

## Anterior pituitary disorders

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#### **Editing file**

Color index : Main text (Black) Female slides (Pink) Male slides (Blue) Important things (Red) Dr's notes (Green)

**Extra information (Grey)** 





To understand basic pathophysiology and feedback for anterior pituitary hormones.



Know about clinical approach for common anterior pituitary gland disorders:

- Common clinical presentations.
- Main laboratory investigations.
- Radiological investigations
- Describe lines of management for each of these conditions.









Anterior pituitary disorders.

Posterior pituitary disorders e.g. Diabetes insipidus. (Not imp)



# Anatomy overview of pituitary gland

Sella turcica	Pituitary gland is protected by sella turcica which lies at the base of the skul (sphenoid body).	
Roof of Sella turcica	Diaphragma sellae (Pituitary stalk and its blood vessels pass through the diaphragm).	
Floor of Sella turcica	Sephenoid.	
Lateral wall of Sella turcica	1-Cavernous sinus Containing III, IV, VI, V1, V2 cranial nerves and internal carotid artery with sympathetic fibers. 2-Both adjacent to temporal lobes. (Patient with pituitary adenoma may present with ptosis Because the 3rd cranial nerve is affected)	
Pituitary stalk	Pituitary stalk in midline joins the pituitary gland with hypothalamus that is below 3rd ventricle.	
pituitary cells	Development of pituitary cells is controlled by a set of transcription growth factors like: <b>Pit-1</b> , <b>Prop-1</b> , <b>Pitx2</b> .	
Pituitary gland measures	It is 15 X 10 X 6 mm, weighs 500 mg but about 1 g in women.	
Optic chiasm	lies 10 mm above the gland and anterior to the stalk. (In pituitary adenoma the optic chiasm might be affected and cause visual disturbance)	
<b>Blood supply</b>	superior, middle, inferior hypophyseal arteries (internal carotid artery) running in median eminence from hypothalamus.	
Venous drainage	to superior and inferior petrosal sinuses to jugular vein.	









## **Pituitary hormones**

#### Anterior (function)

Synthesis and secrete: Go Look For The Adenoma Please. GH, LH, FSH, TSH, ACTH and lastly Prolactin.

A compressive adenoma in pituitary will impair hormone production in this order.

#### Posterior (function)

Storage only (not synthesis): because the body of neurons in hypothalamus 1. Oxytocin. 2. ADH(vasopressin).

	Somatotrophs	Gonadotrophs	Lactotrophs	Thyrotrophs	Corticotrophs	
<b>Stimulators</b> From the hypothalamus	GHRH GHS	GnRH E2 (1)	TRH E2	TRH	CRH AVP gp-130 Cytokines	
Inhibitors In case of over secretion we can use the inhibitors as a treatment	IGF-1 Somatostatin Activins	Testosterone E2 Inhibin	Dopamine	T3, T4 Dopamine Somatostatin GH	Steroid	
Hormone	<b>GH</b> (growth hormone)	LH FSH	PRL (Prolactin)	TSH	ACTH POMC	
Target Gland (End organ)	Liver & other tissues	Ovary testes	Breast Other tissues	Thyroid	Adrenals	
Target Hormone	IGF-1 (Active form of GH)	testosterone,E2	—	T4	Cortisol	
Trophic effects	IGF-1 production Growth induction Insulin antagonism	Sex Steroid Follicular growth Germ cell maturation	Milk production	T4 synthesis and secretion	Steroid production, Androgen	

1- E2 Estradiol, is an estrogen steroid hormone and the major female sex hormone. It is involved in the regulation of the estrous and menstrual female reproductive cycles. If the pituitary gland gets enlarged it will obstruct the 3rd ventricle causing **hydrocephalus**. And also affect optic chiasm = MACRO Adenoma compressing the optic chiasm = **Bitemporal hemianopia.** 

#### MRI's



Optic chiasm Pituitary stalk Carotid artery Cavernous sinus









### Anterior pituitary disorders

#### **Functional disorder**

**Hyper**secretion: (GH, LH, FSH, PRL, TSH, ACTH). e.g. Hyperprolactinemia, Acromegaly ( $\uparrow$ GH), Cushing's Disease ( $\uparrow$ ACTH).

(In females, LH & FSH stimulate ovaries to produce estrogen, In males, they stimulate the testes to produce testosterone)

**Hyposecretion**: hypopituitarism (isolated, multiple, pan) e.g. Central hypoadrenalism, hypogonadism, hypothyroidism or GH deficiency & Panhypopituitarism. (all the hormones are affected)

Masses (Types):

Functioning = Hypersecretion. (producing certain types of hormones in excessive way)

Non-functioning. (pressure effect causing hypopituitarism (no hormones secreted)

Could be **with/without mass-effect:** Space occupying lesion (compression symptoms, hypopituitarism).

#### Etiology of pituitary hypothalamic lesions

Non-Functioning Pituitary Adenomas and Pituitary abscess. (benign)

Malignant pituitary tumors: Functional and non-functional pituitary carcinoma.

Lymphocytic hypophysitis.

Metastases in the pituitary (breast, lung, stomach, kidney). and infection e.g. TB

Pituitary cysts: Rathke's cleft cyst, Mucoceles, Others.

Carotid aneurysm & Empty sella syndrome.

Endocrine active pituitary adenomas: (benign) 1-Prolactinoma (PRL-oma). 2-Somatotropinoma (GH secreting adenoma, Acromegaly). 3-Corticotropinoma (ACTH secreting adenoma, Cushing's disease ). 4-Thyrotropinoma (TSH-oma, rare). 5-Other mixed endocrine active adenomas. autoimmune disorder, antibodies attack the pituitary gland which then appears in the MRI scan as adenoma, common in female.

Carotid aneurysm: the internal carotid enlarges & produces an aneurysm which then enters the pituitary gland that may appear in the MRI scan as adenoma.

## Evaluation of pituitary gland

#### For pituitary Masses

Pituitary incidentaloma	Pituitary adenoma
10% of Normal people may have very small adenomas ( < 1 cm in size) which are called Pituitary incidentaloma. They are discovered accidentally in the MRI scan but they <b>cause no problems.</b>	The cause of the pituitary adenoma is unknown it might be Genetic.
●1.5-31% in autopsy (prevalence) ●10% by MRI most of them <1 cm	<ul> <li>10 % of all pituitary lesions</li> <li>Genetic-related:</li> <li>1. MEN-1</li> <li>2. Gs-alpha mutation</li> <li>3. PTTG gene</li> <li>4. FGF receptor-4</li> </ul>

#### For pituitary Lesions

## C- clinical (history & examination). 1-function (oversection or hyposecretion). 2-Mass (headache, visual symptoms). (For evaluation of pituitary lesions we start with a clinical examination)

B- biochemical: screening and confirmatory tests.

A- Anatomical: MRI of sella turcica & Mass in pituitary.

#### Treatment:

2

3

4

1-surgical, medical, radiation. (most common) 2-Medical, surgical, radiation.

NESTH ANALG 05;101:1170-81			REVIEW ARTICLE NEMERGUT ET AL 1171 TRANSSPHENOIDAL PITUTTARY SURGERY
able 1. Functioning Adenom	as: Clinical Disease and N	ledical Therapy	
Clinical disease	Hormone produced by tumor	Estimated frequency (%)	Medical therapy
Acromegaly	Growth hormone	5-10	Somatostatin analog (octreotide) Growth hormone receptor blocker
Cushing's disease	ACTH	10-15	Ketoconazole (blocks cortisol synthesis)
Gonadotroph	FSH, LH	5	None
Prolactinoma	Prolactin	20-30	Dopamine agonist (bromocriptine, cabergoline, pergolide)
Null cell	None	20-25	None
Thyrotropic	TSH	<3	Somatostatin analog (octreotide) Propylthiouracil
Other (including mixed cell adenomas)	None	20	Noné



## Pituitary adenomas

N	on-functional pituitary adenoma	Y. Greenman, N	I. Stern / Best Practice	& Research Clinical I	indocrinology & N	letabolism 23 (2009)	625-638
C-Clinical	<ul> <li>Asymptomatic incidentaloma by imaging</li> <li>Mass (mechanical pressure, hypopituitarism), visual (bitemporal hemianopia)</li> <li>Gonadal hypersecretion</li> <li>Headache &amp; infertility</li> </ul>	Table 2 Clinical characteristics of N Number of patients Mean age Gender (MIF) Incidental finding Headaches Visual deficits Pressure on cranial nerves Apopley	Nomikos et al¹5           721           542 ± 19           401/320           57 (7.9%)           70 (9.7%)           222 (30.8%)           -           -           77 (3.7%)	Losa et al <sup>16</sup> 491 - 276/215 57 (11.6%) - 287/486 (59.1%) 22 (4.5%) 48 (9.8%)	Chang et al <sup>17</sup> 663 53 (median) 394/269 49 (7.4%) 212 (32%) 327 (49%) 26 (3.9%) 24 (3.6%)	Ferrante et al <sup>51</sup> 295 50.4 ± 14.1 161/134 - 122 (41.4%) 200 (67.8%) - -	Total 2170 1232/938 (56.7% 163/1875 (8.7%) 404/1679 (24%) 1036/2170 (47.7 48/1154 (4.2%) 99/1875 (5.3%)
<b>B-Biochemical</b> (We have to evaluate all the hormones)	<ul> <li>GH, LH, FSH, TSH &amp; ACTH: not high (normal)</li> <li>Prolactin: low, high, norma (vary)</li> </ul>	Symptoms of Hypopituitarism Documented Hypogituitarism Hypogonadism Hypoadrenalism Hypoadrenalism	345 (47.8%) 614 (85%) 512/659 (77.7%) 230 (31.9%) 129/658 (19.6%)	- 335/474 (70.7%) 115/478 (24.1%) 116/452 (25.1%)	-	118 (40%) 183 (62%) 128 (43.3%) 77 (26.2%) 72 (24.5%)	805/1679 (48%) 797/1016 (78.4% 975/1261 (77.3% 422/1494 (28.2% 317/1415 (22.4%
A-Anatomical	MRI	Hyperprolactinemia	199 (27.6%)	251/462 (54.3%)	-	82 (27.6%)	532/1478 (35.9%
Treatment	<ul> <li>Surgery if indicated</li> <li>Observation</li> <li>Adjunctive therapy:</li> <li>1-Radiation therapy</li> <li>2-Dopamine agonist</li> <li>3-Somatostatin analogue</li> </ul>						
functional pitui	tary adenoma (Prolactinomas most common) -	P	6101		101	nas	
C-Clinical	<ul> <li>Oligomenorrhea, amenorrhea or infertility</li> <li>Galactorrhea.</li> <li>Mass-effect (mechanical pressure, hypopituitarism)</li> <li>Sexual dysfunction (in male)</li> <li>Asleep, stress, pregnancy, lactation and chest wall stimulation or trauma, Renal failure, Liver failure</li> <li>Medication</li> <li>On examination: Visual field defect (Bitemporal hemianopia) and Nipple discharge.</li> <li>prolactin may increase in level because of stress ( it may increase for other reasons not only adenoma)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Prolact</li> <li>Most c adenoma</li> <li>Some g tumors a</li> <li>Prolact</li> <li>90% pr</li> <li>Prolact</li> <li>60% pr</li> <li>(Most we because t go early, u they Mi m</li> </ul>	cinoma ( ommon a, 25-30 <sup>9</sup> growth h lso co-se cinomas esent wi cinomas esent wi omen pre- hey have unlike men present v croadeno acroaden	high pro of functi % of all p ormone eccrete PI in wom th micr in men: th macr sent with a clear sig n they don with macr ma is less oma is mo	lactin - onal pi jituitar (GH)- L. en: oprola roprol micropi gn (ame i't have oprolac than 1 ( ore than	+ Mass) tuitary y adeno: produci actinon actinon rolactinon norrhea) a clear si tinomas cm and (1 cm)	ma. ng nas mas and gn so
<b>B-Biochemical</b>	GH, LH, FSH, TSH, ACTH: normal or low <b>PRL: High</b> TSH: to rule out Primary Hypothyroidism IGF-1: to rule out acromegaly with co-secretion of prolactin	P •	rola No clin no mass	ical signinvading	n lo nificar g the	<b>W</b> nt if the	re is
A-Anatomical	MRI	•	hypotha N.B.: PR hormone	lamus. L is the e that is :	only pi inhibite	tuitary ed by	
Treatment	<ul> <li>Medical-medical-medical (Dopamine agonist) (even if there is bitemporal hemianopia). (it is the only high hormone we can treat with medical medical).</li> <li>Surgical- Radiation (last option)</li> </ul>		hypotha Dor Pituit: glan	lamus.			

### Growth hormone disorders

#### **GH deficiency**↓↓

#### Characteristics:

- Isolated, panhypopituitarism
- Pituitary tumor as mass effect  $\rightarrow$  Growth hormone deficiency
- Diagnosis in children and adult
- Disease in:
- Children: Short stature
- Adult: metabolic syndrome (obesity, DM & HTN)



GH deficiency in children will cause short stature, in adult it will cause decrease in the fat breakdown and maldistribution (more fat in the abdomen) and decrease the bone density causing osteoporosis

Growin normone deficiency				
C-Clinical	<ul> <li>Function: Short stature</li> <li>Mass-effect (mechanical pressure, hypopituitarism)</li> </ul>			
<b>B-Biochemical</b>	<ul> <li>Pituitary Function (LH, FSH. PRL, TSH, ACTH, cortisol, testosterone &amp; T4)</li> <li>Screen: IGF-1 30 (in diagnosis of GH deficiency we measure the IGF-1 because it's stable and produced from the liver)</li> <li>Dynamic testing: clonidine stimulation test, glucagon stimulation, exercise testing, arginine-GHRH, insulin tolerance testing</li> </ul>			
A-Anatomical	<ul> <li>X-ray of hands: delayed bone age</li> <li>MRI</li> </ul>			
Treatment	• GH replacement (Mostly children)			

#### Acromegaly **†**







# Growth hormone disorders

Acromegaly				
C-Clinical	<ul> <li>Function: Sweating, Enlargement (acral, face gross features, heart, tongue, Jaw, gigantism in children), Galactorrhea</li> <li>Mass-effect (mechanical pressure, hypopituitarism)</li> <li>HTN, CHE, Obstructive sleep apnoea &amp; constipation</li> <li>On examination: Visual field defect (Bitemporal hemianopia)</li> <li>Gross features of Acromegaly</li> </ul>			
<b>B-Biochemical</b>	<ul> <li>Pituitary Function (LH,FSH.PRL, TSH, ACTH, cortisol, testosterone, T4)</li> <li>Screen: IGF-1 (high)</li> <li>Confirmatory Test: 75 g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) for GH Suppression</li> <li>Lipid profile</li> <li>Fasting &amp; random blood sugar, HBA1C</li> </ul>			
A-Anatomical	<ul> <li>MRI</li> <li>Echo:</li> <li>Cardiac disease is a major cause of morbidity and mortality 50 % died before age of 50.</li> <li>HTN in 40%, left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) in 50%, Diastolic dysfunction as an early sign of cardiomyopathy</li> </ul>			
Treatment	Surgical - Medical (Somatostatin analogue)- Radiation			

#### These two table are the same

		,	Table 1. Clinical Features of Acromegaly	
	Clinical features of acromegaly		Table 1: enneur reutares er reusinegaryr	
	Pituitary enlargement Visual-field defects Cranial-nerve	From Dr's slides ⊢ – –	Local tumor effects	Visceromegaly
Local tumor effects	nalsy Headache		Pituitary enlargement	Tongue
	pubytricadatio		Visual-field defects	Thyroid gland
	<ul> <li>Acral enlargement, including thickness of soft tissue</li> </ul>		Cranial-nerve palsy	Salivary glands
	<ul> <li>Musculoskeletal system:Gigantis-prognathism-Jaw</li> </ul>		Headache	Liver
Somatic systems	malocclusion-arthralgia and arthritis - carpal tunnel		Somatic systems	Spleen
	syndrome Acroparesthesia-Proximal myopathy-Hypertrophy		Acral enlargement, including thickness of soft tissue	Kidney
	of frontal bones		Mussuloskoletal system	Prostate
			Cigantiam	Endocrine and metabolic systems
Skin and	Hyperhidrosis-Oily texture-Skin tags-Colon polyps		Gigantism	Reproduction
gastrointestinal system	31		Prognatnism	Menstrual abnormalities
	Left contained as how antiparties. A summarial southal		Jaw malocclusion	Galactorrhea
Candles and an anatom	Left ventricular hypertrophy- Asymmetric septai		Arthraigias and arthritis	Decreased libido, impotence, low levels of sex hormone-
Cardiovascular system=	Concertion beaut follows files addet whenever files and a		Carpai tunnei syndrome	binding globulin
Pulmonary system	Congestive neart failure-sleep disturbances-sleep aprea		Acroparesthesia	Multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1
	(central and obstructive)-ivarcolepsy		Proximal myopathy	Hyperparathyroidism
	Tongue-Thyroid gland-Salivary glands-Liver, Spleen-Kidney-		Hypertrophy of frontal bones	Pancreatic islet-cell tumors
Visceromegaly	Prostate		skin and gastrointestinal system	Carbonydrate
			Hyperniarosis	Impaired glucose tolerance
	Reproduction, Menstrual		Oily texture	Insulin resistance and hyperinsulinemia
	abnormalities,Galactorrhea,Decreased libido, impotence, low		Skin tags	Diabetes mellitus
	levels of sex hormone-binding globulin,Multiple endocrine		Colon polyps	Lipid
	neoplasia type 1		Cardiovascular system	Hypertriglyceridemia
	Hyperparathyroidism,pancreatic islet-cell tumors		Left ventricular hypertrophy	Mineral
Endocrine and metabolic	Carbohydrate:Impaired glucose tolerance,Insulin resistance		Asymmetric septal hypertrophy	Hypercalciuria, increased levels of 25-hydroxyvitamin D <sub>3</sub>
systems	and hyperinsulinemia,Diabetes mellitus		Cardiomyopathy	Urinary hydroxyproline
	Lipid:Hypertriglyceridemia		Hypertension	Electrolyte
	Mineral:Hypercalciuria, increased levels of 25		Congestive heart failure	Low renin levels
	hydroxyvitamin D,Urinary hydroxyproline		Pulmonary system	Increased aldosterone levels
	Electrolyte:Low renin levels!Increased aldosterone levels	Fytra for understanding	Sleep disturbances	Thyroid
	Thyroid:Low thyroxine-binding-globulin levels		Sleep apnea (central and obstructive)	Low thyroxine-binding–globulin levels
	Goiter		Narcolepsy	Goiter



	Low cortisol: Hypoadrenalism $\downarrow$ ACTH, $\downarrow$ cortisol $\rightarrow$ adrenal			
Clinical features	<ul> <li>Nausea, Vomiting, abdominal pain, Diarrhea.</li> <li>Dizziness and weakness, Tiredness, Muscle ache.</li> <li>Hypotension &amp; Weight loss</li> </ul>	insufficiency→ hypotension, weight loss, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and the patient might die in case of stress because it is a stress hormone which is important during stress.		
Management	Cortisol replacement	 		
	Excessive cortisol (Cushing syndrome)	High cortisol ACTH adenoma →Cushing		
C-Clinical	<ul> <li>Function: easily bruising, DM, HTN, irregular period, proximal weakness, recurrent infections, depression</li> <li>On examination: hirsutism, acne, moon face, central obesity, stria, proximal weakness, supraclavicular fat pad (buffalo hump)</li> </ul>	↑ACTH ↑cortisol →Cushing→ loss of collagen→ The vessels will be visible.		
<b>B-Biochemical</b>	<ul> <li>High cortisol, high ACTH.</li> <li>Confirmatory tests: 24h for urine free cortisol (UFC)</li> <li>1Mg DST (dexamethasone suppression test)</li> <li>Midnight salivary cortisol (one of the diagnosis method for Cushing syndrome is measuring the cortisol level at night)</li> </ul>	Excessive Cortisol high blood pressure (buffalo hump) thin skin thin skin		
A-Anatomical	MRI	pendulous thin poor		
Treatment	Surgical - Medical - Radiation	and and legs wound healing		



## **Cortisol disorders**

Red striae (ACTH adenoma)



Buffalo hump (cushing's syndrome)



Hirsutism in women (cushing's syndrome)



ecchymosis (cushing's syndrome)



striae purple, wider >1cm (cushing's syndrome)



HPA-axis (excessive cortisol):





## **Thyroid disorders**

#### Definition (extra for better understanding):

central hypothyroidism refers to thyroid hormone deficiency due to a disorder of the pituitary, hypothalamus or hypothalamic-pituitary portal circulation, resulting in diminished thyroid-stimulating hormone(TSH), thyrotropin-releasing hormone(TRH) or both. (team438)

	Central hypothyroidism	Signs and Symptoms of HYPOTHYROIDISM
C-Clinical	<ul> <li>Function: fatigue, weight gain, irregular menses, dry skin, depression, cold intolerance, increase sleep, slow thinking, bad memory.</li> <li>On examination: obesity, depressed face &amp; eyebrow.</li> </ul>	Forgetfulness New Thinking Depression Constitution Depression Constitution Depression Constitution Depression Constitution Depression Constitution Depression Depression Constitution Depression Depression Constitution Const
<b>B-Biochemical</b>	<ul> <li>Low TSH</li> <li>Low T3 &amp; T4</li> </ul>	Cold Infolorance Elevated Geolesterol Family History of Thyroid Disease or Diabetes
A-Anatomical	MRI	
Treatment	<ul> <li>Thyroxine replacement</li> <li>Surgical removal of pituitary adenoma if large</li> <li>radiation</li> </ul>	Types of hypothyroidism: 1-primary hypothyroidism: failure of thyroid gland → elevated TSH → deficiency of thyroid hormone. 2-secondary hypothyroidism: failure of pituitary to secrete TSH, failure of the hypothalamic pituitary axis → deficiency of thyroid hormone.

#### **Definition** (extra for better understanding):

TSH-secreting pituitary adenomas are benign tumours of the pituitary gland. They produce too much thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), which causes the thyroid gland to enlarge and produce thyroid hormone in excess, leading to un overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism). (team438)

	TSH-producing adenoma	Muscle wasting Fine hair Bulging of eye Goiter (swelling of thyroid gland)
C-Clinical	<ul> <li>Very rare &lt; 2.8%</li> <li>Signs of hyperthyroidism.</li> </ul>	Sweating Increase heart rate High output heart failure Weight loss Infrequent menstruation
<b>B-Biochemical</b>	• High TSH FT3 & FT4	Time Tremor
A-Anatomical	MRI	
Treatment	<ul> <li>Treatment preoperative with anti-thyroid meds.</li> <li>Surgical resection of adenoma.</li> <li>Medical therapy: somatostatin analogue.</li> </ul>	SCIENCEPHOLOLIBRARY



#### **Assessment of pituitary function:**





