

Acute progressive weight gain,  
impending apnea and more.

Dr. Ahmad Amer



# The Case

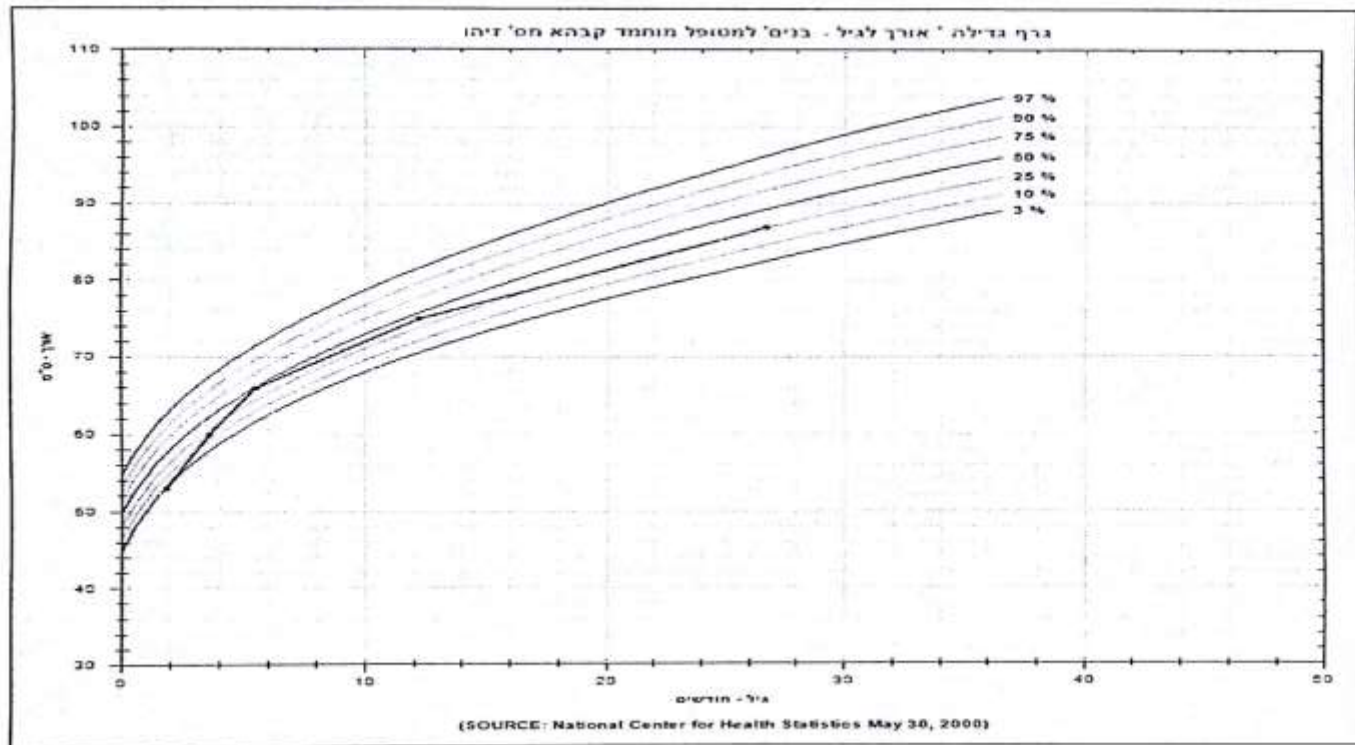
## History -

- M. is a Generally healthy 4 years old boy.
- Rapid weight gain in the last 6 months.
- Referred urgently to the ER after an SMA showed  
Hypernatremia of 182 mEq/L

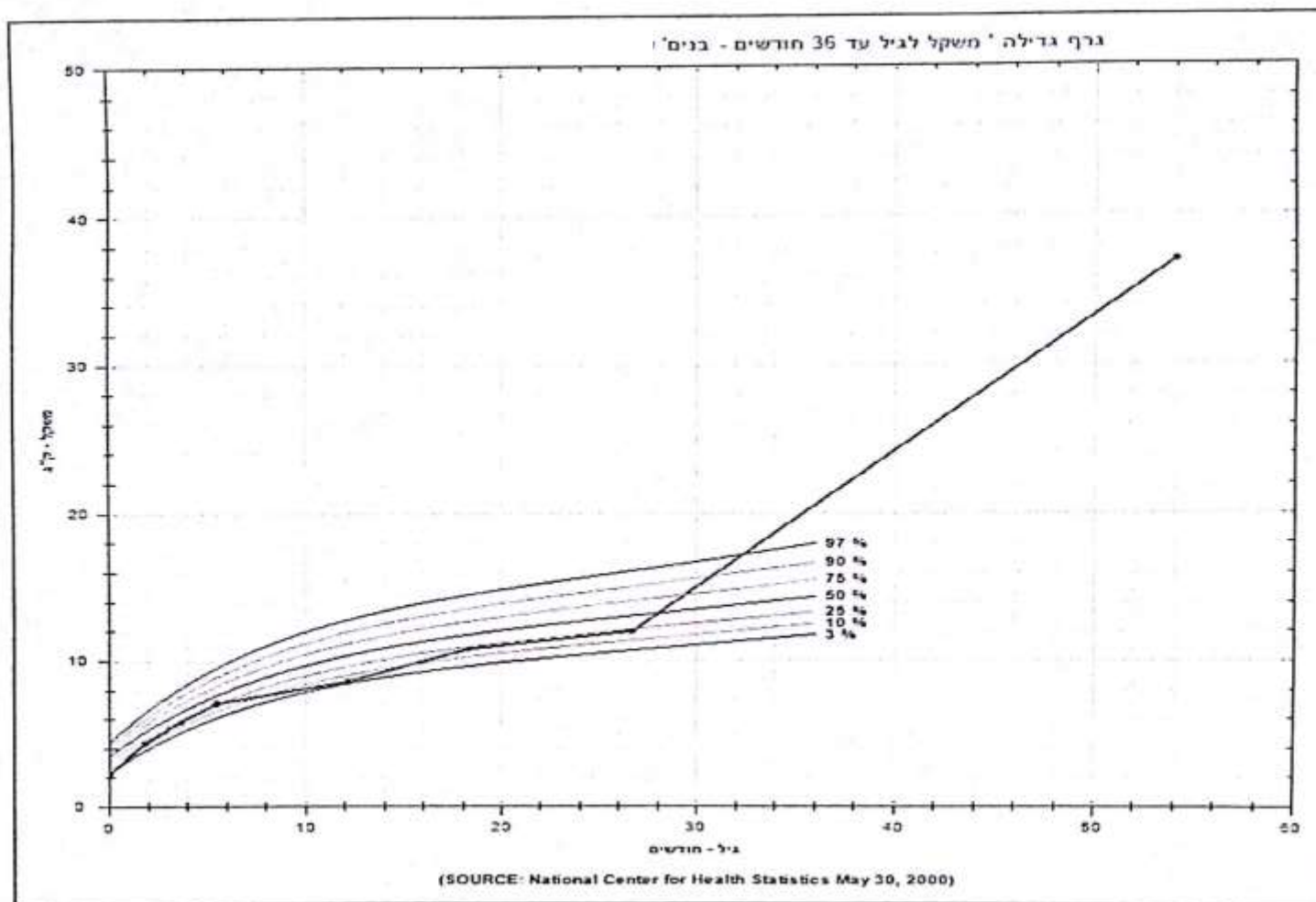
## Physical -

- The child was well appearing, severely overweight, easily irritated.
- Elevated BP, Mild Tachycardia, slow pupil response to light.

# Length/height-for-age



# Weight For Age





# SMA

Na<sup>+</sup> : 177  
K<sup>+</sup>: 4.33  
Urea : 62  
Creatinine : 1.17  
Uric Acid : 10.7

25/09/2016 - 22:42	אישור תשובה :	לקיחה :	הזמנה : 7051298
**** דו"ח זה מכיל תוצאות פניקה ****			

## בדיקות כימיה בדם

הערות	טווח	ת. ייחוס	יחידות	תוצאה	בדיקה
	[.....]*	65 - 110	mg/dl	119	Glucose - B
	[.....]*	15 - 36	mg/dl	62	Urea - B
	[.....]*	136.0 - 145.0	mmol/L	177.4	Sodium - B
	[.....]*	3.40 - 4.70	mmol/L	4.33	Potassium - B
בדוק					
תוצאה מתוקנת					
	[.....]*	98 - 107	mmol/L	137	Chloride - B
	[.....]*	275 - 295	mOsm/kgH2O	372	Osmolality calculated - B
	[.....]*	0.30 - 0.60	mg/dL	1.17	Creatinine-B
	[.....]*	8.8 - 10.8	mg/dl	9.6	Calcium-B
	*[.....]	4.5 - 6.7	mg/dl	2.3	Phosphor-B
	[.....]*	2.0 - 5.5	mg/dl	10.7	Uric acid - B
	[.....]*	6.4 - 8.3	g/dl	7.3	Protein, total-B
	[.....]*	3.80 - 5.40	g/dl	4.63	Albumin - B
	[.....]*	2.2 - 4.0	g/dl	2.7	Globulin - B
	[.....]*	1.2 - 2.6	Ratio	1.7	Albumin/globulin-B
	*[.....]	0.30 - 1.10	mg/dl	0.27	Bilirubin total-B
	*[.....]	0.10 - 0.50	mg/dl	0.06	Bilirubin direct-B
	[.....]*	93 - 309	U/l	109	Alk Phosphatase - B
	[.....]*	3 - 22	U/l	44	GGT-B
	[.....]*	0 - 41	U/l	107	ALT (GPT) - B
	[.....]*	0 - 48	U/l	96	AST (GOT) - B
	[.....]*	300 - 570	U/l	1131	LD - B
הפרעה המוליטית					
	[.....]*	104 - 210	mg/dl	158	Cholesterol total-B
	[.....]*	30 - 130	mg/dl	268	Triglycerides-B
	*[.....]	43 - 65	mg/dl	23	HDL-Cholesterol-B
	*[.....]	21.0 - 65.0	%	14.6	HDL-Cholesterol %-B
	[.....]*	100 - 190	mg/dL	135	Non HDL-Cholesterol
	[.....]*	70 - 160	mg/dl	81	LDL-Chol. calcul-B
	[.....]*	1.70 - 2.10	mg/dl	2.94	Magnesium-B

- CBC – Normal.
- V. Blood Gases –PH – 7.36, PCO2 -45, Bicarb - 23.
- Urine Electrolytes –NA<sup>+</sup> 154.7, Osmolarity 934.

- To note –
- hypoventilation and bradypnea during light sedation with midazolam while acquiring blood test

# Rapid Obesity Causes

## 1. Endocrine

**Table 47-1** Endocrine and Genetic Causes of Obesity

DISEASE	SYMPTOMS	LABORATORY
<b>ENDOCRINE</b>		
Cushing syndrome	Central obesity, hirsutism, moon face, hypertension	Dexamethasone suppression test
GH deficiency	Short stature, slow linear growth	Evoked GH response, IGF-1
Hyperinsulinism	Nesidioblastosis, pancreatic adenoma, hypoglycemia, Mauriac syndrome	Insulin level
Hypothyroidism	Short stature, weight gain, fatigue, constipation, cold intolerance, myxedema	TSH, FT <sub>4</sub>
Pseudohypoparathyroidism	Short metacarpals, subcutaneous calcifications, dysmorphic facies, mental retardation, short stature, hypocalcemia, hyperphosphatemia	Urine cAMP after synthetic PTH infusion



# Rapid Obesity Causes

## 2. Genetic

### GENETIC

Alstrom syndrome	Cognitive impairment, retinitis pigmentosa, diabetes mellitus, hearing loss, hypogonadism, retinal degeneration	<i>ALMS1</i> gene
Bardet-Biedl syndrome	Retinitis pigmentosa, renal abnormalities, polydactyly, hypogonadism	<i>BBS1</i> gene
Biemond syndrome	Cognitive impairment, iris coloboma, hypogonadism, polydactyly	
Carpenter syndrome	Polydactyly, syndactyly, cranial synostosis, mental retardation	Mutations in the <i>RAB23</i> gene, located on chromosome 6 in humans
Cohen syndrome	Mid-childhood-onset obesity, short stature, prominent maxillary incisors, hypotonia, mental retardation, microcephaly, decreased visual activity	Mutations in the <i>VPS13B</i> gene (often called the <i>COH1</i> gene) at locus 8q22
Deletion 9q34	Early-onset obesity, mental retardation, brachycephaly, synophrys, prognathism, behavior and sleep disturbances	Deletion 9q34
Down syndrome	Short stature, dysmorphic facies, mental retardation	Trisomy 21
<i>ENPP1</i> gene mutations	Insulin resistance, childhood obesity	Gene mutation on chromosome 6q
Fröhlich syndrome	Hypothalamic tumor	
<i>FTO</i> gene polymorphism	Dysregulation of orexigenic hormone acyl-ghrelin, poor postprandial appetite suppression	Homozygous for <i>FTO</i> AA allele
Leptin or leptin receptor gene deficiency	Early-onset severe obesity, infertility (hypogonadotropic hypogonadism)	Leptin
Melanocortin 4 receptor gene mutation	Early-onset severe obesity, increased linear growth, hyperphagia, hyperinsulinemia	<i>MC4R</i> mutation
Prader-Willi Syndrome	Most common known genetic cause of obesity Homozygous worse than heterozygous Neonatal hypotonia, slow infant growth, small hands and feet, mental retardation, hypogonadism, hyperphagia leading to severe obesity, paradoxically elevated ghrelin	Partial deletion of chromosome 15 or loss of paternally expressed genes
Proopiomelanocortin deficiency	Obesity, red hair, adrenal insufficiency, hyperproinsulinemia	Loss-of-function mutations of the <i>POMC</i> gene
Rapid-onset obesity with hypothalamic dysfunction, hypoventilation, and autonomic dysregulation (ROHHAD)	Often confused with congenital central hypoventilation syndrome (CCHS), presentation $\geq 1.5$ yr with weight gain, hyperphagia, hypoventilation, cardiac arrest, central diabetes insipidus, hypothyroidism, growth hormone deficiency, pain insensitivity, hypothermia, precocious puberty, neural crest tumors	Unknown genes May be a paraneoplastic disorder
Turner syndrome	Ovarian dysgenesis, lymphedema, web neck, short stature, cognitive impairment	XO chromosome

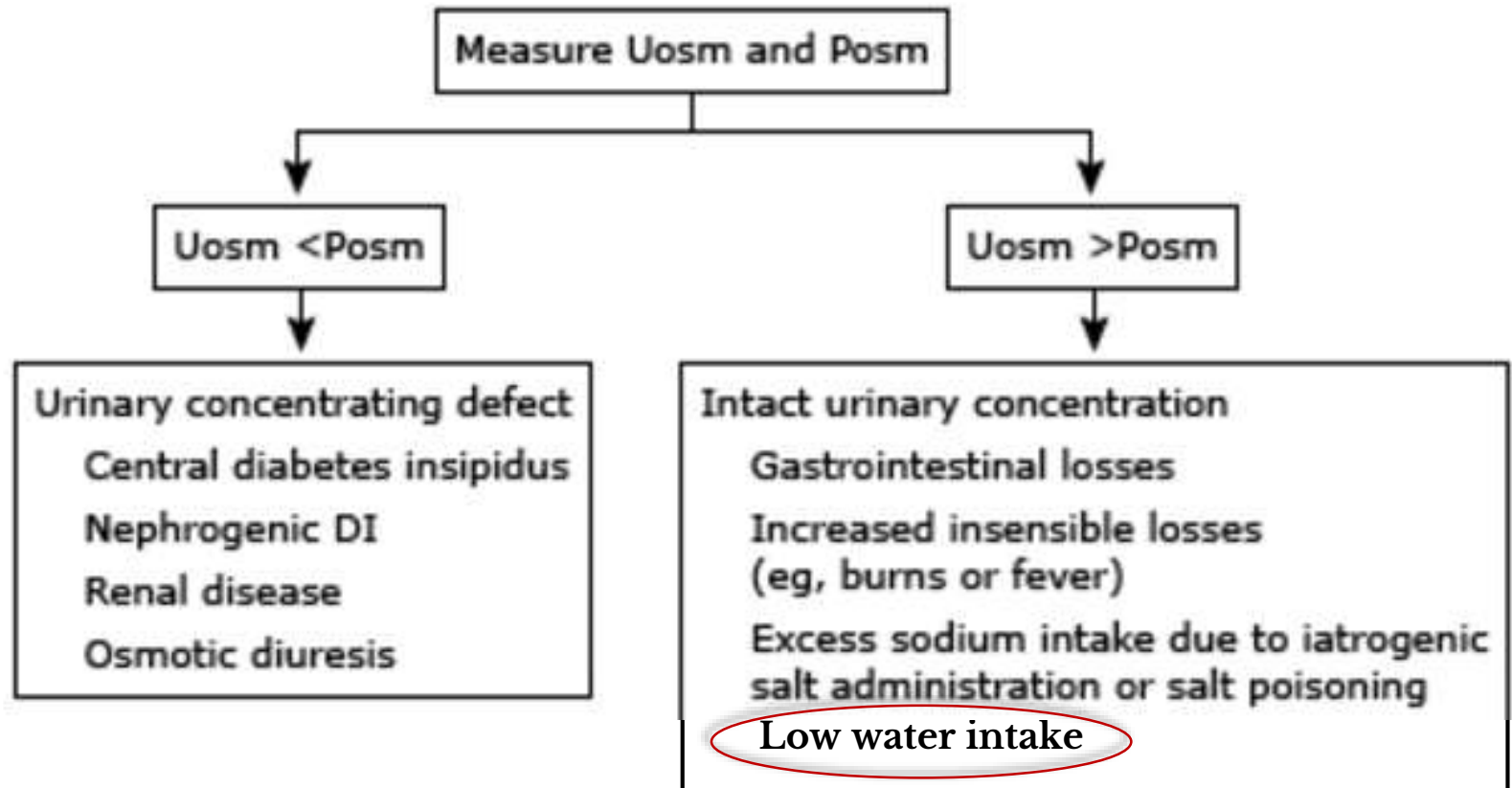
DDx

# Hypernatremia

Urine Osmolarity:  
934



Plasma Osmolarity :  $(2 \times (\text{Na} + \text{K})) + (\text{BUN} / 2.8) + (\text{glucose} / 18)$ :  
375





Rapid Obesity and Hypernatremia



All

Images

News

Videos

Maps

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Search tools

About 924,000 results (0.55 seconds)

## Scholarly articles for **Rapid Obesity and Hypernatremia**

**Rapid-onset obesity** with hypothalamic dysfunction, ... - Ize-Ludlow - Cited by 94

Endocrine manifestations of the **rapid-onset obesity** ... - Bougneres - Cited by 52

... venovenous hemodiafiltration in **hypernatremic** ... - Lin - Cited by 21

## Rapid-onset Obesity with Hypothalamic Dysfunction, Hypoventilation ...

<https://rarediseases.org/.../rapid-onset-obesity-with-hypothalamic-dysfunction-hypove...> ▾

This **rapid-onset obesity** is considered a sign of hypothalamic dysfunction .... If **hypernatremic** dehydration is found, formal testing of antidiuretic hormone ...

Synonyms · Subdivisions · General Discussion · Signs & Symptoms

## ROHHAD - Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ROHHAD> ▾

**Rapid-onset Obesity** with Hypothalamic dysfunction, Hypoventilation and Autonomic ... Failed Growth Hormone Stimulation;; Adipsic **hypernatremia** (inability to feel thirst to keep normal hydration);; **Hypernatremia**:: Hyperprolactinemia; ...

Pathogenesis · Symptoms · Prognosis and treatment · See also

## ROHHAD Syndrome: Reasons for Diagnostic Difficulties in Obesity

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> ▸ NCBI ▸ Literature ▸ PubMed Central (PMC)

by P Kocaay - 2014 - Cited by 2 - Related articles

Dec 5, 2014 - Features matching ROHHAD syndrome such as **rapid-onset obesity**, ... phenomenon and hypothalamic **hypernatremia** were detected in the ...

# Connecting The Dots

- Rapid Obesity
- Hypothalamic Dysfunction - Impaired hunger and thirst mechanisms
- Autonomic Dysregulation - Hyperhidrosis + Tachycardia + Cold extremities

**ROHHAD  
Syndrome**

# ROHHAD

```
graph TD; ROHHAD --> RO[Rapid Obesity]; ROHHAD --> HD[Hypothalamic Dysfunction]; ROHHAD --> HV[Hypoventilation (central)]; ROHHAD --> AD[Autonomic Dysregulation];
```

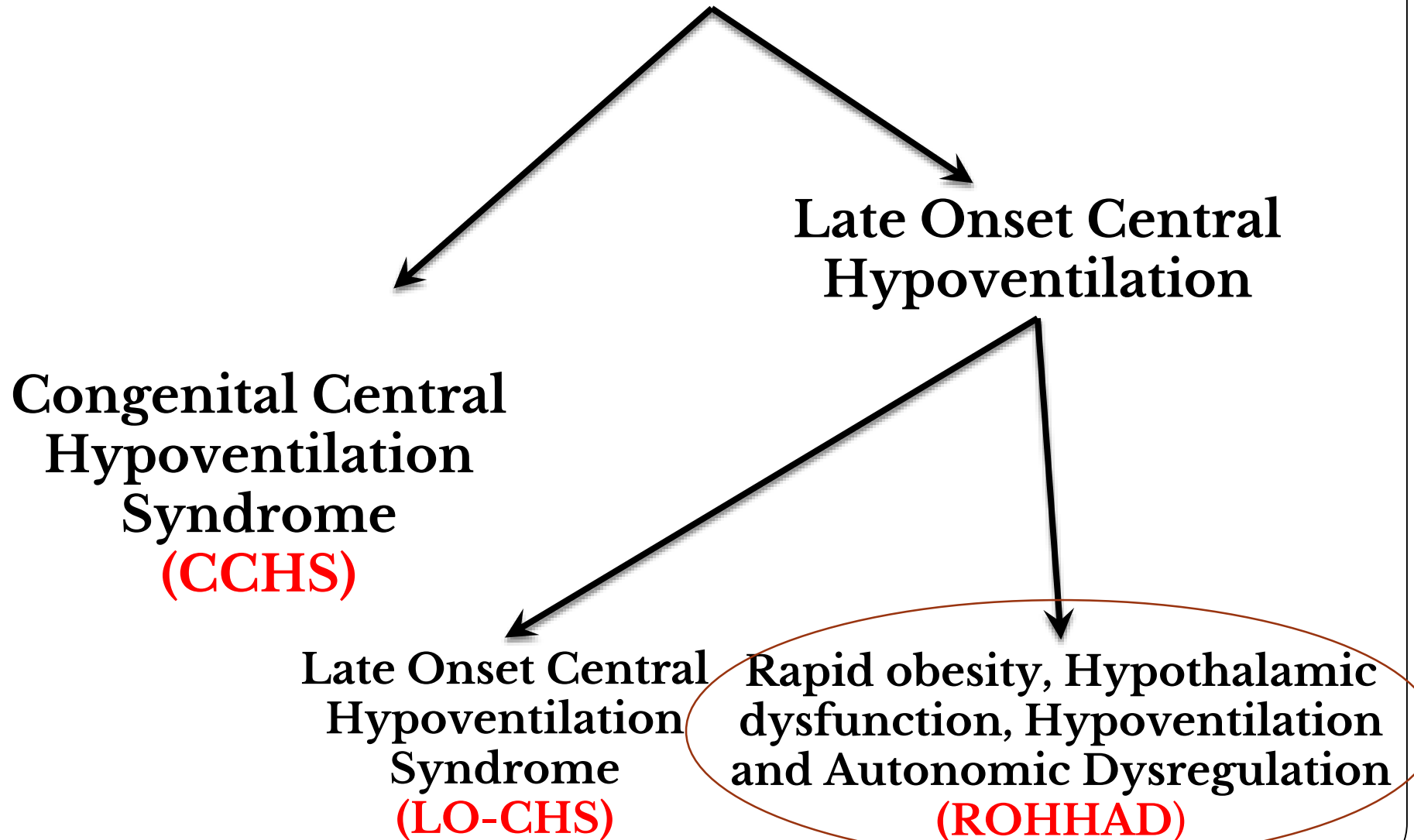
**Rapid  
Obesity**

**Hypothalamic  
Dysfunction**

**Hypoventilation  
(central)**

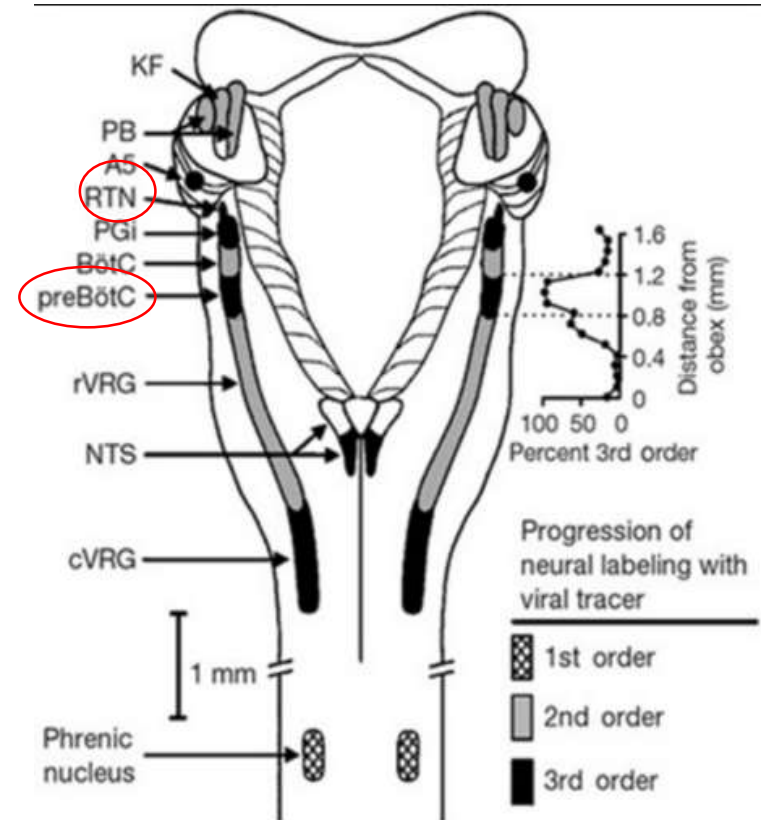
**Autonomic  
Dysregulation**

# Central Hypoventilation Syndromes



# Genetics of Central Hypoventilation

- All about the PHOX2b (paired-like homeobox 2B gene).
- Located on chrom. 4p12
- The *PHOX2B* gene is expressed in both CNS and PNS.
- The retrotrapezoid nucleus (RTN)
- Hirshprung, Cardiac and ophthalmic





# ROHHAD Syndrome - History



**TABLE 2.—Summary of Reported Symptoms of LO-CHS/HD in 11 Patients<sup>1</sup>**

Symptom	No.	%
Obesity	11	100
Hyperphagia	10	91
Hypernatremia	6	55
Hypothyroidism	6	55
GH deficiency	6	55
Diabetes insipidus	2	18
Hyperprolactinemia	5	45
Hypodipsia	3	27
Thermal dysregulation	3	27
Hypogonadism	4	36
Precocious puberty	2	18
Mood disorder	7	64
SIADH	1	8
Strabismus	3	27
Pain hyposensitivity	5	45
Pupillary anomalies	3	27
Central apnea	3	27
Decreased ventilatory response to CO <sub>2</sub>	6 of 6 tested	100

Late-Onset Central Hypoventilation With Hypothalamic Dysfunction: A Distinct Clinical Syndrome

Elie S. Katz, MD, Sharon McGrath, MD, and Carlos L. Marcus, MD<sup>1</sup>

Pediatric Pulmonology 29:62–68 (2000)

## PEDIATRICS®

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

**Idiopathic Hypothalamic Dysfunction and Impaired Control of Breathing**  
 S. KENT DURIVAGE, ROBERT J. WINTER, ROBERT T. BROUILLETTE, CARL E. HUNT and ZEHAVA NOAH  
*Pediatrics* 1985;75:896

**TABLE. Pertinent Findings in Four Children with Hypothalamic Syndrome and Associated Central Hypoventilation**

	Present Case 1	Present Case 2	Case of Hayek and Peake <sup>1</sup>	Case of Fishman et al, <sup>2</sup>
Age at onset (yr)	3½	5	5	3½
Hypernatremia	Present	Present	Present	Absent
Obesity	Present	Present	Present	Present
Prolactin	Increased	Increased	Increased	Not reported
Thyroid-stimulating hormone response to thyrotropin-releasing hormone	Not tested	Increased	Absent	Not tested
Central hypoventilation	Present	Present	Absent	Present
Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism	Present	Present	Not reported	Not reported
Absent adrenarche	Present	Present	Not reported	Not reported

# ROHHAD

## Large Case Reviews

# PEDIATRICS®

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

**2007**

**15 Cases**

**PHOX2B, NTRK2  
and BDNF**

### **Rapid-Onset Obesity With Hypothalamic Dysfunction, Hypoventilation, and Autonomic Dysregulation Presenting in Childhood**

Diego Ize-Ludlow, Juliette A. Gray, Mark A. Sperling, Elizabeth M. Berry-Kravis, Jeff M. Milunsky, I. Sadaf Farooqi, Casey M. Rand and Debra E. Weese-Mayer

*Pediatrics* 2007;120:e179

DOI: 10.1542/peds.2006-3324

**2008**

**13 Cases**

**PHOX2B, ASCL1,  
and NECDIN**

### **Delineation of Late Onset Hypoventilation Associated with Hypothalamic Dysfunction Syndrome**

LOIC DE PONTUAL, DELPHINE TROCHET, SOPHIE CAILLAT-ZUCMAN, OTHMAN A. ABOU SHENAB, PIERRE BOUGNERES, YANICK CROW, STEVE CUNNINGHAM, BLANDINE ESTEVA, LADA CINDRO HEBERLE, JULIANE LEGER, GRAZIELLA PINTO, MICHEL POLAK, MAGDY HELMY SHAFIK, CHRISTIAN STRAUS, HA TRANG, ARNOLD MUNNICH, STANISLAS LYONNET, ISABELLE DESGUERRE, AND JEANNE AMIEL

0031-3998/08/6406-0689

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH

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# ROHHAD

## Methods

- 23 identified of them 15 children had comprehensive medical charts and were included. 6 male subjects and 9 female subjects.
- Criteria:
  - onset of **alveolar hypoventilation** after the age of 2 years (a must!!) and evidence of HD, as defined by 1 of the following findings
    - Rapid onset obesity
    - Hyperprolactinemia
    - central hypothyroidism
    - disordered water balance
    - failed growth hormone stimulation test
    - corticotropin deficiency
    - delayed or precocious puberty.
- 9 had respiratory studies as well.
- 15 were genetically tested for PHOX2B and 11 for candidate genes *NTRK2* and *BDNF*.

# 1. Hypothalamic Dysfunction

## Study

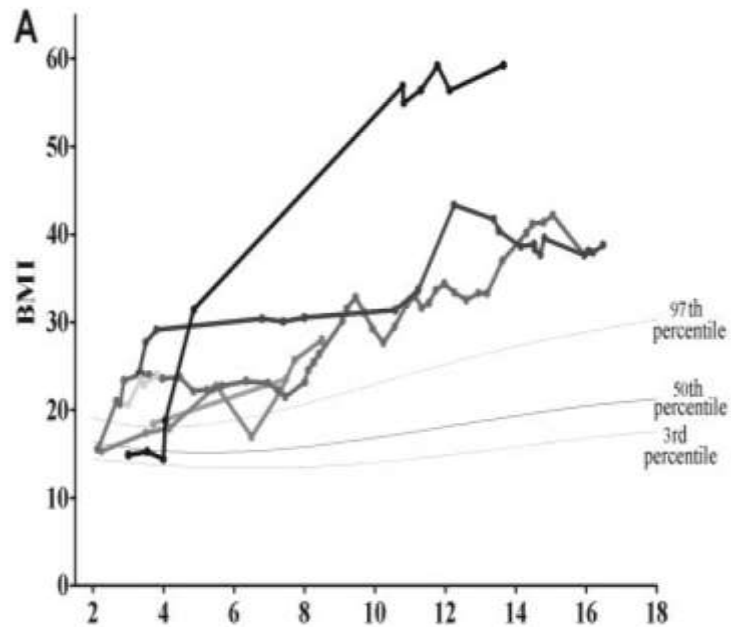
Finding	Rate	Presenting
Rapid-onset obesity	15 patients (100%)	12 patients (80%)
Failed growth hormone stimulation test	9; (60%)	
Hypernatremia	7; (46%)	2; (13%)
Polydipsia	8; (53%)	1; (6%)
Hyperprolactinemia	7; (46%)	
Hyponatremia	4; (26%)	
Hypodipsia	4; (26%)	

## M.

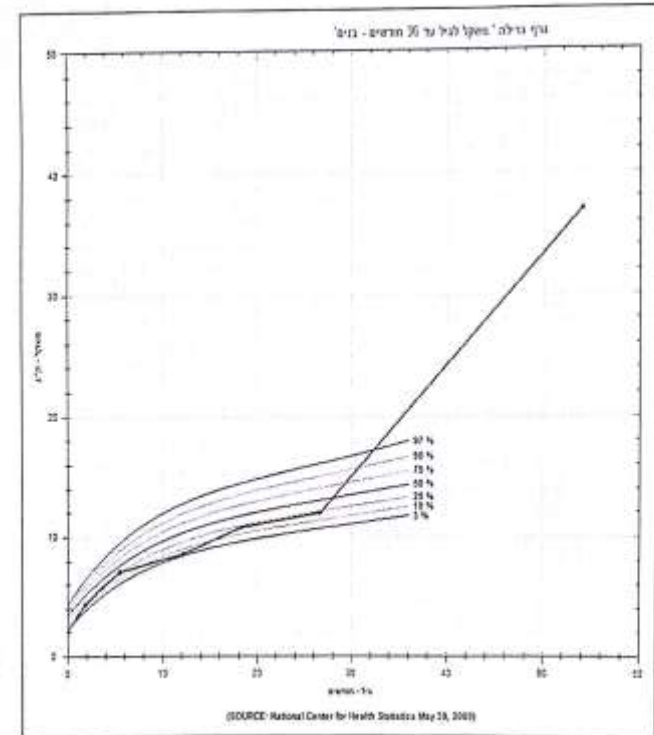
Finding	
Rapid-onset obesity	✓
Failed growth hormone stimulation test	Normal GH, Low IGF1.
Hypernatremia	✓
Polydipsia	✗
Hyperprolactinemia	✓
Hyponatremia	✗
Hypodipsia	✓

# Rapid-onset obesity

Study



M.




## 2. Respiratory Manifestation

### Study

Finding	Rate
Alveolar hypoventilation	15 patients (100%)
Cardiorespiratory arrest*	9; (60%)
Reduced carbon dioxide ventilatory response*	9; (60%)
Obstructive sleep apnea	8; (53%)
Cyanotic episodes	4; (26%)
24-hour/day artificial Ventilation*	7; (46%)

### M.

Finding	Rate
Alveolar hypoventilation	NO
CXR	Normal
Polysomnography	Normal
continuous SAT. monitoring	Normal
Hypoventilatory response to anesthesia	

### 3. Autonomic Dysregulation

#### Study

Finding	Rate
Ophthalmologic: - Pupillary dysfunction - Strabismus	13 patients (86%) 7; (46%) 8; (53%)
Thermal dysregulation	11; (73%)
Gastrointestinal dysmotility	10; (66%)
Neural crest tumors	5; (33%)

#### M

Finding	Rate
Ophthalmologic: - Pupillary dysfunction - Strabismus	✓
Cold extremities	✓
Thermal dysregulation	?
Gastrointestinal dysmotility	✗
Neural crest tumors	✗

## 4. Developmental Disorders

Finding	Rate
Developmental Delays	3; (20%)
Developmental Regression	3; (20%)

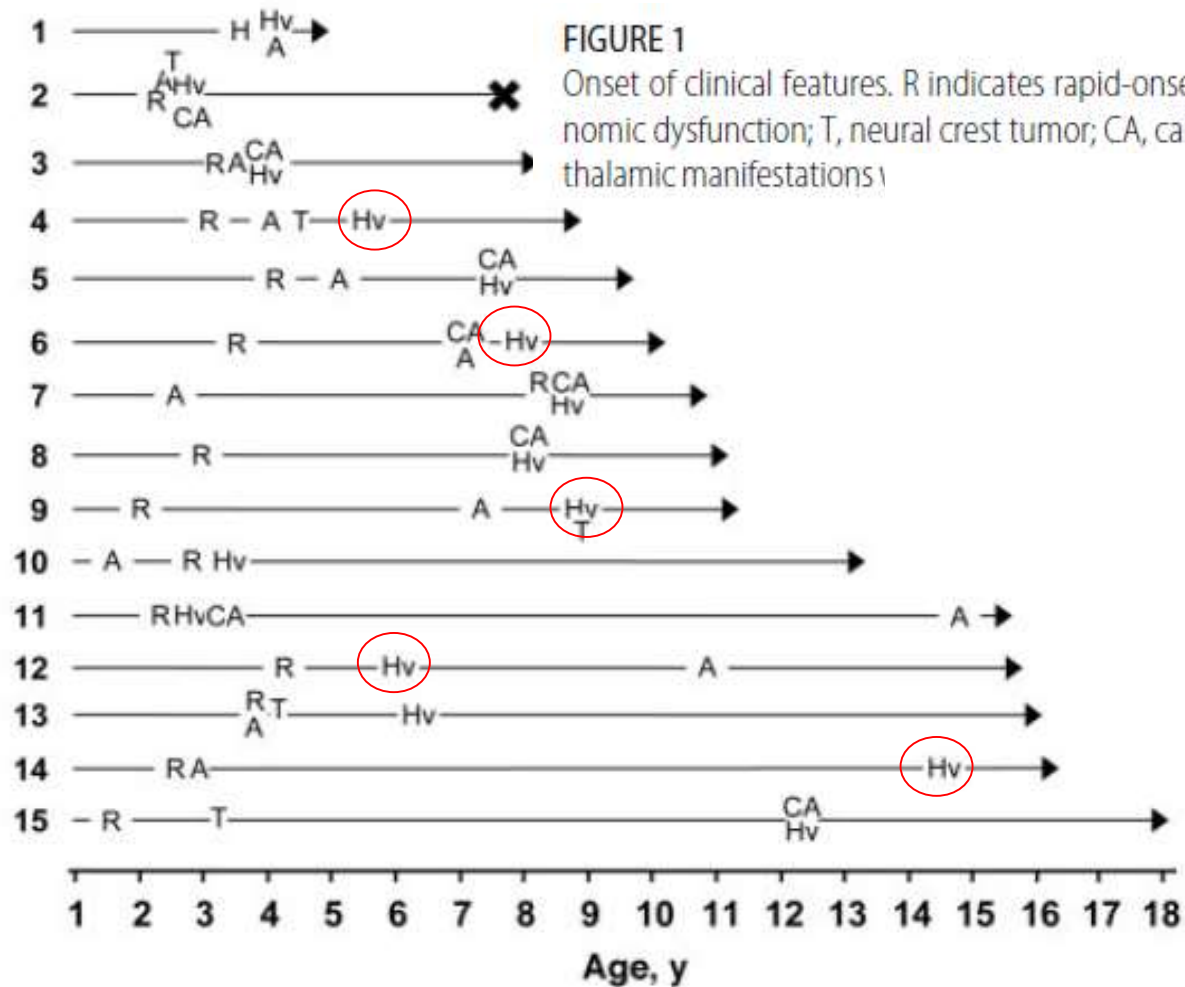
## 5. Behavioral Disorders

Finding	Rate
Developmental Delays	8; (53%)



# ROHHAD

## Timeline



# ROHHAD

## Genetic Testing

- **None** of the tested children with the LO-CHS/HD phenotype had a CCHS-related mutation in the *PHOX2B* gene.
- **No novel or rare variants** were identified in the coding regions of either *NTRK2* or *BDNF* for these patients.

## Initial Evaluation

- Evaluation of the hypothalamic-pituitary axis
- Respiratory physiologic assessment
- MRI or computed tomographic - chest and abdomen.
- Water deprivation tests- if indicated
- Brain imaging

## Follow up

- Serial respiratory assessment at 3- to 6-month intervals.
- Chest and abdominal imaging every 12 to 18 months.
  - If no tumor is identified in 10 years, then it would be reasonable to decrease the frequency of imaging to every 2 years.

# Back To our Case

Pulmonary	Hypothalamic	Autonomic	Other
<b>Hypoventilatory response to anesthesia</b>	<b>Rapid obesity</b> –Weight: 3 SD above 97% BMI. Height: 50% Perc., <b>Hyperphagic</b>	Sinus <b>Tachycardia</b> alternately. Normal ECG holter and ECHO.	Metabolic syndrome – elevated trig, elevated BP.
CXR: Normal	<b>Hypodipsic/Hybernatic</b>	Abnormal pupil response to light	Severe caries
Polysomnography :OSA, no hypoventilation	High TSH (around 6) Normal fT4	Recurrent fever with no apparent source	Adequate ventilatory response to stress test
Normal continuous SAT monitoring	<b>Hyperprolactinemia – 982 (upper limit 15).</b>	<b>Hyperhidrosis</b>	
	Normal synacthen test, Normal 24h urine cortisol.	<b>Cold extremities</b>	
	LH, FSH adequate for age.	<b>NO tumors on Chest+Abdomen CT.</b> Negative urine catecholamine.	
	Low IGF, Normal GH.		
	<b>Normal brain MRI</b>		

# Correspondence

- Prof Debra Weese-Mayer -

“we suspect that your patient is early in his ROHHAD course.”

Recommended continuous home monitoring during sleep,  
more frequent PSG (monthly).

- Prof. David Gozal

“OK to treat him as ROHADD with the concern that he may  
develop the ventilatory problems unexpectedly”

PSG at least every 6 months

## M. - Further Follow up

1. Endocrinology and Pulmonary FU.
2. Repeat Polysom. In 3 months.
3. Repeat urinary Catecholamines in 3 months.
4. Continuous Pulse oximetry during sleep
5. Strict hypocaloric diet
6. Strict hydration regime
7. Social assistance

# Possible Pathogenesis

## 1. Genetic

- paired-like homeobox 2B [PHOX2B], brain-derived neurotrophic factor [BDNF], tyrosine kinase receptor B [TRKB], achaete-scute complex-like 1 [ASCL1], Necdin [NDN], 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1A [HTR1A], orthopedia [OTP], and pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide [PACAP] – **ALL NEGATIVE.**

## 2. Paraneoplastic

- Neural crest tumors
- Similarly to what happens in opsoclonus myoclonus syndrome.
- Chronicity problem.

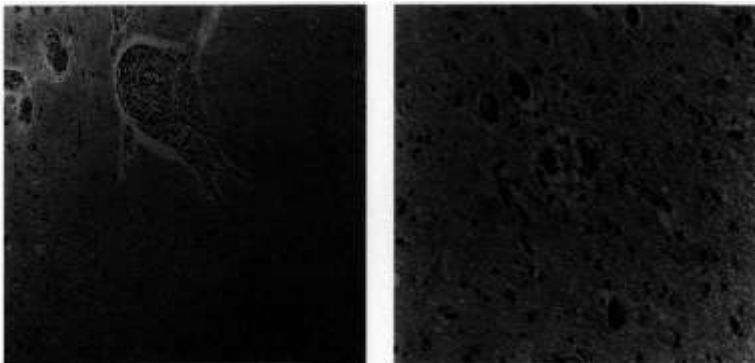
## 3. Auto-Immune

- Evidence?

# I – Pathological + Anatomical

1. Ouvrier R, Nunn K, Sprague T, et al. Idiopathic hypothalamic dysfunction: a paraneoplastic syndrome? *Lancet*. 1995;346:1298.
2. Nunn K, Ouvrier R, Sprague T, Arbuckle S, Docker M. Idiopathic hypothalamic dysfunction: a paraneoplastic syndrome? *J Child Neurol*. 1997;12:276-281.

“On microscopic examination, the brain showed a diffuse, **lymphocytic infiltration** within the hypothalamus, thalamus, and around the periaqueductal gray tissue of the midbrain and pons and around the fourth ventricle”



*Pediatric Neurology* 52 (2015) 521–525

## Pediatric Neurology

### Rapid-Onset Obesity With Hypothalamic Dysfunction, Hypoventilation, and Autonomic Dysregulation (ROHHAD) Syndrome May Have a Hypothalamus–Periaqueductal Gray Localization

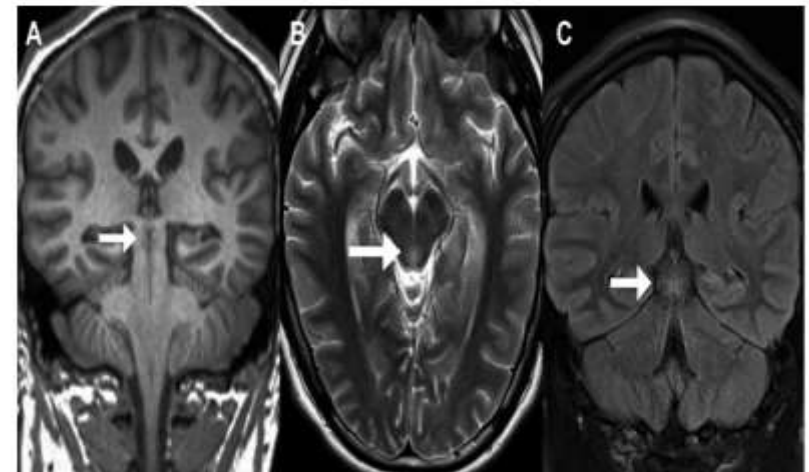


FIGURE 1.

Brain magnetic resonance imaging study at day 7 of illness demonstrating focal edema of the periaqueductal gray matter, as evidenced by hypointensity in an axial T1-weighted image (A) and hyperintensity in axial T2-weighted (B) and coronal T2 fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (C) images (white arrows).



# II – Biochemical/Immune - Oligoclonal Bands in CSF

- I. [Journal of Child Neurology](#)  
2014, Vol. 29(3) 421-425
- Intrathecal Synthesis of Oligoclonal Bands in Rapid-Onset Obesity With Hypothalamic Dysfunction, Hypoventilation, and Autonomic Dysregulation Syndrome: New Evidence Supporting Immunological Pathogenesis**
- II. [Pediatric Neurology 52 \(2015\) 521–525](#)
- [Pediatric Neurology](#)
- Rapid-Onset Obesity With Hypothalamic Dysfunction, Hypoventilation, and Autonomic Dysregulation (ROHHAD) Syndrome May Have a Hypothalamus–Periaqueductal Gray Localization**


# Possible Treatment? - I

- IVIG

## Pediatric Neurology

Volume 41, Issue 3, September 2009, Pages 232–234

### Immunoglobulin Therapy in Idiopathic Hypothalamic Dysfunction

Peter Huppke, MD\*,  , Alexander Heise, MD†, Kevin Rostasy, MD‡, Brenda Huppke, MD\*, Jutta Gärtner, MD\*

*“There was no immediate or drastic improvement during treatment with immunoglobulins, but her behavioral problems improved, an effect that was repeated when immunoglobulins were administered for a second time.”*

Table 1.

Clinical and paraclinical parameters

Behavioral changes
Hyperphagia [0 mo]
Social withdrawal [2 mo]
Poor concentration [2 mo]
Aggressive outbursts [6 mo]
Endocrine disturbances
Hypothalamic hypothyroidism [7 mo]
Growth-hormone deficiency [8 mo]
Hyperprolactinemia (3545 $\mu$ E/mL (normal range, 100-500)) [7 mo]
Other signs of hypothalamic or brainstem dysfunction
Abnormal sleep/wake cycle [4 mo]
Hyperthermia (41°C) [7 mo]
Hypothermia (29°C) [8 mo]
Hypertatremia (165 mmol/L (normal range, 136-145)) [7 mo]
Hyponatremia (130 mmol/L) [7 mo] [7 mo]
Sinus bradycardia (35/min) [7 mo]

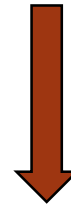
# A. Possible Treatment? - II

*J Pediatr.* 2011 February ; 158(2): 337-339. doi:10.1016/j.jpeds.2010.07.006.

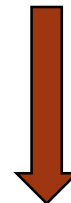
## Cyclophosphamide for Rapid-Onset Obesity, Hypothalamic Dysfunction, Hypoventilation, and Autonomic Dysregulation Syndrome

Ido Paz-Priel, MD, David W. Cooke, MD, and Allen R. Chen, MD, PhD  
Division of Pediatric Oncology (I.P.-P., A.C.) and Division of Pediatric Endocrinology (D.C.),  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

*Within 2-3 weeks from the initiation of therapy, the patient improved*



*Worsening Under cyclophosphamide and tapered prednisone*



*Improvement after high dose cyclophosphamide*

# Possible Treatment? – The Against

## **Hypothalamic Dysfunction Associated With Neuroblastoma: Evidence for a New Paraneoplastic Syndrome?**

Nicolas Sirvent, MD,<sup>1\*</sup> Etienne Bérard, MD,<sup>1</sup> Pascal Chastagner, MD, PhD,<sup>2</sup> François Feillet, MD,<sup>2</sup>  
Karin Wagner, MD,<sup>1</sup> and Danièle Sommelet, MD<sup>2</sup>

First published: 14 March 2003

### **Case 1**

“The hypothesis of a complex hypothalamic dysfunction (HD) of paraneoplastic origin prompted treatment with immunosuppressive therapies (Ig IV, corticosteroids) that proved unsuccessful. “

### **Case 2**

“The possibility of a complex HD of paraneoplastic origin prompted initiation of sequential immunosuppressive therapies (Ig IV, corticosteroids, cyclophosphamide) which failed to produce any improvement.”

# Should We Treat?

- No definitive diagnosis or pathogenesis
- Small number of patients
- Reported failed attempts
- Aggressiveness of disease
- Cost-Effectiveness issues

# Take home messages

- Potentially fatal and probably under diagnosed.
- Gradual appearance of symptoms
- Etiology yet to be discovered
- Though not curable, greatly manageable
- Requires constant follow-up

Many thanks!

**Dr. Dorit Ater**

**Dr. Avigdor Mandelberg**

**Prof. Ilan Dalal**

Thank You

תודה רבה

شكراً جزيلاً