

GROWTH HORMONE DEFICIENCY IN IDENTICAL TWINS WITH GITELMAN SYNDROME DUE TO COMPOUND HETEROZYGOUS MUTATION (p.R80fs*35/p.K957X) IN THE SLC12A3 GENE AND RESPONSE TO GROWTH HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY



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Gitelman syndrome, a rare autosomal recessive disorder, is characterised with hypokalemic metabolic alkalosis, hypomagnesemia and hypocalciuria. Mutations in the *SLC12A3* gene, which encodes for “Thiazid sensitive sodium chloride co-transporter channels” located at the renal distal convoluted tubules, account for the underlying molecular mechanism of Gitelman syndrome. Although, is less frequent than those seen in “Bartter Syndrome”, the exact mechanism of growth retardation in Gitelman syndrome has not been elucidated. We, herein, present two identical twins, with the diagnosis of Gitelman syndrome, due to a compound heterozygous mutation in *SLC12A3*, associated with GH deficiency and the response to the rhGH therapy.

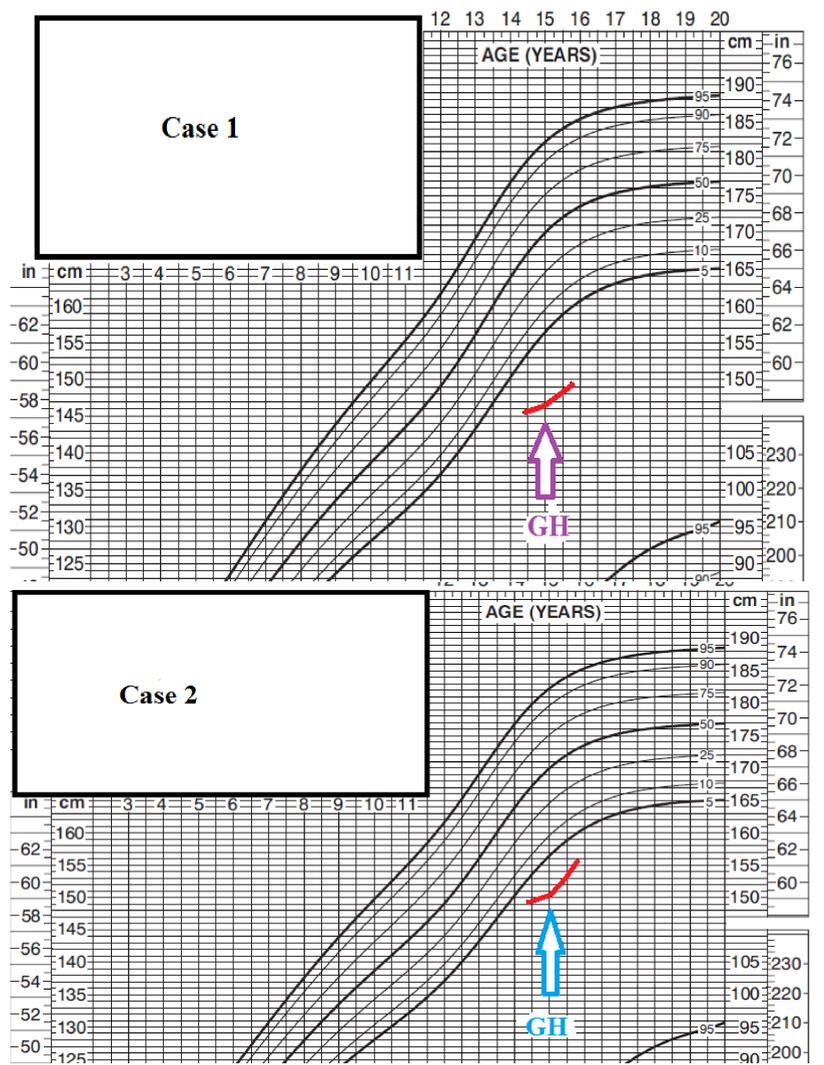
CASE

Male twins
 >>> Short stature >>> Noticed about the age of 8-10 years
 >>> History: Replacement therapy for hypomagnesemia and hypokalemia

Na:137/137 mEq/l
 K:1.99/2.38 mEq/l
 pH:7.47/7.47
 HCO3:36.2/39.4mMol/l
 Mg:1.19mg/dl/1.47
 U-Ca/U-creatinin:0.05/0.05

Gitelman Syndrome

Clinical and laboratory values of the cases		
	Case 1	Case 2
Age at presentation	14.4	14.4
Weight (kg)	32.7	35.5
Height (cm)	145.5(-2.88 SD)	149.2(-2.39 SD)
Testicular volume(ml)	4/4-6/6	4/6-8/8
Bone Age (years)	10	13
IGF1 (ng/ml)	80.7 (-2.41 SD)	110.7(-2.06 SD)
IGFBP3 (ng/ml)	2219(-2.31 SD)	2124(-2.37 SD)
Growth rate (cm/years)	1.6	3.2
L-Dopa test peak GH (ng/ml)	4.6	0.09
Clonidine test peak GH (ng/ml)	4.32	0.716
	(Priming with sex steroid)	
GH dose(mg/day)	0.033	0.033
Growth rate with GH therapy (cm/year)	5.1	6.9
IGF1(Under GH therapy) (ng/ml)	293.4	296.0
Mutation analysis of <i>SLC12A3</i>	p.R80fs*35/p.K957X	p.R80fs*35/p.K957X



Pituitary MRI and other pituitary hormones were normal for both cases

Partial response to the GH replacement therapy

- ❖ Poor compliance to the therapy
- ❖ Frequent hospital admissions due to recurrent episodes of electrolyte imbalance

CONCLUSION

Gitelman syndrome patients with short stature should be investigated for GH-IGF-1 axis disturbances. For an optimal growth, in addition to correcting serum potassium levels, GH replacement may be considered. However, in order to further evaluate the response to GH replacement therapy, more experiences are required.