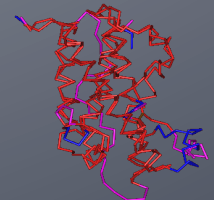


# *Stefano Cianfarani*

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## Terapia con GH: Cosa è cambiato in 25 anni



“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,  
than are dreamt of in your philosophy...”  
William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

# Overview

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- New indications
- New effects
- New molecules
- New safety issues

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# EMA approved indications for human GH

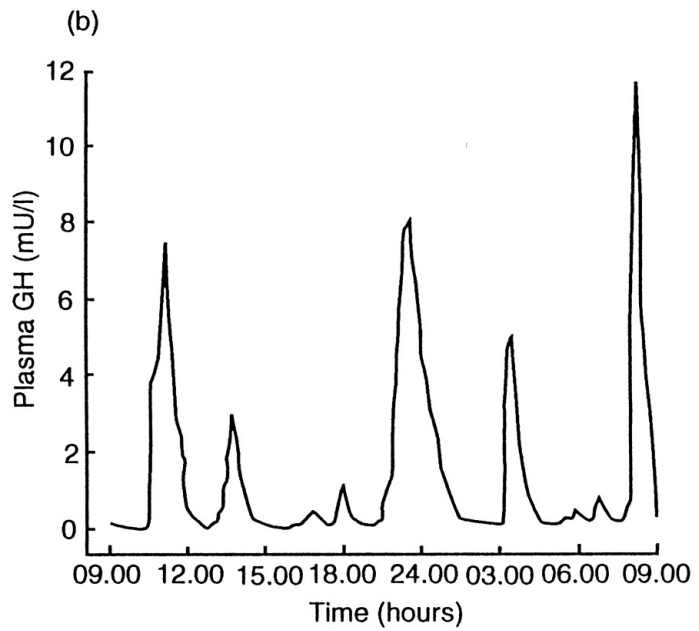
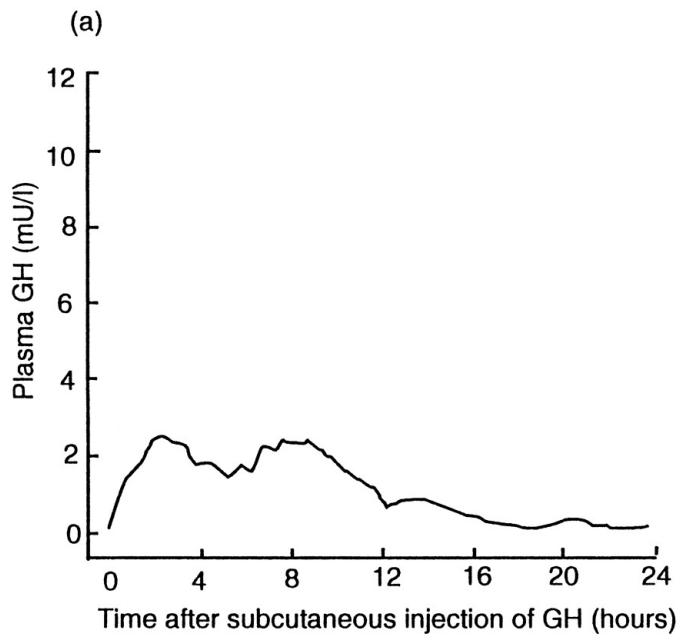
1. Growth Hormone Deficiency
2. Turner syndrome
3. Prader-Willi syndrome
4. Chronic renal insufficiency
5. Children born SGA with subsequent growth failure at 4 years of age or later
6. Short stature homeobox-containing gene (SHOX) deficiency

# FDA-approved indications for human GH

Year of FDA approval <sup>a</sup>	Indication	Recommended doses <sup>b</sup>
1985	GH deficiency	0.16–0.3 mg/kg · wk (up to 0.7 mg/kg · wk approved in pubertal patients)
1993	Chronic renal insufficiency	Up to 0.35 mg/kg · wk until renal transplantation
1996	Turner syndrome	0.33 mg/kg · wk; other approved doses are up to 0.375 or 0.469 mg/kg · wk
1997	Adult GH deficiency	FDA-approved starting dose, schedule for dose increase, and maximum doses vary <sup>c</sup>
2000	Prader-Willi syndrome	0.24 mg/kg · wk
2001	Small for gestational age (and failure to manifest catch-up growth by 2–4 yr)	0.33 mg/kg · wk; other approved dose ranges are 0.231–0.469 mg/kg · wk based on initial height and response to treatment and up to 0.48 mg/kg · wk
2003	Idiopathic short stature	Approved doses are up to 0.3 mg/kg · wk, 0.37 mg/kg · wk, and, and 0.47 mg/kg · wk
2003	Short bowel syndrome in patients receiving specialized nutritional support (no pediatric studies when approved)	0.1 mg/kg · d (0.7 mg/kg · wk), up to a maximum of 8 mg/d; administration for more than 4 wk was noted not to have been adequately studied
2003	HIV patients with wasting or cachexia (adults)	From 0.1 mg/kg · d (0.7 mg/kg/wk) if <35 kg to 6 mg/d if >55 kg
2006	SHOX (short stature homeobox-containing gene) deficiency	0.35 mg/kg · wk
2007	Noonan syndrome	Up to 0.066 mg/kg · d ( <i>i.e.</i> 0.469 mg/kg · wk)

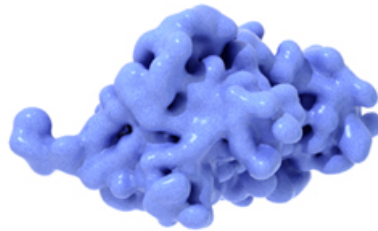
# The seven manufacturers marketing authorisations for somatropin for the following indications

- **Ferring (Zomacton):** growth hormone deficiency and Turner syndrome.
- **Ipsen (NutropinAq):** growth hormone deficiency; Turner syndrome and CRI.
- **Lilly (Humatrope):** growth hormone deficiency; Turner syndrome; CRI; short children born small for gestational age and SHOX deficiency.
- **Merck Serono (Saizen):** growth hormone deficiency; Turner syndrome; CRI and short children born small for gestational age.
- **Novo Nordisk (Norditropin SimpleXx):** growth hormone deficiency; Turner syndrome; CRI and short children born small for gestational age.
- **Pfizer (Genotropin):** growth hormone deficiency; Turner syndrome; CRI; Prader–Willi syndrome and short children born small for gestational age.
- **Sandoz (Omnitrope):** *growth hormone deficiency; Turner syndrome; CRI; Prader–Willi syndrome and short children born small for gestational age.*

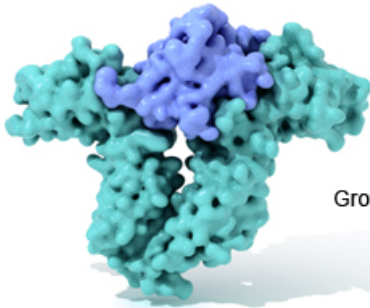


# Response to long-term GH therapy

Growth hormone



Growth hormone



Growth hormone bound to receptor

U.S. National Library of Medicine

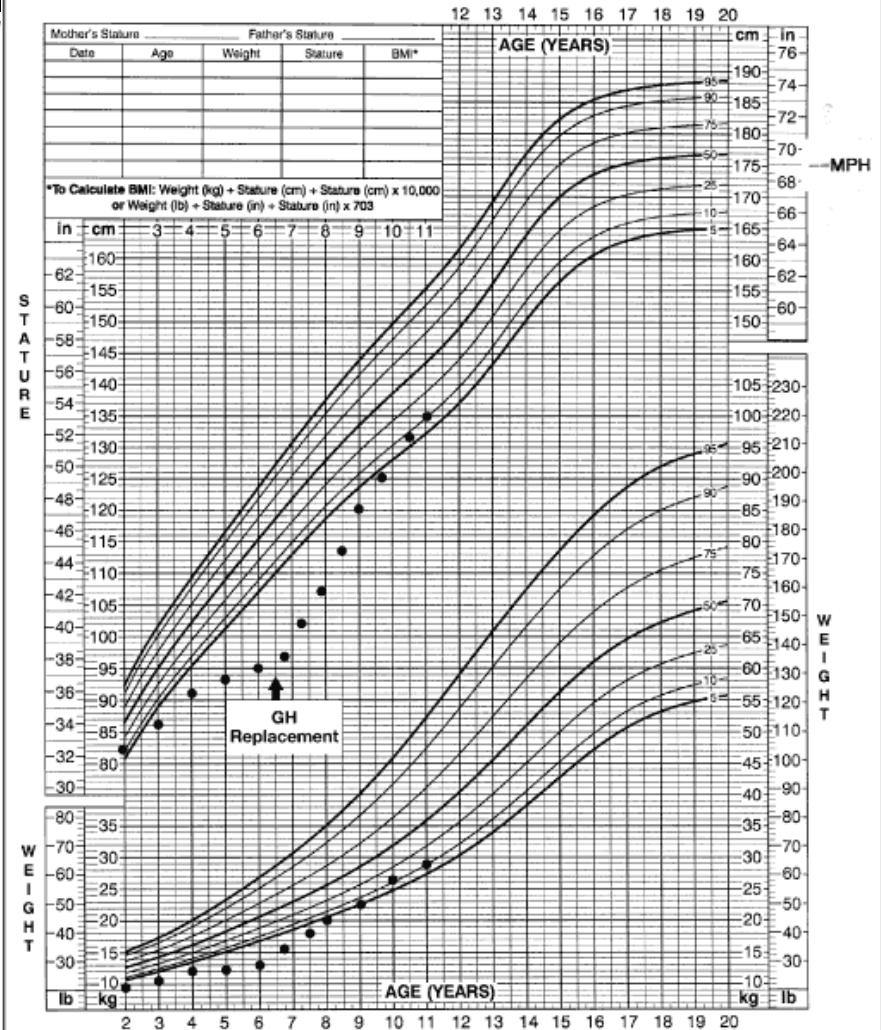
## GROWTH-HORMONE DEFICIENCY

2 to 20 years: Boys

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Stature-for-age and Weight-for-age percentiles

RECORD # \_\_\_\_\_



Published May 30, 2000 (modified 11/21/00).



# Overview

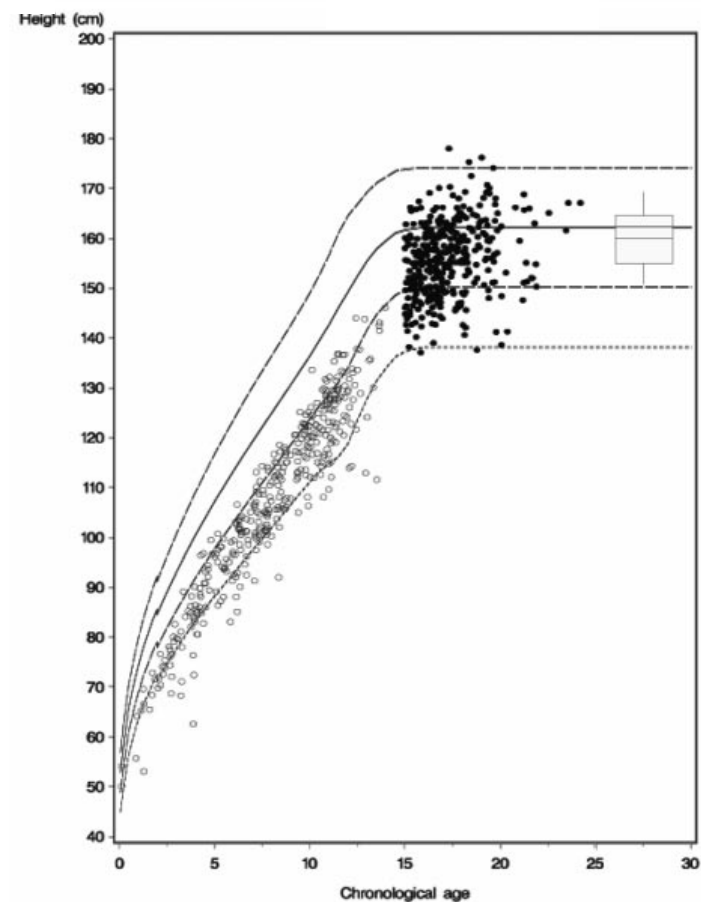
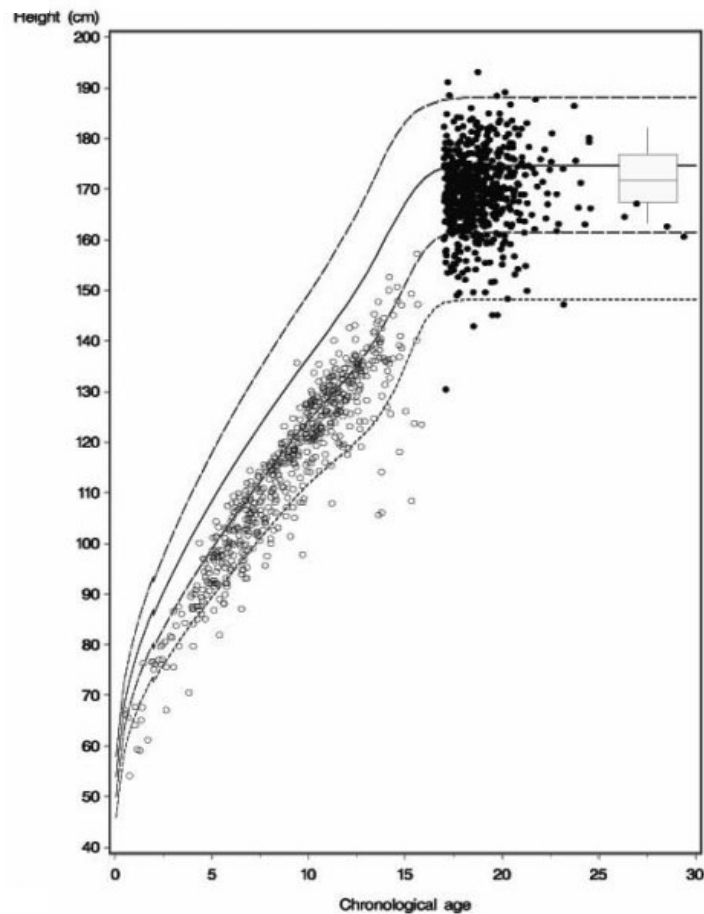
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# Objectives of GH therapy

- Normalization of height during childhood.
- Attainment of normal adult height.

Starting height (E) and near-adult height (F) after GH treatment in male (A; n505) and female (B; n331) Caucasian children with idiopathic GHD. The curves represent means (solid lines), 2 SD (broken lines), and 4 SD (dotted lines). Box plots represent medians and 25th and 75th percentiles, with whiskers at the 10th and 90th percentiles.



# Adult height in GHD patients treated with GH

**Adult height achieved at the end of therapy according to literature**

- Height: -0.7 to -1.3 SDS
- Height corrected for MPH: -0.4 to -0.6 SDS

**Predictive factors:**

- Height at initiation of GH therapy
- Age at initiation of GH therapy
- Treatment duration
- Height velocity during first year of treatment
- GH dose
- Baseline IGF-I levels
- Compliance
- Appropriate replacement therapy of associated pituitary deficiencies (such as thyroid hormone and glucocorticoids)

# Gains in final height for children treated with somatropin compared with untreated children

- Growth hormone deficiency 8–11 cm
- Turner syndrome approx. 7 cm
- CRI 3–9 cm
- Prader–Willi syndrome 10–11 cm + statistically significant changes in measures of body composition
- SGA approx. 6 cm favorable changes in measures of body composition
- ISS approx. 4 cm

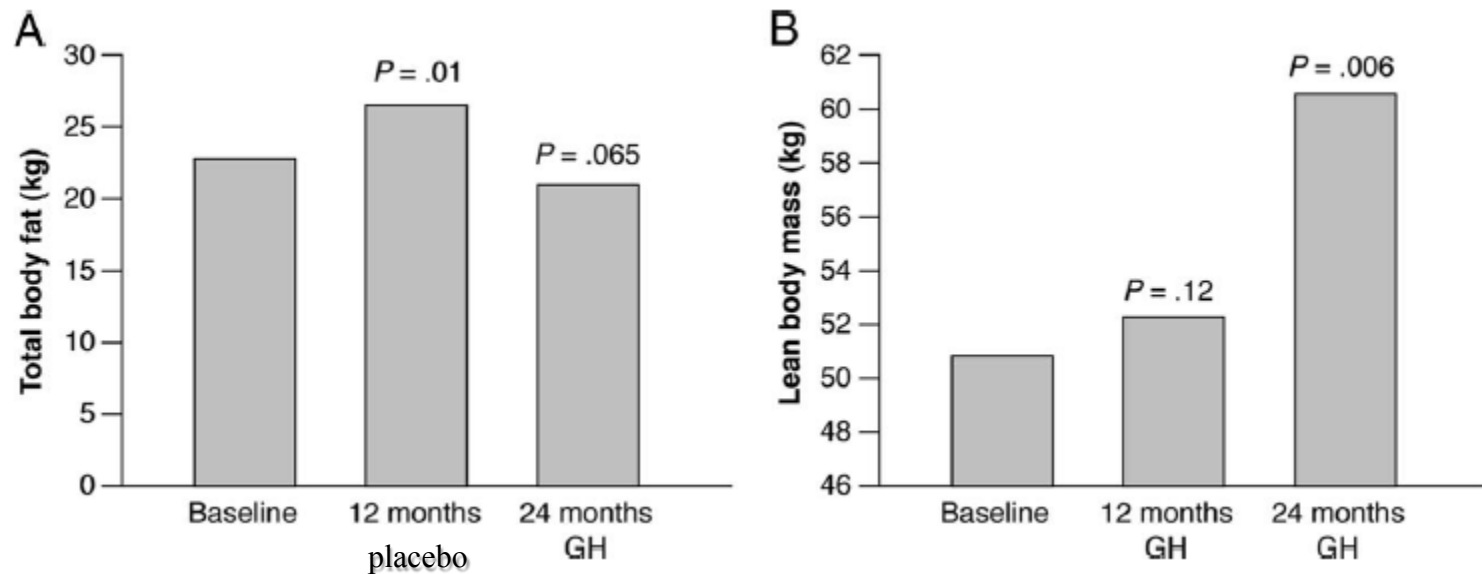
# Cost per centimetre gained in final height

- £6000 per cm final height for growth hormone deficiency;
  - from £15,800 to £17,300 per cm for Turner syndrome;
  - from £7400 to £24,100 per cm for CRI;
  - approximately £7030 per cm for Prader–Willi syndrome.
- 
- *Approximately €25000 for SGA.*
  - *Approximately €27000 for ISS.*

# Other beneficial effects of GH therapy

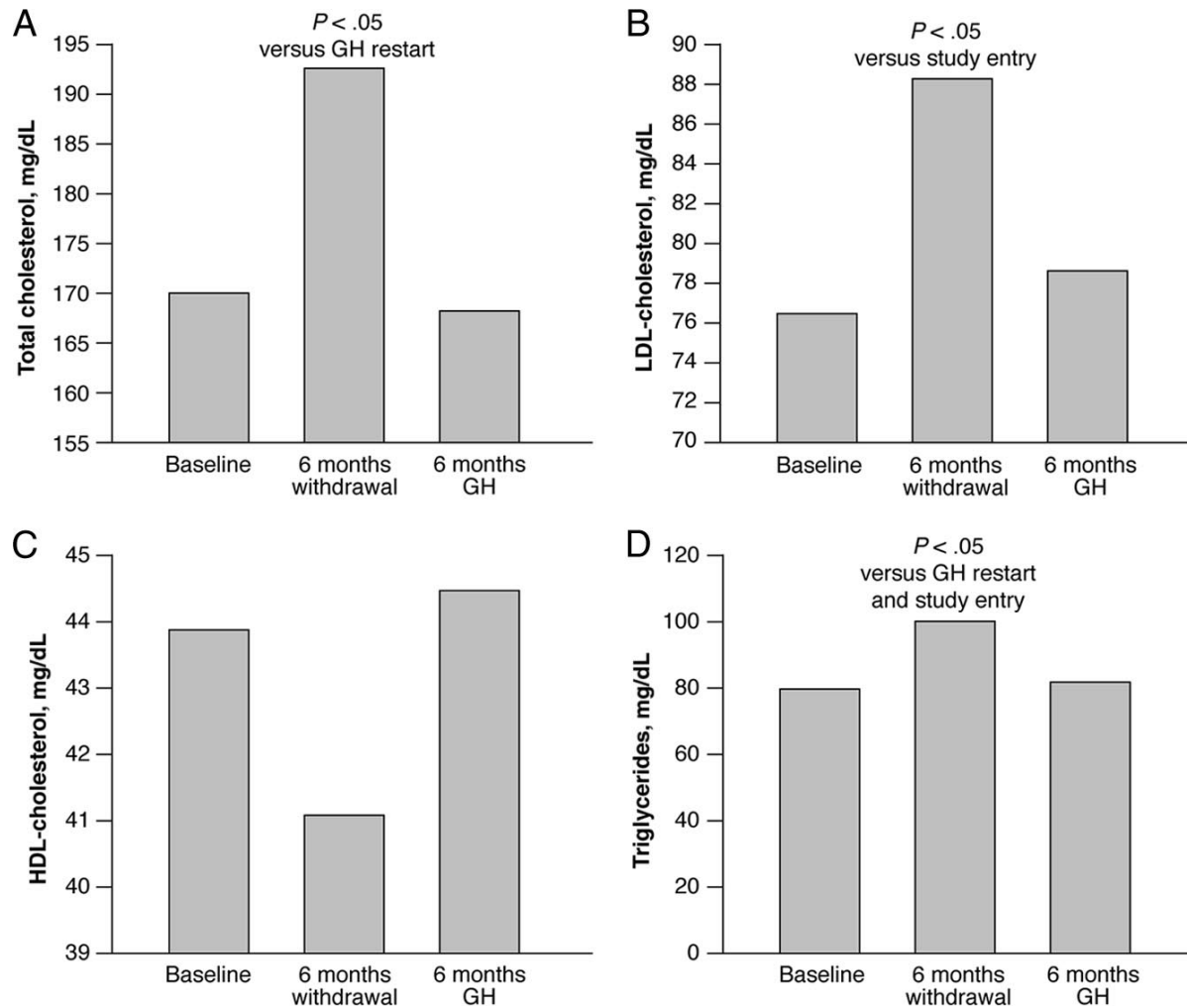
- Body composition
- Bone mineralization
- Lipid profile
- Quality of life??

# Total body fat (A) and LBM (B) as assessed from dual-energy radiograph absorptiometry scan at baseline, and after 12 months of placebo followed by 12 months of GH treatment in young adults with GHD





# Lipid levels in 10 adolescent patients with GHD at study entry, 6 months after withdrawal of GH, and 6 months after GH replacement was restarted.



# QOL related issues

**Table 1.** Stature-related stereotypes

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Children and adults with SS are treated poorly because of their stature

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Children and adults with SS experience poor psychosocial adjustment

---

Children and adults with SS do less well at school/attain less education

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Adults with SS hold lower-status occupations and are paid less

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Short men are less physically attractive and desirable to women

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Adapted from Sandberg and Colman [18].

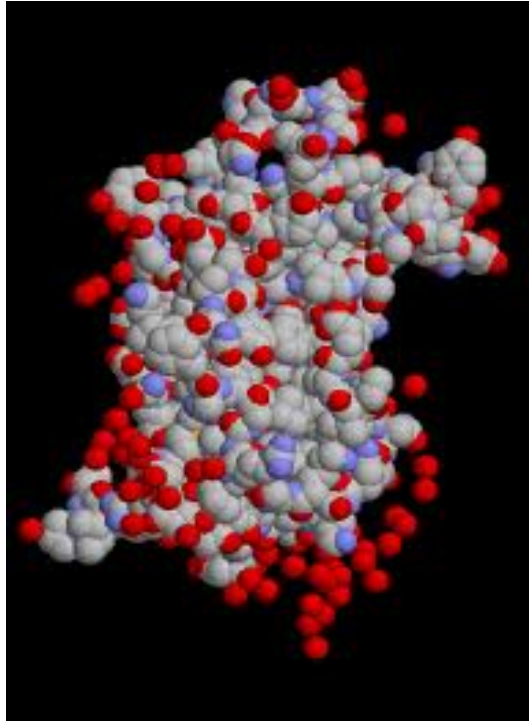
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# Overview

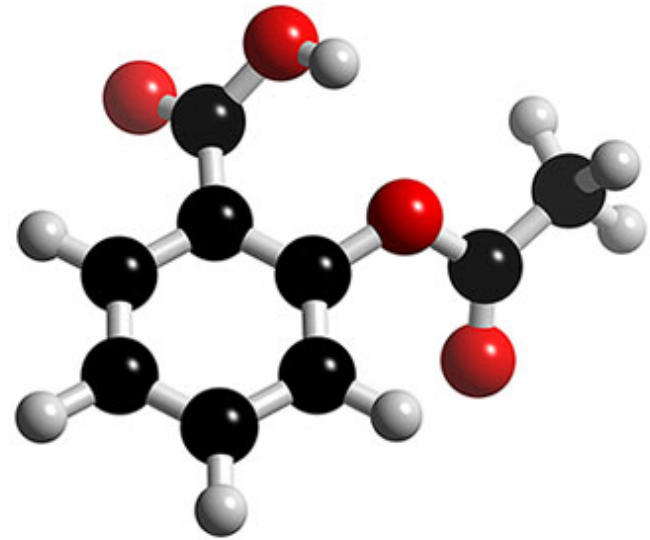
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- **New molecules**
- New safety issues

# Biopharmaceuticals are large molecules



Growth Hormone



Aspirin

# Definition of *Biosimilar (similar) biological medicinal product (biosimilar BMP)*

- A medicinal product developed by a new manufacturer and claimed to be similar to a known ('reference') BMP.
- A biosimilar BMP contains the same active substance as the reference BMP and is intended to be used for treating the same disease(s), at the same dose and using the same route of administration.

# Global market size of biopharmaceuticals with expiring patents

Drug	Global market size (US\$ bn, 2002)
Epoetins	8.4
Insulins	4.4
Interferon- $\alpha$	4.0
Colony-stimulating factors	2.7
Interferon- $\beta$	2.4
<b>Growth hormones</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Follicle-stimulating hormones	0.8

Reuters Business Insight healthcare report, 2003.

# EU Biosimilars Approvals, Status February 25, 2009.

Biosimilar Product	Company	INN	Reference Product	Date of Approval
Omnitrope	Sandoz	Somatropin	Genotropin	April 12, 2006
Valtropin	Biopartners	Somatropin	Humatrope	April 24, 2006
Binocrit	Sandoz	Epoetin alfa	Erypo/Eprex	August 28, 2007
Epoetin alfa Hexal	Hexal	Epoetin alfa	Erypo/Eprex	August 28, 2007
Abseamed	Medice	Epoetin alfa	Erypo/Eprex	August 28, 2007
Silapo	Stada	Epoetin zeta	Erypo/Eprex	December 18, 2007
Retacrit	Hospira	Epoetin zeta	Erypo/Eprex	December 18, 2007
Ratiograstim	Ratiopharm	Filgrastim	Neupogen	September 15, 2008
Tevagrastim	Teva	Filgrastim	Neupogen	September 15, 2008
Biograstim	CT Arzneimittel	Filgrastim	Neupogen	September 15, 2008
Filgrastim ratiopharm	Ratiopharm	Filgrastim	Neupogen	September 15, 2008
Zarzio	Sandoz	Filgrastim	Neupogen	February 6, 2009
Filgrastim Hexal	Hexal	Filgrastim	Neupogen	February 6, 2009

# Budget cuts

- A recent estimation by the Congressional Budget Office estimates that enactment of biosimilars legislation would reduce total U.S. expenditures on biologicals by **\$25 billion over the 2009–2018 period**, with competition beginning for most products not before the second half of this period. This would equal about 0.5% of national spending on all prescribed medicines.



# Warning

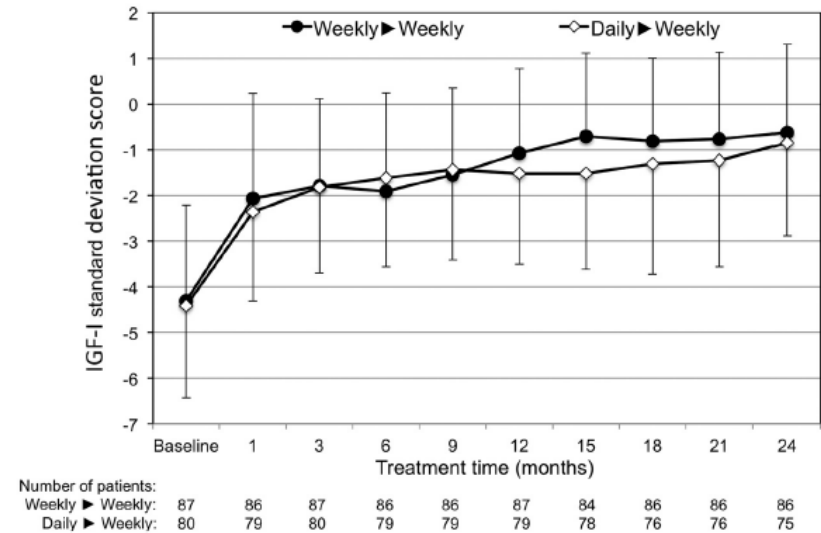
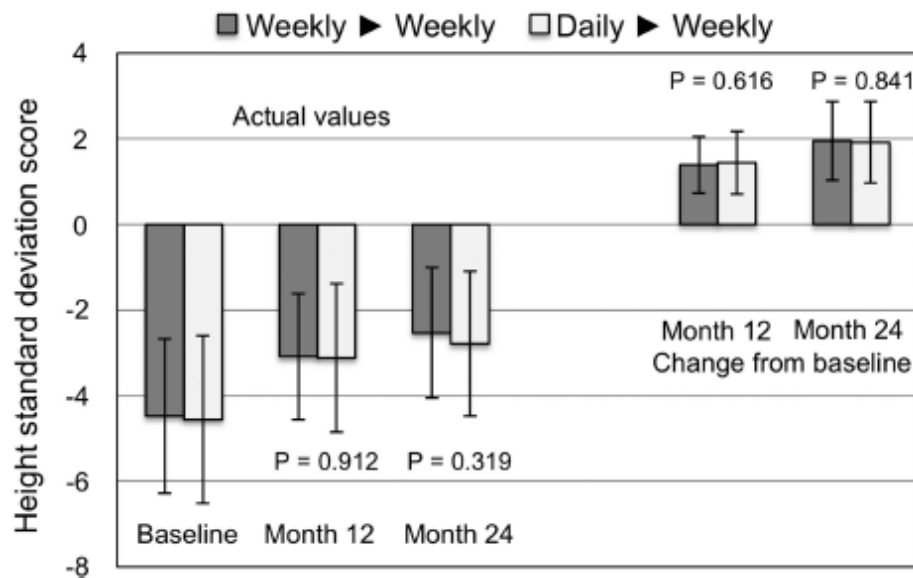
- The efficacy is demonstrated in therapeutic equivalence trial(s), the safety of a biosimilar BMP *may differ from that of its reference BMP* due to differences in the quality attributes of both products, which may or may not have been apparent during the quality comparability exercise.
- Because such differences may have unforeseeable clinical consequences, *the clinical safety of a new biosimilar BMP must be extensively evaluated both before and after marketing authorization.*

# Interchangeability and Substitution

- Detected or undetected differences between the biosimilar and the reference BMP may cause differences in safety or the efficacy profile.
- Considering that these differences may not be observed until more experience with these biosimilar BMPs is acquired, a systematic and uncontrolled substitution, does not appear reasonable at this time.
- In principle it is not recommended to switch patients from one BMP to another. There is no reason to depart from this recommendation for a biosimilar product.
- Since biosimilar and biological reference medicines are not identical, EMEA recommends that the decision to treat a patient with a reference or a biosimilar medicine should be taken following the opinion of a qualified healthcare professional [*EMEA, Questions and Answers on biosimilar medicines (similar biological medicinal products), EMEA/74562/2006, 2007*]. Automated substitution of biopharmaceuticals (including biosimilars) on the pharmacy level has been excluded by legal or administrative regulations in several European countries.

# 24-Month Use of Once-Weekly GH, LBo3002, in Prepubertal Children with GH Deficiency

J Clin Endocrin Metab. First published ahead of print October 29, 2013 as doi:10.1210/jc.2013-2502



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# SAGHE

Safety and Appropriateness of  
Growth Hormone treatments in  
Europe



# EUROPE



# All-causes mortality – exposure to growth hormone

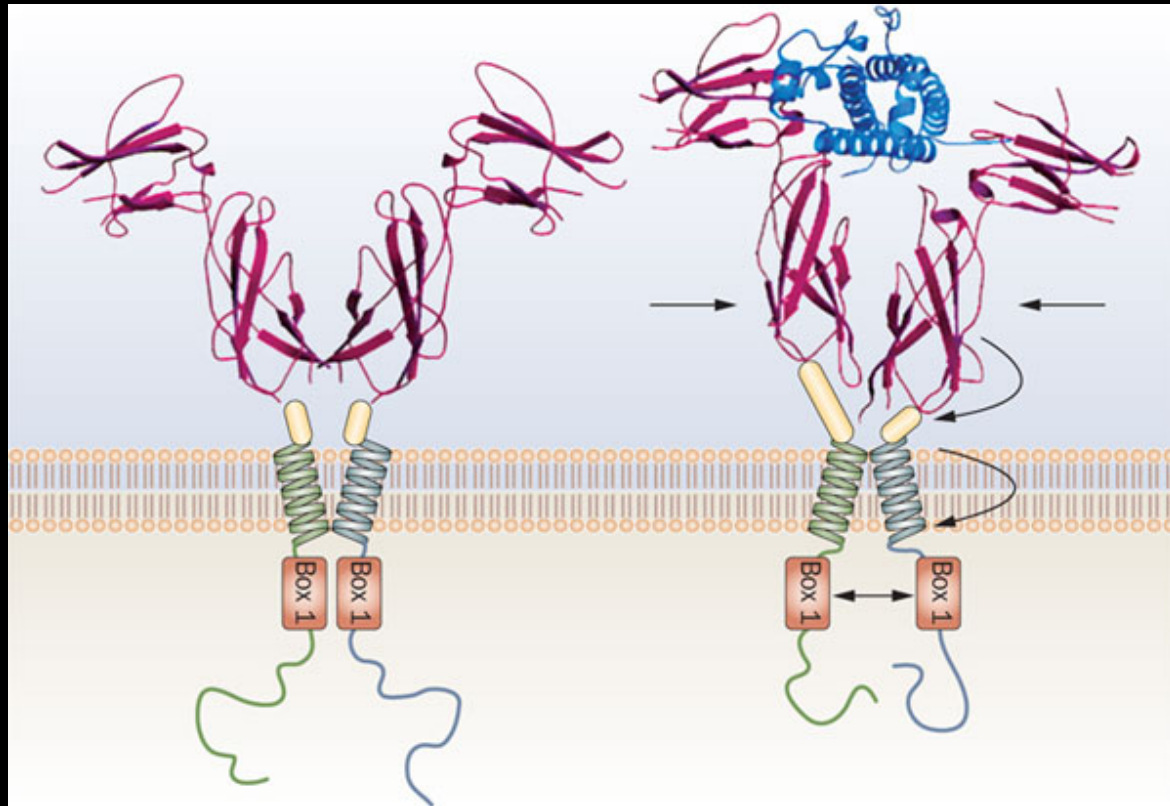
	Observed	Expected*	SMR	(95% CI)
Overall	93	69.67	1.33	(1.08 - 1.64)
Mean growth hormone dose ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{day}$ )				
0 - 20 (n = 2277)	32	29.77	1.07	(0.74 - 1.52)
20 - 30 (n = 3196)	35	29.07	1.20	(0.84 - 1.67)
30 - 50 (n = 578)	5	3.54	1.41	(0.45 - 3.29)
>50 (n = 285)	6	1.76	3.41	(1.25 - 7.43)
Treatment duration (years)				
0 - 2 (n = 1467)	29	15.87	1.83	(1.22 - 2.62)
2 - 4 (n = 2650)	36	29.72	1.21	(0.85 - 1.68)
>4 (n = 2285)	26	21.12	1.23	(0.80 - 1.80)

<b>France</b>	<b>Neoplasms</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>SMR (95% CI)</b>
	<b>Malignant neoplasm of bone and articular cartilage</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>5.00 (1.01-14.61)</b>
	<b>Cerebrovascular diseases</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>5.29 (1.42-13.55)</b>

<b>Sweden, The Netherlands, Belgium</b>	<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>Number of deaths</b>
	<b>Traffic accident</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Accident</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Suicide</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Homicide</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Poisoning</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Pneumonia</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Other Endocrine Dysfunction</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Primary cardiomyopathy</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Immune deficiency</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Coagulation defect</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Cancer</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Cerebrovascular diseases</b>	<b>0</b>



# Model for the activation of the growth hormone receptor by growth hormone



Brooks, A. J. & Waters, M. J.

The growth hormone receptor: mechanism of activation and clinical implications  
*Nat. Rev. Endocrinol.* doi:10.1038/nrendo.2010.123