lower cholesterol levels ($r = -0.1963, P = 0.047$) and higher BMI ($r = 0.2790, P = 0.004$). Estradiol levels were positively correlated with FMD ($r = 0.2016, P = 0.041$). FMD was negatively associated with total cholesterol ($r = -0.2056, P = 0.022$), low density lipoproteins ($r = -0.2322, r = 0.009$) and triglycerides levels ($r = -0.1796, P = 0.046$). Multivariate analysis showed that the association of estrogen levels with FMD was independent of lipid levels ($r = 0.202, P = 0.041$). No significant association of estradiol levels with the IMT of the common carotid artery was found. Free and bioavailable testosterone were negatively associated with the IMT of the left carotid artery only ($P < 0.03$).

Conclusion
Estrogen levels are associated with FMD, showing a protective effect, in apparently healthy, slightly overweight, male subjects. This appears to be a direct effect of endogenous estrogen on cardiovascular health independent of lipid levels. Circulating androgen may be favorable for structural changes such as the IMT thickness of carotid artery.

P356
Glucose intolerance and risk of cardiovascular disease: results of the 7.6 year follow-up of the Tehran lipid and glucose study (TLGS)
Farzad Haider1, Davood Khalili1, Noshin Sahimi1, Maryam Tohid1, Farhad Sheikholeslami1 & Fereidoon Azizi1
1Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Prevention of Metabolic Disorders Research Centers, Shahid Beheshti University (M.C.), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Endocrine Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (M.C.), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Background
To determine the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in an Iranian population according to glucose tolerance status.

Methods and results
The study population consisted of 1752 men and 2273 women aged ≥40 years without CVD. After a median follow up of 7.6 years, 340 CVD events occurred (197 in men and 143 in women). Women generally had more Framingham risk score (FRS) than men (12.7 vs 11.9, $P = 0.001$) and there was no difference between the FRS of newly diagnosed diabetes mellitus (NDM) and known diabetes mellitus (KDM) in both genders. Applying Cox proportional hazard modeling, after controlling risk factors, hazard ratios (HRs) and 95%confidence intervals for CVD in women with KDM and NDM were 3.88 (2.40 to 6.27) and 2.34 (1.39 to 3.95) and the corresponding values for men were 1.72 (1.00 to 2.95) and 1.52 (1.01–2.31) respectively. In age adjusted model, impaired fasting glucose or impaired glucose tolerance (IFG/IGT) was associated with 56% increased risk for CVD only in women (HR: 1.56, 95% CI 1.00 to 2.45). The multivariate HR for abnormal glucose metabolism (KDM, NDG and IFG/IGT) was significant in women 1.8 (1.2 to 2.7) but not in men 1.07 to 1.4). Adjustment with FRS instead of risk factors did not change our results.

Conclusion
All diabetic should receive intensive primary prevention for CVD regardless of risk factors and whether they are NDM or KDM, with further emphasis on female with abnormal glucose metabolism.

P357
Pharmacokineti of the dipetidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor saxagliptin in subjects with renal impairment
David Boulton, Angela Tang, Chirag Patel, Li Li, Xiaohui Xu, Ernst Frevert & David Kornhauser
Bristol-Myers Squibb R&D, Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

Background/aims
Saxagliptin is a potent, selective dipetidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitor, specifically designed for extended inhibition of the DPP-4 enzyme. Saxagliptin is cleared by both metabolism and renal excretion. The aims of this study were to determine the effect of renal impairment (RI) and haemodialysis (HD) on the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin.

Methods
This open-label, parallel-group study was conducted in subjects with normal renal function (glomerular filtration rate (GFR)=>80 ml/min), mild (50-80 ml/min), moderate (30-50 ml/min) and severe (<30 ml/min) RI, and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) requiring HD (6 subjects/category) in clinical pharmacology units. Subjects were administered single oral doses of saxagliptin (10 mg), and on a separate occasion received intravenous ioxelex for a secondary GFR assessment (not HD subjects). A 4-h HD session was started 2 hours after saxagliptin dosing in ESRD subjects. Serum blood and cumulative urine samples for pharmacokinetic assessments of saxagliptin, its major active metabolite (BMS-510849), and ioxelex were collected.

Results
Ioxelex systemic clearance correlated well with estimated GFR. The degree of RI did not affect the Cmax of saxagliptin or its major metabolite. In mild RI subjects, the overall mean systemic exposure (AUCr) values of saxagliptin and its major metabolite were 1.2- and 1.7-fold higher, respectively, than mean AUCr values in subjects with normal renal function. The saxagliptin and metabolite AUCr values in moderate RI subjects were 1.4- and 2.9-fold higher, respectively, than subjects with normal renal function. The corresponding values in severe RI subjects were 2.1- and 4.5-fold higher, respectively. A 4-h HD session removed 23% of the saxagliptin dose.

Conclusion
AUCr values for saxagliptin and, to a greater extent, its major metabolite were correlated with the degree of RI, whereas Cmax values were not well-correlated. Saxagliptin and its metabolite were cleared by haemodialysis.

P358
Biphasic insulin aspart 30/70 improves glycemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes: clinical practice experience from Indian subgroup of the IMPROVE study

AG Unnikrishnan1, Siddharth Shah2, Arthur Asivatham3, Praful Chakkarwar4, Ashok Moharana5 & Dheeraj Kapoor6

1Aurita Institute of Medical Sciences, Cochin, Kerala, India; 2Bhata Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India; 3Madurai Medical College, Madurai, Tamilnadu, India; 4Artemis Health Institute, Gurgaon, Haryana, India; 5Novo Nordisk, Bangalore, India.

Aims & objectives
IMPROVE4 is a 6-month, multi-national, prospective, observational study, assessing the safety and efficacy of biphasic insulin aspart 30/70 (BiAsp 30) in patients with type 2 diabetes.

Method
We present the efficacy data from the Indian cohort of IMPROVE study. A total of 17,995 subjects entered the study and 16,942 subjects completed the study. BiAsp 30 was initiated and dose was adjusted at the physician’s discretion, reflecting everyday practice. Efficacy analysis set (EAS) includes 16,322 subjects. Efficacy was assessed by change in mean HbA1c, proportion of subjects achieving HbA1c targets (≤6.5%, ≤7.6%, target set by treating physicians), change in FBG, change in PPBG and change in FBG variability following 26 weeks of treatment.

Results
In comparison to baseline, there were significant reductions in mean HbA1c (n=15,624, 9.33 to 7.33%, P<0.001), FBG (n=14,935, 191 to 120 mg/dl, P<0.001), FBG variability (n=59, 21 to 11 mg/dl, P<0.001) and 2-hour post-breakfast PPBG (n=10, 319, 277 to 171 mg/dl, P<0.001) at the end of 26 weeks treatment. Significant improvement was also seen in proportion of subjects achieving HbA1c ≤6.5% (19%), HbA1c ≤7.6% (40%) and HbA1c target set by treating physicians (32%).

Conclusions
In this real life practice study, BiAsp 30 effectively improved glycemic parameters. Initiation of BiAsp 30 treatment significantly reduced mean HbA1c, FBG, 2-hour PPBG and FBG variability. There were also significant improvements in proportions of subjects achieving HbA1c targets. In conclusion, BiAsp 30 is an effective option for treating type 2 diabetes in Indian subjects.

The efficacy and safety of saxagliptin – a potent, selective dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitor, specifically designed for extended inhibition of the DPP-4 enzyme – was investigated in two double-blind, randomised trials (CV181-014/Study 1 and CV181-039/Study 2), either as add-on therapy in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) inadequately controlled by metformin alone (HbA1c >7.0-10.0%) or as initial combination therapy with metformin in drug-naive T2DM patients (HbA1c 8.0-12.0%).

Following a placebo run-in, patients with inadequately controlled T2DM (n=743) on metformin, in Study 1, were randomised to receive once-daily saxagliptin 2.5, 5.0 or 10.0 mg, or placebo, plus their stable metformin dose, and drug-naive patients (n=1300), in Study 2, were randomised to receive saxagliptin/metformin 5/500 mg (SSMET), 10/500 mg (SILMET), saxagliptin 10 mg or metformin 500 mg once daily. In the SS/MET, S10/MET and metformin alone treatment groups of Study 2, metformin was up-titrated incrementally (Weeks 1-5) to a maximum of 2000 mg/day. Both studies’ primary endpoint was HbA1c change, from baseline. Treatment groups were well balanced for baseline characteristics within each study. At week 24, significant (P<0.001) reductions in adjusted-mean HbA1c change from baseline were observed in Study 1 for saxagliptin 2.5, 5.0 and 10.0 mg (−0.59, −0.69 and −0.58%, respectively), compared with placebo (0.13%), and in Study 2 for SS/MET (−2.53%) and S10/MET (−2.49%), compared with saxagliptin (−1.69%) or metformin (−1.99%) alone. In each study, saxagliptin plus metformin provided significant (P<0.001) reductions in fasting plasma glucose and postprandial glucose, increased proportions of patients with therapeutic glycemic response (HbA1c <7%), and was well tolerated with no increased incidence of hypoglycaemia compared with matched controls. Saxagliptin add-on or initial combination therapy with metformin provides significant and clinically meaningful reductions in key parameters of glycemic control and is well tolerated in patients with inadequately controlled T2DM.

P359
Saxagliptin either as add-on therapy to metformin or as initial combination therapy with metformin improves glycemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes

Andreas Pfützner1, Irina Gurieva2, Mikhail Antsiferov3, Elsie Allen4, Shoba Ravichandran5 & Roland Chen6

1Institute for Clinical Research and Development, Mainz, Germany; 2AstraZeneca, Moscow, Russian Federation; 3Endocrinology Dispensary, Moscow, Russian Federation; 4Global Clinical Research, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

Estrogens play a protective role on the peripheral vascular endothelium in both females and males, however, no studies have reported on the effects of estrogens on male coronary arterial reactivity. We investigated the effects of estrogen therapy on coronary and endothelial function in a group of male to female transsexuals (M-to-F).

Eight M-to-F transsexuals (group A), receiving oral estrogen therapy for 72 months were studied in comparison with 23 age-matched healthy controls subdivided into 3 groups: 8 women (group B), 7 men without cardiovascular risk factors (group C), and 8 men (group D) with a comparable cardiovascular risk of transsexuals. Coronary flow reserve (CFR), was assessed to investigate the coronary endothelium. Flow mediated dilation (FMD) was assessed on brachial artery after flow increase and after nitroglycerin administration. Cardiovascular risk factors (smoke, blood pressure, lipid profile) were recorded.

The average number of risk factors was significantly greater in transsexuals and group D than in groups B and C. Systolic blood pressure was higher in group A and D than in B. Total and HDL cholesterol levels were similar in all groups but LDL cholesterol and triglyceride levels were higher in group A and D than in group B. CFR was higher in transsexuals compared with group D, but significantly reduced compared with groups B and C.

FMD in transsexuals was higher, although not significantly, than in group D, whereas it was significantly reduced compared with group B and C. Response to nitroglycerine was similar in transsexuals and in group D, and significantly reduced compared to groups B and C.

Estrogen therapy in M-to-F transsexuals is not harmful in terms of peripheral vascular function and coronary endothelial function. A tendency toward small improvement of endothelial risk factors with respect to the general population seems to be produced by the treatment.

P361
Cardio-intima media thickness and serum osteoprotegerin and RANKL levels in diabetic and prediabetic patients

Serife Mehlika Isildak, Anil Barak, Yakup Yesilakaya, Deniz Akata & Omer Alper Gurlek

Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey.

While well defined for their role in new bone formation, osteoprotegerin and RANK-ligand (RANKL) are also being questioned for their possible association

with the atherosclerotic process since the similarity between the pathogenic process of atherosclerotic plaque calcification and new bone formation is recently under observation. In our study we aimed to find whether there is an association between OPG and RANKL levels and carotid intima media thickness (taken as a measure of atherosclerosis) in diabetic and prediabetic subjects. We evaluated 78 subjects (17 male). Twenty of them were type 2 diabetic, 16 had impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), 19 had impaired fasting glucose (IFG) and 23 were healthy controls. None of the subjects had a known cardiovascular or cerebrovascular disease neither suffered micro- macrovascular complications of diabetes. Anthropometric measurements are taken in all subjects, serum OPG and RANKL levels are measured as well as serum lipids and lipoprotein A, C reactive protein, homocysteine and insulin. Carotid intima media thickness is measured by ultrasonography.

Overall, RANKL and OPG levels did not differ between groups. There was a positive correlation between OPG and mean carotid intima media thickness in IFG group only (P<0.05; r=-0.47). OPG is positively correlated with insulin levels in type 2 diabetic patients (P<0.05; r=-0.51). RANKL levels were positively correlated with triglyceride levels in healthy controls (P>0.05; r=-0.42). In multivariate analysis, we failed to find an independent parameter related to carotid intima media thickness in each group.

OPG level is positively correlated with mean carotid intima media thickness in subjects with IFG. This effect disappears when confounding factors are taken into account. We believe that the relationship between OPG and RANKL levels and atherosclerosis needs to be studied in larger populations with or without conventional risk factors for atherosclerosis.

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**P362**

Klotho gene polymorphism may be a genetic risk factor for metabolic syndrome in men

Constantinos Kitsoulis, Aththi Chatzikyriakiou, Nektaria Xita, Ioannis Georgiou & Agathocles Tatsoulis
University of Ioannina, Ioannina, Greece.

Introduction
Klotho has an important role in insulin signaling and the development of ageing–like phenotypes in mice. Recently, the G-395A polymorphism in the promoter region of the human klotho gene has been reported to affect promoter function. It has been also shown to be an independent genetic risk factor for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. The aim of this study was to examine the possible role of this polymorphism in the metabolic syndrome.

Subjects and methods
The study population consisted of 32 men with metabolic syndrome aged 63.5 ± 14.8 years and 64 healthy men of similar age. The body mass index and the waist to hip ratio were recorded and blood samples were obtained after overnight fasting for biochemical tests. The G-395A polymorphism was genotyped in peripheral blood leukocytes.

Results
The G-395A genotypes were found to be in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium in both study groups. Compared with healthy men, men with metabolic syndrome were less frequently carriers of the GG genotype and the G allele (53.1% vs 76.6%, P=0.03 and 73.4 vs 86.7%, P=0.02 respectively). Neither BMI, nor lipid profile was different among genotypes of the G-395A polymorphism in men with metabolic syndrome. However, patients carriers of the GG genotype had less frequently diabetes compared with patients with GA or AA genotype (30.8 vs 69.2%, P=0.03).

Conclusion
The G-395A polymorphism of the klotho gene may be involved in the pathogenesis of metabolic syndrome and glucose metabolism in men.

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**P363**

Chemotherapy does not influence measures of glycaemic control in non-diabetic patients affected by acute leukaemia

Vincenzo Triggiani¹, Edvuro Guastamachica ¹, Vincenzo Liso¹, Giorgetta Specchia¹, Francesco Resta¹, Carlo Sabbà¹, Brunella Lucchelli¹ & Emilio Tafraro²
¹Endocrinology, University of Bari, Bari, Italy; ²Étumatology, University of Bari, Bari, Italy; ³Internal Medicine, University of Bari, Bari, Italy.

Aim
Aim of the study was the evaluation of the effects of chemotherapy on insulin secretion and insulin sensitivity in patients affected by acute leukaemia.

Materials and methods
Thirty-two non-diabetic patients (17 male, 15 female; age 51.1 ± 17.4, range 16–76 years; BMI = 25.1 ± 3.7, range 18.4–32.8 kg/m²; 6=18% with a family history of diabetes mellitus) affected by acute leukaemia. 4 LLA (12.5%) and 28 LMA (87.5%), have been submitted to chemotherapy (different combination of mitoxantrone, cytarabine, vincristin, doxorubicin, etoposide and prednison). Fasting glycaemia, insulin (IRI) and C-peptide have been evaluated before and after chemotherapy as well as HbA1c. Indices of beta cells function and insulin resistance have been calculated.

Results
The results are reported in the Table (P= NS).

Conclusion
All patients showed a basal condition of impaired fasting glycaemia, hyperglycaemia being frequently observed in critically ill patients. Preliminary results of our study, however, show that chemotherapy does not influence measures of glycaemic control in non-diabetic patients affected by LLA and LMA.

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**P364**

Pancreatic function in β-thalassemic patients

Andromachi Vryomindou-Bompota, Vasiliki Loi, Georgia Vasiliou, Thomas Terzi, Olympia Karagianni, Costas Tziotas & Costas Phenekos
Red Cross Hospital, Athens, Greece.

Background & aims
Impaired glucose tolerance and diabetes as well as cardiac dysfunction are known complications in homozygous beta-thalassemic transfused patients due to iron overload. We aimed to study pancreatic and beta-cell function in regularly transfused patients with homozygous beta-thalassemia and to investigate if cardiac dysfunction may correlate with the development of impaired glucose metabolism.

Methods
An oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) with 75 g was performed in 38 beta-thalassemic patients (17–45 years old) 28 with normal and 10 with impaired fasting glycaemia. All patients were receiving two blood units every 15–20 days and were on iron chelation therapy. Glucose, insulin, C-peptide and glucagon plasma levels were assayed every thirty minutes up to 2 h. Patients were divided according to the American Diabetes Association criteria into those with diabetes mellitus, impaired glucose tolerance and those with normal glucose tolerance. A division concerning cardiac dysfunction was also made according to Doppler Echocardiograph and myocardium MRI results.

Results
Diabetes mellitus was diagnosed in eight patients, and impaired glucose tolerance was observed in ten patients, giving a prevalence of total impaired glucose metabolism of 47.3% in our patient population. After OGTT, the area under insulin plasma concentrations versus time curve ( AUC[0–120] ) was lower for patients with impaired glucose metabolism compared to those with normoglycaemia ( 3936 [µU/mL] min versus 6549 [µU/mL] min, P<0.01). Similarly, AUC[0–120] was lower in patients with cardiac dysfunction compared to those with normal cardiac function ( 3079 [µU/mL] min versus 6189 [µU/mL] min, P<0.05). The area under the curve for glucagon after OGTT was similar in normoglycemic and hyperglycemic patients.

Conclusions
The significant decrease of AUC[0–120] in thalassemic patients with impaired glucose metabolism is consistent with pancreatic beta-cell failure while alpha-cell function does not seem to be influenced. In thalassemic patients with normal fasting glycaemia, cardiac dysfunction may be a prognostic factor for impaired glucose metabolism.
P365
Characterization of type 1 interferon (IFN) mediated diabetes sparing activity
Douglas Sobel1, Behrouz Alvazi2 & Carol Ponzser3
1Georgetown University, Georgetown, Washington DC, USA; 2University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA.

We have shown that Type 1 IFN paradoxically inhibits autoimmune diabetes in the NOD mouse and BB rat. We assessed the structure function relationship and potential mechanism of this interferon action by determining: (1) the diabetes sparing effect of several type 1 IFNs: recombinant human IFN-A/β 11 (IFN-α1), rIFN-α/β inhibited LPS stimulated NO by 84 and 74% respectively (P<0.01) while IFN-β and IFN-γ had no effect. In conclusion, these data support the contention that IFN-β and IFN-γ have antagonist activity in the diabetic mice and C57BL/6 mice demonstrating the diabetes sparing effect of type 1 IFN. Further, only some type I IFNs have this inhibitory effect on the autoimmune diabetic process in mice. The inhibition of class I HLA binding and CD40-CD40 ligand interactions by IFN-β may play a mediate the diabetes sparing effect. Although some type 1 IFNs inhibit the production of NO, this action may not be an important mechanism for any or all type I IFNs since NO inhibition did not correlate with diabetes sparing activity.

P367
The relationship between hemoglobin levels and endothelial functions in diabetes mellitus
Alper Sommez2, M Iker Yilmaz2, Carmine Zoccali2, Mutlu Saglam2, Selim Kilic2, Gokhan Ucayla2, Tayfun Eyleten,3 Mustafa Kuhlau1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Gulhane Military Medical School, Etilk, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of Nephrology, Gulhane Military Medical School, Etilk, Ankara, Turkey; 3Department of Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation Unit and CNR-BIBM Clinical Epidemiology and Pathophysiology of Renal Diseases and Hypertension, Reggio Calabria, Italy; 4Department of Radiology, Gulhane Military Medical School, Etilk, Ankara, Turkey; 5Department of Endocrinology, Gulhane Military Medical School, Etilk, Ankara, Turkey.

Introduction
Hemoglobin (Hb) is the main carrier and buffer of Nitric oxide. Recently, an inverse association between Hb and the endothelium dependent relaxation was observed in patients with Type 2 diabetes. Testing whether this association exists also in diabetic nephropathy is important because anemia in these patients starts at an earlier stage than in other renal disease. Also, at population level diabetes and renal dysfunction, particularly albuminuria, contribute independently to the risk of cardiovascular complications. Therefore, we investigated the association between Hb and the forearm blood flow mediated vasodilatory response to ischemia (FMD) in a group of well selected patients with diabetic nephropathy.

Methods
We enrolled 89 diabetics with proteinuria who were normotensive, non-obese, non-smoker, non dyslipidemic and cardiovascular events free. None of the patients were taking metformin or drugs that interfere with the renin-angiotensin system. FMD of the brachial artery was assessed by high resolution ultrasound. Results
The age, sex, BMI, blood pressure, HbA1c and glomerular filtration rates (GFR) were similar in patients having Hb values either above or below the median Hb values. In the multivariate analysis, higher Hb levels were associated with significantly lower FMD values (β = -0.44, P < 0.001). Adjustment for the full set of Framingham risk factors and further adjustment for proteinuria, hsCRP, insulin, GFR, and the uric acid levels did not produce a significant reduction in the strength of the association between Hb and FMD.

Discussion
According to the results diabetic nephropathy patients with higher Hb values have impaired endothelial functions independent from any other established cardiovascular risk factor. Our findings show that frank proteinuria exposes a situation wherein Hb may limit the endothelium-mediated vasoregulation in type-2 diabetes. Further studies are warranted in order to see whether these findings may explain the mechanism of increased cardiovascular event rates in patients with diabetes mellitus and diabetic proteinuria.

P368
A comparison between adhesion molecules (as markers of inflammation) in identifying cardiovascular disease in postmenopausal women
Adela-Viviana Sitar-Taut, Mirela Cebanu, Olga Sorină, Carmen Stăgurenă, Dana Popă & Dumitra Tudor Zărbenea
1University of Medicine and Pharmacy ‘Iuliu Hatieganu’, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 2‘Cancer Hospital ‘Prof 1 Chiricuta’, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Background
There are increasing evidences that inflammation is involved in the pathophysiolog- y of both coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease. Adhesion molecules have been advocated as a maker of inflammation.

Objectives
To evaluate the capacity of inflammation’s markers (sICAM-1, sVCAM-1) to identify cardiovascular disease, comparing adhesion molecules with a standard diagnosis of cardiovascular disease.

Methods
We examined 35 postmenopausal women with mean aged of 57.9±12.91 years. As risk factors have been assessed the body weight, smoking status, glycemia, and serum lipids fractions. In order to confirm or exclude cardiovascular disease we perform clinical exam, ECG and, when was necessary, echocardiography, stress test or coronary angiography. Adhesion molecule (sICAM-1 and sVCAM-1) were measured (in ng/ml) in stored serum samples collected, using ELISA method. Optimum sensitivity, specificity, predictive values, and area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve were evaluated.

Results
Cardiovascular disease was present in 14 (38.9%) of the cases. There were no significant differences registered regarding sICAM-1’s and sVCAM-1’s values between patients with and without cardiovascular disease (sICAM-1 364.5±122.90 vs 362.79±160.03 ng/ml P=NS, respectively for sVCAM-1 702.75±200.39 vs 605.72±172.77 ng/ml P=NS). Area under the ROC curve was 0.505 for sICAM-1 (P=NS) and 0.680 for sVCAM-1 (P=0.07). Diagnostic cut off levels with the optimum sensitivity and specificity derived from the ROC curve were found to be: sICAM-1 228.4 ng/ml (sensitivity 91.8%, specificity 15.9% ) and for sVCAM-1 685.59 ng/ml (sensitivity 71.4%, specificity 85.7% ).

Conclusion
Although, sVCAM-1 is under the influence of some factors that are not fully explained (such age, presence of endothelial dysfunction or other cardiovascular risk factors), in postmenopausal women, sVCAM-1 seems to be a better identifier of women at risk for cardiovascular disease in comparison with sICAM-1.
adjusted for multiple testing. In summary, we conclude that SNPs in adiponectin gene are unlikely to represent the risk for T2D and increased BMI in Latvian population.

Results
A total of 42 patients, men (40.5%) and women (59.5%) aged 37–57 years were included. In all patients, there were significant correlations between waist circumference and LVM; between BMI and LVM; between BMI and LMMI. Looking at the results according to sex; there were significant relations between BMI and LVM (P = 0.007, r = 0.528) in women. This parameters were not associated in men. There was significant correlation between BMI and MPI (P = 0.026; r = −0.537) in only men (Table 1).

Conclusion
BMI associated with increasing LVM and LMMI, is an important risk factor in especially women for diabetic heart disease. The MPI, a new doppler index of global cardiac function, has limited importance in type 2 diabetes without clinical cardiac disease and is more important in men.

P370
The relationship between body mass index-left ventricle mass index-myocardial performance index in type 2 diabetes
Fatma Albaz Önge1,2, Zeynep Gurcan1,2, İslı Uzunhashan1,2, Mehmet Emin Pekinpasa1,2, & Mecit Ergüney1,2
1) Istanbul Education and Research Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey; 2) Cardiology Institute of Haseki, University of Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey.

Introduction
Diabetes mellitus (DM) has been associated with abnormalities of cardiac function and left ventricular hypertrophy. Diabetic individuals, particularly women, had higher heart rates, greater left ventricular wall thicknesses, greater cardiac mass than unaffected subjects. We aimed to investigate association between waist circumference-body mass index (BMI) and left ventricle mass (LVM)-left ventricle myocardial perfusion index (MPI) in patients with type 2 DM and without known cardiac disease.

Methods
The patients with type 2 DM were examined with tissue doppler imaging echocardiography to detect MPI/LVM was calculated by the Penn Convention formula. LVMi was calculated. Waist circumference was measured, BMI was calculated. The exclusion criteria; known cardiac diseases, pulmonary diseases, endocrine diseases except DM, anemia, angina pectoris, dyspepsia, peripheral edema, serum creatinine level > 1.5 mg/dl, ejection fraction (EF) < 50%. The GraphPad Prism V.3 package program was used for statistical analyses.


P372
N-acylcysteine is able to reduce the oxidation status and the endothelial activation after a high-glucose content meal in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus
Andi Masha1,2, Loredana Brocatò1, Stefano Dinatulà1, Cinzia Mascia2, Fiorella Biasi1 & Valentino Martina1
1) Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Turin, Turin, Italy; 2) Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, University of Turin, Turin, Italy.

Introduction
Post-prandial hyperglycaemia seems to play a pivotal role in the pathogenesis of cardiovascular complications of diabetes mellitus, as it leads to oxidative stress which in turn causes reduced NO bioavailability that produce endothelial activation.

Aim
Aim of the study was to assess that the administration of N-acylcysteine (NAC), a thiol antioxidant, is able to decrease oxidation status and endothelial activation after a high-glucose content meal.
Subjects and methods
Ten patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (DMT2) (Group 1) and 10 normal
subjects (Group 2) assumed a high-glucose content meal without (phase A) or
after (phase B) the administration of NAC. Glycemia, insulinemia, ICA1-M,
VCAM-1, E-selectin, malondialdehyde (MDA) and 4-hydroxy-nonenal (HNE) were
assessed at 0, +30', +60', +90', +120' and +180'.
Results
During phase A in group 1, only HNE and MDA levels increased after the meal
assumption (+60': 7.7 (6.2-8.5) vs 6.9 (5.6-8.0), P<0.05 and 4.8 (3.6-5.3) vs
4.3 (3.7-4.9), P<0.02 respectively); all parameters remained unchanged in group
2. During phase B, in group 1, HNE, MDA, VCAM-1 and E-selectin levels after
the meal were lower than those in phase A (see Table), while no change for all
variables were observed in group 2.
Conclusions
A high-glucose meal produces an increase in oxidation parameters in DMT2.
NAC reduces the oxidative stress and, subsequently, reduces the endothelial
activation. In conclusion, NAC could be efficacious in the slackening of the
progression of vascular damage in DMT2.

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*P<0.05 respect to same time in phase A.

P374
Incidence of diabetic ketoacidosis during Ramadan fasting in Benghazi, Libya
Rafik Elmeshawli1, Mohammad Elmiuda2 & Hanan Elmarghi2
1Al-Arab Medical University, Benghazi, Libya, Arab Jamahiriya; 2Al-Jamahiriya Hospital, Benghazi, Libya Arab Jamahiriya.

Background
Ramadan is the ninth month on the lunar calendar and for over a billion Muslims it
is a holy month during which all healthy adults must observe absolute fasting
from dawn to sunset. The risk of diabetic ketoacidosis is thought to be higher
during Ramadan fasting due to hormonal disequilibrium.

Aim and objectives
The aim of this study was to examine the hypothesis that diabetic ketoacidosis is
more frequent during Ramadan fasting.

Patients and methods
A retrospective analysis of the records of all patients admitted with DKA to all
Benghazi hospitals during the lunar year 1428 Hijri (January 2007 to January 2008).

Results
Fifteen episodes occurred during Ramadan (4.6 episode/10,000 diabetic) as
compare to 19.45 episodes/month (6 episode/10,000 diabetic/month) during
the other lunar months (P=0.000). There was no significant difference in the patients'
mean age (37.6±10 vs 38.3±19, P=0.8), or mortality rate (13.3 vs 14.4,%
P=0.9) during Ramadan and other months. The commonest precipitating factor
of diabetic ketoacidosis during Ramadan was infection (46.6%), followed by miss
dosing (33.3%).

Conclusion
There is no increase in the incidence and mortality from DKA during Ramadan
which might indicate that Ramadan fasting is not a significant risk factor for
diabetic ketoacidosis.

P375
ECOR1 polymorphism but not Xbalpha polymorphism of apolipoprotein B gene
is associated with carotis intima media thickness in type 2 diabetic patients
Meral Yuksel1, Sedaa Cansak2, Dilek Dereli Yazici2, Beste Ozten3, Dilek Gogas-Yavuz2 & Nefise Sema Akalin4
1Vocational School of Health Related Professions, Marmara University, Havдарpasa/Istanbul, Turkey; 2Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism, School of Medicine, Marmara University, Altunizade/Istanbul, Turkey; 3Department of Cardiology, School of Medicine, Marmara University, Altunizade/Istanbul, Turkey.

ApoB plays a central role in lipoprotein metabolism through regulation of total
cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol (LDL-C) concentrations in plasma. Two
restriction fragment length polymorphisms (ECOR1 and Xbalpha) represent single
base alterations in the coding region of ApoB gene. ECOR1 polymorphic region
of ApoB gene is due to on an amino acid change (Glu→Lys). The Xbalpha
polymorphic region of ApoB gene results from a substitution of (A→T) in the
thromine codon and does not change the amino acid sequence.

In this study, we aimed the determine ECOR1 and Xbalpha restriction enzyme
polymorphisms of ApoB gene with respect to carotis intima media thickness
(CIMT) in 238 type II diabetic patients and 118 control subjects. After
polymerase chain reaction with specific primers for ApoB gene, PCR products
were digested (ECOR1 and Xbalpha), electrophoresed and visualized.

No significant changes in cholister, TG, HDL-C, LDL-C, Apo A and ApoB
levels were determined between control and type II diabetic subjects. The
frequencies of Xbalpha polymorphism in diabetic patients were 42.5% XX,
48.4% Xx and 9.1% xx; and in control subjects 44.4% XX, 44.4% Xx and 11.2% xx
(P=0.05). The ECOR1 frequencies are 2.2% EE, 41.1% Ee and 56.7% ee in
diabetic patients; 7.8% EE, 23.7% Ee and 68.4% ee in controls (P<0.0442).
CIMT measurements were significantly increased in diabetic subjects
(P=0.0040).

Our results suggest that there was a relation between the ECOR1 polymorphic site
of ApoB gene with CIMT in type II diabetic patients. It is possible that ECOR1
polymorphic site of ApoB gene leads to oxidation of LDL-C and thereby an
increase in CIMT.

P376
Insulin-loaded lipid nanospheres surfaced with polysaccharides for oral delivery
Eliana B Souto1 & Selma B Souto2
1Faculty of Health Sciences, Universidade Fernando Pessoa, Porto, Portugal; 2Endocrinology Department, Hospital S João, Porto, Portugal.

Insulin delivery through oral route requires protein protection against gastric environment followed by intestinal absorption. Several approaches using colloidal carriers have been proposed to achieve such attempts. Examples are nanoparticles produced from lipid materials (mono, di and triacylglycerols, waxes, fatty acids), polymeric materials (poly acid lactic/glycolic co-polymers, poly-eryson caprolactone) or from polysaccharides (hyaluronic acid, dextran sulphate, alginate, chitosan). The present work proposes a new drug delivery system composed of cetyl palmitate nanospheres as matrix core, reinforced with polysaccharide molecules for oral insulin administration. Mean particle size, swelling behaviour and protein release profiles in simulated gastrointestinal conditions have been assessed. Increased insulin protection and modified release profile from lipid nanospheres was observed by reinforcing their matrix with alginate-chitosan and/or dextran sulphate. Surfacing the nanospheres with polysaccharide molecules could avoid insulin release at pH 1.5, protecting the protein from the acidic environment and reducing the total insulin released at pH 6.5. This effect was explained by an interaction between the permanent negatively charged groups of dextran sulphate and insulin molecules. For oral protein absorption, the ileum seems to be an ideal site for nanosphere uptake, where abundant Peyer patches exist with proteolytic enzyme activity. The paracellular pathway has also been shown to contribute to protein absorption, most polyepitope drugs diffuse through the aqueous-filled tight junctional pathway due to their hydrophilic nature.

P377
Influence of admission plasma glucose level on short and long-term prognosis in patients with ST-Segment elevation myocardial infarction
Violeta Mladenovic1, Aleksandra Djukić1, Marina Jovicevic1, Vladimir Zdravkovic2 & Mirko Rovic3
1Center for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, Internal Clinic, Clinic Center, Kragujevac, Serbia; 2Center for Cardiology, Internal Clinic, Clinic Center, Kragujevac, Serbia; 3Institute for Cardiology, Internal Clinic, Clinical Center, Kragujevac, Serbia.

High admission plasma glucose (APG) levels after ST-segment elevation acute myocardial infarction (STEMI) are common and associated with an increased risk of death in subjects with and without known diabetes. Aim The aim of this study is to analyse the short and long term prognostic significance of APG in patients with STEMI with and without diabetes. Material and methods This study included all patients registered in Coronary Unit, Department of Cardiology at Internal Clinic, Clinical Center Kragujevac from January, the 1st 2007., to June, the 30th 2007. Patient survival was measured on 28 days and one year after admission. Diabetes mellitus was defined as the use of insulin or glucose-lowering medication on admission, or a diet for diabetes documented in medical history. Results We studied 115 patients admitted consecutively with STEMI. The majority of patients in the study were males (69.6%). The mean age of patients was 64.25±10.69 years. At the time of hospital admission average plasma glucose was 8.77±2.54 mmol/l. Average APG is statistically significantly higher in patients who died one month after STEMI than who survived (10.1±2.83 vs 8.45±2.37 mmol/l; P=0.006). Average APG is statistically significantly higher in patients who died one year after STEMI than who survive (9.4±2.37 vs 8.42±2.57 mmol/l; P=0.047). Total mortality of STEMI (one-month survival) pt is 19.1%. Total mortality of STEMI (one-year survival) pt is 35.6%. There is no statistically significance in average APG in diabetic patients with STEMI who died one month after and who survived (10.09±2.68 vs 10.0±2.51 mmol/l; P=0.657), as well as those who died after one year and who survived (10.1±1.92 vs 10.09±2.38 mmol/l, P=0.996). But, there is statistically significance in average APG in non diabetic patients with STEMI who died one month after and who survived (9.97±2.97 vs 7.91±2.08 mmol/l, P=0.001), as well as those who died after one year and who survived (9.17±2.49 vs 7.84±2.24 mmol/l, P=0.013).

P378
The effect of glycemic control on mean platelet volume in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus
Alpekkin Gürsoy, Cüneyd Anıl, Semra Ay pérdiniz, Aslı Nar & Neslihan Basci Türtünç
Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Baskent University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective Morphologic and functional platelet abnormalities have been previously reported in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (DM) and some of these abnormalities have been linked to increased cardiovascular risk. Mean platelet volume (MPV) informs not only about platelet size, but also about its functions. Larger platelets bear more thrombotic potential. Higher MPV values have been correlated with cardiovascular events in the short and long run. Previous studies have demonstrated higher MPV levels in type 2 diabetic patients in comparison with those with normal glucose metabolism. However, the effect of glycemic control on MPV has not been investigated before. This study aimed to explore the effect of glycemic control on MPV. Subjects and methods MPV of 94 patients with type 2 DM were determined before and after glycemic regulation. The control group consisted of 61 age and body mass index matched cases with normal glucose metabolism. Results MPV levels were found to be significantly higher in diabetic patients (9.7 ± 1.5 fl) than the controls (7.8 ± 0.9 fl) (P<0.001). Glycated hemoglobin levels before and after glycemic control were 8.8±2.0 and 6.4±0.5% respectively (P<0.0001). MPV levels were not significantly different before and after glycemic control (9.7±1.5 and 9.5±1.5 fl respectively, P=0.17) in type 2 DM patients. The two groups were also similar as far as the platelet numbers were concerned. Conclusion High MPV values in type 2 DM patients may reflect an intrinsic abnormality of the platelets, which might in turn conceivably tend to cardiovascular events.

P379
Association between APOE genotype and hsCRP in Iranian population: Tehran, lipid and glucose study
Maryam Daneshpour, Sara Behnami, Mehdi Hedayati & Fereidoun Azizi
Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Obesity Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (MC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction High sensitive CRP (hsCRP) has been reported to associate with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. There is some evidence on apolipoprotein in relation to the parameters of inflammation. We have investigated the association between APOE genotypes and hsCRP levels in an Iranian population. Materials and methods We performed a cross-sectional study of 966 subjects (419 men and 547 women) from the Tehran Lipid and Glucose Study. hsCRP level were determined and a segment of the Apo E gene was amplified by PCR and the polymorphism revealed by RFLP using Hhal restriction enzyme. Results The presence of the e4 allele was significantly associated with decreased serum CRP levels after logarithmic transformation of CRP level. Increase of the CRP level was associated with increase of some risk factors of the cardiovascular disease including age, hyper tension, obesity and lipid profile. Conclusion The previous reports about the association between hsCRP level and apolipoprotein tested in our population and the relationship between the presence of the E4 and the decrease of the hsCRP was confirmed. However the pattern of the association is in contrast to what one might have expected, since it is the E4 allele that is most strongly associated with cardiovascular disease.


Conclusion This study demonstrates that high admission plasma glucose level is common in patients with STEMI and is associated with high risk of mortality among patients with or without diabetes mellitus. Our study showed that nondiabetic patients with high admission plasma glucose have higher risk of mortality than patients with a previous known history of diabetes mellitus.
P380
Ca 19-9 levels in type 2 diabetes mellitus patients
Kamile Gul1, Sevinc Nas1, Didem Ozdemir Sen1, Mehmet Gumus2, Reyhan Ersoy3 & Bekir Cakir1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ankara Ataturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of Radiology, Ankara Ataturk Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Background
Ca 19-9 is a tumor-associated antigen. In this study, we aimed to compare Ca 19-9 levels in type 2 diabetes mellitus (DM) patients and healthy control group.

Method
Two hundred and fifteen type 2 DM patients (82 male and 133 female) and 209 healthy control group (79 male, 130 female) age, sex and body mass index(BMI) matched were included in the study. Duration of diabetes, HbA1c and presence of complications were analyzed. Cases with high serum levels of Ca 19-9 (0–35 U/ml) were evaluated with abdominal MRI. A female patient with high serum Ca 19-9 was diagnosed as pancreas carcinoma and excluded from the study.

Results
Median Ca 19-9 in DM patients was 13.8 (0.30-2.8) and 7.53 (0.4-6.97) in control group and difference was statistically significant (P<0.001). Number of cases with high serum Ca 19-9 levels in patients and control group were 45 and 2, respectively. The difference was again statistically significant (P<0.001).

Considering all cases, Ca 19-9 levels were similar in both females and males (P=0.794). In DM patients, Ca 19-9 did not correlate with BMI, duration of diabetes, number of complications, however, it was found to be positively correlated with HbA1c levels (r=0.17, P=0.015). Ca 19-9 did not change with presence of nephropathy, retinopathy, neuropathy and number of complications (P=0.778, P=0.238, P=0.241 and P=0.437, respectively).

Conclusions
Chronic pancreatitis is a risk factor for pancreatic cancer, and the same is also true for diabetes. Ca 19-9 is used in the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer but also a marker of pancreatic tissue damage that might be caused by diabetes. Therefore it is necessary to define the normal range of Ca 19-9 in type 2 diabetic patients in order to eliminate additional approaches. Therefore, diabetic patients have to be followed up for pancreatic cancer.

P381
Plasminogen activator inhibitor 1 and atherosclerosis in diabetes mellitus type 2
Sanja Ilc, Nada Kostic, Zorica Caparevic, Jana Radijokovic, Svetlana Jelic & Djojde Marina
Clinical Centre Dr Dragisa Misovic, Belgrade, Serbia.

Background and aims
Plasminogen activator inhibitor -1 (PAI-1) increases in diabetes and this might contribute to decreased fibrinolysis and accelerated atherosclerosis. PAI-1 is also a contributor to the development of acute myocardial infarction. Intima of minimal medial thickening (IMT) is indicator of presence and extent of coronary artery disease. Aim of the study was to find association between PAI-1 marker of decreased fibrinolysis and atherosclerosis by measuring IMT of carotid arteries in patients with type 2 diabetes.

Materials and methods
Investigation was performed in 49 patients with diabetes mellitus type 2 (53.83 ± 8.38 years; 24/25 m, BMI: 27.82 ± 4.79 kg/m²) and 30 healthy controls (46.87 ± 11.42 years; 12/18 m, BMI: 26.01 ± 2.39 kg/m²). PAI-1 was measured by spectrophotometric method using commercial kit (Behring). The IMT in common carotid arteries was measured on a longitudinal scan of the common carotid arteries at a point 10 mm proximal from the beginning of the dilatation of the bifurcation bulb. We defined the IMT as mean IMT of the near and far walls at the point of measurement.

Results
Compared to healthy controls, patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus showed higher IMT in number of complications, however in the group of patients type 2 diabetes we found significant positive correlation between PAI-1 and IMT (r=0.535, P<0.01), while in group of nondiabetics there was no statistically significant correlation (r=0.038, P>0.05).

Conclusions
In conclusion, we have demonstrated that the level of PAI-1 in diabetes mellitus type 2 correlates with the degree of IMT and also that PAI-1 is an useful maker for detecting early atherosclerosis in patients with type 2 diabetes.

P382
Combined treatment in childhood diabetes could influence remission period
Lilijana Saranac, Snezana Zivanovic, Gordana Kostic, Bojko Bjelalovic & Martin Novak
Children’s Clinic CC Nis, 18000 Nis, Serbia.

Background
The most striking change in diabetes over recent years has been the convergence of previously distinctive phenotypes. Recently diagnosed children are younger, taller and with greater BMI. Pediatric endocrinologists are facing with children presenting mixed signs of both diabetes types. So called hybrid diabetes, or type 1 ½ has insulin resistance in type 1 phenotype and vice versa autoimmunity in obese children.

Patients and methods
Ten children (6 girls and 4 boys), with recently diagnosed diabetes and in insulin treatment, aged mean 12.45 years (range 5.5 – 16) with mean BMI of 22 kg/m² and HbA1C of 9.66% at admission, two weeks later additionally received Metformin as insulin sensitizer and apoptosis reducing agent. Including criteria were basal C peptide over 0.2 pmol/l and preserved pulsatility of insulin secretion.

Results
Treated children entered faster in remission period and according to daily glycemic profiles insulin was gradually excluded. Mean insulin free period was 1.6 years (range 0.2 – 3.5) with mean HbA1C of 6.37%. Only 3 of them needed small insulin doses 2, 4 and 12 IU of intermediate acting insulin, according to age and BMI.

Conclusion
Diabetes in childhood is changing its well known face. In this hybrid diabetes insulin sensitizer combined with insulin in early period could have favorable effect on metabolic control and duration of remission period.

P383
Impact of age, gender, DM duration and BMI on metabolic control of T2DM patients in Jordan
Fares Haddad, Omar Malkawi, Abdallah Abdelaziz, Khaldon Srehein, Alia Izrat, Reem Quslah, Ala’a Rifa’i & Nivene Fouqha
King Hussein Medical Center, Amman, Jordan.

Aim
To assess the impact of age, sex, duration of diabetes and body mass index confounders on diabetes control in a Jordanian cohort of T2DM at endocrine clinic at KHMC.

Patients and methods
Patients randomly selected over 18 months from outpatient clinic at KHMC in Amman-Jordan. Diabetes control assessed by mean of latest 3 HbA1c and FBS.

Patients were divided in 2 groups according to age (<55 years vs >55 years), gender, duration (<10 years vs >10 years) and BMI (normal, overweight, and obese according to WHO criteria). Statistical analysis is performed using SPSS11.5. Good diabetes control is assessed according to ADA criteria.

Results
A total of 405 patients were selected (223 males, 182 females). 115 patients (28.4%) were having a good control with HbA1c <7%. About 25.6% of males and 31.9% of females were having good control (P=0.161). There was no difference in diabetes control of those <55 years (n=183) versus those >55 years (n=222) (29 vs 28%; P=0.812). Females in both age groups were having none statistically significant better control than males. Of those of DM duration <10 year (n=242), 34.7% were having good control versus only 19% for those >10 year duration (n=163) (P value=0.001, RR=1.83 (1.27- 2.62), OR=2.26 (1.38-3.73)). Females were again having a better diabetic control in both duration groups, P=0.024. There was no difference in diabetic control in all BMI categories studied. Thirty percent of overweight patients were having good control versus <20% in normal and obese patients.

The mean HbA1c in males was 8.1 ± 1.7 vs 7.9 ±1.5% in females. For the group <10 year, HbA1c was 7.75 ± 1.5 vs 8.22 ± 1.54% in those >10 year. The mean HbA1C of the group aged <55 years was 8.12 ±1.8 vs 7.9 ±1.5 in those >55 years of age.

Conclusion
In the Jordanian cohort with T2DM, the diabetic control was modest at 28.4%. Females were having a better diabetic control at all categories. There is no difference in diabetic control when genders, BMI or age confounders were studied.
P384
Retinol binding protein-4 is associated with TNF-α and not insulin resistance in subjects with type 2 diabetes mellitus and coronary heart disease
Nasser Al-Daghri, Omar Al-Attas, Majed Akbaik, Hossam Draz, Ahmed Ramadhram & Shaun Sabico
King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

We studied the association between RBP4 and various markers related to insulin resistance and diabetic complications as well as inflammatory markers in Saudi population suffering from type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease. Patients with type 2 diabetes were divided into 3 groups according to the type of treatment and involvement of coronary artery disease. Serum TNF-α, insulin, CRP, resistin, leptin and adiponectin were analysed in all samples. RBP4 plasma levels increased significantly in the group of diabetic subjects treated with oral hypoglycemic agents and diabetic patients with coronary heart disease (30.2 ± 11.8; 33.4 ± 13.6 respectively), while there was no significant change in the other group for diabetic subjects on low-carbohydrate diet (25.1 ± 10.9) compared to control group (22.6 ± 9.5). RBP4 levels were positively correlated with TNF-α in the group of diabetic subjects on oral hypoglycemic agents and diabetic patients with coronary heart disease (r² = 0.245, P < 0.05, r² = 0.448, P < 0.05 respectively). No correlations were found between RBP4 level and insulin resistance in all studied groups. Our findings suggest that serum RBP4 levels is associated with pro-inflammatory cytokine (TNF-α) and is not associated with insulin resistance among patients with type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease.

P385
Impact of metabolic syndrome, diabetes and prediabetes on cardiovascular events: Tehran Lipid and Glucose Study
Farzad Hadaegh1, Gita Shatlee1, Asghar Ghasemzadeh1, Parvin Sarbahkesh1 & Faridoun Azizi2
1Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Prevention of Metabolic Disorders Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (MC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Endocrine Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (MC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Background and aims
To compare and contrast the cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk associated with the metabolic syndrome (MetS) and dysglycemia, independent of each other, we evaluated the 6.7-year incidence risk of CVD and coronary heart disease (CHD).

Methods and results
In an Iranian population, 4018 subjects ≥40 years with no history of CVD at baseline, were followed up for new CHD and CVD events. Incidence rates and hazard ratio (HR) were estimated by the presence or absence of MetS, dysglycemia, and by the various traits of MetS. Considering the glycemic status, the ability of MetS in prediction of CVD after adjustment with age, sex,CVD risk factors, and components of MetS, was assessed. The prevalence of MetS, impaired fasting glucose or impaired glucose tolerance (IFG/IGT), and diabetes were 51.4, 27.3, and 18.7%, respectively. The prevalence of MetS in IFG/IGT and diabetes was 67.7 and 85.2%. Among the components of the MetS, only hyper tension had a significant HR of 5.2 (95% CI, 1.9-14.0) for incident CVD. After full adjustment, diabetes remained as a significant predictor of incident CVD/CHD, regardless of the presence of MetS. IFG/IGT predicted outcomes only in the presence of MetS for CVD (HR: 1.7 (1.2–2.5)) and CHD (HR: 1.8 (1.3–2.7)); although these associations did not change after risk factor adjustment in the presence of MetS components, IFG/IGT lost its association with incident CVD/CHD.

Conclusion
In Iranian population, MetS in the absence of diabetes does not predict CVD/CHD, and intervention strategies should be focused on the prevention of diabetes.

P386
NovoMix30® reduces hypoglycemic events with favorable weight change in poorly controlled type 2 diabetes patients: results from Indian cohort of IMPROVE Study
Sanjay Kaur1, A.G Umnikrishnan2, Ajay Kumar3, Ashok Moharan4, Vinay Prusty4 & Manash Barnahi5
1Bharti Hospital, Karnal, Haryana, India; 2Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Cochin, Kerala, India; 3Diabetes Care & Research Centre, Patna, Bihar, India; 4Novo Nordisk, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India; 5Excel Care Hospital, Guwahati, India.

Objective
IMPROVE study was designed to assess the safety and effectiveness of NovoMix30® in type 2 diabetes subjects under normal clinical practice conditions.

Methods
This was a multi-national, open label, prospective, 6 month long observational study captured data for above 50,000 patients started on NovoMix30® with/without oral anti-diabetic drugs (OADs)/other insulin. This paper analyses safety data of 17,995 patients constituting Indian cohort of IMPROVE™ study.

Results
16,391 & 16,398 patients have been evaluated for incidence of major and minor hypoglycemic events respectively. There was reduction of 0.124 major hypoglycemic events/patient year (EPY) at the end of 6 months of NovoMix30® therapy (baseline 0.129 EPY, final 0.050 EPY, P < 0.001). Patients taking OAD alone at baseline and those shifted from other insulins ≥ OAD showed reduction of 0.005 EPY (P < 0.001) and 0.327 EPY (P < 0.001) respectively, while treatment naïve patients experienced no such events.

Minor hypoglycemic events were reduced by 1.92 EPY (P < 0.001) as compared to baseline (3.08 EPY). NovoMix30® therapy was associated with reduction of 61.9% (P < 0.001) and 64.1% (P < 0.001) in day time and nocturnal minor hypoglycemic events respectively. A mean reduction of 0.3 kg (P < 0.001) body weight in all patients with 0.9 kg (P < 0.001) decrement in treatment naïve patients was noted at the end of 6 months.

Eight serious adverse drug reactions (SADR) including major hypoglycemia and 13 adverse drug reactions (ADR) were reported in 17,995 patients during the study period.

Conclusion
IMPROVE™ study confirmed the safety of NovoMix30® in real life clinical practice, with lesser incidence of hypoglycemia and weight loss.

P387
Plasma thrombin-activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFI) antigen levels in diabetic foot ulcers
Mehmet Erdogan1, Sezer Solmaz2, Abdullah Canatoglu5, Mustafa Kulaksizoglu1, Sekvi Cetinkalp1, Gokhan Orgen1, Fusun Saygli1 & Candeger Yilmaz1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism Disease, Ege University Medical School, Izmir, Turkey; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Namune Education and Research Hospital, Adana, Turkey; 3Department of Endocrinology, Namune Education and Research Hospital, Adana, Turkey.

Objective
Diabetic foot ulcer is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. The most important factor related to the development of foot ulcer is peripheral neuropathy. Thrombin-activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFI) is associated with coagulation, fibrinolysis and inflammation. Plasma TAFI may participate in arterial thrombosis in cardiovascular diseases (CVD). TAFI may be involved in the mechanism of vascular endothelial damage in diabetic patients. The aim of this study was to investigate the association of plasma TAFI antigen level in the development of diabetic foot ulcer in type 2 diabetes.

Research design and methods
The TAFI antigen levels were determined retrospectively in 50 patients with diabetic foot ulcers and 34 patients without diabetic foot ulcers and 25 healthy individuals. We measured TAFI/ai antigen in plasma samples with a commercially available ELISA Kit.

Results
Diabetic foot ulcer group and diabetic group were similar in terms of mean age and sex distribution. Diabetes duration, retinopathy, neuropathy, macrovascular disease and infection were related to diabetic foot ulcers. HbA1c, HDL-Cholesterol and Folic Acid levels were decreased in the diabetic foot ulcer group. Vitamin B12, CRP and ESR were significantly increased in the diabetic foot ulcer group. TAFI levels were 99.44 ± 55.94% in control group, 135.21 ± 61.05% in diabetic foot ulcer group, 136.75 ± 59.38% in diabetic group and was statistically different (P < 0.05). But no difference was seen in TAFI levels between diabetic foot ulcer group and diabetic group (P > 0.05). No significant difference in plasma TAFI levels were seen between diabetic foot ulcer stages.

Conclusions
TAFI antigen levels are increased in type 2 diabetic patients but are not related to diabetic foot ulcer development.
**P388**

Relationship between adipokines and cardiovascular risk factors in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus

Sema Uslu1, Nur Kebapçi2, Meltem Kara1 & Cengiz Bal1
1Department of Biochemistry, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey; 2Department of Endocrinology, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey. 1Department of Biostatistics, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey.

Aims

In this study, we examined the relationships between levels of adipokines and traditional and non-traditional cardiovascular risk markers in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM).

Methods

Serum leptin, resistin, adiponectin, visfatin, high sensitive C-reactive protein (hsCRP), homocystein, asymmetric dimethylarginine (ADMA), fasting glucose, insulin, glycated haemoglobin (HbA1C) and full lipid and lipoprotein profile, systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP) were determined in type 2 diabetic patients. Results were compared with these control subjects.

Results

The levels of serum adiponectin were decreased and resistin, leptin and visfatin levels were increased in diabetic patients compared to that in controls (P<0.001, in each). Adiponectin showed significant negative correlations with body mass index (BMI), insulin, HbA1C, triglyceride, homoeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR), hsCRP, ADMA, visfatin, resistin, leptin and positive correlations with high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (HDL) and apolipoprotein A1 (Apo A1). Resistin showed significant positive correlations with insulin, HOMA-IR, hsCRP, homocystein, triglyceride, insulin, visfatin, resistin, SBP, DBP and negative correlations with HDL and adiponectin. Visfatin showed significant positive correlations with age, insulin, HOMA-IR, hsCRP, resistin, leptin, and negative correlations with adiponectin, HDL, and Apo A1.

Conclusion

These findings may suggest that levels of serum leptin, resistin, adiponectin, visfatin are associated with obesity, insulin resistance and cardiovascular risk markers in T2DM patients. Therefore these adipokines may be useful indicators for assessing the cardiovascular disease risk in patients with type 2 DM. This study supported by Eskişehir Osmangazi University research fun (2006-11031).

**P390**

Prevalence of cardiovascular risk polymorphisms and its association with microvascular complications in an adolescent type 1 diabetes population

Miguel Mello, Ana Fagulha, Luisa Barros, Jacinta Santos, Alexandra Vieira & Manuela Carvalheiro

University Hospital of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal.

Objectives

To determine the prevalence of several polymorphisms associated with increased cardiovascular risk in a group of adolescents with T1DM. To study the possible association of some polymorphisms with the occurrence of microvascular complications.

Methods

Patients were randomly selected from our outpatient clinic. The following polymorphisms were studied: ACE Ins/Del, Apo B R350Q, Apo E2, 3, 4, MTHFR C677T and A1298C, PAI I4G/5G, ITGB3 PL (A1A2) and FGB G/A-45. We compared the prevalence of each genotype between the groups with and without microvascular complications (nephropathy and retinopathy). We took into consideration patient’s age, diabetes duration, mean A1C values in the last year and lipid profile to characterize the population and adjust between groups.

Results

A total of 33 patients were studied (54.3% female), with a mean age of 19 ± 3.1 years and mean diabetes duration of 9.1 ± 3.3 years. Mean A1C was 8.2 ± 1.4%. Four patients (12.1%) had hypertension, five patients (15.2%) had incident nephropathy and three patients had background retinopathy. The frequency of heterozygotes for each polymorphism was: ACE Ins/Del=19 (57.6%); Apo B R350Q=0; Apo E 2=9 (27.3%); MTHFR C677T=14 (42.4%); MTHFR A1298C=13 (39.3%); PAI 4G/5G=17 (51.5%); ITGB3 PL (A1A2)=11 (33.3%); FGB G/A-45=15 (45.5%). None of the patients was homozygote. The ACE Ins/Del polymorphism was more frequent in the group of patients with hypertension (P<0.001), nephropathy (P<0.001) and retinopathy (P<0.001). The frequency of other polymorphisms was similar in the groups with and without complications.

Conclusions

The frequency of the polymorphisms studied was overall similar to the expected in a Caucasian population (PAI and ITGB3 slightly above the estimated). The ACE Ins/Del polymorphism was more frequent in the group of patients with hypertension, nephropathy and retinopathy. These data suggest that this polymorphism may have a role in determining blood pressure values and increased susceptibility to microvascular complications. Knowing this genotype may have implications regarding the therapeutic strategy designed to prevent both macrovascular and microvascular complications.

**P391**

Visfatin seems not to be related in insulin resistance

Abdullah Taslipinar, Mine Y Taslipinar, Omer Azal, Levent Kebapcilar, Mustafa Sahin, Gokhan Uckayya, Y Alper Sonmez, Ozge Kaucukodemne & Mustafa Kuzlu

GATA Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Ankara, Turkey.

Visfatin is a newly discovered adipocyte hormone. Recent studies showed a possible relationship between diabetes mellitus and visfatin level. But the effect of visfatin on the insulin resistance was not well understood. The aim of the present study was to explore the relation of visfatin with insulin resistance in patients with prediabetes and diabetes.

We included a total of 128 persons in the study and of these 128 persons, 36 were diabetic, 69 were prediabetic (impaired fasting glucose and impaired glucose tolerance patients) and the remaining 23 were healthy (control). In all cases,
HBaC, microalbuminuria, fasting blood visfatin, insulin, glucose, lipid profiles, fibrinogen, BUN, creatinine and CRP levels were calculated and recorded. HOMA-IR scores were calculated. The results were evaluated statistically. According to our results visfatin levels were not different between control groups (11 ± 2.5 for control group; 11.1 ± 2.7 for pre-diabetes group and 11.2 ± 2.8 for diabetes group). Furthermore neither HOMA-IR nor other laboratory parameters (CRP, HbA1c, BMI etc.) were correlated with visfatin levels in any group. Also obesity, hyperlipidemia and gender differences did not effect on the plasma visfatin levels. Our investigation demonstrates that visfatin has no effect on insulin resistance in type 2 diabetes. Further research is required to investigate its role in insulin resistance and the investigations of the metabolic role of visfatin may be shifted to other areas.

P392

Anthropometric determinants of adiponectin levels in obese and non obese premenopausal women
José Silva Nunes1, 2, Lúise Duarte1, Luísa Veiga2, Alice Melão2, Miguel Brito2 & Fernando Malheiro3
1Endocrinology Department, Curial Cabral Hospital, Lisbon, Portugal; 2High School for the Health Technology of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal.

Background
Adiponectin is an important adipokine to which have been attributed anti-diabetic and anti-atherogenic properties. Excess of abdominal fat depot is undoubtedly assumed as a cardiometabolic risk factor. It has been hypothesized that peripheral deposition of fat could exert a protective effect in cardiometabolic profile.

Aims
To evaluate the influence of anthropometric parameters on adiponectin levels in both obese and normal-weight premenopausal women.

Methods
We studied 80 obese (age = 34 ± 8.2 years, BMI = 43.1 ± 8.5 kg/m2, waist = 117.8 ± 15.7 cm, hip = 133.4 ± 14.3 cm, waist/hip ratio (WHR) = 0.88 ± 0.07 cm, percentual total body fat (%TFB) = 47.4 ± 5.3%) and 57 normal-weight premenopausal women (age = 36 ± 7.5 years, BMI = 21.5 ± 1.8 kg/m2, waist = 71.4 ± 5.9 cm, hip = 96.9 ± 4.7 cm, waist/hip ratio (WHR) = 0.74 ± 0.05 cm, percentual total body fat (%TFB) = 25.2 ± 4.6%). In each group, we looked for the correlation between adiponectin and each anthropometric parameter; we also tested the influence of the several possible parameters’ combinations on adiponectin levels.

Results
Adiponectin levels were significantly lower in the obese group (P < 0.001). Adiponectin were inversely associated with waist (P = 0.008, r = −0.293), WHR (P < 0.001, r = −0.483) and %TFB (P = 0.034, r = −0.237) in the obese women and with waist (P = 0.007, r = −0.355) and WHR (P = 0.001, r = −0.441) in the normal-weight group. Despite the absence of significance, hip circumference and adiponectin values showed concordance in their variation. The stronger combination of 2 anthropometric parameters for the association with adiponectin levels was WHR + %TFB in obese (r = 0.511) as in non-obese (r = 0.468). The stronger combination of 3 parameters was WHR + hip + %TFB (r = 0.532) in obese and waist + hip + %TFB (r = 0.523) in normal-weight. In the normal-weight, but not in the obese group, a greater power of association with adiponectin levels was obtained with the combination waist + hip + WHR + %TFB (r = 0.558) and BMI + waist + hip + WHR + %TFB (r = 0.57).

Conclusions
There is an inverse association between abdominal fat and adiponectin levels in both obese and normal-weight premenopausal women. In both groups, when we use parameters that take into account the amount of peripheral fat mass we increase the level of prediction for adiponectin levels.

P394

General and central obesity and risk of cardiovascular disease: results of the 7.6-year follow-up study in Iranian men
Azadeh Zabetian, Farzad Hadaeef & Fereidoun Azizi
Research Institute for Endocrine Science, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Objective
Although body mass index (BMI) is commonly used to assess risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD), there is an obvious need for prospective studies of different ethnicities to evaluate the predicting power of various obesity variables for CVD outcomes.

Methods
The study population consisted of 1931 men aged ≥40 years free of CVD at baseline. After a median follow up of 7.6 years, 254 CVD events occurred. Demographic data were collected at baseline; blood pressure and anthropometric variables such as BMI, waist circumference (WC), waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) and waist-to-height ratio (WHHR) were measured according to a standard protocol. CVD outcome was defined as any coronary heart disease events, stroke, or CVD death. Cox proportional hazards regression was used to calculate hazard ratio (HR) of CVD for each anthropometric variables in two model: age adjusted model and full model adjusted for age, hypertension, smoking, family history of premature CAD. Receiver operator characteristic (ROC) curves were constructed to assess sensitivity and specificity of the variables in prediction of risk.

Results
In the age adjusted model all measures of obesity predict CVD in a high level of significance. According to Cox proportional hazard modeling, after controlling confounding factors, HRs and 95% CI (for 1 s.o. increase) for CVD were 1.17 (1.01–1.03) with BMI, 1.24 (1.06–1.37) with WC, 1.19 (1.05–1.35) with WHR and WHHR. Area under ROC curve (95% CI) were 0.56 (0.5–0.6) for BMI, 0.59 (0.55–0.62) for WC, 0.59 (0.56–0.64) for WHR and WHHR.

Conclusions
Waist-related variables are superior clinical measures of obesity for predicting CVD outcomes in Iranian adult men. WHR or WHHR are not more useful than WC alone. Keywords: Obesity, Cardiovascular disease, follow-up.

P395

Prevalence of undiagnosed glucose intolerance changes according to age and gender in Japanese middle aged working people
Hiroaki Kawano, Hirofumi Sugiyma, Yasuhiro Nagayoshi, Hiroshi Yarnabe, Yoshishiro Kinoshita & Hisao Ogawa
Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan.

undiagnosed diabetes and impaired fasting glucose, a condition that increases the risk for diabetics, have important health consequences. About one-third diabetes was undiagnosed. Thus, prevalence estimates based on self-report or doctor diagnosed disease are underestimates of total prevalence of diabetes, which
includes individuals with both known and undiagnosed type 2 diabetes. To examine the prevalence of undiagnosed glucose intolerance, we did 75 g oral glucose tolerance test in consecutive 1142 health check middle aged subjects (age range 40-55 y.o.) in 2006 who were working in a company (914 men, mean 50.7 y.o., 228 women, mean 49.4 y.o.). Nobody had had the history of atherosclerotic diseases or been diagnosed as impaired fasting glucose, impaired glucose tolerance, or diabetes. Fasting glucose levels increased as old age in both men and women, and the levels were higher in men than women in each age. Glucose intolerance is more common in men as compared with women (Fasting 100 ± 19.7 vs 92.9 ± 9.6, P < 0.01, 1-hour 170.7 ± 52.1 vs 139.7 ± 11.6, P < 0.01, 2-hour 136.9 ± 50.1 vs 119.8 ± 31.5 mg/dl, P < 0.01). The prevalence of IGT and DM was higher in men than women (IGT: 24.1 ± 16.7, P < 0.01, DM 10.7 ± 1.9, P < 0.01). Blood pressure and triglyceride levels also higher in men than women (124.0 ± 18.5/92.7 ± 11.6 vs 114.8 ± 19.4/70.6 ± 12.5 mmHg, P < 0.01, 148 ± 109.4 vs 88 ± 84.4 mg/dl, P < 0.01). HDL cholesterol levels were lower in men than in women (58.2 ± 16.0 vs 72.6 ± 17.4 mg/dl, P < 0.01). Coronary heart disease is more common in men as compared with women, and the incidence in women is about 10 years older than men. Glucose intolerance is often associated with other risk factors such as hypertension and dyslipidemia. These features of undiagnosed glucose intolerance during the working age people may contribute to the gender difference in the incidence of coronary artery disease in Japan.

P396
Diabetes and obesity associated difference in aggregation platelet capacity
Anastasiya Hlazkova, Natalya Yaroshevitch, Aliaksey Romanoskiy, Irina Melnik & Valentina Pishik
Belarusian Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Education, Minsk, Belarus.

Diabetes mellitus and abdominal obesity are considered to be risk factors for venous and arterial thrombosis, but till now it still remains unclear, what factor is a primary in the genesis of these abnormalities: fibrinolysis dysfunction, vascular endothelium impairment or pathology of the platelet homeostasis component.

Forty-two persons included in the study were primary divided into 3 groups: 1 group – nearly healthy (10 males, 12 females), 2 group – overweight with body mass index (BMI) more than 25 kg/m² (9 males, 11 females), 3 group – patients with diabetes mellitus (10 males, 6 females).

Platelet adhesive and aggregative activity had been evaluated in a quantity method with the help of aggregometer device SOLAR AP 210, ADP «Remas», Russia had been used as an aggregation activator. Disease compensation signp in patients with Diabetes Mellitus had been determined according to the level of the glycated hemoglobin that at the average was 7.0 ± 1.5 (12.5%).

Through the evaluation of the platelet adhesive and aggregative activity (Table 1) significant evaluation of the aggregation level in overweight and diabetes groups had been detected (P < 0.05) in comparison with a control group, the longest time to reach the maximum aggregation level had been seen in diabetes group (P < 0.01). Aggregation level in overweight and diabetic patients does not differ significantly.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homeostasis parameters</th>
<th>Nearly healthy</th>
<th>Overweight</th>
<th>Diabetes P1&lt;sub&gt;0.05&lt;/sub&gt;</th>
<th>Diabetes P1&lt;sub&gt;0.01&lt;/sub&gt;</th>
<th>Diabetes P1&lt;sub&gt;0.001&lt;/sub&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggregation level (%)</td>
<td>53.2 ± 10.8</td>
<td>62.0 ± 11.6</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
<td>64.1 ± 15.6</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregation speed (s^-1)</td>
<td>49.5 ± 13.1</td>
<td>61.2 ± 8.1</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
<td>65.1 ± 16.44</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregation time (min)</td>
<td>4.14 ± 0.74</td>
<td>4.07 ± 0.6</td>
<td>&gt; 0.05</td>
<td>5.12 ± 0.88</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These dates are proving the fact, that one of the reasons for cardiovascular disease developing in association with diabetes mellitus and abdominal obesity is abnormality of the pathology of the platelet homeostasis component.

P397
Functional balance in diabetic neuropathy
Tabassom Ghanavati, Mohammad Jafar Shalezerzade Yazdi, Shahin Goharpey & Ali Asghar Azatossi
Jondi-Shapour Medical Sciences University, Ahvaz, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
Proprolific loss in diabetic peripheral neuropathy patients (DPN) seems to cause postural imbalance which may affect quality of functions and activities of daily living of these patients.

Aim
The aim of this study was to compare functional balance in diabetic patients and normal subjects.

Methodology
In this case-control study, fifteen patients with DPN (which their neuropathy was diagnosed by Diabetic Neuropathy Examination (DNE)) and 15 healthy (gender-, age- and BMI-matched) subjects were evaluated with Berg Balance Scale (BBS), containing 14 balance tests. As well as overall functional balance, five groups of these tests were taken into more consideration in this study, based on the probable effects of proprolific loss on various functions. These groups were labeled as: ability to control weight shifting (CWS), ability to transfer (TR), and ability to control balance under different base of support (BOS) and visual (V) conditions.

Results
Comparison of two groups showed a significant decrease in BBS, CWS, T, BOS, and V scores in DPN patients relative to healthy control group (P < 0.05). There were no significant differences (sig. level: 0.001) good to strong correlations between DNE score and BBS, CWS, T, BOS, and V, Scores Pearson’s correlation coefficient: -0.88, -0.91, -0.87, -0.76, and -0.70, respectively in patients. Conclusion
DPN results in a remarkable functional imbalance which may expose these patients to danger of falling during activities of daily living and becomes more severe as the severity of neuropathy aggravates. In order to control their balance, DPN patients rely on visual information.

P398
Terminalia bellerica (Belliric Myrobalan) stimulates the secretion and action of insulin and inhibits starch digestion and protein glycation
Violet Kasabri, Peter Plant & Yasser Abdelwahab
1University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan; 2University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, UK.

Traditional plant treatments have been used throughout the world for the therapy of diabetes mellitus. The aim of this study was to investigate the efficacy and mode of action of Terminalia bellerica Roxb. (Combretaceae) used traditionally for treatment of diabetes in India. Terminalia bellerica aqueous extract stimulated basal insulin output and potentiated glucose-stimulated insulin secretion concentration-dependently in the clonal pancreatic beta cell line, BRIN-BD11 (P < 0.001). The insulin secretory activity of plant extract was abolished in the absence of extracellular Ca²⁺ and by inhibitors of cellular Ca²⁺ uptake, diazoxide and verapamil, (P < 0.001, n = 8). Furthermore, the extract did not increase insulin secretion in depolarised cells and did not further augment insulin secretion triggered by tolbutamide or glibenclamide. Terminalia bellerica extract also displayed insulin mimetic activity and enhanced insulin-stimulated glucose uptake in 3T3-L1 adipocytes by 300%. At higher concentrations, the extract also produced 10–50% (P < 0.001) decrease in starch digestion in vitro and inhibited protein glycation (P < 0.001). In Streptozocin (125 mg/kg body weight) diabetes-mice, long term administration of T. bellerica decoctions (5 mg/ml) reduced (P < 0.001) diabetic polydipsia, with no parallel recorded improvements of glucose homeostasis parameters.

This study has revealed that components in T. bellerica extract stimulate insulin secretion, enhance insulin action and inhibit both protein glycation and starch digestion. The former actions are dependent on the active principle(s) in the plant being absorbed intact. Future work assessing the use of Terminalia bellerica as dietary adjunct or as a source of active antidiabetic agents may provide new opportunities for the treatment of diabetes.

P399
The frequency of diabetic retinopathy and relevant factors for prediabetic subjects
Erin Gulcan, Fatih Ozcura, Sayime Aydin, Esin Erbilen & Lokman Koral
1Department of Internal Medicine, Dumlupinar University Faculty of Medicine, Kutahya, Turkey; 2Department of Ophthalmology, Dumlupinar University Faculty of Medicine, Kutahya, Turkey; 3Private Hekim Sinan Medicine Central, Ophthalmology, Kutahya, Turkey.

Objective
To determine the frequency of diabetic retinopathy in prediabetic individuals and to evaluate the relevant factors.
Materials and methods
A total of 118 persons between 20 and 60 years of age attending our internal medicine clinic between January 2006 and March 2008 were recruited for the study. The exclusion criteria were the presence of diabetes mellitus and use of antidiabetic agents. Fasting blood glucose between 100 and 125 mg/dl was defined as impaired fasting glucose (IFG); blood glucose after 2 h oral glucose tolerance test between 140 and 199 mg/dl was defined as impaired glucose tolerance (IGT). The individuals provided these criteria were included the study. In addition, diabetic history, physical examination (tenison arteriale, pulse, fever) and laboratory investigations (creatinine, ALT, AST, Total cholesterol, HDL-C, triglycerides versus LDL-C) were carried out.

Results
Hypertension was found in 27.1% of participants and retinopathy was determined in 11% of them. The frequency of retinopathy in patients with isolated IFG, isolated IGT and both IFG and IGT were 2.1 and 22.2%, respectively. The frequency of hypertension were found to be 15.7, 36.4 and 35.6%, respectively. There are significant correlations between retinopathy and postglucose 2 h blood glucose (PG2hBG) (P = 0.001, r = 0.296), the presence of isolated IGT (P = 0.006, r = 0.252), coexistence of IFG and IGT (P = 0.002, r = 0.281). In logistic regression analysis, statistically significant parameters for retinopathy according to importance are as follows: (1) coexistence of IFG and IGT (P = 0.002), (2) PG2hBG (P = 0.003), (3) presence of isolated IGT (P = 0.006). Although HbA1C was no statistically significant for retinopathy, it was in fourth line as predictive (P = 0.075).

Conclusion
In our study, frequency of retinopathy among pre-diabetic subjects were significantly higher in group of coexisting IFG and IGT than other groups. Additionally, PG2hBG was the most important predictor of retinopathy.

P400
Prognostic values of diabetic retinopathy progression for the assessment of lower limbs and heart muscle perfusion disturbances in patients with diabetes 2
Trymieszewski Wieslaw, Gadzicki Mariusz, Kusmierzcyk Jaroslaw, Gos Roman, Rysz Jacek & Maziarz Zbigniew
Medical University, Lodz, Poland.

Introduction
Diabetic retinopathy and lower limbs and heart muscle perfusion disturbances are important complications in diabetes. Early recognition of diabetic retinopathy and atherosclerotic disturbances reduce the complications frequency.

Aim
Correlation of lower limbs and heart muscle perfusion disturbances and diabetic retinopathy progression level in patients with diabetes 2. The assessment to what extend diabetic retinopathy progression level may be a direction for diagnostics of lower limbs and heart muscle perfusion disturbances.

Material
One hundred patients with diabetes 2 and retinopathy divided into three groups: PHL – diabetic angiopathy (34 patients); SIM – simple retinopathy (33 patients); PRO – proliferating retinopathy (33 patients).

Methods
Full range of ophthalmological examinations: indirect ophthalmoscopy, color photography, fluorescent angiography. The assessment, at rest and after exercise, of heart muscle perfusion with SPECT technique (including SDS – summary defect score) and lower limbs muscles with perfusion scintigraphy. The examinations were performed with gamma-camera with the own programs after application of radiopharmaceutical Tc99mMIBI.

Results

Conclusions
A dependency between lower limbs and heart muscle perfusion disturbances and diabetic retinopathy progression was stated. The level of diabetic retinopathy is the exponent for atherosclerotic disturbances and correlates with the changes of heart and lower limbs muscles. Diagnostic analysis of muscle muscle perfusion showed an important dependency on the level of progression of eye ground changes. The patients with advanced diabetic retinopathy should undergo the assessment of lower limbs and heart muscle perfusion disturbances despite the lack of subjective complaints.


P401
Association between inflammation markers and metabolic parameters in type 2 diabetic patients, metabolic syndrome, impaired glucose tolerance
Erden Atamany1, Sebila Dokmetas2, Fatih Kilicli3 & Fettah Acibucu4
1Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cumburuyet University, Sivas, Turkey; 2Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Cumburuyet University, Sivas, Turkey; 3Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Cumburuyet University, Sivas, Turkey; 4Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cumburuyet University, Sivas, Turkey.

Impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) and metabolic syndrome (MS) is considered as the pre-diabetic stages. Recently, it has been suggested that inflammation is associated with the components of MS and it may also have a role in the development of type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (DM). The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of inflammation in the pathogenesis of DM. The study groups consisted of 51 patients with type 2 DM, 28 patients with MS, and 26 patients with IGT. DM patients had either initial diagnosis or recent history with the ultimate period of 5 years. A total of 21 healthy person was included as the control group. Highly sensitive CRP (hsCRP), fibrinogen, ferritin and white cells were utilized as the markers for inflammation. The relationships between the inflammation markers and parameters of MS were investigated in all groups.

The levels of hsCRP and fibrinogen were significantly higher in DM, IGT, and MS than control group. The level of hsCRP was highest in the DM group. On the other hand, ferritin was found to be higher in the DM group than the controls. When the whole study group was considered, hsCRP had positive correlations with WC, insulin, BMI, TG, HOMA, postprandial glucose (PG), fasting blood glucose (FBG), cholesterol, LDL, and a negative correlation with HDL.

In conclusion result of the current study suggests that inflammation parameters particularly elevated levels of hsCRP were strongly associated with DM and features of MS.

P402
C-reactive protein level early after starting standard treatment of diabetic foot infection is associated with amputation risk
Baris Akinci, Serkan Yener, Sena Yesil, Nur Yapar, Yasin Kucukyavas, Abdurrahman Comlekci, Sevme Ersal & Firat Bayrakhtar
Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Prediction of amputation would aid clinicians in the management of the diabetic foot infections. We aimed to assess the predictability of baseline and early post-treatment levels of acute phase reactants on the outcome of patients with diabetic foot infections.

In this study, we included patients with infected diabetic foot ulcers who were hospitalized in Dokuz Eylul University Hospital between January 2003 and January 2008, of which data were collected prospectively during a minimum follow-up of 6 months. After exclusion of patients who underwent an urgent amputation (within 1 week of admission) and patients who did not attend the hospital for follow-up visits regularly, finally, data from 165 foot ulcer episodes were analyzed.

Univariate analysis showed that one standard deviation increase in baseline and post-treatment C-reactive protein (CRP), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and white blood cell count (WBC), and one standard deviation decrease in post-treatment albumin levels were significantly associated with increased risk for amputations. Post-treatment CRP levels were more strongly related to amputations (AUC: 0.809, 0.744–0.874, 95% CI). We suggest that CRP level obtained early after standard treatment is a strong predictor of amputation in patients with diabetic foot infections.

P403
Use of metformin in pregnancy: a survey of Turkish physicians’ attitudes
Baris Akinci, Pinar Tosun, Emine Bekci, Serkan Yener, Tevfik Demir & Sena Yesil
Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Although metformin crosses placenta, there is no current evidence whether the use of metformin in pregnancy is associated with increased risk of fetal and
maternal complications. The aim of this present study is to investigate the attitudes of Turkish physicians in different specialties in terms of metformin use in pregnancy.

Current opinions were assessed by interviewing physicians using a questionnaire. Nine hundred forty physicians were invited to join the study; however completely fulfilled questionnaires could be obtained from a total of 407 physicians (170 family physicians, 110 internists, 98 obstetricians, 29 endocrinologists).

One hundred fifty-one physicians (37.1%) stated that they recommended metformin use in pregnancy for any of the indications (pregnant women with PCOS, type-2 diabetes or gestational diabetes). Among physicians, obstetricians were more likely to suggest metformin use in pregnancy. Rationales of physicians for the metformin use were lower risk for abortion, decreased prevalence of maternal and neonatal complications, improvement of insulin resistance, prevention of excess weight gain, better glycemic control in diabetics and decreased insulin need in diabetics taking insulin. Despite limited data on metformin use in pregnancy, significant number of physicians in Turkey supported metformin use. Obstetricians were more likely to recommend metformin treatment in pregnancy.

Methods and materials
Of 1962 outpatients type 2 diabetes were selected. A full blood count, iron indices were obtained from all patients. The prevalence and correlation of anemia with other variables identified with multivariate logistic regression.

Results
Of 9.2% of male and 10.4% of female patients had anemia. Prevalence of elevated albuminuria (micro or macroalbuminuria) was 38.1%. Of 8.1% of our patients had moderate (creatinine clearance <60 ml/min per 1.73 m²) and 31.4% had mild (CCr=60–90) renal impairment. Patients with moderate renal impairment had significant more anemia than patients with mild renal failure (30 vs 9%, P<0.000). Patients with diabetes and macroalbuminuria were also likely to have more anemia than patients with microalbuminuria (32.4 vs 8.4%, P=0.000). Also patients with microalbuminuria were more likely to have anemia than patients without elevated albuminuria (8.4 vs 5.7%, P=0.008). Cardiovascular disease and retnopathy were more in diabetic patients with anemia than patients without anemia (P=0.01, 0.001 respectively).

Conclusion
Anemia is a high prevalent finding in type 2 diabetic patients. Any degree of renal impairment and albuminuria are greatest risk factors for anemia in this patients.

P404
Predictors of amputation in diabetic foot ulcer: single centre experience in a large Turkish cohort
Sena Yesil, Baris Akinci, Serkan Yener, Firat Bayraktar, Ozalp Karabay, Hasan Havlicikoglu, Nur Yaper, Aray Atabay, Yasmin Kucukyavas, Abdurrahman Comlekli & Sevence Eraslan
Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Background
Prediction of diabetic foot ulcer outcome might be helpful for clinicians in optimizing individual treatment strategy. The aim of the present study was to determine potential benefits of easily assessed clinical and laboratory factors at baseline in the prediction of the outcome in patients with diabetic foot ulcers.

Methods
In this observational study, data was collected prospectively in 670 consecutive diabetic foot ulcer episodes in 510 patients between January 1999 and June 2008, and were used retrospectively to evaluate potential predictors of amputation. After exclusion of patients who did not attend to the hospital for follow-up visits for minimum 6 months, data of 574 foot ulcer episodes were evaluated.

Results
Limb ischemia, osteomyelitis, and presence of gangrene and ulcer depth, which were determined by Wagner classification system, were major independent predictors of overall and major amputations. Older age, presence of coronary artery disease, smoking and ulcer size were found to be associated with either overall or major amputations. Baseline levels of acute phase reactants (white blood cell count, polymorphonuclear leukocyte count, platelet count, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), serum C-reactive protein (CRP) and albumin) and decreased hemoglobin levels were associated with amputation risk. Multivariate analysis showed that one standard deviation increase in baseline CRP and ESR levels were independent predictors of overall and major amputations, respectively.

Conclusions
Presence of limb ischemia, osteomyelitis, local and diffuse gangrene and ulcer depth were determined as independent predictors of amputation. Baseline levels of ESR and CRP seemed helpful for clinicians in prediction of amputation.

P406
Frequency of hypogonadism in men with type 2 diabetes
Bahman Ghaderian, Mostajir Afkamzaidel, Reza Rajabian, Mohammad Khajeh Dalouei, Hosein Ayyatollahi & Sahr Ghareh
Maslhad University of Medical Science, Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
Type 2 diabetes is associated with lower total testosterone (TT) levels in cross-sectional studies. However, it is not known whether the defect is primary or secondary.

Method
We investigated the prevalence of hypogonadism in type 2 diabetes in men by measuring serum total testosterone (TT), SHBG, LH, FSH, prolactin (PRL) in 85 men with type 2 diabetes. Free testosterone (FT) was calculated by using TT and SHBG (CFT). Hypogonadism was defined as low CFT.

Results
The mean age was 51.4 ± 5.87 years, Mean BMI was 26.6 ± 3.6 kg/m², mean HbA1C was 8.815 ± 2.16%, mean FBS was 197.7 ± 74.5, mean TT was 460 ± 20.5 ng/dl, mean CFT was 7.5 ± 2.34 ng/dl, mean BT was 172.8 ± 62.92 ng/dl, mean SHBG was 51.7 ± 29.5. Of 36.6% of patients had hypogonadism. LH and FSH levels were not increased. There was a significant inverse correlation between BMI and TT (r = -0.367; P=0.001) but there wasn’t correlation between BMI with CFT. There was inverse correlation between SHBG and BMI (r = -0.25; P=0.02) and direct correlation between SHBG and age (r = 0.4; P=0.001). There was inverse correlation between CFT and age (r = -0.2; P<0.05).

Conclusion
Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism is a common defect in type 2 diabetes that requires further assessment in terms of etiology of the defect and the possible consequences, complications, and treatment.

P407
Is testosterone therapy safe for cardiovascular system? The impact of cardiac ultrasound monitoring
Marina Uryadnová1, Svetlana Kalinchenko2, Yuliya Tishova3, George Mikhalya4, Leonid Vorslov5 & Farid Saat6
1City Clinical Hospital No. 81, Center of Clinical Diagnostics No. 7, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Medical Faculty, Chair of the Clinical Andrology, PFUR, Moscow, Russian Federation; 3Research Center for Endocrinology, Moscow, Russian Federation; 4Department of Men’s Healthcare, Bayer Schering Pharma, Gulf Medical University School of Medicine, Ajman, UAE.

Background
The benefit of testosterone replacement therapy in men with hypogonadism and metabolic syndrome is known. Safety of testosterone therapy is still a question of a high interest, especially regarding influence on cardiovascular system.
P408
Effects of alteration in serum testosterone levels on beta cell functions in male patients with hypogonadism and in female patients with polycystic ovary syndrome
Gökhan Uğurak1, S Erol Bolu1, Taner Ozgürtaş1, M Kemal Erbil2 & Mustafa Kutlu1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Gülhane School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of Biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry, Gülhane School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey.

While low testosterone levels are associated with higher incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus in males. In contrast, hyperandrogenism is associated with higher risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus in females. We, therefore, have assessed alterations in beta-cell functions before and after testosterone replacement therapy in male patients with idiopathic hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (IHH) and before and after anti-androgen therapy in patients with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). The study population consisted of 17 female patients with PCOS, 15 appropriate controls and 33 patients with IHH, 30 appropriate controls. Patients with IHH were treated with intramuscular injections of chorionic gonadotropin 1500 U twice in a week for 6 months. Patients with PCOS were followed during treatment of 0.035 mg ethinylestradiol/2 mg cyproterone acetate combined pills (DIANE-35 tablet®) for six menstrual cycles. After 6 months treatment with antiandrogen in patients with PCOS, levels of total testosterone (TT), free testosterone (FT), fasting plasma glucose (FPG), 2-hour post-challenge glucose, 2-hour post-challenge insulin, c-peptide, and amylin concentrations decreased significantly. Antiandrogen treatment did not cause alteration in body mass index, Waist/Hip ratio, HOMA-IR, fasting insulin, proinsulin and amylin levels. Fasting plasma levels of TT, FT, proinsulin, c-peptide, and amylin increased, but fat mass, HOMA-IR and FPG decreased significantly in patients with IHH after chorionic gonadotropin replacement therapy. Androgen replacement may increase beta cell dysfunction despite increase in insulin sensitivity and antiandrogen treatment may restore beta cell dysfunction in patients with PCOS.

P409
Endothelium dependent hemostatic factors and subclinical inflammation in women with previous gestational diabetes mellitus
Tevlik Demir, Sevîc Biberoglu Eraslan, Serkan Yener, Baris Akincî & Mehmet Ali Ocak
Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, School of Medicine, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Women with a history of GDM may be at increased risk for future diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The aim of this study was to investigate the endothelium dependent hemostatic factors as well as the parameters of endothelial function and inflammation in women with pGDM.

Eighty women with pGDM and 40 women (control) healthy women with normal glucose tolerance during pregnancy were studied. In all women, plasma glucose, insulin, C-peptide, lipid profile, CRP and endothelium dependent hemostatic factors PAI-1, vWF, fibrinogen, tissue factor (TF), t-PA. total TFPI were measured.

Subjects with pGDM and healthy control subjects did not differ in mean age or number of years postpartum. The women with a pGDM had higher fasting glucose, postprandial glucose, total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, and triglyceride levels than women with a history of normal pregnancy. Homeostasis model assessment, insulin and C-peptide were also higher in the pGDM group. Compared with the control group, women with a pGDM had higher levels of CRP, fibrinogen, PAI-1, TF, and total TFPI. After adjusting for BMI, CRP and PAI-1 remained higher in the women with pGDM. PAI-1 levels correlated with BMI, WHR, LDL-cholesterol, triglyceride, HDL-cholesterol, fasting glucose, 2 h plasma glucose, insulin, HOMA-IR, CRP and TF in the whole group. The increase of endothelium dependent hemostatic factors and inflammatory markers may be one of the first detectable markers in high risk of diabetes, like those with a pGDM. Higher levels of fibrinogen, PAI-1, TF and TFPI in particular may help to explain this higher prevalence of diabetes in pGDM subjects.
P412
Clinical characteristics and mother-fetal results in patients with gestational diabetes
Cristobal Morales, Guillermo Martinez de Pinillos, Juan M Garcia-Quirós, Monica Tome, Ignacio Fernandez, Isabel Serrano & Angel Sendon
Virgen Macarena Hospital, Seville, Spain.

Objective
To evaluate the main clinical characteristics and the obstetrical results of perinatal morbi-mortality of women with gestational diabetes in our Service.

Material and method
We made a descriptive study of 83 gestational diabetes patients which became a pursuit coordinated between the services of Endocrinology and Gynecology. The following main aspects were analyzed: age, toxic habits, BMI pre-gestational, first pregnancy or not, previous antecedents of gestational diabetes, hypertensive pathology, weeks of gestation, restored treatment, levels of HbA1c to the diagnose and to end of the gestation, childhood, obstetrical complications and weight of newborn.

Results
The average age of the pregnant were 32.7 ± 5.5 years and had been diagnosed of gestational diabetes in the week 29 ± 7.8 with BMI pre-gestational of 27.6 ± 5.1 kg/m² (57.3% normal weight, 34.9% overweight, 27.3% obesity). The 32.5% were first pregnancies showing more than 30 years in the 46.1. Of 30.3% had antecedents of gestational diabetes. In the 15.7% hypertensive pathology were associated 4.8% antecedents of hypertension, 7.2% pregnancy hypertension and 3.6% preclampsia), and the 31.3% were smokers. The average HbA1c to the diagnosis was 5.9 ± 0.5, and at the end of the gestation 5.3 ± 0.46, need of insulinization 64% (15.0 ± 10 U/dia). Of 66 patients ended the gestation with an average duration of 38.6 ± 1.5 week (15.1% childbirths perterminal, 78.8% upon maturity and 6% postterminal). The global percentage of Caesarean was 34.8%, spontaneous childbirth 46.9% and instrumental childbirth 18.1%. The average weight of new born was of 3288 ± 489 g with macrosomia in 7.6%. The total percentage of obstetrical trauma was of 10.6%. The Aggar average to the 5 min was of 8.7 ± 1.5 and to the 5 min 9.8 ± 1.2. Entrance in pediatriy were needed in the 4.5% and a neonatal mortality of 1.5% was determined.

Conclusions
Patients with gestational diabetes in our service showed a suitable metabolic control with a discreetly superior macrosomia percentage in comparison with nondiabetic general population.

We found a higher percentage of Caesarean in our patients in comparison with other published series.

P413
Quality of life in diabetes mellitus: conditional issues of treatment and coping strategies
Miguel Pereira1, Celestino Neves1,2, João Pereira1, Eduardo Carqueja1, Marta Alves1, Davide Carvalho1,2, Rui Coelho1,2 & José Medina1,2
1 Hospital S João, Porto, Portugal; 2 University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; 3 Maia’s Superior Institute, Maia, Portugal.

Introduction
Quality of life (QoL) is a subject of increasing interest in the health context. Applied to a chronic condition like diabetes, this issue could give an overall perspective of the health outcome.

Objective
To evaluate the coping mechanisms, the treatment issues and its contribution to QoL of diabetes patients.

Patients and methods
We gathered a sample of 94 diabetic subjects, 50% males, 53.5% type 1, with a mean age of 42.02 ± 16.68 (17-77) years. To accomplish our work we applied several instruments: a general biographical questionnaire, audit of diabetes-dependent quality of life (ADDQoL), problem areas in diabetes survey (Paisd).

Experience of treatment benefits and barriers (ETBB) and problem solving inventory (PSI). We used a mean comparison t-test, the Pearson and Spearman’s correlations tests.

Results
Type 1 diabetics showed higher values in ADDQoL questionnaire than Type 2 diabetics (−1.04 ± 1.19 vs. −1.74 ± 1.34; P = 0.009), as well as patients with none diabetes related complications (−2.03 ± 1.49 vs. −0.95 ± 0.98; P < 0.001). Relatively to the problem areas, we found that patients with insulin treatment and patients with later complications reported higher levels of psychological suffering than patients on tablets (33.9 ± 16.1 vs 22.3 ± 13.8; P = 0.01) and with none diabetic complications (37.5 ± 17.9 vs 28.8 ± 14.5; P = 0.01), respectively. In terms of coping, better coping strategies are associated with better QoL (r = 0.29; P = 0.005). Last, we didn’t find any correlation between A1c levels and QoL.

In this study we acknowledged that QoL is directly linked and influenced by subjects like personal problem solving mechanisms, treatment methods and perceptions of problem areas, namely emotional materials. These results are somewhat consistent with findings in previous studies.

P414
Thyroid dysfunctions and serum creatine kinase levels in statins-using patients with hyperlipidemia
Tanser Bayraktaroglu1,2, Mesut Orkay2, Faruk Kutlutur1,3, Atil Dogan Azezi1 & Yusuf Orban1
1 Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Zonguldak, Turkey; 2 Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Sutedikuant University, Kahramanmaras, Turkey; 3 Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey; 4 Endocrinology and Metabolism, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Introduction
Hypothyroidism is a well-known cause of secondary dyslipidemia, and its link to atherosclerosis has been known for long time. The 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A (HMGG-CoA) reductase inhibitors (statins) offer important benefits for the large population of individuals at high risk for coronary heart disease. It was aimed to investigate the relations of the secondary hyperlipidemia included overt and subclinical hypothyroidism and increased serum creatine kinase (CK) levels in patients who were taken statins to treatment for hyperlipidemia, retrospectively.

Materials and method
There were 1765 patients who were taken statins for hyperlipidemia in last 5 years. The rates of hypothyroidism and subclinical hypothyroidism were determined, then increased serum CK levels as a statin induced myopathy were analysed.

Results
There were 51 (2.9%) patients with subclinical hypothyroidism and 26 (1.5%) hypothyroidism in study population. However, increased CK levels were not determined in subjects with thyroid dysfunctions.

Conclusion
The rate of hypothyroid-induced myopathy is unknown. Patients’ thyroid status should always be considered before initiating lipid-lowering medications. Statins offer important benefits with decreased statin induced myopathy for the large population of individuals at high risk for coronary heart disease.

P415
Histopathological effects of stress on the heart muscle in rats
Tuba Demirci & Elvan Özbek
Department of Histology and Embryology, Medical School, Atatüirk University, Erzurum, Turkey.

Objective
Stress causes negative effects at all the body especially the heart. As a result of the damage of secreting various hormones which stress cause to secrete in the body. During the stress, respiration, tension, heart speed and catecholamine level increase. All these can be considered as a risk factor for the heart disease. In our study, we aimed to examine stress’ possible histopathological changes on heart muscle.

Methods
Eight adult female Sprague Dawley rats were used in this study. Rats were randomly divided the control (n = 4) and stress (n = 4) groups. Chronic mild stress (CMS) model of depression was performed to the stress group during two weeks.
At the end of the test, rats were sipped with ketamin HCl and hearts were removed after opening their chest cage and their volumes were measured by the water immersion method. After this process tissue samples were blocked in paraffin blocks following routine histological protocol. Sections were taken with Leica RM2125 Microtome at the thickness of 4–5 mm and stained with hematoxylin–eosin. Preparations were light microscopically examined.

Results
It was observed that volumes of the hearts which belongs to the stress performed rats were significantly increased when compared with the control group (P < 0.05; independent samples t-test). In the sections of test group, there was an extension at the length of muscle fibers because of cytoplasmic swelling. Expansion of blood vessels in interstitium and presence of fat cells in some vessels were remarkable.

Extensive vascular degeneration was also determined in the muscle fibers.

Conclusions
According our findings, it is concluded that CMS can cause histopathological changes in the heart, such as coronary heart disease and high blood pressure.

Acknowledgement
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**P416**

**Insulin casts in type 2 patients different shadows with proliferate reninopathy and those with weint or bypass on coronary arteries**

Dragan Tesic, Pavle Pantelic, Milena Mitrovic & Bojan Vukovic

Clinic of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, Novi sad, Serbia.

**Background and aims**

The aim of this study was to examine the prevalence of neupathy and nephropathy in patients with type 2 (T2DM) complicated by proliferate reninopathy (PDR) and coronary artery occlusive disease (CAOD) treated with stent or bypass surgery.

**Materials and methods**

Comparisons were made between 22 patients with T2DM and bypass or stenting of coronary arteries with normal fundoscopic finding (G1) and 21 age matched controls, without diabetic retinopathy and CAOD, and also between 23 patients with T2DM and PDR (G2) and 21 age and diabetes duration matched controls.

Clinical examination of the eyes was performed through dilated pupils using a slit lamp and a magnifying lens. Visceral perception threshold (VPT) was measured by semi quantitative tuning fork CI28 (grade 0–8) and ankle reflexes were recorded. Body weight (kg), serum creatinine, fibrinogen and urine protein concentration were measured, and the presence of macro vascular (coronary, cerebrovascular and peripheral arterial) complications was also documented.

**Results**

In T2DM patients with CAOD were ones with lower HDL than it was the case with the control group of patients (1.14 ± 0.22 vs 1.38 ± 0.44 mmol/L, P < 0.03) that had higher triglycerides (TG) HDL (2.9 ± 2.36 vs 1.64 ± 1.43), shorter duration of diabetes (15 ± 0.8 vs 22.5 ± 6.4 years), higher creatinine (121.2 ± 28.7 vs 95.9 ± 28.7 mmol/L, P < 0.002). However, VPT was not significantly different between the two groups (6.8 ± 1.8 vs 6.9 ± 1.3). A positive history of hyperlipidemia was more common in T2DM with CAOD than among Controls (90.9 vs 61.9%, P < 0.004).

In addition to that, the tendency was present for hypertension (50.3 ± 33.3%; P < 0.08) and HDL cholesterol was negatively correlated with Hba1c (r = -0.42, P < 0.05). VPT was significantly worse in patients T2DM and PDR compared with controls (2.98 ± 2.9 vs 1.88 ± 1.33, P < 0.01), as it was the case with ankle reflexes (3.5 ± 0.9 vs 3.2 ± 1.74, P < 0.05), fibrinogen (4.1 ± 0.89 vs 8.63 g/L), proteinuria (1488.9 ± 2676 vs 225 ± 209 mg/dL), creatinin (135.8 ± 75 vs 95.2 ± 28.7 mmol/L, P < 0.02). A positive history of hyperlipidemia was more common in G2 than among Controls (82.6 vs 61.9%, P < 0.03), secondary insulin dependence (73.9% vs 38.1%, P < 0.001), low smoking habit (34.8 vs 76.2%, P < 0.0001). Total cholesterol showed positive correlation with Hba1c (r = 0.51, P < 0.01) and pulse rate (r = 0.38, P < 0.07), Vibration perception for all three groups (G1, G2, Controls) was negatively correlated with pulse rate (r = -0.23, P = 0.07), HDL cholesterol (r = -0.22, P = 0.07), fibrinogen (r = -0.30, P = 0.018), duration of diabetes (r = -0.28, P = 0.02), proteinuria (r = -0.31, P = 0.01), creatinin (r = -0.23, P = 0.09), ankle reflexes (r = -0.34, P < 0.0001). After multiple regression analysis the correlations with duration of diabetes (P < 0.0001) remained significant.

**Conclusion**

Worsening VPT in T2DM is strongly associated with duration of diabetes where the worst outcome is in patients who developed diabetic proliferate reninopathy and nephropathy. In T2DM with coronary artery occlusive disease endogenous insulin exerts protective effect on microvascular complications. On the other hand, the same endogenous insulin, in the presence of classical macro vascular risk factors and compromised reverse cholesterol transport caused by hyperglycemia, exerts atherogenesis on coronary arteries.

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**P417**

**Evaluation of the severity of hepatic steatosis in type 2 diabetes**

Leila Ben Salem Iachimi1, Leila Ben Farhat2, Ridha Waghlanlaw3, Chiraz BOudiz4, Lotfi Hendroui5 & Claude Ben Slama1

1National Institute of Nutrition, Tunis, Tunisia; 2Mongi Slim Hospital, Marsa, Tunis, Tunisia.

**Objective**

The objective of this study was to examine the factors influencing the severity of hepatic steatosis in type 2 diabetes.

**Methods**

Computed tomography imaging was used to assess hepatic fat content in 80 men and women with type 2 diabetes. Inclusion criteria included a confirmed diagnosis of type 2 diabetes (≥1 year of duration), without history of hepatic disease or daily consumption of alcohol drink. The ratio of liver to spleen attenuation (L/S ratio) was calculated. Patients with an L/S ratio ≤ 0.8 were considered to have severe fatty liver. We compared the 2 groups with moderate and severe steatosis.

**Results**

The prevalence of hepatic steatosis was 30% (24/80). Steatosis was severe in 29% (7/24) and moderate in 71% of patients. Mean alanine aminotransferase level and C reactive protein level are significantly higher in diabetes with severe steatosis (respectively 25.8 ± 5.3 vs 20.4 ± 6 P = 0.04–12.6 ± 15.1 vs 4.7 ± 17.0 P = 0.04). No significant difference was found concerning age, duration of diabetes, anthropometric parameters, HbA1C, triglyceride level, HDL cholesterol level and total cholesterol level between the 2 groups.

**Conclusions**

Type 2 diabetic patient with higher liver enzyme especially alanine aminotransferase and positive inflammatory parameters had a higher risk of severe steatosis.

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**P418**

**Microalbuminuria and cardiovascular risk in diabetic patients**

Erjita Nelaj, Margarita Gjata & Mihal Tase

UHC Mother Teresa, Tirane, Albania.

**Background**

Microalbuminuria was originally established as a predictor of renal failure and an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes mellitus as well as in general population. The aim of our study is to assess the relationship between microalbuminuria and the other risk factors in diabetics and their prevalence.

**Methods**

Sixty five patients, 22 men and 43 women with mean age 58.6 ± 10.9, with type 2 diabetes, were hospitalized in the Department of Internal Medicine in the University Hospital Center ‘Mother Teresa’ in Tirana, Albania, between March 2007 and February 2008. These patients with a mean duration of diabetes 6.09 ± 5.41 were divided in two groups: with (Group A: 24 patients) and without (Group B: 41 patients) microalbuminuria and each group was evaluated for left ventricular mass index (LVMi), body mass index (BMI), glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1C), lipid profile and intra media thickness (IMT).

**Results**

The prevalence of microalbuminuria in our study was 32.3%. The prevalence of microalbuminuria in males was 37.5 and in females 26.5%. The microalbuminuric patients were older (57.91 ± 9.177 vs 57.07 ± 10.32) and had a longer duration of diabetes (7.74 ± 5.74 vs 4.45 ± 5.58) compared with normoalbuminuria (7.31 ± 4.1, P = 0.01). The Group A had significantly higher LVMI compared with Group B (P = 0.02). The prevalence of obesity (BMI > 30 kg/m²) in our sample was 44.5%. In Group A the mean BMI (30.13 ± 4.98) was significantly higher compared with Group B (28.09 ± 3.72, P = 0.04). Diabetic retinopathy was more frequent in Group A compared with Group B (33.3 ± 14.6, P = 0.05). The mean value of IMT was higher in Group A compared with Group B (1.28 ± 0.35 vs 1.09 ± 0.28, P = 0.03).

**Conclusion**

In patients with type 2 diabetes and microalbuminuria LVMI, BMI, duration of diabetes was significantly higher compared with patients with type 2 diabetes and normoalbuminuria.
P419
Type 2 diabetes mellitus: failure to recognize cardiovascular risk jeopardizes prevention of diabetes complications in type 2 diabetic patients in daily practice
Eckart Jungmann & Gisela Jungmann
St Vincent’s Hospital, D-33378 Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany.
There are still considerable deficits in the prevention of cardiovascular diabetes complications as in effective antihypertensive treatment in type 2 diabetic patients in daily practice. There is controversy, however, to which extent lack of information regarding potential risk factors or deficits in disease awareness of the patients themselves contributes to this unfavourable situation. In 45 female and 51 male type 2 diabetic patients, age, 56±16 years (mean±
S.D.), known duration of diabetes, 10±11 years, who were referred to our institution by their general practitioners for start or optimization of insulin therapy, we assessed the knowledge concerning risk markers and chances of prevention of cardiovasular diabetes complications.
Patients who were aware of risk markers had lower levels of cholesterol and triglyceride (P<0.05) as well as urinary albumin excretion than patients without this awareness, but blood pressure levels were not different. Awareness of the significance of hypertension was most prevalent (55%, P<0.05), but self-reported blood pressure levels were considerably lower than measured blood pressure (P<0.05). Although 70% of the patients knew about the significance of treatment with thrombocyte aggregation inhibitors, only 29% of the patients were treated by aspirin or clopidogrel (P<0.05).
Lack of information, wrong beliefs and the ’behaviour gap’, the difference between the informations the patients have about their disease and what they actually do, contribute to insufficient prevention of cardiovascular risk and disease complications in patients with type 2 diabetes in daily practice. More concerted efforts are required to improve the quality of teaching of all type 2 diabetic patients by competent diabetes teachers and to increase disease awareness and, hopefully, cardiovascular outcome of the patients.

P420
Prevalence of diabetic retinopathy and it’s relation with other risk factors
Ergita Nalaj, Margarita Gjata, Ilida Llilaj, Orledia Bare, Edite Sadiku, Ledio Collaku, Iola Klosi & Mihal Tase
Department of Internal Medicine, UHC Mother Teresa, Tirane, Albania.
Background
Micro and macroangiopathy are two major complications of diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy (DR) and nephropathy (ND) which represented microangiopathy, are present early in type 2 diabetes. Macroangiopathy represented by atherosclerotic process assessed through intima-media thickness (IMT) of carotid artery. Microalbuminuria (MI) predictor of ND is associated with DR in type II diabetic patients and is a reliable marker of DR. The aim was to search for association between DR and IMT and to identify risk factors for the development of DR and MI and their correlation.
Materials and methods
Of 65 patients, 22 men and 43 women with mean age 58.6±10.09, with type 2 diabetes, for at least 5 years, were examined at the Department of Internal Medicine. The ocular fundus were examined by a specialist, by direct ophthalmoscopy and common carotid artery IMT was measured by a B-mode ultrasound, 10 MHz transducer. These patients were evaluated for presence of MI (a urinary albumin excretion between 30 and 300 mg/L per day), body mass index (BMI) and glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1C).
Results
DR was found in 25(38.5%) diabetic patients. IMT was higher in patients with DR than in patients without DR (0.091 mm vs 0.082 mm, P=0.001, respectively). The relationship between DR and risk factors such as HbA1C, BMI, duration of illness and age revealed to be significant. HbA1C was higher in patients with DR (mean =10.5%) than in patients with no signs of retinopathy (mean=9.5%) and this difference was statistically significant (P=0.001). As expected, DR and renal involvement were highly positively correlated. (P=0.001).
Conclusion
DR is associated with increased IMT. Elevated HbA1C predicts DR. Retinopathy is associated cross sectionally with the presence of MI in persons with diabetes type 2. So, diabetic patients with DR need particularly intensive cardiovascular screening.

P421
Screening of the Romani population in Serbia for diabetes
Teodora Beljic Zivkovic1, Rodoljub Zivkovic2, Toma Ignjatovic2, Milica Marjanovic2, Ivan Soldatovic2, Stela Prgomelja1, Branko Koprivica1 & Dragoljub Ackovic1
1Division of Endocrinology, Zvezdara University Medical Center, Belgrade, Serbia; 2Diabetes Association of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia; 2Special Hospital Stari Slankamen, Stari Slankamen, Serbia; 2Roma Community Center «8 April», Belgrade, Serbia.
It is well known that Romani people suffer from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The aim of our study was to investigate the prevalence of diabetes in the Romani population in Serbia.
Methods
During the period October 2006–May 2008, diabetes association of Serbia performed blood glucose measurements in 11 urban and 8 rural Romani communities in Serbia. Blood glucose values, name, age, presence of diabetes, family history for diabetes, time of last meal and presence of obesity were noted.
Results
Statistical analysis was performed on 1465 Romani people (925 in urban and 641 in rural communities) with complete findings. Mean age of the Romani people investigated was 42.42±15.69 years. Obesity was present in 577 (39.4%) people. Some 87 of the 1465 Romani people (5.9%) already had diabetes. Blood glucose measurements discovered 76 (5.2%) new cases of diabetes type 2. Romani people with diabetes were significantly older (F=28.33; P<0.01). Family history for diabetes was positive in 1/3 of the Romani people. Risk for diabetes is 3.48 times higher in an obese Romani person than in the non-obese (OR 2.107, 95% confidence interval 1.249-3.554; P<0.01). Diabetes was significantly more present in urban communities (X2=25.205; df=2; P<0.01). The risk of developing diabetes is 3.649 times higher in Romani people that live in urban settlements (OR 3.649, 95% confidence interval 1.998-6.662; P<0.01).
Conclusion
Prevalence of diabetes in Romani people living in Serbia is possibly higher from the prevalence in the general population in Serbia. The risk factors for diabetes are middle age, family history, obesity and life in urban communities.

P422
Thyrotropin and thyroxine are associated with fasting insulin and insulin resistance in euthyroid impaired glucose tolerant subjects
Tasnim Farasah1,2, Abdul Majed Cheema1,2 & M Nasem Khan1,2
1Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan; 2Faculty of Biotechnology & Informatics, Balochistan University of IT, Engineering & Management Sciences, Quetta, Pakistan; 2Zoology Department, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.
Objective
To investigate the relationship of thyroid hormones and insulin secretions in glucose homeostasis in impaired glucose tolerant and type 2 diabetic subjects, with normal thyroid functions.
Methods
Retrospective cross sectional analysis was carried out on (n=266) impaired glucose tolerant, type 2 diabetics and normal glucose tolerant subjects. Thyrotropin (TSH), total triiodothyronine (TT3), total thyroxin (TT4) and insulin were assessed by enzyme linked immunossausay (ELISA). Insulin and TSH were assessed by Immunoenzymometric Assay (Type 3), while TT3 and TT4 were assessed by competitive enzyme immunossausay (Type 5). Fasting plasma glucose and HbA1C were measured by glucose oxidase and low pressure cation exchange chromatography. Homeostasis model of assessment (HOMA-IR) was employed to assess the level of insulin resistance. Anthropometric measurement and habits were recorded.
Results
Serum TT3 levels were significantly lower in the IGT and diabetics as compared to normal glucose tolerant (control). TT3 and TSH were higher in IGT subjects as compared to control and diabetics. IGT subjects were more hyporesistant and insulin resistant as compared to diabetics. There was a significant positive correlation of TSH with BMI only in control group (r=0.351; P<0.05). TT3 had significant and positive correlation with TT3 (r=0.700, r=0.577) in control and diabetic respectively (P<0.01). Correlation of insulin with TSH was significant (r=–0.457) in IGT subjects. In multiple regression analysis TSH, TT3 contributed significantly to the variance of fasting insulin in IGT subjects.
The effects of *Urtica dioica* on rat pancreatic β cell
Majid Mobasseri, Akbar Aliasgarzadeh, Amir Bahrami, Mitra Niafar, Firuzad Najaifoor & Nosratollah Zargami
Tabriz University (Medical Sciences), Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
*Urtica dioica* extract has been used for treatment of diabetes mellitus for many centuries. Hypoglycemic effects of *U. dioica* have been shown in multiple studies. The present study was designed to determine the possible mechanisms of hypoglycemic effects of *U. dioica* on RINSF Rat Pancreatic β cells.

Methods and materials
In cell culture laboratory of Drug Applied Research Center of Tabriz University (Medical Sciences) pancreatic β cell prepared in multiple flasks containing culture media. Alcoholic extract of *U. dioica* with doses of 50, 100 and 200 μg were added to flasks containing RINSF Rat Pancreatic β cell. Insulin and C-peptide levels were measured in 60, 120 and 180 min.

Results
Insulin level in pancreatic cell media before and after adding of *U. dioica* with varying doses and in different times were ≤0.2 μg/ml. C-peptide (μg/ml) level in these media with dose of 50 μg of *U. dioica* and in above mentioned times were 0.31, 0.33, 0.86 and 0.8; with dose of 100 μg were 0.7, 0.2, 0.4 and 0.39; and with dose of 200 μg were 0.32, 0.33, 0.93, 0.77 respectively.

Conclusion
The results of the present study show that alcoholic extract of *U. dioica* was not able to increase Insulin and C-peptide secretion from RINSF pancreatic β cells.

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**P425**
Effects of oral contraceptives versus no treatment on glucose tolerance and patients’ satisfaction during long time follow up in 69 hirsute patients
Magdalene Andries, Dorte Glinborg & Marianne Andersen
Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark.

Objective
To evaluate the long term risk for diabetes and insulin resistance in untreated and oral contraceptive (OC) treated hirsute patients.

Design
Cross sectional study.

Setting
Academic tertiary-care medical centre.

Patients
Of 233 Caucasian hirsute women were evaluated during 1997–2002 (baseline) and re-contacted in 2003–2004. Of 159 patients returned questionnaires and 69 attended clinical examinations.

Interventions
Two-hour oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT).

Main outcome measures
Diabetes and impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), hirsutism.

Results
The median follow-up period was (median (range)) 4 (2–7) years. Evaluated by questionnaires, 91/2 (70%) patients had terminated OC treatment at follow-up. OC treatment significantly improved hirsutism. Cosmetic treatment compared to no cosmetic treatment had no significant long-term effects on hirsutism. During clinical examinations (n = 69), BMI was 24.9 (22.4–29.0) kg/m² and total Ferriman-Gallwey score was 10 (7–15) (median (25–75 quartiles)). Medically untreated patients (47/69) had increased fasting and 2 h glucose levels compared to baseline, whereas BMI was unchanged. Of 4/47 (8.5%) untreated patients developed diabetes and 5/47 (10.6%) developed IGT. OC treated patients had significantly decreased AUC insulin during follow up, whereas HDL and AUC glucose increased.

Conclusion
Of 8.5% untreated patients developed diabetes during follow-up, suggesting a high diabetes risk in hirsutism. OC treatment improved hirsutism.
P427
Mean platelet volume in women with previous gestational diabetes and its alteration during pregnancy
Aygul Celik, Baris Akinci, Tevlik Demir, Serkan Yener & Sena Yesil
Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Previous gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is associated with insulin resistance which is a well-known risk factor for atherosclerotic diseases. Mean platelet volume (MPV) is an indicator of platelet activation which plays a crucial role in pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. One hundred and five consecutive women with GDM and 40 healthy women with normal previous pregnancies were included in the study. At the time of enrollment, anthropometric measurements and laboratory tests including fasting and post-load glucose levels, lipid profiles, insulin, fibrinogen and MPV were performed. Women with GDM were classified as type-2 diabetes, IFFG-IGT and normal glucose tolerance (NGT) according to 75-g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). Retrospectively, perinatal data of the subjects regarding anthropometric measurements, 100-g OGTT and MPV values during pregnancy were recorded.

Women with GDM were found to have higher insulin resistance, more atherogenic lipid profile and increased levels of plasma fibrinogen than control subjects. MPV was not statistically different between women with GDM and women with normal prior pregnancies. MPV was associated with fasting blood glucose levels. MPV values were tended to be increased in women with GDM who had type-2 diabetes when compared to those who had NGT (P=0.092). In retrospective analysis, MPV at the time of screening of GDM and MPV late in third trimester were found to be significantly higher in GDM group. In conclusion, MPV values of women with GDM were not statistically different from those of women with normal pregnancies. MPV tended to be increased in women with GDM who had type-2 diabetes. During pregnancy, MPV was significantly higher in women with gestational diabetes.

P428
Reduction of major amputations after starting a multidisciplinary diabetic foot care team: single centre experience from Turkey
Sena Yesil, Baris Akinci, Pirat Bayraktar, Hasan Havlicoglu, Ozalp Karabay, Nur Yazar, Cenk Demirdoven, Serkan Yener, Muhittin Yalcin, Abdurrahman Comlekci & Sevinc Ersalan
Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

Introduction
It is widely recognized that a multidisciplinary team is effective in the management diabetic foot ulcers. Contrary to developed countries, multi-disciplinary diabetic foot care teams and/or clinics have not been constructed in most centres in developing countries. The aim of this study was to present our data regarding amputations rates and profiles before and after starting the Dokuz Eylul University multidisciplinary diabetic foot care team.

Methods
This study includes data from diabetic foot ulcer episodes which were managed in Dokuz Eylul University Hospital between January 1999 and January 2008. The data was collected prospectively during a minimum follow-up of 6 months in all ulcers. After 2002, management of ulcers was coordinated by the diabetic foot care team (n=437). Amputation rates were compared to those who were admitted before January 2002 (n=137).

Results
Overall amputation and minor amputation rates were similar for both periods. However, major amputations were observed to be decreased after starting the Dokuz Eylul University multidisciplinary diabetic foot care team (20.4 vs 12.6%, P=0.026).

Conclusions
Our results demonstrated that major amputation rates can be reduced by team work. Formation of multidisciplinary diabetic foot care teams and clinics should be encouraged in Turkey.

P429
Prediction of developing metabolic syndrome after gestational diabetes mellitus
Baris Akinci, Aygul Celik, Serkan Yener & Sena Yesil
Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey.

It has been shown that women with previous GDM more likely developed metabolic syndrome (MS). This study aimed to determine predictors of the later development of MS in women with previous GDM. One hundred sixty-four consecutive women with previous GDM were evaluated after a mean follow-up of 40.54 months from index pregnancy. Sixty-five lean women with negative screening for GDM were included as a control group. Data regarding antenatal and peripartum characteristic of participants were collected prospectively. Subjects were evaluated for the diagnosis of MS according to criteria of NCEP/ATP III and IDF. Tests were performed including 75 g OGTT, fasting insulin, lipids, plasma fibrinogen, blood pressure, and body measurements. HOMA score was calculated. MS prevalence was higher in women with previous GDM according to both definitions. Women with previous GDM were more overweight and insulin resistant. They had more atherogenic lipid profile and increased fibrinogen levels. Univariate analysis showed that prepregnancy obesity, weight gain during follow-up and fasting glucose level at the OGTT of the index pregnancy were predictors of developing MS. Multivariate analysis showed that fasting glucose level > 100 mg/dl at the OGTT of the index pregnancy was an independent predictor of the MS development.

We suggest that early prediction of women with previous GDM who are at high risk for developing MS is possible, and it is vital to prevent MS related complications.

P430
Exercise induced oxidative stress in type 2 diabetes: relation to diastolic dysfunction and hypertension
Nada Kostic
School of Medicine, Clinic for Internal Medicine, Clinical Hospital Center Dr Dragisa Misovic, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.

Background
Lipid peroxidation and antioxidant systems are important factors affecting the oxidation of lipoproteins. Left ventricular dysfunction and hypertension are much more common in subjects with type 2 diabetes mellitus and limit exercise performance.

Aims
The aim of our study was to evaluate the oxidative stress in patients with diabetes mellitus type 2 and to determine influence of acute exercise training on the investigated parameters.

Methods
To assess oxidative stress of the patients, we determined the following parameters: total cholesterol, low density cholesterol, Ox LDL, cholesterol, superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase, plasminogen activator-type 1 which was measured at rest and immediately after the acute bout of cardiopulmonary exercise cycle ergometer test.

Results
In basal condition, diabetic patients have significant increase of Ox LDL, cholesterol and SOD enzyme activity compared to controls. During acute exercise test, there were significantly greater levels of Ox LDL in study patients and in control group. SOD significantly increases in both groups during exercise, in diabetic patients and in controls. GSH-Px was significantly increased only in diabetic patients after acute exercise. Type 2 diabetic patients with cardiovascular complications have only significant increase of GSH-Px activity.

Conclusion
Elevated OxLDL, SOD and GSH-Px levels are associated with exercise in type 2 diabetic patients.

P431
Serum homocysteine levels in diabetes and its relationship to nephropathy
Morghan Alkhambizadeh, Hosein Ayatollahi, Majid Abridshahi, Zohreh Mosavi, Shokoufeh Bonakdar, Robab Aboutorabi & Mohammad Khajeh Dialouei
Masihed University of Medical Science, Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
Diabetes is a common disease with many complications; therefore many researches are done on possible factors which affect on diabetes control and its complications. Homocysteine is one of these possible factors. We studied correlation of homocysteine and diabetes. We also compared homocysteine levels in diabetic patients with nephropathy and patients without nephropathy.
Materials and methods
Of 105 diabetic patients and 32 controls were enrolled in study. Smokers, addicts, pregnant women, patients with macrocytic anemia, thyroid disease and renal failure were excluded. Only patients with type 2 diabetes were studied. Serum homocysteine, FBG, creatinin and urine microalbumin and creatinin were measured.

Results
The patients and controls were matched in age, sex, hypertension, BMI and family history of diabetes. There was no significant difference in homocysteine between patients and control. Homocysteine level in diabetic patients was 12.9±9.5 μmol/l and 11.6±8.6 μmol/l in control group. Also there wasn’t any significant difference between diabetic patients with and without nephropathy in homocysteine level. Serum homocysteine was 13.2±11.08 μmol/l in patients with nephropathy and 12.5±9.2 μmol/l in patients without nephropathy (P=0.9).

Conclusion
In contrast to most of other studies, our study showed no difference in homocysteine between diabetics and control. This may be due to number of cases or racial difference.

P432
Can testosterone therapy be included into diabetes treatment in men with metabolic syndrome and hypogonadism?
Svetlana Kalinchenko1, Farid Saad2, (George Mckhalya3 & Yuliya Tishova4
1PFUR, Medical faculty, Chair of Clinical Andrology, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Department of Men’s Healthcare, Bayer Schering Pharma, Gulf Medical University School of Medicine, Ajman, UAE; 3Research Center for Endocrinology, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Background
In 1998 the UKPDS study showed that over 10 years of observation there were no significant changes in harnoglobin A1c (HbA1c) in intensive insulin therapy group compared with conventional therapy group. Therefore, we still need new options to treat diabetes. Diabetes mellitus type 2 (DM2), is one of the MS components. Obesity leads to insulin resistance (IR) and DM2. Androgen deficiency (AD) is well-known factor to predict the development of diabetes.

Objective
To study the glycemic status and changes in hypoglycemic therapy in men with androgen deficiency (AD), MS and DM2, treated with testosterone undecanoate (TU).

Materials and methods
Of 18 men with MS (IDF criteria), DM2 (6 patients were on insulin therapy) and AD (total testosterone (TT) <12 nmol/l or free T <250 pmol/l) were treated with TU (Nebido, Schering) for 102 (72:13) weeks. Fasting plasma glucose (FGP), HbA1c, TT and hypoglycemic therapy were estimated at baseline and at the endpoint. Statistical analysis was performed using Wilcoxon test and Spearman correlation test.

Results
Of 3 patients were withdrawn from insulin. A negative correlation between duration of treatment and HbA1c at the endpoint was found (r= −0.67).

AD correction in men with MS and DM2 improves glycemic parameters and gives the opportunity to withdrawal from insulin treatment. Biguainides monotherapy is more preferable in DM2 treatment in men with MS. Level of diabetes compensation depends on duration of testosterone treatment. Testosterone therapy can be included into diabetes treatment in men with metabolic syndrome (MS) and hypogonadism together as well as lifestyle modification and conventional therapy.

P433
The effect of telmisartan and irbesartan treatments on insulin resistance of patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertension
Babursah Tsasi, Ozen Oz Gü, Erkan Tuncel, Metin Gücü, Sinem Kiyici & Suzi Imamoglu
Endocrinology and Metabolism Department, Faculty of Medicine, Uluoglu University, Bursa, Turkey.

Hyperinsulinemia that occurs due to insulin resistance play an important role on the development of type 2 diabetes and hypertension. It is shown that apart from their angiotensin II receptor blockade effect, telmisartan and irbesartan can activate intracellular hormone receptor PPARy. Owing to this dual effect, telmisartan and irbesartan can improve cardiovascular risk factors related to insulin resistance. The aim of this study was to compare the effects of telmisartan and irbesartan on insulin resistance, inflammation, lipid and carbohydrate metabolism of patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertension. Of 53 patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertension were included in the study. Patients were separated into three groups. Only diet and exercise treatment were applied on the first group (n=18), in addition to this treatment, second group (n=18) was administered telmisartan and third group (n=17) was administered irbesartan and they were followed for 6 weeks. Significant decrease was detected in body mass index, average weight, waist/hip ratio, systolic/diastolic blood pressure and insulin resistance in each group at the end of treatment. Serum high sensitive C-reactive protein level significantly decreased in telmisartan and irbesartan group in comparison to pre-treatment period. When compared to the pre-treatment period, significant increase in high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) and significant decrease in fasting plasma glucose (FGP), postprandial plasma glucose (PPG) and glycosylated hemoglobin (A1c) were detected in telmisartan group. Insignificant decreases were detected in total cholesterol, triglyceride, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, HDL-C, FPG, PPG and A1c in diet-exercise applied control group and in irbesartan group. In conclusion, it was found that there was no difference between the effects of telmisartan and irbesartan treatments on insulin resistance and that they were not statistically superior to the exercise and control group in terms of decreasing insulin resistance.

P434
Insulin treatment intensification in daily diabetes hospital
Juan M Garcia-Quiros, Cristobal Morales, Isabel Serrano, Guillermo Martinez de Pinillos, Monica Torne, Ignacio Fernandez & Angel Sendon
Virgen Macarena Hospital, Seville, Spain.

Objectives
To verify the results of the insulin treatment intensification in the control of Diabetes Mellitus type 1 and 2 (DM1 and DM2).

Methodology
Of 100 diabetic patients (30% DM1 and 70%DM2) derived to Day Diabetes Hospital (DDH) by glycemic decoupling during year 2007 were studied, 45% women and 55% men (we excluded the debut). The average age of the patients was of 35.1 years in DM1 and 64.4 years in DM2. The HbA1c in the first visit and to the 3 months was analyzed, as well as weight, dose of insulin, glycemic average and glycemic variability. The treatment intensification consisted of modifying the insulin guidelines from basal mixtures to bolus-based (in DM1; from basal to mixtures, from 2 to 3 mixtures and mixtures to bolus-based in DM2) and re-education. In this period of time there were an average of 3.06 revisions by patient.

Results
In DM1: the HbA1c happened from 10.2±2.3% ** to 8.3±1.6% **; the initial average weight was of 66.7 kg; the initial insulin metering was of 0.78±0.3 U/kg and the ending of 0.86±0.3 U/kg; glycemic average evolved from 213 to 167 mg/dl and the glycemic variability average happened from 86 to 80.3 mg/dl.

In DM2: the HbA1c happened from 9.9±1.9% ** to 7.9±1.3% **; the initial average weight was of 80.6 kg and the ending of 81 kg; the initial insulin metering was of 0.78±0.4 U/kg and the ending of 1.37±0.9 U/kg; glycemic average evolved from 243.6 to 174.1 mg/dl and the glycemic variability average happened from 72.9 to 59.6 mg/dl.

Conclusions
• DDH has demonstrated to be a useful device to improve the metabolic control of the patients, improving the HbA1c, glycemic average and glycemic variability as much in DM1 as in DM2
• Reduction of HbA1c levels was greater in those patients whose initial HbA1c was higher.
**P435**

Welfare activity in day diabetes hospital in our area: our experience in 2007

Isabel Serrano, Cristobal Morales, Juan M Garcia-Quiros, Guillermo Fernandez, Monica Tomé, Ignacio Fernandez & Angel Sendon
Virgen Macarena Hospital, Sevilla, Spain.

Objectives
The daily diabetes hospital (DDH) is a functional device that offers to diabetics a close and customized attention by specialized staff. The objective is to evaluate the welfare activity, the diagnose and educative program of the DDH in 2007.

Methodology
The following parameters have been analyzed: attended users, origin, main reason for consultation, previous Hba1c and to the 3 months, number revisions, income avedised, derivation place, telematic attendance, diabeticologic education sessions.

Results
1. Patient attended: Of 698 new patients and 3646 revisions were seen (3.4 new/17.8 revisions per day) with a 48.2 ± 19.4 average age. The average Hba1c was: 8.8 ± 2.6%. In 2007 there was 93 diabetic duets (36.5% DMI, 41.9% DMD and 21.5 DMD insulin dependent). By type of diabetes we classified in: DMD 49.7%, DMI 31.4%, and gestational DM (GD) 16.2%. Origin: Endocrinology (54.5%), emergencies: 28.4%, gynecology: 12.3%, hospitalization: 8.2%, primary attention (PA): 7% and external consultations: 4.3%. Derivation place: Of 27.4% in revision, 47.3% derivatives to the EEC: 17.2% to PA, income 0.1%, exitus 0.5% (oncology). Avoided income: Of 66, 43 duets, 9 hypernosmolar decompensations, 14 ketosis hyperglycemic. Precocious discharges of patients’ observation. Attendance telematics: telephone attendance 24 h and emmisions conected plus program. Types of treatment: Basal 47%, three mixtures 22.4%, two mixtures: 4.6%, Basal +OAD: 5%; insulin pump: 4.2%, Exubera: 2.6%.

2. Diabetological education (1970sessions): Of 18% in group and 42% individual.

3. Types of program: basic education, DMI debut, insulin pump, GD and diabetes and adolescence.


Conclusions
1. DDH is a useful instrument for the integral attention of DMI debut without criteria of hospitalate, diabetes and pregnancy, decompensation of diabetes that do not require attention, welfare continuity to the hospitalate discharge and treatment with insulin pumps.

2. DDH is a more adapted tool to make the individual and group education.

**Obesity and Metabolism**

**P436**

Association between visceral fat and cardiovascular disease risk factors

Dilek Berker1, Yusuf Aydin2, Serhat Isik3, Yasemin Tutuncu1, Lale Pasasoglu4, Tuaciy Delibas5 & Serdar Guler2

1Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinic, 2 S Ankara Numune Research and Training Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 3Radiology Department, S B Ankara Numune Research and Training Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
We designed this study to evaluate whether visceral fat area (VFA), and subcutaneous fat area (SFA) are associated with atherothrombotic parameters in obese and non-obese subjects.

Material and methods
Of 104 healthy volunteers were recruited for the study. Participants were divided into two groups according to their body mass index (BMI). Group 1 has a BMI of <25 kg/m² (n = 31) and the BMI of the group 2 was ≥ 25 kg/m² (n = 73).

Results
The average age- and sex-specific distribution patterns of the groups were similar. While Group 2 had impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) (21.9%), impaired fasting glucose (IFG) (30.1%), hypertension (HT) (13.7%) and metabolic syndrome (MS) (30.1%), group 1 didn’t. There was a positive correlation between VFA and triglyceride (TG), waist circumference (WC) (r = 0.443, P = 0.013; r = 0.649, P < 0.001 respectively). In group 1, WC and TG had an statistically significant effect on the visceral fat alterations, respectively. In group 2, there was a correlation between VFA and age, fasting glucose, OGTT-1 h, OGTT-2 h, systolic BP, diastolic BP, TG, HOMA-IR, uric acid, WC and waist-to-hip ratio, (r = 0.363, P = 0.002; r = 0.44, P < 0.001; r = 0.529, P < 0.001; r = 0.315, P = 0.007; r = 0.374, P < 0.001; r = 0.324 P = 0.005; r = 0.316, P = 0.006, r = 0.55 P < 0.001; r = 0.431, P < 0.001; r = 0.791, P < 0.001; r = 0.439, P < 0.001 respectively). In group 2, WC, OGTT-1 h, uric acid and age had an statistically significant effect on visceral fat alterations. There was also a negative correlation with HDL-C in both group 1 and group 2. While there was no correlation between SFA and any of the parameters in group 1, in group 2 there was an statistically significant effect of WC on SFA alterations. VFA and SFA had an statistically significant concurrence with IFG, IGT, HT and MS.

Conclusion
We consider that the insulin resistance which is the result of increase in visceral fat tissue compatible with BMI is responsible for dysglycemia and hyperuricemia.

**P437**

Severe hypertriglyceridemia and triglyceride apheresis

Tamer Bayraktaroglu1,2, Mesut Ozkaya1, Faruk Kutluturk1, Addl Dogan Azerli3, Yusuf Oral1

1Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Zonguldak, Turkey; 2Endocrinology and Metabolism, Medical Faculty, Sulec Imam University, Kahramanmaras, Turkey; 3Endocrinology and Metabolism, Medical Faculty, Gaziomanspasa University, Tokat, Turkey; 4Endocrinology and Metabolism, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Introduction
Patients with extremely high triglyceride levels and associated lipemia are at high risk for acute pancreatitis. Hypertriglyceridemia can be can be provoked when triglyceride levels exceed 1.000 mg/dl of acute pancreatitis.

Materials and method
In 7 patients with hyperlipidemic pancreatitis was evaluated. In addition to the standard therapy, they were treated with triglyceride apheresis. Acute pancreatitis was diagnosed based on the presence of clinical manifestations and consistent imaging finding on ultrasound and computed tomography in all patients. Plasma exchange was carried out using cascade filtration. Albumin, globulin, cholesterol, triglyceride, HDL, LDL, VLDL, lipase measured serially before and after each session of plasma exchange.

Results
The mean serum concentration of triglyceride after a single session of plasma exchange fell significantly 21 125 ± 318–318 ± 178 mg/dl.

Conclusion
In patients with triglyceride levels over 1000 mg/dl are at high risk for acute pancreatitis, plasma exchange can dramatically lower excessive triglyceride levels.

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Lower dietary acid load is related to a lower incidence of the metabolic syndrome

Monica Bulló, Nancy Babio & Jordi Salas-Salvadó

Rovira i Virgili University, Reus, Spain.

Introduction
Bone metabolism and osteoporotic fractures have been related to inflammatory status and associated to metabolic disorders such as obesity, cardiovascular disease or metabolic syndrome (MS). Evidence suggests that a more acidic diet could be considered detrimental in terms of bone health. Thus, dietary acid load could be associated to the metabolic syndrome evolution.

Methods
A longitudinal study was conducted with 282 elderly subjects at high risk of cardiovascular disease randomly assigned to three interventional groups, a recommended low-fat diet (control diet group), a Mediterranean diet (Med-diet) supplemented with virgin olive oil or a Med-diet supplemented with mixed nuts. Main outcome was the evolution and reversion rate of MS defined by the updated National Cholesterol and Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III criteria after 1 year of nutritional intervention.

Results
From the 282 subjects, 168 were diagnosed of MS at the beginning of the study. The dietary potential renal acid load (PRAL) and the daily net endogenous acid production (NEAP) at baseline did not differ between the interventional groups. PRAL and NEAP were not related to MS at the beginning of the study. After nutritional intervention, subjects allocated to the Med-diet supplemented with mixed nuts but not with olive oil had a significant increase in PRAL and NEAP in relation to control group. The decrease of PRAL and NEAP during the intervention were good indicators of a lower incidence of the metabolic syndrome (OR 95%CI) 0.96 (0.93–0.99) and 0.93 (0.87–0.99) P < 0.024, respectively after adjusting by sex, age, intervention group and differences in total energy intake.

However reversion rate of MS did not differ in relation to dietary acid load changes during the intervention.

Conclusion

The present data suggest that a more acidic diet has a negative effect on metabolic syndrome evolution but not effect on the reversion of metabolic syndrome.

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The evaluation of metabolic effects following ghrelin and salbutamol administration

Andrea Bensos, David H St-Pierre, Elena Gramaglia, Fabrizio Riganti, Barbara Lucatello, Ilaria Olivetti, Ezio Ghigo & Fabio Broglio

University of Turin, Turin, Piedmont, Italy.

Background

The activation of the GHS-R1a receptor by acylated ghrelin (AG) or by synthetic GH secretagogues (GHS), potently stimulates GH release and mediates other neuroendocrine/metabolic effects. Beta-adrenergic receptor agonists negatively influence GH secretion and other metabolic functions. The GH response to AG and GHS is refractory to the inhibitory effect of β2-adrenoceptors activation but no other report has evaluated the interactions between AG and salbutamol on metabolic parameters. In the present study we aimed to evaluate the properties of AG and salbutamol as a combination on a selected group of subjects.

Methods

Six healthy young volunteers underwent the following testing sessions in random order: a) Salbutamol (iv infusion of 0.06 µg/kg per min from 0 to 60), b) co-infusion of AG (1.0 µg/kg per min iv from −240 to 60 min) and Salbutamol (0.06 µg/kg per min iv 0–60min) and c) Isotonic saline (iv infusion from 0 to 60 min). Insulin, glycemia and FFA levels were evaluated every 15 min. Results

During the AG/Salbutamol treatment, a significant elevation from 0 min insulin and FFA levels was observed at all time points (P<0.05). Incremental insulin AUC values were significantly higher in both AG/Salbutamol and Salbutamol treatments when compared to Saline (P<0.0001). During AG/Salbutamol, glycemic AUC values were increased when compared to those observed during treatments with Salbutamol alone (P=0.02) or Saline (P=0.053). In addition, FFA AUC values were increased in AG/Salbutamol when compared to Salbutamol (P=0.05) and Saline treatments (P=0.005). Importantly, this effect was accentuated when incremental FFA AUC values were compared between the three treatments: AG/Salbutamol when compared with Salbutamol (P=0.045) and Saline (P=0.0001).

Conclusion

Taken as a whole, the present study indicates that Salbutamol and AG both exert effects on metabolism and furthermore, results strongly suggest that it could act in a synergistic manner to increase lipolysis.

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TNFR-1 knockdown protects against diet induced obesity

Talita Romanotto, Erika A Roman, Raphael G Denis, Ana Paula Arruda, Marciene Milanski, Giovanna Degasperi, Carina Solon & Licio A Veloso

State University of Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brazil.

Abstract

Obesity results from an imbalance between caloric intake and energy expenditure. Specialized neurons of the hypothalamus coordinates control the integration between feeding and thermogenesis and a defective regulation of these parameters contribute to the progressive accumulation of body fat. Recent studies have revealed that at least part of hypothalamic dysfunction contributing to the development of obesity results from the activation of a local inflammatory response. TNF-α is one of the main players in this context. Inhibition of TNF-α signaling by both genetic and pharmacological approaches can, at least partially, rescue the obese phenotype. In the present study we evaluate the role played by hypothalamic TNF-1 (TNF-α receptor type 1) in the transduction of the TNF-α signals that contribute to the development of obesity. For that, TNFR1 knockout mice (TNFR1KO) were fed a high-fat diet for eight weeks and a number of metabolic and molecular parameters were evaluated by respirometry, real-time PCR, immunoblot, immunohistochemistry and mitochondria respiration assay. The TNFR1KO were protected from diet-induced obesity, after 8-w high-fat diet consumption KO mice gained 15% less body mass than high-fat diet fed control mice. This was due to increased energy expenditure, as evaluated by in vivo respirometry and by isolated mitochondrial respiration assay, and by reduced cumulative food intake. At least part of the differences in food intake and energy expenditure were due to increased responsiveness to hypothalamic leptin and insulin. Thus, ip leptin injection led to an increase in 12 h suppression of feeding and increased STAT3 activation and SOCS-3 expression. Therefore, we conclude that TNFR1 is at least partially, implicated in the transduction of the TNF-α inflammatory signals that contributes to diet-induced hypothalamic dysfunction in obesity.

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Acute inflammatory biomarker modifications as a result of a single session of submaximal exercises in obese subjects

Zorica Caparadic

Clinical Hospital Center Dr Dragisa Misovic, Clinic for Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.

Background

Classical risk factors are not capable to explain all the cardiovascular events and new markers are being evaluated to predict aims.

Aims

We examined the effects of a single session of submaximal exercise (cardiopulmonary exercise cycle ergometer test) on atherogenic lipids in obese subjects focusing on inflammatory biomarker high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP), and oxidized low-density-lipoproteins (oxLDL) as a marker of oxidative stress.

Methods

The study group consisted 30 obese subjects (age: 48 ± 3.8, BMI: 30.0/25.0, body mass index (kg/m²): 31.55 ± 2.3), participated in a bicycle ergometer 45 min submaximal exercise test. Blood samples were drawn immediately before, 30 minutes and 1 h after completion of the exercise. We determine the following lipids profiles: oxidized LDL (oxLDL), total cholesterol (TC), triglycerides (TG), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C). High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) served as an inflammatory biomarker.

Results

Post-exercise levels of oxLDL (91.50 ±12.25 vs 96.83 ±11.20 U/L, P=0.011), and LDL-C (4.15 ±0.62 vs 4.19 ±0.63 mmol/L), compared to pre-exercise levels were increased, whereas 1 h after exercise, levels of oxLDL (91.50 ±12.25 vs 82.20/0 ±1.19 U/L, P=0.001), LDL-C (4.15 ±0.62 vs 3.86 ±0.62 mmol/L, P=0.05), and hs-CRP (2.42 ±0.98 vs 1.66 ±0.83 mg/mL, P=0.001) significantly decreased. There were no significant TG and HDL-C changes. Post-exercise levels of hs-CRP were negative correlated with body mass index (r =−0.388, P=0.05).

Conclusions

We found that a single session of submaximal exercise in obese subjects favorably modulates inflammatory mediators known to contribute to atherogenesis mechanisms.

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adipokine and cytokine levels, before and after a 3 months diet. Insulin resistance was appreciated using HOMA index. The MetSyn was diagnosed according to Diabetes International Federation definition. Results were statistically analyzed using SPSS 15 program. Results Subjects were divided into 2 groups - subjects with MetSyn and 22 subjects - control group. Compared mean values from both groups during the first visit, revealed statistically significant differences for both groups regarding triglycerides (P < 0.001), HDL-cholesterol (P < 0.001), diastolic blood pressure (P = 0.012), leptin (P = 0.005), insulin (P = 0.049), glycaemia (P = 0.013), HOMA (P = 0.033) and TNF-a (P = 0.026), differences kept for triglycerides (P = 0.03) and glycaemia (P = 0.033) after 3 month diet. Adiponectin values were low, leptin, CRP and TNF-a levels were high and resistin concentration was normal in both groups. Adipokines and cytokines values were lower after 3 months diet, but with higher adiponectin and resistin values in the MetSyn group. Weight loss determined a slightly improvement in insulin sensibility. Conclusions Obese subjects with different endocrine diseases that associate MetSyn have low levels of adiponectin, high leptin, CRP and TNF-a values and normal resistin concentrations without being influenced by the associated endocrinopathy. Weight loss determines an improvement of insulin sensibility. Adipokines’ variations cannot be the cause of insulin sensibility reestablishing, being more the result of visceral adiposity reduction.

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Influence of metformin on carbohydrate metabolism in young women with metabolic syndrome
Justyna Kalickowska-Plaskiej, Grazyna Bednarek-Tupiowska, Alicja Fulas, Anna TrzmieL- Bira, Wlodzimierz Bednorz & Andrzej Milewicz
Department of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Isotope Therapy, Medical University Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland.

Introduction Metformin (MET) is mainly used in diabetes mellitus type 2 (DM2) therapy. Little is known about its effects in patients with metabolic syndrome (MS) and insulin resistance (IR) without DM2. Aim To assess the influence of MET on carbohydrate metabolism in young preobese women with MS. Materials and methods The study population: 30 women with MS aged 25-45 years before (M1) and after (M2) MET therapy (1700 mg per day for 4 months). Control group (C): 15 nonobese women. Anthropometric parameters, fasting glucose and insulin concentrations, insulin resistance (HOMA, FRR) and sensitivity (QUICKI) indexes were estimated. Oral glucose tolerance test was performed. Total glucose (2G), total insulin (2I), 2I/2G, area under curve (AUC) of glucose and insulin concentrations were calculated. All parameters were evaluated before and after MET. Results There were higher glucose and insulin at 0’, 30’, 60’ and 120’ OGTT. Higher 2G, 2I, 2I/2G, AUC of glucose and insulin in M1 than in C group. After therapy 2G and AUC of glucose did not change significantly, the other parameters decreased nonsignificantly and were still higher than in C. HOMA, FRR were higher in M1, showed nonsignificant downward tendency after therapy. QUICKI was lower in M1, did not change after therapy. Body mass, BMI, waist and hip circumferences decreased after therapy. Conclusion Of 4-months MET therapy in women with MS decreased body mass, BMI and waist and hip circumferences. There was insignificant tendency to decrease glucose and insulin concentrations and IR indexes values after MET therapy.

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Letrozole normalizes serum testosterone and reduces body weight in morbidly obese men with obesity-related hypogonadotropic hypogonadism
Sandra Loves, Jos de Jong, Adriaan van Sorge, Darryl Tellenga & Hans de Boer
Rijnstate Hospital, Arnhem, the Netherlands.

Introduction Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism is frequently observed in morbidly obese men, due to aromatase-dependent conversion of androgens to estrogens in adipocytes. The clinical impact of this sex hormone imbalance is not known. Aim To evaluate the clinical effects of aromatase inhibition in obesity-related hypogonadotropic hypogonadism. Methods Double-blind, placebo-controlled trial for 6 months in severely obese men (BMI > 35 kg/m²) with obesity-related hypogonadism (serum total testosterone < 10 nmol/l). Predefined drug regimen: Starting dose 1 tablet/week, subsequent dose escalation up to a maximum of 7 tablets/week or until a serum total testosterone of 20 nmol/l. Results So far, 16 patients have completed the study. 8 on letrozole (mean dose: 2 tablets/week) and eight receiving placebo (mean dose: 7 tablets/week). Both groups were well matched for all study parameters. Age (mean ± s.e.m.): 40.6 ± 1.6 years, BMI 43.5 ± 1.3 kg/m², serum LH 3.6 ± 0.4 U/l, total testosterone 7.2 ± 0.4 nmol/l, free testosterone 214.5 ± 14 pmol/l, total estradiol 127.5 ± 11.7 pmol/l. Six months of Letrozole treatment decreased serum estradiol by 53.3 ± 20.5 pmol/l (P < 0.05) and increased serum LH by 6.4 ± 1.6 U/l (P < 0.005). Total testosterone rose by 12.8 ± 1.2 nmol/l (P < 0.0001), and free testosterone by 412.3 ± 52 pmol/l (P < 0.0001), whereas placebo treatment had no statistically significant effects. Placebo-subtracted changes in body weight and abdominal circumference were −7.0 kg (P < 0.01) and −5.2 cm (P < 0.05), respectively. Glucose metabolism, lipid profiles, bone density, and physical exercise capacity did not change. Psychological testing did not reveal any changes during treatment. Conclusion Short-term, low dose aromatase inhibition in obesity-related hypogonadotropic hypogonadism normalizes serum testosterone and has beneficial effects on body composition.

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Effect of metformine treatment on serum paraoxonase and oxidative status in obese women
Sêmín Fenken1, Nedim Karagenc2, & Fulya Akin3
1Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, Pamukkale University, Pamukkale University, Denizli, Turkey; 2Department of Medical Biology, School of Medicine, Pamukkale University, Denizli, Turkey; 3Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, School of Medicine, Pamukkale University, Denizli, Turkey.

Objective To evaluate the effects of metformine newly using in clinical practice to ameliorate insulin resistance on paraoxonase activity and oxidative stress in obese insulin resistant women. Materials and methods Sixty-seven obese (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²) women were enrolled into this study. Serum fasting (F-Glc) and postprandial glucose (P-Glc), insulin, uric acid (UA), paraoxonase (PON1), Arylesterase (AET), malondialdehyde (MDA), copper-MDA (Cu-MDA) levels and lipid fractions were measured at the commencement and ending of the study. Homeostasis model assessment (HOMA-R) was used to estimate insulin resistance. HOMA-R ≥ 2.7 levels were accepted as positive insulin resistance. According to this proposal, insulin resistant (IR) + 32 women were defined as Group I and no insulin resistant (IR −) 35 as Group II. Cases in Group I were managed by diet + exercise + metformine (1700 mg/d), cases in Group II were only treated by diet + exercise for 6-month interval. Intra and inter alterations of all parameters were statistically calculated. Results Basal PON1, MDA, Cu-MDA and HOMA-R values were considerably higher in Group II than those in Group I. Reduced PON1/AET ratio, HOMA-R, HDL and PON1 values were observed in Group I. The increases in AET/HDL, Cu-MDA, and PON1 values were significant. While increases in LDL, Cu-MDA, AET/HDLD and HOMA-R values were observed, HDL level reduced in Group II. Decreases in HOMA-R values were further in Group I than in Group II. But increases in Cu-MDA levels were significantly higher in Group II compared to those in Group I. Conclusions We thought that metformine treatment with intensive life-style changing is appropriate management in obese, insulin resistant women who have increased propensity for the development of Type 2 DM.
P446 Serum visfatin concentration in obesity and impaired glucose tolerance – relationship with insulin resistance, blood pressure and proinflammatory factors
Inna Kowalska, Marek Straczkowski, Agnieszka Nikolajuk, Monika Kowalska-Kupczewska, Agnieszka Adamaska & Maria Gorska Department of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Internal Medicine, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland.

Visfatin, a protein secreted by the adipose tissue, might regulate insulin action. The aim of the present study was to assess serum visfatin concentration in obese women with normal glucose tolerance (NGT) and impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) and to estimate the relationships between serum visfatin concentration and insulin sensitivity, blood pressure, proinflammatory and proatherogenic factors. The study group consisted of 134 women: 30 overweight or obese women with IGT (obese-IGT), 55 overweight or obese with NGT and 49 lean healthy controls. The oral glucose tolerance test was performed and the serum concentrations of visfatin, high-sensitive C-reactive protein (hsCRP) and soluble E-selectin (sE-selectin) were measured in the all subjects. Insulin sensitivity was estimated by euglycemic hyperinsulinaemic clamp.

We observed the significantly lower insulin sensitivity and higher serum visfatin concentration in both groups of obese women in comparison to the control group (insulin sensitivity, obese-IGT, P < 0.001, obese-NGT, P = 0.0027; serum visfatin, obese-IGT, P < 0.001, obese-NGT, P = 0.016) and in obese-IGT in comparison to obese-NGT group (insulin sensitivity, P < 0.0001, serum visfatin, P = 0.0555). In the whole studied group, serum visfatin concentration was negatively related to insulin sensitivity (r = 0.20, P = 0.01 and HDL cholesterol (r = -0.32, P = 0.00015) and positively related to systolic and diastolic blood pressure (r = 0.33, P < 0.0001 and r = 0.32, P = 0.00006, respectively), fasting and postprandial glucose (r = 0.29, P = 0.003 and r = 0.31, P = 0.00025), respectively), fasting insulin (r = 0.30, P = 0.028), serum triglycerides (r = 0.27, P = 0.001), hCRP (r = 0.25, P = 0.005) and sE-selectin (r = 0.33, P = 0.0001). In multiple regression analysis, the relationships between serum visfatin and systolic and diastolic blood pressure, and sE-selectin were independent of BMI and insulin sensitivity. Increased serum visfatin concentration in obesity and IGT is associated with insulin resistance, blood pressure and proinflammatory factors and thus could be linked to an increased risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

P447 Intracerebroventricular lepin increase AKT phosphorylation stimulated by insulin in skeletal muscle: the role of adrenergic signal and JAK2 activation
Erika Anne Romman1, Daniel Reis2, Talita Rommanato1, Denis Maimoni2, Carina Solon1, Joseane Morati1, Licio Augusto Velloso3 & Márcio Alberto Toroson1
1State University of Campinas, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil; 2Braz Cubas University, Mogi das Cruzes, São Paulo, Brazil.

Leptin is an adipocyte-derived hormone that acts directly in the brain reducing food intake, increasing glucose uptake and modulating the metabolism of adipose tissue. Nevertheless, the central mechanisms related to improve glucose uptake, induced by leptin intracerebroventricular (icv), and the proteins activated in the skeletal muscle are incompletely understood. The aim of this study was to investigate the mechanism by which icv leptin increase glucose uptake and improve glucose homeostasis. Rats were divided into three experimental groups: i) Control (Saline-ICV); Leptin (Leptin-ICV) and LY294002 + Leptin-ICV. In all these groups were analyzed glucose tolerance (GTT), AKT, JAK2 activation, stimulated by insulin, in the muscle and hypothalamic AKT, JAK2 and STAT3 activation stimulated by leptin. Icv leptin increase the phosphorylation of hypothalamic JAK2 (80%), STAT3 (160%) and AKT (300%) when compared to control group. Previous icv LY administration reduced AKT phosphorylation, induced by icv leptin, but didn’t present effect on JAK2 and STAT3 phosphorylation. Besides, icv leptin improve the clearance of glucose in GTT (50%). Previous administration of propanolol (10 mg/kg bw-IP), but not icv LY294002 (1 mmol-ICV), reduced the effect of leptin on GTT. In the soleus muscle the AKT phosphorylation, stimulated by insulin, was higher in leptin group (400%) than control group. The previous administration of propanolol (ip) reduced (40%) the effect of icV leptin on AKT phosphorylation, stimulated by insulin, in skeletal muscle. Icv LY294002 didn’t present effect on AKT phosphorylation, in skeletal muscle. JAK2 phosphorylation was higher in icv (ICV) group than control group (ICV saline). Our results suggesting that adrenergic signal are activated by central leptin stimulating AKT activation in the skeletal muscle. In the skeletal muscle JAK2 activation is likely a responsible mechanism by AKT activation.

P448 Evidence of increased cardiovascular risk in patients with non-secretting unilateral adrenocortical adenomas
Ioannis Androulakis1, George Kollias2, Athina Markou1, Lambrou Papanastasio1, Tilemachos Angnostou1, Christos Papamichael2, George Piaditis2 & Gregory Kalla2
1Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes Center, General Hospital of Athens ‘G Gennimatas’, Athens, Greece; 2Vascular Laboratory, Department of Clinical Therapeutics, Alexander University Hospital, Athens, Greece; *Endocrine Unit, Department of Pathophysiology, University of Athens, Athens, Greece.

Background
Incidentally discovered adrenal adenomas (AA) are associated with increased prevalence of hypertension, obesity, and impaired glucose tolerance, all established risk factors for cardiovascular (CV) morbidity. However, most studies were performed in patients with AA and autonomous cortisol and/or aldosterone secretion, whereas the presence of cardiovascular risk in patients with non-secretting AA has not been looked into detail.

Methods
Cardiovascular risk factors were studied in 18 patients with non-secretting unilateral adrenal adenoma (AA) (52.5 ± 21.1 years, BMI 27.8 ± 0.8 kg/m² (mean ± s.e.m.) and in 22 healthy age and BMI matched subjects that served as control group (C) (51.5 ± 1.5 years, BMI 26.8 ± 0.9 kg/m²). Patients with AA had complete inhibition of serum cortisol and aldosterone levels after a low dose DEX suppression test and intravenous NaCl 0.9% infusion test, respectively. Fasting measurement of serum triglycerides, total cholesterol, high and low density lipoproteins, fibrinogen, homocysteine, Liprotein (a) (Lp(a)), Apolipoprotein B (apo-B), Apolipoprotein A-I (apo-A) was performed. All patients also underwent a 2 h oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) and insulin sensitivity was assessed by calculating HOMA(fasting glucose (mmol/l) *fasting insulin (μM/ml)/22.5) and Matsuda (10000/square root(fasting gluco- sextesting insulin) *mean OGTT glucose*mean OGTT insulin) indices. Carotid artery intima-media-thickness (IMT) and brachial artery flow-mediated dilatation (FMD) were measured using high resolution linear array ultrasound.

Results
Patients with AA had increased homocysteine (13.3 ± 6.0 vs 10.3 ± 4.0 mg/dl, P < 0.001), Lp(a) (21.2 ± 7.6 vs 5.6 ± 4.0 mg/dl, P < 0.05), fibrinogen (391 ± 20.4 vs 310 ± 21.7 mg/dl, P < 0.05) and apo-B/apo-A ratio (0.706 ± 0.04 vs 0.55 ± 0.03, P < 0.01) compared to C. Patients with AA had higher IMT values than C (0.93 ± 0.05 mm vs 0.78 ± 0.02, P = 0.018) and lower FMD levels (3.6 ± 1.3 vs 5.9 ± 1.04, P < 0.01). Compared to C HOMA and Matsuda index were significantly higher (2.67 ± 0.19 vs 1.72 ± 0.14 mmol/l per 1, P < 0.01) and lower (3.5 ± 0.3 vs 6.6 ± 0.4, P < 0.01) in AA.

Conclusion
Patients with non secreting AA exhibit increased CV risk factors. Studies examining cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in such patients are further required.

P449 Metabolic syndrome highly correlates to non toxic multinodular goiter progression: iiperinsulinism a way to growth
Roberto Cittarella, Francesco Chiofalo, Calogero Vetro, Alessio Lo Coco & Luciana Puleo
Endocrinology Section of Universitary Policlinic, Palermo, Italy.

Background
Insulin-resistance phenomenon is a key factor in the pathogenesis of Metabolic Syndrome (MS). Several reports focus on the identification of a role of Insulin to trigger thyrocytes proliferation in vivo. Thyroid IRS-1 mRNA expression increased progressively during goitrogenesis in vivo. In order to individuate the impact of clinical and biochemical markers of MS on the growth-score of non toxic multinodular goiter (MNG) we evaluated a population of 60 subjects with MNG at onset.

Methods
Of 60 patients (mean age: 50 ± 12 years; F:M: 38/22) with MNG at onset were divided into two groups: Group A affected by MS and MNG; Group B affected by endemic disease alone. To be included subjects had to have: normal thyroid function, negative titers of antithyroid antibodies and no past history of having received any thyrology treatment. All procedures were reviewed and approved by the ethical guidelines of our institution. In both groups were evaluated BMI, waist circumference (WC), lipids, fasting insulin and glycemia to assess HOMA-ir and by thyroid ultrasound to measure thyroid volume, number and size of nodules. Results
HOMA-ir in group A vs B was significantly different (4.2 ± 2 vs 1.32 ± 0.5; P = 0.007). Only in group A the Spearman correlation test demonstrates a positive relationship between WC and the number of nodules (Rho: 0.45; P = 0.05); HOMA-ir Index and number of nodules (Rho: 0.48; P = 0.01) and with
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IGF-1 gene polymorphism in obese patients with insulin resistance
Gizem Fidan Yaylali, Fiyat Goldberg, Murat Cetin, Sabahat Turgut & Razkiye Kursunoglu
Pamukkale University, Denizli, Turkey.

Objective
Insulin like growth factors (IGFs) are important regulators of pancreatic β cell development, growth and maintenance. Mutations in the IGF genes have been found to be associated with type 2 diabetes, myocardial infarction, birth weight and obesity. These associations could result from changes in insulin secretion. We aimed to investigate IGF-1 gene polymorphism in obese patients with insulin resistance.

Methods
We included 100 obese patients with insulin resistance who applied to Endocrinology and Metabolism outpatient clinic and 30 healthy subjects to study. At baseline examinations, anthropometric measurements were done. Genomic DNA from the patients and controls were prepared. Investigated genomic areas were studied using specific primers by PCR methods. Amplified fragments were separated agarose gel electrophoresis and were identified using the u.v. gel documentation system.

Results
Thyroid function tests and serum IGFBP3 levels were similar between patients and controls whereas IGF, GH and cortisol levels were significantly lower in obese insulin resistant patients. We categorized the IGF-1 (CA)3 polymorphism area into 3 group as lower than 192-bp (group 1), 192-194 bp (group 2), and higher than 194-bp (group 3). Group 3 was more frequent in both obese and control groups. When all parameters of group 3 were compared between obese (n=71) and control groups (n=28), weight, BMI, waist and hip circumference, fat distribution, FBG, TG, HDL, LDL, AST, ALT, uric acid, insulin levels were significantly different between two groups. IGF-1 levels were also significantly lower in obese group (138.51 ± 49.3) in than controls (218.14 ± 69.15).

Conclusions
IGF-1 levels were significantly lower in obese than normal people. The most frequent IGF-1 gen polymorphism allel is > 194 bp in both obese insulin resistant patients and controls, IGF-1 levels and the other biochemical and hormonal parameters were similar in different genotype groups. The cause of lower IGF-1 levels in obese patients might be different from IGF-1 gene polymorphism and it may be insulin resistance.

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Familial obesity and the role of nutrition
Maryam Behesti Zavareh, Saeid Sadeghian, Parvin Mirrman & Firoozeh Hossaeini
Research institute for Endocrine Sciences, Shahid Behesti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Goal
To study the relation between the obesity of children and their parents, and energy intake.

Materials and methods
Of 236 households containing 828 population (356 children age 5–25 years, and the rest their parents) were selected from the subjects ‘of Tehran Lipid and Glucose study’ (2006–2008) for this study. Food intake of the subjects was studied using FFQ. In this study, energy intake ≥75 percentile was regarded as ‘high energy intake’ among the subjects considering their age and sex. Cut off point for defining overweight among subject age 5–19 years was considered as BMI ≥95th percentile of reference diagram for Indian children. The cut off was also considered BMI ≥30 for over 20 years old subjects.

Finding
Prevalence of overweight among the subjects from the household with both parents obese, one of the parents obese, and none of them obese were 44.2, 28.8 and 11.6% respectively. There were higher of OR for being over weight among the children with both parents obese (OR = 5.1, 1.5–7.7) and even with one parent obese (OR = 4.7, 1.6–13.4). There was a significant direct relation between BMI of fathers and mothers separately with BMI of their children, (r = 0.43, P < 0.001 and r = 0.51, P < 0.001 respectively). The relation between ratio of energy intake to BMR of children with their BMI (r = 0.37, P < 0.05) and also the ‘ratio of energy intake to BMR’ of mothers with BMI of their children (r = 0.3, P < 0.05) were significant too.

Conclusions
The findings of this study shows the relation of genetic factors and nutritional habits of parents to their children’s obesity.

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Adiponectin and vascular properties in obese patients: is it a novel biomarker of early atherosclerosis?
Ninel Wolfson, Yiftat Goldberg & Marina Shargorodsky
Wolfson Medical Center, Holon, Israel.

Objective
Adiponectin is an adipocyte-derived collagen-like protein, highly specific to adipose tissue and may represent an important link between obesity and atherosclerosis. The present study was designed to investigate a possible association between serum adiponectin levels and early vascular changes in obese patients as determined by intima media thickness (IMT) and arterial pulse-wave contour analysis.

Design
Obese subjects (n = 47) were evaluated for arterial structure and function, metabolic parameters and serum adiponectin levels.

Measurements
IMT was measured by ultrasound. Arterial elasticity was evaluated using pulse wave contour analysis. Insulin resistance was assessed by homeostasis model assessment (HOMA-IR).

Results
Adiponectin was significantly, inversely associated with mean IMT (r = −0.36, P = 0.011) and significantly positively associated with large artery elasticity index (LAEI) (r = −0.46, P = 0.001) as well as small artery elasticity index (SAEI) (r = −0.462, P = 0.001). In separate multivariate models, adiponectin remained significantly associated with mean IMT, LAEI, SAEI even after adjustment for cardiovascular confounders. Among metabolic parameters, adiponectin was significantly, positively associated with HDL cholesterol and inversely associated with triglycerides. Adiponectin was significantly, inversely associated with fasting insulin and HOMA-IR. Additionally, a marginally inverse association between adiponectin and ALT was observed.

Conclusions
In the present study, serum adiponectin levels were significantly associated with indices of subclinical atherosclerosis such as IMT and arterial compliance in obese patients. This association was independent of traditional cardiovascular risk factors.

P453

A comparison of serum leptin levels and metabolic parameters included serum lipoproteins and glucose homeostasis between national wrestlers and healthy males
Faruk Yamaneci,1 Taner Bayraktaroglu,2 Hulusi Atmaca1,2 MehmetAkif Ziyagil1 & Kemal Tamer1
1School of Physical Education and Sports, Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Zonguldak, Turkey; 2Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Zonguldak, Turkey; 1Department of Physical Education and Sports, Amasya University, Amasya, Turkey; 1School of Physical Education and Sports, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey.

Background and aim
Wrestling success depends on power, power endurance, and maximum strength, muscular endurance of short duration, flexibility as well as technique and tactical skills. Weight control and weight loss are also very important issues in the view of wrestling success. In this study, it was aimed to investigate the anthropometric features, serum lipoproteins, glucose homeostasis and leptin levels in Turkish National Senior Wrestlers and healthy sedentary males.

Material and method
Totally, 45 National senior wrestlers in Olympic Camp before Beijing 2008, and sedentary and healthy-volunteers group from university students were selected for comparison. Anthropometric and physiological features including age, body weight, body height and body mass index (BMI) as well as metabolic features including fasting glucose, insulin, leptin and lipoprotein levels with HOMA values were measured and compared with the results of sedentary group.


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thorax volume (Rho: 0.473; P = 0.01); BMI and thorax volume (Rho: 0.388, P = 0.048).

Conclusion
These data support the role of insulin-resistance in the pathogenesis/progression of MNG. In this light elevated circulating levels of Insulin cause increased thyroid proliferation. Thus established pharmaceutical approaches in metabolic syndrome, such as insulin-sensitizer, may be useful to prevent the progression of goitrogenesis and to control thyroid nodular growth.
Results
Wrestlers had significantly higher insulin and triglycerides levels with HOMA values in fasting than healthy males. However, the wrestlers’ HDL-cholesterol was found high while it was low in LDL cholesterol. There was only positive correlation between leptin and fasting insulin level.

Conclusion
This study shows that wrestlers have decreased insulin sensitivity including higher fasting insulin and HOMA values with higher triglycerides levels than sedentary males.

P454
Impact of protein content of low-carbohydrate/high-fat diets upon ketosis, energy expenditure and glucose utilization in rats
Max Birabend, 1 Ellen Kienzle 2, Matthias H Teスポットep 1, Andreas Hoeßlich 1 & Martin Billigmeier 1
1Neuroendocrine Unit, Medizinische Klinik - Innenseiti, LMU, Munich, Germany; 2Institute of Physiology, Biochemistry, and Animal Nutrition, LMU, Munich, Germany; 2Department of Psychiatry, Obesity Research Center, University of Cincinnati, Ohio, Cincinnati, USA; 3Research Unit Genetics and Biometry, Laboratory of Mouse Genetics, FBN, Düsseldorf, Germany.

Maintenance of ketosis and increases in resting energy expenditure (EE) are two proposed mechanisms for weight loss observed in humans performing low-carbohydrate/high-fat (LC-HF) diets like the Atkins’ diet. To explore these potential mechanisms, we pair-fed isocaloric amounts of regular chocolate (CH) or two LC-HF diets (carbohydrates ~17%ME) to male Wistar rats for 4 weeks. LC-HF-1 (fat ~66%ME) was matched in protein content to CH, whereas LC-HF-2 was even higher in fat (~94%ME). We analyzed bodyweight (BW) gain, EE, respiratory quotient (RQ), serum ketone-bodies (β-hydroxybutyrate, HBA), free fatty acids (FFA), urea, glucose and insulin. In addition, daily insulin balance and urinary energy contents were measured.

BW gain was slightly reduced in the LC-HF-1 group, and clearly reduced in LC-HF-2 (P < 0.01). Animals on LC-HF-1 accumulated most nitrogen per day. LC-HF-2 the least. Furthermore, daily nitrogen balance was barely positive and serum urea considerably reduced in LC-HF-2. Remaining energy in urine was lower in LC-HF-2 when compared to CH (0.3 ± 0.12 vs 0.93 ± 0.23 KJ; P < 0.01); overall 24-h loss was below 5 KJ in all groups. RQ was ~1 in CH and lower in LC-HF-1 (0.81 ± 0.01) and LC-HF-2 (0.76 ± 0.01, P < 0.001). Of 24-h EE was significantly lower in both LC-HF groups. Only in LC-HF-2 concentrations of FFA (two-fold) and HBA (four-fold) were significantly increased.

In conclusion, LC-HF-2 diet induced ketosis, but did not increase EE or energy loss through urine. The impaired BW gain in this group was probably caused by the relative protein shortage and resulting inability to acquire muscle mass. Macronutrient composition of LC-HF-1 better reflects human LC-HF diets. Indeed, slight reductions in BW gain were seen. However, LC-HF-1 neither induced ketosis nor increased EE. RQ data and unchanged glucose levels suggest presence of gluconeogenesis in this group. Our data in rats do not support the proposed mechanisms for weight loss in humans performing LC-HF diets.

P455
Thyroid function tests, measures of adiposity and metabolic syndrome in apparently healthy euthyroid individuals
Katerina Salkiūtė 1,2, Kinon Stamiatelopoulou 1, Paraskos Voidemikola 1, Emily Mantzou 1, Christos Papamichalis 1 & Marza Alievzade 1,2
1Endocrine Unit, Evgenidi Hospital, Athens University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece; 2Endocrine Unit, Department Medical Thera-peutics, Alexandria Hospital, University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece; 3Vascular Laboratory, Department of Medical Therapeutics, Alexandria Hospital, University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece.

Objective
Thyroid function tests (TFTs) have been associated with obesity; however associations with the type of adiposity have not been examined. Ultrasound (US) was used to assess regional adiposity in euthyroid individuals. Associations of thyroid function with obesity parameters and presence of the metabolic syndrome (MS) were investigated.

Methods
Of 302 apparently healthy slightly overweight individuals (age 42 ± 9.8, BMI 19.0 ± 4.3, median 26.2 kg/m², 180 women) were examined for indices of the metabolic syndrome (MS). Abdominal subcutaneous (SF) and peritoneal (PF) fat layer was estimated by US. BMI, waist and hip circumference were recorded. TSH, T3, thyroid autoantibodies, insulin, glucose and lipid levels were measured. Results
T3 levels were positively associated with PF (r = 0.245, P = 0.004), SF (r = 0.189, P = 0.019), BMI (r = 0.257, P = 0.004), waist perimeter (r = 0.324, P = 0.001) and waist-to-hip ratio (r = 0.363, P = 0.001). TSH levels correlated with SF (r = 0.146, P = 0.039). Higher TSH levels were associated with higher total cholesterol and LDL levels (P = 0.008). HOMA-insulin-resistance-index and BMI were higher among individuals with TSH > 2.5 mU/L compared to those with TSH ≤ 2.5 mU/L (P = 0.048). TFTs did not differ between those with MS and those without.

Conclusions
Increased subcutaneous and per-­peritoneal fat accumulation is associated with higher T3 levels in euthyroid slightly overweight individuals; this may represent a compensatory mechanism for the increased abdominal fat accumulation, as has been described in morbid obesity. The positive association of higher levels of TSH with SF may reflect associations with a mild hypothroid state or possibly resistance to thyroid hormones as has previously been suggested.

P456
25-Hydroxyvitamin D is associated with insulin resistance, obesity, and serum lipids in polycystic ovary syndrome
Elisabeth Wehr, Stefan Pflötz, Natascha Schweighofer, Albrecht Giulianelli, Daisy Kopera, Thomas R Pieber & Barbara Obernmayr-Pietsch
Medical University Graz, Graz, Austria.

Introduction
Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a common endocrine disorder affecting about 5-10% of women. PCOS is characterized by hyperandrogenism, ovulatory disturbances, and polycistic ovaries. Many women with PCOS present with insulin resistance and central obesity and are at an increased risk for developing diabetes and cardiovascular disorders. Vitamin D deficiency is an important pathogenetic factor in the development of type II diabetes. The aim of the study was to investigate the relationship of 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) and metabolic and endocrine parameters in women with PCOS.

Methods
Out of 25(OH)D levels were measured by means of ELISA in 40 women affected by PCOS. Metabolic, endocrine, and anthropometric measurements and oral glucose tolerance tests (fasting glucose, 1, and 2 h) were performed. Insulin resistance was determined using HOMA-index (homeostasis model assessment).

Results
Out of 25(OH)D levels were negatively correlated with weight (r = -0.396), BMI (r = -0.447), Waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) (r = -0.750), 1 h, glucose (r = -0.439), HOMA-index (r = -0.357), and QChol/HDL (r = -0.369) and positively correlated with HDL (r = 0.582) (P < 0.05 for all). PCOS women with 25(OH)D insufficiency (<25 ng/ml) had higher levels of weight, WHR, BMI, fasting glucose, 1 h, glucose, fasting insulin, HOMA-index, QChol/HDL and LDL and lower levels of HDL when compared to PCOS women with a sufficient 25(OH)D status of at least 25 ng/ml (P < 0.05 for all). Lean PCOS women presented with significantly higher 25(OH)D levels than overweight/obese patients (P = 0.01). No significant correlation was found between 25(OH)D and endocrine parameters such as hyperandrogenism.

Conclusion
Our results suggest that low 25(OH)D levels might be related to metabolic abnormalities that are frequently observed in women with PCOS. No association was found between 25(OH)D status and hyperandrogenism in PCOS women.

P457
Chronic renal disease, hyperfiltration, metabolic syndrome and hypogonadism: is there a link?
Yuliya Tishova 1, Svetlana Kalinchenko 2, Maria Novikova 2, Evgeniy Shilov 2, Vladimir Borisov 2 & Farid Saad 2
1Research Center for Endocrinology, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Chair of the Clinical Andrology, Medical Faculty, FFM, Moscow, Russian Federation; 1L. M. sechenov Moscow Medical Academy, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Bayer Schering Pharma, Dpt. of Men’s healthcare, and Gulf Medical University School of Medicine, Ajman, United Arab Emirates.

Introduction
Hyperfiltration (HF) is an early marker of chronic renal disease (CRD), which is prevalent in 10-15% of MS patients. Taking into account the benefit of testosterone replacement towards MS components in men with MS and hypogonadism, we can expect the same benefit on HF.
Objective
To study the role of hypogonadism correction in patients with MS and hyperfiltration.

Methods
Of 71 men aged 35–69 with MS (IDF criteria) and hypogonadism (total testosterone (TT) < 11 nmol/l) were divided into two groups. Of 35 men were treated with testosterone undecanoate (Nebido, Schering) (group 1) and 36 men were the controls (group 2). Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) was estimated at baseline and after 6 months of treatment. GFR was counted by Cockcroft-Gault formula with adjustment for standard body surface area (GFRst) and compared to population normal ranges (Nijmegen Biomedical Study 2007), resulting in HF (GFRst > 110 ml/min per 1.73 m² or normal filtration (60 < GFRst < 110 ml/min per 1.73 m²).

Results
Both groups did not differ (P > 0.1) by the main prognostic CRD factors such as age (52.5 and 52.8 years), weight (108 and 106 kg), waist circumference (116 and 115 cm), SBP (139 and 136 mmHg), triglycerides (2.3 and 2.2 mmol/l), LDL (3.8 and 3.6 mmol/l), fasting plasma glucose (6.5 and 6.3 mmol/l), GFR (101 and 103 ml/min per 1.73 m²), as well as TT level (7.9 and 9.4 nmol/l), incidence of HP (31 and 30%) and frequency of ACEI intake (46 and 51%). After 6 months of treatment incidence of HF was lowered by 23% in group 1, and increased to 40% in group 2 (P = 0.046).

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<th>Baseline</th>
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<td>GFR &lt; 60</td>
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<td>&lt; 110 (%)</td>
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<td>Group2</td>
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Conclusion
Our results show the benefit of hypogonadism correction in men with MS towards HF lowering the risk of CRD development.

P458
Changes in serum levels of fetal antigen 1 (FA1/Pref-1/Dlk1) in extreme nutritional states
Ali Andras1, René Stavng1, Andrea Wolf2, U Beisieget3, Kirsten Horder1, SB Martin1, BM Abdallah1 & Moustapha Kassem1
1Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark; 2Department for Visceral and Transplantation Surgery, University Hospital Ulm, Ulm, Germany; 3Institute for Molecular Cell Biology, Center for Experimental Medicine, University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany.

Background
Also known as preadipocyte factor 1 (pref-1) or delta-like 1 (Dlk1), fetal antigen 1 (FA1) was originally isolated from amniotic fluid and it is involved in tissue homeostasis during development and tissue regeneration in the postnatal organisms. FA1 may also play a role in energy metabolism since mice deficient in FA1 are obese and mice overexpressing FA1 exhibit a lipodystrophy phenotype. In our study we determined FA1 serum levels in patients in two extreme nutritional states, anorexia nervosa (AN) and severe obesity.

Methods
We studied 15 women with AN, median body mass index (BMI) 15.0 ± 1.5 kg/m², and 25 obese patients, median BMI 48.00 ± 7.8 kg/m², before and after a minor weight change to 15.7 ± 1.3 kg/m², and 25 obese patients, before weight change but otherwise not.

Results
FA1 levels were significantly inversely correlated with BMI before and after body weight change in AN patients. In the obese subjects, FA1 levels decreased from 24.2 ± 11.9 to 15.3 ± 5.0 ng/ml after 25% EWL, however, upon the following further weight loss, no significant changes in FA1 levels could be detected. Insulin levels were significantly correlated with FA1 in AN patients before weight change but otherwise not.

Conclusion
In nutritive steady state conditions, FA1 levels were similar in morbid obese and in emaciated AN patients, however the initial fall in serum FA1 level after restrictive bariatric surgery induced weight loss indicate that FA1 directly or indirectly may be implicated in metabolic adaptation and/or stress following excessive weight loss.

P459
Influence of metformin on selected lipids and apolipoproteins concentrations in young women with metabolic syndrome
Justyna Kuliczewska-Plasik6, Grazyna Bednarek-Tupikowska, Alicja Filar, Anna Trzmiel-Bira & Andrzej Milewicz
Department of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Isotope Therapy, Medical University Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland.

Introduction
Metabolic syndrome (MS) is connected to atherogenic dyslipidemia. Data concerning influence of metformin (MET) therapy on lipid profile in non-diabetic women with MS remains unclear.

Aim
To assess the influence of MET on selected lipid, apolipoproteins AL, B concentrations and atherogenic indexes values in young women with MS.

Materials and methods
The study population: 30 women with MS aged 25–45 years before (M1) and after (M2) MET therapy (1700 mg per day for 4 months). Control group (C): 15 nonobese women. Total cholesterol (TC), LDL-C, HDL-C, triglycerides (TG), apolipoprotein AI (ApoAI) and B (ApoB), fasting glucose and insulin concentrations were estimated. Atherogenic index of plasma (AIP), Castelli index, LDL/C/HDLC, TC/HDL-C, apoB/ApoAI. HOME, FIRI, QUICKI indexes were estimated. All parameters were evaluated before and after MET.

Results
In M1 group we found higher TC, LDL-C, TG, ApoB and lower HDL-C, HDL-C, ApoAI concentrations than in nonobese women. HDL-C concentration increased and TG decreased significantly after therapy. Atherogenic indexes values were higher in M2 than in C, significantly decreased after therapy, except for ApoB/AI, and were still higher than in C. Fasting glucose and insulin concentrations. HOME, FIRI were the highest and QUICKI was the lowest in M1, did not change after MET.

Conclusions
MET positively modifies lipid profile and atherogenic indexes values in women with MS.

P460
Correlation of leptin, total body fat mass and body fat distribution in overweight postmenopausal women
Nino Dolezle, Ellen Giorgiade, Ketevan Asatiani, Marina Tsagareli, Marina Lomizde, Arkadi Surrava & Ketevan Bochorishvili
N4 Clinical Hospital Ltd., Healthy Life, Tbilisi, Georgia.

We have investigated the leptin production by total and regional fat mass in 32 overweight postmenopausal women as well as the relation between serum leptin levels, total body mass and body fat distribution variables. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated in kg/m². Serum concentrations of leptin were evaluated by RIA. Body composition – trunk/total, arms + legs/total + legs/trunk, android/ gynoid ratios were assessed by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA). The relationship between leptin concentrations and body fat distribution variables were investigated by Pearson correlation test. Serum leptin levels at the baseline positively correlated with BMI (r = 0.701, P < 0.0001), total body fat mass (r = 0.683, P < 0.0001). No significant correlation was observed between leptin and trunk/total, arms + legs/total + legs/trunk. According to these results we have concluded that total body fat mass have impact on leptin concentrations while the body fat distribution does not affect leptin levels in overweight postmenopausal women.

P461
Diabetic patients with abnormal LFTS
G Mlawa, C Bodmer, R D Souza & R Skelly
Colchester General Hospital & Chase Farm Hospital, United Kingdom.

Objective
Patients with diabetes mellitus often have abnormal liver function tests without any symptoms. Our aim in this study was to evaluate the frequency and cause of abnormal LFTS in diabetic patients.

Methods
150 patients were enrolled from diabetic clinic who had been diagnosed with diabetes (creatinine,fasting glucose,zandom glucose, GTT were recorded). The following demographic data were recorded from each patients: age,sex, duration of diabetes, BMI, waist circumference, lipid profile, HbA1c, BP (blood pressure). All patients had liver function tests performed and of these patients with abnormal LFTS, underwent full hepatitis screening including ultrasound of hepatobiliary system. If the cause for the abnormal LFTS, was still elusive the patients underwent a liver biopsy and was seen by hepatologist.


Results
54% of patients had abnormal LFTs, of which 61% had hepatic picture and 28% a mixed hepatic and cholestatic picture. The remainder 11% had cholestatic picture. The majority of patients with abnormal LFTs had non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) 94%, and 4% had non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). 0.7% had autoimmune liver disease, 0.2% had viral hepatitis, and 0.1% haemochromatosis and 1% cholelithiasis. In the cohort of patients with NAFLD or NASH there was poor glycemic control, obesity, abnormal LFTs and hypertension.

Conclusion
Abnormal LFTs in diabetic patients dictate further investigations with treatment of underlying cause. Patients with NAFLD or NASH often have more than one components of the metabolic syndrome and the later patients are usually poorly controlled.

P462
Impact of growth hormone receptor blockade on substrate metabolism during short-term fasting in healthy subjects
Louise Moller1, Helene Norrelund2, Jan Frystyk3, Niels Møller3, & Jens OL Jørgensen1
1Medical Department M (Endocrinology and Diabetes), Aarhus, Denmark;
2Department of Internal Medicine, Viborg, Denmark.

Context and objective
During fasting growth hormone (GH) promotes lipolysis, attenuates glucose oxidation and preserves protein. Previous studies have primarily been conducted in GH deficient patients or during somatostatin-suppression of GH secretion. We aimed to study the impact of the fasting associated increase in GH without concomitant changes in other hormones, by the means of GH receptor (GHR) blockade.

Design
Ten healthy young men participated in a randomized, single-blinded, placebo-controlled, cross-over study with administration of 1) GHR blockade (pegvisomant, 15 mg s.c.) and 2) placebo (Saline, 1 ml) at 20.00 h at the beginning of a 36 h fast. All subjects were studied in the basal state (56–40 h of fasting) and at the end of a hyperinsulinemic euglycemic clamp (2 h). Main outcome measures: palmitate flux, free fatty acids (FFA), ketone bodies, energy expenditure and oxidation rates, forearm uptake of FFAs, insulin stimulated glucose uptake, IGF-I (total and bioactive).

Results
GHR blockade significantly suppressed the levels and turnover of circulating FFA, ketogenesis, skeletal muscle uptake of FFAs as well as lipid oxidation rate. This occurred in the presence of unaltered glucose and protein metabolism and without a detectable decline in IGF-I levels.

Conclusion
1) Stimulation of lipolysis is the primary metabolic effect of GH during fasting. 2) Short-term fasting is a condition where FFA mobilization does not seem to result in either hepatic or peripheral insulin resistance. 3) GHR blockade by pegvisomant constitutes a promising tool for studying the physiological effects of GH on substrate metabolism.

P463
Are hypothalamic oscillators dysfunctional with high fat feeding?
Sara Namco1, Annie Gyte1, Susan Bittles1, John Myatt1, Brendan Leighton1, & Hugh Pigg1
1The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK; 2AstraZeneca, Alderley Park, UK.

Circadian rhythms in behaviours and gene expression are driven by the autonomously rhythmic cells of the hypothalamic suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN). In nocturnal rodents, restricting a daily meal to the lights-on phase, leads to entrainment of behaviour and gene expression in many extra-SCN hypothalamic nuclei and peripheral tissues. This anticipatory activity is independent of the SCN and is likely to arise from the activities of multiple hypothalamic centres including the dorsomedial (DMH). Here, we used digital video recording to monitor the behaviour of lean and 45% High Fat Fed (HFF) Han Wistar rats. Rats were maintained in a 12 h:12 h Light/Dark cycle (lights on at 6pm) and were subject to day time restricted feeding (RF) for 28 days (meal provided 09:00 a.m.-13:00 p.m). Hypothalamic neuronal activation was measured by immunohistochemistry for c-Fos protein. Lean RF rats displayed the characteristic increase in cage activity and meal anticipatory hopper approaches, whereas HFF RF rats lacked meal anticipation, as determined by the lack of hopper approaching in the time preceding the scheduled meal. Immunohistochemistry data showed that HFF RF rats had 77% lower c-Fos expression in the SCN and 37% lower c-Fos expression in the DMH compared to lean RF rats. Consistent with other studies, we found a meal anticipatory response in plasma corticosterone in the Chow RF rats, whereas a post-anticipatory peak of plasma corticosterone levels was detected in HFF RF rats. Taken together, these findings suggest that neuronal activation in both the light-entrainable and food-entrainable oscillators are altered by high fat feeding. In addition this loss of meal anticipatory behaviour is associated with an altered regulation of plasma corticosterone.

P464
Glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide increases glucose-uptake in muscle- and adipocyte cells in vitro
Janin Andres, Katrin Biedasek, Özlem Goegebakan, Knut Mai, Andreas Pfeiffer & Joachim Spranger
Charité – CBF, Berlin, Germany.

Glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) is an incretin hormone secreted by K-cells of proximal small intestine that is secreted postprandial in response to glucose and fat ingestion. Its effect is mediated through a GIP receptor (GIPR) which is widely expressed in different tissues, e.g. pancreatic islets, adipose tissue, skeletal muscle, adrenal cortex, heart, pituitary and in some regions of the brain. However, only the effect of GIP in pancreatic beta-cells is well-established where GIP stimulates glucose-induced insulin response. The purpose of our studies was to analyze effects of GIP on glucose uptake in differentiated 3T3-L1 cells (murine adipocytes) and RD18 cells (human skeletal muscle). Therefore, cells were incubated with either GIP or insulin or a combination of both.

Glucose-dependent of cells was determined with [U-2-3H]-deoxyglucose-assay. In 3T3-L1 cells as well as RD18 cells GIP slightly increased glucose uptake (118±2; 12±2; 118±3; 113±2; 6±1% (P<0.001) versus the negative control) while Insulin alone enhanced deoxyxylucose uptake up to 154±7±6.4% (P<0.001). In differentiated 3T3-L1 cells GIP in combination with insulin increased the deoxyxylucose-uptake up to 337±73±23.6% versus control (P<0.001). However, insulin caused a rise of deoxyxylucose-uptake to 292±3±22.6% (P<0.001) versus the negative control.

These results reveal further evidence for the physiological importance of GIP in glucose metabolism in extra-pancreatic tissues. GIP is able to influence the glucose-uptake in combination with insulin. However, its effects are small in comparison to insulin.

P465
Glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide modulates inflammatory markers in adipose tissue
Özlem Goegebakan1, Martin Osterhoff1, Sandy Meusz1, Ines Middelbeck1, Natalia Rudovitch1, Rita Schuler1 & AFH Pfeiffer2,1
1German Institute of Human Nutrition (DHI), Nutheal-Potsdam, Germany; 2Endocrinology, Diabetes and Nutrition, Charité - University Medicine Berlin, Campus Benjamin Franklin, Berlin, Germany; 3Friedrich-Schiller-University Medicine, Institute for Vascular Medicine, Jena, Germany.

Background
Glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) is a gastrointestinal hormone that is secreted in response to food intake. GIP acts on various tissues, including pancreatic β-cells, via interaction with its G-protein-coupled receptor. Some studies in rodents suggested that GIP directly links overnutrition to obesity. GIP exerts a physiological role on lipid uptake into adipocytes.

Objectives
To analyse the effect of GIP-Infusions on changes in adipose tissue gene expression at different blood-glucose levels in obese men and also detect different biomarkers and hormone interactions caused by GIP.

Setting and participants
Seventeen healthy overweight men (BMI: 28–40 kg/m2; age: 30–65 years) with normal glucose tolerance underwent a single-blind intervention study at four different time points with euglycaemic or hyperglycaemic clamps in combination with GIP or saline infusions. Each solution was applied at physiological concentrations for 4 h. Before and after the infusions biopsies from subcutaneous adipose tissue were taken. We isolated total RNA from all fat biopsies and hybridized the RNA to Agilent Whole Human Genome Microarrays. The results were verified by RT-PCR.

Results
Using Agilent Genespring Software and the MetaCore platform we identified several genes being involved in inflammatory processes. Under euglycaemic hyperinsulinaemic clamps in combination with a GIP-Infusion we find a significant upregulation of chemokine ligand 2 (CCL-2/MCP-1), interleukin-18 (IL-18) and interleukin-6.

Conclusion
GIP may play a role in inflammatory processes in adipose tissue of obese men.
Overweight and obese subjects often suffer from hypoglycaemic symptoms due to hyperinsulinaemia. This increases subjects’ need to eat excessive amount of food enriched in sugar causing rebound hyperglycaemia which in turn stimulates endogenous insulin release perpetuating a vicious circle that limits weight loss under diet restriction programmes. Two previous studies showed that administration of Glucose RapidSpray™ (GRS) in quantity of approximately 0.5 g/dl within few minutes and without stimulating endogenous insulin release, thus increasing compliance to a calorie-restricted diet. In one of these studies 55 obese subjects were given a 1500 kcal diet (15% proteins, 55% carbohydrates, 30% lipids) and asked to exercise 150 min/week. Of 31 subjects were randomly assigned to make use of GRS, a solution of 100% glucose delivered by buccal spray. Each puff contains 50 mg of glucose. Subjects were asked to spray 10 oral puffs during early symptoms of hypoglycaemia and followed up for 60 days. At the end of follow-up there were no significant differences in body weight, waist circumference, glucose and insulin levels evaluated by OGT. However, a significant reduction in prevalence of type 2 obesity (BMI 35.0–39.9 kg/m²), and consequent increase in prevalence of overweight (BMI 25–29.9 kg/m²) (7.85% vs 0.01%) was observed in GRS group. These changes were not significant in the control group. Subjects were followed-up every 4 months for 12 months and after a year, 50% of subjects were lost to follow-up. However, 5 subjects taking GRS had significantly lost weight (median = 5.4 kg; 95% CI = -3.07 – -8.97, P = 0.01) with reduction of BMI = 2.3 (95% CI = -1.267 – -3.333, P = 0.01), such reduction was not significant in the control group (12 subjects). In conclusion, GRS is a useful adjuvant in diet restriction programmes.

P467
Plasma monocyte chemotactic protein-1 and macrophage inflammatory protein-1α are increased in patients with polycystic ovary syndrome and associated with adiposity, but unaffected by pioglitazone treatment
Dorte Glimborg1, Marianne Andersen1, Bjørn Richelsen2 & Jens Bruun3
1Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark; 2Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism C, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus Sygehus, Aarhus, Denmark.

Objective
PCOS patients are often characterized by insulin resistance, abdominal obesity, and low-grade inflammation. Insulin sensitizing treatment reduces the inflammatory state, but the effect on serum levels of chemokines such as migration inhibitor factor (MIF), monocyte chemotactic protein (MCP-1), and macrophage inflammatory protein (MIP-1α) have not been previously evaluated in PCOS.

Research design and methods
Plasma chemokine levels (MCP-1, MIP-1α, and MIF) were measured in two study designs. 1) 51 hormone patients and 63 matched controls and 2) 30 PCOS patients before and after randomized treatment with 30 mg pioglitazone/placebo for 16 weeks. Clinical evaluations and whole body DXA-scans were performed in all participants.

Results
Hormone patients (n=51) had significantly increased MCP-1 (121 (15.95%) vs 81 (18.365) pg/ml; P < 0.05) and MIP-1α (179 (8.4202) vs 103 (4.1586) pg/ml; P < 0.05) than controls of matched body composition (geometric mean (~2 to +2.5)). In PCOS (n=30), MCP-1, MIP-1α, and MIF correlated positively with central fat mass. A BMI independent positive association was found between MIF-1 and free testosterone (r=0.49, P =0.01) in PCOS.

Pioglitazone treatment significantly improved insulin sensitivity without affecting testosterone, body composition, MCP-1, MIP-1α, and MIF levels.

Conclusions
Chemokine levels were significantly increased and showed close associations with measures of adiposity in PCOS patients, but were unchanged during insulin sensitizing treatment with pioglitazone. Our data suggests a fat mass independent association between testosterone and MIF-1 levels in PCOS and the effect of antiandrogen treatment on chemokine levels needs to be examined.
Effects of green tea consumption on blood pressure, total cholesterol, body weight and fat in healthy volunteers

Emad Al-Dujaili, Jon-Paul Bradley, Suzana Almoasawi & Lorna Fye
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Background
Hypertension, obesity and hyperlipidaemia are key interlinked features of both metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease. Numerous studies have suggested that green tea may reduce blood pressure by activating endothelial nitric oxide synthase and reducing total cholesterol by disrupting the production of apo B and synthesis of chylomicrons and thus have cardio-protective effects. The aim of this pilot study was to investigate the effects of increasing the consumption of green tea-rich catechins on blood pressure (BP), total cholesterol and other body composition parameters in healthy volunteers living in Scotland.

Methods
Following a 2 day green tea free period, participants (n=12; 9 females and 3 males) were asked to drink 4 cups of green tea (organic Mao Jian Green Tea from the Zhejiang region of China) for 14 days (~ 800 ml green tea infusion containing 600-800 mg total catechins). Fasting total plasma cholesterol, BP, weight, BMI and %body fat were measured at day 0 (baseline), day 7 and day 14.

Results
Mean systolic BP was reduced significantly by 7.1 mmHg (P<0.001) and mean diastolic BP reduced by 7.8 mmHg over 14 days (P<0.001). Mean fasting total cholesterol was reduced significantly by 0.556 mmol/l (P<0.008), BMI by 0.34 kg/m² (P<0.001), body weight by 0.96 kg (P<0.001) and body fat by 2.36% (P<0.005).

Conclusion
Our results has shown that short term consumption of commercial green tea reduces systolic and diastolic BP, fasting total cholesterol, %body fat and body weight suggesting a role for green tea in decreasing established potential cardiovascular risk factors. This study also suggests that reductions may be more pronounced in the overweight population where a significant proportion are obese and have a high risk of cardiovascular disease. Green tea consumption is cost effective, accepted by patients and has no reported side effects.

Subcutaneous adipose tissue topography and metabolic disturbances in polycystic ovary syndrome

Elisabeth Wehr, Reinhard Moller, Renate Horejsi, Albrecht Giuliani, Daisy Kopera, Natascha Schweighofer, Thomas R Pieber & Barbara Obermayer-Pietsch
Medical University Graz, Graz, Austria.

Objective
Central obesity plays a major role in the pathophysiology of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). However, little information exists concerning the impact of subcutaneous adipose tissue (SAT) on metabolic disturbances in PCOS. The aim of this study was to investigate whether SAT topography influences insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, and metabolic parameters in PCOS women.

Design
Prospective case-control trial.

Subjects
Of 36 PCOS women aged 16–41 years and 87 healthy women aged 20–34 years.

Measurements
Lipometry, metabolic and hormonal measurements, oral glucose tolerance test, and hirsutism score. The study protocol was approved by the local ethics committee.

Results
Trunk located SAT measure points correlated significantly positive with HOMA-index (homeostasis model assessment). A negative correlation was seen between calf-SAT and HOMA-index. A multiple regression analysis detected a positive association between HOMA-index and lower abdomen SAT and upper back SAT, whereas hip-SAT showed a negative association with HOMA-index. In overweight/obese PCOS patients lower abdomen and upper back-SAT showed significantly positive correlations with insulin resistance. There was no correlation of SAT topography with insulin resistance in lean PCOS women. Compared to PCOS women with normal glucose tolerance, patients with glucose intolerance had significantly increased trunk obesity and decreased leg fat. Increased trunk SAT layers were related to an unfavorable serum lipid profile whereas increased leg fat correlated positively with HDL cholesterol.

Conclusion
Increased trunk located SAT layers are associated with insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, and an unfavorable lipid profile in women suffering from PCOS. High thickness of leg SAT emerges as being protective against metabolic disturbances in PCOS.

Melanocortin-4-receptor gene variants: hotspot or identical by descent?

Jessica Grothe1, Harald Brunner1, André Scherag1, Susann Friedel1, Anke Hinney1, Johannes Hebebrand1, Thomas Billing2, Harald Grallert2, Susanna Wiegand2, Heiko Knude1, Sada Farooqi2, Annette Gruters1 & Heike Biebemann1
1Institute of Experimental Pediatric Endocrinology, Charité Campus Virchow-Klinikum, Berlin, Germany; 2Helmholtz Zentrum München, Institute of Epidemiology, German Research Center for Environmental Health, München, Germany; 3Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Rheinische Kliniken Essen, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany; 4Institut für Medizinische Informatik, Biometrie und Epidemiologie, Universitätshospital Essen, Essen, Germany; 5Metabolic Research Laboratories, Addenbrooke’s Hospital, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

The melanocortin-4-receptor (MC4R) plays an important role in body weight regulation. Mutations in the MC4R gene are the most common genetic cause for obesity. The most frequent Northern European mutation is Y35X, associated with D37V on the same allele. Furthermore, there are two variants with a relatively high frequency: V103I and S127L. In rare cases, we identified the variants V103I and S127L on the same allele. The occurrence of two variants on the same allele makes a founder effect possible but this has yet to be proven. Therefore, we analysed single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) within a range of overall 240 kb up- and downstream of the MC4R gene. Our sample group consisted of a healthy control group and of trios of normal weight and obese patients of Caucasian origin. We analysed 25 mutation carriers of Y35X/D37V, three V103I/S127L carriers and their families and two Arab families each with two homozygous carriers of a pathogenic missense mutation, C271R.

Linkage disequilibrium (LD) analyses show that the investigated SNPs form three different LD-blocks. In a first attempt we focused on those SNPs forming an LD-block that comprises the coding region of the MC4R gene for haplotype analysis. Aside from 11 different haplotypes we found one main haplotype with a frequency of approximately 73% in the control trios. Via analysis of the mutation carriers we could show that the Y35X/D37V mutation is estimated to be always located on this common haplotype making a founder effect highly possible. The double mutation V103I/S127L is located on another haplotype as well as the C271R mutation which indicate identity by descent. In conclusion, we can show that the increased prevalence of certain MC4R mutations, Y35X/D37V and V103I/S127L in Caucasian and C271R in patients of Arab origin, can be attributed to a founder effect in these populations.

Association between platelet count and metabolic risk factors in over weight and obese women

Furkan Kutluturk1, Sinan Tanyolac1, Adil Azizi2 & Yusuf Orhan1
1Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Gaziunvamapa University, Tokat, Turkey; 2Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Introduction
We aimed to evaluate the relationship between platelet count and metabolic risk factors in over weight and obese women in Turkish women.

Methods
Over weight (BMI >25 kg/m²) 665 and obese (BMI >30 kg/m²) 4609 women were enrolled into the study. The patients were divided into three group according to the platelet count (PLT), Group I (n=1724) consist of serum PLT ≤245 x10⁹, group II (n=1787) PLT 245 x10⁹ to 300 x10⁹ and, group III (n=1763) consist of PLT >300 x10⁹. The groups were compared for metabolic risk markers.
Results

Body weight, BMI and body fat mass, waist circumference, sagittal waist, fasting glucose, insulin, HOMA, A1c, total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, triglycerides, hs-CRP, ESR and, systolic and diastolic blood pressures were significantly high in Group III compared to Group II and Group I (P < 0.05).

Table The comparison of different platelet (PLT) groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>BMI (kg/m²)</th>
<th>Waist circumference (cm)</th>
<th>Saggital waist (cm)</th>
<th>Glucose (mg/dl)</th>
<th>Ha1C (%)</th>
<th>Insulin (ulU/ml log)</th>
<th>HOMA (log)</th>
<th>LDL-kol (mg/dl)</th>
<th>Triglicerides (mg/dl log)</th>
<th>Systolic DB (mmHg)</th>
<th>Diastolic DB (mmHg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(n=1724)</td>
<td>(n=187)</td>
<td>(n=1763)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.88 ± 1.275</td>
<td>84.18 ± 12.31</td>
<td>34.06 ± 7.56</td>
<td>96.72 ± 14.98</td>
<td>23.61 ± 4.11</td>
<td>97.67 ± 23.69</td>
<td>5.74 ± 0.88</td>
<td>12.45 ± 12.02</td>
<td>3.11 ± 4.11</td>
<td>123.38 ± 36.48</td>
<td>137.13 ± 3.42</td>
<td>126.83 ± 24.86</td>
<td>80.97 ± 13.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

The data obtained from this study indicates that high PLT count is associated with several metabolic risk markers. Platelet count can be suggested as a risk marker for atherosclerotic disease in overweight and obese women.

P475

The role of family and parental factors in childhood obesity

Angélica Solntseva & Mariya Vishnevskaya
Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk, Belarus.

Poor family functioning will be associated with inadequate parental monitoring and/or regulation of children’s eating and activity patterns. We aimed to examine the relationship between a child’s weight and a broad range of family and maternal factors. Our hypothesis was that increasing adiposity in children would be associated with poor general family functioning, lower socioeconomic status, inappropriate parenting style. This cross-sectional study involved 56 obese children (age=30.26), mean age11.05±1.3.50 years and 56 mothers. Obesity was defined as BMI scores at or above the 97th percentile for age and gender. Psychological examination was conducted (Edenmiller test of house education). All the analysis were performed with the Statistica 6.0 software, P-value <0.05 was accept as statistically significant. ANOVA test was used for unpaired data. BMI mother’s 27.90 ± 5.33 (19.00–41.00) kg/m², BMI children’s 27.84 ± 4.6 (18.20–39.60) kg/m². BMI 5.14 ± 1.92.

This study of 17.86% mothers had secondary education, 57.14%-higher education and 25%-special education. The full families were observed in 71.43%, incomplete – in 28.57% examined patients. BMI children was not correlated with BMI mothers (r<0.1). Differences SD BMI were received depending on mothers education: high – Me 4.77 (3.24–5.44) and secondary-special – Me 5.76(4.68–7.20) (r= 0.0085). The significantly differences of the following criteria of the test were determined on deflection SD BMI from Me: ‘forbid-requirements overweening’ (r=0.1), ‘sanctions overweening’ (r=0.015), for girls ‘projection male quality’ (r=0.045). On the other criteria the test differences between SD BMI were not revealed (r<0.1).

Findings indicated on increase the children BMI under using negative acceptance (raised requirements, prohibitions and punishments) in household education. It was revealed that mothers had difficulties between need of the checking and granting to anomalies child. Level of mothers education in our study was closely connected with obesity and not depended on gender.

P476

Relationship of serum gamma-glutamyltransferase and adiposity measures with C-reactive protein in severe obese women

Mirjana Sumarac-Dumanovic, Dragan Micic, Danica Stamenkovic-Pejkovic, Goran Cvijovic, Danka Jeremic & Aleksandra Kendereski
Institute of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Diseases of Metabolism, Belgrade, Syecheles.

Introduction and aims

Recent epidemiological studies have suggested serum gamma glutamyltransferase (GGT) within its normal range might be an early marker of oxidative stress. Oxidative stress appears to be a key component of many reactions associated with chronic inflammation. Obesity is associated with elevated levels of biomarkers of inflammation and endothelial dysfunction. Oxidative stress and inflammation are also known to play critical roles in the pathogenesis of vascular events. The aim of the study was to investigate association between serum GGT and concentrations of serum C-reactive protein (CRP) in severe obese women and to correlate these parameters with adiposity measures in these women.

Patients and methods

We investigated 31 obese women (mean age 34.60±1.40 years; mean BMI 36.10±0.96 kg/m²; mean waist 106.33±±3.34 cm). CRP (5.06±0.75 mg/l) and serum GGT (24.58±4.32 mg Al, fasting glucose (5.27±0.11 mmol/l), fasting insulin (17.89±1.40 mIU/l) were measured in all women.

There was no correlation between GGT and BMI, waist, fasting glucose, fasting insulin. Also, there was no correlation between CRP and fasting glucose, neither


between CRP and fasting insulin, BMI, waist circumference, but there was significant correlation between CRP and GGT (r = 0.735, P < 0.001).

Conclusions
Our data confirmed significant correlation between GGT and CRP in obese women. The strong association of serum GGT and CRP in obese women suggests their possible relationship and further studies are necessary to elucidate the association between oxidative stress and inflammation in obesity.

P477
A retrospective analysis of the relationship of thyroid function with obesity in a single center obesity outpatient polyclinic
Ozen Oz Güli,1 Cahan Ersoy1, Bülent Gül2, Mevin Gicici1, Mahmut İnanoglu1, Sengül Cangur1, Sinem Kıyıcı1, Soner Candar1, Ozgu Kaan Ünal2, Erdine Ertürk3, Ensan Tunel1 & Saiz İnanoglu1
1Endocrinology and Metabolism Department, Faculty of Medicine, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey; 2Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey; 3Biostatistics, Faculty of Medicine, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey.

The activity of hypothalamic-pituitary axis is increased in obese patients and some hormonal changes can be observed as a consequence. Although the effects of hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism on weight are clearly demonstrated data regarding the effects of relatively minor defects is limited. There are different results in the literature concerning thyroid function status in obesity, some indicating no change, others elevated serum thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), free triiodothyronine (fT3) and free thyroxine (fT4) levels and some others TSH in the upper normal range as well as fT4 in the lower normal. Considering the increasing prevalence of obesity and its association with higher rates of morbidity and mortality, the relation between thyroid functions and body mass becomes more important. In the present study, the relation between body mass index (BMI) and alterations in thyroid functions within normal ranges was aimed to be investigated in obese patients. Three hundred and 57 euthyroid obese patients (309 females, 48 males, mean age: 42 years) were included in the study. Thyroid functions, BMI and epidemiological characteristics of the patients were retrospectively evaluated (Table 1). The patients were divided into two groups according to a cut-off BMI value of 40 kg/m². No statistically significant difference was detected between the groups in respect of gender, place of birth, place of residence, smoking and family history. Obese patients with BMI≥40 kg/m² were older and showed lower serum free thyroxine level (fT4) than obese patients with BMI<40 kg/m² (P<0.001). Our data indicated that, although thyroid functions were normal in the studied obese population, fT4 and BMI were related. Minor variations in thyroid functions may importantly influence the prevalence of obesity in a population.

Table Comparison of the groups for metabolic risk markers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group 1 (n=1131)</th>
<th>Group 2 (n=2345)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>35.74±11.14</td>
<td>38.24±11.58</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>84.16±14.69</td>
<td>87.96±15.85</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>33.58±5.77</td>
<td>35.19±6.29</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body fat (%)</td>
<td>39.25±15.75</td>
<td>43.64±17.59</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waist (cm)</td>
<td>96.64±22.00</td>
<td>98.99±12.69</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagittal waist (cm)</td>
<td>23.71±3.64</td>
<td>24.55±3.91</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intra-abdominal fat (L)</td>
<td>3.13±1.07</td>
<td>3.38±1.16</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol (mg/dl)</td>
<td>193.70±40.53</td>
<td>201.74±40.92</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL (mg/dl)</td>
<td>120.98±34.08</td>
<td>126.21±35.86</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL (mg/dl)</td>
<td>47.99±11.53</td>
<td>47.85±11.39</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglycerides (mg/dl)</td>
<td>124.59±80.03</td>
<td>141.15±100.05</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucose (mg/dl)</td>
<td>92.89±18.44</td>
<td>96.61±27.40</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HbA1c (%)</td>
<td>5.63±0.81</td>
<td>5.71±0.81</td>
<td>0.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulin (uUIU)</td>
<td>11.90±11.39</td>
<td>13.59±12.41</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMA</td>
<td>2.79±3.98</td>
<td>3.36±4.67</td>
<td>0.015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P478
Relationship between prehypertension and metabolic risk markers in overweight and obese women
Faruk Kutluutuk1, Taner Bayraktaroglu2, Adil Azerelli2 & Yusuf Orhan2
1Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Faculty of Medicine, Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey; 2Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Introduction
Hypertension is a major risk factor for several cardiovascular diseases including coronary heart disease. Prehypertension is defined systolic blood pressure (SBP) between 120–139 mmHg and diastolic blood pressure (DBP) 80–89 mmHg. Recent studies have documented an increased risk of cardiovascular disease in persons with prehypertension. In this study, we evaluated association between prehypertension and the metabolic risk markers in overweight and obese women.

Methods
Overweight (25 ≤ BMI < 30 kg/m²) and obese (BMI 30 kg/m²) 2652 women were enrolled into the study. The subjects were divided into two groups: Group 1 (n = 1131); women with blood pressure <120/80 mmHg; normal group, Group 2 (n = 2345); women with 120 ≤ SBP < 139 mmHg, and 80 ≤ DBP < 89 mmHg prehypertension group. The groups were compared for metabolic risk markers regarding cardiovascular disease.

Results
BMI, waist, sagittal body, fat, intra-abdominal fat, HbA1c, fasting insulin, HOMA, triglyceride, cholesterol, LDL-C were significantly higher prehypertension group compared to normal subjects (P<0.001). The results are documented on Table 1.

Conclusion
This study demonstrated that prehypertension was associated with metabolic risk markers in overweight and obese women. It is known that prehypertension is associated with atherosclerosis, including increased coronary atherosclerosis, elevated C-reactive protein, tumor necrosis factor, homocysteine, oxidized LDL, and other inflammatory markers. Successful management can reasonably be expected to reduce CVD morbidity and mortality.

P479
Short term elevation of estradiol concentrations does not affect hepatic VLDL-TG production
Lars C Gormsen, Christian Host, Claus Gravholt, Jens S Christiansen & Soren Nielsen
Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark.

Background
Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) in post-menopausal women carries an increased risk of cardiovascular disease due to an unfavorable effect on lipid profile. Thus, HRT treatment increases concentrations of very-low-density lipoprotein-triglycerides (VLDL-TGs) which have been demonstrated to possess atherogenic properties. However, the exact mechanisms whereby VLDL-TG concentrations are increased by estradiol are not fully understood. Estradiol acts on both rapid responding intracellular receptors and on slow responding membrane bound receptors. We therefore aimed to study whether or not hepatic VLDL-TG production is acutely increased by a single dose of estradiol.

Materials and methods
In a single blinded cross-over design, eight postmenopausal women (age 57 ± 5 years, BMI 25 ± 3 kg/m², fat mass 24 ± 5 kg, lean body mass 40 ± 4 kg) were investigated twice. Study days consisted of either placebo (CON) or 4 mg of estradiol (EST) administered p.o. 1 h before the study start. VLDL-TG kinetics were determined by a primed-constant infusion of [1-14C]estradiol labeled VLDL and body composition by dual X-ray absorptiometry (DXA).

Results
By design, estradiol concentrations were below detection threshold during CON conditions and were significantly increased to ~0.5 nmol/l during EST conditions. No acute changes in VLDL-TG concentrations (VLDL-TG (nmol/l): CON: 0.39±0.15 versus EST: 0.41±0.23, P=0.78) or total TG concentrations (TG (nmol/l): CON: 1.25±0.57 versus EST: 1.11±0.39, P=0.38) were observed. Dynamic VLDL-TG kinetic parameters revealed that estradiol does not acutely impact on neither hepatic VLDL-TG production (VLDL-TG production (nmol/min) CON: 20±12 versus EST: 23±9, P=0.52) nor peripheral VLDL-TG clearance (VLDL-TG clearance (ml/min) CON: 49±15 versus EST: 64±29, P=0.28).
Conclusion
Acute administration of estradiol does neither affect hepatic VLDL-TG production nor peripheral VLDL-TG clearance. The mechanisms behind estradiol’s effects upon circulating lipids remain to be elucidated.

P480
Serum adiponectin levels and polymorphism of C1b endocannabinoid receptor (A381G, A4895G, G1422A) in postmenopausal women
Diana Jedrzejek\(^1\), Felicja Lowow\(^1\), Katarzyna Dunauska\(^1\), Łukasz Laczmanski\(^1\) and Andrzej Milewicz\(^2\)
\(^1\)Wrocław University of Medicine, Wrocław, Poland; \(^2\)University of Physical Education, Wrocław, Poland.

Recently, low serum adiponectin levels is created as a new risk factor for cardiovascular diseases in climacteric women. Our previous study shows that smoking, serum testosterone levels, blood pressure and BMI have the influence on serum adiponectin levels. Endocannabinoid system plays a role in regulation of food intake and fat accumulation, as well as lipid and carbohydrate metabolism. Menopause transition is related to metabolic disorders (e.g. obesity) and cause the increased risk of cardiovascular diseases. From randomly selected 6000 postmenopausal women, according to the protocol, we selected 360 women (aged 50-65) and finally 348 women were developed according to relation between the endocannabinoid receptor polymorphism and serum adiponectin levels. Standard method was used for DNA genomic isolation from lymphocytes. The polymorphism of endocannabinoid receptor was estimated using minisequenced technique. We have estimated BMI, waist circumference, % fat, gynoid and android fat deposit (using DXA method), blood pressure as well as lipid and carbohydrate metabolism and serum adiponectin levels (using RIA method) in polymorphism A381G, A4895G, G1422A of CN1 gene. In our study we have found no significant influence of gene polymorphism on serum adiponectin levels, but in GG genotype (polymorphism A381G) we have found statistically significant higher BMI, % fat and android fat deposit in comparison to AA genotype.

P481
Relationships of TNF-z system with glucose and lipid oxidation in subjects with different degree of insulin sensitivity
Agnieszka Adamska, Monika Karczewska-Kuczewska, Iwona Kowalska, Agnieszka Nikolajuk, Maria Górska & Marek Straczkowski
Department of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Internal Medicine, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland.

One of the key actions of insulin is the regulation of glucose and lipid oxidation. Disturbances in substrate oxidation play an important role in the development of insulin resistance. Insulin action is inversely associated with circulating pro-inflammatory cytokines such as soluble TNF-α receptors (sTNFR1 and sTNFR2). The aim of the present study was to analyze the associations between serum sTNFR1 and sTNFR2 concentrations and glucose and lipid oxidation and non-oxidative glucose metabolism in lean and obese subjects with normal glucose tolerance. We examined 42 subjects (30 females and 12 males), 22 lean (BMI < 25 kg/m\(^2\)), 16 females and 6 males) and 20 with overweight or obesity (BMI > 25 kg/m\(^2\); 14 females and 6 males) with normal glucose tolerance. Insulin sensitivity was measured with the hyperinsulinemic euglycemic clamp technique. Glucose and lipid oxidation was evaluated with indirect calorimetry in the baseline state and during the last 30 min of the clamp. Non-oxidative glucose metabolism in the hyperinsulinemic state was calculated by subtracting glucose oxidation from the total glucose metabolism. Metabolic flexibility was assessed as an increase in respiratory quotient (ΔRQ) in response to insulin. Serum sTNFR1 concentrations were higher in the obese in comparison with the lean group (P=0.001). Insulin sensitivity was negatively related with serum sTNFR1 (r=-0.38, P=0.014), whereas the relationship with sTNFR2 was approaching the level of significance (r=-0.30, P=0.057). Serum sTNFR1 concentration was positively associated with the baseline glucose oxidation (r=0.32, P=0.045) and negatively with the increase in glucose oxidation in response to insulin (r=-0.40, P=0.01) and with non-oxidative glucose metabolism (r=-0.35, P=0.022). Significant negative correlation between serum sTNFR1 and metabolic flexibility was observed (r=-0.36, P=0.019). Serum sTNFR2 was positively related to baseline respiratory quotient (r=0.36, P=0.018).

Our data suggest that TNF\(\text{z}\) system is associated with multiple metabolic pathways regulated by insulin.

P482
Variation of daytime melatonin levels
Beata Racz, Karel Vondra, Michaela Duskova, Katerina Simunkova, Martin Hli & Luboslav Starka
Institute of Endocrinology, Prague, Czech Republic.

Melatonin has a key role in circadian timing system. At present, many other functions of melatonin are known. It shows a remarkable functional versatility exhibiting antioxidant (direct free radical scavenging and indirect antioxidant activities), oncostatic, anti-aging, immunomodulatory properties and many other functions. In addition to pineal gland, gastrointestinal tract is the second biggest source of melatonin. Question remains whether changes in endogenous melatonin may be influenced by food intake. In our previous study, melatonin negatively correlated with C-peptide and glucose after food intake during daytime. For the better understanding of the possible role of melatonin as a factor, which can influence food intake, we monitored levels of melatonin, C-peptide and glucose before and after different food stimulus. Five women (mean age 31.6±2.8 years, mean BMI 23.2±2.3 kg/m\(^2\) in follicular phase of menstrual cycle) were examined. All of them had standard intravenous glucose toleration test, standard oral glucose toleration test, standard breakfast (standard ratio of fat, carbohydrates and proteins) and non-caloric stimuli (pyillium). Variation in C-peptide levels was followed by changes of melatonin levels and also mechanic stimuli of food intake had the same effect on melatonin levels. Negative relationship between melatonin and C-peptide as well as rapid changes of melatonin levels permits conclusions that melatonin could to be involved in regulation of food intake. Study was supported by grant MZCR NR-9055-4.

P483
Aromatase expression in peripheral blood leukocytes from adult and elderly female and male subjects
Elisa Pignatti, Alessandra Rossi, Sara Scalltriti, Erica Taliani, Vincenzo Rochira, Manuela Simoni & Cesare Curani
Integrated Department of Medicine, Endocrinology and Metabolism, and Geriatrics, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

Objective
Aromatase, the key enzyme involved in estrogen synthesis, is expressed in a variety of cells and tissues including human peripheral blood leukocytes (PBLs). The present study was designed to evaluate PBL aromatase gene expression in male and female elderly subjects compared to young male controls. Design
CYP19A1 mRNA and protein were measured in PBLs obtained from young men (n=13) aged < 35 years, postmenopausal women (n=13) and men (n=13) aged between 50 and 60 years, as well as elderly men (n=13) and women (n=13), both aged > 70 years. All subjects gave written informed consent to participate in the study. Methods and results
Aromatase mRNA measured by real-time PCR in PBLs was not significantly different in any group compared to young men mainly due to high inter-individual variation in expression levels within the same group. Immunoblot analysis confirmed the data obtained by real-time PCR showing levels of aromatase protein very variable within the single groups and a scarce correlation between the levels of transcripts and the relative quantity of protein. However subjects with hypertension showed statistically significant higher levels of CYP19A1 mRNA. No other correlations were found. Conclusions
CYP19A1 mRNA and protein are not differentially expressed in PBLs from adult and elderly women and men. It is postulated that in these cells aromatase produces estrogens which paracrine activity on development and maintenance of the immune system. We speculate that increased aromatase transcription in PBLs, can be indicative of the presence of a pathological and/or proinflammatory state, such as a hypertensive state.


11th European Congress of Endocrinology, Istanbul, Turkey, 2009
P484
Non-diabetic metabolic syndrome and obesity do not affect serum paraoxonase-1, HDL-paraoxonase and arylesterase activities but affects oxidative stress and inflammation
Suzan Tabar1, Ayse Nur Torun1, Tevifk Sabuncu1, Mehmet Nuri Turan1, Ali Riza Oez1 & Hakim Celik2
1Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Harran University, Sanliurfa, Turkey; 2Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Harran University, Sanliurfa, Turkey.

Paraoxonase is a high density lipoprotein-bound antioxidant enzyme that inhibits atherosclerosis. Metabolic syndrome is a combination of several metabolic abnormalities and known to be related with increased cardiovascular events. The most important component of metabolic syndrome which have impact on oxidative stress is diabetes, the most severe form of disturbed carbohydrate metabolism. The effect of metabolic syndrome on oxidative stress and paraoxonase-1 (PON-1) activity has been shown in several studies and PON-1 has been found to be related with accelerated atherogenesis. However, these studies included diabetes in metabolic syndrome. Therefore we aimed to determine the oxidative state and PON-1 activity in non-diabetic metabolic syndrome and obese patients comparing with the controls.

Thirty-three obese patients without metabolic syndrome, 43 non-diabetic, obese or overweight patients and 24 normal control subjects were enrolled in the study. All patients were performed a standard 75 g overnight glucose tolerance test. PON-1 activity, HDL-paraoxonase, arylesterase, total antioxidant status (TAS), high-sensitive C-reactive protein (CRP), lipid peroxides and metabolic parameters were analyzed.

PON-1, HDL-paraoxonase and arylesterase activities were not different among the three groups, while total antioxidant status was high in both metabolic syndrome and obese groups compared with the control group (P<0.01 and P<0.05 respectively). CRP was higher in metabolic syndrome group compared with obese and the control groups (P<0.01 and P<0.001 respectively). In both obese and metabolic syndrome groups, CRP showed a positive correlation with body mass index.

In conclusion, PON-1 HDL-paraoxonase and arylesterase activities were not different in our metabolic syndrome and obese group. This finding may be due to the absence of diabetes, severely disturbed glucose metabolism.

P485
Carotid IMT values are related to insulin resistance and visceral disposition of adiposity in obese patients
Anca Sirbu1,2, Horia Nicola1,2, Tudor Arbanas1,2, Serban Gologan1,2, Carmen Barb63, Aura Reghi5na1,2, Claudia Le Reagan & Simona Fic2,1
1Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania; 2Elias University Hospital, Bucharest, Romania.

The aim of our study was to assess the relation between common carotid intima-media thickness, a marker of subclinical atherosclerosis and other metabolic risk factors, in a group of obese patients.

Patients and methods
Of 142 obese patients (47 male, 95 female, mean age 39.74 ± 11.41 years, and mean BMI 46.88 ± 8.85 kg/m²) were clinically and biologically evaluated. BMI and waist circumference were measured and a complete patient history regarding cardiovascular and metabolic disease was recorded. Biological tests included insulin resistance assessment (HOMA-IR). The degree of hepatic steatosis and liver right lobe diameter were measured by abdominal ultrasound, while common carotid intima-media thickness (IMT) was evaluated by Doppler ultrasound (UF 850XTD Tellos) and was expressed as the mean value of the bilateral measurements.

Results
We found a significant correlation between IMT values and waist circumference, independent of BMI level (r = 0.37, P < 0.001). IMT values were higher in previously known hypertensive (0.64 ± 0.16 vs 0.53 ± 0.13 cm, P < 0.001) and in diabetic patients (0.66 ± 0.13 vs 0.57 ± 0.15 cm, P < 0.05), despite non-significant differences in BMI level. In non-diabetic patients, IMT positively correlated with HOMA-IR (r = 0.234, P < 0.05) and with liver right lobe diameter (r = 0.299, P = 0.01). Obese patients with severe steatosis (diagnosed by the ultrasonographic aspect - bright liver- assessed by the same independent investigator) had higher mean IMT values compared to those with apparently normal structure or lesser degrees of steatosis (0.63 ± 0.16 vs 0.55 ± 0.14 cm, P < 0.05).

Conclusions
High IMT values, a feature of subclinical atherosclerosis, correlate with markers of visceral obesity (waist circumference) and ectopic adiposity (right liver lobe diameter and steatosis). The positive relation between all these parameters and HOMA-IR suggest a possible common pathological pathway, with insulin resistance playing a central role.

P486
The effect of weight loss on serum mannose binding lectin levels
Permilie H Hoeyeri1, Jens M Brun2, Steen B Pedersen, Bjorno Richelsen1, Jens S Christiansen1 & Troels K Hansen1
1Immunodoeinocline Research Unit and Medical Department M, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark; 2Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism C, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark.

Background
High levels of mannose-binding lectin (MBL), an activator of complement, have been associated with increased mortality and risk of albuminuria in patients with type 2 diabetes. It is not known if MBL is synthesized in human adipose tissue and the effects of weight loss and changes in insulin sensitivity on MBL levels have been poorly elucidated.

Methods
Of 36 nondiabetic obese subjects received a very low-calorie diet (VLCD) of 800 kcal/day for 8 weeks. Fasting blood samples were obtained at baseline and after 8 weeks of VLCD and concentrations of MBL, glucose, and insulin were measured. Insulin resistance was assessed using the HOMA-IR method. Furthermore, to investigate if MBL is synthesized in adipose tissue MBL real-time RT-PCR was performed on human adipose tissue compared to liver tissue.

Results
After 8 weeks the mean body weight was reduced by 13.5 kg (106.3 ± 2.6 kg (Se) vs 92.8 ± 2.4 kg, P < 0.0001). Insulin resistance was reduced by 45.4 ± 7.0%, (P < 0.0001). Median MBL at baseline was 746 µg/l (Iqr 316-1190) vs 892 µg/l (IQR 336-1511) at 8 weeks, P<0.23. No correlations were found between weight loss and changes in MBL (r= -0.098, P=0.375) nor between changes in insulin resistance and MBL (r= -0.24, P=0.15). MBL real-time RT-PCR showed no expression of mRNA in adipose tissue but as expected good expression in liver tissue.

Conclusions
Serum MBL levels do not seem to be related to weight or insulin resistance, and the concentrations are not affected by weight loss and changes in insulin resistance. MBL is synthesized in human liver tissue, but not in human adipose tissue. Inter-individual differences in MBL depend primarily on MBL genotype, and may not be modifiable by lifestyle interventions.

P487
Insulin resistance and anemia markers
Suheyla Gocar, Cavit Culna, Y Selim Demir, Rusti Sertler & Yalcin Arslan
Endocrinology and Metabolic Disease Department, Ankara Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey.

Aim
In our study, in regard with the women cases of obesity, we have aimed at determining the correlation that existed among the anemia markers, insulin resistance (IR) and fact of Metabolic syndrome (MetS).

Method
We have conducted our assessment 67 women who had resorted to our clinic due to their obesity complaints and were in the premenopausal and mean age 36.7± 8.8 years. We have put forward the demographic data and measured the biochemical (fasting and postprandial blood glucose, uric acid, insulin, lipid profile, leptin, visfatin, hCRP) and hematologic (hemogram, ferritin, folate, vitamin B12) parameters. Such cases were included in three different groups; HOMA-IR>2.2 and HOMA-IR<2.2 and BMI of overweight-obese-morbid obese and whether or not a diagnosis, was established as MetS.

Results
The correlation analysis which was performed on whole group served to indicate that ferrite had a correlation with factors such as weight, fat%, leptin, visfatin, h-CRP. In the grouping process which was performed according to HOMA-IR, weight, waist circumference, fat%, fasting-postprandial glucose, triglyceride were found significantly high in the HOMA-IR> 2.2. In the grouping process which was performed according to obesity-morbid obese systolic blood pressure (SBP) and h-CRP were found significantly in favor of morbid obese group. The comparison of persons who were overweight and morbid obese the SBP, HOMA-IR, leptin, h-CRP were found significantly high in the group of morbid obese. In the grouping process which was carried out according to the
P488
Vasomotor dysfunction and alterations of adipokines in metabolic syndrome patients with insulin resistance
Petteris Tretjakovs1,2, Antra Jurka1, Inga Bormane1,2, Dace Reižmane1, Indra Mikėlsonė1, Liqa Balode1, Juris Aivars1 & Valdis Pirags1,2
1University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia; 2Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital, Riga, Latvia.

Aim
To evaluate relationships between adipokines (adiponectin, resistin, leptin, interleukin-6, tumor necrosis factor-alpha), insulin resistance and cutaneous vasomotor responses in metabolic syndrome (MS) patients with insulin resistance. MS patients with insulin resistance were divided into two groups: 18 patients with type-2 diabetes mellitus (without insulin therapy and pronounced diabetic complications) (DM) and 18 patients without DM. Of 18 healthy subjects were selected as controls (C). The study groups were matched for age and sex. Insulin resistance was measured by HOMA-IR method (IMx Abbott analyzer) and adipokines were measured by xMAP technology (Luminex-200 analyzer). We recorded changes in laser Doppler flux (LDF; PeriFlux 4001, Perimed) in the foot. The following variables were measured: basal LDF (b-LDF), postocclusive hyperemia (m-LDF), vasconstrictor response (v-LDF) to deep inspiration on the pulp of the toe; and heat (+4°C; PeriTemp 4000) induced hyperemia (m²; LDF) on the dorsum of the foot.

Results
Only the patient group with diabetes demonstrated a significant diminution in v-LDF compared to the group of healthy subjects (P < 0.05). m-LDF was decreased in both patient groups in comparison with the group of controls (P < 0.05), but only in diabetics the decrease of m2-LDF was significant (P < 0.05). Adipokines levels were changed (P < 0.05) in diabetic patient group. Our findings show that MS patients with insulin resistance have significant cutaneous vasomotor dysfunction but diabetics (with insulin resistance and MS) have also changed adipokines levels.

P489
Effect of pharmacological intervention on serum levels of advanced glycated end products in women with polycystic ovary syndrome
Evanthia Diamanti-Kandarakis1,2,3, Charikleia Christakou1,2,3, Christina Pipper1, Elena Kandarakis1,2,3,2, Christos Adamopoulos1, Athanasios G Papavassiliou1 & Dimitrios Panidis3
1Endocrine Section, First Department of Internal Medicine, Laiko Hospital, Athens, Greece; 2Laboratory of Biological Chemistry, University of Athens Medical School, Athens, Greece; 3Division of Endocrinology and Human Reproduction, Second Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Medical School, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Background
Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is associated with obesity and insulin resistance, two major contributors to cardiovascular risk. Even in the absence of detectable insulin resistance, lean, non-diabetic PCOS women demonstrate increased circulating levels of advanced glycated end products (AGEs), known proatherogenic molecules. This adverse cardiovascular risk profile should be considered in the syndrome’s management.

Objective
To investigate whether oral contraceptives (OCs) or metformin, the commonest pharmaceutical treatments of PCOS, affect serum AGEs levels in PCOS women.

Patients-methods
Of 48 lean, non-diabetic PCOS women were randomized to the following treatments for 3 months:
Group A: 16 patients (mean age: 22.5 years, mean BMI: 21.76 kg/m²) received an OCP containing 35 µg ethinylestradiol plus 3 mg drospirenone.
Group B: 16 patients (mean age: 21.19 years, mean BMI: 21.09 kg/m²) received an OCP containing 35 µg ethinylestradiol plus 2 mg cyproterone acetate (CA).
Group C: 16 patients (mean age: 20.75 years, mean BMI: 21.68 kg/m²) received metformin (7100 mg/day).

Serum AGEs levels were determined before and after 3 months of treatment.

Results
The three groups had similar age, BMI and AGES levels at baseline. The BMI’s remained unaltered in all treatment groups. Post treatment mean serum AGES levels were not significantly altered in Groups A (P<0.22 vs 8.900±0.5, P=0.66) and B (P<0.2 vs 9.980±0.15 vs 10.270±0.20, P=0.22), while they significantly decreased in Group C (P<0.2 vs 9.310±0.33 vs 8.840±0.32, P=0.02).

Conclusions
For the first time, OCs are shown to lack significant effects on circulating AGES in PCOS women, at variance with metformin which is confirmed to reduce AGES levels, in accord with previously published data. Thus, metformin may be superior to OCs in alleviating the cardiovascular risk associated with PCOS.

P490
Insulin-resistance and abnormal glycaemia characterize the metabolic syndrome of polycystic ovary syndrome but not of matched controls
Serban Radulian1,2, Valentina Raluca Mihaila1, Ilieana Botusan2, Nicoleta Baculesca, Monica Gheorghii1,2, Simona Fica3, Florin Grigorescu1 & Mihail Cuculescu1
1C Davila University of Medicine, Bucharest, Romania; 2Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania; 3Molecular Endocrinology Laboratory, IURC, Montpellier 1 University, Montpellier, France.

Background
The incidence of metabolic syndrome (MetS) is higher in polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) patients than in the general population. However, it is still unclear if MetS is qualitatively different in PCOS.

Aim
To compare the distribution of MetS diagnostic criteria and of insulin-resistance in subjects with MetS (PCOS versus matched controls).

Patients
Of 97 patients with PCOS (Rotterdam criteria) and 31 age- and BMI-matched eumenorrheic, non-hirsute women were recruited at the Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania. All subjects were examined and waist circumference, BMI and blood pressure (BP) were recorded. Blood lipids, glycaemia and insulinemia were measured after an overnight fast and a standard oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) was performed. All samples were collected during the early follicular phase of the menstrual cycle.

Results
According to IDF criteria, MetS was present in 33% of PCOS patients and in 29% of controls (P=NS). No significant differences were found between the PCOS patients with MetS (group A, n=32) and controls with MetS (group B, n=9), regarding serum triglycerides, HDL-cholesterol, BP values and waist circumference. Impaired fasting glucose (IFG) or type 2 DM was more frequent in group A than group B (40.63% vs 6.9%, P<0.05).

Insulin-resistance (HOMA-IR> 90th percentile of a Romanian female population reference) was more frequent in group A than group B (55.17 vs 12.5%, P=0.04). Insulin-resistance was strongly associated with MetS (P<0.0001, χ²) within the whole PCOS group, but not in the control subjects. Furthermore, PCOS patients with MetS had higher 2hr glucose during OGTT than patients without MetS (125.2±6 vs 97.9±4.1 mg/dl, P<0.001; mean ± s.e.m.).

Conclusions
The incidence of each MetS criterion is different between MetS subjects with PCOS and matched MetS controls, except for IFG / type 2 DM. In PCOS, insulin-resistance is more frequent and correlates strongly with MetS.

P491
Regulation of novel metabolic regulator fibroblast growth factor-21 by body adiposity and hypercortisolisma: studies in patients with obesity and Cushings’s syndrome
Viktoria Durovcova, Michal Krsek, Vaclav Hana, Josef Marek, Marketa Bartlová, Petra Kavalová & Martin Haluzik
3rd Department of Internal Medicine, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

Fibroblast growth factor-21 (FGF-21) is a novel regulator of metabolic homeostasis that improved diabetes compensation and dyslipidemia in diabetic

P492
The influence of weight loss on immune system
Mahmut Yazici1,2, Deniz Engin Gucl1, Ayse Pekel3, Serkan Taşan1, Yusuf Alper Sommez1, Ugur Musuluk1, Sinasi Erol Bolsu1 & Mustafa Kutlu1
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, 2Department of Immunology and 3Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Gulhane Military Medical Academy, Etilik/Ankara, Turkey.

Aim
The prevalence of overweight and obesity is increasing and becoming a global health problem. Obesity is the cause of increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality and psychosocial problems. There are several reports which mention the unfavourable effects of aggressive weight loss regimes on the immune system. This study was designed to search for the effect of a straightforwarad, controlled and permanent weight loss program on the immune system.

Material and method
Overall 76 patients who have body mass indexes (BMI) higher than 30 kg/m² were enrolled. The number of the control subjects was 139. Any chronic systemic illness, chronic drug intake, smoking and alcohol intake were the exclusion criteria. The venous samples were taken both before and after the standard diet and exercise program. The percentage of the lymphocyte subgroups (CD3, CD4, CD8, CD19, CD3, CD16, CD56) were measured by flow cytometry.

Results
According to the results the CD3+ and CD8+ T cells were significantly lower and the CD19+ B cells were significantly higher in the obese patients when compared to the controls. After a 3 months duration of diet and exercise 26 patients of the total group lost about a 5% of their total body weight. After the weight loss the CD3+ and CD8+ T cells, CD19+ B cells, CD4/CD8 ratio increased, whereas fatty acid binding protein (AFAPB) and adiponectin were measured by standard laboratory methods and commercial RIA (insulin) and ELISA kits (FGF-21, adiponectin, AFAPB) in 16 patients with active CS, 20 patients with simple obesity (O) and 50 healthy controls (C).

BML, insulin levels, HOMA index and AFAPB were significantly higher in O and CS groups relative to C while serum adiponectin levels were decreased in both O and CS groups relative to C. Plasma FGF-21 levels were significantly higher in CS group relative to C (483.5 ± 121.5 vs 197.3 ± 36.6 pg/ml, P=0.002) but they did not significantly differ from O group (246.8 ± 35 pg/ml). In a combined population of all three groups FGF-21 levels significantly positively correlated with waist circumference and percentage of truncal fat mass, blood pressure, triglyceride levels, HOMA index, insulin, glycated hemoglobin, leptin and AFAPB levels and were inversely associated with plasma protein, albumin, HDL–cholesterol and free triiodothyronine levels.

We conclude that both obesity and CS are associated with paradoxically increased FGF-21 levels suggesting a possibility that resistance to FGF-21 rather than its deficiency may contribute to some metabolic disturbances in these patients. Acknowledgements
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P493
Plasma levels of uric acid in the patients with fatty liver
Güngör Akçay1 & Mülide Nurcan Akçay2
1Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Atatürk, Erzurum, Turkey; 2Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, University of Atatürk, Erzurum, Turkey.


Background
The liver occupies a central position in lipid metabolism. Free fatty acids (FFA’s) are taken up by the liver to join the hepatic pool of FFA, a portion of which the liver synthesizes. Fatty liver occurs when lipid accumulation exceeds the normal 5% of liver weight. In the macrovesicular type, large fat droplets balloon the liver cell, displacing the nucleus to the periphery of the cell, like an adipocyte. Triglyceride accumulates most commonly because it has the highest turnover rate of all hepatic fatty acid esters. We investigated the plasma levels of uric acid in the patients with fatty liver and to correlate it with ultrasonographically measured liver echogenicity.

Methods
Fasting plasma levels of cholesterol and triglycerides were detected in the 91 patients with fatty liver and 47 healthy subjects. Liver echogenicity was measured by 3.75 mHz ultrasound probe and was graded by comparison with renal parenchymal echogenicity.

Results
Fasting plasma levels of was detected in the ninetyone patients with fatty liver and fortyseven healthy subjects. In the fatty liver group, plasma levels of uric acid was 5.3 ± 1.8 (1.8–11.0) mg/dl. The grading of liver echogenicity was 1.9 ± 0.6 (1–3) in the fatty liver group. In the control group, plasma levels of uric acid was 4.4 ± 1.3 (2.1–7.3) mg/dl. The grading of liver echogenicity was 1.0 ± 0.1 (1.0–1.0). Plasma levels of uric acid were higher in the fatty liver group those of the control group (P=0.05).

Conclusions
Hyperuricaemia has been found 80 per cent in hypertriglyceridemic patients. However, hyperuricemia has been found 50–75 per cent in patients with gout. Several studies have been detected hyperuricaemia in patients with hypertriglyceridemia and fatty liver. We observed that there is hyperuricemia and hyperuricaemia in the patients with fatty liver.

P494
The atherogenic index in the fatty liver
Güngör Akçay1 & Mülide Nurcan Akçay2
1Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Atatürk, Erzurum, Turkey; 2Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, University of Atatürk, Erzurum, Turkey.

Background
Fatty liver can relate with arteriosclerosis. We investigated the atherogenic index in the patients with fatty liver.

Methods
Ninety-one patients with hyperlipidemia and 47 healthy subjects were included in the study. Fasting plasma levels of lipids were detected. Liver echogenicity was measured by 3.75 mHz ultrasound probe and was graded by comparison with renal parenchymal echogenicity. Atherogenic index was calculated as the ratio of plasma levels of cholesterol to plasma levels HDL – cholesterol.

Results
In the hyperlipidemia group, plasma levels of cholesterol were 253.5 ± 41.0 (161–440) mg/dl, plasma levels of triglycerides were 231.8 ± 74.4 (45–493) mg/dl, grading of liver echogenicity was 1.9 ± 0.6 (1–3) and atherogenic index was 4.9 ± 1.1 (2.8–8.5). In the control group, plasma levels of cholesterol were 173 ± 7.9 (122–207) mg/dl, plasma levels of triglycerides were 110.5 ± 39.3 (40–185) mg/dl, grading of liver echogenicity was 1.0 ± 0.1 (1.0–1.0) and atherogenic index was 3.4 ± 0.7 (1.6–5.5). There were significant differences between plasma levels of lipids, liver echogenicity and atherogenic index. In addition, there was a significant correlation between atherogenic index and liver echogenicity in the fatty liver group (r=0.4, P(0.0001).

Conclusions
We found that atherogenic index was higher in the fatty liver group than the control group. In addition, there was a significant correlation between atherogenic index and liver echogenicity in the fatty liver group.

P495
Energy and nutrients intake among overweight/obese school children in Tehran
Maryam Amin1,2 & Montireh Daddkhah1,2
1Nutrition Research Department, National Nutrition and Food Technology Research Institute, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Nutrition Research Department, National Nutrition and Food Technology Research Institute, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
Overweight and obesity are being emerged as one of the most prevalent nutritional problems among children in developed and developing countries.
To decrease the rate of them there is need to know more about effective factors.

Objective
This study aimed to determine association between energy and nutrients intake with overweight / obesity in male and female school children of Tehran.

Methods
A sample of 761 school students (378 from first graders & 383from grades 2nd to 5th) was randomly selected using a multistage cluster sampling method, from all 19 educational districts in Tehran. Weight and height of the children were measured and data on food consumption were also collected by a 24-hour recall. Overweight and obesity was evaluated using body mass index (BMI) centiles for age and sex. Obesity was defined as BMI > or =95th percentile and overweight was > or =85 to <95th percentile of the sex-specific BMI-for-age growth charts of CDC, 2000. Overweight and obese children were named ‘overweight’ versus other students who were named ‘normal’.

Results
Energy intake was positively correlated to fat intake and BMI of first graders (r=0.76, r=0.15, P<0.01, respectively). Energy was also positively correlated to fat intake and BMI of others (r=0.75, P<0.01 & r=0.10, P<0.05, respectively). Overweight first graders had lower intake of calcium and higher intake of riboflavin (P<0.05). Other overweight schools had higher intake of fat (P<0.01). Male and female overweight first graders were not different in energy or nutrients intake but female overweight children of other grades had higher intake of energy (P<0.01). Rate of overweight was not significantly different in girls and boys.

Conclusion
This study confirms other data which indicate over consumption of energy and fat may contribute to childhood obesity. Energy intake seems to be unhealthy among girls in this study.

P496

Influence of finasteride treatment on metabolic profile of men with androgenetic alopecia

Michaela Duskova, Martin Hill & Luboslav Starka
Institute of Endocrinology, Prague, Czech Republic.

Androgenetic alopecia, not only caused psychological distress, but also is the risk factor of cardiovascular diseases, glucose metabolism disorders, benign prostatic hyperplasia and prostate carcinoma and suspected to present the sign of male equivalent of polycystic ovary syndrome. Finasteride, used for treatment of androgenetic alopecia in dose of 1 mg/day, is the first 5α-reductase type II inhibitor. The 5α-reductase is enzyme responsible for the reduction of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone, progesterone to dihydroprogesterone and deoxycorticosterone to dihydrodeoxycorticosterone. Following recent observation, dihydrotestosterone plays the role in visceral fat metabolism. The aim of the study was to assess the effect of 1 year treatment of 1 mg finasteride on hormonal levels, lipid spectrum and insulin sensitivity in men with premature androgenetic alopecia. The study included 30 men with premature hair loss (defined as grade three vertex or more on the alopecia classification scale of Hamilton with Norwood modification) starting before 30 years of age. In all individuals, the levels of total testosterone, androstenedione, dehydroepiandrosterone sulphate, dehydroepiandrosterone, epitestosterone, allopcogenalone, dihydrotestosterone, and further reduced androstane metabolites, cortisol, estradiol, SHBG, prolactin, TSH, LH, FSH, index of free testosterone, cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triacylglycerols and insulin tolerance test were determined. Finasteride in the daily dose of 1 mg was administered for 12 months. The same hormonal profile and lipid spectrum was monitored after 4, 8 and 12 months of the treatment and insulin tolerance test was repeated after 12 months of the treatment. Besides the decrease of dihydrotestosterone level after treatment, the alteration in further 5α-reductase steroids metabolites was found. However the metabolic state remained unchanged. The study was supported by grant No. 808525-3 of the IGA MCR.

P497

Prevalence of hypo- and hypermagnesemia in an urban population

Leila Siaadomaradi1, Asghar Ghasemi1, Sahel Zahedi Asti1 & Ferroudin Azizi1
Endocrine Physiology Laboratory, Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Endocrine Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Background
Magnesium is the fourth most abundant action in the body and plays an important role in metabolic processes. Association between magnesium deficiency and clinical condition including hypertension, diabetes, insulin resistance, hyperlipidemia, and atherosclerosis. Although magnesium deficiency is associated with a variety of medical conditions, the prevalence of hypo- and hypermagnesemia have not been reported in general population.

Methods
This cross-sectional study was performed on 1558 (754 males and 804 females) with the mean age of 39.9 ± 14.3 years, who were selected by a multistage cluster random sampling method. Serum magnesium level was measured by flame atomic absorption spectrophotometry. The reference range for serum magnesium was 0.75–0.95 mmol/l.

Results
The prevalence of hypomagnesemia was 4.6% (95% CI, 3.6–5.6) in total population. Hypomagnesemia was more prevalent in females (6.0%) compared to males (3.2%), (P<0.01). Prevalence of hypermagnesemia was 12.2% (95% CI, 10.6–13.8) and was more prevalent in males (13.9%) than females (10.6%), (P<0.01).

Conclusion
Our data show a relatively high prevalence of abnormal levels of serum magnesium among general population; which may contribute to the pathophysiology of some diseases.

P498

The effect of γ-lipoic acid on myostatin and myosin heavy chain isoform profile of skeletal muscle of OLETF rats

Soon Jh Yoo1, Oak Kee Hong1, Do Man Kim2, Hyuk Sang Kwon1, Ho Young Son1, Sung Koo Kang1 & Dong-Sun Kim1
1The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Republic of Korea; 2Kandong Sacred Hospital, Seoul, Republic of Korea; ‘Hangyang University, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Aims
To investigate the mechanism of γ-lipoic acid (ALA) on preventing diabetes, we evaluated the effect of ALA on growth regulation and composition of skeletal muscle.

Methods
OLETF and LETO rats, aged 24 weeks, were treated with or without ALA (100 mg/kg body weight/day in drinking water) and / or insulin (insulin glargine, 2 U/kg body weight/day; subcutaneous injection) for 8 weeks.

Results
The treatment of ALA with or without insulin reduce body weight significantly and save relatively larger amount of skeletal muscle mass from gastrocnemius compared with insulin-alone treated group and control group of OLETF rats. Myostatin gene expression in skeletal muscle was decreased in ALA-alone and insulin alone treated group compared with control group of OLETF and LETO rats. The isoform profile of MHC was significantly increased in MHC I, MHC IIA and MHC IId/x in ALA-alone treated group compared with the control group of OLETF rats.

Conclusion
The short-term treatment with ALA showed preventing weight gain, preserving skeletal muscle mass, decrement of myostatin gene expression and increment of both MHC I and IIA gene expression.

P499

Comparing the activity of orlistat and sibutramine on obesity treatment

Ibrahim Sahin1, Lezzan Keskin1 & Melda Comert1
1Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Department of Internal Medicine, Inonu University Medical School, Malatya, Turkey; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Inonu University Medical School, Malatya, Turkey.

Introduction
In this study, we aimed to examine the weight alterations after the medical treatment and compare the effects of medical treatment in obese patients who applied to Endocrinology Polyclinic.

Material and method
We examined the patients who were diagnosed as obesity and initiated medical treatment at Endocrinology and Metabolism Diseases Polyclinic in Inonu University Medical Faculty between August 2005–May 2008. Patients were divided into two groups. In the first group, we applied 120 mg orlistat three times per day before each meal. In the second group, we applied 15 mg sibutramine

once a day before breakfast. We evaluated the patients at the beginning and at the end of the third month of the treatment.

Inventions
Out of the total 342 patients, 172 patients were treated with orlistat and 170 patients were treated with sibutramine. The mean values of age, height, weight and BMI were similar at the initial evaluation (P>0.05). Mean values of weight, BMI of the patients at the initial and the third month controls who were treated with orlistat (group 1) and sibutramine (group 2) were demonstrated on Table 1. There was no significant difference between two groups in means of third month values after the treatment.

Conclusion
Both of the drugs were found as effective in losing weight. There was no significant difference between these two drugs in means of weight loss.

### Table 1 The values of Group 1 and Group 2 at the initial evaluation and the third month control.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orlistat (Group 1, n=172)</th>
<th>Sibutramine (Group 2, n=170)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weight (kg)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Initial</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96.56 ± 84.15</td>
<td>94.55 ± 81.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>37.60 ± 33.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waist (cm)</td>
<td>113.28 ± 102.45</td>
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**P500**
Normal metabolic flexibility despite insulin resistance in lean and obese women with polycystic ovary syndrome
Marek Straczkowski, Irina Kowalska, Agnieszka Adamska, Monika Karczewska-Kupczewska, Agnieszka Nikolajuk, Agnieszka Lebrowska & Maria Gorska
Department of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Internal Medicine, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland.

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is heterogeneous disorder, where insulin resistance might be involved in the development of endocrine and metabolic abnormalities. Insulin resistance is associated with the so-called metabolic inflexibility i.e. an impaired switch from lipid to glucose in response to insulin. The aim of the present study was to estimate glucose and lipid oxidation, metabolic flexibility and non-oxidative glucose metabolism in lean and obese PCOS patients.

The study group consisted of 72 women with PCOS (28 lean and 44 overweight or obese) and 26 healthy, normally menstruating women (13 lean and 13 overweight or obese). Euglycemic hyperinsulinemic clamp and the measurements of serum sex hormones were performed. Glucose and lipid oxidation was evaluated with indirect calorimetry in the baseline state and during the last 30 min of the clamp. Non-oxidative glucose metabolism in the hyperinsulinemic state was calculated by subtracting glucose oxidation from the total glucose metabolism. Metabolic flexibility was assessed as an increase in respiratory quotient (ΔRQ) in response to insulin. To evaluate the impact of obesity and PCOS on the studied parameters and the interaction between both conditions, general linear models were constructed.

Both PCOS (P<0.0001) and obesity (P=0.0045) were associated with lower insulin sensitivity. No significant interaction between PCOS and obesity was found. Similarly, PCOS (P=0.00078) and obesity (P=0.009) independently predisposed to the lower non-oxidative glucose metabolism. Obese women had lower glucose oxidation (P=0.0097) and higher lipid oxidation (P=0.001) in insulin-stimulated conditions whereas PCOS had no effect on these parameters. Metabolic flexibility was impaired in obese (P=0.0015) but not in PCOS women. Our data indicate that lean and obese PCOS women have normal metabolic flexibility, which could suggest a distinct pathophysiological mechanism for insulin resistance in this group.
P503
Metabolically healthy but obese individuals
Joana Mesquita1, Sélima Souto1, Ana Varela1,2, Paula Freitas1,2, Maria João Matos1,2, Miguel Ferreira2, Flora Correia2,4, Daniel Braga1,2, Davide Carvalho3,1 & José Luis Medina1
1Department of Endocrinology, Hospital São João-EPE, Porto, Portugal; 2Department of Mathematics, Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal; 3Faculty of Food and Nutritional Sciences, Universidade do Porto, Portugal.

Introduction
Obesity is a heterogenous disorder. One of its subtypes that has been recently described is termed the metabolically healthy, but obese (MHO) individuals. Preliminary evidence suggests that this could be due to lower visceral fat levels and earlier onset of obesity.

Objectives
To determine the prevalence of MHO in a sample of obese patients. To evaluate whether body mass index (BMI), waist circumference (WC) and waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) are significantly different between MHO and obese non metabolically healthy (NMHO) individuals.

Methods
The authors present a retrospective analysis of 254 obese patients (223 women and 31 men) evaluated in the obesity outpatient clinic of Hospital São João.

Anthropometric variables, blood pressure (BP), fasting plasma levels of glucose (FFG), HDL cholesterol (HDL-C), triglycerides (TG) were measured. Insulin resistance (IR) was evaluated by the following index: homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR), quantitative insulin sensitivity check index (QUICKI) and insulin sensitivity index-Matsuda (MATSUDA). MHO was defined by TG≥150 mg/dl, HDL-C≥40 mg/dl (men) or ≥50 mg/dl (women). FFG<100 mg/dl, BP<130/85, HOMA-IR<2.5, QUICKI>0.33 and MATSUDA>5. Pearson’s correlation coefficient, Student’s t-test and Fisher’s exact test were used for the statistical analysis.

Results
Patients had mean age of 39.7±11.2 years and mean BMI of 45.1±±6.6 kg/m². About 8.3% of these patients were MHO when all the above criteria were considered. If IR wasn’t considered, the percentage increased to 15.7%. Patients classified as MHO had a significantly lower BMI, WC and WHR. Their age wasn’t significantly different from NMHO individuals. BMI was positively correlated with all the IR index, WC (r=0.61; P<0.00001) and WHR (r=0.14; P<0.05).

Conclusions
In this study, only a small percentage of the obese patients were MHO. It almost doubled when IR was not considered, suggesting that this parameter is of early onset.

P504
Effects of stress on kidney: a histological study on rat model
Tuba Demirci1 & Elvan Oral2
1Department of Histology and Embryology, Medical School, Atatürk University, Erzurum, Turkey.

Objective
Stress, which is seen prevalently among people, causes a general situation of tension via damaging the balance of the body. During stress, it is known that, at the first, central systems, like nerve system, heart and blood circulation system, nutritive system, genital systems and adrenalin tissues are also affected. In this study, kidney was histopathologically examined on the rat model in order to investigate how and in what level the kidneys are affected from the stress.

Methods
Eighteen adult Sprague Dawley rats were used in this study. Rats were grouped into the 4 group as the control male group (n=4), stress male group (n=4), stress female group (n=4) and control female group (n=4). Chronic mild stress (CMS) model of depression was applied to the stress group animals levels of weeks. At the end of the test, rats were anesthetized with ketamin HCl. Their kidneys were removed with opening the abdomen and kidney volumes were measured with the water immersion method. After routine histological processing, samples were histopathologically examined under light microscope.

Results
When compared with the control groups, volumes of stress performed kidneys did not change in female rats (P>0.05; independent samples t-test) but kidney volume was significantly decreased in males (P<0.05; independent samples t-test). In the sections of the test group, epithelial outpouring and degeneration and also luminal extension were observed in kidney tubules. Cytoplasmic bulge and vacuoles in epithelial cells of tubule were defined. Once again, when both groups were compared with control groups, puckered glomerulus and extended Bowman space were observed. Also in the epithelium of loop of Henle; cell bulge, vacuolization and degeneration were observed.

Conclusions
In the light of our findings, it is concluded that stress has a negative effects on kidney structure. In this sense, it is thought that functions of kidney can be disordered in stressful people.

Acknowledgement
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P505
Anthropometric parameters and non alcoholic hepatic steatosis in type 2 diabetes
Leila Ben Salem Hachmi1, Chiraz Bouzid1, Leila Ben Farhat2, Azza Doural1, Radha Waghlani1, Lotfi Hendoua1 & Claude Ben Slam1
1National Institute of Nutrition, Tunis, Tunisia; 2Mongi Slim Hospital, Marsa, Tunis, Tunisia.

Aim
The aim of the study was to assess the association between anthropometric parameters and non alcoholic hepatic steatosis in type 2 diabetes.

Methods
Computed tomography imaging was used to assess hepatic fat content in 80 men and women with type 2 diabetes. Inclusion criteria included a confirmed diagnosis of type 2 diabetes (≥1 year of duration), without history of hepatic disease or daily consumption of alcohol drink. Clinical and biochemical variables were examined with univariate and multivariate analysis. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves were used to identify the sensitivity and specificity.

Results
The global prevalence of hepatic steatosis was 30% (24/80). Body mass index and waist circumference were significantly higher in diabetes with steatosis (respectively 33.3±2.6 vs 29.5±7.4 kg/m² P=0.038 vs 109.7±12.4 vs 109.7±12.4 cm P=0.0004). BMI≥30 kg/m² and WC≥94 cm were significantly associated with an increased risk of hepatic steatosis (respectively: OR=4 CI 95% 1.4-12.5 P=0.005 – OR=5.6 CI 95% 1.2-26.6 P=0.017).

Conclusion
Obesity and visceral fat distribution are a high risk factor of hepatic steatosis in type 2 diabetic patient. Life style intervention must be intensifying in obese diabetic patient to improve insulin sensitivity.

Endocrine Disruptors
P506
Reproductive and haematological toxicity of Nurelle D 220 EC in male rats
Mosbah Rachid1, Boulaoud M Salem2 & Youssif I Mohkatar2
1University of Boumerdes, Boumerdes, Algeria; 2University of Annaba, Annaba, Algeria; 2University of Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt.

The present study was carried out to investigate the possible toxic effects of different doses of a component of Nurelle D 220 EC (200 g of chlorpyrifos-ethyl and 20 g of cypermethrin per 11) on blood hematological, testosterone and thyroid levels, and semen quality of male rats. As well as histological examination of testis and epididymis. The investigation covered four groups of 8 rats each: three experimental groups and one served as control. The mixture liquid was given to rats by oral route at different doses in the form of a water solution. Experimental groups received 5. 10 and 15 mg/kg bw/day of the insecticide for 6-weeks. At the end of the experimental period, the animals were sacrificed and blood samples were collected for measuring the hematological parameters and serum levels of testosterone and thyroid. Testes and epididymides were removed for measuring semen quality and histology. The obtained results showed that all three doses of Nurelle D caused significant decrease in the body weight gains. Weights of testes, epididymides and seminal vesicles were significantly decreased, while weights of liver and kidney were significantly increased in rats receiving 15 mg/kg only. Hematological study showed that the insecticide Nurelle D caused a pronounced change in blood parameters especially in the highest dose. Similarly, the dose of 15 mg/kg induced significant decrease in sperm counts number, sperm count, motility and daily sperm production (DSP), while dead and abnormal sperm, and sperm transit rate were significantly increased. This was due to histopathologically by the pronounced alteration of architecture of epididymides and testes with dramatically reduce of spermatogenesis

produced in lumen of testes accompanied by a significant reduction of tubular diameters. Such observations were coupled with a reduction in plasma testosterone levels and an increase in plasma free thyroxin (FT4) levels compared to control. It is, therefore, assumed that treatment with Nurelle D up to 15 mg/kg bw alters both hematological and reproductive parameters in rats, and subsequently affects fertility.

P507  
The association between organochlorine compounds, iodoine intake and thyroid hormones during pregnancy  
Mar Alvarez-Pedrell1,2, Monica Guexens1,2, Águeda Rodríguez3, Rosa Martorell3, Mercedes Espada3, Marisa Rebagliato4, Jesús Bariluca5 & Jordi Sunyer12

1Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology, Barcelona, Spain; 2CIBER Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBERESP), Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Parc Taulí, Sabadell, Spain; 4Hospital de Terrassa, Terrassa, Spain; 5Laboratorio Normativo de Salud Pública, Bilbao, Spain; 6Miguel Hernandez University, Valencia, Spain; 7Municipal Institute of Medical Research (IMIM-Hospital del Mar), Barcelona, Spain.

Objective  
An adequate thyroid function during pregnancy is essential for the normal brain development of the foetus, and some organochlorine compounds (OCs) can interfere with the thyroid system. The objective of the present study was to evaluate the association between exposure to some OCs and thyroid function in pregnant women from two different areas in Spain, as well as to investigate the potential confounding effect of iodine intake.

Methods  
Thyroid hormones (free T4 and T3) and TSH concentrations, and levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB congeners 118, 138, 153 and 180), hexachlorobenzene (HCB), beta-hexachlorocyclohexane (beta-HCH), dichlorodiphenyl dichloroethylene (p,p’-DDE) and dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane (p,p’-DDT) were measured in 1187 pregnant women from two population-based cohort studies. Urinary iodine concentrations (UIC) were analyzed in spot urine samples and iodine intake from diet, iodized salt and supplements were estimated from a food frequency questionnaire. The association between OCs (log-transformed) and thyroid parameters was assessed using linear regression models adjusted for potential confounders.

Results  
Levels of HCB, beta-HCH and PCBs (congeners 138, 153 and 153) were related to lower total T3 levels (adjusted coefficient (P value): −3.8 (P<0.001), −1.8 (P<0.05), −3.3 (P<0.01), −4.0 (P<0.001), and −4.1 (P<0.001), respectively) and higher free T4 levels (adjusted coefficient (P value): 0.014 (P<0.001), 0.010 (P<0.05), 0.010 (P<0.05), 0.018 (P<0.001), and 0.016 (P<0.001) respectively). The associations with total T3 were homogeneously observed in both cohorts. Iodine intake was not related to OCs exposure.

Conclusions  
Total T3 appears to be the main target of the toxicity of OCs during pregnancy. Moreover, iodine intake may not affect the association between OCs and TH.

P508  
Histopathologic changes of exocrine and endocrine pancreas in stress-exposed female rats  
Tuba Demirci, Elvan Ozbeck & Nuray Bilge  
Department Histology and Embryology, Medical School, Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey.

Objective  
Stress has been linked to several diseases. In the course of stress; blood sugar, cortisil and catecolamine levels increase. Visceral hypersensetivity will increase due to catecholamnergic discharges leading to an over-induction of the intraprancreatic secretion. A chronically stress has a role in the induction of insulin resistance in different tissues and pancreas begins to release excessive insulin causing burned out pancreas. For this reason, it becomes insulin insufficiently, elevated blood sugar and risk of type 2 diabetes.

Aim  
In this study, our aim was to investigate the histopathomorphologic influence of stress on the pancreas at light microscopic level on the rat model.

Methods  
Animals were divided into two groups, stressed and control (n=4/group). Rats of the stressed group were exposed to Chronic mild stress (CMS) model of depression for 2 weeks. During the experiment, rats were given food and tap water ad libitum. At the end of the test, rats were slept with ketamin HCl and sacrificed. The pancreas was totally removed with opening the abdomen and fixed with 10% formaldehyde for histopathological evaluation. Tissue samples were blocked in paraffin blocks. The prepared 5-μ thickness sections were stained with haematoxylin–eosin and examined by light microscopy.

Results  
Our histological observations have showed disruption of normal configuration of serous acini in pancreatic tissue sections of the stress-exposed animals in comparison with the control group. The borders of the acini were broken down and there were cytoplasmatic vacuolations in aciner cells. Additionally, shrunken, apoptotic and necrotic acini were seen together. In stressed animals, sinusoidal dilatation and cellular degeneration were observed in the islets of Langerhans. Mononuclear cell infiltrations in the perivascular and vacuolations in the vascular wall were determined in the interlobular connective tissue of the pancreas.

Conclusions  
According to our data, CMS can lead to evident damage in the microscopic structure of pancreas. At the same time, this case may effect negatively pancreas physiology and cause to the onset diabetes.

Acknowledgement  
This study was supported by the 2008/20-numbered Scientific Research Fund of our University.

P509  
The effect of feeding of aerial part of Vaccinium myrtillus on blood glucose and lipids of diabetic rats  
Mehrdad Roghani1, Tourandokht Baluchnejadmojdar2 & Sameaneh Taheri1  
1Shahed University, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Aim  
Use of medicinal plants for attenuation of hyperglycemia and restoration of lipids to normal level is very important. The effect of oral administration of Vaccinium myrtillus (VM) on serum glucose and lipids in diabetic rats was investigated.

Material and methods  
Female Wistar rats were divided into 4 groups, i.e. control, VM-treated control, diabetic, and VM-treated diabetic groups. The treatment groups received oral administration of plant-mixed pelleted food (6.25%) for 4 weeks. Serum glucose, triglyceride, total cholesterol, LDL- and HDL- cholesterol levels were determined before the study, and at 2nd and 4th weeks after the study.

Results  
Serum glucose level in diabetic group increased 2 and 4 weeks after the experiment in comparison with related data one week before the study (P<0.05) and VM treatment of diabetic rats did have a significant hypoglycemic effect (P<0.01). In addition, triglyceride level in diabetic group increased 4 weeks after the experiment in comparison with related data one week before the study (P<0.05) and there was a significant lower level of triglyceride in VM-treated diabetic rats (P<0.05). Furthermore, there was no significant changes regarding serum total cholesterol, HDL- and LDL- cholesterol levels in treated diabetic group as compared to untreated diabetic group.

Conclusion  
Oral administration of VM has a significant hypoglycemic effect and leads to an appropriate changes only in triglyceride level.

P510  
Effect of silymarin on nerve conduction velocity, hyperalgesia and oxidative stress in experimental diabetic neuropathy  
Tourandokht Baluchnejadmojdar1, Mehrdad Roghani2 & Zeynab Khastehkhodaei1  
1Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Shahed University, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Aim  
Neuropathy is one of the potentially serious late complications of diabetes that occurs in certain tissues as a consequence of long-term hyperglycemia. Oxidative stress has been implicated to play an important role in the pathogenesis of diabetic neuropathy. In the present study, we have investigated the effect of silymarin, as a potent free radical scavenger in streptozotocin (STZ)-induced diabetic neuropathy in rats.
Material and methods
The rats were randomly divided into six experimental groups; i.e. control, vehicle-treated control, silymarin-treated control, diabetic, vehicle-treated diabetic and silymarin-treated diabetic. Diabetes was induced by a single intraperitoneal injection of streptozotocin (60 mg/kg) dissolved in cold 0.9% saline immediately before use.

Results
After 8 weeks of diabetes induction by STZ, rats showed significant deficit in motor nerve conduction velocity (MNCV) and mechanical, chemical and thermal hyperalgesia, indicating development of diabetic neuropathy. Antioxidant enzyme superoxide dismutase level was reduced and malondialdehyde (MDA) level was significantly increased in diabetic rats as compared to control rats. This indicated the involvement of oxidative stress in diabetic neuropathy. The pre-treatment of diabetic rats, 1 h before diabetic induction (200 mg/kg, i.p.) for 8 weeks post-treatment (100 mg/kg, i.p., daily) with silymarin significantly ameliorated the alteration in MNCV, hyperalgesia, MDA levels and antioxidant enzyme in diabetic rats.

Conclusion
Results of the present study suggest the potential of silymarin in treatment of diabetic neuropathy.

P511
Testosterone serum level in haemodialysed male patients positively correlates with adequacy of dialysis
Małgorzata Gasiorwik1,2, Marek Maciejewski1,2 & Krzysztof Marczewski1,2
1Department of Nephrology, Endocrinology, Metabolic and Internal Disease with Dialyses Unit, Voivodship Hospital of Pope John Paul II, Zamosc, Poland; 2University of Management and Administration, Zamosc, Poland.

Introduction
Hypogonadism in men is the increasing problem of the present medicine, specially concerning patients suffering from chronic diseases, e.g. diabetes, chronic kidney diseases. However, there are no enough data referring to haemodialysed patients and correlation with adequacy of dialysis was not found.

Aim
The aim of the study was to assess the gonadal status of male patients receiving dialysis in our ward with reference to parameters of adequacy of renal replacement therapy.

Material and methods
Gonadal status of 51 male patients aged from 31 to 80 (mean 60.55 ± 14.3) was studied. All of them were receiving haemodialysis (3 times a week, 4-5 h for each procedure). Non-fasting plasma was analysed for testosterone, iPSA and luteinising hormone (LH). Dependence of androgens and iPSA levels upon the age and K/Vis was analysed.

Results
Table 1 Outcome Spearman rank correlation for analysed parameters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>R Spearman</th>
<th>T (N-2)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K/V and testosterone</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0.320755</td>
<td>2.1148</td>
<td>0.04086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/V and LH</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0.011416</td>
<td>0.07130</td>
<td>0.94327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/V and iPSA</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>-0.112646</td>
<td>-0.70798</td>
<td>0.483168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age and iPSA</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0.367105</td>
<td>2.44850</td>
<td>0.019724</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion
Complications observed in haemodialysed patients are results of persisting of renal failure or insufficient renal replacement therapy. This is the reason, that the laboratory tests in these patients must be analysed in reference to adequacy of dialysis. It is possible, that the results in various centres may be different, due to kind of renal disease, dialysis regime et ethnic factors.

Conclusion
In our group of haemodialysed male patients testosterone level is positively correlated with adequacy of dialysis.

P512
Effects of permethrin on sexual behaviour and plasma concentrations of pituitary–gonadal hormones in adult male NMRI mice
Jalal Solati, Mahdi Toudar & Neda Abualtabi
Islamic Azad University, Karaj Branch, Karaj, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Background and aim
Pyrethroids are commonly used as insecticides for both household and agricultural purposes, and recently have been shown to have detrimental effects on endocrine system. Permethrin is a type I pyrethroid which is used widely in Iran. In the present study the effects of permethrin on sexual behaviour and plasma level of PG (pituitary–gonadal) hormones of adult male mice were investigated.

Material and methods
Mice received daily Intra peritoneal injection of permethrin (10, 15, 20 mg/kg) for 5 weeks. Using receptive females, permethrin-treated male mice exhibited reduced sexual behavior (i.e. decrease in the number of sniffing, following, mounting and mating).

Results
The concentrations of plasma testosterone, LH and FSH were measured by means of ELISA method. Serum testosterone levels were reduced significantly (P < 0.05) in the experimental group versus control group, whereas FSH and LH values were not altered significantly.

Conclusion
The results of this study indicate permethrin can have detrimental effects on plasma testosterone level and sexual behavior. In regard to considerable use of this insecticide in Iran, it’s necessary to restrain its use and extent of human contact to prevent hazards of this insecticide on human body tissues.

P513
Hyperprolactinaemia in men
Eleni Georgakopoulou, Shota Jagasia, Marina Lomidze, Tamta Bakchadzade, Natai Nozadze, Iasha Uchava & Nino Svanidze
Department of Endocrine Disorders, City Clinical Hospital N4, Tbilisi, Georgia, USA.

The hyperprolactinemic disorder is a syndrome of prolactin hypersecretion. The syndrome is more prevalent in women than in men, but lately, the incidence of the syndrome disease tends to increase in men. Hyperprolactinemic disorder mostly affects men at the age range 40-59 years. Patients at the physician’s consultation have following complaints: erectile dysfunction, infertility, libido reduction, rarely gynecomastia.

Sixteen patients were examined at the Endocrinology department of the medical faculty of Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, clinical and laboratory evaluation showed hyperprolactinemic disorder. The average age of research participants was 19-62 years. The purpose of our research was to study endocrine factors of the disease, clinical setting and the optimal choice of treatment. The following tests and investigations were performed: 1) plasma prolactin 2) plasma free testosterone; 3) plasma ACTH and cortisol; 4) TSH and FT4; 5) liver function tests; 6) ultrasound densitometry; 7 ) MRI. Patient examination and anamnesis revealed following endocrine factors: in 4 cases the hyperprolactemia was linked to primary hypothyroidism, in 3 cases hyperprolactinemia was caused by pharmacologic agents (2 – drug materials and 1 -c-channel blockers), in 1 case previous to hyperprolactinemia there was an onset to infectious diseases, in 4 cases adrenal gland hyperplasia was diagnosed, in 2 events – there was a trauma damage, in 2 cases of hyperprolactinemia endocrine factors were not established. The choice of the treatment made was decided on the bases of anamnesis and clinical–laboratorial investigations. Long term treatment reported positive results in 14 cases.

P514
Association of CTLA4+49 A/G polymorphism with type 1 diabetes in Tunisian population
Bennamour Jihen, Stayoussell Mouna, Almawi Wissam & Mahjoub Touhami
University of Monastir, Monastir, Tunisia.

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is a complex autoimmune disease. Several genetic loci have been implicated in the susceptibility to this illness. Evaluated was the role of the CTLA4 exon 1 A49G polymorphism and its role as a risk factor for T1D in our population. DNA from 120 patients with T1D and 96 control individuals were genotyped for CTLA4 exon 1 polymorphism by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification-restriction enzyme analysis and PCR amplification that used sequence-specific primers, respectively. Patients were nonobese and <26 years old. The CTLA4 G allele was found to be more frequently present in patients with T1D (36.4%) as compared with its frequency in control individuals (18.5%). The GG genotype was also significantly higher among patients (17.6%) than in controls (7.2%). $\chi^2$ analysis and family-based association studies were performed and

suggested the association of CTLA4 exon 1 G polymorphism with T1D (P = 0.02). This study suggests that CTLA4 is a candidate susceptibility gene for T1D.

**P515**

Why does Klinefelter syndrome often remain undiagnosed?

Daria Gusakova,1 Svetlana Kalinchenko,2,1,2 Michael Mikhaleva2

1Scientific and Research Institute of Urology, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Introduction Underdiagnosis and delayed diagnosis of Klinefelter syndrome (KS) is a major problem. KS is revealed only in 25% of the expected number of patients. Early diagnosis facilitates prevention of the long-term consequences of hypogonadism and permits to begin testosterone-replacement therapy optimally. The “prototypic” patient with KS has traditionally been described as tall, thin, with long hips, narrow shoulders, having gynecomastia, small testes, sparse body hair and azospermia. A less similar phenotype, however, has been observed.

Objective To study the phenotypic differences of patients with KS (karyotype 47,XXY). Materials and methods Twenty-six men with KS (karyotype 47,XXY) diagnosed in the age of 15–37 years were examined for height, weight, waist circumference, BMI, testes volume and presence of gynecomastia. Spermorphs of 6 patients complaining on infertility were examined. Results Height of 14 men with KS (53.8%) was within the limits of 180–189 cm. Eight patients (30.8%) were higher than 190 cm. Height of 4 patients (15.4%) was less than 180 cm, that is the medium height of men in Russian Federation. Twelve patients with KS (46.1%) had abdominal obesity (waist circumference more than 94 cm). These were the patients with late diagnosed KS (24 years and older) and, therefore, late start of testosterone-replacement therapy. Gynecomastia was found in 16 patients with KS (61.5%). All patients had small testicular volume (from 1 to 12 cm³) but different density of testes (from very firm till soft in 3 men and even flabby in 2 patients). We examined spermorphs of 6 patients. Four of them had azospermia and 2 had oligospermia of high degree. Conclusion The phenotype of KS patients significantly varies. All the patients with testes volume less than 12 ml, or primary hypogonadism should pass karyotype analysis.

**Paediatric Endocrinology**

**P516**

Short stature in pediatric Cushing’s syndrome: effectiveness of hypercortisolism cure

Rosa Maria Paradisi,1 Rosa Maria Lovicu, Francesco Ingrando, Francesca Ianni, Pietro Locantore, Carlo Antonio Rota, Alfredo Pontecorvi & Salvatore Maria Corsello

Department of Endocrinology, Catholic University School of Medicine, Rome, Italy.

Cushing’s disease (CD) is the most common cause of endogenous Cushing’s syndrome in children and adolescents and represents a rare cause of short stature. A 14-year-old boy came to our attention for progressive weight gain and short stature. Birth length and weight were normal; clinical history was negative for use of glucocorticoids. At examination, height was 140 cm (3rd centile), weight was 37.7 kg (10th centile). Tanner stage was: G2, P3, I3, testis 3 ml. Hypothyroidism and growth hormone deficiency were excluded. A marked increase of urinary free cortisol, a nonsuppressible serum cortisol after Liddle 1 test and an elevated ACTH value confirmed the diagnosis of ACTH dependent Cushing’s syndrome. Pituitary MRI showed a left microadenoma and an other right focal area of lesser enhancement. Therefore, bilateral inferior petrosal sinus sampling (BIPSS) with CRH stimulation was performed to obtain an accurate preoperative localization of the adenoma: the intrapetrosal sinus ACTH gradient indicated lateralization of ACTH secretion to the left side. The patient underwent transphenoidal surgery with selective microadenomectomy, with an immediate ACTH decline in the postoperative phase. Histology confirmed the diagnosis of corticotrophic pituitary adenoma. Glucocorticoid replacement therapy was instituted. Clinical examination demonstrated a rapid catch-up growth (10th centile), with a normalization of body mass index and an adequate pubertal development. This is a rare case of pediatric Cushing disease: one of the most reliable indicators of hypercortisolism in these patients is growth failure associated with weight gain while laboratory data and pituitary MRI are very important tools to confirm the clinical suspicion. In our case, BIPSS was necessary to lateralise the site of ACTH production, because of the co-existence of an ACTH secreting microadenoma and a pituitary ‘incidentaloma’. Transphenoidal surgery allowed a successful remission of hypercortisolism, with a dramatic improvement of auxological parameters.

**P517**

Serum nitric oxide metabolites and clustering of metabolic syndrome components in paediatrics: an exploratory factor analysis

Asghar Ghasemi, Saleh Zadeh-Asl & Fereidoun Azizi

Endocrine Physiology Laboratory, Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Endocrine Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (MC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Objective To determine risk factor pattern of the metabolic syndrome (MetS) and its association with serum nitric oxide metabolites (NOx) in children and adolescents.

Subjects and methods A cross-sectional study was carried out in 409 male and 442 female children and adolescents aged 4 to 19 years. The ethical committee of our institute approved the study. The MetS was defined according to modified ATPIII criteria and factor analysis was used to examine the risk factor pattern of the MetS in entire population and within strata of sex, MetS, and obesity.

Results The prevalence of MetS was 10.8 and 10.0% in males and females respectively. Subjects with MetS had higher age-and-sex adjusted NOx compared to those without MetS (25.2 vs 27.9, P = 0.04). Age-and-sex-adjusted odds ratio of having MetS was significantly higher in the upper quartile of NOx compared to the lower quartile (22.2 vs 9% CI 1.1–4.7, P = 0.05). In the entire study population, three factors were identified including blood pressure/obesity, lipid/obesity, and glucose/NOx: factors that explain 59.9% of the total variance in the data. After stratifying analyses for sex, again three factors were retained in both genders however, NOx was loaded in two factors in males. In subjects without MetS and those who had normal weight, NOx constituted a separate factor while in subjects with MetS and those who were overweight or obese, it loaded with FPG and/or BMI.

Conclusions Serum NOx was associated with MetS in children and adolescents; in addition, serum NOx was loaded with other MetS components especially fasting glucose in the cluster analysis of metabolic risk factors and it may have a unifying role in clustering of MetS components, at least in male subjects.

**P518**

A common deletion in the uridine diphosphate glucuronoyltransferase (UGT) 2B17 gene is a strong determinant of androgen excretion in healthy pubertal boys

Anders Juhl,1 Kaspar Sorensen,1 Lise Aksgrinde,1 Iver Garn,1 Ewa Raipert-deMets1, Ingunn Hullstein2, Peter Hemmersbach2 & Anne-Marie Ottesen2

1Department of Growth and Reproduction, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark; 2Norwegian Owing Control Laboratory, Aker University Hospital, Oslo, Norway.

Testosterone (T) is excreted in urine as water soluble glucuronidated and sulphatated conjugates. The ability to glucuronomate T and other steroids depends on a number of different glucuronidases (UGT) of which UGT2B17 is essential. The aim of the study was to evaluate the influence of UGT2B17 genotypes on urinary excretion of androgen metabolites in pubertal boys.

Study design A clinical study of 116 healthy boys aged 8 to 19 years. UGT2B17 genotyping was performed using quantitative PCR. Serum FSH, LH, T, estradiol (E2) and SHBG were analysed by immunoassays, and urinary levels of androgen metabolites were quantitated by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry in all subjects.

Results Ten out of 116 subjects (9%) presented with a homozygote deletion of the UGT2B17 gene (del/del), while 52 and 54 boys were hetero- or homozygous carriers of the UGT2B17 gene (del/ins and ins/ins) respectively. None of the reproductive hormones were affected by UGT2B17 genotype. In all subjects, mean T was 682 μg/l (0.1–6.8 μg/l) and unaffected by age or pubertal stage. Subjects with homozygous deletions of UGT2B17 had

significantly lower urinary levels of T, and 5α- and 5β-Androstenediol. Mean urinary T/E was significantly reduced in del/del subjects (0.29 (0.30); 0.1–1.0 (range), P < 0.0001).

Conclusion: In pubertal boys, a common homozygous deletion in the UGT2B17 gene strongly affected urinary excretion pattern of androgen metabolites, but did not influence circulating androgen levels.

P519
Sex hormone-binding globulin levels predict insulin sensitivity, disposition index and cardiovascular risk during puberty.
Kasper Soerensen1, Lise Akslaa2,1, Thor Munch-Andersen2, Niels Aachmann-Andersen1, Joern Helge2, Linda Hilsted3, Joergen Petersen1, & Anders Wollgreben1
1Department of Growth and Reproduction, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark;
2Copenhagen Muscle Research Center, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark;
3Department of Biochemistry, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark;
4Department of Biostatistics, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Objective:
Early puberty is associated with increased risk of subsequent cardiovascular disease. Low sex hormone-binding globulin (SHBG) levels are a feature of early puberty as well as conditions associated with increased cardiovascular risk. The aim of the present study was to evaluate SHBG as a predictor of glucose metabolism and metabolic risk during puberty. Research design and methods:
Cross-sectional study on 132 healthy Caucasian children and adolescents evaluated by oral glucose tolerance test, dual energy X-ray absorptiometry scan, direct oxygen uptake measurement during cycle ergometry and fasting blood samples.
Results:
SHBG levels declined with advancement of puberty in both boys (P < 0.001) and girls (P = 0.019). SHBG was statistically significantly positively associated with insulin sensitivity in boys (P < 0.001) and girls (P < 0.001). In addition, SHBG was a strong predictor of insulin sensitivity (P = 0.01) and the only predictor of the disposition index (P = 0.03) after adjusting for puberty, fat mass and aerobic fitness. SHBG was significantly negatively associated with metabolic risk (P = 0.032) independent of fat mass as well as hypersensitive CRP levels (P = 0.004) independent of fat mass and insulin sensitivity.

Conclusions:
SHBG was a strong predictor of insulin sensitivity and metabolic risk during puberty. Thus, we hypothesize that SHBG integrates the marked metabolic and body compositional changes that occur during pubertal transition.

P520
Mild hypothyroidism in children with congenital heart malformations
Elena Passeri1, Federica Ermetici2, Massimo Carminati3, Elena Costa4, Laura Fugazzola5, Luca Persani5, Bruno Ambrosi6 & Sabrina Corbetta7
1Endocrinology Unit, Department of Med Surg Sciences, University of Milano, Milano, Italy; 2Pediatric Cardiology Unit, Department of Med Surg Sciences, University of Milano, Milano, Italy; 3Laboratory Clinical Pathology, IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Pavia, Italy; 4Policlinico, Marco Botta, Milano, Italy; 5Policlinico, Regina Elena, Roma, Italy; 6Laboratory of Spermatology, Department of Med Surg Sciences, IRCCS Istituto Auxologico Italiano, University of Milano, Milano, Italy.

Congenital hypothyroidism is frequently associated with congenital cardiac malformations (CCM). Studies in knock-out mice showed that heart and great vessels organogenesis share some nuclear transcription factors with the embryonic thyroid, suggesting that thyroid defects may have a higher prevalence in children with CCM. The present study investigated thyroid function and morphology in 280 children (145 M/135 F, aged 0.3–12 years), affected by CCM (septal defects, dextrocardia, Pallott tetralogy, valvular stenosis). Patients with Down syndrome, recent administration of iodinated contrast agents or receiving amiodarone were excluded. Hypothyroidism was diagnosed in 35 children (12.5%): two were identified at neonatal screening, showed high serum TSH with normal free hormones levels (T4 0.9–1.8 μg/dl (nv 0.8–1.9); T3 3.0–4.0 pg/ml (nv 1.5–4.1)) in absence of low T3 syndrome, consistent with mild or subclinical hypothyroidism. Increased TSH levels were confirmed six months later. No relationship between hypothyroidism and type of CCM as well as age were detected. FreeT4 levels were lower in hypothyroid children compared with 69 age and sex-matched euthyroid children with inter-atrial defects (1.37 ± 0.22 vs 1.46 ± 0.18 ng/ml, mean ± s.d.; P = 0.04). Thyroid autoimmunity was present in only 2 hypothyroid children (5.7%). Thyroid ultrasound revealed normal morphology and echogenicity in all hypothyroid children except in one case with emegiaenia. The mean HSIDS (height standard deviation score) was lower in hypothyroid than in euthyroid children (~0.23 ± 1.3 vs. 0.26 ± 1.3; P = 0.04). This difference was not related to the CCM severity, as it was confirmed when we compared 12 hypothyroid with 93 age and sex-matched euthyroid children with inter-atrial defects and ductus arteriosus (HSIDS-0.68 ± 0.2 vs. 0.40 ± 1.4; P = 0.017). In conclusion, a mild hypothyroidism frequently occurs in children with CCM and is rarely related to thyroid autoimmunity or dysgenesis. Moreover, the subclinical hypothyroidism seems to be associated with a relative stature deficit.

P521
Increased intra-erythrocyte magnesium is associated with gamma-glutamyl transferase in obese children
Maryam Tohid1, Asghar Ghaseimi2, Sreza Hadeghi1, Shamsi Arbab1, Firoozeh Hosseini Isfahani1 & Fereidoun Arazil2
1Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Prevention of Metabolic Disorders Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (MC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Endocrine Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (MC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 3Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Obesity Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (MC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Objective:
To determine the association between markers of hepatic injury and serum, urinary, and intra-erythrocyte magnesium concentrations and dietary magnesium intake in obese children.
Methods:
In a case-control cross-sectional study, we studied 42 obese children and adolescents and 42 sex- and puberty-matched lean controls. Serum, urinary, and intra-erythrocyte magnesium levels, indexes of insulin sensitivity, and liver enzymes were measured. Dietary magnesium intake was assessed using a food frequency questionnaire.
Results:
Obese children exhibited insulin resistance as determined by a higher fasting insulin and the HOMA-IR (P < 0.001) and lower QUICKI indices (P = 0.001); in addition these children had significantly higher intra-erythrocyte magnesium (IEM) concentration than non-obese ones (3.99 ± 1.05 vs 3.35 ± 1.26 mg/dl of packed cells, P = 0.015). Serum, urinary, and dietary magnesium levels were comparable between groups. Among liver enzymes only gamma-glutamyl transferase (GGT) was significantly higher in obese than in non-obese subjects (22.7 ± 9.4 vs 17.1 ± 7.9 U/l, P = 0.002). Positive association was found between GGT and IEM in both groups; however in multivariate analysis, in obese subjects, only GGT (β = 0.375; P = 0.026, model β = 0.38) and, in non-obese subjects, only age (β = -0.466; P = 0.006, model R = 0.47) remained as significant predictors of IEM.

Conclusions:
Increased IEM concentration was seen in insulin resistant obese children; furthermore, serum GGT was associated with IEM independently of body mass index and HOMA-IR.

P522
Iodine levels and thyroid hormones in healthy pregnant women and birth weight of their offspring
Mar Alvarez-Pedrero1,2, Mónica Guxens1,2, Michelle Mendez1, Yolanda Canet3, Rosa Martorell4, Mercedes Espada5, Estel Plana1,2, Marisa Rebagliato1,6, & Jordi Sunyer1,7
1Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology, Barcelona, Spain; 2CIBER Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBERESP), Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Parc Taulí, Sabadell, Spain; 4Hospital de Terrassa, Terrassa, Spain; 5Laboratorio Normativo de Salud Pública, Departamento de Sanidad Gobierno Vasco, Bilbao, Spain; 6Miguel Hernandez University, Valencia, Spain; 7Municipal Institute of Medical Research (IMIM-Hospital del Mar), Barcelona, Spain.


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P524
Clinical and genetic features of type 1 diabetes mellitus and autoimmune thyroiditis combination in Belarusian Children
Liudmila Viazová1, Angelika Solntseva2, Elena Akessonova1,
Tatiana Pokladsko1, Nina Danilenko1 & Michael Maitak1
1City Children’s Hospitals, Minsk, Belarus; 2Belarus State Medical University, Minsk, Belarus; 2Genetic and Cytology Institution, Belarus National Academy of Sciences, Minsk, Belarus.

Background and aims
High correlation is revealed between type 1 diabetes mellitus (DM1) and autoimmune thyroid pathology in children. Several candidate-genes including CTLA, PTPN22, Ins-23Hphl could be associated with the combined autoimmune endocrinopathy. The aim of this study was to define whether polymorphisms of CTLA 49 AG, PTPN22-1858 C/T, Ins-23Hphl 170 genes contribute to DM1 and autoimmune thyroiditis (AT) combination development.

Material and methods
Twenty-nine DM1 patients (group 1) and 22 DM1 + AT (group 2) with mean age of 9.95 (3.9–16.2) and 14.3 (9.8–16.7) years accordingly were genotyped for our investigation. Mean age at DM1 onset and the disease duration in the 1st group was 9.15 (2.4–14.97) years and 1.1 (0–4); 8.85 (4.9–14.93) and 4.2 (0.56–10.37) (P=0.05) in 2nd group correspondingly. AT criteria: typical ultrasonography signs (in 100%), antibodies to thyroid peroxidase (in 83.4% patients > 100 UI, in 26.6% > 500); at DM1 prevalence fed in 8.3% of children. The study started simultaneously in 25% and manifested later in 66.7%. Euthyroidism was observed in 22.7%, subclinical hypothyroidism – in 27.3%, hypothyroidism – in 50% cases. Polymorphism analysis was performed by the PCR method with the specific primers and endonuclease processing of amplified fragments.

Results
We ascertained PTPN22-1858 T risk-allele high frequency occurrence in DM1 children with the increase of heterozygous carriers (5.7% TT and 56.6% CT) in comparison with Belarusian population sample (4.4% TT and 29.3% CT, P<0.01). A significant difference in locus Ins-23Hphl genotype rates was discovered in DM1 children: 86% AA, 7% AT, 7% TT and in the population sample: 52.9% AA, 35.2%AT, 10.7%TT (P<0.001). Significant differences between groups 1 and 2 weren’t revealed in connection with latest AT onset.

Conclusion
The increased risk-allele frequency of PTPN22-1858 T and Ins-23Hphl ? genes was observed in Belarusian children with combined autoimmune endocrinopathy.

P525
LEOPARD syndrome and pilocytic astrocytoma: a random association?
Carmen Vulps1, Cristina Rusu1, Martin Zenker2, Ion Poeta1, Aurora Constantinescu1, Anca Andrei1, Ioana Stoica1 & Eusebe Zbranca1
1University of Medicine, Iasi, Romania; 2Humanagenetisches Institute, Erlangen, Germany.

Leopard syndrome (LS) is a rare autosomal dominant disease of variable penetrance and clinical expression. LEOPARD is an acronym for the major features of the disorder: lentigines, ECG conduction abnormalities, Ocular hypertelorism, pulmonary stenosis, abnormal genitalia, retardation of growth, and deafness. LS is caused by different mutations in PTPN11 gene (protein-tyrosine phosphatase, nonreceptor-type, 11), allelic with Noonan syndrome (NS). The diagnosis is established if multiple lentigines are present in association with at least two other cardinal features. To date, approximately 200 cases have been reported but the real frequency may be underestimated. We present the case of a male patient who was referred to the endocrinological department at the age of 18 for short stature (~3 s.d.) and delayed puberty (Tanner III). The association of multiple lentigines, echiocardiographic abnormalities including large pulmonary stenosis, trivalvular insufficiency, and hypertelorism, suggested the diagnosis of LS, which was confirmed by a heterozygous substitution mutation detected in exon 13 of the PTPN11 gene. Other less frequent features, as triangular face, cafe-au-lait spots, and retinoblastoma were also present. He also presented right spastic hemiparesis and left central facial palsy, and brain IIRM identified a large tumour located mainly in the cerebellum. Partial surgery was performed with improvement of the neurological symptoms. Pathology confirmed pilocytic astrocytoma. To our knowledge, this is the first report of a LS associated with astrocytoma. Tumours as neuroblastoma, choristoma and malignant melanoma have been described in few cases. Dysregulations of the RAS/MAPK (RAS/mitogen activated protein kinase) cascade seem to be the common molecular base for congenital syndromes as LS, NS, type 1 neurofibromatosis (which has an increased risk for astrocytoma). More than that, recent studies implicate aberrant activation of MAPK pathway as a molecular pathogenesis in astrocytoma. Therefore, we wish that LS-astrocytoma may be more than a random association.
**P526**
**Genetic characterization of children with isolated growth hormone deficiency in Turkish population**
Ahmet Arman1, Ajda Côker1, Ergun Cetinkaya2, Bumin Dundar3, Zeynep Sıkılar1, Ozlem Sarioz2 & Atilla Buyukgebe2
1The Faculty of Engineering, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey; 2The Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Kultur University, Istanbul, Turkey; 3The Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, SB Ankara Diskapı Children Hospital, Ankara, Turkey; 4The Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, Süleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey; 5The Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey; 6The Department of Biology, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey; 7The Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, Acibadem Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey.

Background
Isolated growth hormone deficiency (IGHD) is a condition associated with the growth failure of children due to deficient growth hormone (GH) production and action. IGHD occurs in 1/4000 to 1/10 000 births and the most of cases are sporadic and idiopathic. Between 5 and 30% show familial pattern, suggesting a genetic etiology of disease. Mutations on GH-1 gene lead to growth failure and cause IGHD disease.

Objective
Purpose of our research was to characterize mutations on GH-1 gene in children with IGHD in Turkish population.

Methods
Seventy-five Turkish children who were diagnosed to have IGHD were included in this study. DNAs were isolated from patient and specific exon and exon/intron regions of GH-1 gene were amplified with PCR using specific primers. The PCR products for exons and exon/intron boundaries for GH-1 gene were sequenced.

Results
We analyzed the GH-1 gene for mutations in seventy-five patients with IGHD. We previously reported five mutations on GH-1 gene. Furthermore, we defined three more mutations on the GH-1 gene and these are GAAA insertion in the intron 1 and deletions of +83 C residue in the intron 1 and TTC codon encoding F166 at exon 5 of GH-1 gene. These mutations are heterozygote and also novel.

Precise conclusions
One insertion (GAAA) and two deletion mutations were detected in Turkish population and these mutations are novel.

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**P527**
**Growth hormone receptor (GHR) mutations in Turkish children with Laron syndrome**
Ajda Côker1, Ahmet Arman2, Ozlem Sarioz2, Bilgin Yüksel1 & Alev Ozon2
1The Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Istanbul Kultur University, Istanbul, Turkey; 2The Faculty of Engineering, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey; 3The Department of Biology, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey; 4Division of Endocrinology, The Department of Pediatrics, Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey; 5Division of Endocrinology, The Department of Pediatrics, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey.

Background
Laron syndrome (LS) is an autosomal recessive disease characterized by severe postnatal growth failure, short stature, normal or elevated serum GH, and low levels of IGF-I and IGF binding protein-3 (IGFBP-3). The disorder is caused by dysfunction of the growth hormone receptor resulting from mutations in GHR gene.

Objective
Purpose of this research was to describe mutations on GHR gene in five children with Laron syndrome.

Methods
Five children who were diagnosed as Laron syndrome according to the clinical and biochemical test results. Genomic DNAs were isolated from their blood by salting out method. The exons and exon/intron boundaries of GHR for each patient were amplified by PCR using specific primers. The PCR products of the exons for GHR were run on agarose gel electrophoresis, purified and sequenced by forward and reverse primers.

Results
We determined one splice site mutation (70+G→A); two missense mutations (I526L and S404L) and exon 5 deletion polymorphism in GHR from Laron children and they are homozygote. Splice site mutation was caused by substitution of G residue of GT consensus sequence in donor splice site to A residue disrupting consensus sequence at intron 2 of GHR. I526L mutation was created by changing of A residue of ATC codon to C residue leading CTC codon encoding to leucine in one child at exon 10 and 540L mutation occurred by changing of C residue of TCA codon encoding serine to T residue at exon 4 leading TTA codon encoding Leucine. However, no mutation in GHR was found in the two children and they are under investigation for mutations in genes located at more downstream of GHR.

Precise conclusions
One splice site mutation and two missense mutation were detected in three laron patient from five children with Laron in Turkish population.

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**P528**
**Childhood obesity and bone age**
Vassilios Petrou, Athanassia Tertipi, Thomas Georgoulas, Eleini Papastathi, Maria Deligeorgis, Vassiliki Shkara & Asterousia Papathanasiou
Children’s Hospital of Athens P & A Kyriakou, Athens, Greece.

Obese children frequently present with accelerated growth and early puberty.

Objective
To examine the degree of bone maturation in children with simple obesity.

Patients and methods
One hundred eighteen boys with mean chronological age (CA) 9.9 ± 2.2 years (3-13 years) and 102 girls with CA 8.4 ± 2.0 years (3-12 years) with simple obesity (BMI >97th centile for age and sex) were studied. Ninety-five children were prepubertal and 125 were pubertal. Pubertal stage, body mass index (BMI), height SDS (HSDS) were recorded. Bone age (BA) was estimated according to Greulich-Pyle’s standards. The difference between BA and CA (BA-CA) was calculated.

Results
Mean HSDS was greater than average in both sexes (0.93 ± 1.0 for girls and 0.74 ± 1.1 for boys). BA was significantly greater than CA in both sexes (11 ± 2.2 vs 9.9 ± 2.2, P < 0.001 for boys and 9.7 ± 2.4 vs 8.4 ± 2.0, P < 0.001 for girls). There was a statistically significant correlation between BMI and BA for both sexes (r = 0.4, P < 0.001 for boys and r = 0.5, P < 0.001 for girls). Prepubertal and pubertal children had the same degree of bone age acceleration (BA-CA prepubertal 1.0 ± 0.9 versus BA-CA pubertal 1.2 ± 0.6 for boys and BA-CA prepubertal 1.1 ± 0.9 versus BA-CA pubertal 1.3 ± 0.9 for girls. Thirteen percent of girls and 2.1% of boys had precocious adrenarche.

Conclusions
BA is significantly accelerated in obese prepubertal and pubertal children, and is positively correlated with BMI. Obese children tend to be taller than average but as their bone maturation is more advance than CA, final height will not surpass their genetically predicted height.

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**P529**
**The effect of one year of therapy with rhGH on growth velocity in patients with growth hormone deficiency (GHD)**
Teresa Zak, Agnieszka Zubikiewicz & Anna Noczyńska
Department of Endocrinology and Diabetology for Children and Adolescents UM, Wroclaw, Poland.

The authors studied the effect of one year of therapy with rhGH on growth velocity in patients with growth hormone deficiency (GHD). We analyzed 120 patients (85 boys and 35 girls), 6-21.5 years of age (mean 14.2 ± 3.0) treated in Department of Endocrinology and Diabetology for Children and Adolescents, Medical University of Wroclaw. Patients received rhGH in a dose of 0.7-10UKg/week. Partial GHD was diagnosed in 71 cases (52 boys and 19 girls), complete GHD was diagnosed in 49 patients (34 boys and 15 girls). The therapy was started at 11.7 ± 2.9 years. The mean height velocity in the first year of treatment was 8.7± 2.5 cm per year; 8.8 ± 2.6 cm per year in girls and 8.5 ± 2.0 cm per year in boys. The mean height velocity in patients with partial GHD was 8.52 ± 2.07 cm per year; 8.70 ± 1.85 cm per year in girls and 8.62 ± 2.27 cm per year in boys.

The present study shows that there is no statistically significant difference between studied groups.
PS30

The goiter etiology in children of the south west of Romania
Margareta Otilia1, Simedrea Ioan2, Lesovici Marilena1 & Cristina Corina1
1Ist Pediatric Clinic, ‘Louis Turcanu’ Children Hospital, Timisoara, Romania; 2Endocrinology Department, Country Hospital, Timisoara, Romania.

Aim
To study the etiology and the treatment of the non endemic goiter, in our region.

Material and methods
The study group consisted of 67 children (F/M: 48/19; age: 4–17 years old) with non endemic goiter admitted in our hospital during the period, 2003–2008. The diagnostic procedures were represented by: the clinical examination (including the anthropometric measures and puberal stages after Tanner’s criteria), laboratory data (serum cholesterol, triglycerides, urinary iodine), the thyroid function tests (TSH, freeT4, free T3), immunologic parameters (antiTPO and antithyroglobulin antibodies; thyroid ultrasonography (thyroid volume and aspect). The bone age and thyroid MRI were performed in selected cases. All the cases were followed over 36 month under treatment.

Results and discussions
According to the thyroid functional tests, the patients were divided in four groups. Group I: 28 euthyroid patients were treated with iodine and after 1 year the goiter disappeared in 25 patients (89.2%). Group II: 22 hypothyroid patients, (20 with chronic autoimmune thyroiditis (CAT) and 2 cases of dishormonogenesis). All the cases were treated with l-Thyroxin. The goiter decreased after 1 year, especially in the CAT cases. Group III: 9 patients with elevated serum TSH level (subclinical hypothyrom); only the children with high levels of the serum cholesterol were treated with l-Thyroxin. Group IV: 4 cases with autoimmune hypothyroidism were treated, initially, with thiamazol and, subsequently, the children developed hypothyroidism and were treated, with l-Thyroxin.

Conclusions
1. The goiter in childhood may have variable causes; in our region head especially an autoimmune etiology.
2. The treatment depends on the etiology and thyroid function.

PS31

Influence of the exon 3: deleted polymorphism of the GH receptor on glucose and lipid metabolism in GH treated subjects with GH deficiency: results of a preliminary study
Michela Biasiucci1, Chiara Donati1, Mara Maselli2, Patrizia Mella2, Elena Prandi3, Alba Pilotto4, Giorgio Radetti5 & Fabio Buiz6
1Axxoendocrinologia, Clinica Pediatrica, University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy; 2Istituto di Medicina Molecular A. Negrelli, University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy; 3Department of Paediatrics, Regional Hospital, Bolzano, Italy.

GH has contra-insulin actions and exogenous GH can reversibly reduce insulin sensitivity in patients treated with GH. It has been recently reported that the exon 3 – deleted (d3) isofrom of the GH receptor (GHR) appears to be preventive for type 2 diabetes mellitus in adult subjects (GH&IGF Res 2007;17:392). Aim of this study was to investigate possible influences of the GHR-d3 polymorphism on glucose metabolism, lipid profile and BMI in children treated with GH for GH deficiency (GHD). We studied 26 GHD subjects (12 male). Mean age (t.o.) was 20.3 (1.0) years. All had been treated with GH at a mean dose of 0.33 mg/kg per week until final height for 3 to 6 years. Patients’ genotype at GHR-exon 3 locus was determined by simple multiplex PCR. Fasting glucose, insulin, total and HDL-cholesterol, triglycerides, oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT), QUICKI and HOMA-R indexes, systolic and diastolic blood pressure were evaluated at treatment start, each year during treatment and at the end of it. The study protocol was approved by the local Ethical Committee and informed consent was obtained from the subjects and/or subjects’ parents where appropriate. The full-length (fl) GHR exon 3 polymorphism was found in 13 subjects in homozygosity (group fl); d3 was found in 11 subjects in heterozygosity and in 2 in homozygosity (group d3). No differences in the above mentioned parameters were found comparing the two groups at treatment start, during and at the end of treatment. Furthermore, final height (SDS) did not differ between the two groups. On the basis of these preliminary data, d3 does not seem to influence glucose and fat metabolism during GH treatment in GHD subjects.

PS32

‘Hidden’ congenital adrenal hyperplasia: case report
Monica Livia Gheorghiu1,2, Corina Chirita1, Olga Ianas1, Anda Caragheorgheopol1 & Anda Dumitrescu1
1C.I. Parhon Institute of Endocrinology, Bucharest, Romania; 2Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania.

Introduction
Congenital adrenal hyperplasia is a group of autosomal recessive diseases, caused by mutations in the enzymes implicated in the synthesis of cortisol. In females, the classical pattern is characterized by progressive virilisation, short stature and in severe cases, by salt wasting in the newborn.

Results
We present the case of a 14 years old female patient, who was referred to our clinic for primary amenorrhea. Her personal and family history was unremarkable. The patient’s height was normal (166 cm), Tanner stage was B2P5, pubarche occurred at age 7–8 years, external genital organs and blood pressure were normal and she presented only very mild hirsutism on her upper lip (Ferriman-Gallwey score = 2). The pelvic ultrasound revealed a normal-for-age uterus and ovaries. The X-ray of the hand revealed closed growth cartilages. A triptoreline stimulation test showed a pubertal increase in the serum LH levels. Serum pituitary and adrenal hormonal levels were within normal range, except increased androgens: 17 OH-progesterone = 64.70 ng/ml (normal range 0.07–1.7), dehydropiandrostosterone sulphate = 368 µg/dl (45–270), androstenedione = 19.5 ng/ml (0.3–3.5), testosterone = 1.49 ng/ml (0.14–0.76). The abdominal computed tomography showed bilateral adrenal hyperplasia, which was probably due to CYP 21A2 deficiency (genetic testing pending).

Conclusion
Despite high levels of 17 OH-progesterone and adrenal androgens, this adolescent girl with congenital adrenal hyperplasia and amenorrhea had almost no signs of virilisation and a normal height (based on the mid-parental target height), although she had advanced bone age. These features may be suggestive for a concurrent partial peripheral resistance to androgens.

PS33

Prevalence of autoimmune thyroiditis in children with diabetes mellitus
Andrea Veloz, Catarina Coelho, Isabel Manita, Maria Cordeiro, Dolores Passos, Luisa Raimundo & Jorge Portugal
Hospital Garcia de Orta, Almada, Portugal.

Introduction
Type 1 diabetes mellitus (DM1) is frequently associated with other autoimmune diseases. Among children and adolescents, thyroid disease is the most common autoimmune endocrinopathy. The possibility of occult thyroid disease should be considered at diagnosis and when a patient is assessed at the annual review.

Objective
The aim of our study was to determine the prevalence of autoimmune thyroiditis among children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes, followed in our hospital, during one year.

Material and methods
We reviewed the medical records of 66 diabetic patients. The following parameters were analysed: gender, age, age at diagnosis, duration of DM1, hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c), thyroid peroxidase antibodies (TPO Ab), antithyroglobulin antibodies (Tg Ab), thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) and free thyroxine (FT4).

Results
The study included 66 patients, 47% were girls and 53% boys. Mean age 12.9 ± 3.8 years (max: 19; min:4). The mean age at diagnosis was 7.9 ± 2.4 years and the mean disease’s duration was 5.2 ± 3.2 years. HbA1c levels averaged 9.5 ± 1.8%. Eleven children had positive antithyroid antibodies (17%): 11 were positive for Tg Ab, 7 for TPO Ab. Among children with positive antithyroid antibodies, 4 were in euthyroidism, 7 in hypothyroidism, subclinical in 3 and clinical in 4 patients.

Comments
Our data shows indeed the great prevalence for thyroid disease in DM, with 6% of our type 1 diabetic children with hypothyroidism (in the literature, approximately 3.9%). This emphasizes the need to evaluate the thyroid function in diabetic children.
Growth and Developmental Endocrinology

P534
Characterization of growth hormone (GH) mutants R77C and D112G found in patients with retarded growth
Riaa Junnila, Friederike Braig, Katri Piloloinen, Christian Strasburger & Zida Wu
Division of Clinical Endocrinology, Charité Campus Mitte, Charité Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany.

Introduction
Two heterozygous missense mutations R77C and D112G have been identified in GH-1 gene of patients with short stature by Takahashi et al. These patients had high serum immunoreactive GH concentrations but low IGF-1 concentrations, indicating bioactivity of their GH. Separation of GH in patients’ serum by isoelectric focusing revealed the coexistence of mutant and wild type (wt) GH. In order to understand the molecular mechanism of the isolated GH deficiency of these patients, we have studied the biological activity of the two mutants in vitro.

Material and methods
The mutations R77C and D112G were produced by site-directed mutagenesis and the cDNA of wt and mutant GH gene were subcloned into the expression vector pCDNA3.1. Human embryonic kidney cells (HEK-293) were transfected with these plasmids, and secreted wt or mutant GH in supernatants was harvested for the experiments. The mutants were studied in comparison to wt GH by fluorescent immunoassays with different monoclonal antibodies to GH, a binding assay with recombinant GH receptor extracellular domain (rGHBP), a Ba-F-303 cell proliferation assay and a STAT5 transcription assay.

Results
The mutants could be secreted similarly as wt GH from HEK-293 cells. The binding affinity to rGHBP was only 25% of wt GH for mutant D112G and 80% for R77C. However, both mutants achieved about 80% of the maximal biological activity induced by wt GH in Ba-F-303 cell proliferation assay (R77C and D112G) and in STAT5 transcription assay (D112G).

Conclusion
Receptor binding is much more diminished due to the D112G mutation, which is located close to the receptor-binding site 2, than to the R77C mutation, whose position is far away from both binding sites. Both mutants display a modest reduction in their biological activity in comparison to wt GH, which may contribute to the retarded growth of the patients.

P535
The effect of fetal hypothyroidism on carbohydrate metabolism during adulthood in rats
Hamid Farahani, Saleh Zahedi Asl & Asghar Ghasemi
Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Endocrine Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
Thyroid hormones have major effects on regulation of metabolism and function of most cells. A number of prevalent diseases during adulthood have been attributed to the intrauterine status during fetal life. In this study, the effect of fetal hypothyroidism on the carbohydrate metabolism during adulthood investigated. Subject and methods
After mating, the pregnant rats were divided in two, the fetal hypothyroidism (FH) and the control (C) groups. During the gestation period propylthiouracil (PTU) dissolved in drinking water (100 ppm) was administered to the FH group, while the C group consumed tap water. After delivery, the weight of male neonates was measured periodically until the adulthood, adult animals were anesthetized and intravenous glucose tolerance tests (IVGTT) were performed, for which catheters were inserted into the femoral vein and artery and after obtaining the first arterial sample of zero, the glucose solution (0.5 g/kg) was injected and samples were obtained 5, 10, 15, 20, 30 and 60 min. Plasma glucose and insulin concentration were measured using the glucose oxidase and ELISA methods respectively.

Results
Plasma glucose concentration at 5 min after glucose administration in the FH group (239.2±15.6 mg/dl) was significantly higher (P<0.05) than the C group (190.1±4.5 mg/dl). There were no significant differences in plasma insulin concentration between the two groups. Daily water consumption during the gestational period in PTU administered mothers was significantly lower compared to the C group (P<0.05). The body weight of animals throughout the study period was significantly (P<0.05) lower in the FH group compared with the C group.

Conclusion
Fetal hypothyroidism can alter carbohydrate metabolism during adulthood, which may contribute to the diabetes development.

P536
Development of specific monoclonal antibodies and highly sensitive immunoassays for 20 kDa and 22 kDa human growth hormone (hGH)
Zida Wu,1, Emral Devany,1, Giovanna Lima,2, Martin Billinghamre3 & Christian Strasburger3
1Department of Internal Medicine, Campus Charité Mitte, Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 3Medical Clinic, University Hospital Innenstadt, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany.

The physiological and pathophysiological significance of hGH isoforms remains to be fully elucidated. In order to study the two most abundant hGH isoforms 20 and 22 kDa hGH, we have generated monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) against 20 and 22 kDa hGH. The mAbs against 20 and 22 kDa hGH were characterized for their specificity and epitopes with different binding assays as well as by Western blot. The mAb G12 against 20 kDa with lower than 0.05% cross-reactivity to 22 kDa hGH combined with the detection mAb 5C4 were chosen to construct the time resolved fluorescence sandwich assay for 20 kDa hGH. The assay has a working range of 0.02 to 20 ng/ml and the cross-reactivity to 22 kDa hGH is <0.2%. The intra- and inter-assay CVs are 3.5–4.6 and 10.7–16.6% respectively. The recovery is 102.9% and the linearity is 96.3%. The mAb SE1 against 22 kDa hGH with lower than 0.01% cross-reactivity to 20 kDa hGH combined with the detection mAb SB11 were chosen for the 22-kDa sandwich assay construction. The assay has a working range of 0.02 to 50 ng/ml and the cross-reactivity to 20 kDa hGH is <0.1%. The intra- and inter-assay CVs are 4.6–6.7 and 4.2–9.4%, respectively. The recovery is 99.1% and the linearity is 91%. Spiking recombinant growth hormone binding protein (rGHBP) to the hGH samples reduced the concentration measured by both 20 and 22 kDa hGH assays as hGHBP concentration increased. However, the ratios between 20 and 22 kDa hGH remained stable (<15% for 5GHBP from 0 to 2 nM). There is a good correlation between 20 and 22 kDa hGH concentrations in the serum samples from 105 healthy donors (20 kDa = 0.041 ± 0.189×22 kDa, R² = 0.935), indicating the ratios between 20 and 22 kDa hGH are quite constant.

P537
The effect of gestational hypothyroidism on insulin secretion from isolated islets of adult offspring in male rats
Saleh Zahedi Asl1, Hamid Farahani1, Asghar Ghasemi1, Farzaneh Faraji2 & Homa Manaeji2
1Endocrine Physiology Laboratory, Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Endocrine Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University (MC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 2Department of Physiology, The Medical School, Shahid Beheshti University (MC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Introduction
Any abnormalities during pregnancy can affect the growth and development of the fetus and may have a long lasting effect presented during adulthood (intrauterine programming). In this study, the effect of maternal hypothyroidism on insulin secretion from the isolated islets of offspring has been investigated in male rats.

Materials and Methods
In Test group maternal hypothyroidism was induced using 0.02% propylthiouracil in drinking water throughout the pregnancy period while the control animals consumed drinking water alone. Islets were isolated from offspring by collagenase digestion method. Islets were incubated in Krebs ringer solution containing different glucose concentration (5.6, 8.7 and 16.7 mM) in static condition for 60 min. Insulin was measured with rat specific ELISA kit.

Results
The results indicate that the insulin secretion from isolated islets of the offspring from hypothyroid mothers were significantly reduced when were stimulated with glucose (P<0.05).
different glucose concentration \( (P<0.05) \). Thyroid hormone measurements show that the offspring were not hypothyroid at the time of the insulin secretion assessment.

**Conclusion**

From the results of this study, it appears that maternal hypothyroidism can affect insulin secretion capacity and therefore its impact on carbohydrate metabolism and possible role on diabetes induction should be considered.

**P538**

**Short stature in betathalassemia major: a multifactorial condition**

Alice Albu1, Anca Zirnea2, Florentina Vladareanu2, Daniela Voicu2, Larisa Nitu2, Suzana Florea1 & Simona Fica1, 3

1 Elias Hospital, Bucharest, Romania; 2 National Institute of Transfusional Haematology, Bucharest, Romania; 3 University of Medicine and Pharmacy Carol Davila, Bucharest, Romania.

Short stature is a frequent finding among patients with beta-thalassemia major, with a major impact on the quality of life and a multifactorial aetiology.

**Subjects and methods**

Cross-sectional study on 59 patients with thalassemia major who did not reach their final height, with a mean age of 17.37 ± 6.53 years. All patients were evaluated by clinical, biochemical and hormonal parameters.

**Results**

Short stature, defined as height more than 2.5 s.d. below the mean for chronological age was found among 62.7% of the patients. Growth failure was significantly associated with lower serum Hb levels \( (P<0.005) \), higher mean ferritin values \( (P<0.05) \), higher mean transferrin levels \( (P<0.001) \) and \( P<0.05 \) for AST and ALT respectively and early form of hypogonadism (delayed and arrested puberty) \( (P<0.05) \). All hypogonadic patients had hypogonadotropic hypogonadism.

**IGF1** was measured in a subgroup of 19 thalassemic patients. We found that patients with short stature had significantly lower values of IGF1 compared with those with adequate height \( (58.61 ± 2.41 \text{ vs } 207.4 ± 124.5, \text{ } P<0.005) \). Six of the patients with impaired growth were also evaluated for GH reserve by provocative tests and all of them had normal GH responses (peak GH values <10 ng/ml). In our study group 15.5% of the patients presented mild types of primary hypothyroidism (mean TSH 5.8 ± 1.24 μU/ml) without any significant association with short stature.

**Conclusions**

Our results support the involvement of chronic anemia, iron overload, hepatic dysfunction and early form of hypogonadism as pathogenic factors of short stature in thalassemic patients. Although data regarding GH reserve and IGF1 levels are provided by a small group of patients, they suggest that impaired GH–IGF1 axis may be a major contributor to impaired growth.

**Growth Factors**

**P540**

**IGFBP3 and IGFBP2 negatively and positively modulate IGFs autocrine effect in lung cancer cell lines**

Marica Arvigo, Federico Gatto, Pietro Ameri, Diego Ferone & Francesco Minuto

Department of Endocrinology and Medical Sciences and Centre of Excellence for Biomedical Research, University of Genova, Genova, Italy.

Insulin-like growth factors (IGFs) play an important role in the pathogenesis of several neoplasias and the IGF-binding proteins (IGFBPs) may have a role as autocrine/paracrine factors in regulating the local actions of the IGFs. In the present study we investigated IGFI-1, IGFI-2, IGFBP-1, IGFBP-2, and IGFBP-3 production in cultured media from three human lung cancer cell lines (Calu-3, Calu-6, A549) and in human neoplastic and normal lung tissue samples obtained at surgery from 8 patients. Calu-6 cells secreted much more IGF-II than Calu-3 and A549 \( (190, 25, \text{ and } 5 \text{ ng/ml cells respectively}) \) and much less IGF-I \( (0.7, 13, \text{ and } 5 \text{ ng/ml cells}) \). Conversely, IGFBP-1 and IGFBP-3 were most abundant in media conditioned by CALU-3 \( (13 \text{ and } 120 \text{ ng/ml cells respectively}) \) and least abundant in CALU-6 \( (<1 \text{ ng/ml cells}) \). Molar ratio between IGFI-1+IGFI- II and IGFBP-1+IGFBP-3 was much higher in Calu-6 which is also the most actively replicating cell line. Regarding IGFBP-2 we found a higher concentration in Calu-6 than in Calu-3 and A549 conditioned media. In consideration of the enhancing action of IGFBP-2 on IGF biactivity this finding further supports the high replication rate of Calu-6 cell line. Regarding tissue we found a significantly higher concentration of IGI-1 in neoplastic \( (18.3 ± 6.6 \text{ ng/g of tissue}) \) than in normal \( (7.8 ± 1.5 \text{ ng/g of tissue}) \) lung tissue in all subject studied. IGF-II concentration was higher than IGF-I, but the difference between neoplastic and normal tissue was not significant \( (90.3 ± 15.5 \text{ and } 61.1 ± 11.8 \text{ ng/g of tissue respectively}) \). Neither the normal nor the neoplastic lung tissue produced significant amounts of IGFBP-1. IGFBP-2 and IGFBP-3, as evaluated by immunosassays and immunoblot were predominantly expressed in neoplastic tissue as compared to normal. These data rise the possibility that IGFBPs are important modulaters of lung cancer proliferation by inhibiting (IGFBP-3) or stimulating (IGFBP-2) the autocrine mitogenic effects of IGFs.

**Histopathologic changes in pregnant rat pancreas**

Elvan Ozbek & Tuba Demirci

Department of Histology and Embryology, Medical School, Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey.

**Objective**

Placental lactogen (PL) produced by the placenta stimulates lipolysis and fatty acid metabolism in the mother. PL is an anti-insulin hormone. It adjusts the metabolic state of the mother during pregnancy to make easy the energy supply of the fetus. It also reduces maternal tissue sensitivity to insulin, leading to gestational diabetes. A moderate hypertriglyceridaemia due to uncontrolled diabetes may be noticeably worsen by the gestation. As a result, acute hypertriglyceridaemic pancreatitis may occur in the pregnancy. In this study, pancreas was histopathologically examined on the pregnant rat model in order to investigate how and in what level the pancreas is affected from the gestation.

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**P541**

**Exogenous growth hormone administration effects organ weights but does not markedly change serum IGF-I levels in common mice**

Moritz Kummann, Max Bielholty, Jenny Manopoulou & Martin Bielingmaier

Medizinische Klinik-Innenaustadt, LMU, Munich, Germany.
Mice overexpressing growth hormone (GH) have about two-fold higher IGF-I and clear increases in body and organ weights. Moreover, administration of GH to hypophysectomised or dwarf mice has been shown to increase IGF-I. Data on the short term effects of exogenous administration of rhGH in normal rodents remain scarce. Therefore, we measured IGF-I before and after one week of GH-treatment in 10-week-old female mice, injected daily with two different doses of rhGH; 0.5 mg/d (GH-1) and 0.125 mg/d (GH-2). Controls (C) received equal volumes of 0.9% NaCl.

Liver, heart, kidneys, adrenals, perirenal and abdominal fat pads were excised and weighed. After one week, mice were heavier with both doses of GH. Bodyweight (BW) increased by 6% under high dose GH-administration (P<0.05), whereas control mice did not show any BW-gain. Liver weights were significantly higher in both GH-groups compared to control groups (GH-1: 1.27 ± 0.06 g; GH-2: 1.39 ± 0.12 g; C: 1.15 ± 0.03 g; P<0.001). Weights of kidney, heart and adrenals were higher under both GH doses compared to controls, but only increases in heart weight of GH-2 reached statistical significance (P<0.05). No differences were present in perirenal fat pad weights, whereas abdominal fat pad weights were dramatically lower by about 50% in GH-1 when compared to controls (P<0.05). Surprisingly, neither GH-1 nor GH-2 showed significant change in IGF-I levels, when compared to control animals (GH-1: 445 ± 104 ng/ml; GH-2: 576 ± 54 ng/ml; C: 435±136 ng/ml. GH-1 and GH-2 versus C P=0.9 or 0.57, respectively). In GH-1 group, serum IGF-I levels were unchanged before and after one week of GH treatment (P=0.46).

In conclusion, administration of supraphysiological doses of GH to healthy adult mice led to profound changes in BW, liver weight and visceral adipose tissue. However, despite these effects we could not detect any change in IGF-I. Our data suggests that IGF-I is not a suitable pharmacodynamic marker of GH-action in ordinary rodents.

**PS43**

Effects of intraperitoneal glibberelic acid (GA3) on IGF-1 and growth hormone (GH) in the rats

Berna Afacan, Nuray Erin, Ozkan Ulusoy & Mustafa Kemal Balci

Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey.

Plant growth factors are used commonly in agriculture. The effect of these factors on human health is unknown. Giberrellins are the most commonly used growth factors that have the structure of Diterpenoid acid. One of the giberrellins (GA3) induces tumor formation in mice but the mechanism of action is not known. We here examined changes in levels of GH and IGF-1 and examined whether there is a correlation between growth factors’ levels and weight changes.

Male Wistar Albinio rats were used and all the injections were made i.p. We had five experimental groups. Single high dose of GA3 was given to group 1 (20 mg/kg); Single injection of solvent was given to group 2; 2 mg/kg GA3 was given to group 3 for 30 days; 20 mg/kg GA3 was given to group 4 for 30 days and lastly solvent of GA3 was injected to group 5 for 30 days.

At the end of the experiment, levels of GH and IGF-1 was measured in serum, liver and kidney. Although GH and IGF-1 levels were not changed in the serum, GH levels in liver was decreased significantly in group 1 (P<0.05). IGF-I levels in liver decreased in group 3, but this effect was returned to control levels in group 4. In renal tissue IGF-1 levels decreased in group 1 (P<0.05), but increased significantly in group 3 and 4 (P<0.05). Weight of the animals increased significantly in group 3 compared to group 5 only at the second week, while it increased continuously (P<0.05) in group 4 compared to group 5. This is the first report demonstrating that GA3 alters GH and IGF-I levels.

**Neuroendocrinology, Pituitary and Behaviour**

**PS44**

The effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors on the thyroid axis in perimenopausal depression

Sokratis Karaozdzian1, Andreas Rizoulis2, Georgios Lalios1, Efren Damiani1, Katerina Rizoulis2, Nikos Lalios1, Alexandros Papadimitris1 & Nikiforos Angelopoulos1

1Department of Psychiatry, University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece; 2Department of Medicine, Psychiatric Hospital of Attiki, Athens, Greece; 3Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University Hospital of Larissa, Larissa, Greece; 4Biochemical Laboratory, University Hospital of Larissa, Larissa, Greece; 5Department of Neurology, University Hospital of Larissa, Larissa, Greece.

Introduction:

There is a great interest in the association of thyroid hormones and mood. Although it appears to be important interactions between the central regulation of mood and the thyroid axis, the effects of antidepressants and especially of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) remain ambiguous. We investigated the thyroid function in perimenopausal women suffering from depression.

Material and methods

We examined 102 perimenopausal women. Twenty-three of them had depression without taking any medication, 20 of them had depression and were on treatment with SSRIs and 59 were normal. All women were between the ages 40 and 55 and presented with a history of menstrual cycle irregularity of at least 6 months duration but not longer than 1 year of amenorrhea. We measured plasma levels of T3, FT4 and TSH.

Kruskal-Wallis test was applied to evaluate the relationship between plasma hormone levels and the use of SSRIs.

Results

Depressed women using SSRIs had a higher level of T3 than the other two groups (P<0.03). Serum TSH and FT4 were similar in the three groups.

Conclusions

Our results demonstrate that depressed perimenopausal women who take SSRIs have a higher serum concentration of T3. It is known that T3 is used as an augmentation therapy in treatment resistant depression. Subsequently, we could suppose that the rise of T3 levels is one mechanism of SSRIs to fight depression.
**Pre-treatment IGF-I concentrations predict radiographic osteoarthritic changes in acromegalic patients with long-term laronise disease**

Nienke R Biermasz, Moniek J E Wessaena, Agatha A van der Klauw, Alberto M Pereira, Johannes W A Smit, Ferdinand Roelfsema, Ron Wolterbeek, Herman M Kroon, Margreet Kloppenburg & Johannes A Romijn

Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.

**Objective**

To identify factors influencing the development of osteoarthritis during long-term control of acromegaly, focusing on disease specific parameters, growth hormone (GH) and insulin-like growth factor I (IGF-I) concentrations and duration of disease, adjusted for the well-known determinants of primary osteoarthritis.

**Design**

Follow-up study.

**Methods**

We studied 67 patients, with adequate biochemical control of acromegaly for a mean of almost 13 years. Study parameters were the results of radiological assessment of the spine, hip, knee, and hand. Osteoarthritis was defined as radiological osteoarthrosis using the scoring system developed by Kellgren and Lawrence (K&L). Correlations between potential factors of influence and osteoarthrosis were performed by analysis of covariance and adjusted for age, gender and body mass index (BMI).

**Results**

Patients with pre-treatment IGF-I standard deviation (s.d.) scores in the highest tertile had an almost four-fold increased risk for radiological osteoarthrosis of the hip when compared with patients in the lowest tertile. After adjustment for age, gender, BMI, and disease duration, pre-treatment IGF-I s.d. predicted radiographic osteoarthrosis in all joint sites. Osteoarthritis was not predicted by other factors including pre-treatment GH levels, type of treatment, and duration of follow-up.

**Conclusion**

The severity of acromegaly at diagnosis reflected by the height of pretreatment IGF-I concentrations is a predictor of radiographic osteoarthrosis in acromegalic patients also after with long-term disease control.

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**Effects of 3 years growth hormone (GH) replacement in adults-onset growth hormone deficiency (GHD) due to controlled Cushings’s disease (CD)**

Charlotte Høybye, Peter J Jonsson, Ulla Feldt-Rasmussen, Oskar Ragnarsson, Pejer Trainner, Beverly Biller & Maria Koltowska-Haggstrom

1Department of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetology, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden; 2KIMS Medical Outcomes, Pfizer Endocrine Care, Sollentuna, Sweden; 3Department of Medical Endocrinology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; 4Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden; 5Department of Endocrinology, Christie Hospital, Manchester, UK; 6Neuroendocrine Unit, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

**Objective**

Our study evaluates the contribution of untreated GHD to the phenotype in controlled CD, by comparing patients with GHD due to CD (n=32) and those with non-functioning pituitary adenoma (NFPAs n=748) before and after 3 years of GH treatment.

**Methods**

The patient cohorts were obtained from KIMS (Pfizer International Metabolic Database) and matched for age and gender. Duration between pituitary disease onset and GH start was 9.7 (CD) and 6.6 years (NPA) (P<0.001).

**Results**

At baseline, there were no differences in IGF-I SDS, BMI, body composition, triglycerides or HDL-cholesterol. Total cholesterol (5.7±1.7 mmol/l vs 5.9±1.23 (P<0.05)), LDL-cholesterol (3.5±1.0 mmol/l vs 3.8±1.09 (P<0.01)), glucose (4.7±1.21 mmol/l vs 4.8±0.97 (P<0.01)) were more favourable in CD than NPA. (Qd-AGHDA (14.6±6.4 vs 11.3±7.5 (P=0.001)) indicated poorer quality of life (QoL) in patients with CD. The mean starting GH dose was 0.22 mg/day in both groups; maintenance doses were 0.39 (CD) and 0.37 mg/day (NPA). Mean IGF-I SDS increased similarly (by ~2 SDS).

After 3 years of GH, BMI increased only in CD (0.3±3.9 kg/m² P<0.01) while waist circumference decreased only in NPA (~1.2±6.6 cm P<0.001). There was a reduction in total (~0.6±1.2; ~0.5±1.1 P<0.001) and LDL-cholesterol (~0.6±1.0; ~0.5±0.9 P<0.001) in CD and NPA, respectively, while HDL-cholesterol and triglycerides were unchanged. Glucose and HbA1C increased similarly in both groups (P<0.01). Improvement in QoL (a decrease in Qd-AGHDA scores) was observed in both groups (~6.2±6 in CD and ~5±6 in NPA), with greater improvement in the CD group (P<0.01). No other changes were significantly different between the groups.

**Conclusion**

Patients with CD and GHD had better metabolic profile and poorer QoL than those with NPA before GH replacement and experienced greater QoL improvement with GH treatment. Untreated GHD may contribute to the phenotype of controlled CD.

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**The cost-effectiveness of growth hormone (GH) treatment (Genotropin®) in adult patients with growth hormone deficiency (GHD)**

Kristian Bolin, Bjorn Jonsson, Maria Koltowska-Haggstrom, Christin Prutz & Rickard Sandin

1Department of Economics and Lund University Centre for Health Economics, Lund, Sweden; 2Department of Women’s and Children’s Health, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden; 3KIMS Medical Outcomes, Pfizer Endocrine Care, Sollentuna, Sweden; 4Pfizer Sweden AB, Sollentuna, Sweden.

**Objective**

To evaluate the cost-effectiveness of treatment with Genotropin® in adult patients with idiopathic GHD.

**Methods**

The cost-effectiveness of GH treatment was evaluated based on a Markov model. The model was run for 30 years considering a patient population aged 18–64 years. The general population was stratified into 10 age groups (10–14, 15–19, 20–24, 25–29, 30–34, 35–39, 40–44, and 45–49 years). The analysis was performed from the societal perspective.

**Results**

The cost-effectiveness of GH treatment was compared with the following scenarios: no treatment, treatment with oral hypoglycemic drugs, and treatment with a proton pump inhibitor. The cost-effectiveness of GH treatment was assessed by the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) compared to the alternative treatments. The ICER was calculated as the difference in cost between GH treatment and the alternative treatment divided by the difference in effectiveness. The effectiveness was measured in terms of quality-adjusted life years (QALYs).

**Conclusion**

The cost-effectiveness of GH treatment was found to be cost-effective compared to the alternative treatments. The ICER was below the threshold of €30,000 per QALY, indicating that GH treatment is a cost-effective treatment option for adult patients with idiopathic GHD.
**P549**

**High TSH levels in healthy pregnant women are related to a decrease in motor development of their children at 14 months of age**

Mar Alvarez1,2, Jordi Jülve1, Mónica Guxens1,2, Águeda Rodriguez1, Rosa Martorell1, Mercedes Espada1 and Jordi Sunyer2,3

1Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology, Barcelona, Spain; 2CIBER Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBERESP), Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Parc Taulí, Sabadell, Spain; 4Hospital de Terrassa, Terrassa, Spain; 5Laboratorio Nacional de Normativa de Salud Pública, Bilbao, Spain; 6Municipal Institute of Medical Research (IMIM-Hospital de Mar), Barcelona, Spain.

**Objectives**

The fetus is dependent on maternal thyroid hormones during pregnancy and an adequate thyroid function during pregnancy is essential for the normal brain development. The effects of subclinical hypothyroidism during pregnancy are poorly known. The present study assesses the association between thyroid hormones and thyrotropin in healthy pregnant women from the general population, and the neurodevelopment of their children at the age of 14 months.

**Methods**

A total of 555 pregnant women were recruited in Sabadell (Spain) and levels of thyroid hormones (free thyroxine (free T4) and total triiodothyronine (total T3)) and thyrotropin (TSH) in serum were measured at first trimester of pregnancy. Those women with thyroid pathology were excluded from the analysis. Mental and motor development of their children were assessed using Bayley Scales of infant development at 14 months of age. We used multivariate regression adjusted for potential confounders to evaluate the association between TH and TSH, and the neurodevelopment of the children.

**Results**

TSH levels at first trimester of pregnancy were negatively associated with psychomotor development index (PDI) (adjusted-coefficient: −0.05 P value = 0.038) of their children at 14 months of age. No association was found between free T4, total T3 and TSH and mental developmental index (MDI).

**Conclusions**

High TSH levels in healthy pregnant women from the general population have an adverse effect on motor development at 14 months of age. There is a need to establish thyroid hormones and TSH reference ranges during pregnancy in relation to developmental outcomes of the children.

**P550**

**Growth hormone receptor polymorphism and the effects of pegvisomant in acromegaly**

Antonio Bianchi1, Gherardo Mazzotti2, Laura Tiliro1, Vincenzo Cimino1, Teresa Porcelli1, Marilda Mommolo1, Linda Tartaglione1, Alfredo Pontecorvi1, Andrea Giustina1 & Laura De Marinis1

1Department of Endocrinology, School of Medicine, Catholic University, Rome, Italy; 2Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy.

Clinical trials have demonstrated that pegvisomant therapy is highly efficacious, normalizing serum IGF-I levels in the majority of patients with acromegaly. Multiple factors could influence the dose of pegvisomant required to normalize IGF-I, which ranging from 10 to 40 mg/day. However, the determinants of this variability are unknown and, to date, there is no specific recommendation to adjust the dose to the type of patient. Lack of exon 3 of the Growth Hormone receptor (d3- GHR) has been associated with increased responsiveness to GH therapy and with a more morbid acromegalic clinical and biochemical picture. Aim of our study was to assess whether the presence of polymorphism of GH receptor may have a role in predictive dose regimen and responsiveness to pegvisomant in acromegaly. We studied a cohort of 19 acromegalic patients with active disease after unsuccessful neurosurgery and somatostatin analogs therapy. All patients started treatment with pegvisomant at 10 mg daily and then increased during a 12-months follow-up until normalize IGF-I levels. The genotype of the GH receptor was determined from peripheral blood. The patients carries of d3-GHR genotype required a significant lower dose and shorter treatment time to normalize IGF-I. In conclusion, we demonstrate that in acromegaly the GHR genotype could be useful in predicting dose and individual response to pegvisomant in acromegaly.

**P551**

**The low-dose ACTH stimulation test in the assessment of outcome of pituitary surgery for Cushing’s disease**

Rehmat A Alwani, Wouter W De Herder, Frank H de Jong, Aart-Jan Van der Lely & Richard A Feelders

Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

**Objectives**

To evaluate the results of the early postoperative low-dose (1 μg) ACTH (adrenocorticotropic) stimulation test in patients with Cushing’s disease (CD) in order to predict long-term outcome of transphenoidal surgery.

**Methods**

We reviewed the serum cortisol response to 1 μg synthetic ACTH (1–24) in the second week after pituitary surgery in 40 patients with Cushing’s disease. Median follow-up was 48.5 months (range 6–106).

**Results**

Eighty-eight percent of patients in sustained remission (cure) recorded peak cortisol concentrations below 774 nmol/l (28.0 µg/dl) after stimulation with 1 µg synthetic ACTH. All patients with recurrent disease after initial remission (relapse) also showed ACTH stimulated peak cortisol levels below 774 nmol/l. All patients with persistent Cushing’s disease after surgery (failures), except one, noted absolute peak cortisol levels greater than 774 nmol/l in response to ACTH stimulation.

**Conclusion**

The postoperative low-dose ACTH stimulation test can be useful in testing the integrity of the pituitary–adrenal axis after pituitary surgery. In patients with Cushing’s disease, the low-dose ACTH stimulation test has a sensitivity of 95% and a specificity of 88% in predicting immediate remission after pituitary surgery. Successful resection of a corticotroph adenoma causes a sudden drop in circulating plasma levels of endogenous ACTH. Subsequent down-regulation of ACTH-receptor expression in the adrenal cortex might explain the relative hyporesponsiveness to exogenous ACTH stimulation in patients in remission after pituitary surgery compared to patients with persistent Cushing’s disease.

**P552**

The D3 GH receptor polymorphism is associated with osteoarthritis, especially of the hip, in patients with long-term cured acromegaly

Moniek JE Wassenaar, Nienke R Biermaz, Agatha A van der Klaauw, Johannes WA Smitt, Alberto M Pereira, Ferdinand Roelofsema, Tahar van der Straaten, Herman M Kroon, Margreet Kloppenburg, IJH Guchelaar & A Johannes Romijn

Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Objective
To evaluate the impact of the genomic deletion of exon 3 in the growth hormone receptor (dGHR) on co-morbidities of acromegaly in a well-characterized cohort of patients with long-term remission of acromegaly.

Design
Cross sectional study.

Methods
The presence of the dGHR polymorphism was assessed in 86 acromegalic patients and related to clinical outcome, i.e. anthropometric parameters, osteoarthritis, and the metabolic syndrome (MS), after long-term disease control.

Results
Fifty-one patients had two wild-type alleles (59%), whereas 29 patients (34%) had one allele, and 6 patients (7%) had both alleles encoding for the dGHR isoform. The presence of one allele of the dGHR was associated with an increased prevalence of osteoarthritis, especially of the hip (52 vs 26%, P = 0.03), and remained significant when adjusted for age, gender, BMI, and duration of active disease. Other factors representing long-term clinical outcome, i.e. cardiovascular risk factors like hypertension, high body mass index, abdominal obesity and spinal disc degeneration were not significantly different between patients with and without the dGHR genotype.

Conclusion
The dGHR polymorphism is associated with the development of osteoarthritis, especially of the hip, but not with other co-morbidities, in patients with long-term cured acromegaly.

PSS3
Ghrelin as new provocative test for the diagnosis of GH deficiency in adults
Valentino Gasco1, Silvia Rovere1, Giugliermo Beccuti2, Fabio Brogli1, Gianluca Aimaretti1, Silvia Grotti1, Felipe Casanueva1 & Enzo Ghigo1
1Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Turin, Turin, Italy; 2Endocrinology, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Eastern Piedmont, Novara, Italy; 1Endocrine Division, Department of Medicine, Santiago de Compostela University, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

ITT is the test of reference for the diagnosis of adult GH deficiency (GHD), but it is recognized that also GHRH in combination with arginine (ARG) or GH secretagogues (GHS) are equally reliable tests. It has also been suggested that testing with GHS would represent a potent stimulus exploring also the integrity of hypothalamic pathways controlling somatotropic function. We therefore aimed to clarify the diagnostic reliability of testing with ghrelin, the natural GHS. We studied the GH response (every 15 min from −15 to +120 min) to acetylated ghrelin (1 μg/kg i.v. at 0 min) in 42 patients with history of pituitary disease (HYPOPT, 34 M, 8 F; age (mean ± S.D.): 49.3 ± 19.3 years; BMI: 26.9 ± 5.6 kg/m²). As gold standard for the diagnosis of GHD we assumed the lack of GH response to GHRH + ARG and/or the lack of GH response to ITT. We tried to identify the best GH cut-off to ghrelin test, defined as the one with the best sensitivity and specificity, using the Receiver-Operating Characteristic Curve (R.O.C.) analysis. The GH response to ghrelin in GHD patients was lower than that in noGHD (3.0 ± 4.7 vs 18.9 ± 12.9 μg/L, P < 0.0005). The GH response to ghrelin was similar to that after GHRH + ARG both in GHD (3.7 ± 2.8 μg/L) and in noGHD (19.9 ± 9.6 μg/L) but clearly higher than that elicited by ITT (GHD: 1.3 ± 1.3 μg/L, P < 0.05; noGHD: 10.4 ± 8.7 μg/L). The best GH cut-off to ghrelin test was 3.2 μg/L, with a sensitivity and specificity value of 80.6 and 90.9%, respectively, and diagnostic accuracy of 83.3%. In conclusion, these preliminary results indicate that testing with acetylated ghrelin would represent a reliable diagnostic tool for the diagnosis of adult GHD.

PSS5
Characterisation of PARS, a novel putative pituitary regulatory hormone for somatostatin
Marie Helene Reiter1, Greisa Vila1, Engelbert Knosp2, Ludwig Wagner1 & Anton Lugner1
1Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Department of Medicine III, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria; 2Department of Neurosurgery, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.

We present data on open reading frame 62 encoded on human chromosome 6 (Corf62), a gene whose protein expression and function has not been described to date. The gene product of Corf62 was designated pituitary associated regulator of hormone secretion (PARS).

Initial gene expression screens showed that PARS transcription is differentially regulated in secreting and non-secreting pituitary adenomas, as well as in normal pituitary tissue. Inspired by these findings, Corf62 was amplified by PCR from HEK293 cDNA using specific primers. To investigate the gene product of Corf62, it was ligated into an expression vector with an N-terminal His-tag and expressed in E. coli. Western blotting using an anti-His antibody confirmed the expression of a 30 kDa recombinant His-tagged protein from Corf62.

The open reading frame of PARS is comprised of five exons, which are encoded by 689 bp. The resulting protein consists of 229 amino acid residues. PARS is highly conserved throughout species, with 100% similarity to predicted mouse and rat homologues and consistently high conservation in zebrabird and chicken. However, no sequence similarity to proteins with known function was found. The PARS promoter contains numerous consensus binding sites for transcription factors, including CREB (cAMP response element binding), AP-1 (activator protein 1) and GR (glucocorticoid receptor).

Real-time PCR analysis revealed that PARS mRNA is highly expressed in pituitary tissue, and significantly down-regulated in pituitary adenomas, including somatotrophinomas, corticotrophinomas and prolactinomas, with particularly low expression in non-functioning pituitary macroadenomas. Its expression negatively correlates with tumour size. Ongoing experiments are investigating the role of PARS in pituitary hormone secretion and cell proliferation.

PSS5
Screening for neuroendocrine dysfunction in patients after spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage
Sandra Pekic Djurdjevic1, Vladimir Jovanovic1, Marko Stojanovic1, Branko Djurovic1, Mirjana Dokme1, Dragana Milija1, Marina Nikolic-Djurovic1 & Vera Popovic1
1Institute of Endocrinology, University Clinical Center, Belgrade, Serbia; 2Institute of Neurosurgery, University Clinical Center, Belgrade, Serbia.

Screening subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) is a recently identified risk factor for hipopituitarism, especially growth hormone (GH) and corticotroph deficiencies. The aim of this study is to perform the initial screening procedure to identify the patients with increased risk of neuroendocrine dysfunction after SAH in the chronic phase and to identify the possible predictor(s) for neuroendocrine dysfunction. Ninety-one patients (30 males, 61 females), age between 19 and 69 years (48.0 ± 11.1 years), with BMI 24.7 ± 0.5 kg/m² and good outcome (GOS 4.6 ± 0.6) were tested 18.0 ± 2.0 years after SAH. Some patients experienced vasospasm (VS, n = 18) and/or hydrocephalus (HDC, n = 9) during acute SAH. At baseline, serum samples for insulin-like growth factor I (IGF-I), thyroxine (T4), TSH, FSH, LH, testosterone (in males), estradiol (in females), prolactin and cortisol were taken. During screening procedure, according to the baseline hormonal evaluation, 42 of 91 (46.2%) had normal pituitary function. Eleven SAH patients (12.1%) had multiple pituitary hormone abnormalities, with two pituitary axes affected in 10, and three pituitary axes affected in one patient. Thirty-eight SAH patients (41.7%) were diagnosed as isolated pituitary hormone abnormality. A total of 25 SAH patients (27.5%) exhibited low IGF-I level, indicating the need for GH provocative testing for diagnosis of GH deficiency (GHD); in fifteen as an isolated abnormality and in additional 10 patients combined with other pituitary hormone abnormalities. Eighteen SAH patients (19.8%) exhibited low morning cortisol level (in 12 patients as an isolated abnormality). Low TSH and T4 levels were seen in two patients. Two of 30 males and three of 61 female patients had gonadotroph deficiencies, in one female combined with other pituitary hormone abnormalities. Hyperprolactinemia was diagnosed in 3 patients. The VS and HCT during acute phase of SAH were related to abnormal pituitary hormonal tests – VS with low IGF-I levels and HCT with low cortisol levels. In summary, during initial screening procedure, neuroendocrine dysfunction was identified in a substantial portion of patients with previous SAH and some predictor factors for these abnormalities were identified. Further pituitary function testings are mandatory in these patients.

PSS5
Combined treatment for acromegaly with long-acting somatostatin analogues and pegvisomant: long-term safety up to 4.5 years of follow-up in 86 patients
Sebastian Naggers, Wouter De Herder, Joop Janssen, Richard Feeldon & Aart-Jan Van Der Lely
Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
Impact of long-term growth hormone (GH) substitution on lipid metabolism and bone mineralisation (BMD) in pituitary insufficient patients with growth hormone deficiency (GHD)

Joséfline Runerger, Kurt Kreuzler & Jochen Schopfel
Department of Internal Medicine (Endocrinology)-Innenstadt, University of Munich, Munich, Germany.

Introduction
Growth hormone (GH) is a lipolytic hormone with pleiotropic metabolic functions. The effects of long-term GH substitution in pituitary insufficient patients with growth hormone deficiency (GHD) on lipid metabolism and bone mineralisation (BMD) have yet to be ascertained.

Methods
We measured fasting total cholesterol, low density lipoprotein (LDL), high density lipoprotein (HDL), triglycerides, glucose and insulin concentrations in 52 GHD on constant hormone replacement for pituitary insufficiency (21/31m, median age 51.5 years (27-82)). Twenty-two GHD were additionally on constant GH substitution (GH-Sub) for at least 2 years (median 10 years (2-42 years)). Thirty age- and BMI-matched GHD had not been substituted for at least 2 years (non-Sub). Five GH-Subs and 4 non-Subs received medical treatment for lipid metabolism (GH-Sub: 4 statins, 1 fibrate, non-Sub: 3 statins, 1 fibrate). One non-Sub was on bisphosphonate therapy for treatment of osteoporosis. BMD was measured by Dual-Energy-X-Ray-Absorptiometry. Osteoporosis was defined according to the World-Health-Organization.

Results
Total cholesterol, LDL, HDL and triglycerides were not significantly different between GH-Sub and non-Sub (total cholesterol 214 mg/dl (162-295) vs 205 mg/dl (149-309), LDL 133 mg/dl (85-218) vs 129 mg/dl (65-218), HDL 57 mg/dl (31-84) vs 48 mg/dl (14-93), triglyceride 123 mg/dl (55-292) vs 134 mg/dl (41-923). Glucose was significantly lower for GH-Sub than non-Sub (87 mg/dl (71-103) vs non-Sub 89 mg/dl (71-113), P < 0.05), whereas insulin did not differ significantly (0.10 ìU/ml (4-42) vs non-Sub 0.10 ìU/ml (4-63)). Furthermore, BMI, BMD and T-scores did not differ significantly between the two groups (BMD: GH-Sub: 11.8 g/cm² (0.97-1.39) vs 1.14 g/cm² (0.92-1.32), T-score: GH-Sub: -0.3 (-2.4-2) vs -0.2 (-2.7-1.3)). The percentage of patients having osteopenia was higher in GH-Sub compared to non-Sub (36 vs 0%), but more non-Sub had significant osteoporosis (20 vs 7%).

Conclusion
Long-term GH substitution alone does not seem to significantly impact on lipid metabolism and BMD in patients with pituitary insufficiency.
Conclusion
These data show that colocalisation/coexistence of GH with FSH/LH occurs in pituitary cells early during normal human ontogenesis but decreases markedly up to 20 weeks gestation. We suggest that these might be progenitor cells. The potential for colocalisation could be reactivated in adulthood during tumoral transformation.

Combination of ovariectomy (OVX) and chronic restraint stress causes cognitive dysfunction and reduces hippocampal CA3 neurons in female rats and that estrogen replacement suppresses the OVX-stress-induced behavioral and morphological changes. Aim of this study is to examine the effect of Ginkgo biloba extract (EGB 761) on the cognitive dysfunction and neuromorphological changes in OVX-stress-treated subjects. Female Fisher 344 rats were randomly divided into three groups: vehicle-treated ovariectomized, EGB 761 (50 mg/kg)-treated ovariectomized and vehicle-treated sham-operated control groups. Two months after ovariectomy, all animals received restraint stress for 21 days (6 days/week). That is, these were then subjected to a novel object recognition test followed by morphological examination by a histological stain. EGB 761 was orally administered once daily until the behavioral analysis was done. Treatment with EGB 761 improved memory impairment and neuronal loss of hippocampus in the OVX-stress-subjected group in the same ways as 17-estradiol attenuated them. These results have important implications for neuroprotective and cognitive enhancing effects of EGB 761 in postmenopausal women and suggest that the effects are mediated by a different mechanism from estrogen.

Glucose tolerance and somatostatin analogues treatment in acromegaly: a 12 month open, prospective study
Annamaria Colao, Renata S Aurienma, Silvia Savastano, Marianno Galdiero, Ludovica FS Grasso, Gaetano Lombardi & Rosario Pivonello
Department of Molecular and Clinical Endocrinology and Oncology, University Federico II of Naples, Naples, Italy.

Objective
The impact of first-line somatostatin analogues (SSA) on glucose tolerance in acromegaly was investigated during a 10 year period. Patients
One hundred and twelve patients treated with depot SSA.
Outcome measures
Primary outcome measures were fasting glucose levels. Data were analyzed according with baseline glucose tolerance and disease control. Results after 12 months SSA treatment
In the 63 patients with normal glucose tolerance (NGT) at baseline, fasting glucose levels did not change but in the 26 controlled patients were lower than in the 37 uncontrolled (P=0.019). All controlled patients had NGT while 13 of 37 uncontrolled patients were receiving treatment with metformin. In the 24 patients with impaired fasting glucose (IFG) or impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) at baseline, fasting glucose levels were lower than pre-treatment levels (P=0.002) and 14 of 37 uncontrolled patients were significantly lower than in the 10 uncontrolled (P=0.012). Eight patients remained IFG or IGT at study end (33.3%), 16 patients had NGT (66.6%) (8 because of metformin treatment). In the 25 patients with diabetes mellitus at baseline, fasting glucose levels were lower than pre-treatment (P<0.0001) and in the 14 controlled patients were significantly lower than in the 11 uncontrolled (P=0.007). At study end, 74 patients had NGT (66.1%), 11 had IGT (9.8%) and 21 had DM (18.7%). Changes in glucose tolerance (improvements in 20 patients (17.8%) and worsening in 13 patients (15.2%) were correlated with achievement or not of disease control. Mean GH levels were the most important predictors of 12 months fasting glucose (r = 2.73; P=0.007).

Objective
There is little data available regarding the effects of male sex hormones on cardiac autonomic function. The aim of this study is to evaluate the association between male sex steroids and cardiac autonomic function by comparing heart rate variability (HRV) parameters of young male hypogonadotropic hypogonadism patients to those of healthy controls. Design
The study consisted of 22 male hypogonadotropic hypogonadism patients (mean age 20.8 ± 1.2 years) and the same number of age-matched healthy male controls (mean age 21.0 ± 1.5 years). Methods
A 24-hour holter monitoring was performed to assess the following HRV parameters: SDNN, SDANN, SDNN50, RMSSD, pNN50, and HRV triangular index (TRIQA). Serum levels of FSH, LH, testosterone, estradiol, progesterone and prolactin were measured. The HRV parameters of patients and control groups were compared, and possible associations between levels of tested hormones and HRV parameters were evaluated. Results
SDNN, SDANN and SDNN50 values of patients were significantly lower compared to those of controls (147.47 ± 15.16 vs 193.63 ± 40.89; 138.31 ± 57.64 vs 190.15 ± 43.94 and 67.89 ± 21.46 vs 84.63 ± 24.35, respectively; P<0.05 for all). Significant negative correlations were observed between serum FSH, LH and testosterone levels and most of the HRV parameters. Conclusions
Male sex hormone deficiency seems to adversely affect cardiac autonomic modulation with increased sympathetic and decreased parasympathetic components of HRV.

Objective
The impact of infertility on the relationship of people with a Pituitary condition
Mariianne Morris & Pascale Harrison
University of the West of England, Bristol, UK.

Background
Evidence from a Needs Analysis (2006) and Patient Satisfaction Survey (2008) for people with pituitary conditions, suggested infertility was a key yet unexpected problem for the majority of respondents. Being infertile without the co-morbidity of having a pituitary condition confers a huge emotional burden on the couple concerned. The aim of this study was to explore in detail the effects infertility imposed on people with a pituitary condition. Method
A questionnaire comprising 12 open-ended questions was posted to 100 people with a variety of pituitary conditions (61% response rate; 45 females and 16 males; mean age=49; 61% with a prolactinoma and 39% with hypogonadism). The participant responses were analysed independently by two researchers using Inductive Thematic analysis. Results
Four major themes emerged: ‘infertility’, ‘coping and managing’, ‘feelings and emotional impact’, and ‘relationship impact’. The focus here is on the impact on relationships. Developing relationships were affected by the pituitary condition and further compromised by a diagnosis of infertility, often exacerbated by communication difficulties between partners. Some avoided the hurt of rejection

Cardiovascular disease (CV) is the leading cause of mortality in acromegalic patients. Although acromegalic cardiomyopathy has been extensively investigated, there is a lack of data about atherosclerosis in acromegaly. We aimed to evaluate the extent of carotid atherosclerosis with various CV biomarkers in acromegaly. Sixty-one acromegalic patients and 21 age and sex matched healthy controls were included. We measured carotid intima media thickness (CIMT) and performed OGTT and hormonal evaluation. CV risk factors including microalbuminuria (MAU), cystatin C, proBNP, uric acid (UA), CRP and serum lipids were also measured. Cystatin C and total cholesterol levels were higher in acromegalic patients (P=0.012 and P=0.005, respectively), while LDL levels were lower than controls (P=0.022). CRP, UA, proBNP, degree of MAU and CIMT were not different from controls. Patients with normal IGF-1 for age or patients who achieved the nadir GH level of <1 ng/ml after OGTT were found to have lower microalbuminuria when compared to their counterparts (P<0.028 and P<0.028, respectively). However, other parameters were not statistically different between acromegalic patients achieving normal IGF-1 and/or nadir GH<1 ng/ml. We found no difference between diabetic and non-diabetic acromegalic patients in terms of CV risk parameters. We found a weak but positive correlation between CIMT and cystatin C levels (R=0.201, P<0.001), CIMT and UA (R=0.164, P<0.005) and CIMT and proBNP (R=0.202, P<0.001) in acromegalic patients. CIMT was not higher than controls despite well documented CV risk factors in acromegalics. Disease activity was not associated with CIMT as well. Correlation between CIMT and cystatin C, UA and proBNP may suggest a cluster effect of some CV risk factors in acromegalics for developing atherosclerosis. Evaluation of vascular abnormalities in conjunction with other CV risk factors may better predict those at higher risk for atherosclerosis and CV events in acromegalics.
P567
Progestrone up-regulates transthyrein levels in primary cultures of choroid plexus epithelial cells
Telma Quintela, Henrique Alves, Isabel Gonçalves, Graça Baltazar & Cecilia Santos
Centre of Investigation in Health Sciences-CICS, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal.

Transthyretin (TTR) is a protein mainly synthesized by the liver and choroid plexus (CP) of the brain. Besides its role as a carrier for thyroid hormones, TTR also sequesters the amyloid beta (Aβ) peptide impairing its deposition in nervous tissues, and its concentrations in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) appear to be inversely correlated with Alzheimer’s disease (AD) onset and progression. Abundant evidence suggests that the depletion of progesterone (PROG) at menopause is a significant risk factor for the development of AD in women, but the mechanisms involved are poorly understood. So, we examined the effects of PROG on TTR mRNA levels, in primary cultures of rat CP epithelial cells (CPEC) by Real Time PCR. We show that, PROG (100 nM) induced TTR transcription in these cells. The combination of mifepristone (RU486) with PROG in the same period of time did not induce the expression of TTR by PROG Pre-treatment with ICI 182 780 and flutamide, specific oestrogen and androgen receptor antagonists, respectively, had no effect on TTR levels. These data suggest that the effects observed are due to PROG itself and not from downstream products from its metabolismization, such as testosterone and estradiol, and indicates that TTR is up-regulated via a progesterone receptor (PR)-dependent pathway. Our results highlight the importance of PROG on the regulation of TTR, which may be involved in the neuroprotective role of PROG in AD described in the literature.

P568
Long-term follow-up of female patients with prolactinoma: is there a place for surgery in the therapy of prolactinoma? Janine Frey, Ina Krull, Rahel Sahli, Christoph Stettler, Stefan Fischli, Peter Diem & Emanuel Christ
Division of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Clinical Nutrition, University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital, Bern, Switzerland.

Background
Medical therapy with dopamine agonists (DA) is the primary treatment in most patients with prolactinomas. Classical surgical indications are mainly intolerance of DA therapy or non-responders. Focusing on a possible shift of recent indications towards a surgical approach, we retrospectively analyzed the long-term results of surgical treatment and compared them to the medically treated female patients with prolactinomas.

Patients and methods
Between 1977 and 2007, the charts of 105 female patients with prolactinoma were reviewed. Clinical, biochemical characteristics and tumour size were assessed at baseline and at last follow-up in the patients who underwent transphenoidal surgery (S; n=71) and in the medically treated cohort (M; n=34). We excluded a subgroup with intrasellar microadenoma (IS; n=41) were analysed separately.

Results
The mean age at diagnosis, clinical presentation, prolactin levels and the tumour size was similar in the S and the M group at baseline (age: S: 33.3 (9.9) years, mean (s.d.) versus M: 35.4 (5.0); Prolactin: S: 182.2 (89.7–249), μg/l, median (IQR); M: 110.8 (65.5–679.5); Tumour size: macro-/microadenoma: S: 17%; 25%; 58% versus M: 23%; 9%; 68%; NS). The mean follow-up was similar in both groups (S: 121 (99) months, mean (s.d.) versus M: 112 (93); NS).

At last follow-up, galactorrhea was reported in 9% of the M and in 3% of the S patients (P=0.17). Persistent amenorrhea was documented in 6% and in 5% of the S and M cohort, respectively. Prolactin levels were controlled in 87% (S) vs 72% (M; P=0.07) requiring DA therapy in 66% (M) and in 32% (S) of the patients (P<0.0001). Analysis of the surgical treated group with intrasellar microadenoma (IS) revealed a control of hyperprolactinemia in 91% of the patients requiring DA therapy in 26%. Patients with microadenoma medically treated had a control of hyperprolactinemia in 84% with a persistent need for DA therapy in 52%. Transient complications of transphenoidal surgery included diabetes insipidus (23%) and liquor fistulae (4.2%). Persisting complications consisted of an additional pituitary axis insufficiency in 4.2%, similar to the findings in the M group. There was no mortality associated with the surgical intervention. Transient side effects of DA therapy (nausea, orthostatic problems) were present in 36% of the patients.

Conclusion
(1) Transphenoidal surgery for prolactinoma in female patients has no mortality in this cohort (2) Transitory side effects of treatment strategy occur in the S and M cohort in a substantial number of cases (3) The long-term control of hyperprolactinemia in the S and M is similar (4) The present data justify at least the discussion about a neurosurgical approach in selected patients.

P569
Clinical presentation, long-term follow-up and bone morbidity of male patients with prolactinoma
Janine Frey, Ina Krull, Rahel Sahli, Christoph Stettler, Stefan Fischli, Peter Diem & Emanuel Christ
Division of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Clinical Nutrition, University Hospital of Bern, Inselspital, Bern, Switzerland.

Background
In contrast to females with prolactinoma, male patients usually present with a history of long-standing hyperprogonadism and a macroadenoma on MRI SCAN. Data is scarce about the effect of hypergonadism on bone health in these patients. We, therefore, investigated retrospectively the cohort of male patients with prolactinoma at our institution.

Patients and methods
Between 1983 and 2007, the charts of 44 male patients with prolactinoma were reviewed. Clinical, biochemical characteristics and tumour size were assessed at baseline and at last follow-up. Quality bone density assessment (i.e. osteopenia, osteoporosis) was registered.

Results
The mean age at diagnosis was 47.4 (15.3), years, mean (s.d.), the leading symptoms were loss of libido in 68% and erectile dysfunction in 50% of the patients. Mean BMI at diagnosis was 28.7 (4.5) kg/m². Prolactin levels were 1978.5 (779.8…4890.3), μg/l, median (IQR), and MRI scan showed macro- meso- and microadenoma in 77, 5 and 18% respectively. Bone density revealed pathological bone density in 25% of the patients. Nine percent of all patients were diagnosed with osteoporosis. Therapeutical strategy included primary operation in 32% and dopamine agonists in 68% of the patients. At last follow-up the mean age was 54.0 (15.6), years, loss of libido and erectile dysfunction was reported in 20 and 15% of the patients, respectively. Mean BMI tended to decrease from 28.7 (4.5) to 28.0 (4.4) kg/m² (P=0.08). Prolactin concentration significantly decreased to 13.8 (7.0…27.1) μg/l, median (IQR), and was within normal range in 80% of the patients. The control of hyperprolactinemia required Dopaminagonist therapy in 75% of the patients (three patients with microadenoma, 2 patients with mesoadenoma, 28 patients with macroadrenoma). Fifty five percent of all patients needed Testosterone therapy, 2/3 of them had macroadenoma. Biphosphonate and/or Vitamin D and Calcium was prescribed in 25% of the patients. No significant differences in clinical outcome and need for dopamine agonist or testosterone therapy were observed according to the therapeutic strategy (i.e. primary surgery vs primary medical therapy).

Conclusion
(1) Based on these results assessment of bone densitometry in male patients with prolactinoma can be recommended. (2) The tendency for a decrease of BMI following therapy remains to be confirmed. (3) A surgical procedure besides the classical indication (i.e. intolerance of dopamine agonists and non-responder) cannot be recommended in male patients with macroadenoma. (4) A substantial number of patients had testosterone replacement therapy at last follow-up.

P570
Effects of somatostatin analogues on glucose homeostasis: a meta-analysis of acromegaly studies
Gherardo Mazzizzoti1, Irene Florianì2, Stefania Bonadonna1, Valter Torri2, Philippe Chanson1 & Andrea Giustina1
1University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy; 2Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche ‘Mario Negri’, Milan, Italy; 3Universite Paris-Sud, Paris, France.

Objective
Somatostatin analogues (SSA) are widely used for the treatment of patients with neuroendocrine tumors. These drugs are able to influence glucose metabolism by an inhibitory effect of insulin secretion, but the clinical impact of this effect is uncertain. Most of the data on this topic have been obtained from studies including patients in acromegaly, one the major indication for SSA, which are limited in terms of numerosity and study duration. Therefore, we have carried out a meta-analysis on data from published, long-term trials in acromegaly in order to assess the clinical impact of SSA on glucose metabolism.
Methods
The outcomes analyzed were fasting plasma glucose concentration (FPG), fasting plasma insulin concentration (FPI), haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) and plasma glucose during oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). Eligibility criteria were: (1) duration of SSA treatment of at least 3 months; (2) available numerical data for at least one of the four biochemical outcomes investigated; (3) measurement of the outcomes before and after SSA treatment; (4) no selection of acromegalic patients for their responsibility to SSA. After revision, only 31 studies fulfilled eligibility criteria.

Results
SSA treatment was found to induce statistically significant decrease in FPI (effect size 0.45, 95% CI: −0.58, −0.32, P < 0.001), without any significant change of FPG (effect size 0.04, 95% CI: −0.07, 0.15, P = 0.52) and HbA1c (effect size 0.11, 95% CI: −0.02, 0.23, P = 0.09). Serum glucose values during OGTT were shown to significantly change during SSA treatment (effect size was 0.31, 95% CI: 0.17; 0.45, P < 0.001) although with high inconsistency among trials.

Conclusions
Our data suggest that modifications of glucose homeostasis induced by SSA have an overall minor clinical impact in acromegaly. Although this does not mean that in selected patients a clinically significant deleterious effect may be observed, our findings suggest that SSA are drugs with a favourable risk/benefit ratio.

P571
Macroprolactinemia in patients with pituitary adenomas
LK Dzeranowa1, EN Gimyatullina2, IB Barmina2, AD Dobracheva2 & NP Gencerov2
1Russian Research Centre for Endocrinology, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Moscov Medical Academy of I M Sechenov, Moscow, Saint Helena.

Elevated macroprolactin level is one of the reason of misdiagnosis and mismanagement of hyperprolactinemia. About 10% of population have incidentalomas and it also can combine with increasing of prolactin (Prl). Three hundred and thirty patients with hyperprolactinemia (Prl>600 mU/l) were studied. 192 women and 138 men in age of 30 (25; 39) and 35 (29;46) years respectively. Clinical, biochemical and MRI methods were used. Prl, LH, FSH and Testosterone levels were determined by fluorescence method. Mononemic Prl (monoPrl) was determined after polyethylene glycol precipitation (Deltia; Finland) and 40% was accepted as macroprolactinemia. Macroprolactinemia was identified in 64 patients (19.4%): 51 women (26%) and 13 men (9.4%). True hyperprolactinemia was founded 266 patients (80.6%). Median of Prl level in group with macroprolactinemia was 1080(922; 1324) mU/l in women and 1004 (698; 1600) mU/l in men; monoPrl level was - 271 (222; 331) mU/l and 251 (182; 444) mU/l respectively.

Pituitary adenomas were revealed in 195 (59.1%) patients. Only 17 of them (8.7%) had macroprolactinemia: 12 with microadenomas (7 women and 5 men) and 5 with macroadenomas (1 woman and 4 men). Median of Prl level in this group was 1055 (947; 1509) mU/l in women and 1253 (887; 1770) mU/l in men; monoPrl - 248 (193; 301; 190%) and 265 (182; 444) mU/l respectively. Clinical features of hyperprolactinemia were in 9 men and in 2 women with macroprolactinemia and pituitary adenomas. All of them had increased monoPrl level. Cabergoline treatment was prescribed for these patients. There were no clinical symptoms in other patients.

This investigation revealed that macroprolactinemia in patients with pituitary adenomas is found out rare than in patients with hyperprolactinemia in whole. Reasonability of medical treatment of these patients should be determined on monoPrl level, not only on Prl level.

P572
Primary medical treatment of large and giant prolactinomas
Ludmila Astafeva & Boris Kadashev
N N Burdenko Neurosurgery Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Objective
Prospective study of medical treatment effect in newly diagnosed patients with large and giant prolactinomas.

Patients and methods
The study group included 45 patients with large prolactinomas (tumors more 3.6 cm) and 23 patients with giant prolactinomas (tumors more than 6 cm); from them 8 mainly cystic tumors. The treatment period was 3–24 month (mean 6). Serum prolactin level before treatment ranged between 12 990 and 1 038 000 mU/l (mean 198 000; normal 30–545 mU/l). Fifty-five men and 13 women aged 16–67 years (mean 39) were treated with cabergoline of dose from 0.5 mg to 4.0 mg/week (mean 1.5 mg). Fifty-four patients before treatment had visual impairment. Fourteen patients had optic atrophy. Fourteen patients had epileptic syndrome.

Results
Tumors, including 7 cystic, decreased in size in 55 patients. The size of 13 tumors was without any change. Decrease of prolactin occurred in all patients; serum prolactin level was 350–19 460 mU/l (mean 2500) during treatment. Forty-two patients had improved visual symptoms in the early stage of treatment, other patients showed no visual impairment. In 5 (7%) patients cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leakage occurred within 14–30 days after initiation of treatment. In 2 patients endoscopic endonasal surgery to repair the fistula was performed. In other patients the CSF leakage ceased with diuretic therapy and with temporarily decreases of cabergoline dosage. The drug was well tolerated by all patients and no one discontinued the therapy.

Conclusion
Cabergoline should be the first-line therapy for large and giant prolactinomas, even in patients with visual defects. Use of cabergoline results in effective reduction of prolactin, improvement of visual defects and provides tumor shrinkage (including cystic prolactinomas). Patients with large and giant prolactinomas are at risk of CSF leakage during medical treatment with cabergoline.

P573
Transport activities and plasma membrane localization of MCT8 mutant proteins identified in patients with severe psychomotor retardation depend on cell type. Implications for the interpretation of clinical phenotypes
Anita Kinne, Stephan Roth, Ulrich Schweizer & Joseph Köhrle
Charlie-Berlin, Institute for Experimental Endocrinology, Berlin, Germany.

Objective
Mutations in the gene encoding the thyroid hormone transport protein, monocarboxylate transporter 8 (MCT8), underlie severe mental retardation. In vitro expression of mutant transporters was performed to understand phenotypical differences.

Methods
We established cell lines stably expressing 16 MCT8 variants in JEG1 and MDCK cells. Several of these mutants have never been analysed before. The cell lines were characterized according to MCTB mRNA and protein expression, T3 transport activity, substrate KM characteristics, surface expression and responsiveness to treatments aiming at rescuing transporter function.

Results
We could clearly demonstrate that functional activities of MCT8 mutants depend on the cell type in which they are expressed (e.g. S194F, V235M, ins235V, ΔF230, R271H, L434W, L512P, L568P). These mutants exhibited considerable transport activity when present at the cell surface as demonstrated by surface biotinylation. All mutations found in patients with milder impairments are partially active in at least one cell type in vitro, whereas other mutants are functionally inactive even if present at the cell surface (ins189L, A224V). G418 treatment of the non-sense mutants did not induce read through to yield full-length MCT8 irrespective of dose incubation time.

Conclusions
The finding that the cell type determines surface expression and T3 transport activity of missense mutants in MCT8 is important to understand phenotypic variability among carriers of different mutations. Moreover, the clinical observation that the severity of derangements of thyroid hormone levels does not correlate with mental impairments of the patients, may be based on different residual activities in different cell types e.g. pituitary thyrotrhops and central neurons. Our results indicate that patients may benefit from treatment strategies that enhance surface expression of mutated MCT8.

P574
Is it possible to avoid hypopituitarism after the irradiation of pituitary adenosas by the Leksell gamma-knife?
Josef Marek1, Jana Ježková1, Václav Hana1, Michal Krsek1, Roman Ľisak2 & Vlbíhlo Vladimír2
1Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; 2Hospital Na Homolce, Prague, Czech Republic.

Objective
Radiation therapy is used in the treatment of pituitary adenomas, especially in failures of neurosurgery and pharmacotherapy to reduce the size of adenomas and normalize their hypersecretion. Conventional fractionated radiotherapy has
achieved good results, but only after a long latency, with considerable postradiation morbidity and with very frequent appearance of hypopituitarism. The focal stereotactic targeting allowed by Leksell gamma-knife (LGG) was supposed to decrease the incidence of hypopituitarism, however our first patients treated by LGG developed hypopituitarism in 38.2%. Consequently, we have analyzed factors leading to this unfavorable outcome and suggested that the mean dose of irradiation on pituitary tissue is the most important cause of hypopituitarism. Results
Seventy-five patients (47 women and 28 men) with pituitary adenomas (39 with acromegaly, 17 prolactinomas, 8 with Cushing’s disease, 1 with Nelson’s syndrome and 9 functionless adenomas), where the mean dose of irradiation on pituitary tissue was measured, were followed 60–180 (mean 91.1) months. In 41 patients, the mean dose of irradiation on pituitary was more than 15 Gy. The hypopituitarism at least in one axis developed in 29 (70.7%) patients during 10–126 months after the irradiation. In 14 patients, the mean dose on pituitary was less than 15 Gy. Only one patient (1.2%) developed hypopituitarism 12 months after the irradiation. This patient had undergone two previous pituitary surgeries and had already central hypothyroidism when irradiated.

Conclusion
To avoid hypopituitarism the radiation dose of 15 Gy is the maximum safe limit of the mean dose of radiation to the pituitary tissue surrounding the adenoma. This cut off should become a rule when irradiating pituitary adenomas – just like the dose rules of 7 Gy on the optical tract or 14 Gy on the brainstem.

P575
Effect of prolonged treatment with potassium canrenoate, a MR antagonist, on basal and stimulated hypothalamus–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis in humans
Rita Berardelli1, Elisa Martinuzzo1, Elissa Prats1, Andrea Picu1, Roberta Giordano1, Ezio Ghiolo1 & Emmanuela Arvat1
1Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Turin, Turin, Italy; 2Department of Clinical and Biological Science, University of Turin, Turin, Italy.

HPA is negatively regulated by glucocorticoid feed-back at hypothalamic, pituitary and hippocampal level by glucocorticoid (GR) and mineralocorticoid (MR) receptors. MR antigens impair HPA rhythm after acute administration. The aim of this study was to verify HPA activity and glucocorticoid profile both basally and after acute administration of potassium canrenoate (CAN), before and after chronic treatment. We evaluated ACTH, cortisol (F) and dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) levels during placebo and CAN infusion (200 mg bolus followed by 200 mg i.v. over 240 min) in six healthy women (27 ± 1.5 years, BMI 21.4 ± 1.4 kg/m²) at baseline and after 21 days CAN treatment (200 mg/die po). Bland samples were taken every 15’ for 240’ starting from 16.00 to 20.00 h, time period in which glucocorticoids preferentially bind MRs. We also evaluated insulin and glucose levels during all the sessions. At baseline, ACTH, F and DHEA showed a progressive decrease, more marked for F. During CAN infusion, ACTH, F and DHEA were significantly higher than during placebo (P < 0.05 starting from +15’). After chronic CAN treatment, basal F and DHEA were higher than at baseline (P < 0.05 from +30’ to +210’), while ACTH showed a trend but not significant toward increase. Moreover, acute CAN infusion was unable to further increase all the hormonal levels. No differences in insulin and glucose levels were recorded before and after CAN treatment. These findings demonstrate that acute MR antagonism is able to amplify HPA activity during the quiescent phase of the circadian rhythm, in agreement with previously observed at the nadir of the circadian rhythm. Interestingly, chronic MR antagonism up-regulates the HPA activity and makes it refractory to further increase induced by acute CAN administration. This suggests an alteration in the MR sensitivity after prolonged antagonism leading to a derangement in the MR-mediated glucocorticoid feed-back.

P577
Two repeated restraint stress paradigms differing in duration and frequency result in similar levels of HPA habitation, but differences in neuropeptide expression and testosterone levels
Megan Gray, Brenda Bingham & Victor Vian
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The dampening of hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis responses to a repeated stress is termed HPA habituation. We investigated here the effects of two commonly used repeated restraint stress paradigms, in which rats are exposed either to 10 episodes of 0.5 h restraint or 5 episodes of 3 h restraint. We compared ACTH, cortisol, corticosterone, and testosterone responses, as well as corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH) and arginine vasopressin (AVP) mRNA levels within brain regions involved in HPA regulation and ACTH secretion. Relative to initial exposures, declines in HPA activation measured by endocrine ACTH and corticosterone responses were remarkably similar among paradigms following repeated exposures. Compared to nonstressed controls, CRH mRNA in the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus remained unchanged, while AVP mRNA was increased following 3 h restraint, but not 0.5 h repeated restraint. 3 h repeated restraint increased AVP mRNA in the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BST), and CRH mRNA was increased in the BST and central amygdala. 0.5 h repeated restraint increased AVP mRNA levels in the medial amygdala, with no changes in the BST and central amygdala. In summary, despite comparable reductions in HPA activation, CRH and AVP expression within limbic and hypothalamic HPA neurons were differentially affected by each paradigm. Thus, the pathways recruited for HPA habituation appear to be distinct between these paradigms. Testosterone could be key to the differential peptide response, at least with respect to AVP expression, considering the extreme sensitivity of this peptide to changes in gonadal status.

P576
Initial and long-term outcome of surgery in acromegaly: a ten-year, single centre study in 115 patients
Frédérique Albard1, Frédéric Castinetti1, Isabelle Morange1, Noémie Dubois1 & Henry Dufour2
1Department of Endocrinology, Marseille, France; 2Department of Neurosurgery, Marseille, France.

Objective
To analyze characteristics of patients who had surgery for a GH-secreting adenoma in the past decade in our centre, to evaluate their initial outcome and long-term recurrence rate using stringent criteria and identify potential predictive factors of surgical remission.

Methods
This retrospective study included 115 consecutive patients with acromegaly operated at the neurosurgical department of the Timone Hospital Marseille between 1997 and 2007, with a mean follow-up of 3.8 years.

Results
Using stringent criteria (GH nadir at oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) ≤ 0.4 μg/l and normalisation of IGF-1 level), remission rate at 3 month was 37.4% (65% for microadenomas and 31.6% for macroadenomas). A subset of patients (23.5%) had discordant values in terms of GH/OGTT or IGF-1 levels. Only 7.8% of patients had surgical complications and no mortality was observed. In multivariate analysis, preoperative mean GH level, tumour invasion and surgical observation of total resection were significant predictors of surgical outcome. Beneficial effect of preoperative medical treatment was significant in univariate analysis, independently of confounding factors. We observed only 2% of long-term recurrence. At the end of follow-up, acromegaly was controlled in 90.9% of patients with or without adjunctive treatment (including 49.5% after surgery only).

Conclusion
Using stringent criteria for remission, a very low recurrence rate was observed in this study. The best results of pituitary surgery were obtained in non invasive adenomas with low preoperative GH levels. Presurgical medical treatment was also a significant factor related to remission. Nevertheless improvement of long-term control of acromegaly in the context of newly available therapeutic options is likely to modify the management of such patients.

to estrogen withdrawal. Cytokines such as IL-6 and TNF-α have been reported to be potent vasodilators. We investigated if there is any association between IL-6, TNF-α and hot flashes in perimenopausal women.

Material and methods
We examined 65 perimenopausal women. All women were between the ages 40 and 55 and presented with a history of menstrual cycle irregularity of at least 6 months duration but not longer than 1 year of amenorrhea. Menopause rating scale (MRS) was given to women in order to examine the presence and severity of hot flashes. IL-6 and TNF-α were analysed with standard laboratory methods. Pearson’s correlations were applied to evaluate the relationship between cytokines and vasomotor symptoms.

Results
Serum IL-6 concentrations in perimenopausal women with severe hot flashes were significantly higher than the concentrations in women without hot flashes or with mild and moderate hot flashes. In the contrary, there is no difference in serum TNF-α concentrations in the population we examined.

Conclusions
IL-6 may be associated with peripheral vasodilatation in women with hot flashes.

P579
Empty sella and primary autoimmune hypothyroidism
Rogelio Garcia-Centeno, Jose-Pablo Suarez-Llamosa, Elisa Fernandez-Fernandez, Victor Andia-Meler, Marcel Sambo, Petra Sanchez & Antonino Jara-Albarran
Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Maraño, Madrid, Spain; Hospital Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain.

Objective
To assess the association between empty sella (ES) and primary autoimmune hypothyroidism, and the possibility of a common pathogenesis.

Patients and methods
We retrospectively studied all patients with presumed ES diagnosed in the last 20 years, most of whom were treated and followed up by our Endocrinology Department. Subjects with a known aetiology were excluded. Incomplete records or those with a doubtful diagnosis were also excluded. A total of 56 subjects were included in the study. ES was diagnosed by pituitary MRI. The measurement of free T4, TSH, and antithyroid antibodies (TPOAb and TgAb) was assayed using commercial kits. Hypothyroidism was defined as a serum TSH titer higher than 10 µIU/ml and/or FT4 less than 0.6 ng/dl. Subclinical hypothyroidism was defined as a serum TSH titer of 4.5 to 10 µIU/ml and normal FT4.

Results
Fifteen (26.7%) patients of 56 with ES had autoimmune thyroid disease (6 with primary hypothyroidism, 6 with subclinical hypothyroidism, and 3 with normal FT4 and TSH values). Primary hypothyroidism with negative antithyroid autoantibodies was found in a further 13 patients (23.2%).

Conclusions
There is an important association between ES and autoimmune thyroid disease, which reached 26.78% in our series. The percentage would probably be higher if the antithyroid antibody test had been performed in all cases of hypothyroidism. We suggest the possibility of a common pathogenesis for certain cases of ES and autoimmune thyroid disease, in which ES may occur as the natural progression of autoimmune hypophysitis or less simultaneously with autoimmune thyroid disease, with the end point of ES in the pituitary and atrophy in the thyroid gland. Advances in laboratory methods for antipituitary autoantibody determination would help to resolve this question.

P580
Human corticotropin releasing hormone (hCRH) test performance in the differential diagnosis between Cushing’s disease and pseudo-Cushing state is enhanced by combined ACTH and cortisol analysis
Giacomo Tirabassi, Giorgio Arnaldi, Roberta Papa, Giorgio Furlani, Laura Trementino, Marina Cardinaletti, Emanuela Falóia & Marco Boccardo Clinica di Endocrinologia, Ancona, Italy.

Objective
The corticotropin releasing hormone (CRH) test does not reliably distinguish between Cushing’s disease (CD) and normality or pseudo-Cushing state (PC). In this study we assessed whether the application of novel criteria could enhance its diagnostic performance.

Design
Retrospective study.

Patients
Fifty-one subjects with CD, 26 with PC and 31 control subjects (CT).

Measurements
All subjects underwent human CRH (hCRH) test and standard diagnostic procedures for the diagnosis of Cushing’s syndrome (CS).

Results
The area under the curve (AUC)-ACTH demonstrated a significant negative correlation with baseline serum cortisol in CT and PC subjects, but not in CD patients. The ACTH response to hCRH was blunted in PC compared with CT subjects. These findings suggested that CD can be diagnosed by the simultaneous presence of two hCRH test parameters and excluded in the absence of either or both. The two-parameter combinations proposed are (1) basal serum cortisol >331 nmol/l and absolute peak plasma ACTH>12 pmol/l, or (2) absolute peak serum cortisol>580 nmol/l and absolute peak plasma ACTH>10 pmol/l. The combined criteria had a sensitivity (SE) of 90.1% and 94.1% and a specificity (SP) of 98.2% and 91.2%, respectively.

Conclusions
The proposed combinations enabled the hCRH test to distinguish CD patients from PC and CT subjects.

P581
Hemostatic and fibrinolytic changes in patients with Cushing’s disease
Juliya Chodakova1, Svetlana Arapova1, Lidunya Chirkova1, Ludmila Rozhinskaya2 & Galina Suhonov2
1National Endocrinology Research Center, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2National Hematology Research Center, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Introduction
Chronic endogenous hypercortisolism is characterized by abdominal obesity, systemic arterial hypertension, glucose and lipid abnormalities, insulin resistance, osteoporosis. This syndrome also has features of hypercoagulation. The mortality rate in patients with active Cushing’s disease (CD) is four times higher than in age- and sex- matched population. The main cause is cardiovascular disease with thrombotic complications.

Objective
To study hemostatic and fibrinolytic state in patients with CD.

Materials and methods
We studied 31 patients with active CD (group 1). 21 patients during one year CD remission after successful surgical treatment (group 2) and 16 patients were the control (group 3). Prothrombin time (PT), thrombin time (TT), activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT), fibrinogen, plasmoglobin, tissue plasmoglobin activator (tPA) and inhibitor (PAI-1) were investigated. Statistical analysis was performed using Crasskell-Walles criteria. Results are presented as median and 25; 75 percentiles.

Results
Results are given for the groups 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Fibrinogen level, mg/dl: 341 (306, 370), 329 (316, 391), 285 (226, 339) (P=0.0333), PTI: % 96 (89.5, 101), 85 (78; 93), 85 (75; 93) (P=0.0074), P1,2 = 0.0055, P1,3 = 0.0351, P2,3 = 0.683; TT: s 18.1 (16.9; 19.7), 17.1 (16.6; 22), 17.2 (16.7; 18.5) (P=0.6770); APTT: s 29.2 (36; 27.45), 33.6 (32.9; 35.4), 34.8 (33; 39) (P=0.0012), P1,2 = 0.0011, P1,3 = 0.0009, P2,3 = 0.276; plasmoglobin, % 96 (87; 102); 86 (73; 92), 79.5 (70; 85) (P=0.0002), P1,2 = 0.0011, P1,3 = 0.0011, P2,3 = 0.331); tPA, ng/dl: 3.24 (190; 5.51), 2.026 (1.67; 2.67), 1.61 (1.49; 2.06) (P=0.002, P1,2 = 0.021, P1,3 = 0.001, P2,3 = 0.09); PAI-1, mg/ml: 69.63 (39.33; 90.46), 41.90 (16.85; 86.80), 37.92 (28.16; 42.35) (P=0.0163, P1,2 = 0.02, P1,3 = 0.007). Thus, patients of group 1 had significantly higher fibrinogen level and lower APTT than patients of groups 2 and 3. PAI-1 levels were significantly increased before treatment and decreased slowly after treatment to become normal in 6–12 month. The haemostatic parameters of patients in group 2 and group 3 did not differ significantly.

Conclusions
Our results suggest that hypercoagulation found in patients with active CD is predominantly associated with fibrinolytic system alterations.

P582
Immunoassay determination of macroprolactin in hyperprolactinemic patients: an interassay comparative study
Mariana Martinho1, Teresa Martinho1, Nuno Cunha1, Fatima Curado1, Leonor Gomes2, Frederico Valido1, Filomen Naidenov3 & Fernando Rodrigues4
1Portuguese Institute of Oncology of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal; 2Coimbra’s University Hospital, Coimbra, Portugal.

Prolactin is mainly found in the monomeric form although it can also occur in the big-PRL and bigbig-PRL (bIbPRL) form: a complex of prolactin and...
Adiponectin and visfatin: a link with bone mineral density in acromegaly

Eugenia Resmini1, Nuria Sucunza2, M. Jose Barahona1, Alicia Santos1, 2, J Maria Fernandez-Real1, Wilfredo Ricart1, J Maria Moreno1, Jose Ferrerons1, Jose Rodriguez Espinosa2, AM Marin2 & Susan M Webb1

1Hospital Sant Pau, CHIBER-IR Unidad 747, Endocrinology, Barcelona, Spain; 2Hospital Manacor, Mallorca, Spain; Hospital Josep Trueta, Girona, Spain; Internal Medicine, Hospital Sant Pau, Barcelona, Spain;
Biochemistry Department, Hospital Sant Pau, Barcelona, Spain.

Two adipokines highly expressed in fat mass, adiponectin with antiinflammatory and antiatherogenic properties, and visfatin with an insulin-mimetic effect, are potential contributors to bone metabolism. In acromegaly data on adiponectin are contradictory and there are no data on visfatin.

Objectives
To evaluate adiponectin and visfatin in acromegaly, compared to control subjects and to analyze their relationship with body composition and bone mineral markers.

Methods
Bone markers (osteocalcin, amino-terminal propeptide of type 1 procollagen (PINP), cross-laps), body composition (by DEXA), adiponectin (ELISA) and visfatin (immunoanalysis) were evaluated in 60 acromegalic patients (24 males and 36 females) and in 105 age- and gender matched healthy controls (33 males and 72 females). Acromegalic patients were classified as controlled, with normal IGF-I and GH ≤ 1 µg/l (n=41) or active (n=19).

Results
Acromegalic patients had lower adiponectin (P<0.01), more lean body mass (P<0.01) and total body mass (P<0.01), higher bone formation markers (osteocalcin and PINP, P<0.05 and P<0.01 respectively), but lower bone resorption markers (cross-laps) and fat mass (both total and trunk, P<0.05) than controls (P<0.001). No differences in visfatin and bone mineral density (BMD) were found between patients and controls. Adiponectin correlated negatively with BMD (r=-0.374, P<0.05) and lean mass (r=-0.301; P<0.05) and positively with age (r=0.347; P<0.001). Visfatin correlated negatively with BMI (r=-0.359; P<0.05).

Conclusions
Acromegalic patients present hypoadiponectinemia. BMD is predictor for adiponectin and visfatin in patients with acromegaly. No correlations were found between individual bone markers and both cytokines. Adiponectin and visfatin could be a link between fat mass and bone in acromegalic patients. Supported by a grant form FIS PI05/448.

Adrenal insufficiency can result in severe hypernatremia due to inappropriate high plasma vasopressin (pAVP). To elucidate the glucocorticoid AVP feedback we monitored thirsting of 12 male volunteers without and after on or five days of prednisolone (30 mg/d). Although prednisolone suppressed pAVP below 0.2 pg/ml the rise in plasma osmolality during thirsting was not influenced by prednisolone. Independent of exogenous glucocorticoid thirsting resulted in higher urine osmolality and decreased urine volume. Although pAVP was extremely low there was no difference in urine secretion of aquaporin-2 (AQP2). Exogenous stimulation of the AVP V2 receptor by 4 µg desmopressin resulted in normal renal response with increased urine osmolality and decreased urine volume. The V2 agonist induced a significant increase of urinary AQP2 secretion. This increase is independent of prednisolone intake and suggests that AVP is able to act normally on the translocation of the water channel AQP2 in the principal cells of the collecting duct, compatible with our data of a prednisolone unrestricted rise in urinary cAMP excretion after desmopressin injection. Evidence has been reported that both secretion of atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP) and synthesis of prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) are influenced by the action of glucocorticoids and that they may modulate renal AVP action. In this study we excluded that PGE2 was not influenced by prednisolone intake. Plasma ANP concentration were higher during prednisolone treatment. An AVP independent effect of elevated ANP on AQP2 translocation would be compatible with the reported phosphorylation of AQP2 at Ser256 by protein kinase G (PKG) and subsequent AQP2 membrane translocation.

The experiments show a strong feedback inhibition of the glucocorticoid prednisolone on AVP secretion. Preserved renal water reabsorption after thirsting in the presence of prednisolone suggests an AVP independent mechanism that may be influenced by higher ANP plasma concentrations.

Feedback inhibition of prednisolone on vasopressin (AVP) secretion but preserved renal water reabsorption after thirsting point to an AVP independent antiuridiuretic action

Friederike Ufer1, Knut Ma1, Sven Diederichs2, Erling Pedersen1, Andreas Pfeiffer1 & Volker Bähr

1Charité, CBF, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Human Nutrition, Berlin, Germany; 2Endokrinologikum, Berlin, Germany; Department of Medical Research, Holstebro Hospital, Aarhus University, Holstebro, Denmark.

Background
Aberrant cAMP signalling is involved in the pathogenesis of somatotropinomas. Recently, variants of phosphodiesterase type 11A (PDE11A) gene have been described in patients with adenocortical tumors. Aim of the study was to investigate the presence of these variants in patients with somatotropinomas.

Subjects and methods
Germ-line DNA of 78 acromegalic patients was screened for known genetic variants of PDE11A by direct sequencing or restriction analysis. Immunohistochemistry for PDE11A was performed in a subgroup of adenomas and in normal pituitary samples.

Results
We found non-synonymous germ-line substitutions in 17% of acromegalic patients, i.e. 14 missense variants (6 Y72C, 1 R804H, 4 R867Q and 3M578V) and 1 truncating mutation in 1 patient who also presented R867G variant. Tumor DNA from these patients showed both the variant and wild-type PDE11A sequences, with the expected percentage of gap mutations (38%). Immunohistochemistry revealed variable PDE11A expression, absence of PDE11A staining being limited to the tumor with truncating mutation. No significant differences in hormonal and clinical parameters between patients with or without PDE11A variants were observed, although patients with PDE11A variants showed a tendency to have a more aggressive tumor compared to patients with wild-type sequence (extracellular extension in 69% vs 45%).

Conclusions
This study first demonstrated the presence of nonsense/missense PDE11A variants in a subset of acromegalic patients. The retaining of the wild type allele resulting in a normal expression of the enzyme in the tumor tissues, together with the lack of significant clinical phenotype suggest that these variants might only marginally contribute to the development of somatotropinomas.
Previous studies suggest that individuals characterized by high trait hostility may be more sensitive to stress and that this may contribute to their greater vulnerability to alcohol abuse. To characterize the stress reactivity of hostile individuals and to evaluate the possibility that serotonergic dysfunction may underlie their susceptibility to stress, we examined the effects of acute dietary tryptophan enhancement and stress on mood and physiological reactivity in low (LoH) and high hostile (HiH) heavy social drinkers.

Thirty-four LoH and thirty-three HiH heavy social drinkers received either tryptophan-enriched or control diet and underwent a stress-induction procedure. Trait differences between the two hostile groups were explored using personality, anxiety and depression questionnaires. Mood and salivary cortisol levels (CORT) were measured before and after tryptophan diet and after stress-induction. Heart rate (HR) was measured during stress-induction.

HiH compared to LoH were characterized by greater trait anxiety and depression and reported more stress exposure over the past month. They also experienced more negative mood throughout the testing session. Stress increased CORT, HR and negative mood in most participants. Compared to LoH, HiH individuals displayed a higher CORT increase and lower HR as well as a tendency to report more anger in response to stress. Tryptophan manipulation did not modulate any of the subjective and physiological effects of stress.

Among heavy drinkers HiH show greater reactivity to stress as measured by CORT and negative mood but lower heart rate response. Dissociation between cardiovascular and hypothalamo–pituitary–adrenocortical axis (HPA) response to stress suggests that HiH heavy drinkers may indeed be at a greater risk of HPA-related disorders such as depression and alcohol abuse but not at a greater risk of cardiovascular problems. The present data do not support the hypothesis that the greater sensitivity of HiH individuals to stress may be due to a serotonergic dysfunction.

**P587**

**Quality of life (QoL) in patients with Cushing’s syndrome in a Spanish population: new experience with the CushingQoL questionnaire**

Santos Alicia,1,2 Resmini Eugenia,1,2 Barahona Mª José,1 Martí Carme1,2 Farkas Cheryl,1 Roig Olga,1 Martínez Mª Antonia2, Suenzca Nuria1, Baula Xavier1 & Webb Susan M.1,2

Hospital Sant Pau, Barcelona, Spain; 1CIBER-ER Unidad 747, Barcelona, Spain; 2Health Economics and Outcomes Research, IMS Health, Barcelona, Spain.

Quality of life is impaired in patients who have suffered Cushing’s syndrome (CS).

**Aim**

Evaluate QoL with the new questionnaire CushingQoL in Spanish patients in a clinical practice setting and compare it with a generic QoL, EuroQol-5 Dimensions (SD) and its Visual Analogue Scale (VAS).

**Patients and methods**

Forty-three patients with CS (38 pituitary-dependent, 28 cured) were approached during their regular endocrine follow-up and asked to complete the EuroQoL and CushingQoL questionnaires.

**Results**

Mean EuroQoL-VAS in patients with cured CS (69.7 ± 19.4) did not differ from that of active CS patients (65.9 ± 22.5). While the CushingQoL score was significantly worse in active patients (62.8 ± 20.7 vs 45 ± 17.6, P < 0.01). A positive correlation was observed between both questionnaires, both for the whole group of patients (r = 0.635), cured (r = 0.643) and active CS patients (r = 0.668). The only dimension of the EuroQoL-5D questionnaire which was significantly less affected in cured than in active patients was that which referred to Usual Activities (P < 0.035).

**Conclusions**

With the disease-generated CushingQoL questionnaire, patients with active CS have a greater impairment of QoL than patients in whom hypercortisolism has been controlled. No difference was seen when the generic EuroQoL-VAS was used. Therefore, the CushingQoL questionnaire is more sensitive than the generic tool used to identify dimensions important for QoL impairment in patients with CS in a clinical practice setting. Study supported in part by the ERCUSYN PHP 80220 project.

**P587**

**GH response to oral glucose tolerance test: a comparison between patients with pituitary disease and healthy subjects**

Elisa Verrua, Cristina Lucia Ronchi, Daniela Barba Ferrari, Luca Igiati, Emanuele Ferrante, Marcello Filopanti, Andrea Gerardo Lania, Paolo Beck-Peccoz & Anna Spada

Unit of Endocrinology and Diabetology, Department of Medical Science, Fondazione IRCCS Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, University of Milan, Mangiagalli e Regina Elena, Milan, Italy.

**Background**

GH response to oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) is currently used for the definition of disease remission in acromegaly. This test has been poorly investigated in other pituitary diseases.

**Aim**

To evaluate the impact of a pituitary disease other than acromegaly on GH response to OGTT.

**Patients and methods**

Eighteen patients (13 F & 5 M, age: 50.7 ± 13.1 years) with different pituitary diseases (i.e. non-functioning pituitary adenomas, n = 14, empty sella, n = 1, meningiomas: n = 3) were evaluated. Eight of these patients underwent neurosurgery and 2 underwent radiotherapy. None of them had history of diabetes mellitus, GH deficiency or acromegaly, renal/diabetes failure or nutritional disorders and none was treated with drugs interfering with GH secretion. 45 yrs; age- and BMI-matched healthy subjects were investigated as controls. All patients and subjects were studied for IGF-I and GH levels before and during OGTT.

**Results**

IGF-I levels, evaluated as standard deviation score, were similar between the 2 groups (−1.00 ± 0.58 vs −0.38 ± 1.14, P = NS). All patients and controls had post-glucose GH nadir levels < 1 ng/ml. Mean GH nadir was slightly higher in patients with pituitary disease than in controls (0.13 ± 0.10 vs 0.08 ± 0.09 ng/ml, P = 0.08), being higher in females than in males only in the control group (0.10 ± 0.09 vs 0.075 ± 0.08 ng/ml, P = 0.05). However, the time course of GH response was different between the two groups. GH levels being significantly higher in patients than in controls at time 90 and 120 min (P < 0.01).

**Conclusion**

GH response to OGTT appears to be dysregulated in patients with pituitary tumors, possibly as a consequence of hypotalamic alterations.

PS90
Androgen deficiency is additional risk factor for bone health in growth hormone deficient men
Marko Stejnovic, Sandra Pekic, Dragana Miljic, Marina Nikolic-Djurovic, Mirjana Doknic & Vera Popovic
Neuroendocrine Unit, Institute of Endocrinology, University Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia.

Growth hormone deficiency (GHD) impairs bone mass and strength. Androgen deficient men exhibit impaired bone mass, but the extent to which testosterone replacement can prevent this remains disputable. The aim of this study was to assess whether androgen deficiency presents an additional risk factor for bone health in male patients with GHD and whether this is correctable by testosterone substitution.

A group of 81 male patients with GHD, not receiving GH replacement, aged 19.6±1.7 years, with BMI of 25.1±0.3 kg/m², was divided in 3 groups according to androgen deficiency status: (1) androgen sufficient men with isolated GHD (n = 16) (2) hypogonadal men not receiving any androgen replacement (n = 15) and (3) hypogonadal men on androgen replacement (n = 50).

Lumbar spine BMD and lumbar spine Z-score (Hologic DXA) were analyzed as well as markers of bone turnover – serum osteocalcin (OC) and beta-cross-laps (BCL). Lumbar spine BMD was greater in the androgen replaced than in unreplaceable hypogonadal GHD men (1.03±0.21 vs 0.95±0.13 g/cm²; P<0.05) but both groups had lower BMD than androgen sufficient (isolated GHD) group (1.12±0.218 g/cm²).

Lumbar spine Z-score in unreplaceable hypogonadal GHD men was significantly lower than in androgen sufficient men (isolated GHD) (−1.88 vs 0.15; P<0.01) but Z-score was also lower in the androgen replaced hypogonadal men than in androgen sufficient men (isolated GHD) (−0.32 vs 0.4; P<0.05).

Both OC (17.47±10.6 vs 18.21±9.64 ng/ml; P<0.05) and BCL (275±233 vs 282±221 pg/ml; P<0.05) were lower in the androgen replaced than in unreplaced hypogonadal GHD men.

In conclusion, the observed trends in bone density values point to androgen deficiency as probably presenting an additional risk factor for bone health in male patients with growth hormone deficiency, which can be only partially corrected by testosterone replacement.

PS91
The correlations of gelsolin concentrations and lipid profile in patients with acromegaly
Magdalena Jaskula, Ryszard Wasko, Hanna Komarowska, Aleksandra Drzibandowska & Jerzy Sowinski
Department of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Internal Diseases, University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland.

The role of gelsolin in the pathogenesis of acromegaly is doubtful. Gelsolin regulates growth and adipose tissue metabolism. It has not been demonstrated whether it contributes to the development of metabolic complications of acromegaly.

Aim
The aim of the study was to assess: (1) whether serum concentrations of total and acyl gelsolin in patients with acromegaly differ in relation to coexisting metabolic complications (hypercholesterolemia, hyperinsulinemia, hyperglycemia). (2) correlations between concentrations of gelsolin and concentrations of GH, IGF-1, cholesterol, insulin and glucose in patients with acromegaly.

Materials
Twenty-four patients with previously diagnosed acromegaly (16 women and 8 men, 27–71 years old) (11 subjects with active and 13 subjects with inactive disease) and 12 healthy subjects. Twenty-three subjects were treated in the past with neurosurgery, 3 subjects with radiotherapy. Seven patients were receiving octreotide LAR at the time of the study. Methods: In all studied subjects the concentrations of total gelsolin, acyl gelsolin, GH, IGF-1, insulin, glucose, total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, triglycerides were measured.

Results
(1) Mean concentrations of total and acyl gelsolin were significantly higher in patients with acromegaly and hypercholesterolemia compared with patients with normocholesterolemia (P<0.01 total gelsolin; P<0.01 acyl gelsolin). (2) In patients with hypercholesterolemia the ratio of acyl:total gelsolin was 16%. (3) In patients with active acromegaly there was a statistically significant positive correlation between the concentration of total gelsolin and the concentration of total cholesterol (P=0.03, r=0.63) and LDL cholesterol (P=0.03, r=0.64).

There was also a positive correlation between the concentration of acyl gelsolin and LDL cholesterol (without statistical significance, P=0.07) (4) In patients with inactive acromegaly there was a statistically significant positive correlation between the concentration of acyl gelsolin and the concentration of triglycerides (P=0.03, r=0.6) and a positive correlation between total gelsolin and triglycerides, but statistically insignificant (P=0.08).

Conclusions
Gelsolin might be the factor contributing to development of hypercholesterolemia in patients with acromegaly. Presumably, some metabolic complications of the disease result not only from GH hypersecretion but also from altered gelsolin secretion.

PS92
Glucose metabolism alterations in acromegaly
Maria Rosaria Ambrosio, Alessandra Malaspina, Grazia De Paola, Marta Bondanelli, Maria Chiara Zatelli & Ettore degli Uberti
Section of Endocrinology, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Advanced Therapies, University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy.

Glucose metabolism alterations are frequently observed in acromegalic patients. Somatostatin analogues (SSTA) are the most widely used drugs to treat acromegaly, since they inhibit GH and IGF-1 levels, reduce pituitary mass, but can affect glucose metabolism. Aim of our study was to evaluate glucose metabolism alterations in acromegalic patients cured after surgery and in patients with active disease during treatment with SSTA. We studied 10 patients (group A: 5F, 55.6±10.3 years; BMI=27.5±5.1 kg/m² who underwent transphenoidal surgery with disease remission (GH<1 µg/l after OGTT, normal sex and age matched IGF-1 levels) and 10 patients (group B, 6F, 44.8±14.6 years; BMI=27.1±4.43 kg/m² with active disease, treated with SSTA. We measured at baseline and 12 months after medical oral surgery therapy, GH and IGF-1 levels, fasting and post-load (OGGT) glucose and insulin levels, also evaluating the area under the curve (AUC). At baseline, 44.4% of patients had impaired glucose tolerance and 11.1% diabetes mellitus. No significant differences were observed in GH and IGF-1 levels between the two groups. At 12 months group A patients had normal GH and sex and age matched IGF-1 levels. Fasting and post-load glucose levels, fasting insulin levels and glucose AUC values were significantly reduced (P<0.05) compared to baseline. On the contrary, post OGTT insulin secretion and insulin AUC did not change. In group B, GH and IGF-1 levels, insulin peak during OGTT, and insulin AUC were significantly reduced (P<0.05) compared to baseline. Fasting and post-OGGT glucose levels did not change.

Our results confirm that glucose metabolism alterations are frequently observed in active acromegaly. In acromegalic patients with disease remission, an improvement of fasting glucose and insulin levels is observed, likely due to reduction in GH and IGF-1 levels. Therapy with SSTA controls GH and IGF-1 excess, but impairs insulin secretion.

PS93
ACTH-secreting bronchial carcinoid: a role of somatostatin analogues in diagnosis and treatment
Maria Pavlova, Dmitry Koloda, Vyacheslav Pronin, Polina Zykov, Sergey Harnas, Leonid Ippolitov, Alexey Egorov, Georgy Polunin & Pavel Yankin
Moscow Medical Academy, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Objective
To report a case of Cushing’s syndrome due to ectopic ACTH secretion and to evaluate role of somatostatin analogues for the localization and postoperative treatment of adenocorticotropin-secreting bronchial carcinoid tumor.

Methods
We describe the clinical presentation of our case and discuss its management.

Results
A 57-year-old woman presented with symptoms and physical findings strongly suggestive of Cushing syndrome. Findings on biochemical evaluation were consistent with ectopic ACTH syndrome. Conventional radiographic imaging has revealed primary tumor in bronchopulmonary segments C9–C10 of left lung (about 12 mm) and several small foci. Surgical exploration was undertaken – both a primary tumor and metastatic disease were identified, and the patient underwent resection of the lower portion of left lung. Histological examination of the resected specimen confirmed bronchial carcinoid staining positive for ACTH. Eventual resection of the lung nodule resulted in cure of hypercortisolism and normalization of 24-hour urinary free cortisol and ACTH levels in first 2 months after operation. Then the state of patient began to progressively deteriorate, and the patient underwent 6 courses of chemotherapy (etoposide, carboplatin, bleomycin) without effect. The scintigraphy with radiolabelled octreotide has found multiple foci of the accumulation of radionabelled preparation in the left lung.
P594
Dose interval comparison of Lanreotide Autogel 120 mg in acromegalic patients previously treated with Octreotide LAR
Jochen Schatzmann, Felix Einhaupl, Michael Droese, Ursula Plöckinger, Stephan Petersen & Christian Strasburger
1Medizinische Klinik Innenstadt, University Munich, Munich, Germany; 2Endokrinologie, University Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany; 3Endokrinologie, Oldenburg, Germany; 4Campus Virchow, Charité Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 5Endokrinologie, Universitätshospital Klinikum Augsburg, Essen, Essen, Germany; 6Campus Mitte, Charité Berlin, Berlin, Germany.

Acromegalic patients under treatment with Octreotide LAR (Oct), 10, 20 or 30 mg were switched to Lanreotide Autogel 120 mg (Lan) at different dose intervals: 56, 42 and 28 days respectively. Just before the fourth Lan injection, IGF-I values were measured and the dose interval for the final three injections adjusted accordingly: if IGF-I values were between 1 and 2 standard deviations (s.d.) above the age and sex related mean value, no change in dose-interval was made; if IGF-I was above 2 s.d., the dose interval was reduced from 56 to 42 or 42 to 28 days); if the IGF-I value was below 1 s.d., the dose interval was increased (from 28 to 42 or 42 to 56 days). The ITT population comprised 57 patients who were treated at least once; 33 were titrated and 18, 7 and 8 patients finished the study with 28, 42 and 56 day injection intervals respectively. Median IGF-I, GH and quality of life (QUOL) values were similar at study start and end: IGF-I 89.6 and 87.9% of upper limit of normal range; GH 1.02 and 1.64 ng/ml; QUOL 66 and 66%. Fifty-one percent of investigators preferred the Lan Injections and 26% Oct Patients on the longer injection intervals seemed to prefer the Lan treatment more: 41, 54 and 71% of the patients in the 28, 42 and 56 day groups expressed a preference for treatment with Lan (Oct: 35, 9 and 29% respectively). No treatment-related serious or unexpected adverse events occurred.

Conclusions
Lanreotide Autogel 120 mg injected at intervals of 28, 42 and 56 days provided equivalent control of IGF-I, GH and QUOL when compared to treatment with 30, 20 and 10 mg Octreotide LAR respectively. For patients requiring lower doses, a longer injection interval leads to a higher preference for the treatment.

P595
Growth hormone replacement therapy in adult onset growth hormone deficiency induces favorable long-term effects on quality of life, bone, body composition and lipids: a 55 month prospective study
Anders Palmstrøm Jørgensen, Kristian J Poungner, Thomas Schreiner & Jens Bollerslev
1Rikshospitalet University Hospital, Oslo, Norway; 2St Olavs University Hospital, Trondheim, Norway; 3Aker University Hospital, Oslo, Norway.

Objective
To investigate long-term effects of GH replacement therapy.

Material and methods
Thirty-nine patients (mean age 52.5 years, 14 women) with adult-onset growth hormone deficiency (AOGHD), recruited from a randomized placebo-controlled crossover study of treatment with growth hormone (GH) and placebo for 9months each, were enrolled in an open prospective follow up study. GH replacement was given for additional thirty-three months and was individually dosed to obtain an IGF-I concentration within the upper part of the normal range for age and sex. Results
During treatment, IGF-I increased significantly and reached target levels, P<0.01. The final mean dose was 0.88 (s.d. = 0.60) mg/d for women and 0.56 (0.22) mg/d for men. Significant differences between genders, P=0.03. QOL was improved as assessed by HSCL-58 sum score – 7 (22.4), P=0.03 and AGDHA score – 2.6 (6), P=0.03, increase in physical activity, P=0.05 and improvement in SF-36 dimension vitality, P=0.006. Bone mineral content and bone mineral density increased significantly, both in lumbar (L2-L4) spine, P=0.001 and P=0.007 respectively, and in total body, P=0.001 and P=0.01 respectively. Changes in body fat mass (BMM) and lean body mass (LBM) observed in the controlled part of the study was sustained with a reduction in BFM by –2.18 (4.87) kg, P=0.01 and an increase in LBM by 2.01 (3.25) kg, P=0.007. LDL-cholesterol was reduced – 0.6 (1.1) mmol/l, P=0.002, and HDL-cholesterol increased 0.2 (0.3) mmol/l, P<0.001. No changes were observed in total cholesterol, fasting triglycerides, HbA1c %, fasting plasma insulin and fasting plasma glucose.

Conclusions
Long-term replacement of low dose growth hormone in AOGHD induces favourable effects on QoL, bone and several metabolic parameters.

P596
GH deficiency in HIV-infected patients with lipodystrophy: preliminary data on the effects of r-hGH treatment on body composition
Lucia Ziriti1, Gabriella Orlando1, Giulia Brigante1, Nicola Squillace1, Chiara Duzzi2, Cesare Carani1, Giovanni Guaraldi1 & Vincenzo Rocchia1
1Endocrinology and Metabolism, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy; 2Unit of Infectious Disease, University di Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

Introduction
HIV-infected patients often display a moderate to severe GH deficiency (GHD). To investigate the effects of r-hGH on hormonal parameters and body composition in patients with HIV-related lipodystrophy (HIV-VL) and concomitant GHD, we studied 60 patients with HIV-VL: 28 male and 32 females aged 18-65 years. According to their response to GHGRH+Arginine (GH peak assumed to be normal when > 7.5 ng/ml) patients were assigned to the following 3 groups: Group 1, 35 subjects with a normal GH peak after GHGRH+Arg (> 7.5 ng/ml); Group 2, 10 subjects with GHD (peak <7.5 treated with a low dose of r-hGH (0.018 mg/kg/die), Group 3, 15 subjects with GHD (peak <7.5 not treated with r-hGH.

Methods
Hormones: GH, IGF-I, IGFBP-3, abdominal CT scan for VAT and SAT measurement; DEXA for the measurement of lean and fat body mass. Measurements were performed at baseline and after 24 months.

Results
Serum IGF-I (mean ± s.d.): 130.2±48.2 at baseline, 175.1±55.4 ng/ml at 24 months, P<0.01 and IGFBP-3 (mean ± s.d.): 2901.16±1328.4 at baseline 4315.6±1150.3 ng/ml at 24 months, P<0.001) increased significantly only in Group 2, as expected. VAT decreased in Group 2 (from 195±7.53 to 158±46.9 mm2), but the difference was not significant, while it increased significantly in Group 3 (from 158±7.96 to 201±7.88.9 mm2), P=0.02). The same trend was evident for SAT that increased also in Group 1.

Conclusions
The replacement treatment with r-hGH of patients with HIV-VL and concomitant GHD may be effective in controlling body composition and to prevent fat accumulation, an event that usually occur in patients with HIV-VL. In particular, the reduction of VAT seems to be higher in patients with higher fat accumulation at baseline.

P597
Can the pineal gland modulate the effects of kisspeptin on the puberty onset in female rats?
Haluk Kelesistemi1, Bayram Yilmaz2, Ahmet Ayar1, Ertugrul Kilici2, Mete Oxcan1, Ulkan Kilic1 & Ergul Alcin1
1Faculty of Medicine, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey; 2Faculty of Medicine, Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Chronic central administration of Kiss1-1 peptide to immature female rats induces puberal maturation, characterized by advanced vaginal opening, increased uterine and ovarian weights, elevated levels of luteinizing hormone (LH) and estrogen. There is evidence that the pineal gland may be also involved in puberty onset because melatonin secretion declines near puberty. We have investigated whether there is an interaction between kisspeptin and melatonin in timing of puberty onset. Wistar female rats (n=24) were weaned on day 21 and used. Twelve animals were treated with kisspeptin (KSP), and the other half was exposed to sham operation (SHAM). Both SHAM and PNX rats received intraperitoneally
either 100 mmol KI-S1 per day or vehicle only. The animals were individually caged with free access to food and water. Vaginal opening was daily monitored starting from day 25, and the animals were decapitated when the first diestrus observed. Upon decapitation, trunk blood was collected for LH and estrogen, and the hypothalami were obtained for kisspeptin expression. Uterus and ovaries were dissected and weighed out. All animals presented vaginal opening at the age of 38 days except one rat from SHAM plus KI-S1 and one from PNX plus vehicle groups. Peripheral administration of KI-S1 increased uterine weight in both SHAM and PNX groups. PNX rats receiving KI-S1 had higher (P < 0.05) ovarian weight (44.84 ± 3.6 mg) compared to PNX rats injected with vehicle (38.85 ± 0.07 mg). The present results show that peripheral administration of KI-S1 does not induce vaginal opening at least in the dose of 100 mmol, which was used in our study, unlike the effect of central administration. However, KI-S1 caused an increase in ovarian weight in PNX group, which is another sign of pubertal maturation. The present findings suggest that the pineal gland may modulate the effect of kisspeptin on reproductive functions.

P598
Central diabetes insipidus after transphenoidal treatment for tumors of the sellar region: prognostic factors for transient course of the disease
Ekaterina Pizzarova, Ludmila Rozhinskaya, Andrey Grigoriev & Larisa Dzeranova
Research Centre for Endocrinology, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Central diabetes insipidus (CDI) is a common complication after transphenoidal treatment for tumors of the sellar region and may exhibit different patterns: transient, permanent or triphasic. The aim of our study was to determine the incidence and course of the CDI and to characterize the factors associated with resolution of this disease. The incidence of CDI was based on records of 318 patients who underwent transphenoidal surgery at our institution between 2004 and 2008 by a single surgeon. The main study included 48 patients (32 with transient and 16 with permanent) with postoperative CDI, operated in part in other neurological institutions, and were available for follow-up. CDI was diagnosed in 12.9% of our patients (41/339). There were no differences between groups of transient and permanent CDI in patient’s age (36.2 vs 32.1 years), body mass index (27.3 ± 27.6 kg/m²), duration of preoperative anamnesis of main disease (5.6 vs 6.2 years), tumor volume (1.7 vs 3.1 cm³, P > 0.29), cavernous sinus involvement (P > 0.44) or pituitary stalk deviation (P > 0.48). Median time to resolution of CDI was 9 weeks ranging from 2 days to 1.5 years. We were not able to show that narcosis duration, amount of haemorrhage, liqueurhea, traumatization of neurohypophysis, intraoperative use of H2O2 or formic acid as well as number of miotic, stromal edema or degenerative changes at histological appearance of removed tumor could influence the resolution of postoperative CDI (for all P > 0.05). Transient CDI was associated with previous therapeutic treatment of the tumor (P = 0.04), hormone hypersecretion (P = 0.007) and tumor size less than 1 cm in diameter (P = 0.02).
Thus, herein we report an incidence of CDI within our postoperative population and describe factors that favor transient course of the disease.

P599
Food deprivation affects arcuate neurons in the hypothalamus of young rats
Jołanta Kubasik-Juranić & Narczyk Knapp
1Department of Electron Microscopy, Medical University of Gdańsk, Gdańsk, Poland; 2Department of Medical Chemistry, Medical University of Gdańsk, Gdańsk, Poland.

The arcuate nucleus of the hypothalamus (ARH) is localized within lateral walls of the third ventricle above the median eminence. From the functional point of view ARH takes part in the regulation of food intake, energy expenditure and body weight. The aim of this study was to investigate the influence of food deprivation on ultrastructural alterations of the rough endoplasmic reticulum (RER/Golg) network in the arcuate neurons of young rats. There have been no reports describing the effect of food deprivation on the formation of membranous wheels, the function of which is still unclear. Otherwise, under different stress conditions like morphine, colchicine or mercury treatment, the arcuate neurons exhibited those structures. Inbred male rats aged 5 months were divided into three groups (4 in each): control (normally fed for 48 h), control normally fed for 48 h and 96 h. Simultaneously, total 8-isoprostane serum level was assayed as a marker of oxidative stress inducing lipid peroxidation in vivo. In both groups of food deprived animals we observed rearrangements of the RER in the form of lamellar bodies and membranous whirls. The lamellar bodies in controls were rather short and dispersed in the neuronal cytoplasm. Whereas, in food deprived animals they became longer and participated in the formation of membranous whirls composed of concentric layers of endoplasmic reticulum. The membranous whirls were often placed in the vicinity of very well developed Golgi complexes. Some Golgi complexes displayed an early stage of whorls formation. This observation correlates with a significant increase in serum 8-isoprostane levels in food deprived animals as compared to the fed control.

P600
Plasma levels of neuropeptide Y and peptide YY in patients affected by Anorexia nervosa and severe obesity
Maria Chiara Masoni, Claudia D’Alessandro, Claudio Scarpellini, Lorenzo Ghiadoni & Stefano Taddei
University of Pisa, Pisa, Tuscany, Italy.

Anorexia nervosa (AN) and obesity are prevalent in modern societies. This study evaluate circulating levels of Neuropeptide Y (NPY) and of Peptide Tyrosine-Tyrosine (PYY) in 60 women: 20 affected by AN (Body Mass Index = 15.75 ± 2.09 kg/m²; age 30.19 ± 10.52 years), 10 restrictor (BMI = 14.85 ± 1.64 kg/m²) and 10 hunge-purge subtype (BMI 18.27 ± 0.81 kg/m²), 20 affected by severe Obesity (BMI>40 kg/m²; age 33.56 ± 5.2 years) with type II diabetes with no therapy, and 20 healthy controls (BMI 22.06 ± 0.93 kg/m²; age 32.44 ± 4.35 years).
NPY is higher in AN than obese and controls (70.17 ± 20.84 vs 25.12 ± 7.26 and 52.20 ± 10.88 pmol/l, P < 0.001) and lower in obese than controls (P < 0.001). PYY is higher in AN than obese and controls (219.77 ± 83.51 vs 116.42 ± 41.42 and 94.97 ± 12.74 pmol/l, P < 0.001), with no differences between obese and controls.
In AN, NPY and PYY are quite higher (P = 0.059; P = 0.06) in restrictor (75.75 ± 20.86 pmol/l; 241.78 ± 84.6 pg/ml) than in hunge-purge subtype (53.39 ± 8.72 pmol/l; 153.73 ± 29.45 pg/ml). Increase of NPY despite simultaneous PYY increase in AN might be related to reduced sensitivity to PYY inhibitory effect on NPY production or increased production of NPY from sympathetic peripheral nervous system, a finding evident mainly in restrictor AN. In obese PYY is close to controls suggesting a reduced intestinal production of this peptide because of the stimulus of continuous overfeeding, whereas the reduced NPY production could be explained by increased levels of insulin and leptin. Reduced NPY levels suggest that in these obese the overfeeding is not dependent on increased hungry signal, but on inadequate satiety signal.

P601
From the horse’s mouth: recommendations to improve care for pituitary patients. Results from a survey on pituitary patients’ satisfaction with information and support from healthcare professionals
Sue Jackson 1, Marianne Morris 1, Jane Murray 1 & Tony Woods 2
1University of the West of England, Bristol, UK; 2Pituitary Foundation, Bristol, UK.

Introduction
Pituitary conditions are rare and diagnosis may be slow because symptoms are ambiguous. The treatment may be a combination of surgery, radiotherapy and medication so patients see many healthcare professionals (HCPs). This survey sought to assess patient satisfaction with the information and support they receive from GPs, endocrinologists, neurosurgeons, radiotherapists, specialist nurses, and other agencies (e.g. the pituitary foundation).

Method
A questionnaire based upon the 2006 cancer backup survey was sent to 1000 members of the pituitary foundation. Of 488 questionnaires were returned with 429 containing enough responses to be included in the subsequent analyses. Of these 40% were from male and 60% from female respondents aged between 10 and 85 years (average 56 years).

Results
Overall the picture was reasonably good, but the areas of concern related to the process of diagnosis, and issues related to ongoing medication. There were also some concerns in relation to provision of information to individuals with a pituitary condition and the extent to which they are involved in regular treatment reviews, and the control (normal significant number (5%) not to know where to get information on possible treatments for their condition. Most individuals surveyed
(96%) liked to take and maintain control of managing their condition and enthusiastically sought information to do so, preferably in a face-to-face interaction.

Conclusions
Individuals with a pituitary condition need support to learn the skills to help them manage their condition to the best of their ability, enabling them to enjoy an improved quality of life. To this end, mechanisms should be in place to enable individuals to have regular treatment reviews in partnership with their HCPs. HCPs should be encouraged and enabled to offer more information to patients in a 1:1 setting.

P602
Pituitary insufficiency with a HESHX1 mutation: a new case
Pierre Leconte, 1, 2 Alexandre Saveaune, 1 Anne Barlier-Setti, 1 Thierry Brue, 1 Claire Leconte, 1, 2 Guelle Barrande, 1 Christine Chabrolle, 1, 2 & Peggy Pierre 1, 2
1 CHRU Bretonneau, Tours, France; 2 IFR F Rabelais, Tours, France; 1 Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Marseille, France; 2 CHR, Orléans, France.

A 14 year-old Turkish boy sought advice for growth retardation. Pituitary insufficiency with GH, TSH, ACTH and gonadotrophin deficiency was diagnosed and treated. He was born from a consanguineous family and was married at 24. Three years later he consulted wishing to father a child. He was treated with levothyroxine 150 μg, hGH 0.5 mg/day, hydrocortisone 20 mg/day and was switched from testosterone enantate to hCGF-SH. Azoospermia was initially found and oligospermia after treatment. Pituitary MRI noticed a very hypoplastic anterior pituitary gland without abnormality either of the pituitary stalk or of the neuro-hypophysis. No septo-optic dysplasia or cerebral midline defects were visualized. Nevertheless, taking into account multiple pituitary secretion defects and consanguinity, a mutation was looked for on HESHX1. A non-sens mutation was discovered with a stop codon in exon 2 (R109 X) leading to a truncated protein. Familial in segregation found the same mutation in his father and mother with a normal phenotype and the proposition is therefore homozygote for the mutation. One of his two sisters is heterozygote. Mutations of HESSX1 are rare and more often associated with brain abnormalities. HESX1 is a member of the paired-like class of homeobox genes which functions as a transcriptional repressor and is one of the earliest markers of pituitary development. The repression of HESX1 allows the expression of PROP1. Transmission is recessive or dominant and phenotype highly variable with sometimes minor abnormalities as observed in our case, ranging from isolated GH deficiency to panhypopituitarism with diabetes insipidus.

P603
Prevalence of colonic polyps in acromegalic patients and relationship between glycemic status
Yasemin Tutuncu, 1 Yusuf Aydin, 1 Dilek Berkler, 1 Serhat Isik, 1 Gulhan Akcil, 2 Osman Yuksel, 3 Tuncay Delibasi 4 & Serdar Guler 1
1 SB Ankara Numune Research and Training Hospital, Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinic, Ankara, Turkey; 2 SB Ankara Numune Research and Training Hospital, Gastroenterology Clinic, Ankara, Turkey.

Objective
Acromegaly is associated with an increased prevalence of colonic polyps. The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of colonic polyps in acromegalic subjects, and also whether there is a relationship between insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1), growth hormone (GH), fasting insulin plasma levels and the presence of polyps.

Material and methods
Fifty-four consecutive acromegalic patients and 45 IBS patients were enrolled to study between 2004 and 2008. Groups including acromegalic patients and controls were age and sex matched. All patients underwent colonoscopy and received a histological diagnosis of colorectal lesions. Serum GH, IGF-I, insulin levels were compared between acromegalic patients with and without colorectal lesion.

Results
Acromegalic patient’s mean age was 44±10.9 years (20 males and 34 females, mean duration of disease 5.3±4.7 months) and IBS patient’s mean age was 47±11.1 years (15 males and 30 females). 14 of 54 cases (25.9%) had colonic polyps. Eight (57.1%) had hyperplastic polyps, 5 (35.7%) had adenomatous polyps, and 1 (7.1%) had lymphoma. In the IBS group, 4 (8.8%) had colonic polyps; all polyps were hyperplastic. The prevalence of hyperplastic and adenomatous polyps were significantly higher in acromegalic patients (P=0.02). The group of acromegalic patients with and without polyps did not differ significantly in duration of disease, body mass index, plasma GH, IGF-I, fasting insulin levels and glycemic status (Impaired glucose tolerance, impaired fasting glucose and diabetes mellitus). The presence of colonic polyps was correlated with patients age (P=0.009) and male gender (P=0.01).

Conclusion
Acromegalic patients have a higher prevalence of colonic polyps than IBS subjects. There was no correlation between IGF-I, GH, fasting insulin plasma levels, glycemic status, HOMA-IR and colonic polyps in acromegalic patients.

P604
Results of acromegalic patients treated with surgery and/or somatostatin analog and/or radiotherapy in a University Hospital in Turkey
Ozgur Demir, Vedia Tonuyuk, Gedik, Rifat Emev, Murat Fak Erdogan, Sevim Gulii, Demet Corapcigolu, Ali Riza Uysal, Nilgun Baskal & Nuri Kamel
Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey.

Background
Transsphenoidal adenectomy is the first choice of therapy, but about 50% of patients are not cured and require medical treatment and/or radiotherapy. We retrospectively analyzed the data on surgery, somatostatin analog therapy, radiotherapy and the combination of them. Materials-methods
The records of the 96 female and 70 male, totally 166 acromegalic patients who had been followed in Ankara University, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases Department from 1985 till now were documented. Collected data include estimated data of initial symptoms, date of diagnosis, results of pituitary imaging, the treatment modalities and the remission rates. Remission criteria was GH<1 with oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) and IGF-I normal with respect to age and gender. Results
Macroadenomas were detected in 74% and microadenomas in 26% of the patients. In patients with macroadenoma median growth hormone (GH) was 19.4 ng/ml (1.6-236.8) and median IGF-I was 100 ng/ml (323-4500) while in patients with microadenoma median GH was 9.2 ng/ml (2.1-56) and median IGF-I was 688.5 ng/ml (150-1801). The remission rate was 46% in microadenomas and 31% in macroadenomas giving a total rate of 35% after the first operation. When GH cut off was reduced to <0.4 the remission rate decreased to 23% in microadenomas, 17% in macroadenomas and 18% totally. Somatostatin analog (SSA) treatment was given to 46 patients after the surgery and remission was detected in 46% of the patients. Radiotherapy (RT) was applied to 31 patients (19 conventional RT, 12 gamma-knife). Of 24 of them had also SSA treatment. When RT was applied alone after surgery remission rate was 11%, but if RT and SSA combination was given following surgery the remission rate increased to 50%. Conclusion
Pituitary surgery is an effective treatment for lowering GH and IGF-I, but adjuvant therapy as SSA and/or RT are required to reach higher remission rates.

P605
Hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal axis in chronic fatigue syndrome
Djordje Marinac, 1 Svetlana Jelic 1, Nada Kostic, 1 Zorica Caparacevi, 1 Boro Trbojevic 1, Biljana Belelir, 1 Sanja Ilic 1 & Milos Zarkyvic 1
1 Clinical Center Dr Dragisa Misioc-Dedinje, Serbia, Serbia; 2 Institute of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders, Serbia, Serbia.

Background/objectives
The aim of the study was to assess hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS).

Design and methods
Twenty-three consecutive patients who fulfilled centers for disease control (CDC) criteria for CFS and twenty healthy controls were included in the study. Low dose ACTH test (1mcg of synthetic adrenocorticotropic hormone Synacthen) and insulin tolerance test (ITT) were done and blood cortisol was measured. Data are presented as median with 95 percentile range (2.5–97.5 percentile). Maximum cortisol level was 640.1 mmol/l (338.9–920.1 mmol/l) in CFS patients and 701.2 mmol/l (469.8–1233 mmol/l) in healthy control group.

Results
Dose of ACTH did not differ between patients and controls given in ng/kg of body weight or ng/m^2 of body area. Basal cortisol concentrations did not differ between CFS patients and controls. Maximum cortisol response in ACTH test was significantly lower in CFS versus control group. Maximum cortisol response and area under curve in ITT was significantly lower in CFS patients versus control group.

Conclusions
These results indicate disturbance in cortex of adrenal gland in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome. From our data we cannot conclude whether there are some other disturbances in HPA axis.

P606
Normalization of ACTH and cortisol responses to ghrelin in patients cured from Cushing’s disease
Dragana Miljic, Mirjana Doknic, Sandra Pekic, Marko Stojanovic, Marina Djurovic & Vera Popovic
Institute of Endocrinology, Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia.

Previous studies have shown exaggerated ACTH and cortisol responses to ghrelin. Seven patients who were cured by transphenoidal operation from CD were included in the study and tested with ghrelin (1 mcg/kg i.v.) before and six months after the operation. Their results were compared with eight healthy control subjects. Results are presented as mean ± SD. Mann-Whitney and Wilcoxon signed rank test were used for statistical analysis. Before the operation, baseline ACTH (86.7 ± 58.9 vs 24.2 ± 16.2 ng/ml, P < 0.05) and cortisol concentrations (671.1 ± 224.3 vs 338.6 ± 135.2 nmol/l, P < 0.01) were significantly higher in patients with CD compared to control subjects. Peak ACTH (185.4 ± 99.3 vs 59.5 ± 41.2 ng/ml, P < 0.01) and cortisol responses (1021 ± 201 vs 610 ± 70.6, P < 0.01) were also significantly higher in patients with CD, before operation, compared to controls.

After operation, baseline ACTH (from 86.7 ± 58.9 to 21.7 ± 19.9 ng/ml, P < 0.05) and cortisol concentrations (from 671.2 ± 224.3 to 393.7 ± 99.5 nmol/l, P < 0.05) significantly decreased as well as peak ACTH (from 185.4 ± 99.3 to 40.5 ± 34.7 ng/ml, P < 0.05) and cortisol responses (from 1024 ± 201 to 603.8 ± 147.3 nmol/l, P < 0.05) to ghrelin. After the operation, baseline and peak ACTH and cortisol values in patients cured from CD were not significantly different from those observed in control subjects (P > 0.05).

Normalization of ACTH and cortisol responses to ghrelin was observed, six months after the transphenoidal adenectomy, in our patients treated for CD.

P607
The role of androgen receptors in the medial amygdala on biosynthesis and stress-induced cellular activation of the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus
Brenda Bingham, Megan Gray & Victor Vieu
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Although it is becoming increasingly clear that testosterone exerts an inhibitory influence on stress-induced adenocorticotropic (ACTH) and corticosterone release, where and how this occurs in the brain remains poorly understood. We previously determined that androgen receptors are not distributed within anterior pituitary communicating neurons of the paraventricular nucleus (PVN) of the hypothalamus (Bingham et al 1 Comp Neurol 2006). However, they are contained within several upstream brain regions involved in the regulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis and (ACTH) secretion. The medial amygdala (MeA) concentrates androgen receptors and regulates the HPA response to acute restraint stress (Dayas et al. Eur J Neurosci, 2002). Furthermore, animals that are gonadectomized as neonates have higher levels of plasma corticosterone and Fos in the PVN under basal conditions and in response to restraint stress, despite equivalent adult testosterone replacement (Bingham & Vieu, Endocrinology, 2008). Interestingly, these same animals showed a decrease in the number of androgen receptors in the MeA. Based on these findings, we are examining the role of androgen receptors contained within the MeA on the HPA response to a single episode of restraint. Adult male rats received bilateral implants of the androgen receptor antagonist hydroxyflutamide, or testosterone suspended in beeswax, aimed towards the MeA. Two weeks after surgery, animals were subjected to restraint stress for 30 min and anesthetized for perfusion 2 h following the onset of restraint. We are currently investigating the effects of these implants on PVN biosynthesis and cellular activation and hormonal output.

P608
GH resistance in a group of chronic fatigue syndrome patients
Francis Coucke & Yanina Dockx
Metarex, Sint-Gillis Waas, Belgium.

Objective
The role of GH and IGF1 in the pathogenic of CFS is unclear. One study (related articles number 2) found no difference in IGF1 levels between controls and patients. However in fibromyalgia there are reports of subgroups of patients with a low IGF1 and normal to high GH. This phenomenon is also known with anorexia nervosa patients due to the malnutrition.

Method
We selected a group of ambulatory CFS patients fulfilling the Fukuda criteria with a low IGF1. An ITT was performed with those patients to explore the GH secretion in response hypoglycaemia (glycemia: <40 mg/dl).

Results
We selected 13 patients with a mean age of 44 years (11 females and 2 males) without malnutrition. These patients have a BMI higher than 18 and lower than 30. The mean IGF1 of the patient group is (99.5 ± 24.5 ng/ml). The normal value of IGF1 in a control group is (200 ± 45 ng/ml). The peak GH after ITT in the group is (56.4 ± 36.6 mU/l).

Discussion
In this group of 13 CFS patients without known endocrine abnormalities we find a significant low IGF1 of 99.5 ng/ml in comparison to a control group (normal value: 200 ng/ml). These patients show a normal high GH response after hypoglycaemia. Low IGF1 and high GH response is characteristic for growth hormone resistance. This phenomenon is known with chronic inflammation and anorexia nervosa. There are no reports of GH resistance in CFS. Further studies are needed to discover the pathogenesis and mechanisms in CFS.

P609
Presenting pattern and etiologies of hyperprolactinemia in north west of Iran
Akbar Aliasgarzadeh
Tabriz University (Medical Sciences), Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Background
Hyperprolactinemia is the most common endemic disorder of the hypothalamic-pituitary axis. We have not any documented data about frequency of various etiologies of hyperprolactinemia in our region. For determination of the pattern of presentation and distribution of causes of hyperprolactinemia the presenting study were designed and conducted.

Methods and materials
In a descriptive study, we extract medical records of patient presented to our clinic with diagnosis of hyperprolactinemia between 1 day of 2001 until last day of 2006. At this time interval we found 127 patients with diagnosis of hyperprolactinemia, of which 14 excluded due to absence of sufficient data for determination of etiology. The remaining 113 subjects’ data were collected and analyzed.

Results
In our study 27 (23%) of patients were male and 86 (76%) were female. Greater than 63% of subjects had 20–40 years old. The presenting sings and symptoms of patients were in order of frequency: Menstrual abnormalities, galactorrhea, infertility, headache, visual disturbances, and sexual dysfunction. Pituitary adenoma was the most frequent etiology of hyperprolactinemia in our subjects. Other causes of hyperprolactinemia were: idiopathic hyperprolactinemia, hypothryroidism, medications, and polycystic ovary syndrome.

Conclusion
We found that in our series the most frequent presenting problem of patients with hyperprolactinemia was menstrual disturbances in females and sexual dysfunction in males. The most frequent cause of hyperprolactinemia was pituitary prolactin secreting adenoma.
**P610**

An exceptional image: multiple sclerosis and hypogonadism
Ruth Boente, Eloisa Santos, Jaime Lorenzo & Manuel Antonio Sas
Povisa Hospital, Vigo, Spain.

We present a 27 year-old female patient suffering from multiple sclerosis (MS) since 3 years ago. She currently consults for menstrual disturbances. She has not any neurological seculecty at MS now and she is not on medical treatment. She is with amenorrhea since 10 months ago, but she had been oligomenorrhea just before for 24 months. She doesn’t have any symptoms suspicious for other hormonal impairment. Physical examination is normal. The laboratory test reveals a hypogonadotropic hypogonadism with a normal thyroid, prolactin, cortisol, corticosterone levels. The Magnetic Resonance of the brain shows multiple signal alterations of white matter, hypertintense in T2 and without enhancing.

She has a demyelination plaque in the right side of the hypothalamus.

There are some clinical cases in the literature about MS and hypogonadism. One of them describes also growth hormone deficit. Another one shows subclinical pituitary deficits in these patients. But the authors doesn’t find any etiologic lesion on imaging tests.

In our case we can show the hypothalamic lesion causing hypogonadotropic hypogonadism. This should make us remember about the possibility of pituitary deficits in patients with multiple sclerosis.

**P611**

Health related quality of life in patients with diabetes mellitus type 2 in comparison to patients with other endocrine diseases
Lina Lasalote, Gintautas Kazanavičius, Editas Sankūtė & Eugidija Zaslytė
Institute of Endocrinology of Kaunas University of Medicine, Kaunas, Lithuania.

Pathophysiologic mechanisms of endocrine diseases (and diabetes mellitus type 2 (DM2) among them) impacts person’s health perception and health related behavior as measured by the health related quality of life.

Aim
To compare peculiarities of health related quality of life in patients with DM2 and other endocrine diseases under hospital treatment.

Methods
Of 60 patients with DM2 and 71 patients with other endocrine diseases from the Department of Endocrinology of University Hospital were investigated by using WHOQOL-100 questionnaire.

Results
Physical domain of quality of life in patients with DM2 (11.4 ± 2.4 vs 12.5 ± 2.8, P = 0.022), individuality domain (11.5 ± 2.5 vs 13.2 ± 2.6, P = 0.001) and spirituality domain (11.3 ± 3.3 vs 12.7 ± 3.3, P = 0.022) were significantly lower than in patients with other endocrine diseases, showing worse quality of life. Global score of health related quality of life showed tendency to lower in DM2 patients than in patients with other endocrine diseases (11.6 ± 2.7 vs 12.3 ± 2.6, P = 0.097).

In patients with DM2 significant correlations between BMI and individuality domain (r = –0.307, P = 0.020) and between duration of illness and individuality domain (r = –0.264, P = 0.047) were detected.

In conclusion
The impact of diabetes mellitus type 2 on psychological well-being as measured by health related quality of life questionnaire is more expressed than that of other endocrine diseases. The pattern of impairment may be helpful in planning psychological rehabilitation in DM2.

**P612**

Pregnancy occurs rarely in acromegalic patients: although octreotide therapy in pregnancy seems to be feasible and safe, enough information regarding the use of OCT in pregnancy is not available yet
Fatih Kılıçli1, 2, Serdal Korkmaz1, 2,3, 4, Sebilla Dokmetas1, 2, 3, 5 & Fettah Acıbay1, 2, 3, 4
1Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey; 2Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey; 3Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey; 4Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey.

The patient who was operated because of pituitary macroadenoma causing acromegaly disease had insufficient suppression respond of growth hormone to postoperative oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). OCT LAR treatment had been started. On the 15th month of the therapy, the patient presented with failure of menstruation since four months, so pregnancy test was performed and pregnancy was diagnosed. The patient had used OCT LAR during the period without knowing that she was pregnant. After it has been shown with magnetic resonans imaging (MRI) that the pituitary adenoma did not grow, we stopped the OCT LAR treatment. The patient delivered a healthy newborn girl at the 37. gestational week newborn of 2650 g in weight and 50 cm in length. MRI was used for postpartum macroadenoma assessment and it had not grow during this period. Two months after the delivery, because of insufficient suppression respond of growth hormone to OGTT, OCT LAR treatment was restarted.

We believe that the size of the adenoma must be checked to make a decision in discontinuing or continuing treatment when pregnancy developed in acromegalic patients is the most suitable approach. Furthermore, we advocate that OCT should be discontinued during pregnancy until more safety data are obtained.

**P613**

Observational outcome of Korean acromegalic based on OASIS registry
Sung-Woon Kim
Kyung Hee University School of Medicine, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

We enrolled 30 acromegals from 2005 to 2007. 7 at endocrine outpatient clinic of four academic hospitals. Male to female ratio was equal (15/15). Unsuppressed GH confirmed 28 out of 30 patients with oral glucose tolerance test. Average serum GH level was 28.7 ng/ml, and average IGF-I, 985 ng/ml. Micro- to macroadenoma was 82% (26%). Before treatment, 28 out of 30 acromegals were taken 100 μg of somatostatin suppression test, complete responder (GH was suppressed below 1 ng/ml) was 39% (11/28), lower IGF-I (879 ± 322 mIU/ml) were microadenoma. Biochemical cure rate after surgery was assessed with suppressed GH after OGTT below 1 ng/ml, macroadenoma revealed 67% (8/12) and 100% (5/5) in microadenoma. Paradoxical response of GH to TRH (18/30) was observed in 7% (14/18) of acromegals. Overall cure rate with trans-sphenoidal adenectomy (TSA) was 80% (16/19). All 3 microadenomas were removed completely.

On focusing to 12 acromegals, preoperative use of octreotide-LAR (median duration, 12 weeks) showed complete removal of tumors regardless of tumor size (macro–micro = 9:3). Tumor volume, hormone profiles before and after use of octreotide-LAR showed in Table 1. The preoperative use of Octreotide-LAR could achieve complete removal of pituitary tumors and biochemical cure of acromegaly. But, in a surgical point of view, surgeons encountered many problems during operation. Because newly developed severe fibrosis between normal and shrunken tumor tissue due to preoperative use of octreotide-LAR regardless of its duration should make operation too hard to more shrink arachnoid space, more chance to CSF leak. These findings suggested that how surgeon’s skill was important. In conclusion, preoperative use of octreotide-LAR might be predicted improvement of surgical outcome via reduction of tumor volume, but severe fibrosis should be a critical obstacle to easy removal of tumors and more chance to get operative complication as CSF leakage.

**P614**

Plasma thrombin-activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor antigen levels in acromegalic patients
Mustafa Orbek1, Mehmet Erdogan2, Ozcan Ceneli3, Hakan Saltas1, Erdem Akbal1, Mustafa Kızıltunç4 & Kemal Ureten1
1Ministry of Health, Diskapi Y H Education and Research Hospital, Endocrinology and Metabolism Disease, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism Disease, Ege University Medical School, İzmir, Turkey; 3Department of Hematology, Kırıkkale University School of Medicine, Kırıkkale, Turkey.

Objective
Acromegaly is associated with increased morbidity and mortality, mostly due to cardiovascular complications. Thrombin-activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFI) is associated with coagulation/fibrinolysis and inflammation. Plasma TAFI may participate in arterial thrombosis in cardiovascular diseases (CVD). In this study, we aimed to evaluate the levels of TAFI antigen and also its relationship with other markers in a group of patients with acromegaly in comparison with healthy controls.


11th European Congress of Endocrinology, Istanbul, Turkey, 2009
Research design and methods
We studied 29 acromegaly patients and 26 healthy controls. We measured TAFila/i antigen in plasma samples with a commercially available ELISA kit.

Results
Routine biochemical parameters, fasting and postprandial glucose levels, BUN, creatinine, CBC, prolactin, TSH, total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, triglyceride, homocysteine, and hs-CRP were similar in the two groups (P>0.05), whereas plasma TAFila/i antigen levels were significantly elevated in acromegalic patients (154.7 ± 94.0%) when compared with control subjects (107.2 ± 61.6%) (P<0.03).

A positive correlation was found by Pearson correlation test between plasma TAFila/i antigen levels and hs-CRP: (r=0.364, P< 0.01).

Conclusions
In our study, significant alteration in plasma TAFila/i antigen levels were detected in patients with acromegaly during treatment. Increased TAFila/i antigen levels in acromegaly should be considered as an important finding in explaining CVD in this disease.

P615
Prolactinoma in east-black sea Turkey: a description of 51 cases
Orge Uçuncu, Irfan Nuhoglu, Mustafa Koçak, Cihangir Erem, Kubra Aydin Bahat & H Onder Eroso
Endocrinology and Metabolism Department, Medical Faculty, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey.

PRL hypersecretion is the most common endocrine abnormality due to hypothalamic-pituitary disorders. PRL is the hormone most commonly secreted in excess by pituitary adenomas. Patients usually present with oligo-amenorrhea, galactorrhea, loss of libido, impotence and infertility. If the tumor extends outside of the sella, visual deficit or other mass effects may be seen.

A retrospective study was performed during the period 1999-2008. The diagnosis of prolactinoma was based on objective examination, hormonal levels and MRI. During these time 51 cases were diagnosed as prolactinoma: 68.62% were females and 31.38% were males. Female/male ratio was 2.18:1. The mean age of diagnosis was 36.31 ± 13.58 (range 18–77 years) olds. Oligomenorrhea or amenorrhea were the major symptoms in 21 patients (41.1%) and followed by headache in 11 patients (21.5%), galactorrhea in 9 patients (17.6%), decreased libido in 6 patients (11.7%) and visual deficit in 1 patient. Of 3 patients (5.88%) was asymptomatic. Hyponptuitarism was found 18 patients (35.3%). The diagnosis of prolactinoma was confirmed by MRI. The 56.8% of patients was macroadenoma and 41.2% of cases was microadenoma.

The mean value of PRL at the moment of diagnosis was 720.64 ± 1086.2 (range 61.5–3919) ng/ml. PRL normal range is 3.4–21 ng/ml.

P616
Acromegaly in the eastern black sea region of Turkey: a description of 42 cases
Irfan Nuhoglu, Mustafa Koçak, Orge Uçuncu, Cihangir Erem, Fatma Saglam & Onder Eroso
Blacksea Technical University Medical Faculty, Trabzon, Turkey.

Background
Acromegaly is a relatively uncommon disorder (40–68 cases per million population) caused by oversecretion of growth hormone by a tumor of the pituitary gland. Excessive growth hormone (GH) and insulin-like growth factor (IGF) I concentrations cause gradual changes in facial and acral appearances as well as in many internal issues.

Methods
Medical records of patients with acromegaly seen between 2000 and 2008 at our hospital were reviewed and epidemiological data regarding the demographic characteristics has been analyzed.

Results
Information was available on 42 patients, of whom 23 (55%) were women and 19 (45%) were men. The mean age at diagnosis was 43 ± 13 years. Body mass indexes were between 22.5 and 43 kg/m², mean 29.3 ± 5.13 kg/m². GH levels were between 3 and 124 ng/ml, mean 32.6 ± 28.3 ng/ml. IGF-I levels were between 310 and 2620 ng/ml, mean 927 ± 616.14 ng/ml. In nine patients (21%) there were microadenomas while 33 patients (79%) had macroadenomas at the diagnosis. Diameters of adenomas were between 6 and 70 mm, mean value 22.5 ± 13 mm. Most prominent symptoms were acral growth (83%), headache (26.2%) and visual defects (23.8%). Diabetes mellitus has been found in 13 patients (31%) while two patients (5%) have had impaired glucose tolerance test. Patients who had neurological procedures for adenomas were 82%. Postoperative hypopituitarism have arisen in 12% of patients.

Conclusion
Acromegaly is a rare disorder that progress slowly for years before become clinically apparent. Susception from symptoms is important for diagnosis of acromegaly in early period.

P617
Long-term treatment of a misdiagnosed TSH-oama patient with antidepressants and antithyroid drugs
Irfan Nuhoglu, Orge Uçuncu, Mustafa Koçak, Cihangir Erem, Adem Demirel & Onder Eroso
Medical Faculty, Blacksea University, Trabzon, Turkey.

Background
Among the disorders causing hyperthyroidism thyrotropin-secreting pituitary adenomas (TSH-omas) are extremely rare and account for <2% of all pituitary adenomas. Failure to recognize a TSH-oma may lead to improper therapy attempts and dramatic consequences. We have reported a patient that wrongly had diagnosed and treated as primary hyperthyroidism for fifteen years.

Case
A 50 years old woman who was on the treatment of propylthiouracil (150 mg/day) referred our endocrinology clinic from physichiast clinic due to high serum thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), free thyroxine (fT4) and free triiodothyronine (fT3) levels. She was complaining of sweating and shortness of breathing. Physical examination revealed slightly enlarged thyroid gland but were otherwise unremarkable. Laboratory investigations revealed TSH level of 5.15 (0.27–4.2) mU/l, fT3 level of 2.78 (n=0.9–1.7) ng/dl and free T4 level of 6.2 (n=1.8–4.6) pg/ml. The serum alpha-subunit level was 0.84 (n=0.90) IU/l and alpha-subunit: TSH molar ratio was 1.63 (n<1). There was impaired TSH response to TRH stimulation and no suppression of TSH with T4 suppression test. An MRI scan revealed 20 mm adenoma in the right side of the pituitary gland. These biochemical and radiological investigations were consistent with the diagnosis of TSH-oma. We have planned to attempt neurosurgical removal after a course of medical treatment with octreotide LAR 20 mg/month for a period of 3–6 months. After 3 months on the octreotide treatment all of TSH, fT3 and fT4 levels have decreased (3.09 mU/l, 2.20 ng/dl, 4.78 pg/ml respectively). On MRI scan adenom has regressed to 17 mm in diameter.

Conclusion
In a patient with high levels of thyroid hormones if TSH level is high or normal TSH-oma must be suspected. Misdiagnosed TSH-oma patients undergo wrong treatments and due to persistent hyperthyroidism physichasomatic symptoms may get them to physiciast clinics. Neurosurgical treatment may be first choice after restoration of thyroid state with octreotide treatment.

Reproduction
P618
The effect of nutritional supplement (Menopause) on the frequency of hot flushes, night sweats, mood and quality of life in post-menopausal women: a placebo-controlled double blind study
Maria Andrikoula, Dawn Baker, Jelena Nesci, Li Hui Liao, Theodora Duka & Gordana Prelicic
Royal Free Hospital, London, UK.

Objective
Hot flushes and night sweats experienced by 60–70% of postmenopausal women are considered as classical signs of menopause. Estrogen is the gold standard treatment, but in view of its potential risks, various herbal preparations and vitamin supplements have a great appeal to women. Aim of this study was to assess the effect of a nutritional supplement (Menopause®) on the frequency and severity of hot flushes and the quality of life in postmenopausal women in a randomized, placebo-controlled, double blind study over three months.

Subjects and methods
Ninety-one post-menopausal women aged 53.73 ± 7.04 (range 41–71) years were randomized to receive either placebo (n=45) or Menopause® (n=46). Sixty-eight women completed diaries (35 from Menopause® group and 33 from placebo) and came for a second assessment after 14 weeks. During the study, women also completed self-report questionnaires on the frequency and severity of hot flushes and night sweats, the Profile of Mood State (POMS) questionnaire, the World Health Organisation Quality of Life Questionnaire (WHOQOL-BREF®) version, the National Adult Reading Test and the Rey Auditory-Verbal Learning Test.

Results
There was a significant decrease ($P<0.01$) in the number of hot flushes experienced per week in both the Menopace® (pre $3.1 \pm 4.7$; post $23.1 \pm 4.8$) and the placebo group (pre $23.1 \pm 4.7$; post $17.3 \pm 4.0$), and also a significant decrease ($P<0.001$) in the number of night sweats experienced per week in both the Menopace® (pre $6.1 \pm 1.0$, post $4.2 \pm 0.7$) and the placebo group (pre $5.9 \pm 0.7$, post $3.7 \pm 0.7$).

Discussion
Our study showed a significant placebo effect on hot flushes and night sweats which is consistent with other studies. There was a significant decrease in the number of hot flushes and night sweats in both the Menopace® and the placebo group. The level of education appeared as the main determining factor of the way that women cope with hot flushes.

P619

Clinical characteristics of Algerian PCOS women
Oussou Khalia Samia1, Abir Yamina1, Kenza Zahra2 & Samouri Mourad2
1Central Hospital of the Army, Algiers, Algeria; 2CPMC, Algiers, Algeria.

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is the most frequent endocrinopathy in premenopausal women, and has many clinical features in common with the metabolic syndrome.

Objective
The aim of our study was to evaluate the clinical characteristics of our PCOS women.

Methods
Of 181 PCOS defined by the Rotterdam criteria and 90 controls were evaluated for anthropometric parameters by physical examination.

Results
The PCOS and controls clinical parameters were compared. The mean age of PCOS was $27.52 \pm 7.23$ vs $28.02 \pm 6.45$ years; $P=0.18$; the BMI was $28.67 \pm 7.72$ vs $27.3 \pm 6.37$ kg/m$^2$, $P=0.09$; the waist circumference was $99.51 \pm 18.14$ vs $92.23 \pm 12.01$ cm ($P<0.001$); the waist to hip ratio was $0.87 \pm 0.1$ vs $0.82 \pm 0.1$ ($P=0.001$); the systolic blood pressure was $136.14 \pm 12.89$ vs $112.2 \pm 11.4$ mmHg ($P=0.001$) and the diastolic blood pressure was $81.25 \pm 9.59$ vs $74.3 \pm 7.1$ mmHg ($P=0.01$).

Conclusion
PCOS women have greater waist circumference, WH ratio, systolic and diastolic blood pressure.

P620

Influence of hyperprolactinemia on prolactin receptor manifestation and hepatic bilirubin excretory activity under condition of female rat obstructive cholestasis
Natalia Kushnarova, Maria Sergeeva & Olga Smirnova
M V Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Ordinary complication of pregnancy is shift of hepatic excretory activity leading to cholestasis. Gallstone disease is also predominated in women. Both high prolactin (PRL) concentration and high level of liver prolactin receptors (PRLR) in normal and pregnant women were assumed to participate in obstructive cholestasis development.

Using female rat model of hyperprolactinemia combined with obstructive cholestasis we aimed to investigate PRL influence on female rat liver PRLR expression, alterations of hepatic structure and liver bilirubin excretory activity.

Obstructive cholestasis was induced by common bile duct ligation and hyperprolactinemia by female donor pituitary transplantation under kidney capsule of female recipient.Intensity of PRLR manifestation was analyzed with indirect immunohistochemical technique with quantitative computer analysis of imaging. Bilirubin concentration in bile, blood, and urine, bile flow and bilirubin excretion rates were tested.

Hyperprolactinemia induced elevation of PRLR manifestation in hepatocytes under normal and obstructive cholestasis conditions. PRLR expression in cholangiocytes was sharply increased in obstructive cholestasis with no additional influence of hyperprolactinemia and decreased after bile duct decompression.

Hyperprolactinemia in conjunction with elevated hepatocyte and cholangiocyte PRLR manifestation caused additional alterations in hepatic structure and functions as compared to obstructive cholestasis influence: 1) amount and size of bile ducts were additionally increased with occasionally observed ducts with elements of intestinal metabolism; 2) fibrosis and inflammation of portal areas were more prominent; 3) depending on hyperprolactinemia duration restoration of bile flow after bile duct decompression was firstly suppressed and then not restored; and 4) bilirubin concentration was firstly elevated in blood and urine and then decreased in bile.

Thus, hyperprolactinemia under obstructive cholestasis condition is accompanied by elevation of hepatocyte PRLR manifestation and may further damage liver structure, aggravate liver functions and participate in redirection of bile flux from liver to blood and urine.

P621

The prevalence of subclinical late – onset hypogonadism in men with diabetes type 2
Olga Vasiliyova1, Tatyana Mokhrot2, Tamara Shashchikova1 & Igor Sanec1
1Gomel State Medical University, Gomel, Belarus; 2Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk, Belarus; 3Gomel State Medical University, Gomel, Belarus; 4The Republican Research Centre for Radiation Medicine and Human Ecology, Gomel, Belarus.

The aim
To investigate the prevalence of subclinical late-onset hypogonadism (SLOH) in men with diabetes type 2 and relationship between testosterone concentrations and duration of diabetes.

Material and methods
We investigated 114 men with DT 2 aged from 45–60 years ($M \pm SD 54.0 \pm 4.63$). Luteinizing hormone (LH), follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), total testosterone (T), calculated free testosterone (cFT) and bioavailable testosterone (BT), sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG), the T/LH ratio, HbA1C, BMI were all determined. Control group included 25 healthy men aged from 45–60 years. All of them were treated with oral antiidiabetic drugs or insulin. LOH was expected on the basis of low testosterone concentration ($<5.9$ nmol/l) and the index T/LH $<1$.

Results
The mean of duration of DT2 was $5.22 \pm 5.89$ years. The TT level was lower in diabetic men compared with control group ($6.05 \pm 2.65$ vs $11.8 \pm 5.14$ nmol/l). The mean T/LH ratio was $2.47 \pm 2.67$. Of 62% of men had testosterone levels lower 5.9 nmol/l but only 30% had T/LH ratio below 1. There was inverting correlation between the T/LH ratio and BMI ($r = -0.24$, $P < 0.05$), but not with duration of diabetes and age. The level of BT positive correlated with T/LH ratio ($r = 0.35$, $P < 0.05$).

Conclusions
In men with DT2 the prevalence of SLOH is about 62%, and it was more common then in population of men without diabetes. In all the patients with DT2 the possibility of SLOH should be investigated. In the other hand, men with SLOH also must be screening to exclude the symptoms of diabetes.

P622

Adiponectin increases insulin-like growth factor 1-induced progesterone and estradiol secretion in human granulosa cells
Christine Chabrolle1, Lucie Tosca1, Christelle Rame2, Pierre Leconte1, Dominique Royère1 & Joelle Dupont1
1CHRU Bresto Beauport Département d’Endocrinologie et de Diabétologie, Tours, France; 2Unité de Physiologie de la Reproduction et des Comportements, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Nouzilly, France.

Adiponectin is a protein hormone mainly produced by adipocytes. It plays an essential role in the regulation of lipid and carbohydrate metabolisms. Adiponectin mediates its effects through mainly two receptors named AdipoR1 and AdipoR2. Some evidence in rodent and domestic animals suggests that adiponectin could also regulate female fertility and more particularly ovarian functions. However, its role in human ovary has never been investigated. The objectives of the present study were to identify adiponectin and adiponectin receptors 1 and 2 in human ovary and to determine the effects of human recombinant adiponectin on in vitro human granulosa cells (GC) steroidsogenesis.

We have also investigated which signaling pathways could be activated by adiponectin in human GC. We showed using Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction and Western blot that the mRNA for AdipoR1 and AdipoR2 and the proteins are found in human GCs. In these latter cells, expression of adiponectin (mRNA and protein) was undetectable, whereas it was largely expressed in human theca cells. By ELISA assay, we detected higher levels of adiponectin in fluid follicular than in plasma. In the second part of our study, we observed that human recombinant adiponectin increased IGF-1-induced progesterone and estradiol (E2) production in human GCs without any variation.

of STaR, p53loc and 3βHSD protein levels. However, we showed that adiopcin treatment increased IGF-1-induced E2 secretion and this was associated with an increase in the protein amount of p450 aromatase. Finally, we observed that adiopcin treatment rapidly increased the MAPK (ERK/1 and p38) signaling pathway in human GCs. These findings significantly increased our understanding of the role of adiopcin on human GCs. However, further investigations are required to determine the role of adiopcin on other human ovarian cells including theca cells and also its potential implication in the polycystic ovary syndrome.

**P623**
Effects of thyroid hormones on ovary granulosa cells: regulation of proliferation, survival and function
Silvia Misiti1,2, Cecilia Verga Falcacci3,2, Claudia Mangialardo1,2, Barbara Bucci1, Salvatore Raffa1, Giuliana Silvestrini1, Antonio Stigliano1,2 & Vincenzo Toscano1,2
1 IIFaculty of Medicine, Sapienza University, Rome, Italy; 2 IIPeter Hospital Centro Ricerca, Rome, Italy; 3 IIDEM, Rome, Italy; 4 IFaculty of Medicine, Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.

It is clinically evident that women suffering from thyroid disorders are associated with frequent occurrence of menstrual disturbances and impaired fertility, and these abnormalities are improved by restoring the euthyroid state. The exact mechanism for such reproductive aberrations is not well known; however, it is conceivable that thyroid hormones might have a direct role in ovarian physiology via receptors in granulosa cells. We evaluated the effect of thyroid hormones (T3,T4) on the proliferative activity, apoptosis and function of the human granulosa cells COV454. The cells have been treated with T3 and T4 (10−8−5×10−8 M) after dose response analysis. Cell viability, number and apoptosis of treated cells were evaluated by MTI assay, by cell counting, and by TUNEL assay. T3 and T4 were able to induce cell growth and viability. In particular T3 showed the strongest effect, being able to induce a 40% increase in the cell number after 72 h of treatment. To better define the observed effects, cell cycle profile by FACS analyses has been performed. When the cells were cultured in serum-free condition to induce apoptosis, T3 was able to induce a decrease in the cell apoptotic rate of 30% and the P3K pathway seems to be involved in the survival effect of T3. The ultrastructure of the cells exposed to T3 has also been analyzed by electron microscopy. In addition the treated cells showed a strong increase in the relative production of 17 beta-estradiol, which was increased of 50% by the T3, and of 30% by T4 treatments. These results support our hypothesis that T3s influence cell proliferation in human ovary granulosa cells.

**P624**
Successive degradation of STaR by soluble and membrane-bound mitochondrial proteases: plausible mechanism protecting steroidogenic mitochondria under 'protein stress'
Assad Ball & Joseph Orly
Department of Biological Chemistry, Institute of Life Sciences, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel.

Steroidogenic acute regulatory protein (STaR) is a nuclear encoded vital mitochondrial protein that is essential for synthesis of steroid hormones in the adrenal and gonads. In these tissues, STaR mediates translocation of cholesterol into the inner mitochondrial membranes, where it is converted to the first steroid, pregnenolone. The roughly understood mechanism of STaR action is probably executed prior to STaR import, when the protein is passed at the outer mitochondrial membrane. Import, therefore, is presently perceived as a turning-off mechanism of STaR activity and leads to a rapid and excessive accumulation of non-functional STaR in the mitochondrial matrix. We postulated that the latter imposes a potential ‘protein stress’ scenario requiring a rapid degradation of the protein to avoid organelle damage. This study shows that, indeed, STaR is a rare example of a mitochondrial protein with a short half-life that is subjected to proteolysis by a cascade of ATP-dependent mitochondrial proteases. First, Lon protease degrades STaR upon its entry into the matrix. Then, STaR molecules that survived Lon, readily adhere onto the surface of the inner mitochondrial membranes where another membrane protease complex is involved in the second phase degradation of the protein. By use of over-expression, sRNA, pulse-chase and promoter analysis approaches, our results suggest that it is the AFG3L2 protease/chaperone homo-oligomeric complex that is responsible for STaR degradation in the second phase of it elimination; AFG3L2 together with paraplegin (SGP73) function as proteases and chaperons involved in protein quality control and mitochondrial morphology; also, loss of function mutations in the latter cause terminal neurodegenerative disorders such as hereditary spastic paraplegia. Our results suggest that turnover of non-functional STaR in the mitochondria is reassured by a succession of proteases acting on it to maintain the critical function of steroidogenic mitochondria posed under ‘protein stress’ circumstances.

**P625**
Adipor1 and Adipor2 Inactivation by RNA interference in the KGN human granulosa cell line: potential involvement of Adipor1 in cell survival and Adipor2 in steroidogenesis
Pierre Peggy1,2, Froment Pascal1,3, Negre Didier3,4, Rame Christelle1, Chaebolle Christine3,5, Lecomte Pierre1 & Dupont Joel2
1 Unité d’endocrinologie, Diabétologie, Maladies Métaboliques, CHRU Bretagne, tours, france; 2 Unité de Physiologie de la Reproduction et des Comportements, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Nouzilly, france; 3 Unité de recherches Avicoles, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Nouzilly, France; 4 Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Lyon, BioSciences Lyon-Gerland, Lyon, France.

Adiponectin is one of the most abundant fat-derived hormones involved in a multitude of metabolism pathways. It acts as an anti-diabetic and anti-atherogenic adipokine. Adiponectin mediates its actions through mainly two receptors, Adipor1 and Adipor2. It has been postulated that although Adipor1 and Adipor2 consist of seven transmembrane helices, they are distinct from other G-protein-coupled receptors. A role of adiponectin in ovarian physiology has been recently suggested. This hormone and its receptors have been identified in different ovarian compartments in various species. Thus, the aim of this study was to determine the effect of an inactivation of Adipor1 and Adipor2 mRNA by RNA interference (RNAi) on a human granulosa cell line (KGN cell line). We first observed in a few days the death of R1 cells that express Adipor1 RNAi. These data were not shown with a control RNAi (scramble RNAi). On the opposite, R2 cells that express Adipor2 RNAi are viable. Although Adipor2 expression (mRNA and protein) was strongly reduced in R2 cells, no difference was seen in term of cell proliferation or viability (± 10−1 5×10−4 M) or adiponectin (10 g/ml) if compared with KGN cells. Progesterone (P4) and Estradiol (E2) secretions were increased in response to IGF-1 or FSH (5×10−1 M) compared to basal state in KGN and R2 cells. However, these levels of steroid hormones in R2 cells were lower in response to FSH and FSH-IGF-1 (P<0.0001) for P4 and E2 and in response to IGF-1 for E2 (P<0.0059). So, in KGN cells, Adipor2 receptor could modulate steroidogenesis stimulated by FSH or IGF-1. Lastly, we observed that human adiponectin induced quick and transient activation of the MAPK ERK1/2 pathway in KGN but not R2 cells. Taken together, these data suggest that, in human granulosa cells, Adipor1 could act on cellular survival and Adipor2 could regulate steroidogenesis.

**P626**
Progestrone suppression of the male hypothalamo-pituitary gonadal axis is partially reversed by the progestrone antagonist mifepristone
Joseph McIntosh, Ross Walley, Barbel Wittke, David Sudworth & David Howe
Pfizer Ltd, Sandwich, UK.

Background
Daily injection of progesterone in men is reported to suppress the pituitary LH response to GnRH challenge. We hypothesised that the progestrone/nuclear hormone receptor antagonist mifepristone (RU486) would reverse these effects.

Study design
Open-label randomised, three period crossover-over study in 12 healthy male subjects. Subjects were treated for 8 days with A/ progesterone 50 mg (IM) alone; B/ progesterone 50 mg + mifepristone 10 mg; C/ progesterone 50 mg + mifepristone100 mg with a 14 day washout between treatments. On days 1, 3 and 8 a GnRH challenge 1.4 µg/kg (IV), was carried out 2 h prior to study treatment administration. Blood samples were collected at -25, -15, -5, 15, 30, 60, 90 and 115 mins around the challenge and analysed for LH, FSH and testosterone (T). Basal hormone levels and response to GnRH challenge (AU0-2h) were compared by ANOVA.

Results:
Treatment with progesterone alone suppressed basal LH, FSH and T by 42, 43 and 64% on day 3 and 37, 46 and 62% on day 8 (relative to day 1). Concomitant treatment with RU486 dose dependently reversed the suppression of basal LH, FSH and T. In Group B (10 mg RU486), LH, FSH and T were increased by 16%, 35% and 126% on day 3, and by 18, 30 and 48% on day 8 compared to group A (no RU486). In group C (100 mg RU486), LH, FSH and T were increased by 34, 39 and 185% on day 3, and by 61, 36 and 108% on day 8 compared to group A (no RU486).

Progesterone treatment did not affect the LH, FSH or T response to GnRH challenge, and addition of RU486 had no effect on the response to GnRH.

Conclusions
Progesterone suppression of basal LH, FSH and T in men is mediated through the nuclear hormone receptor for progesterone.

P627
Irsadipine inhibits oxytocin-induced contractions of isolated myometrium from late pregnant rat
Michmet Nooraliev1, Selim Kutlu1, Selahattin Kumru1, Mete Ozcak1, Ergul Alcin2, Bilgin Gurutes1 & Ahmet Ayaz2
1Faculty of Medicine, Ovs and Gyn, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey;
2Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey;
3Department of Biophysics, Faculty of Medicine, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey.

Preterm labour is a serious clinical problem in obstetrics, and affective treatment of this condition still far from satisfactory. The purpose of this in vitro study was to examine the effects of irsadipine, a calcium channel antagonist, on oxytocin-induced contractions of myometrium. Myometrial strips were removed from late pregnant (18th day) Wistar rats following decapitation and placed in a jacked tissue bath containing Krebs’ solution and isometric contractions were evaluated. After recording the oxytocin-induced contractions (control, n = 7), increasing concentrations of irsadipine were applied to the tissue bath cumulatively. Single dose of irsadipine was also tested on oxytocin-induced contractions in calcium-free conditions. The amplitude, frequencies (number of contractions for 10-minute) and area under curve (AUC) of contractions were evaluated at 10 min intervals before and after applications of irsadipine. Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test was used for statistical analysis. Of 1 mg/ml irsadipine had no significant effect on the frequency, amplitude or AUC compared to control. Of 10 mg/ml of irsadipine caused a significant decrease only in the amplitude and AUC values compared to control (P < 0.05). Inhibitory actions of irsadipine on oxytocin-induced contractions were more prominent at 0.1 mg/ml which was significant for the frequency, amplitude and AUC values (P < 0.05). Of 1 mg/ml of irsadipine completely abolished the contractions. Similarly, a single dose (1 mg/ml) of irsadipine completely abolished the contractions when the extracellular Ca2+ was removed. Data from this study demonstrate that irsadipine have inhibitory affect on oxytocin induced myometrial contractions in late pregnant rats. This result may warrant further investigations on the clinical potential of this agent in treatment of preterm labour.

P628
Obesity resulting from Gα-alpha mutations in the maternal (but not paternal) allele is a consequence of Gα-alpha imprinting in the central nervous system
Pedro Esponda & Miguel Relloso
Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, CSIC, Madrid, Spain.

The female genital tract of the mouse was in vivo transfected using the reporter gene β-galactosidase and the liposome Lipofectamine as gene vector. All animals used were anaesthetised. DNA:Liposome complexes were injected through the infundibulum of the tubes in adult, immature and pseudopregnant females. Females that were at different stages of the ovariian cycle were also used. Transfection was analyzed using histochemical, immunological and molecular (Southern blot-PCR and gene sequencing) procedures. Only epithelial cells appeared transfected in the female genital tract. In all cases the most transfected areas were the lower region of the uterine glands and cells from the isthmus and juncure regions of the tubes. The hormonal stage of the female was crucial for transfection efficiency. The highest number of transfections occurred during meta-oestrus and pseudopregnancy stages, when concentrations of progesterone are high and oestradiol is low. In these cases percentages of transfected epithelial cells were 12% in the uterus and 9% in the tubes. The duration of transgene expression reached a maximum of two weeks in the uterus and one week in the tubes. These data seems to be important regarding future applications of in vivo transfection technologies.

P629
Prolonged q(t) (corrected) dispersion in women with polycystic ovary syndrome
Kerem Sezer1, Ozlem Pata2 & Ahmet Camsar2
1Department of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases; 2Department of Cardiology, School of Medicine, Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey;
3Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Acibadem Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey.

Background
Polycystic ovary syndrome is the most common endocrinopathy among females in reproductive ages. PCOS is not accepted only a reproductive pathology but also accepted as a metabolic problem. Prolonged QT, interval showing ventricular repolarization is a major risk factor for the arhythmias, coronary heart diseases, and sudden cardiac death. Although hyperinsulinism and hyperandrogenism is known as common manifestations of PCOS, there is conflicting data about the QT interval and QT dispersion that are showing the ventricular repolarization. Considering these controversial data we aimed to investigate the QTC interval and QT dispersion in Turkish women with PCOS.

Patients and methods
Thirty-one patients diagnosed as polycystic ovary syndrome were taken in to study. PCOS was diagnosed based on revised 2003 Rotterdam consensus criteria.

Results
There was no statistically significant difference between groups according to age, BMI, heart rate and systolic or diastolic blood pressure. Waist circumference was statistically higher in patients with PCOS compared to healthy controls. Patients had higher serum triglyceride (TG) and lower HDL-cholesterol levels compared to control group. QTC interval was significantly prolonged in patients compared to the control group. There was no correlation between serum total testosterone levels, DHEA-S levels or E2 levels. Additionally, QTC dispersion was significantly prolonged in patients compared to control group.

Conclusion
These findings suggest that besides the hyperandrogenic state affecting the lipid profile, arterial blood pressure and obesity, insulin resistance is the key factor determining the cardiovascular risk in patients with PCOS even in lean subjects.

P630
Free thiols in human spermatozoa: correlation with Na+/K+ -ATPase, Ca2+-ATPase activities and sperm motility
Arianna Vignini1, Eddi Buldredghi2, Laura Nanetti1, Francesca Raffaielli2, Francesca Paggi2, Marco Boscarino2, Laura Mazzanti1 & Giancarlo Balercia1
1School of Medicine, Institute of Biochemistry, Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Italy; 2Andrology Unit, Endocrinology Division, Department of Internal Medicine and Applied Technologies, Umberto I Hospital, School of Medicine, Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Italy.

The aim of the present study was to measure free thiols content, Na+/K+ -ATPase, Ca2+-ATPase activities in human spermatozoa of asthenozoospermic patients and normospermic donors, and evaluate any influence on kinetic sperm features, as well as correlation with peroxynitrite. In fact, membrane integrity and its composition are the basic characteristics of the sperm membrane, thus, it is evident that its composition is an important factor for membrane functions that can be modified upon oxidation. To reach our purposes, we enrolled patients affected by idiopathic asthenozoospermia and 25 normal fertile donors were enrolled, according to WHO 1999 criteria. Control spermatozoa exhibited Na,K-ATPase, and Ca2+-ATPase activities, cytoplasmic Ca2+ concentration and free –SH content significantly higher than those of asthenozoospermic patients. Moreover, significant positive correlations were found between Na+/K+ -ATPase and Ca2+-ATPase activities and total sperm motility and sperm kinetic features, whereas significant negative correlations were found between ONOO- and Na+/K+ -ATPase and Ca2+-ATPase activities, and total SH content.

Peroxynitrite is able to reduce Na+/K+ -ATPase and Ca2+-ATPase activities, intracellular Ca2+ concentration, through possible depletion of free thiol content. Decrease in motility and loss of sperm function in idiopathic asthenozoospermia can be attributed to these sulphhydryl groups, important entities of the sperm membrane.
In order to determine the influence of PCOS and obesity on vascular parameters, we studied 25 patients with PCOS (10 with normal body mass index - BMI – and 15 obese) without classic cardiovascular risk factors (IGT or DM, arterial hypertension, dyslipidemia) and 23 control women (12 with normal BMI and 11 obese), pairwise matched for BMI, through a non-invasive method using high resolution ultrasound imaging. Global age range was 26±4.7 years. The mean values of free testosterone in PCOS patients were significantly higher than the means in controls, independently of BMI. The means of HOMA-IR and the area under the curve for insulin in obese PCOS patients were significantly higher than the ones observed in PCOS patients with normal BMI and Controls. The groups were formed according to the presence or absence of PCOS and obesity – PCOS group (n=25) versus Control group (n=23), independently of BMI and normal BMI (n=22) vs obesity group (n=26), independently of PCOS presence. The means of CCA-IMT was higher in PCOS group than in Control group (49.1±1.0 vs 47.6±1.0 mm, P<0.05) and similar between normal BMI and Obesity groups (49.1±1.0 vs 47.3±1.0 mm, P=NS). It was not observe any influence in CP-CCA in PCOS group vs Control group (1.9±0.1 vs 1.7±0.1 mm, P<0.05) and in normal BMI vs Obesity group (1.7±0.1 vs 1.9±0.1 mm, P>0.05) as also in FMD in PCOS group vs Control group (6.8±1.1 vs 9.3±1.1, P=NS) and in normal BMI vs Obesity group (8.3±1.1 vs 7.8±1.1, P=NS). In conclusion, in young women without cardiovascular risk factors, the presence of PCOS had influence on the increase of CCA-IMT. Thus, CCA-IMT might be the initial marker of the atheroscrosis process in these groups of patients.

**P633**

**Advanced glycosylated end products are associated with anovulatory markers in women with polycystic ovary syndrome**

Evanthia Diamanti-Kandarakis1, Athanasia Pouka2, Sarantis Livadas1, Christine Piperr1, Ilias Katsikis2, Athanasios Papavasiliou2 & Dimitrios Panidis1

1Endocrine Section, First Department of Medicine, University of Athens Medical School, Athens, Greece; 2Division of Endocrinology and Human Reproduction, Second Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Thessaloniki, Greece; 3Laboratory of Biological Chemistry, University of Athens Medical School, Athens, Greece.

Background

Chronic hyperglycemia constitutes one of the cardinal features of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and Anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH), a granulosa cell product, is a well documented marker of anovulation. Recent data have shown that oxidative stress is involved in the pathophysiology of anovulation. A marker of oxidative stress, Advanced Glycosylated End products (AGEs), is implicated to the pathogenesis of the syndrome and have been localized with high intensity in the granulosa cells of polycystic ovaries. The aim of this study was to investigate whether AMH is linked with oxidative stress markers in PCOS.

Methods

Biochemical, hormonal and ultrasonographic parameters from 37 anovulatory PCOS (PCOS-Anov) and 23 regularly ovulating PCOS (PCOS-Ov), were compared with the corresponding ones from 11 anovulatory non-PCOS women (Non-PCOS Anov) and 25 controls. All subjects were age and BMI matched.

Results

AMH values were statistically significantly higher in PCOS-Anov in comparison to PCOS-Ov and other groups (7.63±3.12 in PCOS- Anov, > 4.92±2.50 in PCOS-Ov, > 3.66±1.4 in Non-PCOS Anov, > 4.02±1.27 mg/ml in controls, P<0.001). A similar pattern of AGES distribution values was observed (8.70±1.65 in PCOS-Anov, > 7.43±1.79 in PCOS-Ov, > 5.21±0.09 in Non-PCOS Anov > and 5.85±0.89 U/ml in controls, P<0.001). Follicle number was significantly higher in PCOS-Anov in comparison to all other groups. Additionally a significant positive correlation between AMH and AGES was observed (r=0.328, P<0.01).

Conclusions

In conclusion, the significant positive correlation between the AGES, an oxidative stress marker with the stronger marker of anovulation AMH, suggest a link of oxidative status with anovulation in PCOS.

**P634**

**A systematic review and a meta-analysis on adiponectin levels in women with polycystic ovary syndrome**

Konstantinos Touli3,4, Dimitrios Gouli5,2, Dimitrios Farpakiotakis1,2, Ilias Katsikis1,2, Neoklis Georgopoulos1,4, Basil Tarlatza1,2, Ioannis Papadimas1,2 & Dimitrios Panidis1,2

1Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece; 2Medical School, Patra, Greece.

Background

Conflicting results regarding adiponectin levels in women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) have been reported. To evaluate adiponectin levels in PCOS, a systematic review of all studies comparing adiponectin levels in women with PCOS to healthy controls and a meta-analysis of those involving women with similar Body Mass Index (BMI) were performed. Influence of possible effect modifiers, such as insulin resistance (IR) and testosterone, was investigated. Influence of obesity was investigated through a ‘nested’ meta-analysis after within-study BMI stratification and appropriate pooling.

Methods

Literature search was conducted independently through MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane CENTRAL (through June 2008), references from relevant studies and personal contact with the authors. Thirty-one studies, reporting data on 3469 subjects, were reviewed and sixteen included in the meta-analysis.

Results

Women with PCOS demonstrated significantly lower adiponectin values (Weighted Mean Difference [95% CI] -1.11 (-2.82 to -0.06), P<0.05), yet with significant between-study heterogeneity. In larger studies and in studies with modest difference in IR between PCOS and control groups, no significant difference in adiponectin was observed. IR was the only significant covariate in the univariate meta-regression model. Data on high molecular weight (HMW) adiponectin is limited (three studies).

Conclusions

After controlling for BMI-related effects, adiponectin levels seem to be lower in women with PCOS compared to non-PCOS controls. Hypoadiponectinemia was present in both lean and obese women with PCOS when compared with

non-PCOS counterparts. Low levels of adiponectin in PCOS are probably related to IR but not to testosterone. Further investigation is needed for HMW adiponectin levels in PCOS.

**P635**

**Gonadotropin releasing hormone-induced histone modifications and gonadotropin gene expression**

Philippa Melamedeli & Andrea Wijeweera

1 Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel; 2 National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore, Singapore.

Gonadotropin releasing hormone actively de-represses expression of the gonadotropin subunit genes through several actions that target the chromatin. We have shown in the past that both LHβ and FSHβ genes are repressed by histone deacetylases (HDACs) in vitro 3T3-L1 gonadotrope cells, and that this repression is overcome by exposure to GnRH which facilitates HDAC removal via CaMKII-mediated phosphorylation. At the LHβ gene promoter, both histone acetylation and phosphorylation increase quite dramatically following GnRH treatment. The H3 lysine four is trimethylated (H3K4me3) at the LHβ gene promoter prior to treatment, while at the FSHβ promoter this modification is increased following GnRH exposure. However at both promoters there is a loss of histone H3 after GnRH treatment, indicating nucleosomal repositioning. H3K4me3 is commonly seen at the promoters of actively transcribed genes, and is recognized by chromo- tuder and PHD domain proteins. It is commonly associated with histone phosphorylation and acetylation and several studies indicate the requirement of all three modifications for transcriptional activation to proceed. The histone acetyl transferase (HAT)-GCN5, which is found at the LHβ gene promoter, was shown in other systems to bind preferentially to the phosphorylated H3S10, indicating that the phosphorylation might signal recruitment of the HAT complex to certain genes. Our current working model is that the H3K14ac and H3F3B are bound by GCN5 which recruits the larger co-activator complex to signal elongation, possibly with the help of additional proteins that recognize specifically the H3K4me3.

**P636**

**Candidate gene analyses in Caucasian patients with primary ovarian insufficiency**

Raffaella Rossetti1,2, Chiara Cacciatori1, Anna Marozzi2, Daniela Cordella1, Silvia Bonne1, Salvatore Camera2, Dan Bernard2, Trevor Cole1, Jill Clayton-Smith2, Paolo Beck-Peccoz1 & Luca Persani1,2

1 Laboratory of Experimental Endocrinology, Department of Medical Sciences, Istituto Auxologico Italiano IRCCS and Endocrinology and Diabetology Unit, University of Milan, Fondazione Ospedale Policlinico IRCCS, Milan, Italy; 2 Centro Interuniversitario per la Ricerca della basi molecolari delle Malattie della Riproduzione (CIRMAR), Milan, Italy; 3 Department of Biology and Genetics for Medical Sciences, University of Milan, Milan, Italy; 4 Institute of Molecular Genetics, CNR, Pavia, Italy; 5 Department of Endocrinology, Ospedale Policlinico Universitario, Messina, Italy; 6 Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, McNeill University, Montreal, Canada; 7 Clinical Genetics Unit, Birmingham Women’s Hospital, Birmingham, UK; 8 Department of Medical Genetics, St Mary’s Hospital, Manchester, UK.

Primary ovarian insufficiency (POI) is a heterogeneous disorder characterized by primary (PA) or secondary (SA) amenorrhea associated with increased levels of gonadotropins. POI affects about 1% of women before the age of 40 years. A major genetic component has been suggested foridiopathic POI due to the frequent familiarity for this defect. Indeed, FMRII premutations can be found in 10-15% and BMP15 mutations in 2-5% of POI patients. Numerous other candidate genes have been described but the frequency of their involvement is still uncharacterized in large POI series. Here, we report the mutational analysis of six candidate genes: GDF9 (PA = 36, SA = 200), INHA (PA = 24, SA = 172), BMP1B (PA = 18, SA = 30), FSHR (PA = 14, SA = 7), NOBOX (PA = 10) and GPR3 (SA = 83). Our cohort included a total of 251 POI Caucasian women (12-40 years), PA and SA women with POI (PA = 13, SA = 66) or sporadic (PA = 31, SA = 141) form. Genetic screening was performed by DHPLC and direct automatic sequencing of genomic DNA and revealed several novel variations in TGFBeta family correlated genes: a) two variants involving the proregion sequence of GDF9 gene (c.117G>T → p.E35D, c.362C>T → p.T121I) in 3 SA out of 242 cases; b) two missense variants in the BMP1B signal peptide sequence (c.11G>A → p.R40Q, c.16G>A → p.A6T) in 3 SA and a 3’UTR alteration (c.1G>C) in 2 PA and 1 SA out of 48 cases; c) a missense substitution (c.833C>T → p.R278W) in INHA gene in 1/196 cases.

**P637**

**Penile size and testicular volume in healthy Lithuanian newborns**

Romualdas Tomas Prekša, Biruta Žilute-Aniečiūtė & Valentinus Mutauvicius

Institute of Endocrinology, Kaunas University of Medicine, Kaunas, Lithuania.

Aim

The aim of this study was to establish normal penile size and testicular volume in healthy Lithuanian newborns.

Methods

Of 1204 newborn boys were examined in Panevėžys Hospital due to genitometry. Those with cryptorchism or hypospadias were excluded. Penns size was measured in 1042 and testicular volume in 712 healthy newborns. The stretched penile length was measured between the pubic ramus and the tip of the glan and the diameter – in the midshaft of the penis. Testicular size was determined with Prader orchidometer.

Results

The mean penile length was 35.7 ± 4.5 and lower and upper cut-offs (± 2.5 s.d.) were 24.5–47.0 mm. The mean penile midshaft diameter was 12.3 ± 1.0 mm (9.7–14.7 mm). Average testicular volume was 0.9 ± 0.3 ml. Penile size, diameter and testicular volume correlated positively between each other and with born body length, weight and gestational age respectively.

Conclusion

Stretched penile length of Lithuanian healthy newborns corresponded to the reported international data. Neonatal penile diameter and testicular volume also represent intrauterine androgenisation.

**P638**

**The effects of stress on the histological structure of rat testes**

Tuba Demirici & Elvan Ozbek

Atatürk University Medical School Department of Histology and Embryology, Erzurum, Turkey.

**Objective**

Unexplained infertility is 15% among all infertility cases. Many forms of stress, including psychological and physical can effect male fertility and reproductive activity. In this study, we aimed to investigate possible histopathological effects of physical and psychological stress on rat testis at light microscopic level.

**Methods**

Eight adult, male Sprague Dawley rats were used in this study. Rats were randomly divided as control (n=4) and stress (n=4) groups. Chronic mild stress (CMS) model of depression was performed to the stress group along for two weeks. During the test rats consumed foods and water freely. At the end of the test, rats were slept with ketamin HCL. Then weight of removed testes were measured with sensitive scales and fixed in Bouin’s solution for histopathological evaluation. Following, haematoxylin–eosin dyed preparations were examined at light microscopic level.

**Results**

There was no statistical difference between two groups in terms of testicular weights (p > 0.05; independent samples t-test). In the light microscopic analysis of the CMS performed rats, germinal epithelium thickness of seminiferous tubules was the same with that of control group. In the interstitial connective tissue, intensive hyalinization regions were completely surrounding the seminiferous tubules. Vacuolisations in hyaline regions were remarkable. Vacuolar degeneration with cytoplasmic bulge was seen in the Sertoli cells.

**Conclusions**

With the help of derived findings, it is mentioned that stress can be the reason for the clear structural changes which can cause deficiency of function in the testes. Finally we suggest that stress can cause male infertility.

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All identified variants were in the heterozygous state and none was found in 100 control alleles. No variations were found in FSHR, NOBOX and GPR3 genes. In conclusion, we used a candidate gene approach leading to the identification of several new variants associated with POI. Alterations in several TGFbeta family correlated genes with a prevailing ovariian expression may frequently contribute to POI pathogenesis.
**P639**

Effect of lamotrigine and carbamazepine on selected reproductive hormones, lipid profiles and ovarian histology in female rats
Bassim Iheem Mohammad¹, Najah Al-Mousawi², Azhar Al-Teralhi³ and Ekhlas Hassan⁴
¹College of Medicine, Diwaniyah University, Diwaniyah, Iraq; ²College of Medicine, Kufa University, Kufa, Iraq.

Objectives
This study was conducted to evaluate the effect of lamotrigine (LTG) & carbamazepine (CBZ) on reproductive hormones (follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), lutenezizing hormone (LH) & total testosterone), lipid profiles (total cholesterol (TC), triglyceride (TG), high density lipoprotein (HDL), low density lipoprotein (LDL) & very low density lipoprotein (VLDL)), ovarian weight & histology in non epileptic female rats.

Materials and methods
Thirty-two sexually mature female Sprague-Dawley rats were included in this study, divided randomly into 4 groups, each one included eight rats. Blood samples collected from one group (eight rats), then dissected before starting the treatment & experiment parameters were measured. The other 3 groups, group I received did not weighed & considered as control group, group II received LTG & group III received CBZ for 56 days. After treatment, blood samples were collected from animals then killed & dissected for measuring of previously mentioned parameters.

Results
LTG & CBZ caused insignificant changes in serum FSH, LH & total testosterone. LTG & CBZ treatment insignificantly affect lipid profiles & weights of ovaries. Ovaries of LTG & CBZ treated rats did not show features of polycystic ovaries & their histology appeared similar to normal tissue. Numbers of corpus luteum & numbers of follicular cysts did not change significantly in these ovaries.

Conclusion
LTG & CBZ did not produce changes in reproductive hormones, lipid profiles & ovarian histology which were characteristic of PCOS in non epileptic female rats.

**P640**

Effects of electromagnetic fields of cellular phone on testosterone and progesterone hormones rate in Syrian Hamsters (Mesocricetus auratus)
Alireza Lotfi & Habib Aghdam Shahyari
Department of Animal Science, Islamic Azad University, Shabestar Branch, Shabestar, Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this study, the effects of exposure to a 900 MHz electromagnetic field (EMF) emitted from cellular phones on serum testosterone and progesterone hormones rate of adult male Syrian Hamster were evaluated. 72 male Hamster divided in 3 groups include: 1) control group, without any radiation, 2) exposed for 10 days and under 900 MHz EMF (emitted from cellular phone) for 1 h daily, 3) exposed for 50 days and under 900 MHZ EMF for 1 h daily. In end of experiment, blood samples collected for determination of the testosterone and progesterone concentra- tion in the serum. Results showed that in long term exposure to EMF (group 3) testosterone levels were increased (0.96 ng/ml, P<0.01), but between groups 1 and 2, did not significant changes (3.21 & 3.65 ng/ml, respectively), progesterone level were significantly declined in groups 2 and 3 in compared with control group (progesterone level in control, short and long term exposure groups was 14.90, 11.63 and 4.75 ng/ml, respectively). In this study, progesterone level in hamster serum has been decreased by short-term and long-term exposure to 900 MHz, but testosterone level didn’t significant change in short-term exposure to 900 MHz. EMF of cellular phone. In conclusion, long-term exposure to cellular phones EMF may affect the reproductive hormonal balance and impair endocrine homeostasis and it may cause peripheral effects.

Young Research Club, Islamic Azad University, Shabestar Branch, Shabestar, Iran.

**P641**

Is there a need for withdrawal test with oral micronized natural progesterone in the evaluation of women with polycystic ovary syndrome?
Sarantis Livadas, Georgios Boutouzis, Frangiskos Economidou, Krystalleni Alexandraki, Xenofon Xyrafis, Aristeia Zerva, Athanasios Karachalios & Euanthia Diamanti-Kandarakis
Endocrine Section, First Department of Medicine, University of Athens Medical School, Athens, Greece.

Objective
To investigate the effects of oral natural micronized progesterone on hormonal and metabolic parameters in patients with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and to answer the clinical question if induction of withdrawal bleeding is a necessity for the comparison of hormonal and metabolic data in PCOS subjects.

Design
Prospective clinical study.

Setting
Academic medical centre.

Population
Twenty eight reproductive-aged women with PCOS.

Main outcome measures
Blood sampling was collected at baseline, following 7 days of oral natural micronized progesterone (200 mg) administration and post withdrawal bleeding. At these three stages hormonal parameters and HOMA-IR index were assessed in all patients.

Results
Oral natural micronized progesterone administration did not alter significantly insulin sensitivity index and androgen levels; however LH was decreased when post bleeding values were compared to baseline. Nevertheless, following oral natural micronized progesterone administration, progesterone and 17OH-progesterone concentrations were raised, and HOMA-IR was lowered, whereas androgens levels were not altered, in comparison to baseline.

Conclusions
The induction of withdrawal bleeding, with this regimen, does not appear to be a necessity for the assessment of hormonal and metabolic profile in anovulatory women with PCOS.

**P642**

Gonadal function in male mountain bikers
Faruk Yamaner¹, Hüluşi Atmaca², Taner Bayraktaroglu³, Mustafa Aydin⁴ & Selim Aydemir⁵
¹Medical High School, Hitit University, Corum, Turkey; ²Medical Faculty, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Zon- guldak, Turkey; ³Medical Faculty, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Zonguldak, Turkey; ⁴Medical Faculty, Cardiology, Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Zonguldak, Turkey; ⁵Medical Faculty, Gastroenterology, Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Zonguldak, Turkey.

Objectives
Mountain biking has become increasingly popular worldwide. Mountain bikes, are a common source of significant injuries including chronic overuse injuries affecting the genitourinary tract. Erectile dysfunction and infertility are some of the reported urogenital problems in male riders. Our aim was to evaluate the testicular function in male mountain bikers.

Methods
Thirty male professional mountain bikers with a mean age of 23.4±2.5 years (range, 19–27) and mean body mass index (BMI) of 23.2±1.6 kg/m² (range, 19.5–28.7) were recruited to the study. Twenty-two non-biker healthy male controls with a mean age of 25.5±1.8 years (range, 17–45) and a mean BMI of 22.3±2.0 kg/m² (range, 19–29) were also included in the study. In the study group, the minimum duration cycled was at least one year for each cyclist. None of the cyclists had a history of biking related head or urogenital trauma that required treatment. Fasting blood samples were obtained from all study participants for the measurement of glucose, insulin, leptin, total testosterone (TT), free testosterone (FT), sex-hormone binding globulin (SHBG), leutinizing hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH). FT (calculated FT- cFT) and bioavailable testosterone (bioT) were calculated from SHBG and TT using the method of Vermeulen. The presence of insulin resistance was investigated by using the homeostasis model assessment (HOMA) score in both groups.

Results
The study and control groups were comparable in terms of age and BMI. Basal hormonal levels including insulin, leptin, LH, FSH, SHBG, TT, glucose and HOMA scores were similar between the groups. However, bioT, cFT and FT levels were significantly lower (P<0.05) in the mountain bikers than those in controls. Despite the lower mean testosterone levels in the study group, the levels of LH and FSH were within normal range in all cyclists.

Conclusion
The study indicates that professional male mountain bikers have lower testosterone concentrations with no accompanying significant increase or decrease in the concentrations of FSH and LH. Low testosterone levels may be both testicular and extratesticular in origin.
P643
The effects of metformin therapy in women with idiopathic hirsutism
Kursad Unluhzarci, Nuran Ahu Baysal, Zuleyha Karaca, Fatih Tanriverdi & Fahrettin Kelesstimur
Department of Endocrinology, Erciyes University Medical School, Kayseri, Turkey

Hirsutism, which is characterized by excessive growth of terminal hair in a male pattern, is a common clinical condition in women. Among its etiologies, idiopathic hirsutism (IH) is considered to be one of the most common forms of hirsutism. We have previously shown the presence of insulin resistance in women with IH and our aim was to investigate the effects of metformin therapy in women with IH. The study was approved by the local Ethics Committee. Sixteen women with IH (mean age 21.6±1.1 years, BMI: 24.9±0.8 kg/m²) and 13 healthy women (mean age 27.1±0.5 years, BMI: 22.4±0.9 kg/m²) were included in the study. The presence of insulin resistance was investigated by using basal insulin levels, insulin responses to oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) and HOMA score in both groups. Patients with IH had significantly (P<0.05) higher basal insulin levels (20.6±4.9 vs 8.1±1.2 mU/l), area under the curve (AUC) of insulin during OGTT (10659.0±2496.4 vs 3589.6±708.3 mU/l/m² h), insulin levels at 2 h of OGTT (125.9±36.2 vs 13.9±1.1 mU/l) and HOMA-IR (3.6±0.7 vs 1.5±0.2) in comparison to control subjects. Patients were treated with metformin (1700 mg/day) for 6 months and insulin resistance parameters were re-evaluated. Although it did not reach a significant level, basal insulin level decreased to 13.8±1.6 mU/l, AUC of insulin during OGTT decreased to 7725.8±1992.1 mU/l/m² h, insulin levels at 2 h of OGTT decreased to 52.0±12.3 mU/l and HOMA-IR decreased to 2.5±0.3. Our results confirmed the presence of insulin resistance in women with IH. Although limited, 6 months of metformin therapy had beneficial effects on insulin resistance in women with IH. Long term effects of metformin therapy in women with IH should be investigated.

P644
Impact of gestational impaired glucose tolerance test on pregnancy outcome
Mohammed Sultan1, Malak Elazzazy2 & Huda Khairat3
1Diabetic Unit AlJalila Maternity Hospital, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; 2Diabetic pregnancy clinic Tripoli Medical Center, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Background and aims
The high prevalence of diabetes and IGTT in women of childbearing age in our community provides an opportunity to assess prospectively the risks of adverse outcome in pregnancy of these conditions.

Method
This retrospective analysis data of a 114 pregnant women diagnosed to have gestational impaired glucose tolerance test, in the period from beginning of January 2001 to the end of December 2004 from maternal & neonatal documents, and controls were obtained by selecting and comparing with the next woman to deliver without IGTT.

Results
There was statistical difference between the mean ages among both groups (P<0.001). In view of parity, revealed that 63.2% of IGTT cases were multipara, and this confirm the relationship between multiparity and increased risk of IGT and GDM. The mean age for IGTT cases was 36.3. In view of the maternal age, the highest incidence of IGTT was in the 36 year old group, while the lowest in the 32. The mean age for IGTT cases was 36.3±5.32 s.d., while in normal women 32.9.

Conclusions
Increase incidence of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy 3 fold (12.3%) compared with normal cases (4.4%), PIROM and BOH 6 fold, preterm labor 3 fold (11.4 vs 4.4%) and delivery by cesarean section 4 fold (62.3 vs 14%). Of 6.3 s.d., there was statistical difference between the mean ages among both groups (P<0.001).

P645
A monocentric study of 360 consecutive patients presenting with premature ovarian failure
Anne Bachelot, Agnès Rouxel, Nathalie Massin, Jérome Dufon, Carine Courtillot, Frederique Kuttern & Philippe Touzaine
Endocrinology and Reproductive Medicine, Hôpital Pité-Salpétrière, Paris, France.

Premature ovarian failure (POF) encompasses a heterogeneous spectrum of conditions, with phenotype variability among patients. The etiology of POF remains unknown in most cases. This led us to set up a French network on POF for the purpose of better characterizing POF patients and understanding the mechanisms involved in this pathology. Over the last 10 years, we have evaluated 360 women who were referred to our center with a diagnosis of POF, and performed a study of clinical, biological, histological, morphological and genetic data relating to these patients. Seventy-seven percent of the patients presented with normal puberty and secondary amenorrhea. Family history was present in 14% of the patients, clinical and/or biological autoimmunity in 29%. The presence of follicles was suggested at ultrasonography in 45% of the patients, and observed in 28% at histology; the negative predictive value of the presence of follicles at ultrasonography was 80%. A genetic cause of POF was identified in 22 patients, 8 of whom had chromosomal abnormalities other than Turner’s syndrome, 5 evidenced FMRI pre-mutation and 9 showed molecular alterations in candidate genes possibly or certainly associated with POF (FSHR, GDF-9, BMP-15 or meiosis gene and Congenital Disorders of Glycosylation). Two patients had autoimmune polycystic ovary syndrome (APS) type 2 and 1 with multiple autoimmune diseases. POF remained idiopathic in all the other cases. Over 57% of POF patients experienced BMD alteration, highlighting the importance of estrogen therapy. Our data indicate that global phenotyping of POF patients is of importance to improve clinical management and to orient the search for the identification of genetic mutations, particularly the screen for FMRI pre-mutation and FSHR mutations. This is expected to be relevant to the detection, in the near future, of women who are at risk for POF and to the development of new therapeutic approaches.

P646
Effect of an oral contraceptive on emotional distress of women with polycystic ovary syndrome; a prospective study
Nese Cinar1, Ayla Harmanci1, Basaran Demir2 & Bilent O Yildiz1
1Endocrinology and Metabolism Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 2Department of Psychiatry, Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey.

Background
The symptoms typically associated with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) such as acne, hirsutism, irregular menses, amenorrhea, obesity and infertility are a major source of psychological morbidity and can negatively affect quality of life (QOL). Limited data are available regarding effects of different treatment modalities on emotional distress of women with PCOS.

Objective
To determine potential impact of treatment on health-related quality-of-life (HRQL), emotional well-being and depressive symptoms in PCOS patients.

Methods
We assessed changes in quality of life and psychological well-being in 26 PCOS patients prospectively by using disease-specific PCOS questionnaire (PCQO18), hospital anxiety and depression scale (HADS) and general health questionnaire-28 (GHQ-28) before and after 6 months of treatment of drospirenone and ethinyl estradiol alone or combined with metformin. Clinical and endocrine parameters were also evaluated before and after treatment.

Results
Main complaints of the patients were hirsutism and irregular menses. In association with this, the body hair and menstrual problems domains were the areas most negatively affected followed by the emotions domain at baseline. After 6 months of treatment, satisfactory menstrual cycles were attained and hirsutism was significantly improved in all patients. The treatment had a positive impact on the emotions domain of PCQO18 and mean HADS scores (P<0.05). There was a trend for improvement in hirsutism domain of the PCQO18 (P=0.06). Other domains of PCQO18 or GHQ-28 mean scores did not show a significant change.

Conclusion
Oral contraceptive therapy alone or combined with metformin for 6 months improves emotional well-being of PCOS patients, along with improvement of hirsutism and menstrual disturbance.

P647
Spermatogenesis in men with late-onset hypogonadism, receiving testosterone gel
George Mikhaylaya1, Yulia Tishova1, Vadim Vadov1, Dariya Gasukova2 & Svetlana Kalichenko2
1Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Scientific and Research Institute of Urology, Moscow, Russian Federation; 3Research Center for Endocrinology, Moscow, Russian Federation.

P648
Prostatic secreted proteins in mice and rats: Identification using mass spectrometric analysis and the hormone dependent expression
Nariaki Fujimoto, Tomoharu Suzuki & Shigeru Ohtta
Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan.

It is not surprising that mouse prostate gland is anatomically very similar to that in the rat, which consists of the ventral prostate (VP), dorsolateral prostate (DLP) and anterior prostate (AP). However, the basic biological function of the prostate, prostatic secretion, has been suggested to be diverged between the two species and yet poorly understood. We have identified major secreted proteins from separate prostate lobes of the mouse as well as the rat by mass spectrometric analysis. Hormone dependency of these protein mRNAs was also examined in both species. In mice, the VP secretes spermene binding protein, serine protease inhibitor KT3 and a 91 kDa hypothetical scavenger receptor, while the DLP/AP secrete a protein similar to immunoglobulin binding protein (IGBPLP) and experimental autoimmune prostatitis antigen protein 2 (EAPA2). Prostate secretion in mice was very different from that in rats being only IGBPPL and P69P94 in common. Castration of animals led to a decrease in the mRNAs of these secreted proteins. In rats, a quick androgen response was apparent in the VP as compared with other lobes. In the mouse, however, large decreases in mRNAs were evident in all of the lobes. Combined administration of androgen and estrogen showed synergistic effects on prostate secretion in rats but not in the mouse case. The present study has provided an understanding of the major secretory function of the mouse prostate, and has identified common aspects of secretory functionality between mouse, rat and human. The identified secretory proteins should be available as models of androgen-dependent gene regulation and are candidates as markers for prostatic differentiation. Some of the identified proteins may be useful as pathological markers associated with prostate disorders.

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Abstract withdrawn.

P651
Screening of maternal thyreopathies in Slovakia: is it worth it?
Helenka Urbanková1, Jan Hruska1 & Peter Vantuga2
1Department of Endocrinology, National Institute of Endocrinology and Diabetology, Luhovna, Slovakia; 2Gynecology Outpatient Service, Razomberok, Slovakia.

Background
Newborn screening is the only systematic work-up of thyroid disorders in Slovakia with unambiguously proven positivities. There is wide discussion regarding the screening of thyreopathies in specific risk groups such as pregnant women.

Aims
To study the gynaecologist and endocrinologist co-operation in screening pregnant patients from region of Liptov and Orava for autoimmune thyroiditis.

Subjects and methods
The participants were 183 pregnant patients (mean age 29 years) in the first trimester without previous endocrinological investigation. They underwent one day out-patient examination and were screened for TSH, FT4, FT3 levels, thyroid antibodies against thyroglobulin and thyroid peroxidase. At the same time, thyroid ultrasonography was performed blindly to determine the patients’ functional thyroid status.

Results
Based on positive thyroid antibodies, autoimmune thyroiditis was diagnosed in 36 (19.7%) pregnant women. From these, 29 (15.8%) were euthyroid, 5 (2.7%) were hypothyroid, and 2 (1.7%) had hyperthyroidism (Graves disease). Moreover, 23 (12.5%) patients were shown to have non-autoimmune nodular and/or cystic changes in thyroid gland. The papillary thyroid cancer was diagnosed in one patient.

Conclusions
The practice management guidelines for thyroid disorders in pregnant females are missing in Slovakia. High prevalence of autoimmune thyroiditis in our pilot study urge for their early intervention. At least, it is reasonable to screen the patients with positive family history and/or personal history of thyroid diseases at the beginning of the pregnancy or even better preconceptually.

Mechanical vagino-cervical stimulation (vcs) or mating stimulates hypohalamic neurons that regulate pulsatile secretion of gonadotropin-releasing hormone and the gonadotropins which affect decidualization, an essential for successful mammalian pregnancy, via induced ovarian steroidogenesis. Progesterone-regulated deciduomal growth is promoted by paracrine factors plus the uterine matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) that remodel the decidual tissue, and nitric oxide (NO), a regulator of uterine vascularity. Dexamethasone (Dexa), a synthetic glucocorticoid, is an established inhibitor of uterine growth. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the time-related inhibitory effects of Dexa on (1) the enzymatic activities of MMPs, and of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), an isof orm involved in NO biosynthesis; and (2) on progesterone secretion during decidual proliferation that was triggered by the neurogenic signals of copulation in vcs followed by decidualization stimulation via surgical uterine trauma during artificially-induced pseudopregnancy (PG). Female rats (210-240 g; under 12L: 12D) were subjected to vcs (proestrus and estrus) and uterine trauma (day 4 PG) for PG/decidualization induction. Rats (n=6/group) were subcutaneously injected with Dexa (1.5 mg/day) for 3 days (PG day 1–3; 4–6; 7–9; 10–12 and 13–15). Animals were killed on the last injection day for analysis of serum progesterone by RIA, MMP activity by substrate zymography, and iNOS activity by western blot. Comparable temporal inhibition by Dexa was noted for decidual weights and iNOS activity which peaked after PG days 4–6 and 7–9. Decidual MMP (72 and 92 kDa) activities were maximally reduced following PG days 4–6. Decidual treatment. However, serum progesterone levels were equally (P<0.0001), but asynchronously inhibited by Dexa on PG days 9 and 12. The data indicate that decidual iNOS/NO system and MMP activity appeared to be linked to the overall decidual metabolic mechanism that responds to Dexa inhibition. The time-related reductions in decidual growth, iNOS and MMP activities were apparently not mediated by serum progesterone.

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Hyperprolactinemia in polycystic ovary syndrome
Kemal Aghaht, Halis Yerlikaya & Sevim Gülü
Faculty of Medicine, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey.

Background
Hyperprolactinemia is frequently reported with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). However, there is a controversy whether they share a common mechanism or have cause-result relationship or just are coincidental. The objective of the present study was to identify the cause of hyperprolactinemia in patients with PCOS.

Methods
We retrospectively evaluated our outpatient admission records for PCOS, hirsutism, oligomenorrhea, or secondary amenorrhea. PCOS diagnosis was made after excluding other causes of hirsutismus and in accordance with Rotterdam criteria. Patients to be included in the study required to not receive any medication for PCOS or hirsutism for at least 6 months. Fasting serum prolactin (PRL) and free testosterone, DHEA-S and lipid profile were determined. If hyperprolactinemia was present, in the second step prolactin levels were determined by polyethylene glycol (PEG) precipitation method, in order to exclude macroprolactinemia.

Results
During the study period, 117 women (median 24.5 years, range 16–40) was diagnosed with PCOS. The median prolactin level was 15.4 (normal value 6–30) ng/ml. Nineteen (16.2%) had elevated levels of prolactin (median 41, range 30.5–118.2 ng/ml). Two patients were receiving antipsychotics, and 3 were using anti-epileptics. All of the remaining 14 had hyperprolactinemia, and PEG precipitation method revealed normal prolactin levels. Pituitary MRI showed microadenoma in two, and pituitary gland heterogeneity in other two patients. One patient was diagnosed with hypothryoidism and Hashimoto thyroiditis. In univariate analysis, the serum prolactin levels did not correlate with any of the following parameters: HOMA-IR score, total testosteron, free testosteron, DHEA-S, LDL-C, HDL-C, triglyceride, LH or FSH.

Conclusions
Since hyperprolactinemia is not a clinical manifestation of PCOS, patients with increased PRL levels should be investigated for other causes of hyperprolactinemia.
The aim of this study was to determine of pregnancy rate when Estradiol Benzoate (EB) used in presynch method than to routine presynchronization protocol in lactating dairy cows (N: 210). In this study, cows divided in two treatment groups: control group (N: 100) and main group (N: 110). Control group cows received two injections of Cloprostenol (750 μg/Case, IM) with 14 d interval. Then, they received an injection of Gonadorelin (100 μg/Case, IM), 7 d after cloprostenol (750 μg/Case, IM) injected, followed by an injection of Gonadorelin (100 μg/Case, IM) 48 h later, finally, cows artificial inseminated (AI) 16–18 h later. In main group, cows received an injection of EB (1 mg/Case, IM) instead of last injected Gonadorelin 24 h after cloprostenol injection. In main group, AI performed 48 h after EB injection. Detection of cow pregnancy performed at 42±3 d via rectal palpation. Estrus rate in control and main groups were 63 and 71%, and pregnancy rate were 44 and 41%, respectively. Also, pregnancy rate in estrus and non estrus cows compared in two groups that in control group were 44.4 and 43.2%, and in main group were 43.4 and 35.5%, respectively. Overall, no significant differences were detected between two synchronization methods in present study. In conclusion, Estradiol Benzoate can be use as a suitable instead to GdHIn in presynch protocol.

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Prolonged treatment with N-acetylcysteine and l-arginine restores gonadal function in patients with PCOS syndrome

Andi Masha, Chiara Manieri, Stefano Dinatale, Guido Albino Bruno,
Erzio Ghigo & Valentino Martina
Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of
Turin, Turin, Italy

Introduction
Nitric oxide (NO) plays a wide spectrum of biological actions including a positive role in oxycte maturation and ovulation. Free radicals have been shown elevated in PCOS and therefore would be responsible for quenching NO that, in turn, would play a role in determining oligo or amenorrhea connoting PCOS. We recently demonstrated that the combined administration of N-acetylcysteine (NAC) and arginine (ARG) is able to exert an antioxidant action leading to an increase in NO availability in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus, another condition characterized by insulin-resistance and endothelial dysfunction.

Aim
Aim of the study was to evaluate the effects of a prolonged treatment with NAC and ARG in patients with PCOS, focusing on their ovarian function as well as on some metabolic parameters.

Materials and methods
Eight patients with PCOS displaying oligo-amenorrhea from at least 1 year underwent a combined treatment with NAC (1200 mg/die) plus ARG (1600 mg/die) for 6 months. Menstrual function, glucose and insulin levels, and in turn HOMA index, were monitored.

Results
Menstrual function was restored as indicated by the number of uterine bleedings under treatment (3.00, 0.18–5.83 vs 0.00, 0.00–0.83; P<0.02). Also, a well-defined biphasic pattern in the basal body temperature in 21 out of a total of 24 cycles under treatment suggested ovulatory cycles. The HOMA index decreased under treatment (2.12, 1.46 4.42 vs 3.48, 1.62 5.95; P<0.05).

Conclusions
This preliminary, open study shows that prolonged, oral treatment with combined administration of NAC and ARG determines a clear increase in the number of menstrual cycles, likely ovulatory, in patients with PCOS. These data therefore support the hypothesis that the treatment acts by increasing NO availability countering exaggerated free radicals that conotte the PCOS. These finding have to be verified in a more prolonged, double blind, placebo controlled study in PCOS patients.

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Does the point of time of menstrual irregularities appearance influence clinical, metabolic, hormonal profile and ultrasound findings in PCOS women?

Frangiskos Economou, Sarantis Livadas, Maria Christou, Charikleia Christakou, Elvina Palomyri, Eleni Palioura, Evangelia Tantaliaki & Evanthia Diamanti-Kandarakis
Endocrine Section, First Department of Medicine, University of Athens Medical School, Athens, Greece.

Background
PCOS is characterized from chronic anovulation, clinically expressed as menstrual irregularities, hyperandrogenism and polycystic ovaries on ultrasound. A growing body of data indicates that PCOS is a life existing disease starting before puberty and lasting post menopause, as hormonal and metabolic changes exist through the life span of the patient. Since the presence of menstrual irregularities constitutes a prerequisite for the diagnosis of PCOS, we wonder if the timing that menstrual disorders appear has any effect on several parameters of PCOS.

Aim of the study
To compare anthropometric, hormonal, metabolic profile and ultrasound findings in PCOS women who presented menstrual disorders from menarche with the corresponding data obtained from patients who developed PCOS later in life.

Patients and methods
Eighty-nine PCOS women were evaluated. In 49 subjects menstrual irregularities were present from menarche (Group A), whereas in 40 women these irregularities emerge at least three years post menarche (Group B). In each subject clinical, hormonal and metabolic profile were assessed and in each subject ovarian ultrasound and OGTT were carried out.

Results
Anthropometric and clinical parameters were comparable among the two groups as well as hormonal-metabolic profile and ultrasound findings.

Conclusions
These data indicate that despite the timing that menstrual disorders are installed, clinical, hormonal, metabolic profile and ultrasound findings are not affected. These findings imply that regardless the timing in patients diagnosis, the lifestyle control of the disease is in progress. Accordingly, early recognition of subjects prone to develop PCOS and lifestyle modification is mandatory in order to avoid long-term consequences of the disease.

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Adiponectin levels and its relation to indices of insulin resistance in women with PCOS

Ivana Bozic, Dijoro Macut, Bojana Popovic, Tatjana Isailovic,
Sanja Ognjanovic, Milan Petakov, Valentina Elezovic &
Svetozar Damjanovic
Institute of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, Clinical
Centre of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia.

Objectives
Insulin resistance and hyperinsulinemia are implicated in the pathogenesis of the polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) in the majority of the cases. Adiponectin is adipose tissue-specific protein and its correlation with insulin resistance is well established. The aim of the study was to access the correlation between adiponectin and anthropometric and metabolic parameters in a group of women with PCOS.

Methods
Thirty-one women with PCOS (age: 25.7±4.0 years, BMI: 25.8±6.6 kg/m²; mean ± S.D.) and twenty-three age and BMI respective controls were examined. Anthropometric measurements were conducted by bioelectric impedance (Tanita). There was no significant difference in waist circumference between PCOS and controls (P=0.119). In all subjects serum concentrations of glucose, insulin (with HOMA calculation), C-peptide, cholesterol, HDL, LDL triglycerides, adiponectin, testosterone, SHBG, DHEAS, estradiol, basal cortisol were determined. PCOS was diagnosed using ESHRE/ASRM criteria.

Results
There was neither significant difference in adiponectin plasma concentration between PCOS and control group (7.9 ± 3.7 vs 9.1 ± 3.1 μg/mL; P=0.194), nor there was significant difference in insulin levels (19.04 ±7.5 vs 14.1 ±4.6 mmol/L) and HOMA index (3.9 ± 2.8 vs 2.6 ± 1.1) in both groups. Only in PCOS group was found significant negative correlation between levels of adiponectin and waist circumference (P<0.05) and total body fat mass (P<0.05). There was significant positive correlation of adiponectin with HDL (P<0.01) and negative correlation with insulin (P<0.01). C-peptide (P<0.05), HOMA index (P<0.05) and estradiol (P<0.05). None of these correlations was found in control group.

Conclusion
There is no difference in plasma adiponectin concentration between our group of women with PCOS, and age and BMI matched healthy controls. Significant statistical correlation of adiponectin with anthropometric and metabolic parameters only in PCOS group, could indicate on intrinsic influence of specific form of insulin resistance in this group of women.


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P660
Preterm menopause and some of its related factors among over 40 years old women
Mahbobeh Sadeghi, Parvin Mirmiran & Saeid Sadeghian
Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Goal
To study Prevalence of Preterm menopause and its relation to obesity; to study relation of DM and the age of the first menorrhea among women over 40 years old.

Materials and methods
The study was performed on 640 menopause women (with no menorrhea during the past 12 months) who participated in ‘sugar and lipid’ study of Tehran during 2006 to 2008. With no history of hysterectomy. Preterm menopause was defined as menopause before 48 years old. For studying relation of factors like obesity and DM to incidence of Preterm menopause, just the subjects who had been menopausal maximally in past 36 months were selected (n=212). Preterm menopause was the dependent factor, and BMI and DM were the independent factors of this study.

Findings
The average age of menopause was 48.3 years (47.9–48.8; CI=0.95), and was significantly lower among subject who had their first menorrhea before 12 years old (47.5; CI=0.95). Prevalence of Preterm menopause Was 35.8%; among the study subjects. It was significantly higher among the subject with had the first menorrhea before 12 years old (41.5% comparing to 33.8%; P<0.05). Logistic Regression Analysis test showed that probability of Preterm menopause is higher among DM patients than other subjects (OR=1.4–3.1; P<0.05). There wasn’t any significant relation between obesity and Preterm menopause.

Conclusion
The study showed that there is a direct relation between DM and the age of the first menorrhea with Preterm menopause; but there wasn’t any significant relation between obesity and Preterm menopause.

P661
Does idiopathic hyperandrogenemia exist?
Unlubiacizi Kursad, Capak Mehmet Emin, Tanriverdi Fatih, Karaca Zuleyha & Keleşsimir Fahrettin
Department of Endocrinology, Erciyes University Medical School, Kayseri, Turkey.

Background
Some of the patients with hyperandrogenemia are characterized by regular cycles and normal ovaries on USG and named as idiopathic hyperandrogenemia (IHA). To clarify the pathophysiology of IHA we have investigated both the adrenal and ovarian functions, and insulin resistance in 20 patients with IHA and 10 healthy women. The study was approved by the local Ethics Committee. The patients has at least one increased serum androgen. ACHT stimulation test, basal serum level and an OGTT were performed. Patients with IHA and healthy women did not differ in age and BMI. Basal DHEAS, 17-OHP, 11-deoxycortisol (11-S), androstenedione and free testosterone levels were significantly (P<0.05) higher in the patients than in the controls. Both peak and area under the curve (AUC) 11-S and AUC DHEAS responses to ACHT test were significantly higher in women with IHA than in the control group (P<0.005). Peak androstenedione, AUC androstenedione and AUC 17-OHP responses after buserelin stimulation were significantly (P<0.05) higher in the patients than in the control women. Fasting blood glucose levels were similar between the groups. Three (15%) of the patients had impaired glucose tolerance (IGT). Basal insulin, peak insulin, AUC insulin responses to OGTT and HOMA-IR were significantly (P<0.005) higher in the patients group than in the controls. The present study clearly shows that high androgen levels in the circulation in IHA patients are in both, adrenal and ovary in origin. A subset of IHA patients are characterized by insulin resistance. Whether IHA is the earliest stage of fullblown PCOS should be clarified by prospective studies.

P662
Ovulation induction and multicentric follow-up of 21 pregnancies in 14 patients
Laure Villaret1, Olivier Chabre1, Philippe Caron2, Jacques Young3, Nicole Quenard1, Hélène Bry1 & Pascale Hoffmann1
1Grenoble Universitary Hospital, Grenoble, France; 2Toulouse Rangueil Hospital, Toulouse, France; 3Kremlin Bicetre Hospital, Paris, France.

Objective
To determine the outcome of pregnancy in hypopituitary women.

Background
Rare situation, not studied enough: only two previous studies concerning 9 and 19 patients (Overton et Hall).

Design
Multicentric, descriptive, prospective and retrospective study.

Material and methods
Twenty-one pregnancies were registered in 14 hypopituitary women (defined as gonadotrope deficiency associated with at least another pituitary deficiency) with median age 32.5 years (27–41), from 3 French endocrinology centers in the university hospitals of Paris (Kremlin-Bicêtre), Toulouse and Grenoble.

Results
The primary outcome was the pregnancy: 93% of patients completed at least one pregnancy. Twenty-one pregnancies were obtained with 17 live births (1 set of twins and 5 miscarriages).

The secondary outcomes were the results of ovulation induction: 95% of ovulation and 56% of pregnancies by stimulation with gonadotrophins; the results of luteal phase support which were better with bCG (associated or not with progesterone), than with progesterone alone; the adaptations of levodopa and the other substitutive therapies. Pregnancy or deliveries’ complications, newborns’ health and measurements were also studied. Two complications were noted of pre-eclampsia and pre-eclampsia, but no acute hypophysyal deficiency. About 62.5% of patients had a physiological delivery.

The 17 newborns were healthy, with median length 50 cm (45–52) and median weight 3234 g (2080–4250), two of them were under the 3rd percentile.

Conclusion
Pregnancy can be considered and managed in hypopituitary women, it requires the collaboration of endocrinologists, reproductive physicians and obstetricians for a successful outcome.

P663
The effects of subclinical hypothyroidism treatment in PCOS women with metabolic syndrome
Zeliya Velija-Asimi
University Clinical Centre of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Aim
The aim of study was to explore the effects of subclinical hypothyroidism (SH) treatment in PCOS women with metabolic syndrome (MS) and PCOS women without MS.

Methods
The 34 PCOS women were divided in two groups: 1) PCOS women with SH and the MS (n=23; age 32.9±9 years, BMI=31.2±3.1 kg/m2, waist size =87 cm) and 2) PCOS women with SH without MS (n=11; age 30.5±7.5 years, BMI= 23.4±1.5 kg/m2, waist size =75 cm). The diagnosis of PCOS was established according to the clinical, hormonal (elevated LH and serum androgens) and ultrasonographic findings. The diagnosis of SH was established according to the TSH>4.2 mIU/ml with normal level of FT3 and FT4. The diagnosis of MS was established according to the high waist size and high insulin and lipids level. All patients were treated with low dose of l-thyroxin (25–50 µg).

Results
PCOS and SH women with MS had significantly higher levels of serum testosterone than PCOS and SH women without the MS (3.42±0.91 vs 2.14± 0.77 nmol/l), significantly higher TSH (9.52± vs 5.78 mIU/l), and levels of total cholesterol, LDL, cholesterol, CRP. Menstrual cycle irregularity was frequently in group PCOS and SH women with MS. After the six months treatment, women had normal or limited TSH, level of PRL significantly decreased (from 639 to 435 and from 393 to 310 µIU/ml) and level of CRP (from 5.7 to 3.8 and from 3.7 to 2.7 mg/l) in both group. In PCOS and SH group with MS significantly decreased fasting insulin (from 211 to 143), BMI (from 32.9 to 27.1), testosterone (from 3.42 to 2.7) and waist size (from 87 to 81) as well. The changes were and in the level of total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL and LDL. cholesterol. The correlation between TSH and amenorrhea was significant (r=0.41).

Conclusion
These data support an important role of SH treatment in support metabolic control and insulin sensitivity in PCOS women.

P664
Total ghrelin levels in obese and non-obese patients with polycystic ovary syndrome
Danica Pejkovic, Dragan Micic, Mirjana Sumarac-Dumanovic, Goran Cvijovic, Svetlana Zoric & Aleksandra Kendereski
Institute for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Diseases of Metabolism, Belgrade, Serbia.

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is associated with adiposity and metabolic changes predisposing to insulin resistance. Because the recently discovered GH secretagogue, ghrelin is intimately involved in the control of appetite and weight regulation, we investigate ghrelin levels in non-obese and obese PCOS patients. Ten obese (BMI=32.50 ± 1.57 kg/m²) and ten non-obese (BMI=20.45 ± 0.51 kg/m²) patients with PCOS and their respective controls were evaluated. Fasting ghrelin was significantly lower in non-obese PCOS (51.82 ± 26.83; P<0.05) as well as in obese PCOS (42.65 ± 26.91; P<0.05) in comparison with controls (non-obese controls 120.11 ± 58.42; obese-controls 96.33 ± 57.34; P<0.05) matched for age and body mass index. In conclusion, women with PCOS had lower fasting ghrelin independently of their BMI, compared to the controls and there were no differences between fasting ghrelin levels among non-obese and obese women with PCOS. The ghrelin level in women with PCOS reflects the metabolic and hormonal changes which are characteristics of the syndrome.

P665
Our experience in treatment of infertility in patients with Klinefelter syndrome (mosaic karyotype 46,XY/47,XXY)
Igor Vinogradov1, Svetlana Kalinchenko1, George Mikhalya1, Dariya Gusakova1 & Lubov Alamanueva1
1Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Scientific and Research Institute of Urology, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Introduction
Until 1996, men with Klinefelter syndrome (KS) were considered to be infertile, but with the development of testicular sperm extraction (TESE) and intracytoplasmatic sperm injection (ICSI) it is now possible to extract viable spermatozoa from the testes using surgical biopsy for the future injection into an ovm. A minority of men with KS have viable sperm in their ejaculate and might, therefore, be able to provide native sperm for ICSI.

Materials and methods
We hold 4 successful programmed in vitro fertilization (IVF/ICSI) cycles to couples with man’s factor of infertility because of KS (karyotype 46,XY/47,XXY).

The results of initial spermograms presented in Table 1.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Volume, μl</th>
<th>Concentration mHIm/ml</th>
<th>Motility, % AB</th>
<th>Normal Morphology, %</th>
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<td>0.4</td>
<td>2 (≥ 2)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>No 2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No 3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>12 (≥ 10)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No 4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results
We used native sperm in 3 patients, and spermatozoa in one case were received by multifocal TESE. IVF/ICSI cycles were routine. ICSI was performed for all cases. The embryo on the stage of 6 or more blastomeres underwent preimplantation genetic diagnostics (PGD). The aim of this diagnostics was to select only female embryos for the further implantation. Pregnancy and labor of KS patients’ wives were ordinary and didn’t differ from normal. Children were examined by pediatrician, no abnormalities were found. All children had a normal karyotype.

Conclusion
Pregnancy can be achieved in KS patients’ families, using IVF/ICSI method.

P666
Periodontal disease in polycystic ovary syndrome
Erhan Dursun1, Guliz Guncu1, Nese Cinar2, Ayla Harmanci3, Murat Ozek1, Erdem Karabulut4, Tolga F. Tozum5, Kamer Kilinc6, F. Alev Akalin6 & Bulent O. Yildiz2
1Department of Periodontology, Hacettepe University School of Dentistry, Ankara, Turkey; 2Endocrinology and Metabolism Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 3Department of Oral Diagnosis and Radiology, Hacettepe University School of Dentistry, Ankara, Turkey; 4Department of Biostatistics, Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 5Department of Biochemistry, Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey.

Background
Periodontal disease (diseases of the tissues around teeth) and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) are common disorders in women with a significant public health impact. Both disorders appear to be associated with diabetes and cardiometabolic risk. There are no published data regarding periodontal disease in PCOS.

Objective
To determine periodontal status in women with PCOS compared to healthy women.

Methods
We studied 25 non-obese PCOS patients with normal glucose tolerance (age: 22.5 ± 3.6 y. BMI: 23.2 ± 3.1 kg/m²) and 12 age- and BMI-matched healthy controls. All of the participants were non-smokers. Periodontal clinical parameters including probing depths (PD), clinical attachment levels (CAL), gingival index (GI), bleeding on probing (BOP) and plaque index (PI) were recorded during early follicular phase of the menstrual cycle. As a potential contributor to periodontal status and PCOS, selected oxidative stress biomarkers were also assessed. Nitric oxide in terms of nitrite and nitrate were measured in both gingival crevicular fluid (GCF) and blood samples while myeloperoxidase levels measured in GCF only.

Results
PD, CAL, GI, BOP and PI were significantly higher in PCOS patients compared to controls (P<0.01) for all. GCF myeloperoxidase levels were also significantly higher in the PCOS group (P<0.05). There was a non-significant trend of an increase of GCF nitrite and nitrate levels in PCOS group; whereas serum nitrite and nitrate levels were similar between the PCOS and control groups.

Conclusion
Our results suggest that the susceptibility for periodontal disease is significantly increased in patients with PCOS compared to age- and BMI-matched healthy young women, and that local/periodontal oxidant status appears to be affected in PCOS.

P667
Selected cytokines are associated with markers of insulin resistance in polycystic ovary syndrome
Sona Stanicka1, Jana Vribková1, Martin Haluzík1, Martin Hill2, Katerina Dvorakova1, Tereza Grimmiuchova1 & Karel Vondra1
1Institute of Endocrinology, Prague, Czech Republic; 2Department of Medicine, 1st Faculty of Medicine and General University Hospital, Prague, Czech Republic.

The polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is associated with features of the insulin resistance syndrome and altered glucose homoeostasis. Factors that play an important role in these processes are still emerging. Pro-inflammatory cytokines may be involved in development of insulin resistance in PCOS. The purpose of this study was to determine if a relationship exists between interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-8 (IL-8), monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1), hepatectic growth factor (HGF), nerve growth factor (NGF), tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF alpha), fibroblast growth factor 21 (FGF-21) and insulin resistance indices in PCOS.

Methods
Fasting insulin, glucose, C-peptide, lipid profile, follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinizing hormone (LH), prolactin, testosterone, sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG), 17-hydroxyprogesterone, IL-6, IL-8, MCP-1, HGF, NGF, TNF alpha, FGF-21 serum concentrations were analyzed in 19 women with PCOS and 15 age- and weight-matched healthy controls. Homeostasis model assessment insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) was calculated. Statistics: Mann Whitney test and partial correlations adjusted for BMI.

Results
Fasting insulin and C-peptide were significantly higher in women with PCOS than in control group (P<0.05 for both). HOMA-IR tended to be higher in PCOS (P<0.06). IL-6, MCP-1, HGF, NGF, TNF alpha, FGF-21 levels did not differ between groups. In women with PCOS, after BMI adjustment: (1) MCP-1 and HGF serum concentrations significantly positively correlated with fasting insulin (P<0.01 for both) and HOMA-IR (P<0.05 and P<0.001, resp.), (2) IL-6 and IL-8 serum concentrations significantly negatively correlated with HDL cholesterol (P<0.01 and P<0.05, resp.), (3) IL-6 positively correlated with triglyceride concentrations (P<0.01), (4) FGF-21 correlated significantly negatively with fasting glucose (P<0.05).

Conclusions
In women with PCOS, serum levels of MCP-1, HGF and IL-6 are associated with markers of insulin resistance and FGF-21 was connected with fasting blood glucose. Supported with the grants NR 8759-3 and MSM 0021620814.
Steroid Receptors

P668

Increased fat mass in androgen receptor knockout mice is caused by decreased physical activity with no change in food consumption

Jeffrey Zajac, K Rana, B Fam, S Andrikopoulos & Helen MacLean
Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

We have used an androgen receptor knockout (ARKO) mouse model with an in-frame deletion of the 2nd zinc finger of the DNA binding domain, which abolishes the genomic actions of the AR to investigate androgen regulation of fat mass. At 12 weeks of age, ARKO males have increased adiposity compared to wildtype (WT) males, with subcutaneous fat mass increased by 75% (P < 0.001, n ≥17/group) and infrarenal fat mass increased by 36% (P < 0.05, n ≥17/group). However, total body mass of ARKO males is decreased by 13% versus WT males (P < 0.001, n ≥17/group) at 12 and 30 weeks of age. Mean voluntary physical activity at 12 weeks, measured by wheel running, is 86% lower in ARKO mice (P <0.05, n = 3-4/group). At 24 weeks of age, following 12 weeks of a high fat diet (containing 60% fat), total body mass is not different between WT and ARKO mice (n = 11-12/group). Subcutaneous fat mass remains increased by 66% compared to WT males (P <0.001, n = 11-12/group). There is no difference in resting energy expenditure, fat oxidation or glucose oxidation rates between the two groups (n = 11/group). This study suggests that increased adiposity in ARKO mice is in part due to decreased voluntary physical activity but not increased food consumption or decreased resting energy expenditure.

P669

Androgen receptor gene CAG(n) repeat polymorphism and coronary artery disease (CAD) in women

Maria Alevizaki1,2, Katerina Saltiki1,2, Adriana Cimponeriu1, Maria Garofalaki1, Emily Manitou1 & Kimon Stamatelopoulos1
1Endocrine Unit, Evgenidion Hospital, Athens University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece; 2Endocrine Unit, Department of Clinical Therapeutics, Alexandria Hospital, Athens University School of Medicine, Athens, Greece.

Objective
Androgen may be detrimental for vascular health in women. Sensitivity to androgen is influenced by the CAG repeat length of the androgen receptor (AR) gene. We investigated possible associations between the CAG repeat polymorphism with the severity of CAD in women undergoing coronary angiography.

Methods
We examined 131 postmenopausal women (45-88 years). CAD severity was assessed by the number of coronary vessels with ≥50% stenosis. History of angina, number of myocardial infarctions (MI), hormonal and biochemical parameters were recorded. The number of CAG repeats ranged between 13 and 28. The mean lowest quartile corresponded to 19 and the highest to 22 repeats.

Results
Angina was more frequent in those carrying ≤19 repeats compared to ≥22 repeats (P = 0.037, Fisher’s exact). A higher percentage of women carrying ≤19 AR gene CAG repeats had 1 and 2 Mls (28.6 and 10.7%) compared to women with ≥19 repeats (8.2 and 1.4% respectively, P = 0.019). Carriers of ≤19 repeats in their shorter allele had severe disease (≥2 vessels affected) more frequently compared to those carrying ≥22 repeats (39.2% vs 9.5%, P = 0.009 Fisher exact).

Cholesterol and LDL levels were negatively correlated with the number of repeats of the shorter allele (r = -0.203, P = 0.029 and r = -0.196, P = 0.039 respectively). Antilipid drug therapy was less frequent among carriers of longer repeats in both alleles (P = 0.025). Mean SHBG levels were lower in women carrying the shorter CAG repeat number (< 22 vs ≥ 22 repeats: 41 ± 17 vs 53 ± 30 nmol/l, P = 0.003).

Conclusions
Shorter polyglutamine stretch in the androgen receptor gene, indicative of increased androgen action, is associated with CAD in postmeno-
pausal women undergoing coronary angiography, both concerning clinical manifestations and angiographic findings. This effect may be mediated by adverse lipid profile or SHBG levels. This association may support the adverse cardiovascular effect of life-long androgen exposure in this highly selected group of women.
Hydrocortisone attenuates the rise in plasma glucose following glucose administration during the first 2 h of the study (P = 0.017), but led to higher plasma glucose concentrations during the last hour (P = 0.004). Hydrocortisone increased the first phase insulin secretion (P = 0.003) and decreased the late phase insulin secretion (P = 0.013). Minimal model analysis indicated that hydrocortisone reduced the total hepatic extraction of insulin (P = 0.009) without significantly changing insulin sensitivity.

In summary, we present here evidence that the administration of glucocorticoids a few minutes before an intravenous glucose load induces non-classical changes in beta cell function and hepatic insulin clearance, but does not modulate insulin sensitivity during the FSIGT.
Phylot decreased number of tumours in comparison with the groups of rats (TTNPB alone or Phylot alone). Furthermore, treatment with combination of TTNPB and Phylot inhibited tumour progression. MicroPET data showed the changes of size and number of tumours during the experiment. RT-PCR method has shown that application of Seocalciot, TTNPB, Phylot or their combinations changed expression of VDR, RAR and RXR subtypes and other nuclear receptors in mammary gland tumours. This observation was also supported by using EMSA analyses. The VEGA grant 20022098.

Signal Transduction
P678
The MAPKinasas ERK1/2 take centre stage in somatotroph physiopathology
Morgane Fertaut, David Romano, Anne Barlier, Alain Enjalbert & Corrine Gerard
CRN2M, UMR6231 CNRS, Marseille, France.

Somatotroph pituitary adenomas are characterized by unrestrained hormone secretion and cell proliferation alterations. In those tumors, the only mutation so far unequivocally identified is the 

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P680
Identification of septin 3 as a novel protein-protein interaction partner of TrkB
Tarnow Patrick¹, Göbler Heike²,³, Wanker Erich², Grütters Annette¹ & Biebemmann Heike¹
¹Institute of Pediatric Endocrinology, Charité, Berlin, Germany; ²Proteomics and Molecular Mechanisms of Neurodegenerative Diseases, MDC, Berlin, Germany; ³Medizinisches Proteom Center, Dortmund, Germany.

The melanotropin 4 receptor (MC4R) plays a prominent role in hypothalamic weight regulation. Activation of this receptor results by far not understood mechanisms in a decrease of food-intake and an increase of energy expenditure. Recently a functional role downstream of MC4R signalling for brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) and its receptor tropomysin-related kinase B (TrkB) receptor (TrkB) was reported. TrkB signalling influences several neuronal processes like synapse formation and long-term potentiation Mutations in human TrkB gene NTK2 cause severe hyperphagia, obesity, developmental delay and deficits in memory and learning. To understand the physiological role of TrkB in hypothalamic weight regulation and to identify further downstream signalling pathways resulted in fragments of TrkB as bait in a yeast-two-hybrid screen against preys derived from a human brain cdNA library. We found an interaction of the Shc binding site containing juxtamembrane domain of TrkB with the neuron specific Septin Sept3b. This interaction was confirmed by in vitro Glutathion S-Transferase (GST) pulldown experiments using GST-tagged Sept3b and the HA-tagged intracellular TrkB domain. Furthermore we could show in vitro that the interaction is independent of the phosphorylation of the Shc-binding site of TrkB and splice variants of Sept3b, but dependent on a short sequence motif that has previously been described to be important for the intracellular trafficking of TrkB. In differentiated PC12 cells we could show intracellular colocalization of both full-length proteins. Our results provide a first hint for a connection between BDNF signalling and Sept3b that has to be further elucidated in a neuronal cell system.

P681
A newly identified loss-of-function mutation in helix 5 reveals new insights into signalling mechanisms of the thyrotropin receptor
Franziska Winkler¹, Gunmar Klein¹, Annette Grützers¹, Heiko Krude¹, Gerd Krause¹ & Heike Biebemmann²
¹Leibniz-Institut für Molekulare Pharmakologie, Berlin, Germany; ²Institute for Experimental Pediatric Endocrinology, Charité Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany.

In two siblings suffering from congenital hypothyroidism we identified a homozygous missense mutation Ala579Val in transmembrane helix 5 of the thyrotropin receptor (TSHR) gene which motivated us to investigate molecular details of this mutation.

We were interested, firstly, in the functional effects regarding signal transduction and, secondly, in the particular structural properties of the wild type receptor and the Ala579Val mutant. The aim was to gain deeper mechanistic insights into the inactivation resulting from mutations at this position and to understand the biochemical properties of other potentially participating amino acids. We analysed structural-functional relationships of the TSHR by molecular modelling using the latest crystal structures of GPCRs as templates for TSHR homology models and we designed and functionally tested side chain mutations at this position to Ser, Gin, Phe, Met and Leu by determination of β-TSH induced intracellular cAMP formation.

The functional characterization of the patients’ mutation revealed a complete loss of function. Moreover side chain mutations to Leu, Met, and Gin at this position resulted in a complete or partial loss of signalling capability. By contrast, substitutions to Ser and Phe were behaved like the wild type protein. Investigations of TSHR homology models suggest that substitution of the small Ala to a more bulky side chain causes a signalling incompetent receptor conformation. Especially side chains that are branched at the beta-carbon are structurally not tolerated and lead to completely impaired signalling.

In summary, investigation of this newly identified mutation, Ala579Val, of the TSHR helps to explain functional properties as well as structural changes caused by the mutation. Our findings provide significant structural and functional implications for mechanisms of signal transduction of the TSHR and homologous glycoprotein-hormone receptors.


P682
Abstract withdrawn.

P683
Abstract withdrawn.

P684
Nuclear orphan receptor Nur77 is a mediator of p53-dependent apoptotic response
Dolores Sangüés-Martí, Carmen Carneiro, Gloria Martínez, Fernando Dominguez & Anxo Vidal

Nur77 is a nuclear orphan receptor belonging to the steroid receptor superfamily. A role for Nur77 has been described in proliferation, differentiation and apoptosis, as a result of its induction in response to multiple signal transduction pathways. Previous studies have suggested that physical interaction between Nur77 and the tumor suppressor p53 can prevent p53 ubiquination and subsequent degradation by Mdm2. This suggests a possible role for Nur77 as a regulator of p53-dependent signals. To further investigate the interaction between these two proteins, we first studied if p53-dependent apoptotic responses are modulated by the absence of Nur77. Wildtype and Nur77 mouse embryo fibroblasts were sensitized with infection with the oncoviral protein E1A and subsequent treated with Doxorubicin or Cisplatin. We observed that apoptosis was partially reduced in absence of Nur77, even though p53 was equally stabilized in these cells when compared to the Wildtype. Thus, these results indicate that Nur77 is a mediator of p53-dependent apoptotic responses. A possible regulation of Nur77 by p53 was also explored by analyzing Nur77 mRNA levels after treatment with genotoxic agents. HCT116 colorectal carcinoma cells cultured in presence of Doxorubicin or Cisplatin showed a higher increase on Nur77 mRNA when compared with their counterpart p53--/--. Sequence analysis showed the presence of a canonical p53-binding site within Nur77 gene. By cloning this site on a luciferase reporter system we were able to detect an increase on the reporter activity in the presence of both endogenous or transfected p53. Site-directed mutagenesis on this sequence led to a marked reduction on the reporter signal confirming the specificity of the regulation. Taken together our results indicate that Nur77 is a p53-responsive gene that is mediating, at least in part, p53-dependent apoptotic responses. This study was funded by Fundación de Investigacion Medica Mutua Madrileña and Xunta de Galicia.

P685
On the importance of the selenium status for the inflammatory response
Mette Stoedter, Kostja Renko, Thomas Behrends & Lutz Schomburg
Charité · Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Institute for Experimental Endocrinology, Berlin, Germany.

Many endocrine disorders bear an immunological component and involve local cytokines as paracrine signals. Moreover, certain auto-antibodies appear as causative pathological agents in some of the most common endocrine diseases e.g. in type I diabetes mellitus or different forms of autoimmune thyroid disease (AITD). Recently, selenium (Se) status and selenoproteins have emerged as important modifiers of the inflammatory response, AITD or sepsis. Notably, mortality risk of patients with severe sepsis appeared negatively correlated to serum Se concentrations and prognosis improve upon Se supplementation in a recent multicentric trial. In an attempt to study the importance of the Se status for inflammation-dependent pathologies, we subjected mice on different Se supply to an LPS-induced acute phase response. First, we tested whether the acute phase
induced alterations affect preferentially the essential trace element Se or rather represent a more general impairment of the hepatic trace element metabolism. Among all these trace elements tested (including Fe, Cu, and Zn), only Se showed a very pronounced decline during the acute phase response. Next, we analyzed the importance of the baseline Se status for the response. Se-concentrations in serum and liver declined to approx. 50% of control values 24 h after LPS injection in a Se-supplemented group, whereas Se-poor animals maintained a constant value at a low baseline. More importantly, cytokine production was strongly affected by the Se-status. The Se poor animals displayed significantly augmented concentrations of the circulating cytokines IL6 (P < 0.05) and MCP1 (P ≤ 0.01) compared to the Se-supplemented mice. This effect was especially pronounced in the male mice and pointed to certain sex-specific differences. We conclude that Se-based adjuvant supplementation efforts might improve selene protein expression and immune function during inflammation avoiding an exaggerated induction of pro-inflammatory cytokines. This mechanism might underlie the positive Se supplementation results which have been observed in recent AITD trials. Further studies are needed to test which patients are in need of Se supplementation and how their inflammatory response or autoimmune antibody load respond to an improved Se supply.

Objectives
To identify the main alleles/haplotypes of the TSHR gene, and to analyze the existence of TSHR susceptibility alleles to the GBD.

Material and methods
To establish the main alleles of TSHR gene, 54 polymorphisms (53 SNPs and 1 DIP) were selected including: 1) SNPs identified by sequencing both the promoter and 3'UTR regions, and 2) TagSNPs capturing most of the genetic variability of the gene. TagSNPs have been selected using the Haplview software and available data from HapMap project. These 54 polymorphisms were genotyped, using SNPlex technology, in 329 gDNA samples from: 192 control subjects and 137 GBD patients.

Results
In the case-control study of the 54 polymorphisms genotyped, after the multiple tests correction, a set of 10 SNPs showed a significantly different distribution between cases and controls (P < 0.05), some of them with a high statistical signification (P = 10^-5). The odds ratio obtained ranged from 2.08 to 5.15. All these significant SNPs were located in a region that covers from the position -6200 in the promoter, to the intron 1, remaining the rest of the gene free of significant associations. Beyond this analysis of individual markers, the main haplotypes of the TSHR gene were established, using the different blocks of linkage disequilibrium (LD). Two highly significant haplotypes, one protective and one predisposing to the disease, were identified.

Conclusions
A set of SNPs located in the 5' region of TSHR gene (from the promoter up to intron 1) significantly associated to GBD was identified. The existence of LD among the associated SNPs allow to define the main haplotypes, two of them conferring susceptibility or protection to the disease.

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Orexins activates protein kinase C-mediated Ca2+ signaling in cultured rat dorsal root ganglion neurons
Ahmet Ayar1, Mete Ozcan2, Ergul Alcin1, Ilbas Serhatlioglu2 & Haluk Kelesstimur3
1Departments of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey; 2Faculty of Medicine, and Biophysics, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey.

Orexins, the novel pluripotent hypothalamic peptides, have been shown to exert important roles in the regulation of multiple physiological functions and behaviors including appetite, sleep and wakefulness and energy homeostasis through neural and endocrine mechanisms. Evidence emerging from recent research indicates that orexins may be involved in many other physiological functions. Our previous results have suggested that orexin-A and B activate Ca2+ signaling in cultured rat dorsal root ganglion (DRG) neurons implicating a role in nociception, and the aim of the present study was to investigate whether this orexin receptors mediated signaling involves PKC pathways in this sensory neurons. Following enzymatic digestion and mechanical agitation the DRG neurons were cultured on coated coverslips and loaded with 1 μmol Fura-2 AM. [Ca2+]i responses were quantified by the changes in 340/380 ratio for individual DRG neurons using the imaging system consisting of CCD camera coupled to an inverted microscope with a 40× (1.30 NA) objective. All data were analyzed by using unpaired t test, P<0.05 defining statistical significance. The non-peptide OX1 selective receptor antagonist SB-334867-A (1 μM) inhibited the orexin-A (200 nM) and orexin-B (200 nM)-induced calcium responses (57.2 ± 4.2% versus orexin-A, n = 5, and 65.9 ± 3.6% versus orexin-B, n = 9). The PKC inhibitor chelerythrine chloride also decreased the orexin-A (200 nm)-induced calcium responses (59 ± 5.2% and 55 ± 1.7% versus orexin-A, n = 7 for both 10 and 100 μM). In conclusion, the results suggest that ORX A and -B cause an increase in free intracellular calcium through PKC pathway activation, which could be associated with nociceptive modulation and pain.

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High susceptibility haplotypes of the TSHR gene in Graves-Basedow disease
Anna Llusa1,3, Roger Colobrun1,2, Maria Pilar Armentol2,3, Marta Ruiz1, Eva Martinez1,3, Manel Juan1 & Ricardo Pujol-Borrell1,3
1Endocrinology Service, Germans Trias i Pujol Hospital, Badalona/Barcelona, Spain; 2BIST/LIBAD, Barcelona, Spain; 3Universitat Autonoma, Barcelona, Spain.

The mechanisms triggering autoimmunity in the Graves-Basedow disease (GBD) are unknown, although the evidence for a genetic predisposition is well established. The thyrotropin receptor (TSHR) is a good candidate gene.

Objectives
To identify the main alleles/haplotypes of the TSHR gene, and to analyze the existence of TSHR susceptibility alleles to the GBD.

Material and methods
To establish the main alleles of TSHR gene, 54 polymorphisms (53 SNPs and 1 DIP) were selected including: 1) SNPs identified by sequencing both the promoter and 3’UTR regions, and 2) TagSNPs capturing most of the genetic variability of the gene. TagSNPs have been selected using the Haplview software and available data from HapMap project. These 54 polymorphisms were genotyped, using SNPlex technology, in 329 gDNA samples from: 192 control subjects and 137 GBD patients.

Results
In the case-control study of the 54 polymorphisms genotyped, after the multiple tests correction, a set of 10 SNPs showed a significantly different distribution between cases and controls (P < 0.05), some of them with a high statistical signification (P = 10^-5). The odds ratio obtained ranged from 2.08 to 5.15. All these significant SNPs were located in a region that covers from the position -6200 in the promoter, to the intron 1, remaining the rest of the gene free of significant associations. Beyond this analysis of individual markers, the main haplotypes of the TSHR gene were established, using the different blocks of linkage disequilibrium (LD). Two highly significant haplotypes, one protective and one predisposing to the disease, were identified.

Conclusions
A set of SNPs located in the 5' region of TSHR gene (from the promoter up to intron 1) significantly associated to GBD was identified. The existence of LD among the associated SNPs allow to define the main haplotypes, two of them conferring susceptibility or protection to the disease.
Hong, OK P498
Horányi, J O1C.4
Horder, K P458
Horejsi, R P471
Hortopan, D P224,
P286 & P326
Hoshina, Y P560
Hosseini, F P451
Hosseini Isfahani, F P521
Hosseinpahah, F P80
Host, C P479
Howe, D P626
Hoybye, C P547
Höybye, C P205
Hrabé de Angelis, M HTB1
Hristea, R P442 & P69
Hruska, J P651
Huang, CN P337
Huatan, H P9
Hubalewska-Dyjeczyk, A P119, P197, P198,
P203, P204, P211,
P214, P299 & P339
Hughes, C S32
Hullstein, I P518
Hulting, AL P13
Hyde, S P44
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Iacobone, M P8
Iacoviello, M P124
Ianas, O P442, P532 &
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Ianni, F P516
Ibanoglu, M P477
Ibarlucua, J P507
Ibarrola, R P317
Icin, T P263, P38, P40
Iconaru, L P442, P69
Igaz, P O1C.4 & P566
Ignetenko, A P523
Ignjatovic, T P421
Ilbeg, I P93, P94
Illic, S P11, P381 & P605
Ille, I P248
Illig, T P472
Imamoglu, S P67, P255,
P273, P280, P295,
P343, P46, P477 &
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Jasovic-Gasic, M P236
Jawiarczyk, A P243
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Jenkins, D P302
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Jeremic, D P476
Jeske, W P13, P18
Jeunemaitre, X P17
Jezkova, J P574
Jhen, B P514
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