



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effects of growth hormone treatment on anthropometrics, metabolic risk, and body composition variables in small for gestational age patients^{☆,☆☆}



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KEYWORDS

Growth hormone;
Small for gestational
age;
Insulin resistance;
Cardiovascular risk;
Lipoproteins;
Body composition

Abstract

Introduction and objectives: Small for gestational age (SGA) children without catch-up growth can benefit from treatment with growth hormone (rhGH). However, they should be monitored very closely because they are at increased risk of metabolic syndrome.

Material and method: A group of 28 SGA children with a mean age of 8.79 years and undergoing treatment with rhGH were selected for evaluation. Over the course of 4 years, an annual evaluation was performed on the anthropometric variables (weight, height, body mass index [BMI], growth rate, blood pressure and waist perimeter), metabolic risk variables (glycaemia, glycosylated haemoglobin, cholesterol ratio, insulinaemia, insulin-like growth factor 1[IGF1], IGF binding protein-3 [IGFBP-3], IGF1/IGFBP3 ratio, and HOMA index), and body composition variables.

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Results: Treatment with rhGH was associated with a significant increase in height ($-2.76 \pm .11$ SD to $-1.53 \pm .17$ SD; $P = .000$), weight ($-1.50 \pm .09$ SD to $-1.21 \pm .13$ SD; $P = .016$), and growth rate ($-1.43 \pm .35$ SD to $.41 \pm .41$ SD; $P = .009$), without a corresponding change in the BMI. Insulinaemia (9.33 ± 1.93 mU/ml to 16.55 ± 1.72 mU/ml; $P = .044$) and the HOMA index ($3.63 \pm .76$ to $6.43 \pm .67$; $P = .042$) increased, approaching insulin resistance levels. No changes were observed in the lipid profile. Body composition changes were observed, with a significant increase in lean mass (73.19 ± 1.26 to 78.74 ± 1.31 ; $P = .037$), and a reduction of fat mass (26.81 ± 1.26 to 21.26 ± 1.31 ; $P = .021$).

Conclusion: Treatment with rhGH is effective for improving anthropometric variables in SGA patients who have not experienced a catch-up growth. It also produces changes in body composition, which may lead to a reduction in risk of metabolic syndrome. However, some insulin resistance was observed. It is important to follow up this patient group in order to find out whether these changes persist into adulthood.

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PALABRAS CLAVE

Hormona de crecimiento;
Pequeño para edad gestacional;
Resistencia a la insulina;
Riesgo cardiovascular;
Lipoproteínas;
Composición corporal

Modificaciones en variables antropométricas, analíticas de riesgo metabólico y composición corporal en pequeños para la edad gestacional en tratamiento con hormona de crecimiento

Resumen

Introducción: Los niños pequeños para la edad gestacional (PEG) sin crecimiento recuperador pueden beneficiarse del tratamiento con hormona de crecimiento (rhGH). Sin embargo, deben ser monitorizados de forma muy estrecha ya que son población de riesgo metabólico.

Material y métodos: Se han incluido 28 niños PEG, con una media de edad de 8,79 años, sin crecimiento recuperador, tratados con rhGH. Hemos evaluado las modificaciones producidas en la antropometría, variables de riesgo metabólico y composición corporal durante 4 años de tratamiento.

Resultados: El tratamiento con rhGH se acompañó de un aumento de talla (-2.76 ± 0.11 DE hasta -1.53 ± 0.17 DE; $p = 0.000$), peso (-1.50 ± 0.09 DE hasta -1.21 ± 0.13 DE; $p = 0.016$) y velocidad de crecimiento (-1.43 ± 0.35 DE hasta 0.41 ± 0.41 DE; $p = 0.009$), sin producir modificaciones en el índice de masa corporal (IMC). Se han visto aumentos significativos de la insulinenia (9.33 ± 1.93 mU/ml hasta 16.55 ± 1.72 mU/ml; $p = 0.044$) y del índice HOMA (3.63 ± 0.76 hasta 6.43 ± 0.67 ; $p = 0.042$), sin producirse modificaciones en el perfil lipídico. En el estudio de composición corporal se ha comprobado un aumento significativo de la masa magra (73.19 ± 1.26 hasta 78.74 ± 1.31 ; $p = 0.037$) con una disminución de la masa grasa (26.81 ± 1.26 hasta 21.26 ± 1.31 ; $p = 0.021$).

Conclusión: El tratamiento con rhGH se ha acompañado de una ganancia en la talla sin producir alteraciones en el IMC. Asimismo, se han observado cambios en la composición corporal, con un aumento de la proporción de masa magra a expensas de una disminución de la de masa grasa, que podrían conducir a un descenso del riesgo metabólico de estos pacientes. Sin embargo, se ha detectado cierta resistencia insulínica. Es importante continuar el seguimiento de estos niños para determinar las posibles repercusiones en la edad adulta.

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Introduction

It is estimated that between 3% and 5% of newborns are small for gestational age (SGA),¹ with a progressive increase in frequency in the past decade.² Small for gestational age is defined as birth weight and/or length at least two standard deviations (SDs) below the mean for gestational age, established based on data from the reference population.³

The causes that can lead to SGA can be grouped into foetal, maternal, placental and environmental factors, although the aetiology of intrauterine growth restriction cannot be determined in one third of the cases.²

Small for gestational age children are at higher risk of abnormalities in body composition, disorders of puberty, neurodevelopmental delay and metabolic syndromes, and have a higher prevalence of risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

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