

URINARY GROWTH HORMONE EXCRETION AS A SCREENING TEST FOR GROWTH HORMONE DEFICIENCY

THESIS

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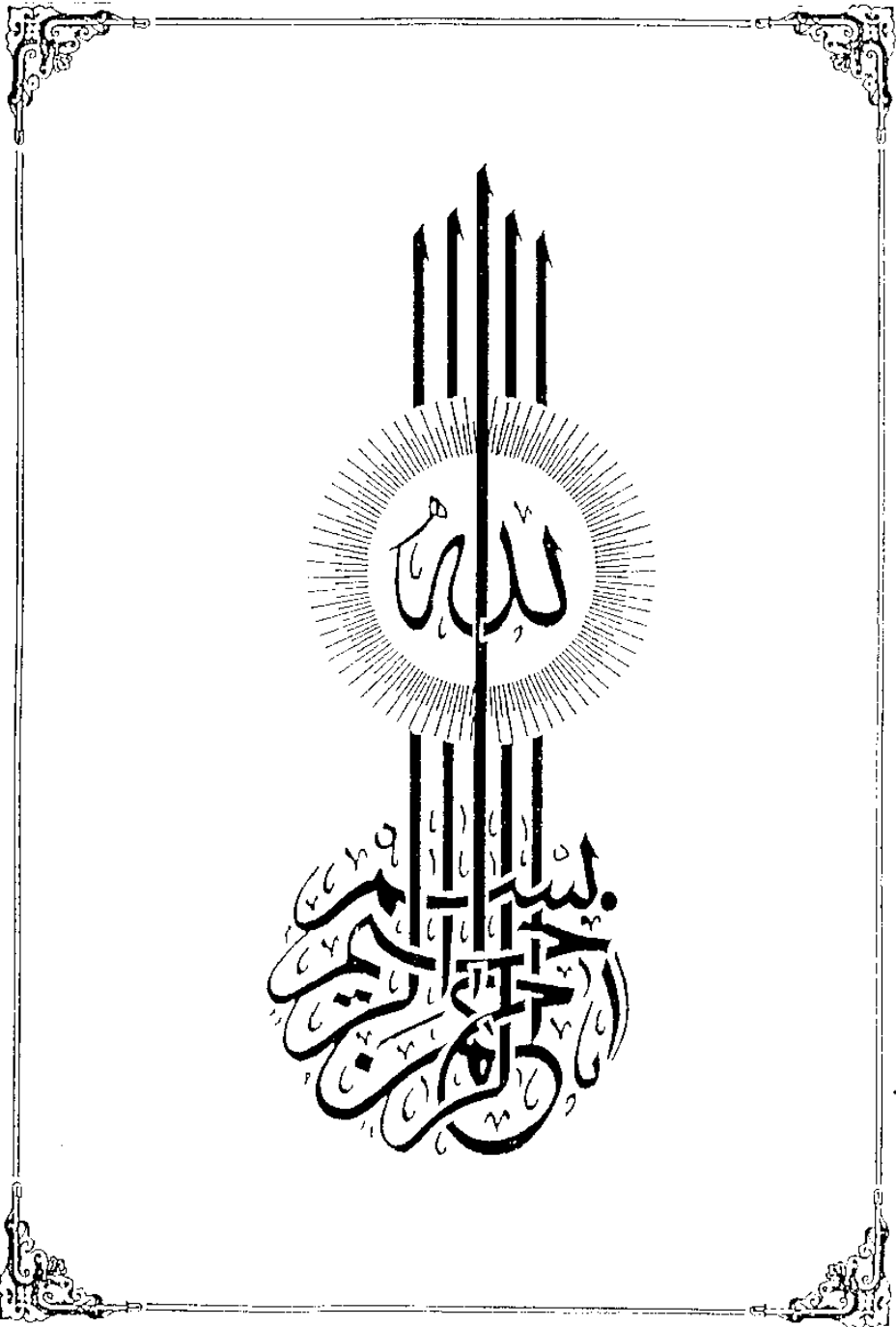
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ

اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْبَرُ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ



To My Mother

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ABBREVIATIONS

ALL	Acute Lymphoblastic leukaemia
GABA	Gamma amino butyric acid
GH	Growth hormone
GHBP	Growth hormone binding protein
GHD	Growth hormone deficiency
GHRH	Growth hormone releasing hormone
IGF-1	Insulin like growth factor 1
IGFBPs	Insulin like growth factor binding proteins
IHD	Isolated growth hormone deficiency
mRNA	Messenger RNA
ND	Neurosecretory dysfunction
TBI	Total body irradiation

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK.....	i
PITUITARY GLAND.....	1
Embryology.....	1
Cell Types in the Anterior Pituitary.....	3
GROWTH HORMONE (GH).....	4
a. Physiology of GH.....	4
b. Hypothalamic Control of GH Secretion.....	5
c. Stimuli Affecting GH Secretion.....	8
d. Somatomedins.....	11
c. Actions of GH.....	13
I- On Body Composition.....	13
II- Action on Intermediary Metabolism.....	14
AETIOLOGY AND PATHOGENESIS OF GH DEFICIENCY.....	17
Classification.....	17
I. Organic GHD : Congenital Forms.....	20
II. Organic GHD : Acquired Forms.....	25
III. Idiopathic GHD.....	29
IV. Genetic Forms of GHD.....	32
TESTING GROWTH HORMONE SECRETION.....	40
Diagnosis of GHD.....	40
Factors interfering with Interpretation.....	41
Preparation for tests.....	43
Secretion of GH.....	44
I. Direct Assay.....	45
II. Indirect evaluation of secretion in plasma....	47
III. Physiological Stimuli.....	48
IV. Pharmacological Stimuli.....	52
RECOMMENDATIONS OF TESTS FOR GH DEFICIENCY	
FOR CLINICAL USE.....	59
TREATMENT OF GROWTH HORMONE DEFICIENCY.....	63
Role of GH in the treatment of GHD.....	63
Role of Insulin Like Growth Factor-I	
in the treatment of GHD.....	65
Role of GHRH in Therapy.....	66
PATIENTS AND METHODS.....	67
RESULTS.....	70
DISCUSSION.....	77
SUMMARY.....	82
REFERENCES.....	84
ARABIC SUMMARY.....	--

LISTS OF TABLES

	page
Table 1. Stimulating and depressing influences on secretion of human GH.....	42
Table 2. Stimulation of human GH in serum: Physiological and Pharmacological stimuli.....	51
Table 3. Recommendations for stepwise investigations of short stature and growth hormone deficiency.....	61
Table 4. Clinical and growth hormone parameters of patients with GHD.....	72
Table 5. Clinical and growth hormone parameters of the control group	73
Table 6. Wilcoxon Signed Rank test for the growth hormone level in urine for both patients and control groups.....	73
Table 7. Correlation between growth hormone excretion in urine and both insulin and clonidine provocation tests.....	74
Table 8. Correlation between growth hormone excretion in urine and standard deviation scores of the height of the patients.....	74

LIST OF FIGURES

page

Figure 1. Principle of the immunoradiometric assay.....	69
Figure 2. Correlation between GH in 24-hour urine and insulin provocative test.....	75
Figure 3. Correlation between GH in 24-hour urine and clonidine provocative test.....	75
Figure 4. Correlation between GH and the mean of both insulin and clonidine provocative tests.....	76
Figure 5. Correlation between GH excretion in urine and the standard deviation scores of heights of patients.....	76

INTRODUCTION
AND
AIM OF WORK

INTRODUCTION

Secretion of growth hormone (GH) from anterior pituitary gland is pulsatile and greatest during slow wave sleep. Screening tests for growth hormone deficiency in current use are based on this observation and therefore require overnight tests. Alternatively secretion during the day can be stimulated by drugs (Walker et al., 1990).

Pharmacological stimulation was found to underestimate spontaneous GH secretion in 10-20% of children (Donaldson et al., 1991).

Both types of tests require repeated blood sampling, are time consuming, expensive and above all are unpleasant and potentially dangerous. An alternative would be the measurement of urinary growth hormone concentration which would assess integrated growth hormone secretion (Walker, 1990).

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of the study is to derive a reference range for urinary growth hormone, to validate the assay and to establish correlation between urinary GH excretion and serum GH after provocation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

PITUITARY GLAND

Embryology

The pituitary gland is formed in fetal life from two separate sources.

The anterior and intermediate lobes of the pituitary arise in the embryo from Rathke's pouch, an evagination from the roof of the pharynx.

The posterior pituitary arises as an invagination of the floor of the third ventricle. It is made up in large part of the endings of the axons that arise from cell bodies in the supraoptic and para-ventricular nuclei and pass to the posterior pituitary via the hypothalamo-hypophyseal tract (Kaplan, 1990).

The blood supply of the anterior pituitary consists of a systemic arterial supply, a portal blood system and a venous drainage system. The arterial supply is derived from the superior hypophyseal artery, a branch of the internal carotid artery.

The venous portal system originates from specialized straight terminal arterioles in the median eminence, from which blood is collected in a series of parallel veins coursing down the anterior surface of the pituitary, and terminating in the sinusoidal capillaries of the adenohypophysis. This portal system has come to be recognized as the pathway by which hypothalamic releasing and inhibiting substances are transmitted to the anterior pituitary (Kovacs and Horvath, 1990).

The nerve supply of the anterior lobe is limited to fine nerves derived from the carotid plexus that accompany the arteriolar branches (Besser, 1977).

Sympathetic nerve fibers reach the anterior lobe from its capsule, and parasympathetic fibers reach it from the petrosal nerves, but very few nerve fibers pass to it from the hypothalamus. The nerve fibers may affect adenohypophyseal blood flow but play no direct role in the regulation of adenohypophyseal hormone secretion. The posterior lobe is richly innervated via the hypophyseal stalk by the supraopticohypophyseal and tuberohypophyseal tracts (Kovacs and Horvath, 1990).