



3rd International Electronic Conference on Medicinal Chemistry

1-30 November 2017

chaired by Dr. Jean Jacques Vanden Eynde

sponsored by



pharmaceuticals

One year r-GH therapy influence on blood gamma-amino- butyric acid, serotonin, dopamine and IGF-1 in 15 growth- hormone deficient children

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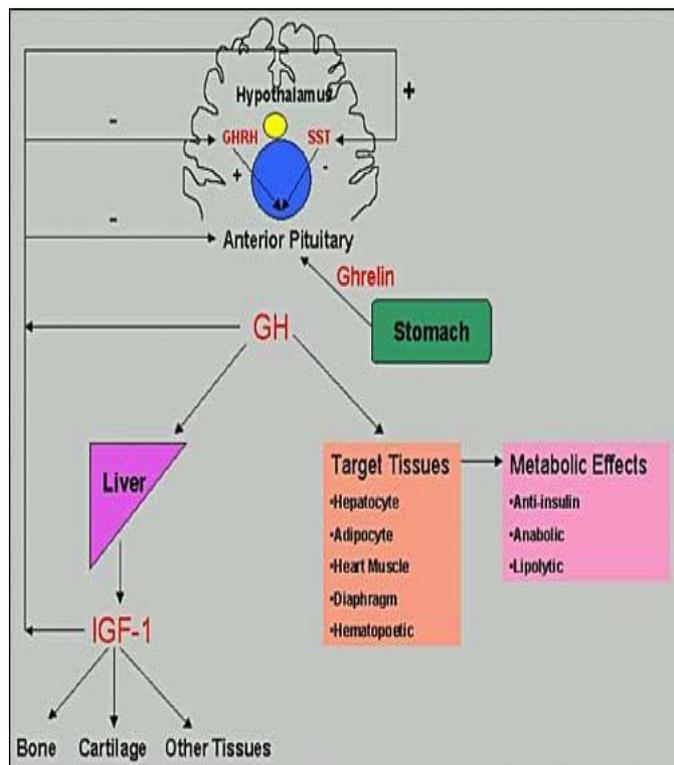
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Graphical Abstract



GABA/DA/IGF1 >>



rh - GH



Abstract:

Aim: To quantify the effect of 1 year r-GH therapy on blood gamma-amino-butyric acid(GABA), serotonin (5-HT),dopamine(DA) and IGF-1 in 15 growth hormone(GH) deficient children.

Research design and methods: This retrospective study included 8 boys (7-14years) and 7 girls (7-14years) with clinically established GH deficit and under GH replacement therapy.In 2016 they were quantified for GABA, DA, 5-HT and IGF-1.After 1 year again of GH therapy they were once more tested for the same parameters using analytical methods.

Results: Median plasma parameters in 8 boys pre- vs. post-GH therapy was: GABA: 59.44 vs. 105.83ng/mL; 5-HT: 269.66 vs.196.55ng/mL; DA: 46.66 vs.91.5pg/mL; IGF-1: 367.38 vs. 445.5ng/mL.The same parameters were tested in 7 girls as median pre- vs. post-GH therapy: GABA: 45 vs.96ng/mL; 5-HT: 215 vs.200ng/mL;DA: 40 vs. 60pg/mL; IGF-1: 284 vs.420ng/mL.We established statistical significant differences in boys group pre-and post-treatment in: plasma GABA($P<0.001$),serum 5-HT($P<0.01$),plasma DA($P<0.02$),serum IGF-1($P=0.02$). In girls group we calculated statistical significant differences in plasma GABA pre- vs. post-therapy($P<0.001$) and in plasma DA pre- vs. post-therapy($P>0.02$)

*Conclusions:*In fact replacement GH-therapy improved GABA/5-HT, GABA/DA, GABA/IGF-1,5-HT/IGF-1 correlations in boys group. In girls group we estimated improved correlations between GABA/DA,5-HT/DA, 5-HT/IGF-1.These observations could be translated in general improvement of health state in growth deficient children under GH- therapy

*Key words:*GH deficient children,GH replacement therapy, gamma-amino-butyric acid(GABA),serotonin (5-HT),dopamine(DA)



Introduction

- **GH secretion from the pituitary is under neural control from the hypothalamus through at least three hypophysiotropic factors:GHRH,somatostatin(SRIF) and Ghrelin**
- **GHRH and SRIF release are controlled by a complex neuronal network,in which α -adrenergic,dopaminergic and serotonergic signals stimulate GH secretion**
- **Growth hormone (GH) is essential for body growth during childhood and continues to stimulate anabolic processes in adults**
- **GH exerts its anabolic effects largely indirectly via stimulation of insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF1) production**
- **Components of the GH–IGF1 axis make an important contribution to the development, function, and proliferation of different tissues**



- **The aim of the present study was to get information concerning the effects of one-year r-GH replacement therapy in 2 groups of children(8boys and 7girls)on blood markers by quantification:gaba aminobutyric acid(GABA),serotonin(5-HT), dopamine(DA) and IGF-1 before and after treatment**



Results and discussion

- This retrospective study included 8 boys (7-14years) and 7 girls (7-14) with clinically established GH deficit and under GH replacement therapy
- In 2016 they were quantified for plasma GABA, DA and serum 5-HT, IGF-1
- After 1 year GH therapy (2017) they were again tested for the same parameters using analytical methods
- All subjects collected in the morning at 9 am(after an overnight fasting, free of drugs) 2 samples of plasma (into EDTA vacutainers) and a sample of total blood



- **After centrifugation, plasma and serum samples were aliquoted and stored at -20°C until assayed**
- **Plasma GABA, DA and serum 5-HT were evaluated by research Elisa methods**
- **Serum IGF-1 was evaluated by a chemiluminescent method**
- **Statistical processing of data was done using MedCalc Software version 14.8.1**



- **Range, medians, statistical significance, percentage increase/decrease for all 4 parameters were established both in boys and girls group before and after r- GH replacement therapy (*Table 1,2;Fig.1,2,3*)**
- **Median GABA in boys before and after treatment :59.44 vs.105.83 had a percentage increase of 77% ($P<0.001$)**
- **Median GABA in girls before and after treatment:45 vs.96 had a percentage increase of 113% ($P<0.001$)**
- **Median 5-HT in boys before and after treatment:269.66 vs.196.55 had a percentage decrease of 27% ($P<0.01$)**
- **Median 5-HT in girls before and after treatment:215 vs.200 had a percentage decrease of 7% (NS)**



- **Median DA in boys before and after treatment:46.66 vs.97.94 had a percentage increase of 110% (P<0.02)**
- **Median DA in girls before and after treatment:40 vs.60 had a percentage increase of 50% (P>0.02)**
- **Median IGF-1 in boys before and after treatment:364.50 vs.442.27 had a percentage increase of 21% (P=0.02)**
- **Median IGF-1 in girls before and after treatment:284 vs. 420 had a percentage increase of 47% (NS)**



- **Pearson coefficients between the 4 parameters in boys/girls are shown in *Table 2***
- **Good correlation coefficients were calculated in boys before and after treatment for GABA($R=0.77$); 5-HT($R=0.66$); IGF-1(0.95)**
- **In girls, good correlation coefficients were established before and after treatment for 5-HT(0.71); DA($R=0.73$); IGF-1(0.66)**



- **Our selected group of GH deficient children(8 boys and 7 girls) after one-year of rh-GH replacement therapy showed a remarkable percentage increase in GABA values both in boys and girls together with an increase in DA values and IGF-1 values in both selected groups**
- **These results are in line with new data from the literature**
- **The GH-releasing effect of GABA in humans may occur through activation of dopaminergic pathways;GABA would activate DA release at a site inside the blood- brain barrier(BBB)**
- **Both hormones GH and IGF-1 stimulated linear growth**



- **GABAB receptors are involved in cognitive processes and in animal experiments has been reported to reverse age-related impairments of learning and memory functions**
- **GABAB receptors are expressed in the pituitary and have been suggested to be involved in regulation of GH release**
- **Furthermore, activation of GABAB receptors has been shown to protect neurons from apoptosis via a transactivation of the IGF-IR**



- **IGF1-independent actions mediated through GH receptor are the proliferation of chondrocyte stem cells at bone growth plate or direct stimulation of neural stem cells to proliferate**
- **The growth hormone insulin-like growth factor-1 system induces neurogenesis and increases brain plasticity**
- **GH is essential for growth but also modulates protein, lipid and carbohydrate metabolism**
- **Replacement therapy with GH has beneficial effects on body composition, bone turnover, cardiovascular risk factors and quality of life**



Conclusions

- The major role of growth hormone (GH) during childhood is to promote bone growth and linear growth, but GH continues to have important metabolic actions throughout life
- The growth hormone insulin-like growth factor-1 system induces neurogenesis and increases brain plasticity
- Our biochemical study showed an improvement of GABA/DA/IGF-1 axis after one year of rh-GH therapy in a selected group of GH deficient children with a direct impact on bone growth and linear growth and on both mental and emotional well-being



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Table 1- Range/median of GABA,5-HT,DA,IGF-1 in 15 children GH-deficient before and after 1year GH replacement therapy

15 SUBJECTS 8 BOYS/ 7 GIRLS	GABA Median/ Range	5-HT Median/ Range	DA Median/ Range	IGF1 Median/ Range
BOYS Before treatment	59.44 37-105	269.66 158-385	46.66 24-70	364.50 84-643
After treatment	105.83 46-183	196.55 131-273	97.94 58-205	442.27 135-747
T-TEST	P < 0.001	P < 0.01	P < 0.02	P = 0.02
GIRLS Before treatment	45 37-63	215 66-553	40 20-91	284 196-511
After treatment	96 74-118	200 83-361	60 35-80	420 249-558
T-TEST	P < 0.001	NS	P > 0.02	NS



Table 2- Percentage increase/decrease of the 4 parameters after rh-GH therapy and correlation coefficients between parameters before and after therapy

SUBJECTS	GABA	5-HT	DA	IGF-1
8 Boys Before- rh-GH	59,44	269,66	46,66	364.5
After- rh-GH	105.83	196,55	97,94	442.27
% Increase	77	-	110	21
% Decrease	-	27	-	-
Pearson coefficient	0.80	0.66	- 0.36	0.95
7 Girls Before- rh-GH	45	215	40	284
After rh-GH	96	200	60	420
% Increase	113	-	50	47
% Decrease	-	7	-	-
Pearson coefficient	- 0.31	0.71	0.73	0.66



Fig.1-Median values in 8 boys GH deficient before and after 1-year rh-GH replacement therapy

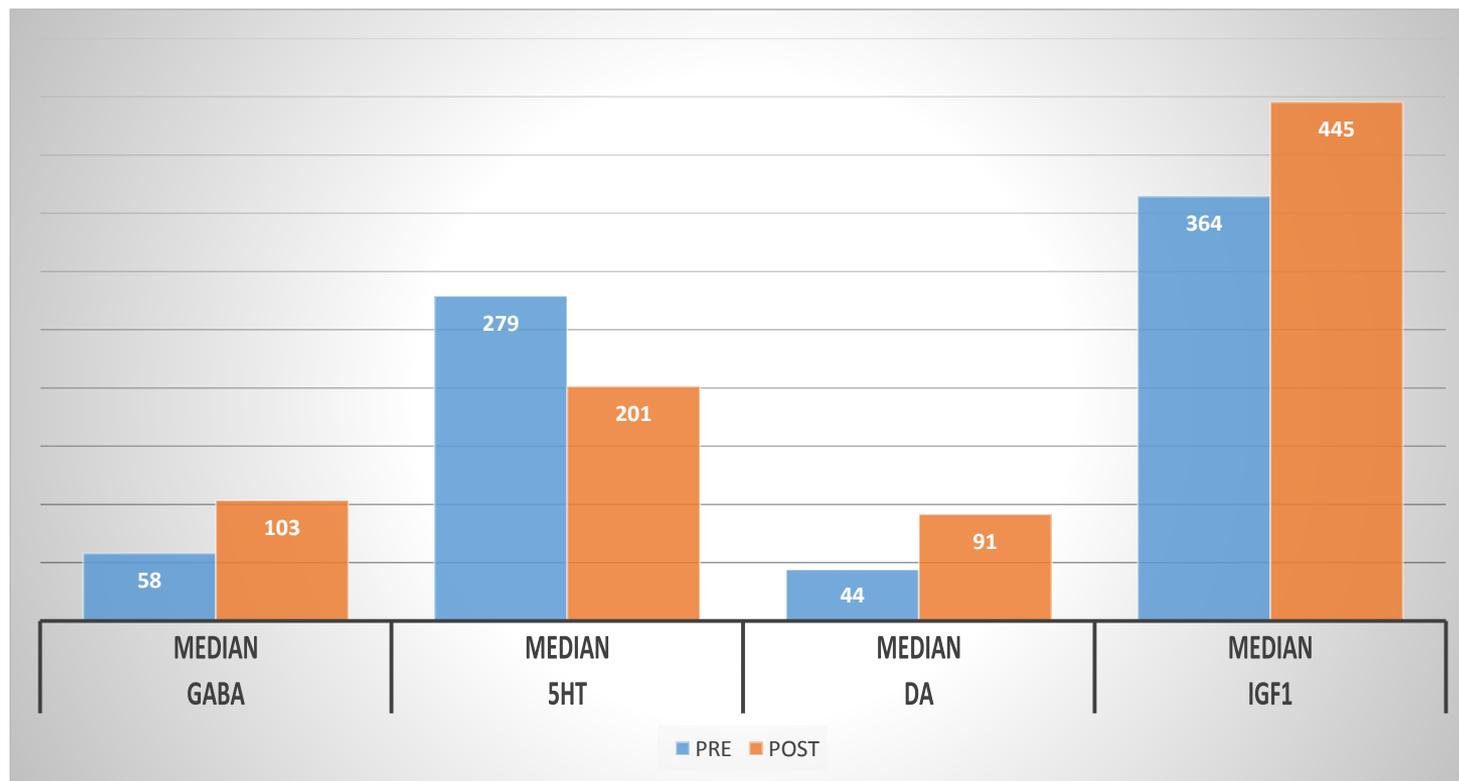


Fig.2-Median values in 7 girls GH deficient before and after 1-year rh-GH replacement therapy

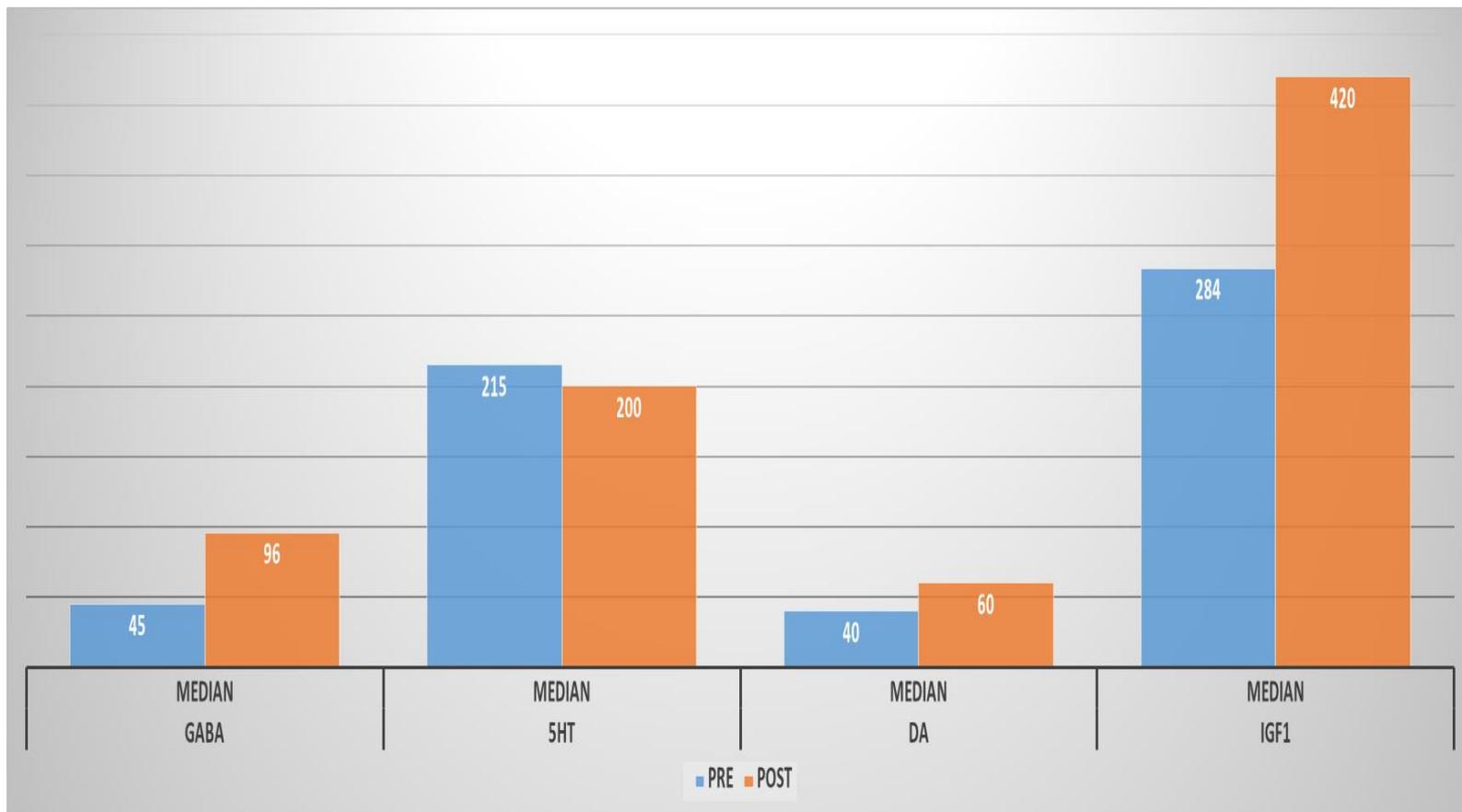


FIG.3- Percentage increase/decrease of the evaluated parameters after rh-GH replacement therapy in the examined subjects

