



# GH E CUORE



Bari,  
7-10 novembre 2013

## La cardiopatia acromegalica

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# La cardiopatia acromegalica



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## Complicanze cardiovascolari in pazienti con acromegalia

- **Ipertensione**
- **Disfunzione endoteliale/aterosclerosi**
- **Coronaropatia**
- **Cardiomiopatia acromegalica**
- **Valvulopatie**
- **Aritmie**

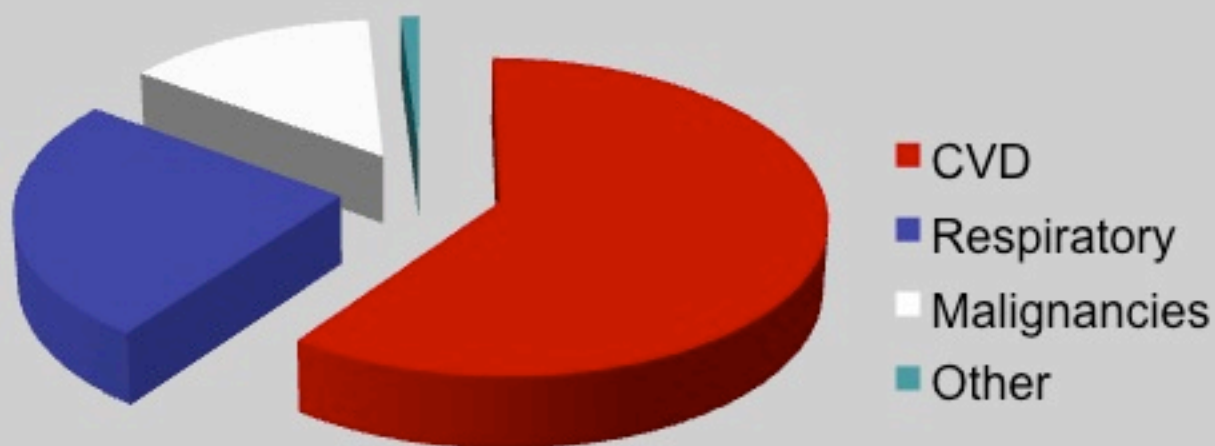


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## Cause di morte in pazienti con acromegalia



Wright Q J Med 1970; Bates Q J Med 1993; Extabe J Endocrinol Invest 1993 ; Rajasoorya Clin Endocrinol 1994; Albosch J Clin Endocrin Metab 1998; Swearingen J Clin Endocrin Metab 1998; Orme J Clin Endocrin Metab 1998

# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Determinanti di mortalità pazienti con acromegalia

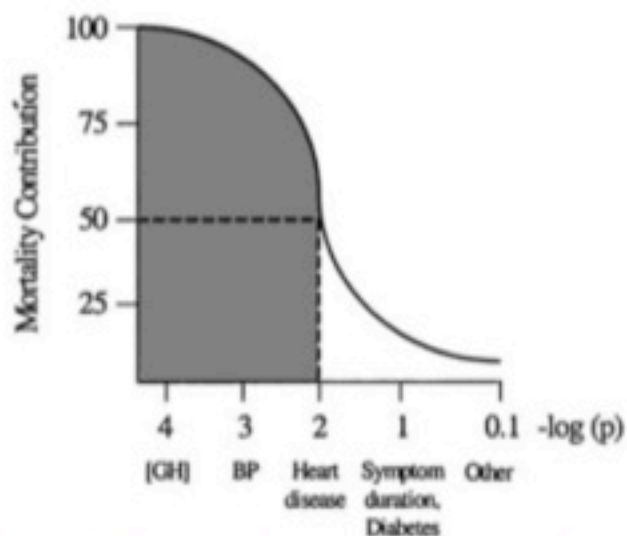


FIG. 1. Depiction of mortality determinants in patients with acromegaly. The x-axis reflects the  $P$  value (log) as calculated from published retrospective reports. [From S. Melmed: *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 86:2929–2934, 2001 (19). Permission granted by The Endocrine Society.]

# La cardiopatia acromegalica



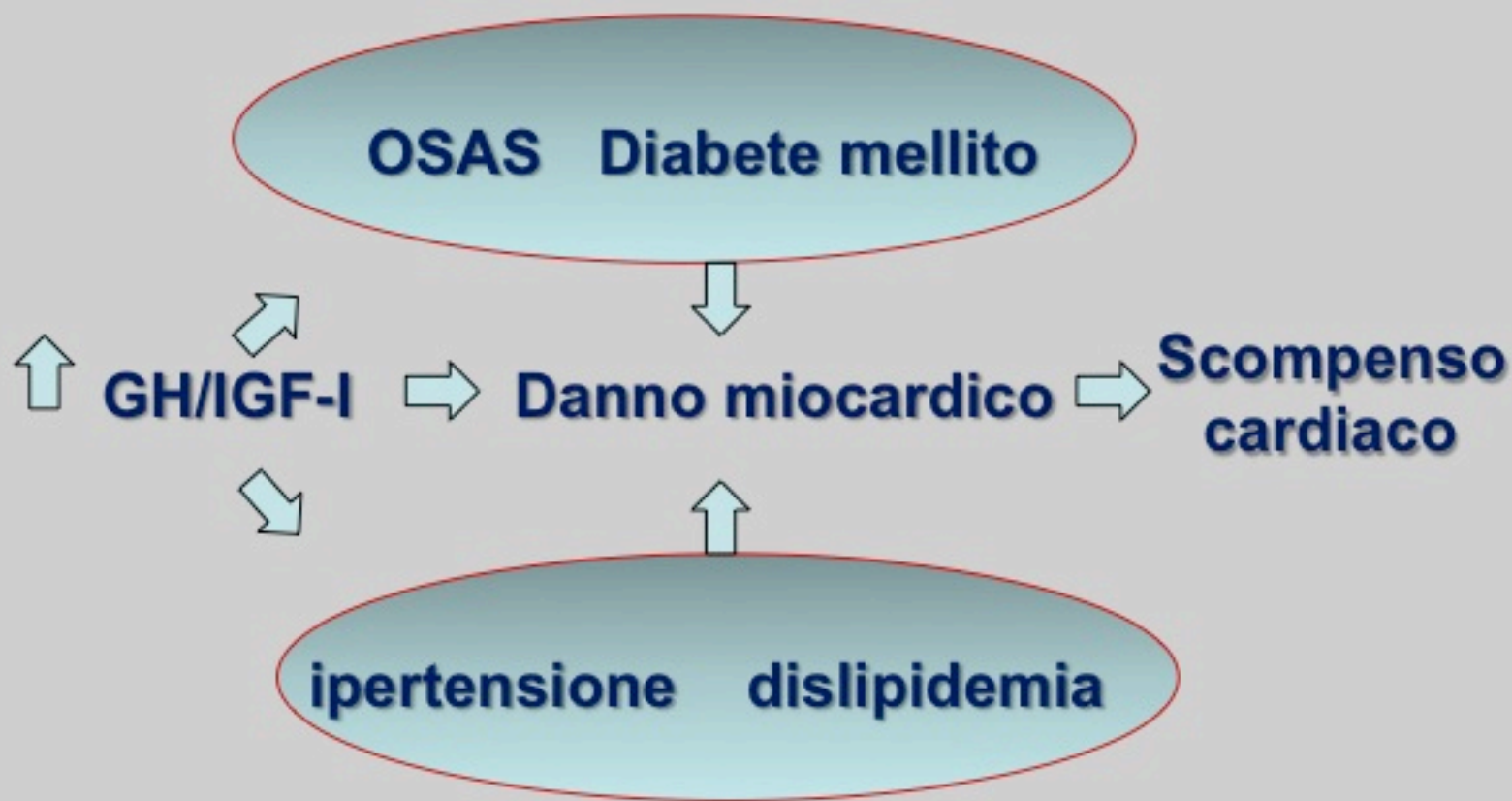
## Effetti del GH sull'apparato cardiovascolare



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Fisiopatologia della cardiopatia acromegalica





# La cardiopatia acromegalica



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## ACROMEGALY AND THE HEART: A CLINICAL AND PATHOLOGIC STUDY\*

By MELVIN R. HEJTMANCIK, M.D., JAMES Y. BRADFIELD, JR., M.D.,  
and GEORGE R. HERRMANN, M.D., F.A.C.P., Galveston, Texas

Heart disease has long been known as a frequent complicating factor and a common cause of death in acromegaly. Only nine years after the recognition of the features of acromegaly by Marie<sup>1</sup> in 1886, Huchard<sup>2</sup> reported cardiac enlargement in the clinical and autopsy findings of three patients with the disease. Fournier<sup>3</sup> drew particular attention to the features of cardiac failure in a series of 25 patients, pointing out the frequent association of cardiomegaly with hypertrophy of all the viscera. Similar reports, consisting usually of one or two cases, have appeared from time to time in the French and German literature, and have been excellently summarized by Courville and Mason.<sup>4</sup> No conclusive evidence has been brought forth for the etiology and mechanism of such cardiac hypertrophy and myocardial changes.

The size of the heart at times has been enormous, the largest recorded weight being 1,295 gm. by Humphrey and Dixon.<sup>5</sup> Other reported large hearts include weights of 1,275 gm. in Osborne's case quoted by Hinshel,<sup>6</sup> 1,200 and 1,340 gm. by Courville and Mason,<sup>4</sup> and 1,650 gm. by Cushing and Davidoff.<sup>7</sup> Cardiomegaly is a common but not invariable finding, and the heart weights in acromegaly are usually well below such extreme levels.

In a study of the anamnesis of 100 cases of acromegaly, Davidoff<sup>7</sup> recorded some of the pathogenomic symptoms of heart failure, although asthma was noted in 35 per cent. Blood pressures under 120 mm. systolic were noted in 30 per cent of his cases, but appearance of hypertension was not mentioned. Courville and Mason<sup>4</sup> observed 24 patients with acromegaly; of this group, 38 presented evidence of heart failure, an incidence of 75 per cent. In only three of these cases were elevated systolic or diastolic blood pressures recorded. No specific electrocardiographic changes were described. However, there were noted first notching and widening of the QRS complex, and later various arrhythmias and T wave changes.

Barnetstein<sup>8</sup> has recently studied the circulatory system in a series of 23 cases of acromegaly, of which eight showed the typical full-blown picture and 13 showed evidence of peripheral growth considered illustrative of the former frustes type. Of the 23 cases, 14 had abnormal electrocardiograms, nine with ST depressions in more than one lead and five with intraventricular

\*Received for publication December 26, 1950.  
From the Cardiovascular Service, University of Texas School of Medicine Hospital, Galveston, Texas.  
Supported in part by a grant-in-aid from the H. H. Wilson Fund for Cardiovascular Research.

# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Fasi della cardiomiopatia acromegalica







# La cardiopatia acromegalica



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## Fasi della cardiomiopatia acromegalica

### “Early stage”

- ***Aumento della contrattilità cardiaca***
- ***Riduzione delle resistenze vascolari periferiche***
- ***Aumentata gittata cardiaca***

# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Fasi della cardiomiopatia acromegalica

**TABLE 2.** Echocardiographic data of the LV in patients and controls

	Controls (n = 10)	Patients (n = 10)
IVST (mm)	9.0 ± 1.2	11.0 ± 1.5 <sup>a</sup>
Diastolic PWT (mm)	9.0 ± 1.0	10.7 ± 0.8 <sup>b</sup>
LVEDVi (mL/m <sup>2</sup> )	55 ± 6	64 ± 10 <sup>c</sup>
LVESVi (mL/m <sup>2</sup> )	23 ± 4	25 ± 6
Relative wall thickness	0.40 ± 0.04	0.41 ± 0.06
LVMi (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	81 ± 16	110 ± 20 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>  $P < 0.005$  vs. controls.

<sup>b</sup>  $P < 0.001$  vs. controls.

<sup>c</sup>  $P < 0.05$  vs. controls.

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## Fasi della cardiomiopatia acromegalica

**TABLE 3.** Doppler-echocardiographic data of LV in acromegalic patients and controls

	Controls (n = 10)	Patients (n = 10)
<b>Systolic function</b>		
SI (ml/m <sup>2</sup> )	33 ± 2	39 ± 6 <sup>a</sup>
CI (L/min·m <sup>2</sup> )	2.30 ± 0.34	2.85 ± 0.57 <sup>b</sup>
SVR (dyn·sec·cm <sup>-5</sup> )	1731 ± 225	1428 ± 248 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Diastolic function</b>		
E (cm/sec)	77 ± 11	76 ± 15
A (cm/sec)	46 ± 7	49 ± 8
E/A ratio	1.70 ± 0.22	1.58 ± 0.32
MDT (msec)	156 ± 27	151 ± 24
IRT (msec)	82 ± 7	80 ± 14

<sup>a</sup>  $P < 0.01$ .

<sup>b</sup>  $P < 0.001$  vs. controls.



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## Fasi della cardiomiopatia acromegalica

### **“Intermediate stage”**

- ***Ipertrofia concentrica (biventricolare)***
- ***Disfunzione diastolica***
- ***Calcificazioni valvolari***
- ***Ridotta performance cardiaca da sforzo***



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Fasi della cardiomiopatia acromegalica

***Prevalenza di ipertrofia ventricolare***

**•40-70%**

Rogriguez 1989; Lim 1992; Fazio 1993; Terzolo 1995



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



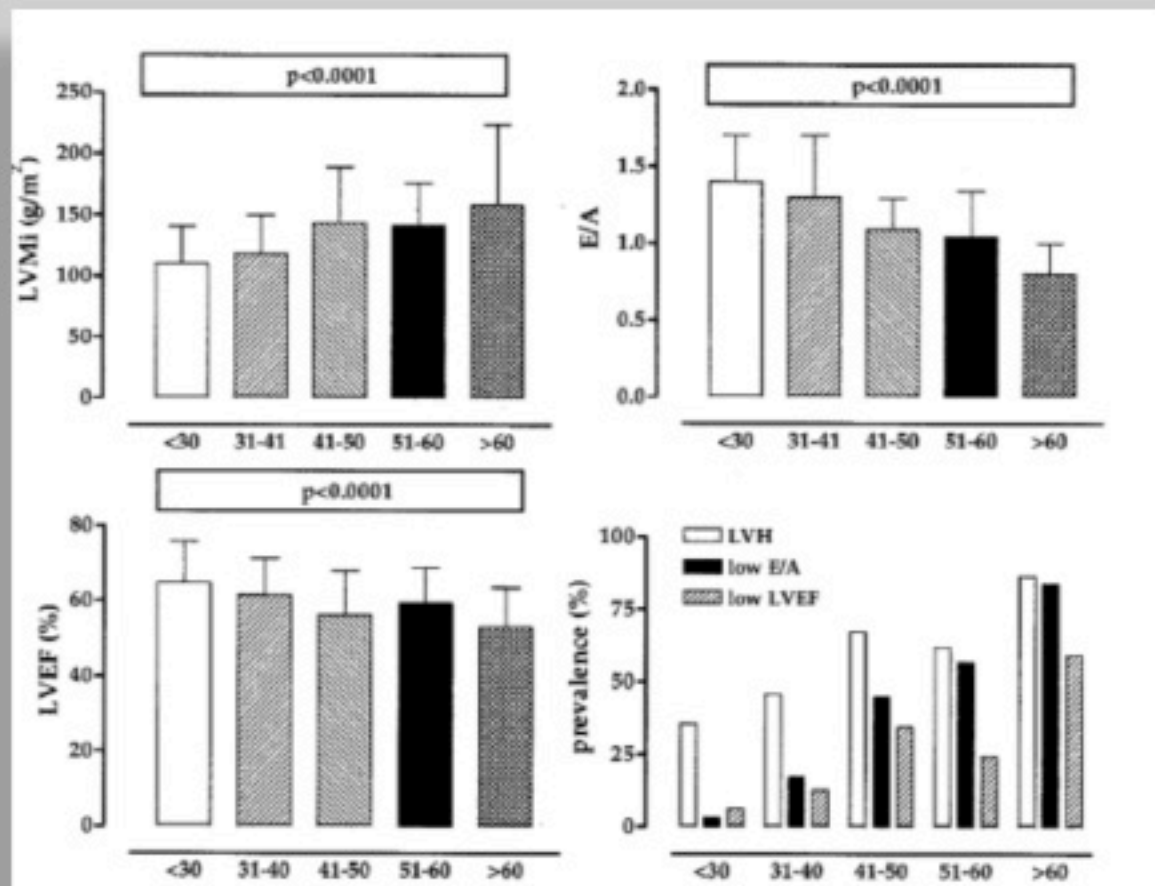
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## Fasi della cardiomiopatia acromegalica

### “Late stage”

- *Disfunzione sisto-diastolica*
- *Aumento massa miocardica*
- *Dilatazione ventricolare*
- *Disfunzione valvolare (insufficienza)*
- *Aumento delle resistenze periferiche*
- *Scompenso cardiaco refrattario*

# La cardiopatia acromegalica



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Alterazioni anatomopatologiche

- ***Fibrosi interstiziale***
- ***Aumento collagene extracellulare***
- ***Rimodellamento matrice extracellulare***
- ***Derangement miofibrillare***
- ***Aree di necrosi miocitaria***
- ***Infiltrazione di linfomonociti***

Ipertrofia compensata



Cardiomiopatia dilatativa



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Istologia prima e dopo trattamento

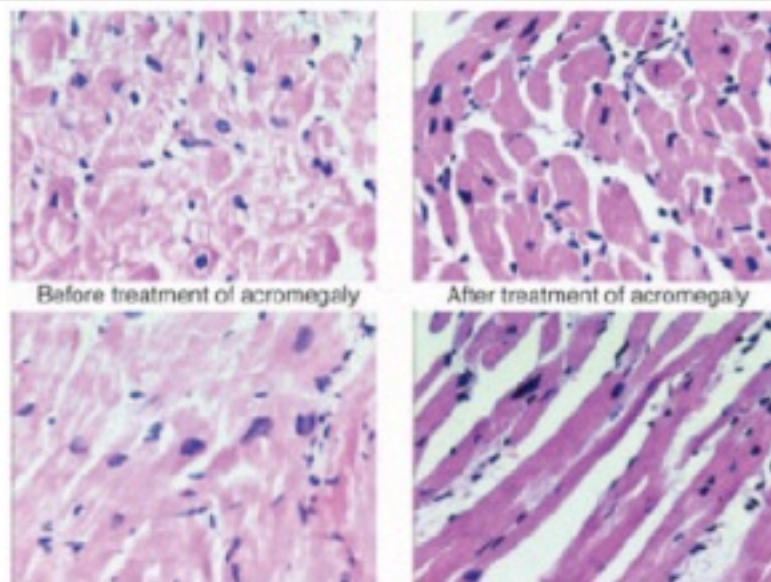
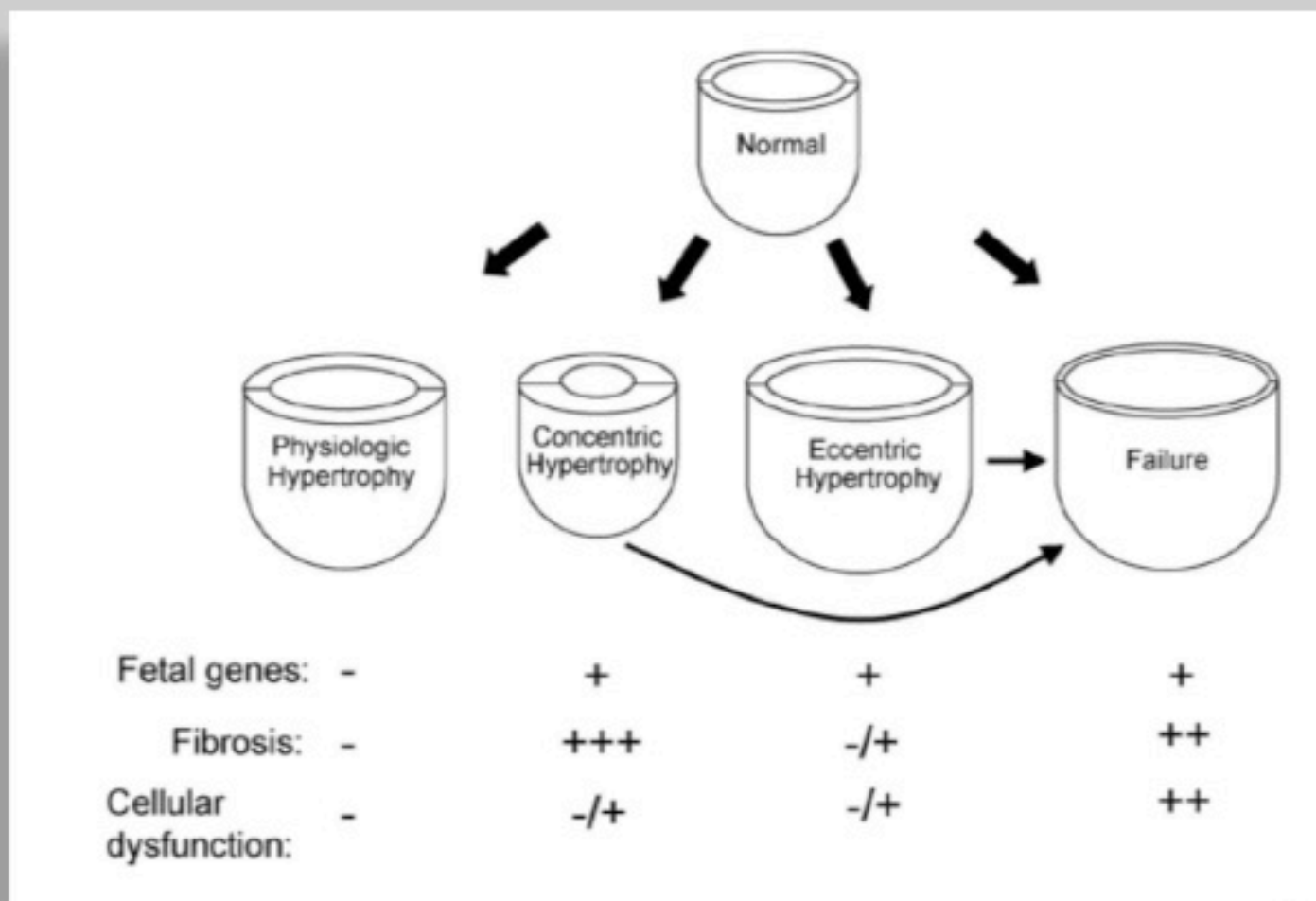
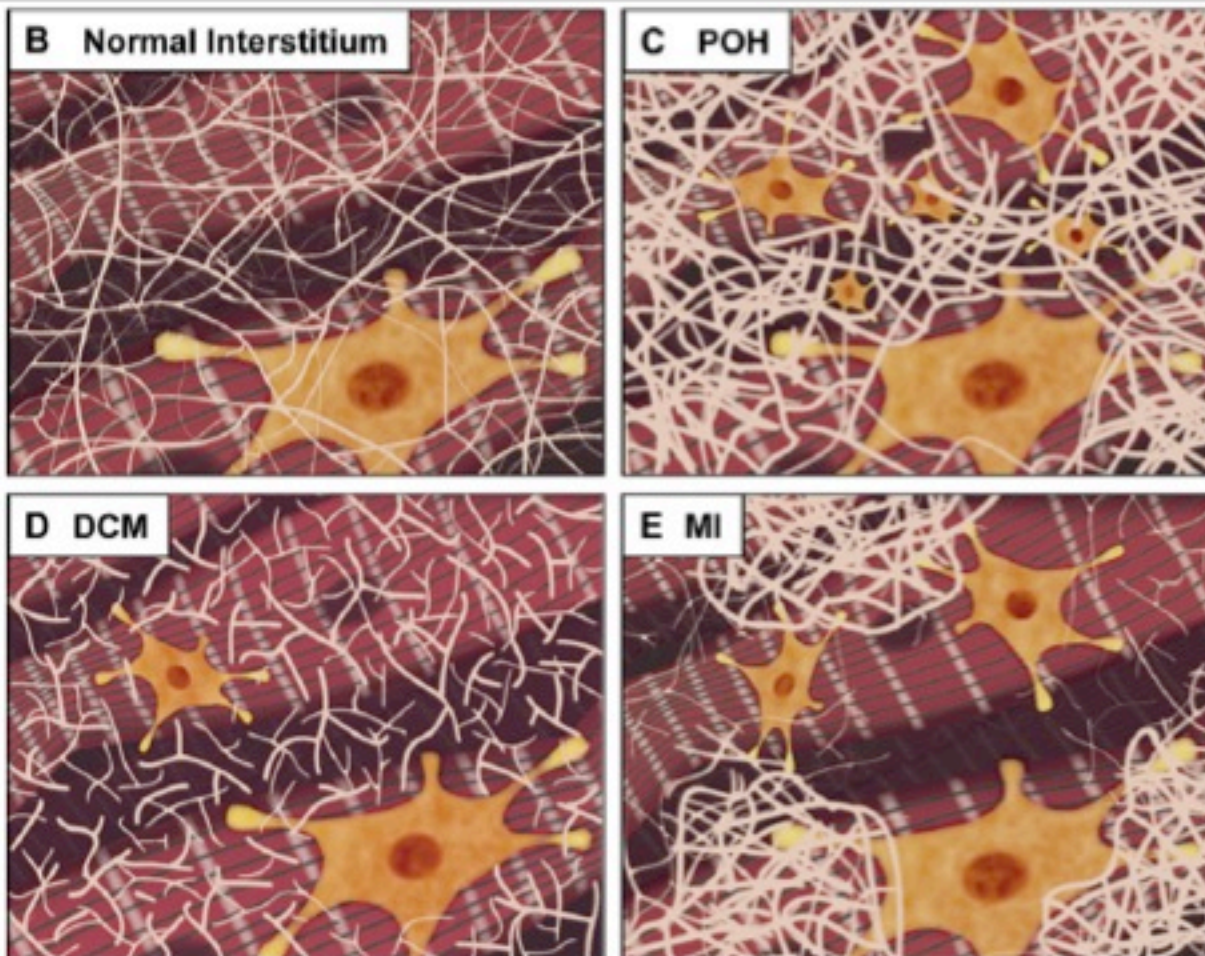


FIG. 3. Histological view of the heart obtained at myocardial biopsy in a patient with CHF before treatment and after cure of acromegaly. Before treatment (*left*) an extensive intracellular myofibrilolysis with areas of myocytolysis and cellular infiltrate is observed. After the effective treatment of acromegaly (*right*), biopsy shows major regression of the disorders. [Courtesy of Albert Beckers, CD-ROM, Pituitary adenomas, 2003, Albert Beckers and GraphMed, Liège, Belgium.]

# La cardiopatia acromegalica



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Alterazioni anatomopatologiche

**TABLE 2. Anatomic and Functional Characteristics of Acromegalic Patients**

Patient	LV Mass/BSA, g/m <sup>2</sup>	E/A	LVEDD, mm	LVEDP, mm Hg	EF, %
1	162	0.65	51.6	15	56
2	338	0.66	81.3	25	22
3	114	0.73	54.0	13	50
4	170	0.66	48.4	13	40
5	140	0.49	50.3	15	39
6	170	0.47	51.6	14	51
7	165	0.69	48.9	13	44
8	199	0.75	52.0	15	54
9	159	0.69	46.1	14	56
10	152	0.65	54.4	14	68

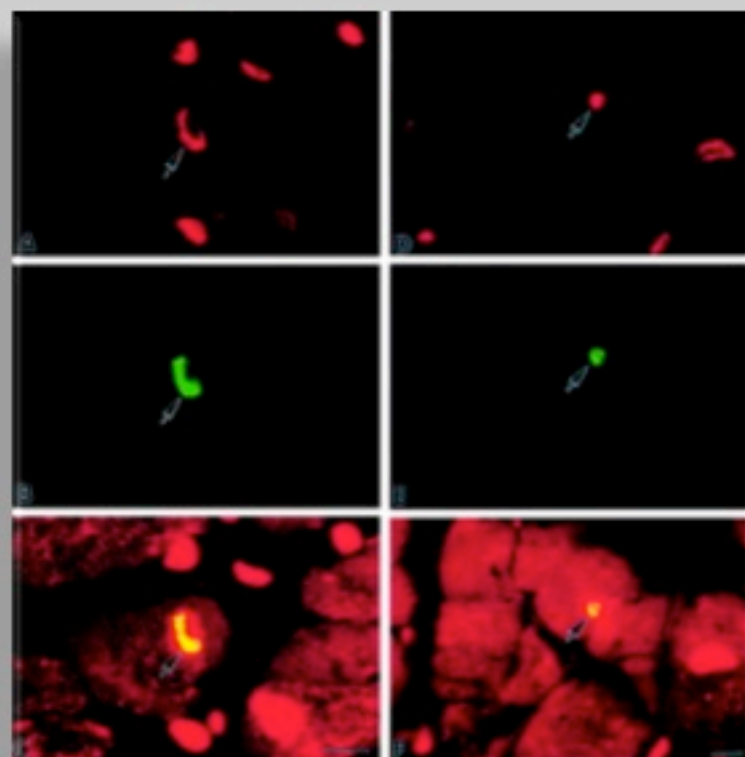
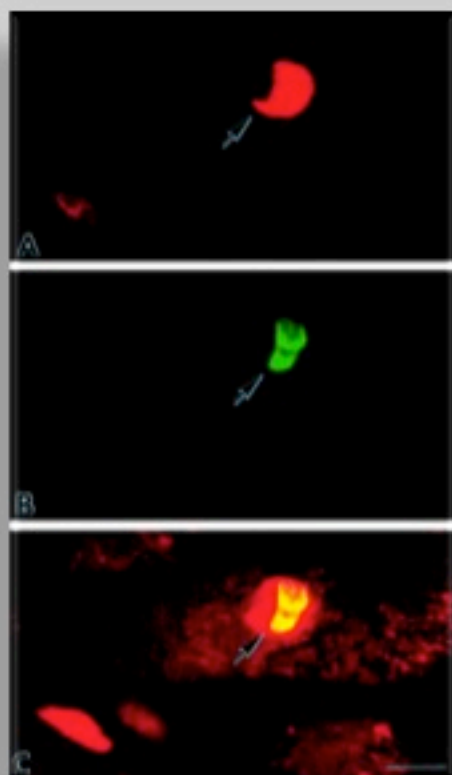
LV indicates left ventricle; BSA, body surface area; E/A, ratio between early and late diastolic ventricular filling; LVEDD, left ventricular end-diastolic diameter; LVEDP, left ventricular end-diastolic pressure; and EF, ejection fraction.

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Acromegaly: TdT assay and confocal microscopy of the left ventricle.



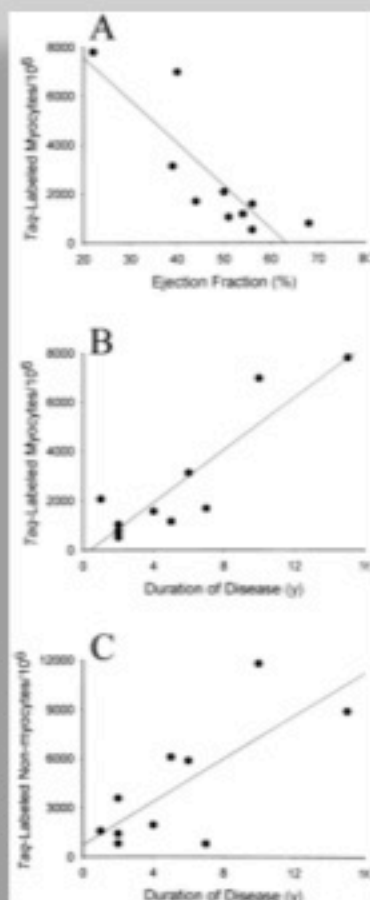


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**Correlation between myocyte apoptosis measured by Taq in situ ligation and EF (A) and myocyte apoptosis and duration of disease (B).**



Frustaci A et al. Circulation 1999;99:1426-1434



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



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- **Miociti con DNA danneggiato non rientrano nel ciclo cellulare**
- **IGF-1 riduce solo in parte la stimolazione dell'apoptosi nel cuore scompensato**
- **Livelli cronicamente elevati di IGF-1 possono causare una downregulation dei recettori sulle miocellule**



# La cardiopatia acromegalica

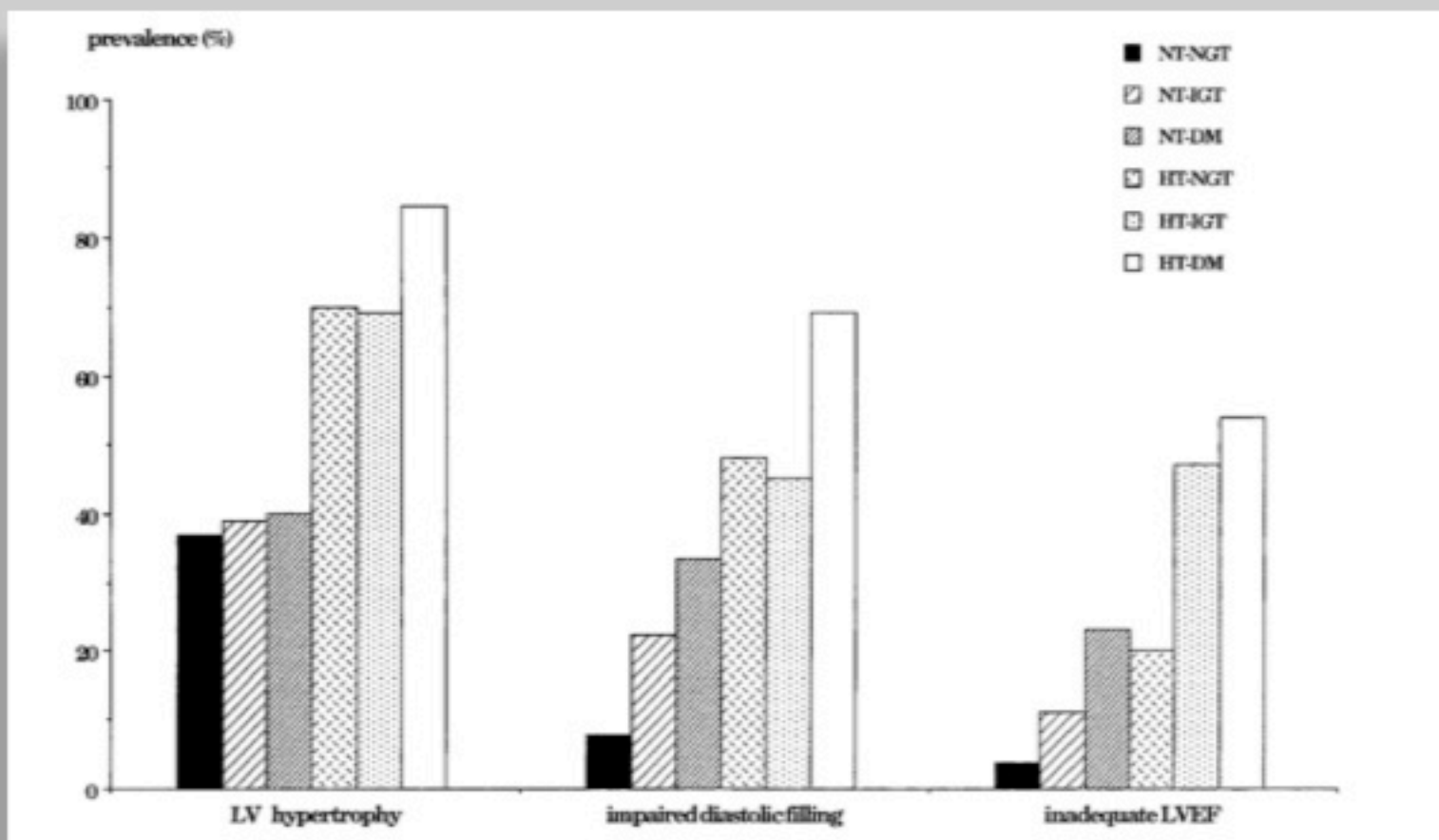


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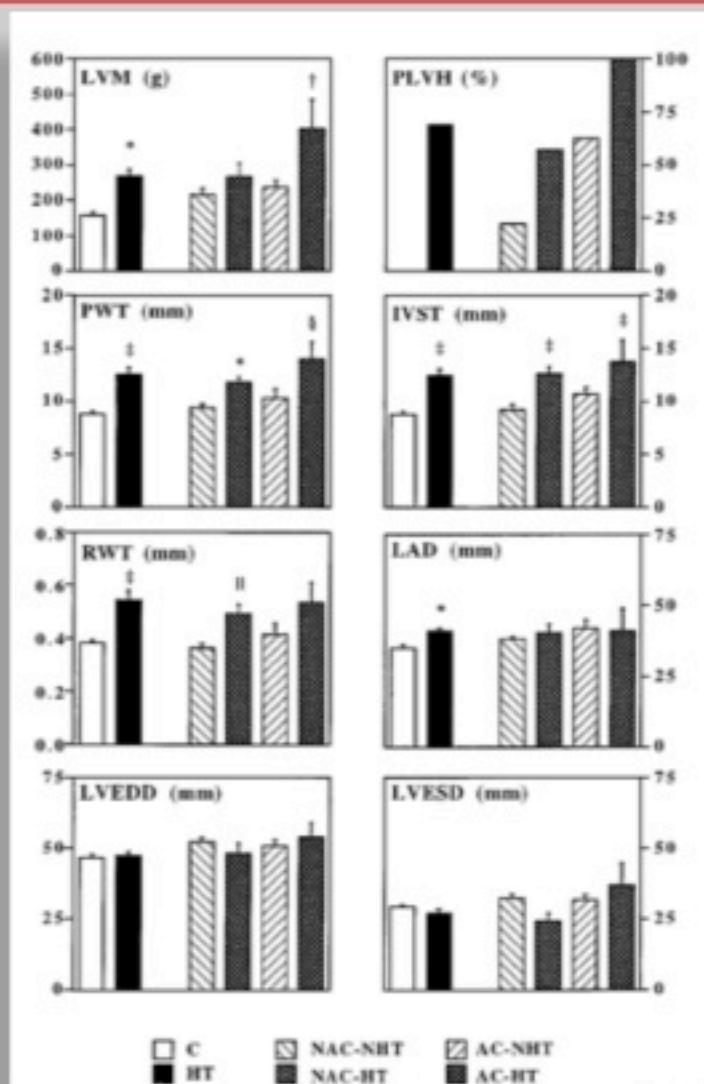
**Cardiac Involvement in Acromegaly: Specific Myocardiopathy or Consequence of Systemic Hypertension?\***



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



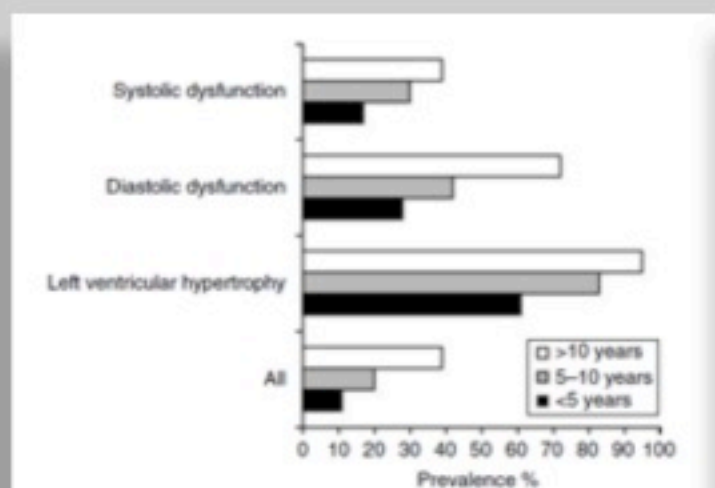
# La cardiopatia acromegalica



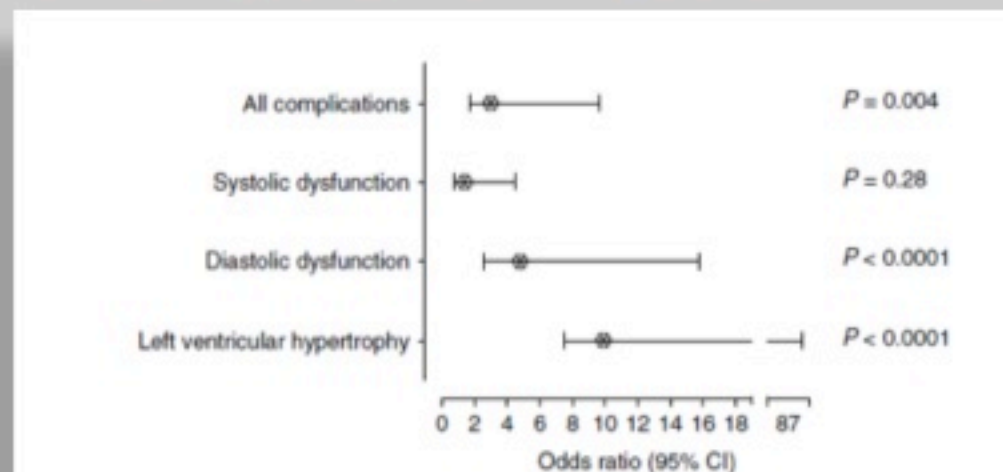
# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Determinanti della cardiopatia acromegalica



**Figure 2** Calculation of the odds ratio for the presence of left ventricular hypertrophy, diastolic and systolic dysfunction and a combination of these complications in patients with estimated duration of acromegaly  $\geq 10$  years compared with those with estimated disease duration  $< 10$  years.



**Figure 1** Prevalence of left ventricular hypertrophy, diastolic and systolic dysfunction and of a combination of these complications at diagnosis of acromegaly in relation to estimated disease duration.

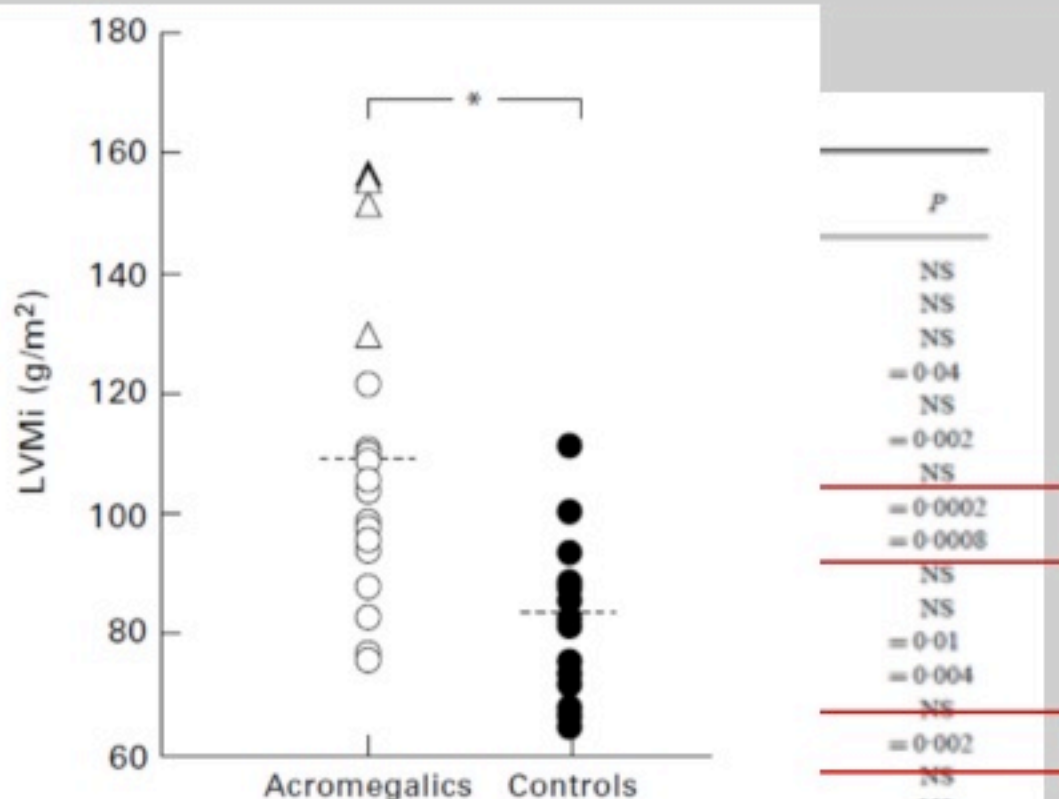
# La cardiopatia acromegalica



**Table 2** Cardiac parameters in young acromegalic patients

Parameter

Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)
Heart rate (beats/min)
Left ventricular End-diastolic diameter (mm)
Left ventricular End-systolic diameter (mm)
Interventricular septum diastolic thickness (mm)
Posterior wall diastolic thickness (mm)
Left ventricular mass (g)
Left ventricular mass index (g/m <sup>2</sup> )
Fractional shortening (%)
Ejection fraction (%)
Isovolumic relaxation time (ms)
Peak early diastolic mitral velocity (cm/s)
Peak late diastolic mitral velocity (cm/s)
Peak early/late diastolic mitral velocity ratio
Mitral deceleration times (ms)
Peak early diastolic tricuspid velocity (cm/s)
Peak late diastolic tricuspid velocity (cm/s)
Peak early/late diastolic tricuspid velocity ratio



**Fig. 1** Left ventricular mass index (LVMI) in acromegalic patients with and without left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) and controls.  $\Delta$  Acromegalics with LVH ( $n = 4$ );  $\circ$  Acromegalics without LVH ( $n = 16$ );  $\bullet$  Controls ( $n = 20$ ). \*  $P = 0.0008$  between both groups of acromegalics and controls.



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



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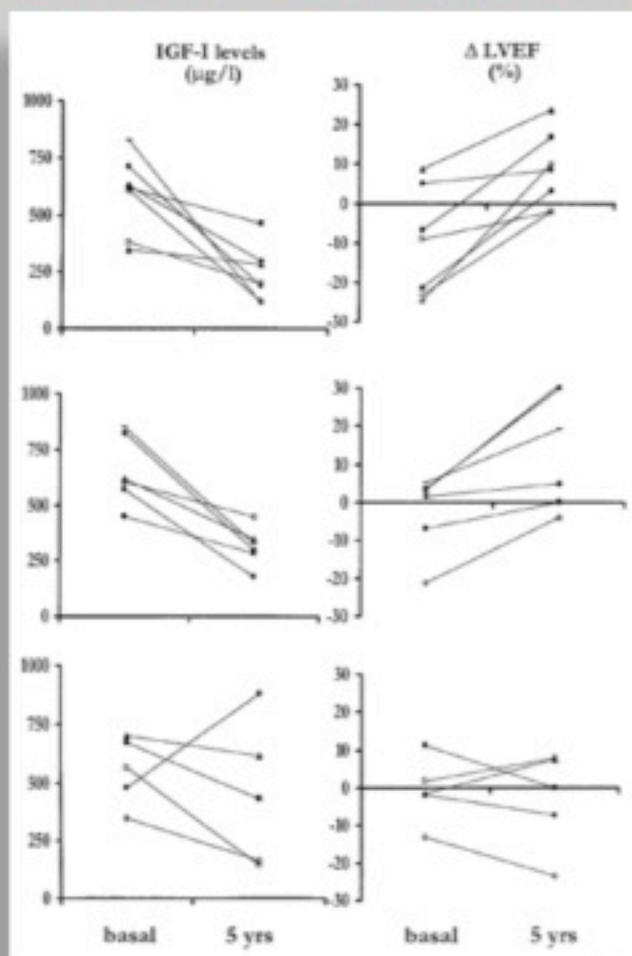
E' reversibile la cardiopatia acromegalica?

# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Reversibilità della cardiopatia acromegalica

**Surgery**



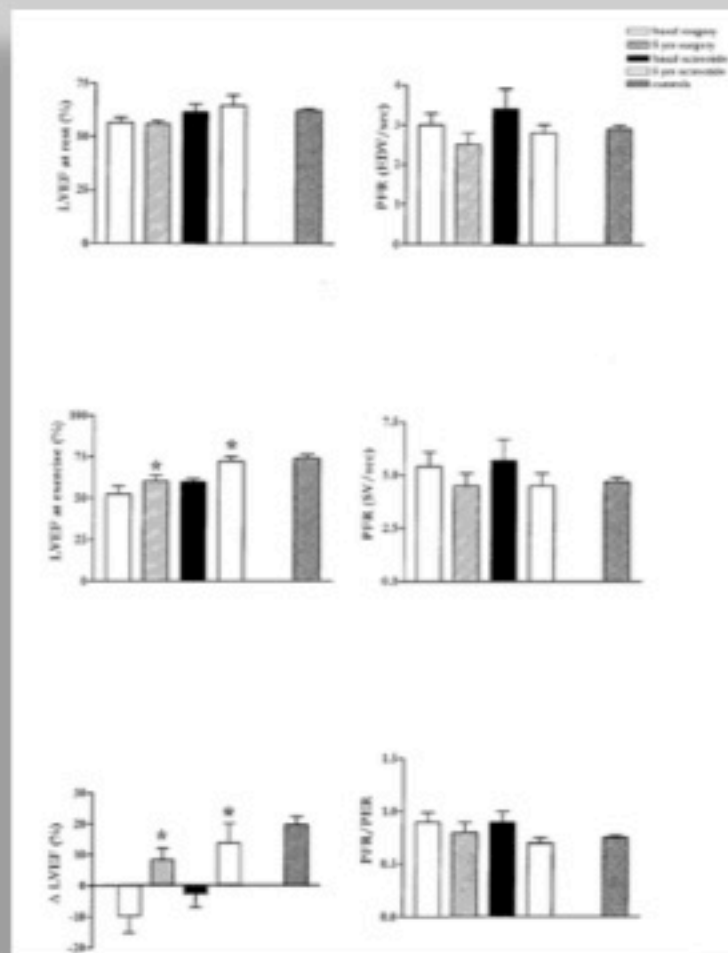
**Surgery  
Plus octr.**

**Persisting elevated  
GH and IGF-1 level**

# La cardiopatia acromegalica



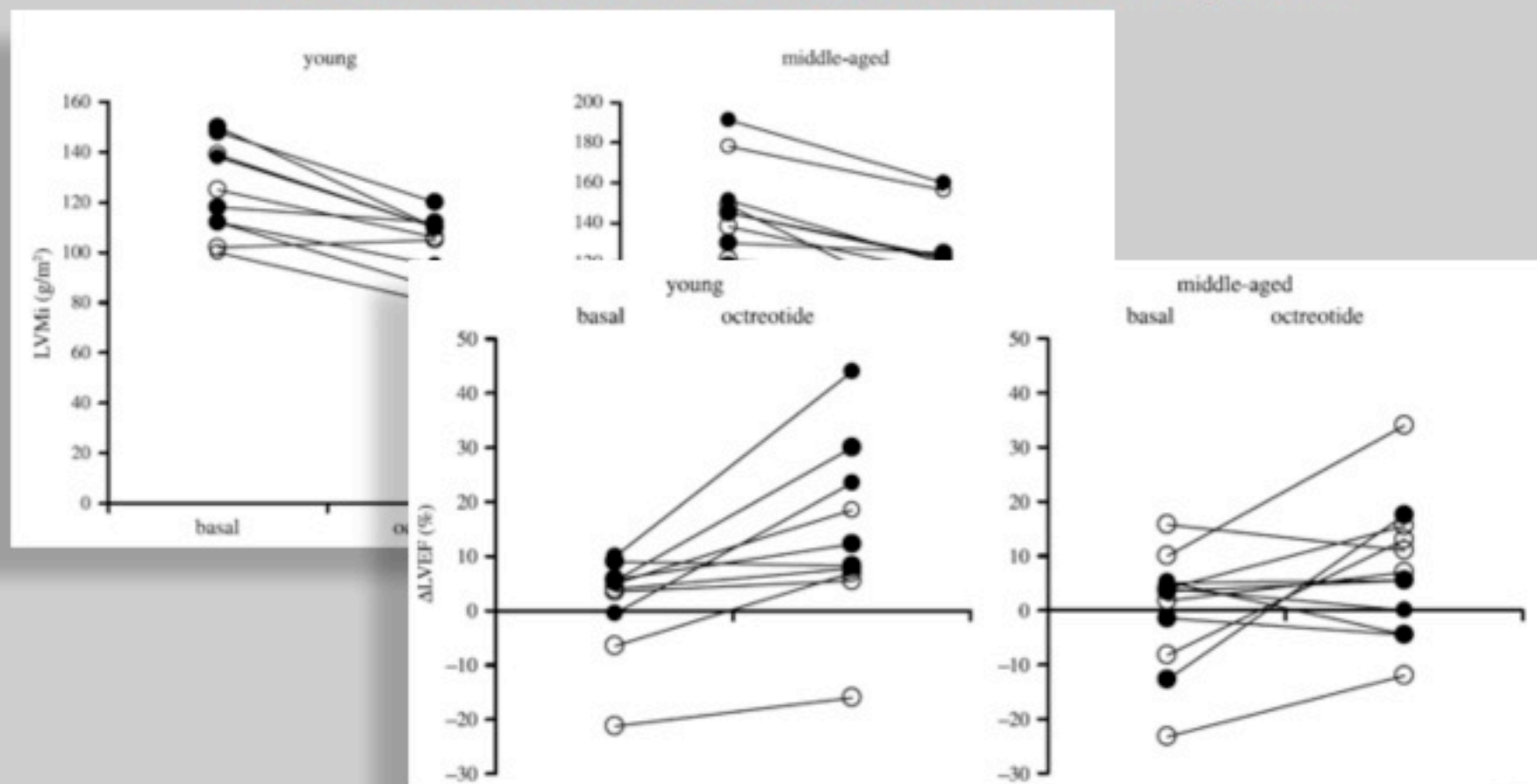
## Reversibilità della cardiopatia acromegalica



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Reversibilità della cardiopatia acromegalica

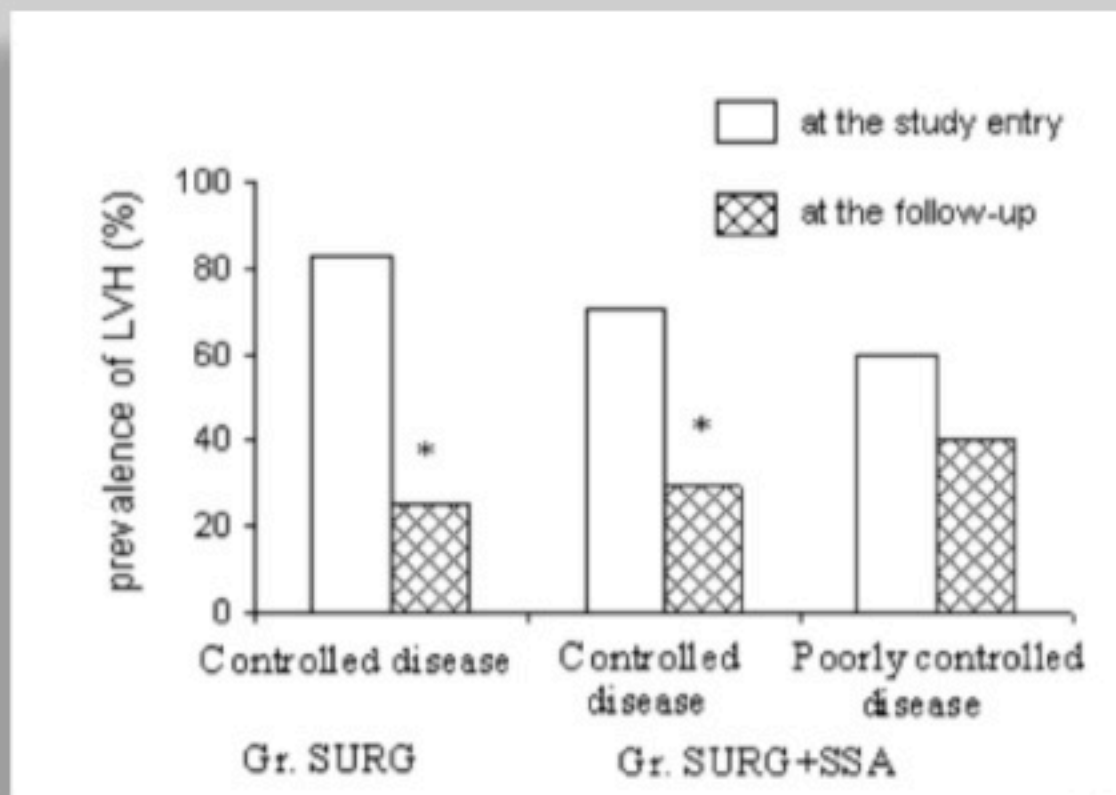




# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Reversibilità della cardiopatia acromegalica



## Reversibilità della cardiopatia acromegalica

TABLE 3. Recovery from cardiac disease after treatment of acromegaly

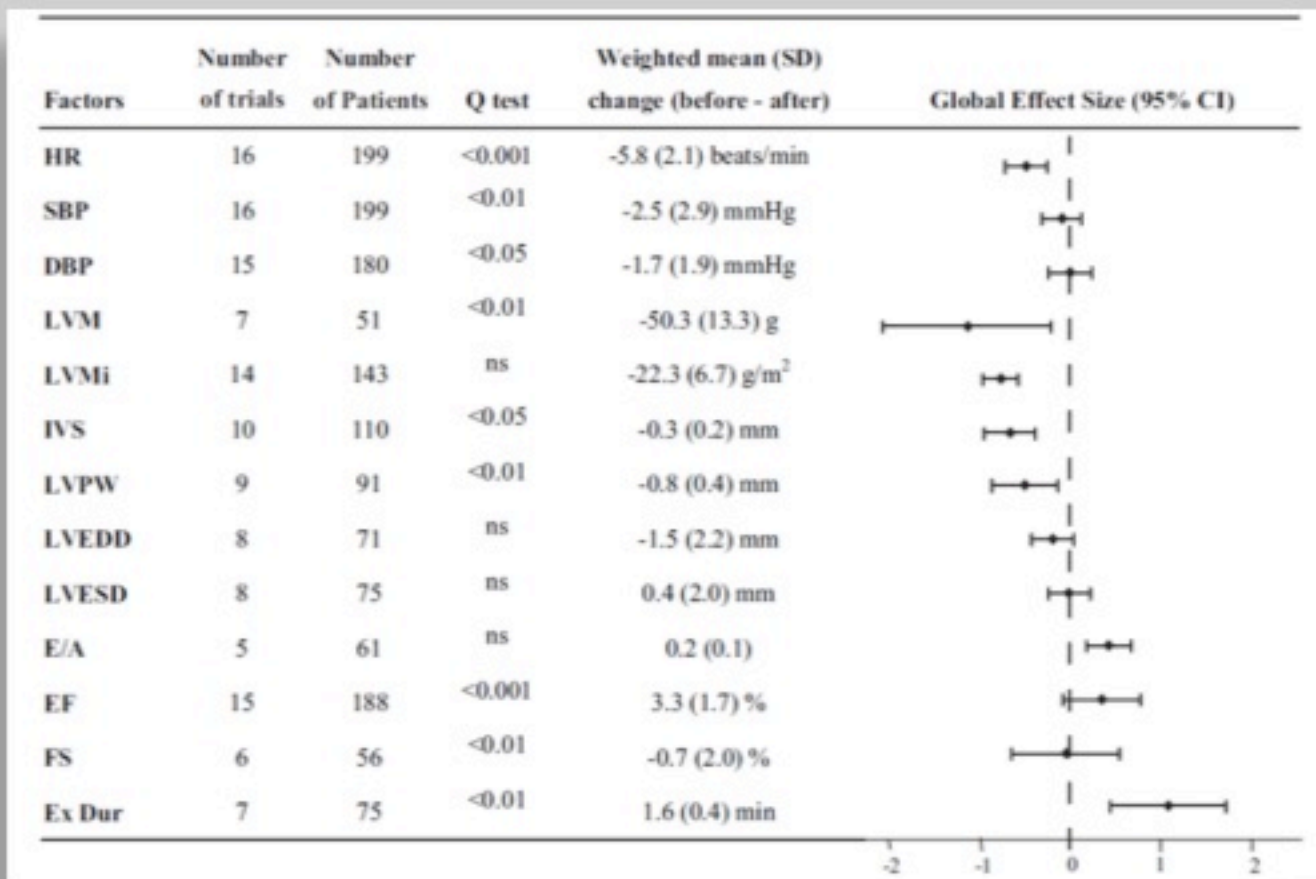
Year	Ref.	No. of patients	Treatment	Follow-up	Methods	Results			
						LVH	Diastolic function	Systolic function	Others
1985	185	11	RT	3-17 yr	ECG, ECHO	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	↑ Cardiovascular events
1989	192	9	OCT	12 months	ECHO	↓	n.a.	↔	↓ HR and BP
1991	193	5	OCT	6 months	ECHO	↓	↑	↔	No change in contractility
1992	188	16	OCT	2 months	ECHO	↓	n.a.	↓	Only in patients with hypertrophy
1993	194	11	OCT	6 months	ECG, ECHO	↓	↑	↔	↔ BP
1994	187	6	OCT	6 months	ECG, ECHO	↓	↑	↔	↑ Treadmill exercise, ↔ BP
1999	196	30	OCT	12 months	ERA	n.a.	↔	↑	↓ HR only in controlled patients
1999	189	13	LAN	12 months	ECHO	↓	↑	↔	↔ BP
1999	195	13	LAN	12 months	ECHO	↓	↑	↔	↔ BP
2000	191	15	OCT-LAR	6 months	ECHO, ERA	↓	↑	↔	Only in controlled patients, ↓ HR
2001	193	30	Surgery	6 months	ECHO	↓	↑	↔	↓ BP only in controlled patients
2001	184	18	Surgery/OCT	5 yr	ERA	n.a.	↔	↑	Only in controlled patients
2002	97	25	OCT-LAR	6 months	ECHO, ERA	↓	↑	↓	↓ HR, when disease duration <5 yr
2002	146	19	LAN	6 months	ECHO	↓	↑	↔	↓ Arrhythmias from 33.3 to 16.5%
2003	199	22	OCT-LAR	12 months	ECHO, ERA	↓	↑	↑	Mostly in young patients

n.a., Not assessed; RT, radiotherapy; OCT, octreotide; LAN, lanreotide; ECHO, echocardiogram; ERA, equilibrium radionuclide angiography; LVH, left ventricular hypertrophy; BP, blood pressure; HR, heart rate; ↓, decreased; ↑, increased; ↔, unchanged.

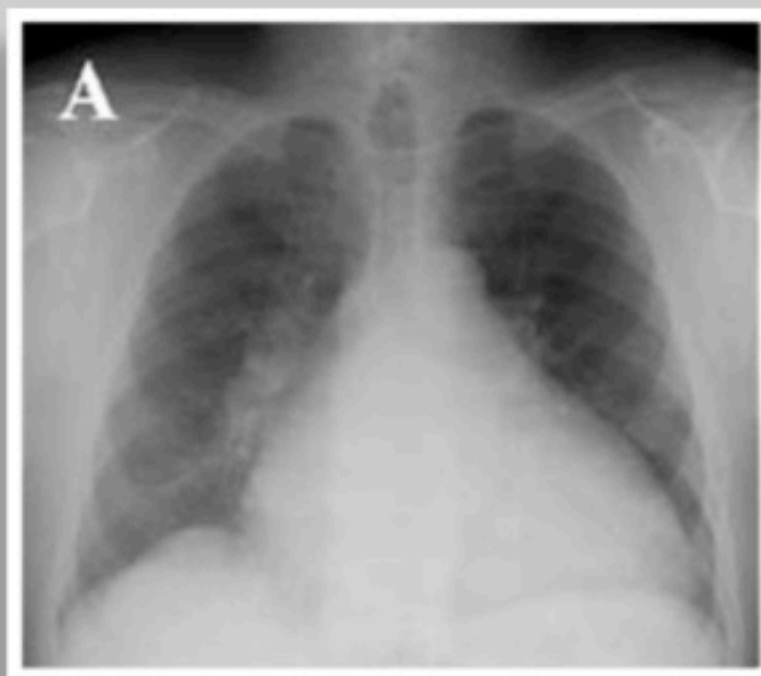
# La cardiopatia acromegalica



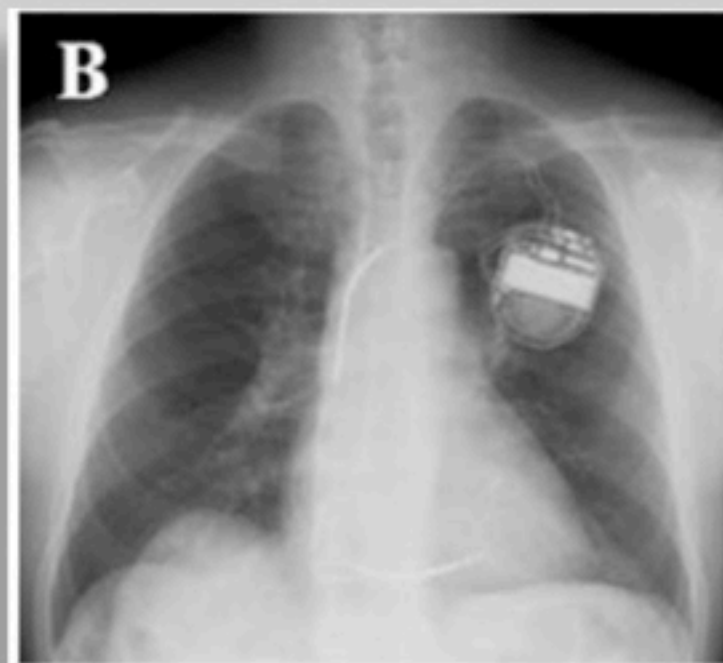
## Reversibilità della cardiopatia acromegalica



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



**Prima del trattamento**

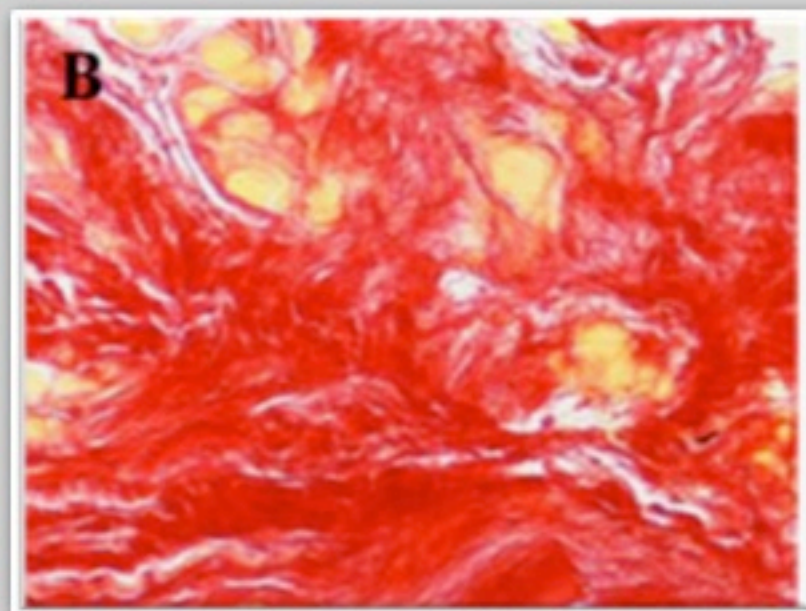
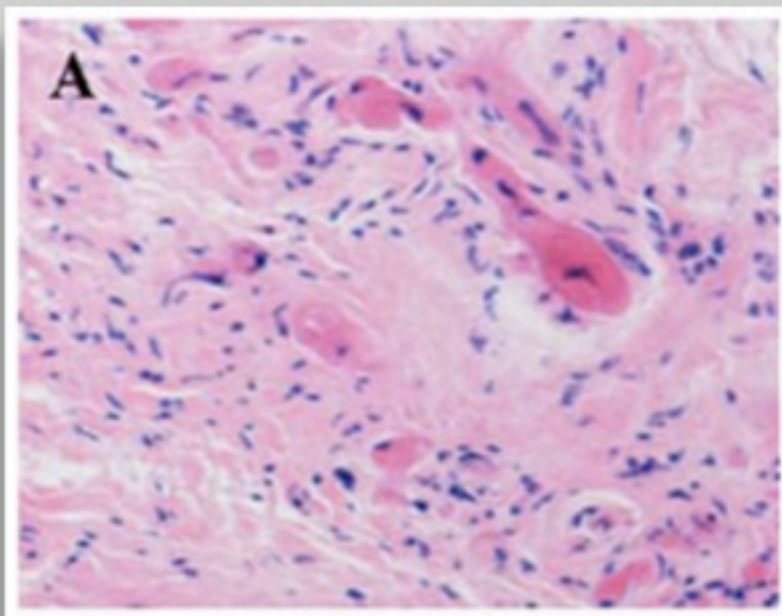


**Dopo del trattamento**

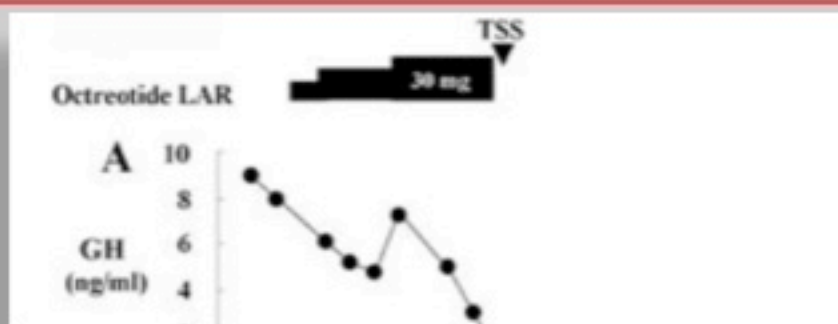
# La cardiopatia acromegalica



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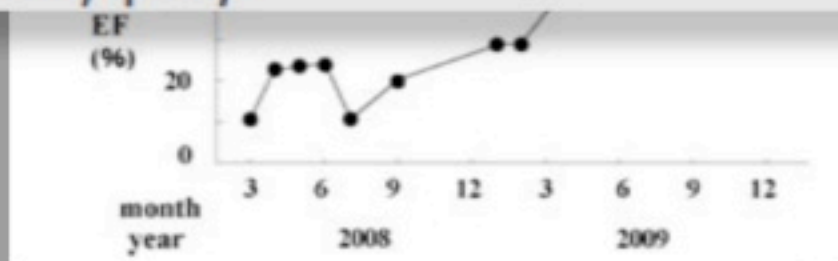


# La cardiopatia acromegalica



## Learning points

- ▶ Acromegalic cardiomyopathy could be reversed even if severe fibrosis exists in the myocardium.
- ▶ The normalisation of plasma GH and IGF-1 levels was mandatory to improve cardiac function in acromegalic cardiomyopathy.





# La cardiopatia acromegalica



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Pituitary (2013) 16:294–302  
DOI 10.1007/s11102-012-0420-x

## A consensus on the diagnosis and management of acromegaly complications

S. Melmed · F. F. Casanueva · A. Klibanski · M. D. Bronstein · P. Chanson · S. W. J. Teitelbaum · C. J. Strasburger · J. A. H. Wass · J. L. Hirschman · J. M. L. Rodriguez · J. M. L. Rodriguez · J. M. L. Rodriguez

**Table 1** Assessment of acromegaly complications at diagnosis and during long-term monitoring

Diagnosis	During long-term follow-up
Blood pressure measurement	Every 6 months or when change of treatment (if hypertensive)
Echocardiography	Annually
ECG	Annually
Epworth scale or sleep study	Annually
Echo Doppler of peripheral arterial and venous system	Annually particularly in gigantism
OGTT	Fasting blood glucose every 6 months (particularly in uncontrolled disease and during SRL therapy); HbA <sub>1c</sub> every 6 months if diabetes present



# La cardiopatia acromegalica



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## Conclusioni

- Eccessiva esposizione a GH/IGF-I causa una specifica cardiomiopatia, aggravata dalla coesistenza di ipertensione arteriosa e diabete
- L'ipertrofia concentrica associata a disfunzione diastolica è la sua più comune manifestazione
- La cardiomiopatia può evolvere in disfunzione sistolica e scompenso cardiaco
- Un adeguato controllo dell'acromegalia può indurre reversibilità della cardiomiopatia soprattutto in soggetti giovani con durata di malattia più breve