

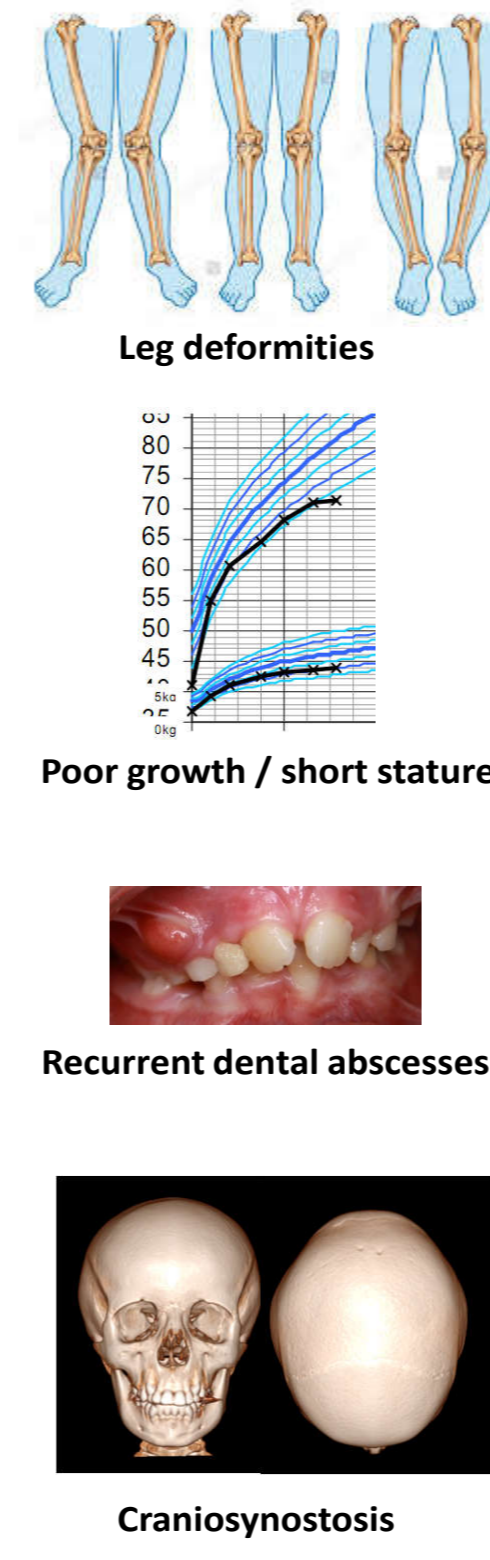
INCREASED PREVALENCE OF OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY AND ITS CLINICAL PREDICTORS IN CHILDREN AFFECTED BY X-LINKED HYPOPHOSPHATEMIA

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Background / aim

- X-linked hypophosphatemia (XLH) is a rare disease caused by inactivating mutations in the phosphate-regulating endopeptidase homolog X-linked (PHEX) gene, characterized by chronic hypophosphatemia (1-2)
- Clinically, XLH patients are characterized by progressive skeletal deformities (leg bowing, poor growth, disproportional short stature), dental abscesses, craniosynostosis and typical radiographic changes of rickets (Figure 1) (1-2)
- Most affected children have been treated so far with multiple daily phosphate supplements and oral active vitamin D analogs. This therapy corrects clinical, biochemical and radiographic signs of rickets, nonetheless, does not restore stable level of serum phosphate (1)
- Scientific evidences support the role of serum phosphate level in fat mass acquisition, i.e. obesity, in the general population. Elevated Body Mass Index (BMI) is recurrently reported in series of adult XLH patients (3). In addition, XLH patients display chronic hypophosphatemia despite treatment
- Therefore we decided to address the clinical metabolic phenotype, beyond the abnormal skeletal phenotype, in children affected with XLH



Patients / methods

172 children affected by XLH (113 girls / 59 boys) of age 5-20 years
Longitudinal follow-up of anthropometric parameters

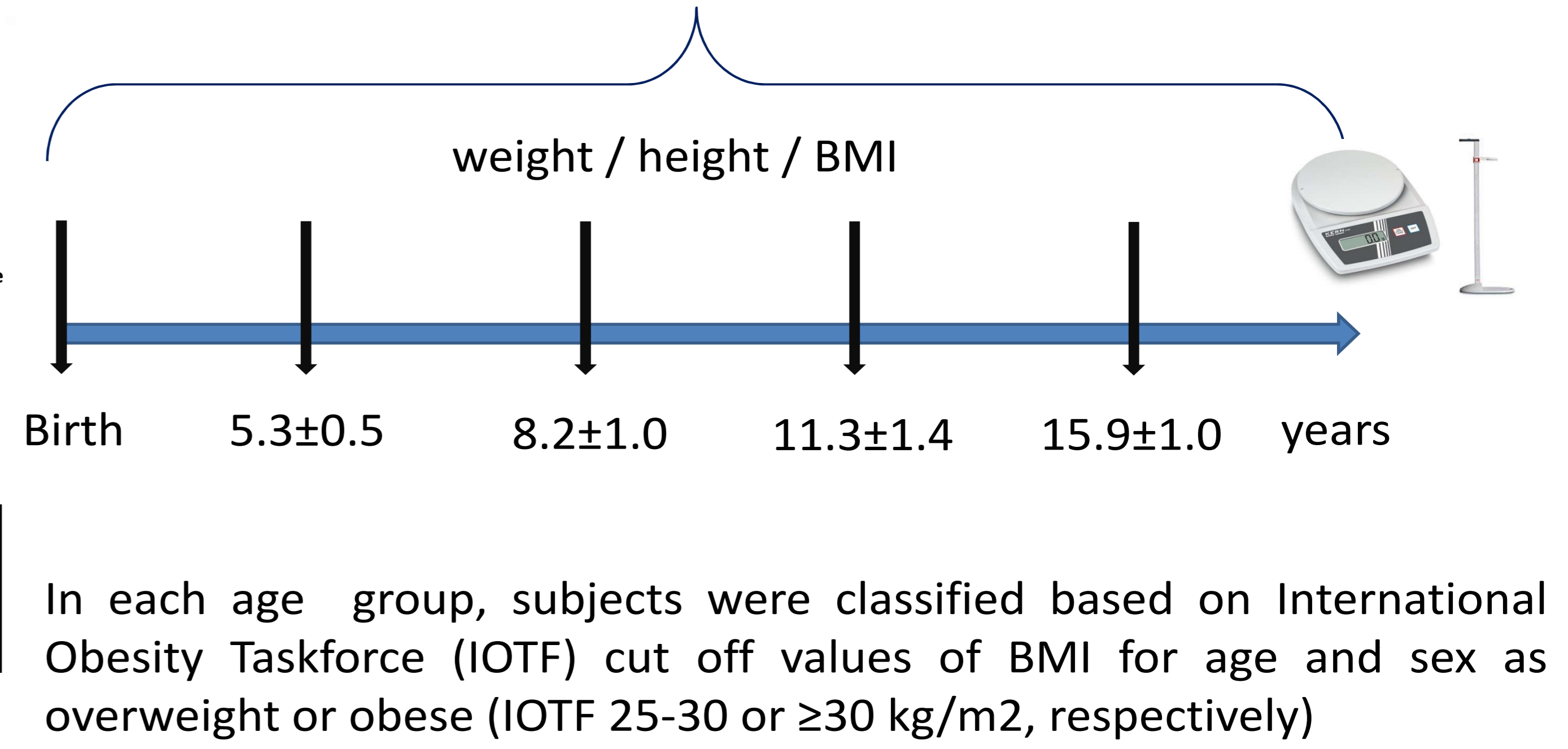


Figure 1

The aim of our longitudinal observational study was to investigate the prevalence of obesity and associated factors in a large cohort of children with XLH

Results

I. Description of the cohort of children affected by XLH

Parameter	Absolute number or % (n) or Mean±SD
Number of subjects	172
Boys / girls	34.3 (59) / 65.7 (113)
Subjects carrying a PHEX-mutation	88.4 (130)
Subjects with positive XLH-family history	59.7 (92)
Diagnosis of XLH, years	3.0±2.9
Duration of follow-up, years	10.9±4.0
Gestational age, weeks	39.0±1.3
Birth weight, kg (SDS)	3.3±0.5 (0.0±0.0)
Birth length, cm (SDS)	49.5±2.1 (0.4±4.2)
Subjects born SGA	6.9 (9)

II. Prevalence of overweight/obesity in XLH: in each age-group, almost 1/3 of XLH-patients are classified as overweight / obese (29.4% → 28.7% → 27.5% → 36.7% for each age-group) (Figure 2)

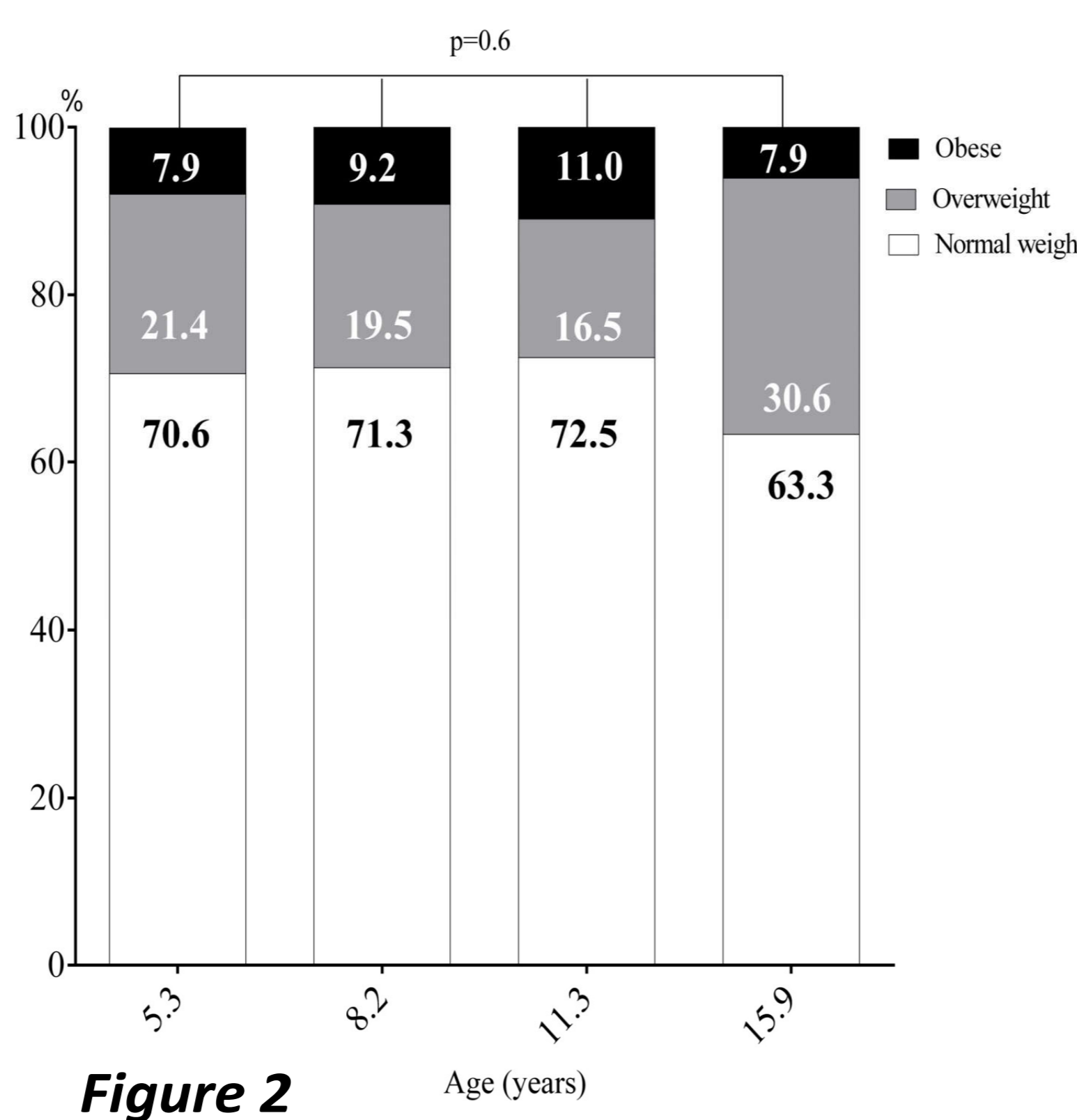


Figure 2

III. Evolution of BMI-SDS in XLH: both girls and boys showed a similar pattern of BMI-SDS evolution characterized by stable trend nearby +1.0 SDS over time (Figure 3)

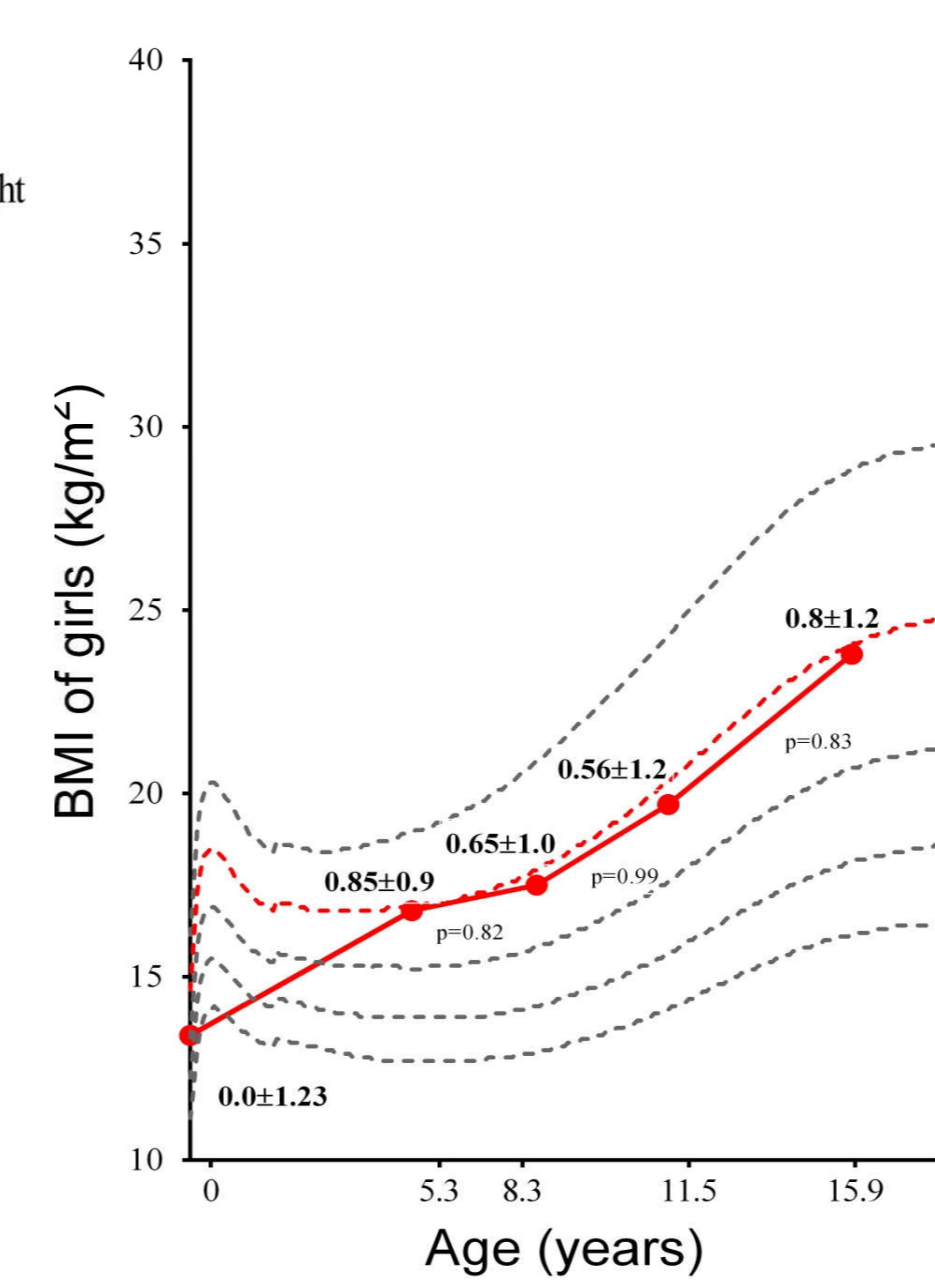
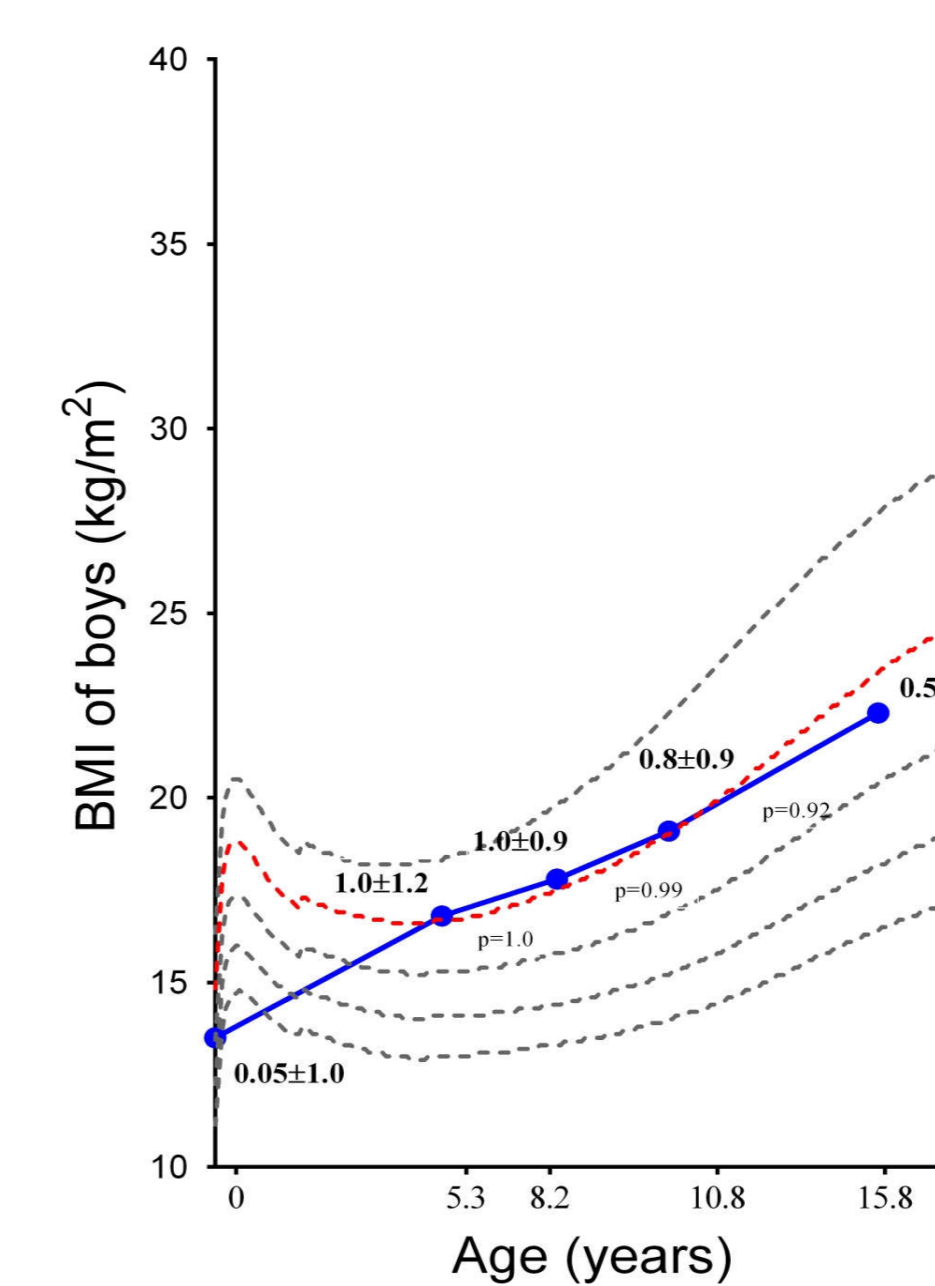


Figure 3



IV. Evolution of BMI-IOTF in XLH: trend of progressive increment of BMI-IOTF over time (Figure 4)

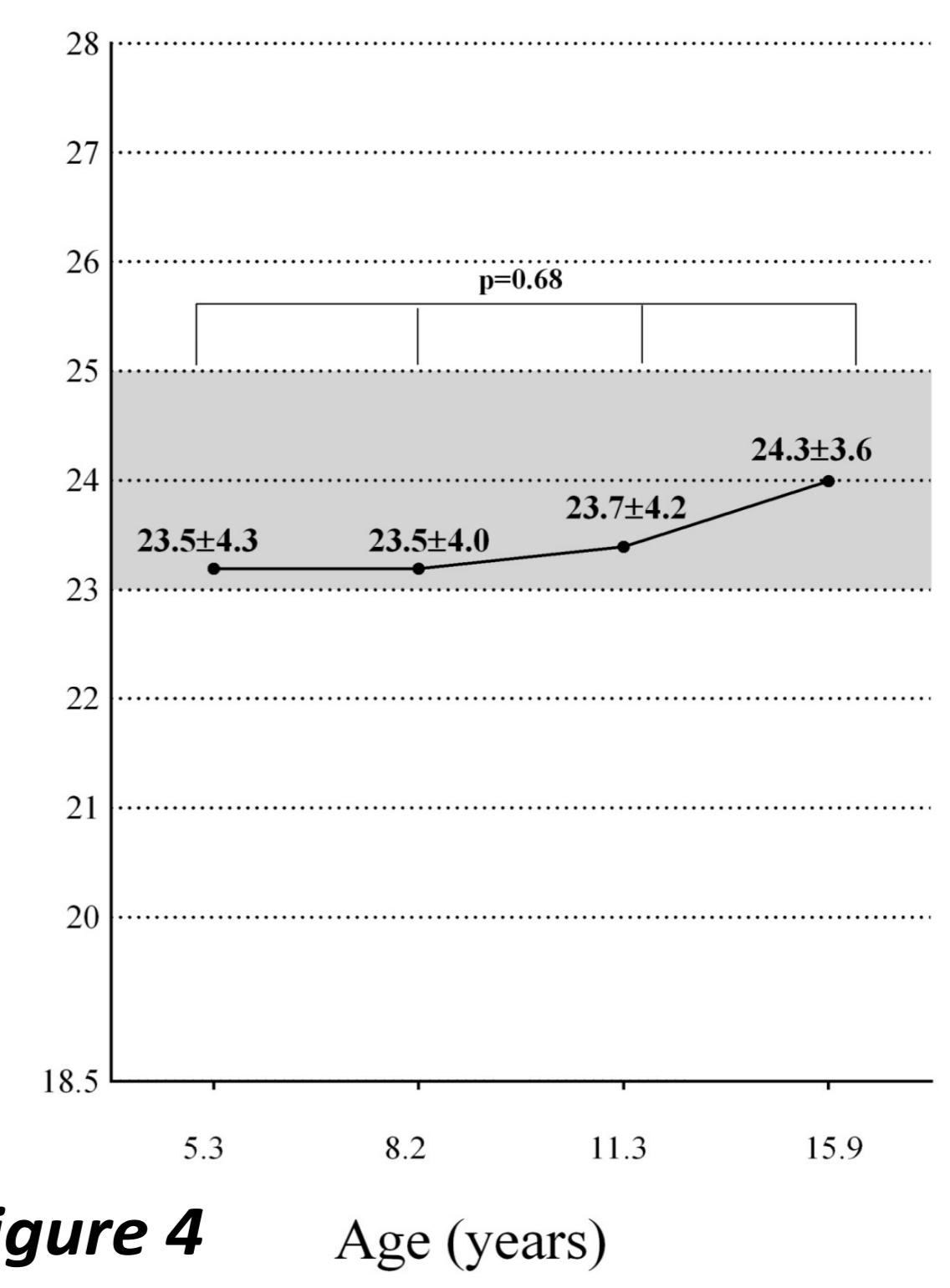


Figure 4

V. Clinical factors associated with higher BMI-IOTF in XLH:

- Children without XLH-family history have higher BMI-IOTF at every point of follow-up, compared to those with positive XLH-family history (Figure 5)
- BMI-IOTF is increasing with increment of treatment duration (Figure 6)
- Multiple regression analysis confirmed that treatment length and lack of XLH-family history are positively associated with higher BMI-IOTF ($\beta=0.17$, 95%CI=0.30-1.73, $p=0.005$ for treatment length; $\beta= -0.13$, 95%CI= -0.12 - -2.21, $p=0.029$ for XLH-family history)

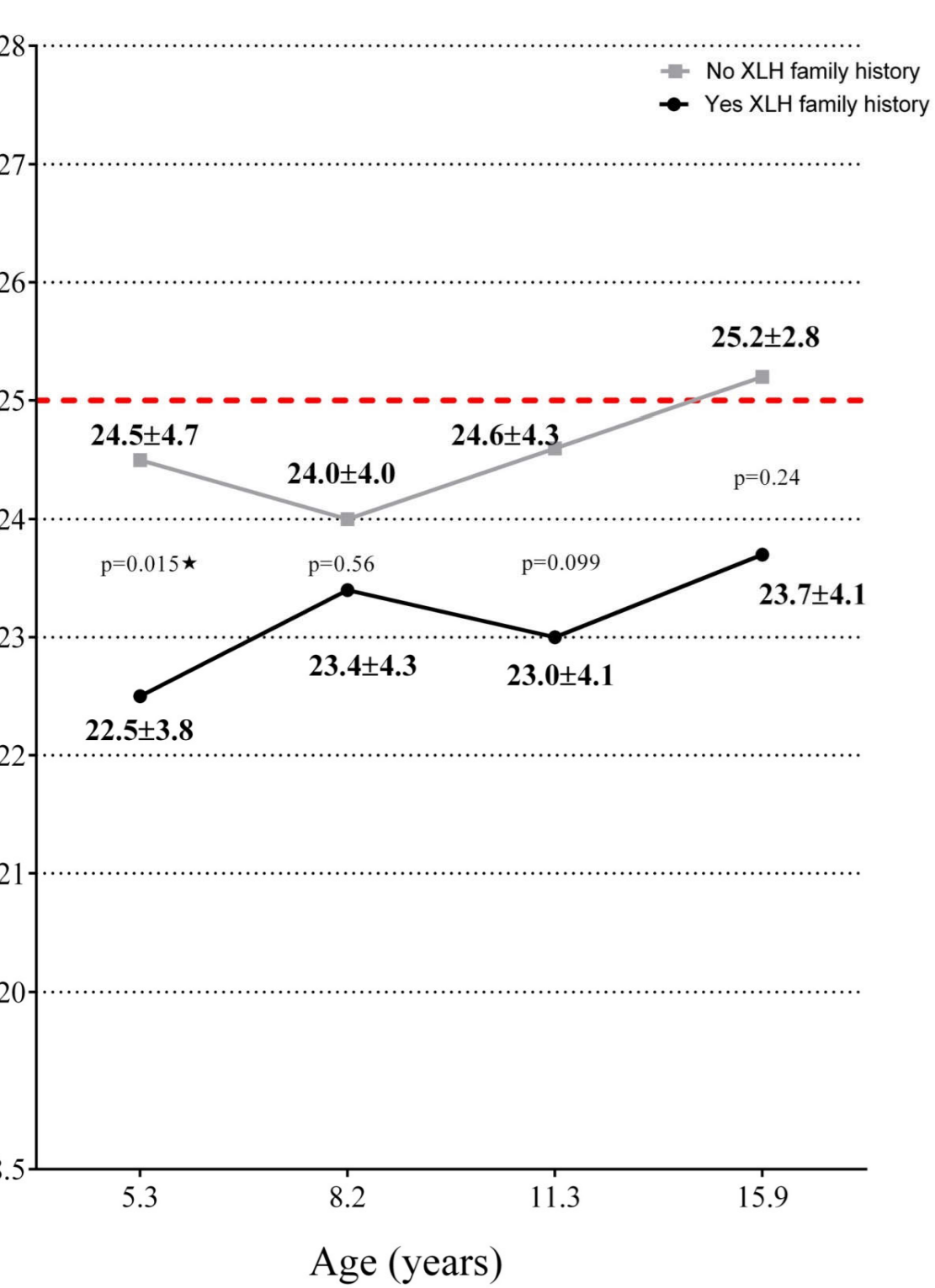


Figure 5

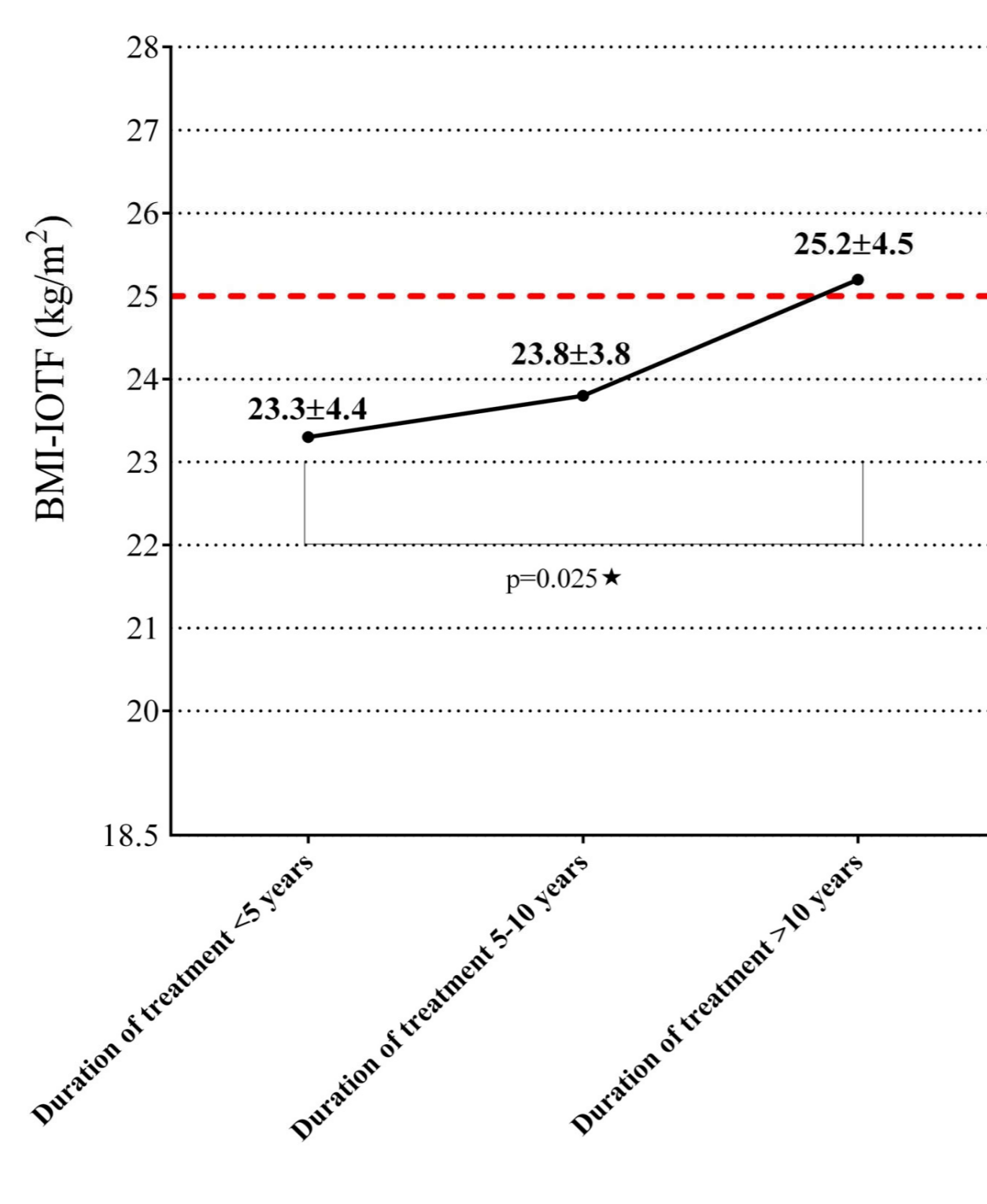
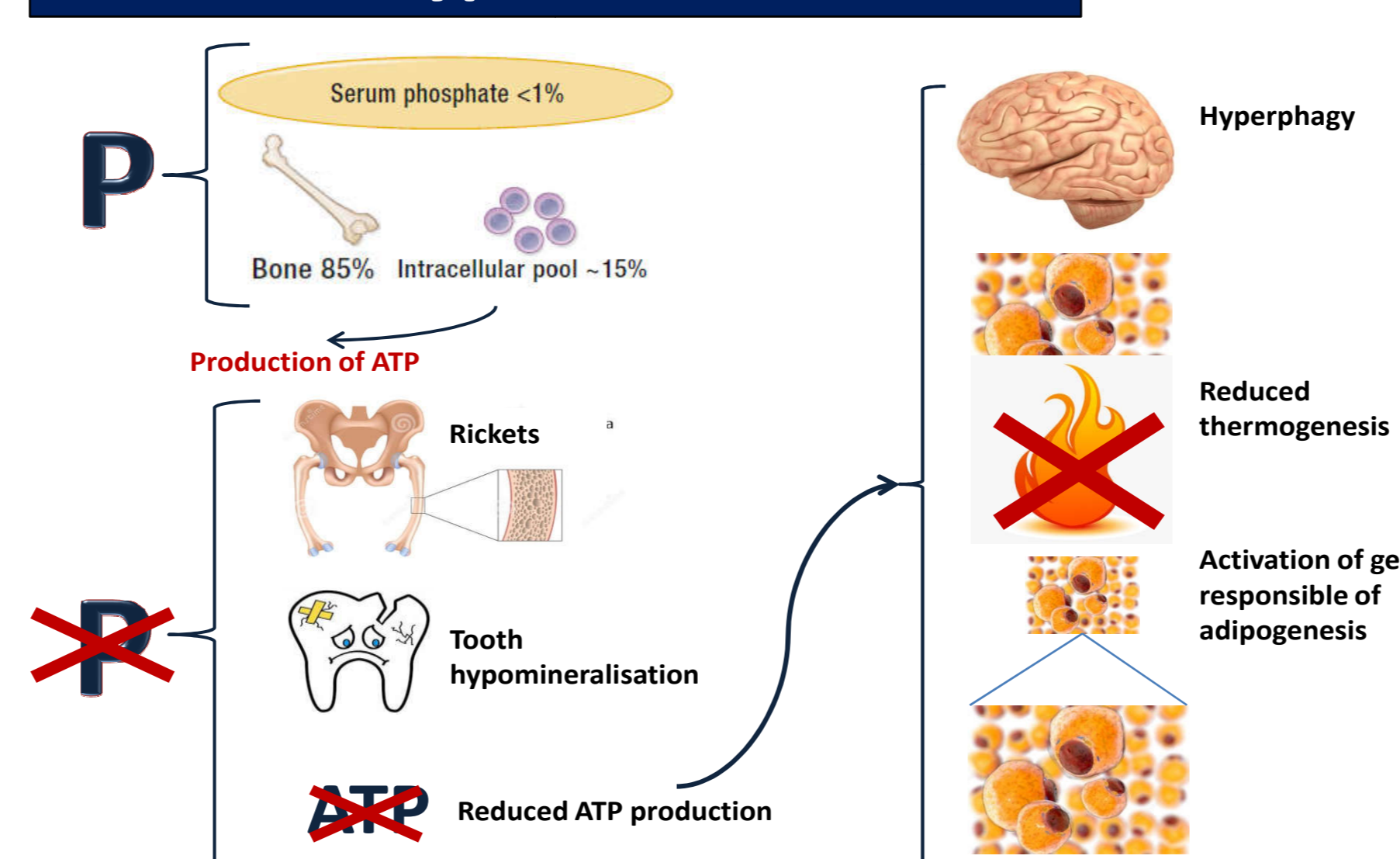


Figure 6

Hypothesis



Regardless of conventional therapy in XLH, however, chronic phosphate supplementation is not sufficient to restore the phosphate deficit in bone tissue and in other cells at the same time, thus, leading to progressive fat mass gain in XLH.

Conclusion

- Almost 1/3 of XLH-children have phenotypically unfavourable metabolic profile expressed as progressively increased prevalence of overweight/obesity, despite phosphate supplementation
- Lack of XLH family history and length of treatment could be considered as clinical factors associated with higher BMI-IOTF
- BMI should be carefully followed in children, and later in adults, with XLH



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