

# GLP-1 Receptor Agonist in a Patient with Craniopharyngioma-Related Obesity.

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## Background and Objective

Craniopharyngioma is a histologically benign tumor with aggressive clinical presentation, whose management constitutes a big challenge. Hypothalamic syndrome with consecutive obesity occurs in up to 35% of patients at diagnosis, but dramatically increases after treatment <sup>1,2</sup>. Glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists have been successfully used in adults with hypothalamic obesity, showing a BMI decrease and metabolic profile improvement <sup>3</sup>. Data on GLP-1 receptor agonist treatment for children and adolescents is limited. Herein, we present a clinical case of a male adolescent treated with GLP-1 receptor agonist for hypothalamic obesity, secondary to craniopharyngioma.

## Case Presentation

**A 15.8 year-old male presented for evaluation of delayed puberty and progressive growth failure.**

**Family history:**

- Oldest of 4 children born to a Swiss non-consanguineous couple. Uneventful family history.

**Personal medical history:**

- Born full term, eutrophic, after an uneventful pregnancy.
- Clift-lip operation during the 1<sup>st</sup> year of life.
- Developmental milestones normally achieved.

**Clinical examination at 15.8 years:**

- Height-SDS: -2.59; BMI-SDS: +0.82. No dysmorphic signs. Normal olfaction.
- Tanner: A1PP3G2, Testicular volume: 4ml bilaterally
- Bilateral gynecomastia.
- Normal neurological and ophthalmologic examination.

**Laboratory and radiologic evaluation**

	Patient	Reference value	LHRH stimulation test	
Testosterone	nmol/l	0.6	0.1-17.6	
Prolactin	µg/l	5	<20	
TSH	mU/l	0.927	0.5 - 4.5	
freeT4	pmol/l	17	9 - 25	
IGF-1	µg/l	213	212 - 1043	
IGFBP3	mg/l	5.49	3.2 - 10.4	
ACTH	pg/ml	10	10 - 70	
Cortisol	nmol/l	451	170 - 630	
AMH	pmol/l	1286	5-800	
Inhibin-B	pg/ml	137	60-300	
				LH FSH
				mU/l mU/l
			0'	0.5 3
			15'	3.8 4.6
			30'	6.4 6.4
			60'	7.0 8.8
			90'	6.2 9.6
			120'	6.5 10.6

**Clinical evolution after diagnosis**

Tumor resection followed by:

- Persistent hemianopsia
- Panhypopituitarism, requiring L-thyroxin, vassopressin and hydrocortisone substitution
- Rapid onset of obesity, refractory to rigorous hygieno-dietetic measures

9 months post-operative: gamma knife radiotherapy

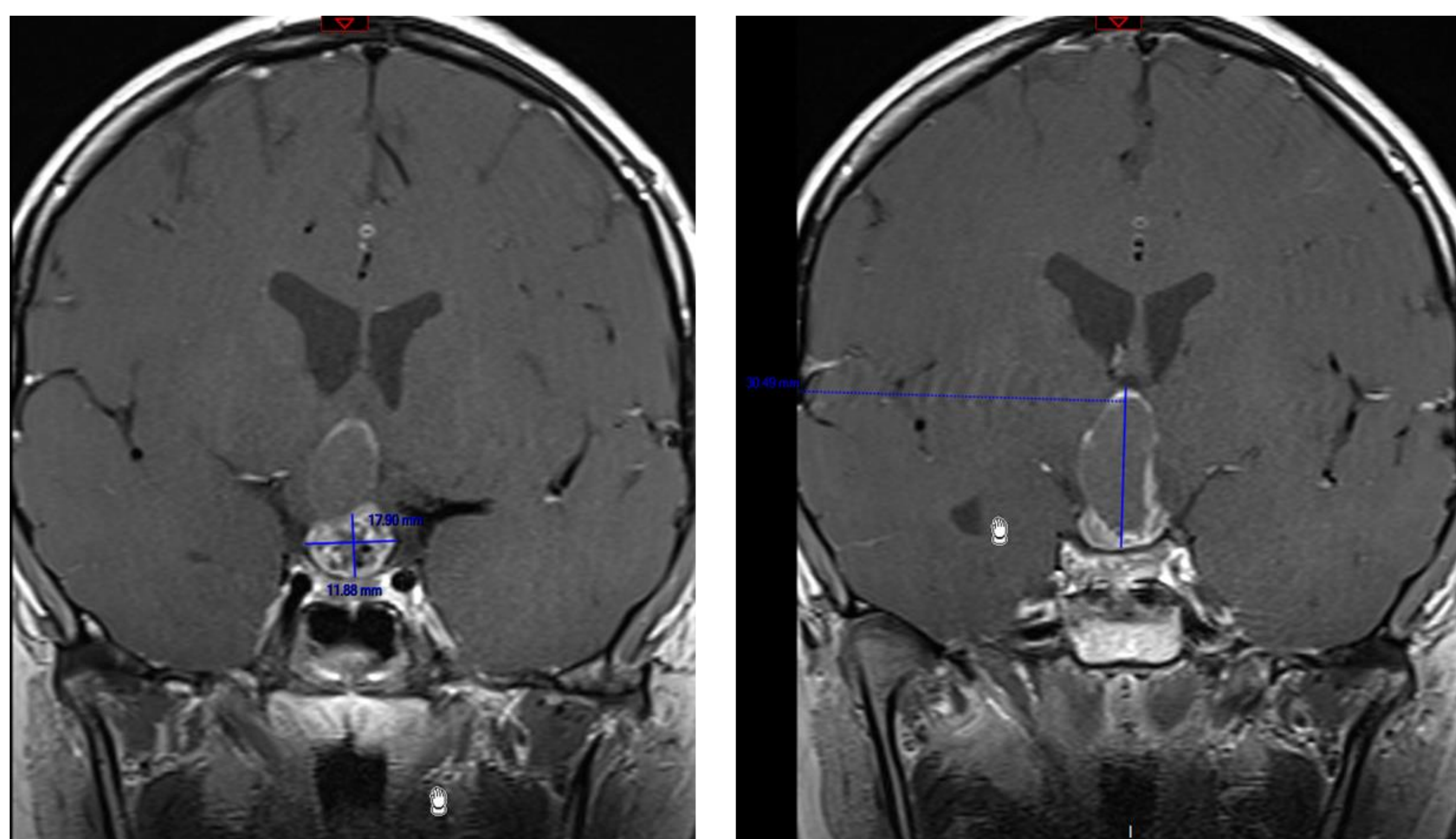
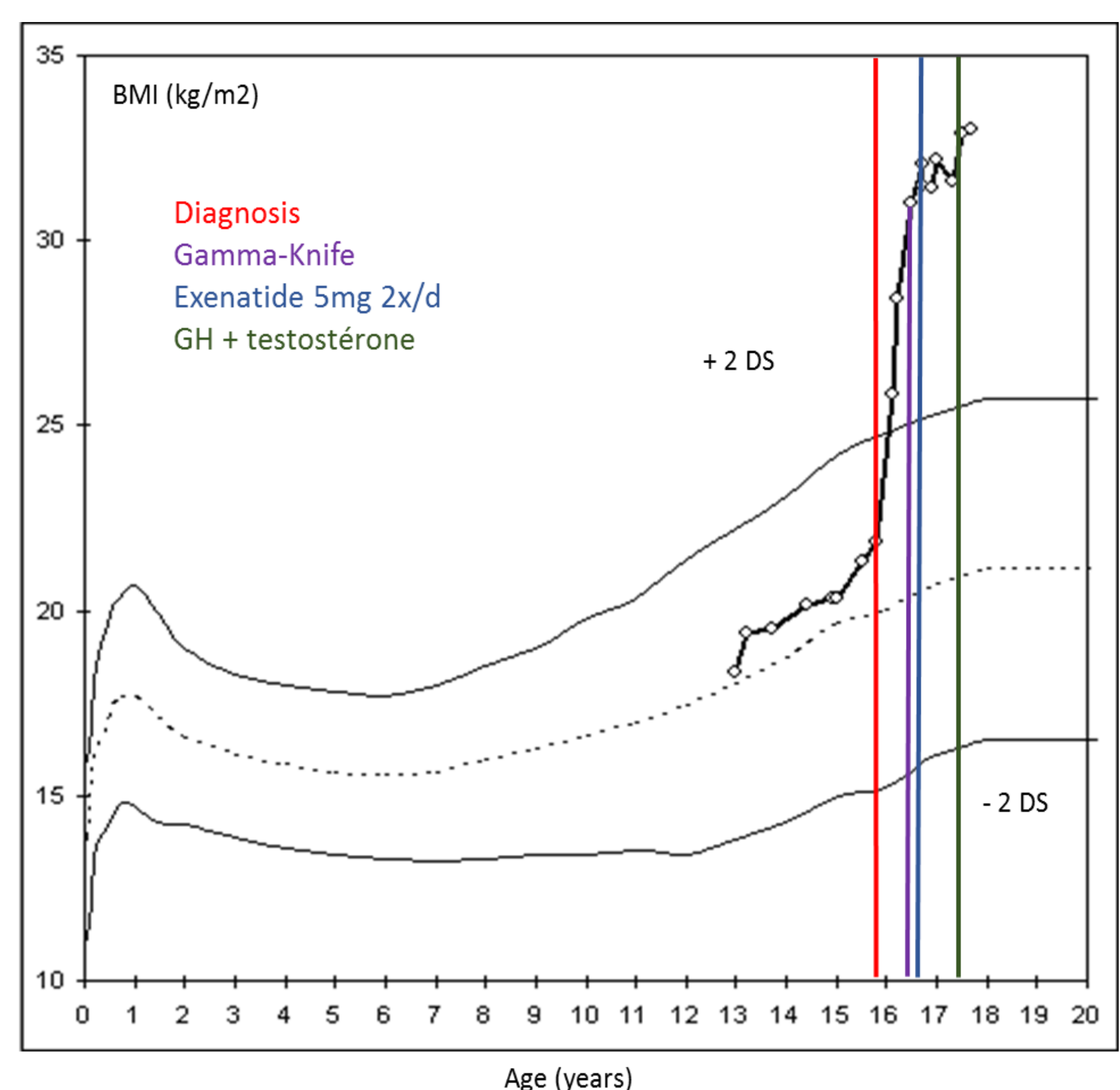
Latest brain MRI: residual mass of 4mm, empty sella turcica except for 1mm of anterior pituitary

11 months post-operative : introduction of Exenatide 5mcg, 2x/j→BMI stabilization

- Well tolerated
- No hypoglycemic events (flash glucose monitoring-FreestyleLibre®)
- Restoration of satiation and quality of life (QoL) improvement

17 months later: Testosterone and growth hormone substitution, further QoL improvement

**BMI evolution chart**



**MRI 15.8 y:** Supra-sellar tumor with cystic and solid component, extending to the hypothalamus and compressing the optic chiasma. Presence of intratumoral calcifications.

## Discussion & conclusions

GLP-1 receptor agonist treatment appears to be promising in adolescents with hypothalamic obesity. Further studies with larger cohorts are required in order to evaluate longtime effectiveness on BMI and metabolic control.

**References**

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