



Bari,  
7-10 novembre 2013

**12° Congresso Nazionale AME**

Associazione Medici Endocrinologi

**6<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting with AACE**

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

*Bari, 7-10 novembre 2013*

# Terapie endocrino-metaboliche e rischio oncologico

# GH

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AO Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino  
Molinette - COES



# Does growth hormone cause cancer?



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- physiology/pathophysiology
- in vitro studies
- animal studies
- epidemiologic studies
- GH excess clinical settings
  - acromegaly
  - unlicensed GH therapy w/o GHD
- GH replacement in GHD



# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors

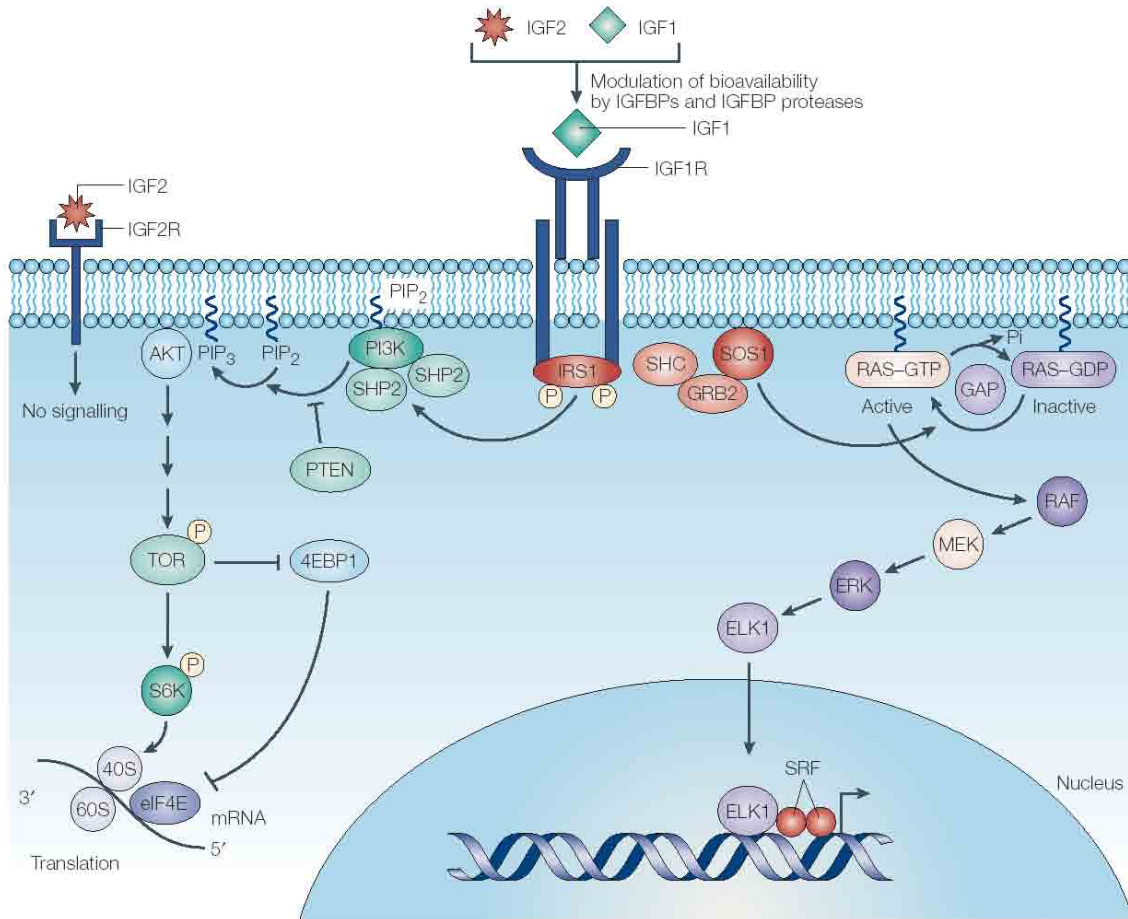


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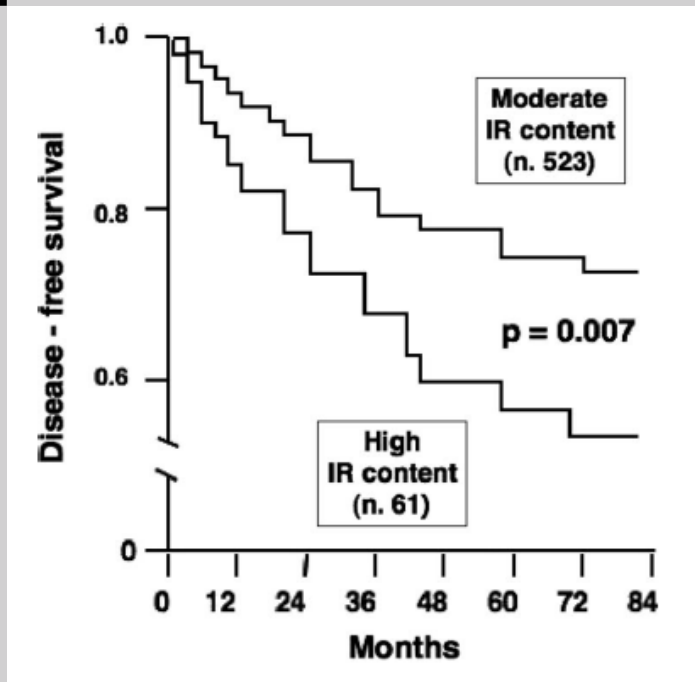
endocrine, autocrine, and paracrine actions

- influencing factors:
  - IGF-1 receptor (type 1) density
  - IGF-1/insulin receptor hybrids

# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors



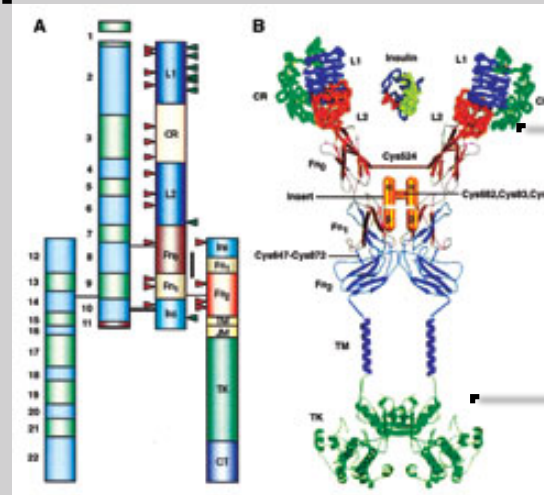
# IGF-1 and insulin receptors



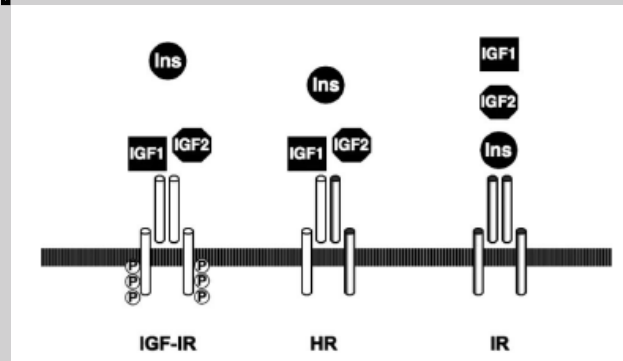
Mathieu MC et al; *Proc Assoc Am Physicians*. 1997

homology between IR & IGF-IR

45-65%



60-85%



Frasca F et al.; *Arch Physiol Bioch* 2008



# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors



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endocrine, autocrine, and paracrine actions

- influencing factors:
  - IGF-1 receptor (type 1) density
  - IGF-1/insulin receptor hybrids
  - IGF-binding proteins (IGFBP-3, IGFBP-2)
    - regulation of free IGF-1 amount
    - IGF-1-independent actions
  - polymorphisms (IGF-1 gene/GH synthesis pathway)
  - proteases (e.g. PSA), tissue architecture, etc.



# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors



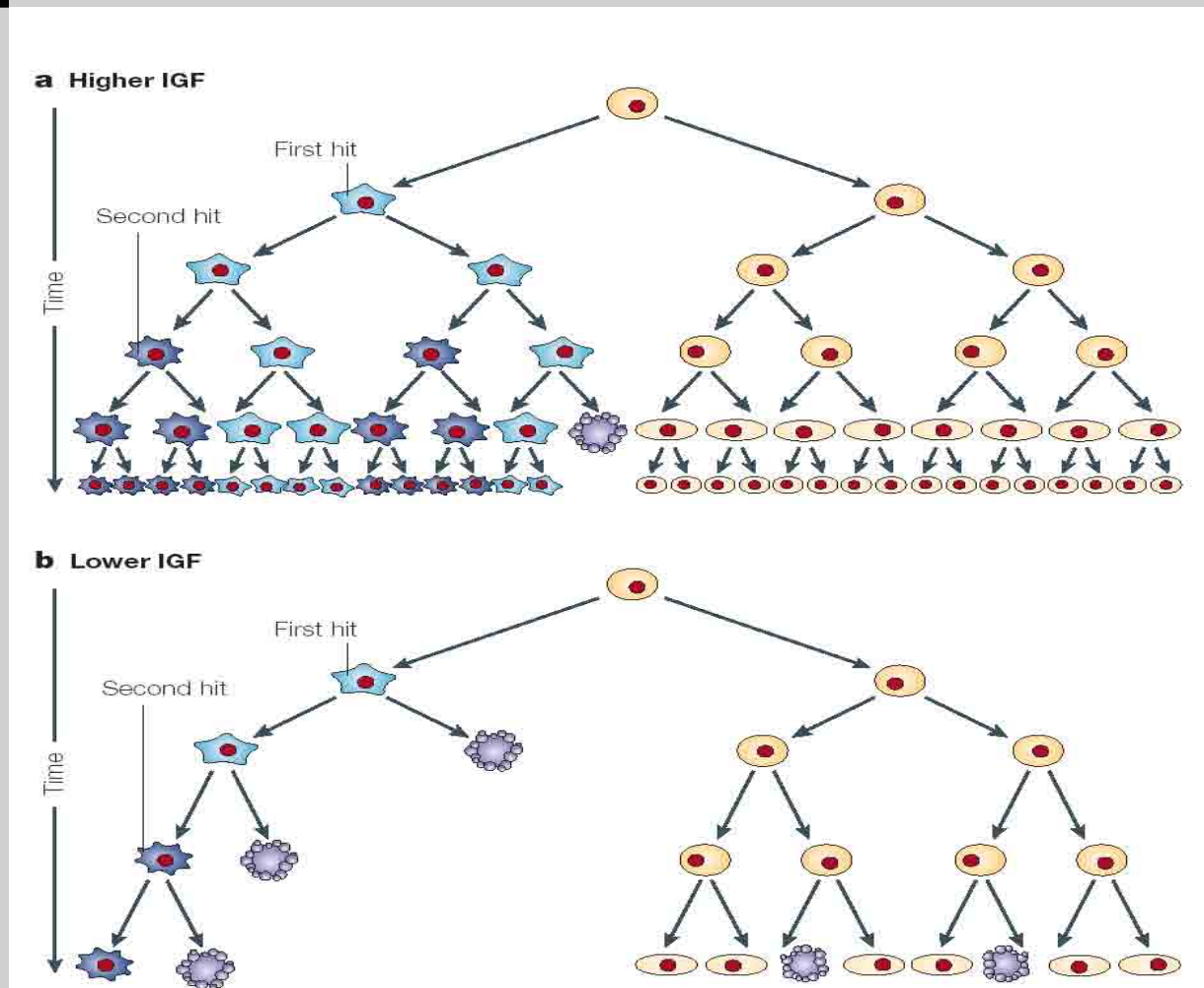
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powerful effects of IGF-1 on:

- cellular proliferation
  - apoptosis
- = increased epithelial turnover

*across the general population, serum IGF-I levels vary between individuals, and it is postulated that this may impact upon cancer risk*

# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors







# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors



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powerful effects of IGF-1 on:

- cellular proliferation
- apoptosis
- angiogenesis & lymphangiogenesis
- cell motility
- metastases
- development of resistance to chemotherapeutics



# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors animal studies



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- transfected/silenced mice

Bates P et al.; *Br J Cancer* 1995  
Yang XF et al., *Cancer Res* 1996

- Ab against IGF-1R

Arteaga CL et al.; *J Clin Invest* 1989

- selective knockout of hepatic IGF-1 gene

Wu Y et al.; *Cancer Res* 2002  
Wu Y et al.; *Cancer Res* 2003

*large IGF-1 level variations vs. physiology*

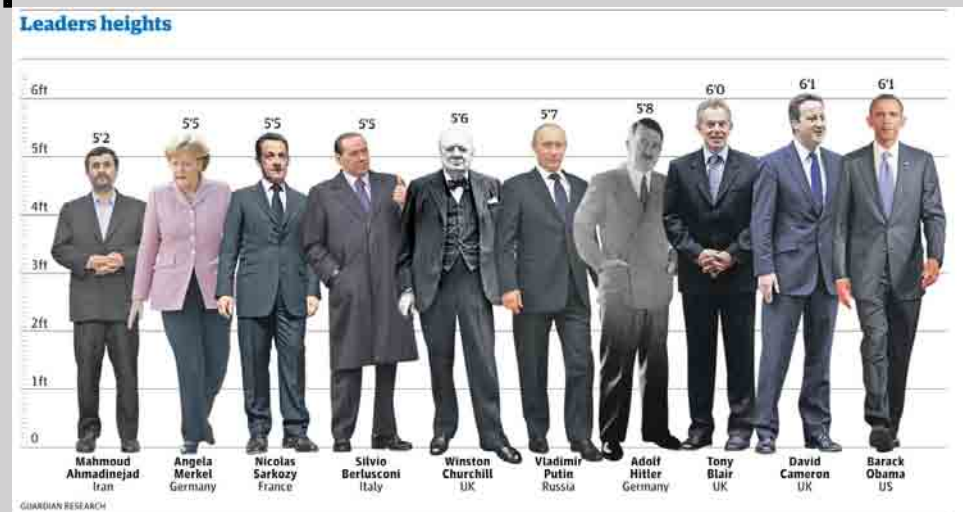


# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors epidemiological studies



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- childhood growth data would predict malignancy in later life
- birth weight/stature
- peak height velocity (& breast cancer)
- final height (& breast, prostate, and CR cancer)
- leg length





# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors epidemiological studies



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## general population

- possible link between GH/IGF-1 levels & the development of a variety of different cancers
- subjects with IGF-1 levels that are in the higher centiles of the normal range would have a significantly increased risk of developing
  - breast, prostate, and colon cancer
  - lung cancer?

Hankinson SE et al.; *Lancet* 1998  
Wolk A et al., *J Natl Cancer Inst* 1998



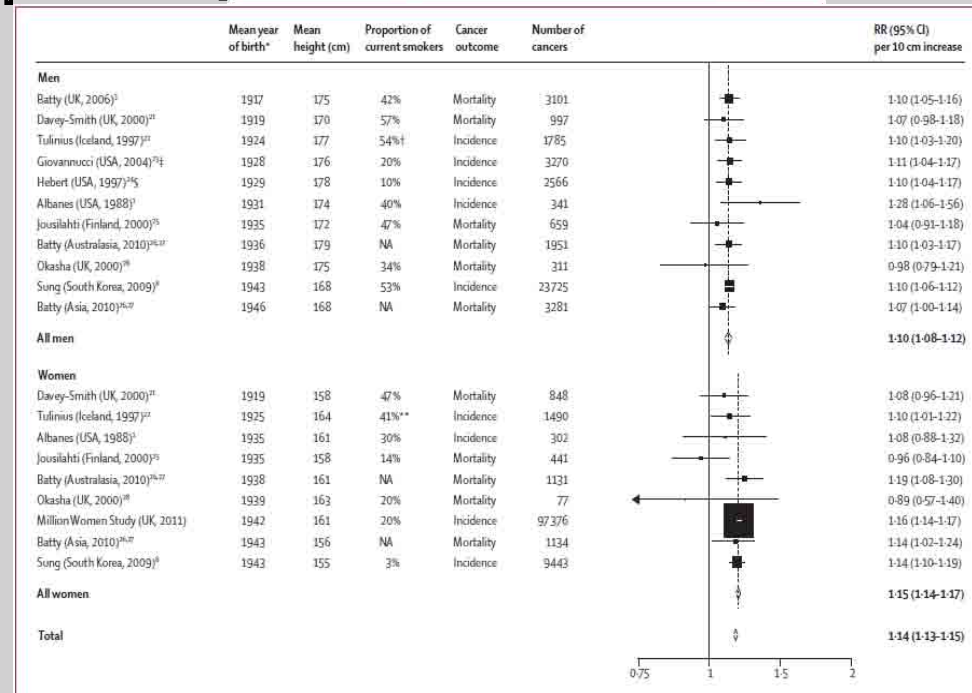
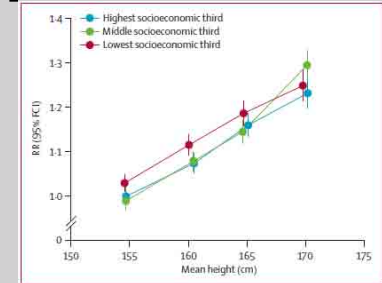
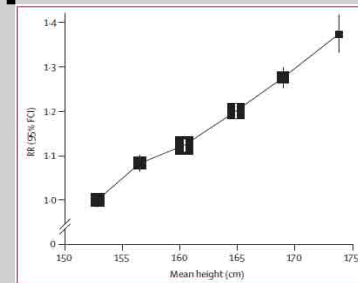
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# Height and cancer incidence in the Million Women Study: prospective cohort, and meta-analysis of prospective studies of height and total cancer risk

*Lancet Oncol* 2011; 12: 785-94

## taller people are at increased risk of cancer

- large prospective cohort of ~1.3 M middle-aged women w/o previous cancer (follow-up 9.4 yy)
- ~97,000 incident cancers (17 sites)
- RR for total cancer for every 10 cm increase in height was **1.16** (95% CI 1.14–1.17;  $p < 0.0001$ )
- statistically significant increased risk for 10 sites
  - independently of socioeconomic status & geographic area
  - lower in current smokers
- IGF-1 levels in childhood/adulthood?



Green J et al., *Lancet Oncol* 2011



# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors acromegaly



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*increased risk of:*

- colorectal tumors: 2-7.6x
- thyroid tumors
- breast tumors? prostate cancer?

✓ genetics?

✓ hyperinsulinemia & diabetes role?





ELSEVIER



Andrew G. Renehan\* PhD, FRCS  
 Bernadette M. Brennan MD, FRCPCH

## Acromegaly, growth hormone and cancer risk

Table 1. Colonoscopy studies in acromegalic patients.

	Country	Case/control	Mean age—acromegaly	Adenoma prevalence		Comments on controls	Conclusions—prevalence rate
				Acromegaly	Controls		
Klein et al, 1982	USA	17/—	49	5 (29)	—	Two literature review papers	Increased
Izarte et al, 1984	USA	12/—	56	2 (15)	—	Population cancer rates only	Increased
Brunner et al, 1990	USA	29/—	NR	4 (14)	—	Population cancer rates only	Increased
Ezzat et al, 1991	USA	23	47	8 (35)	—	One study from literature	Increased
Ortego et al, 1994	Spain	27/—	49	7 (26)	—	Compared with literature	Inclusive
Ladas et al, 1994	Greece	54/—	47	5 (9)	—	Compared with literature	No increase
Vasen et al, 1994	NH	49	54	11 (22)	—	Compared with literature	Increased
Delhougne et al, 1995	France	103/138	51	23 (22)	11 (8)	In-house non-acromegalic patients with IBS symptoms	Increased
Jenkins et al, 1997	UK	127/562	22–80	34 (26)	63 (11)	In-house non-acromegalic symptomatic patients	Increased
Renehan et al, 2000	UK	115/models	55	14 (12)	Age-dependent ranges	Controls modelled from 8 autopsy (n = 3559) and 4 screening colonoscopy (n = 810) studies	No increase
Martino et al, 2004	Italy	75/75	54	3 (10)	1 (10)	Age/sex-matched patients with IBS bowel symptoms	No increase
Bhansali et al, 2004	India	60/160	65	0	0	Age/sex-matched patients with IBS bowel symptoms	No increase
Terzola et al, 2005*	Italy	235/233	49	55 (23)	34 (15)	In-house non-acromegalic symptomatic patients	Increased
Matano et al, 2005	Japan	19/76		8 (42)	13 (17)	In-house non-acromegalic patients	Increased
Matjya et al, 2006	Poland	51/—	53	21 (41)	—	Compared against same sample using autofluorescence colonoscopy	'High prevalence'





# acromegaly & CRC



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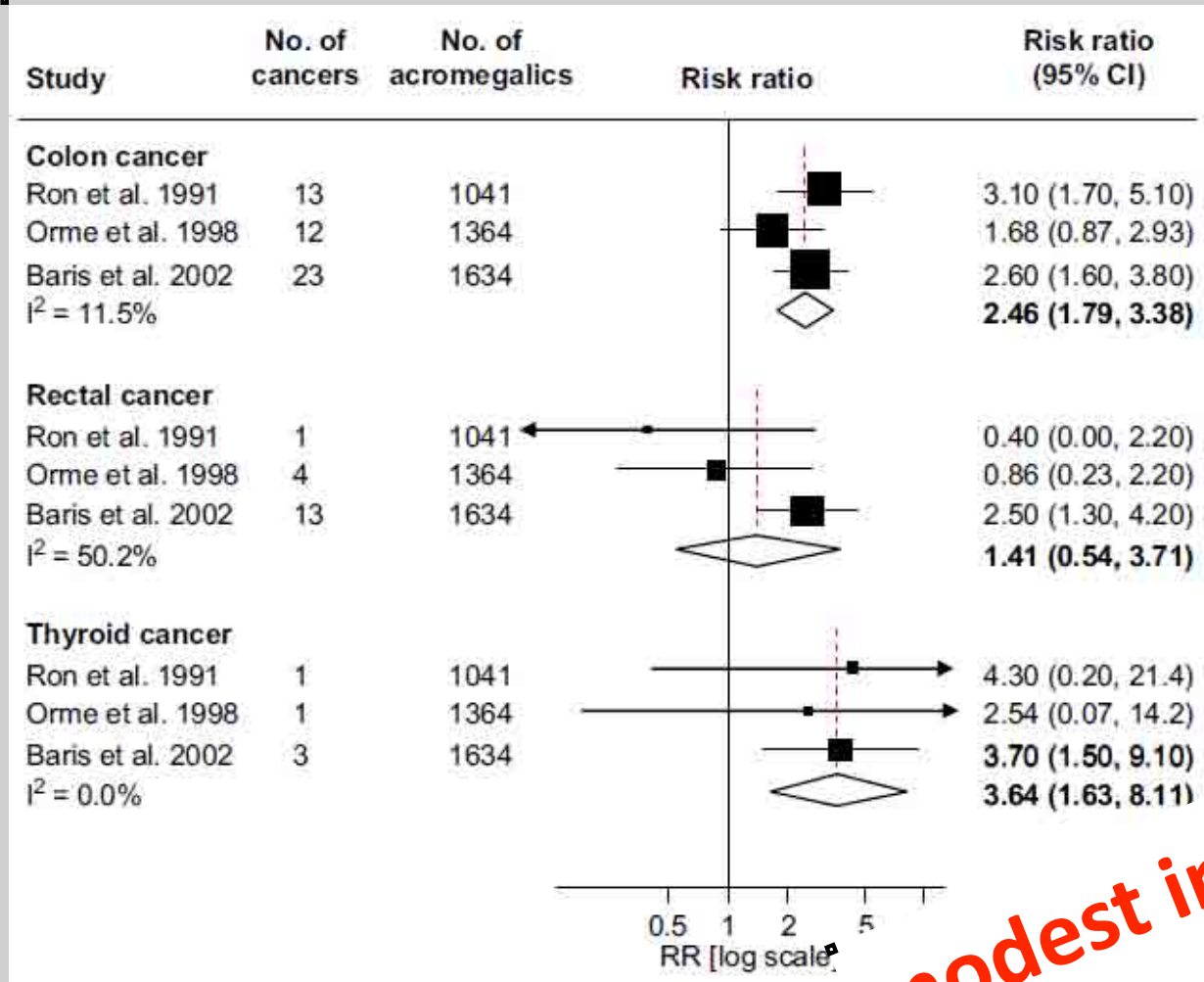
- small patient numbers, unadjusted for major confounding factors (eg, age and gender)
- endoscopists are not blind (operator bias)
- colonoscopy is technically more difficult in acromegalic patients → more experienced endoscopists may detect more neoplastic lesions.
- hyperplastic & adenomatous polyps described together
- in population-based studies among cohorts of acromegalic patients, invasive CRC rates range from **0.8% to 1.3%**.





# acromegaly & neoplasms

associations of acromegaly with CR and thyroid cancer in population-based studies



**modest increase**



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# GH therapy



# GH/IGF-1 axis & tumors

## GH therapy



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- 1) de-novo cancer in non-cancer patients with GHD
- 2) tumor recurrence in patients with previously treated cancer and with GHD
- 3) 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer with GHD



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***1) de-novo cancer in non-cancer  
patients with GHD***



# de-novo cancer in non-cancer patients with GHD



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## GHRT

Increased fat mass (especially central adiposity)  
Decreased lean body mass  
Decreased muscle strength  
Decreased exercise performance  
Decreased cardiac capacity  
Decreased bone mineral density and increased risk of fracture  
Atherogenic lipid profile  
Thin, dry skin  
Psychosocial problems and decreased quality of life  
    Fatigue  
    Depression  
    Anxiety  
    Impaired sleep  
    Social isolation

long-term

- efficacy
- safety
- cost-effectiveness

***continuation of therapy generally recommended  
even after completion of linear growth***



# de-novo cancer in non-cancer patients with GHD



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## increased malignancy risk

- case-reports
- a minority of series
- SAGhE

Wada E et al.; *Jpn J Clin Oncol* 1989  
Watanabe S et al; *J Pediatr Endocrinol* 1993  
Watanabe S et al; *Lancet* 1998  
Swerdlow AJ et al.; *Lancet* 2002

## not increased malignancy risk

- HypoCCS
- KIMS
- NCGS



# de-novo cancer in non- patients with GH deficiency

ORIGINAL ARTICLE  
Endocrine Care



2013

**Prospective Safety Surveillance of GH-Deficient  
Adults: Comparison of GH-Treated vs Untreated  
Patients**

J Clin Endocrinol Metab, March 2013, 98(3):980-988  
Mark L. Hartman, Rong Xu, Brenda J. Crowe, Leslie L. Robison,  
Eva Marie Erturh, David L. Kleinberg, Alan G. Zimmermann,  
Whitney W. Woodmansee, Gordon B. Cutler, Jr., John J. Chipman, and  
Shlomo Melmed, on behalf of the International HypoCCS Advisory Board

## Hypopituitary Control and Complication Study (HypoCSS), Lilly™

- IR of events between GH-treated and untreated **2430 GHD adults**
- prospective observational study
- 157 US centers (1996-2002)
- mean follow-up **2.3** years
- no significant difference
  - death
  - new cancer
  - intracranial tumor growth/recurrence
  - DM
  - CV events

	GH-Treated (n = 1988)	Untreated (n = 442)
Cancer type, n (%)		
Skin cancer <sup>b</sup>	10 (0.50)	5 (1.13)
Prostate cancer	3 (0.15)	3 (0.68)
Breast cancer	4 (0.20)	1 (0.23)
Lung cancer <sup>c</sup>	4 (0.20)	0
Colorectal cancer	2 (0.10)	1 (0.23)
Acute leukemia	2 (0.10)	0
Carcinoid tumor	0	1 (0.23)
Lymphoma	0	1 (0.23)
Ovarian cancer	1 (0.05)	0
Ewing's sarcoma	1 (0.05)	0
Pancreatic islet cell tumor	1 (0.05)	0
Bladder/urethral cancer	1 (0.05)	0
Fibrosarcoma	1 (0.05)	0
Laryngeal cancer	1 (0.05)	0
Polycythemia vera	1 (0.05)	0
Total cancers, n (%)	32 (1.61)	12 (2.71)

<sup>a</sup> For total cancer events, there was no significant difference between the 2 groups after controlling for baseline differences (P = .57).



# de-novo cancer in no patients with GHD



Bari, 2013  
ISSN 0959-2688

CLINICAL STUDY  
Overall and cause-specific mortality in GH-deficient adults on GH replacement  
Rolf C Gaillard<sup>1\*</sup>, Anders F Mattsson<sup>1</sup>, Ann-Charlotte Åkerblad<sup>1</sup>, Bengt-Åke Bengtsson<sup>2</sup>, José Cara<sup>3</sup>, Ulla Feldt-Rasmussen<sup>4</sup>, Maria Koltowska-Hägström<sup>1</sup>, John P Monson<sup>5</sup>, Bernhard Saller<sup>6</sup>, Patrick Wilton<sup>3</sup> and Roger Abs<sup>7</sup>

## Pfizer™ [formerly Kabi™] International Metabond Database (KIMS)

- multicentre, non-interventional study
- mortality & associated factors within GHRT adults
- **13,983** GHD patients; 528 deaths
- mean follow-up **4.9** years
- mortality: slightly higher vs. general pop.
- no increased SMR for deaths from CVDs or malignancies





# de-novo cancer in non-exposed patients with GH



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September 2013

**Long-Term Safety of Recombinant Human Growth Hormone in Children**  
 J. Bell, K. L. Parker, R. D. Swinford, A. R. Hoffman, T. Maneatis, and B. Lippe  
*J Clin Endocrinol Metab*, January 2010, 95(1):167-177

## National Cooperative Growth Study (NCGS), Genentech™

- multicenter post-marketing surveillance study to monitor safety & efficacy of rhGH
- **54,996** children (1985-2006), 900 investigators
- 20 years of GH therapy
- de-novo malignancies: not significantly increased vs. general population

- leukemia
- intra/extracranial

TABLE 4. New-onset malignancies without risk factors

Age (yr)	Years of GH exposure	Expected rate per 100,000 yr of exposure	Observed cases	Expected cases
0-4	11,348	20.4	1	2.32
5-9	44,585	11.4	6	5.08
10-14	85,909	12.9	12	11.08
15-19	36,082	20.0	9	7.22
20-24	540	34.9	1	0.19
Total	178,464	14.5*	29	25.88



# de-novo cancer in patients with GH



Bari,  
septembre 2013

Long-Term Mortality after Recombinant Growth  
Hormone Treatment for Isolated Growth Hormone  
Deficiency or Childhood Short Stature: Preliminary  
Report of the French SAGhE Study  
J Clin Endocrinol Metab, February 2012, 97(2):416-425  
Jean-Claude Carel, Emmanuel Ecosse, Fabienne Landier,  
Djamila Meguellati-Hakkas, Florentia Kaguelidou, Grégoire Rey, and Joël Coste

## Safety and appropriateness of Gh treatment in Europe (SAGhE)

- population-based study on long-term safety of rhGH in French children
- 6928 children (1985-1996) with low-risk
- mean follow-up: 17.3 years
- all-cause mortality increased (SMR 1.33) vs. general pop.
  - all-type cancer mortality non increased (CRC, Hodgkin...)
  - bone tumor-related mortality increased (SMR 5.00)
- GH doses >50mcg/kg/day associated with mortality rates



# de-novo cancer in non-cancer patients with GHD



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## Safety and appropriateness of Gh treatment in Europe (SAGhE)

### Long-Term Mortality after Recombinant Growth Hormone Treatment for Isolated Growth Hormone Deficiency or Childhood Short Stature: Preliminary Report of the French SAGhE Study

J Clin Endocrinol Metab, February 2012, 97(2):416–425

Jean-Claude Carel, Emmanuel Ecosse, Fabienne Landier, Djamilia Meguellati-Hakkas, Florentia Kaguelidou, Grégoire Rey, and Joël Coste

Patients from the Association France-Hypophysé register who were treated exclusively with recombinant growth hormone  
n = 11,035

Born after January 1, 1990, n = 705

Born before January 1, 1990  
n = 10,330

High mortality risk due to underlying condition (malignancy, craniopharyngioma or chronic renal failure)  
n = 1,210

Intermediate mortality risk due to underlying condition (multiple pituitary hormone deficiency, congenital diseases, severe chronic pediatric disease, ...)  
n = 2,179

Missing information on underlying condition  
n = 13

Low mortality risk (isolated idiopathic growth hormone deficiency, short stature in children born short for gestational age, idiopathic short stature)  
n = 6,928

Lost to follow-up  
n = 36

Follow-up during growth hormones treatment (1985-1999) but lost at the time of the SAGhE study (2008-2009)  
n = 334

Died as of September, 2009  
n = 93

Alive at the time of the SAGhE study (2008-2009)  
n = 6,465\*

#### Duration of follow-up

Duration of follow-up after the end of treatment (yr)

≤5 (n = 6402)	31	25.93	1.20	(0.81–1.70)
≤10 (n = 6402)	57	46.32	1.23	(0.93–1.59)
≤15 (n = 6402)	83	61.38	1.35	(1.08–1.68)

Time after the end of treatment (yr)

≤5 (n = 6402)	31	25.93	1.20	(0.81–1.70)
>5 and ≤10 (n = 6035)	26	20.39	1.28	(0.83–1.87)
>10 and ≤15 (n = 5316)	26	15.06	1.73	(1.13–2.53)

$P_{trend} = 0.17$

#### Neoplasms (140–239)

Malignant neoplasm of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissue (200–208)	7	6.89	1.02	(0.41–2.09)
Malignant neoplasm of bone and articular cartilage (170)	2	1.36	1.47	(0.17–5.31)
All other neoplasms <sup>b</sup>	3	0.60	5.00	(1.01–14.61)
	2	4.93	0.41	(0.05–1.46)

*“Overall, our results do not allow the conclusion of the causal role of GHtreatment in the findings but highlight the need for additional studies on long-term morbidity and mortality after GHtreatment in childhood, in particular when high doses have been used”*



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# ***1) de-novo cancer in non-cancer patients with GHD***

inconclusive evidence of a very modest increase in cancer risk



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## ***2) tumor recurrence in patients with previously treated cancer & with GHD***



# tumor recurrence in patients with previously treated cancer & with GHD



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## not increased risk

Arslanian SA et al., *Am J Dis Children* 1985

- Rodens KP et al., *Acta Endocrinol* 1987
- Clayton PE et al., *Lancet* 1987
- Ogilvy-Stuart AL et al., *BMJ* 1992
- Swerdlow AJ et al., *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 2002

## • NCGS

- not increased risk of leukemia/brain tumors recurrences

## • CCSS

- 13,539 survivors of pediatric tumors
- 361 GH treated pts; follow-up: 6.2 years
- RR of disease recurrence: not increased (0.83; 95% CI 0.37-1.86;  $P = 0.65$ )
- RR of mortality: not increased (1.21; 95% CI 0.75-1.94;  $P = 0.43$ )

Major studies of growth hormone treatment and risk of tumor recurrences

Study	N	Patient-years on growth hormone treatment	Principal malignancy type(s)	Risk estimate
Ogilvy-Stuart et al [105]	53	–	brain tumors	RR 0.8
Sklar et al [98]	172	–	brain tumors	RR 0.8
Swerdlow et al [104]	180	–	brain tumors	RR 0.6
Blethen et al [96]	19,000	47,000	leukemia	no increased risk
Maneatis et al [97]	33,161	113,000	leukemia nonleukemic neoplasms	SMR 0.7 SMR 0.4
Wyatt [95]	~33,000	135,431	nonleukemic neoplasms	SIR 0–1.6



# tumor recurrence in patients with previously treated cancer & with GHD

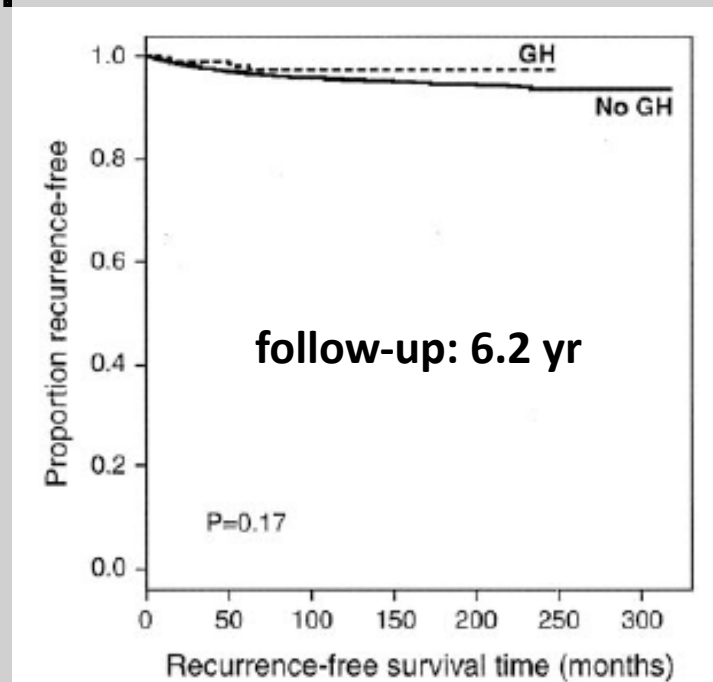


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## Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS)

retrospective cohort of 5-yr survivors of childhood cancer diagnosed <21 yr, between 1970 and 1986, and treated in USA/Canada

- currently, overall 5- yr survival rate for childhood cancer: >70%
- most prevalent late effects of cancer therapy: endocrine disorders (40%)
- GHD: up to 30-40%





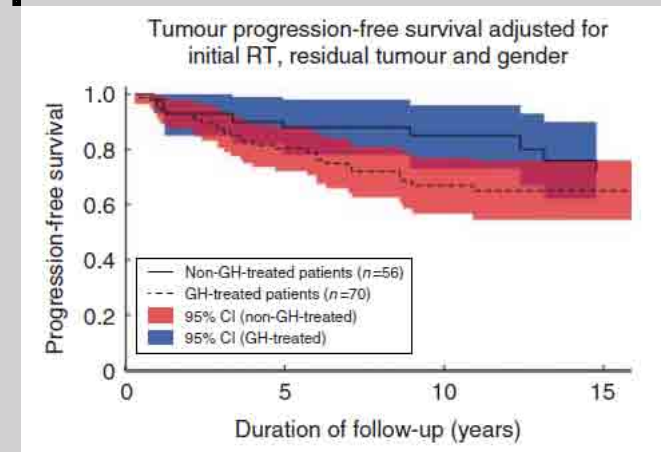
# tumor recurrence in patients with previously treated cancer & with GHD



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## Craniopharyngioma

- case-control study
  - GHD caused by craniopharyngioma
  - rhGH > 3 years vs. no therapy
- 56 patients
- mean duration of GHRT: 13.6 years



long-term GHRT did not affect the PFS





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## ***2) tumor recurrence in patients with previously treated cancer & with GHD***

the general evidence suggests no  
increased risk



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### ***3) 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer with GHD***



# 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer with GHD



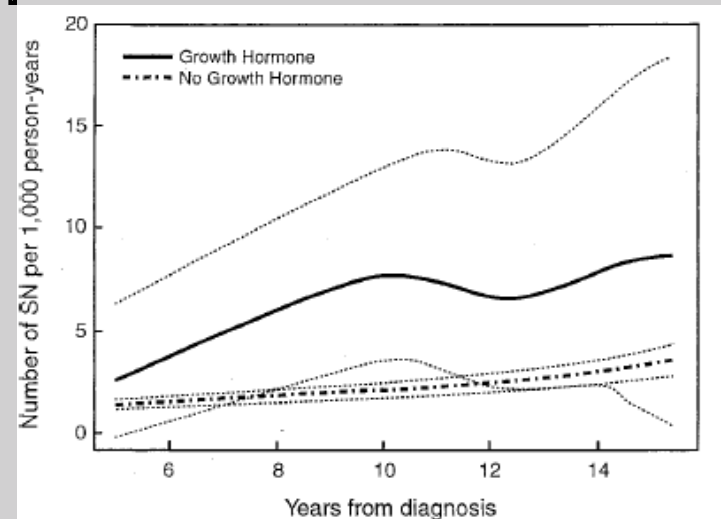
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## Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS)

- 13,539 survivors of pediatric tumors
- 361 GH treated pts; follow-up: 6.2 years
- RR of 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms **3.21** (95% CI 1.88-5.46;  $P < 0.0001$ )
- excess of solid tumors in GH-treated survivors of acute leukemia



Diagnosis	RR (95% CI)	P
Acute leukemia	4.98 (1.95–12.74)	<0.001
CNS tumors	2.34 (0.96–5.70)	0.06
CNS tumors (meningiomas excluded)	1.46 (0.31–6.79)	0.69
Rhabdomyosarcoma	1.82 (0.41–8.01)	0.43





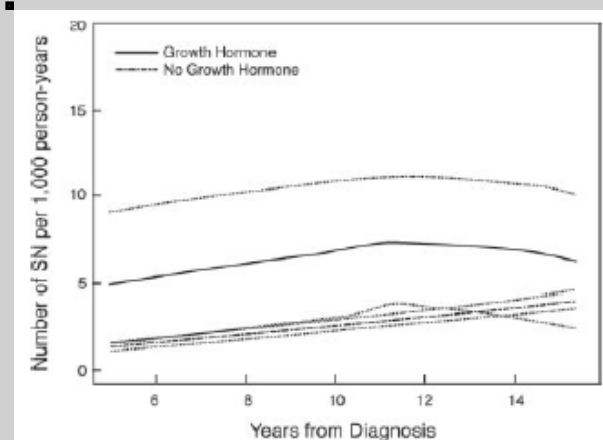
# 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer with GHD



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## Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS)

- 14,108 survivors of pediatric tumors
- 361 GH treated pts; follow-up: 8.8 years
- RR of 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms **2.15** (95% CI 1.3-3.5;  $P < 0.002$ )
- excess of solid tumors in GH-treated survivors of acute leukemia
- meningiomas: the most common 2<sup>nd</sup> tumor
- *the elevation of risk due to GH use diminish increasing follow-up*





# 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer with GHD



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- **NCGS**: increased risk with rhGH in pts with a prior history of malignancy, exp. leukemia and previously irradiated pts
- GH could induce mitogenic activity in cells already predisposed to neoplastic change and hence increase the theoretical risk of developing 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms
- The increased risk of developing 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in GH-treated childhood cancer survivors is now listed in U.S. labeling for all rhGH products



# 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer with GHD



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Genetics and Neuroendocrinology of Short Stature International Study (**GeNeSIS**) + Hypopituitary Control and Complication Study (**HypoCSS**), Lilly™

- retrospective analysis of 2 prospective cohort studies
  - childhood cancer survivors (GeNeSIS)
  - GHD adults (HypoCSS)
- incidence of 2<sup>nd</sup> tumors: consistent with increased risk
- estimated cumulative incidence of 2<sup>nd</sup> tumors after 5 yr of follow-up:
  - 6.2% GeNeSIS
  - 4.8% HypoCSS
- most common: meningiomas (nearly all, after CT/RT exposure)





# 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer with GHD



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retrospective study of 50 CCSs who developed GHD due to cancer therapies from a specialized outpatient clinic

Transition Unit for Childhood Cancer Survivors – Città della Salute e della Scienza Hospital of Turin

- cumulative incidence of 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms between pts treated with rhGH during childhood and pts who did not: **no difference**
- follow-up: 20 years
- high incidence of 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms: **28%!**
- most common 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms: meningioma, basal cell ca.
- elapsed time to the 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasm: shorter in GHD-treated pts (17.0 vs. 24.7 yrs)

• all 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in pts treated with RT!



# 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer with GHD



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GH and IGF-1 have a promoting rather than initiating effect on carcinogenesis → GH could accelerate the growth of 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms

## Key messages:

- GHRT worthy to CCSs during childhood, to obtain normal height w/o increased risk of cancer
- however, 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms seem to arise earlier: close follow-up!
- in adult survivors, the indication for GHRT are less obvious





Bari,  
7-10 novembre 2013

### ***3) 2<sup>nd</sup> neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer with GHD***

some evidence of a modest increased risk associated with GH usage



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# Terapie endocrino-metaboliche e rischio oncologico

**Grazie!**

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