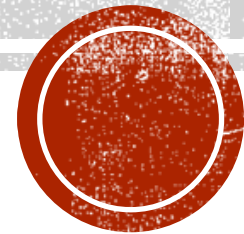


# **OBESITY AND TRANSPLANTATION**

**Shirley Pollack**

**Rambam Health Care Center**



# OBESITY AND CKD AND RENAL TRANSPLANT IN PEDIATRIC POPULATION

- In the past several years, obesity in children and adolescents has become a major concern for pediatricians. Although most children with kidney failure are not overweight, increasing numbers are obese when dialysis or transplantation is initiated
- Obesity develops at a significant rate in pediatric patients after renal transplantation
- The presence of obesity and metabolic syndrome in the pediatric CKD and transplant population may augment the already increased cardiovascular risk and contribute to the loss of kidney function
- The Pediatric Renal Nutrition Taskforce is an international team of pediatric renal dietitians and pediatric nephrologists who develop clinical practice recommendations for the nutritional management of children with kidney diseases

Assessment and management of **obesity** and metabolic syndrome in children with CKD stages 2-5 on dialysis and after **kidney transplantation**-clinical practice recommendations from the **Pediatric Renal Nutrition Taskforce.**

Stabouli S et al. *Pediatr Nephrol.* 2022 Jan;37(1):1-20.



# DEFINITION

## Overweight and Obesity

- **2–5 years:**
- **Overweight** - weight-for-height for age  $> +2SD$ , using the World Health Organization (WHO) child growth standard chart.
- **Obesity** - weight-for-height for age  $> +3SD$ , using the WHO.
- **> 5 years:**
- **Overweight** - BMI for age  $> +1SD$ , equivalent to BMI  $> 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$  at 19 years, using the WHO growth reference chart or a country specific growth chart.
- **Obesity** - BMI for age  $> +2SD$ , equivalent to BMI  $> 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$  at 19 years

## Metabolic syndrome

- **2–18 years:**

Presence of overweight/obesity and at least 2 of 4 additional CV risk factors:

- **Systolic and/or diastolic** office blood pressure (BP)  $\geq 90$ th centile for age, sex and height or  $\geq 130/80$  mmHg, which ever is lower, or on anti-hypertensive medication
- Fasting **triglycerides**  $\geq 100 \text{ mg/dL}$  (1.1 mmol/L) if age  $< 10$  years, or  $\geq 130 \text{ mg/dL}$  (1.5 mmol/L) if age  $\geq 10$  years
- Fasting high-density lipoprotein (**HDL**)  $< 40 \text{ mg/dL}$  (1.03 mmol/L)
- Fasting serum **glucose**  $\geq 100 \text{ mg/dL}$  (5.6 mmol/L) or known type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM)



# PREVALENCE

- The prevalence of overweight in pediatric renal transplant recipients is notably high and tends to increase post-transplantation.
- Plumb et al., **31.4%** of pediatric patients (159 patients, 56<5yrs)- overweight or obese pre-transplantation, which increased to **52.8%** in 4 year follow-up period.
- Bondi et al. **25%** of pediatric solid-organ transplant recipients (410 children, median transplant age -8.9yrs), developed obesity within 5 years post-transplant.
- Taner et al. - prevalence of overweight and obesity increased from **9%** at the time of transplantation (total 136 pts) to **31.6%** two years post-transplantation.

- **Longitudinal Changes in Body Mass Index Following Renal Transplantation in UK Children.**

Plumb LA, et al. Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation : Official Publication of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association - European Renal Association. 2014;29(1):196-203

- **Incidence and Risk Factors of Obesity in Childhood Solid-Organ Transplant Recipients.**

Bondi BC, et al. Transplantation. 2020;104(8):1644-1653.

- **Effects of Body Mass Index Changes in Pediatric Kidney Transplant Patients.**

Taner S, et al. Transplantation Proceedings. 2023;55(5):1111-1115.



# Complications

1. **Delayed graft function (DGF):** Overweight and obese pediatric renal transplant recipients have a higher risk of DGF.
2. **Acute rejection:** The risk of acute rejection was found to be increased in overweight and obese pediatric patients.
3. **Prolonged hospitalization:** more likely to experience prolonged hospital stays post-transplantation (OR 1.35, 95% CI 1.17-1.54).
4. **Graft failure:** Increased hazard of graft failure. (HR of 1.13-1.61 (95% CI 1.05-1.22) for graft failure in obese pediatric recipients).
5. **Mortality:** Associated with higher mortality rates in pediatric renal transplant recipients. (HR 1.19, 95% CI 1.05-1.35).
6. **Cardiometabolic risks:** Higher cardiometabolic risks, including increased leptin levels, lower HDL cholesterol, higher free fatty acids, and higher glucose levels.
7. **Surgical complications**

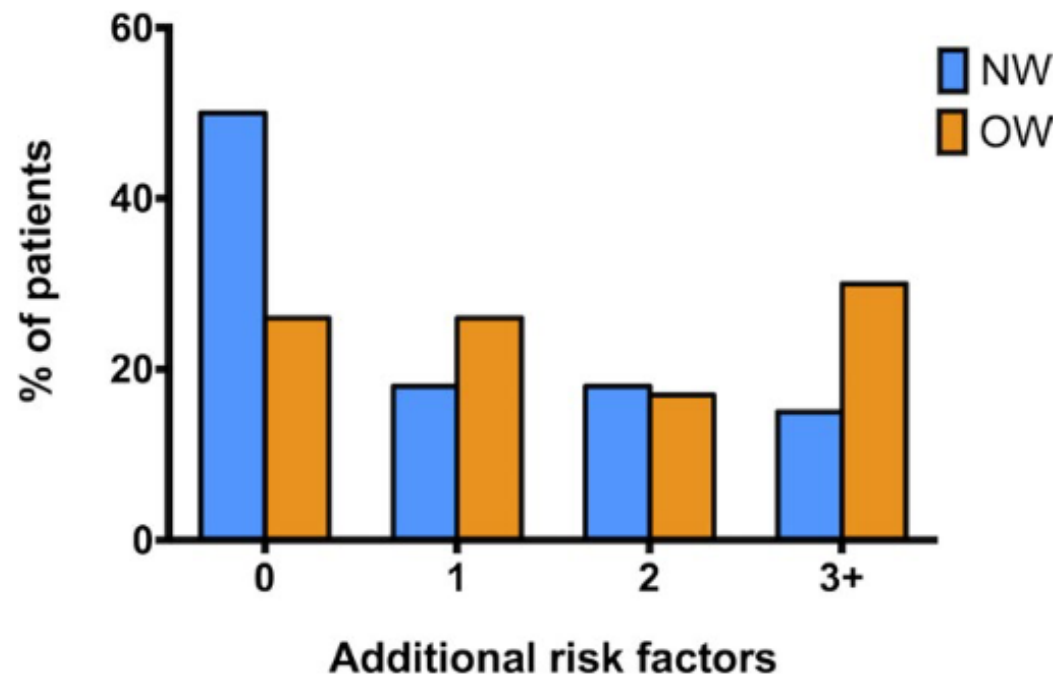
- Outcomes of Underweight, Overweight, and Obese Pediatric Kidney Transplant Recipients.  
Kaur K, et al. Pediatric Nephrology (Berlin, Germany). 2018;33(12):2353-2362.
- Obesity in Pediatric Kidney Transplant Recipients and the Risks of Acute Rejection, Graft Loss and Death.  
Ladhani M, et al. Pediatric Nephrology (Berlin, Germany). 2017;32(8):1443-1450.



# Cardiometabolic Risks Vary by Weight Status in Pediatric Transplant Recipients: A Cross-Sectional, Single-Center Study

He S, et al. Pediatric Transplantation. 2017;

- 80 adolescents kidney (63) or liver (17) transplant recipients
- Mean±SD, 14.8 years ±3.0
- Mean duration from transplant of 6.0 (±4.1) years
- 32.5% of participants were OW
- Higher leptin, higher free fatty acid, higher apoB-to-apoA1 ratio, higher glucose
- lower HDL, higher triglycerides
- higher free fatty acid, higher apoB-to-apoA1 ratio, higher glucose
- Regardless of obesity status, **57.5%** of participants had cardiometabolic risk using consensus guidelines
- While overweight and obese weight status, patients were more likely to have multiple risk factors than normal weight children after transplantation



**FIGURE 1** Percentages of kidney transplantation recipients with 0, 1, 2, and 3+ cardiovascular risk factors by weight categories. OW=overweight or obese; NW=normal weight or underweight. This graph presents the percentages of kidney transplant recipients with different numbers of risk factors, from none to more than three. Percentages are within each weight category (for OW or NW, respectively). The following cardiovascular risk factors were counted: total cholesterol  $\geq 5.18$  mmol/L (age <20 y), or  $\geq 5.83$  ( $\geq 20$  y); LDLc  $\geq 3.37$  mmol/L (<20 y), or  $\geq 4.14$  ( $\geq 20$  y); triglycerides  $\geq 1.13$  mmol/L (0-9 y), or  $\geq 1.47$  ( $\geq 10$  y); HDLc  $\leq 1.04$  mmol/L (all ages); fasting glucose  $> 6.99$  mmol/L (all ages)

in pediatric kidney transplant recipients: a single-center study

R. Jin<sup>3</sup> | R. Liverman<sup>4</sup> |

term metabolic changes and resultant cardiovascular risk factors arising after pediatric kidney and liver transplantation. We enrolled a total of 80 transplant recipients (63 kidney, 17 liver) with a mean age of  $14.8 \pm 3.0$  years. Among kidney transplant recipients, we observed higher leptin (16.7 vs 7.5  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ,  $P = .03$ ), higher free fatty acid (0.6 vs 0.5 mmol/L,  $P = .03$ ), and higher glucose (5.8 vs 5.0 mmol/L,  $P = .03$ ) compared with normal weight individuals. Regardless of obesity status, 57.5% of participants were considered at high cardiometabolic risk. This study suggests that obesity in adolescents has increased cardiometabolic risk factors of obesity and diabetes. The identification of cardiometabolic risk factors in adolescents can improve the health and long-term outcomes of pediatric kidney and liver transplant recipients.

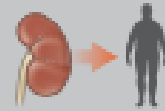


# WEIGH

## Prospective cohort

## Impact of obesity in kidney transplantation

### Background



Obese transplant recipients have a better survival rate than those undergoing dialysis



This study compares the impact of obesity and pre-transplant weight loss on patient and graft survival

- Weight loss is a significant predictor of patient survival (HR 1.23).
- Grèze et al. found that obesity was associated with improved patient survival (HR 0.94).
- Patient survival was significantly better in obese KTR (HR 1.23).
- Graft survival was significantly better in obese KTR (HR 1.40).
- Survival rates were significantly better in obese KTR (HR 1.23).
- Graft survival was significantly better in obese KTR (HR 1.40).

### Methods



Data from two French registries (2008–2014)



Kidney transplant recipients (KTR)



Comparisons:

- Obese (BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) vs. non-obese (BMI  $< 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Weight loss ( $\geq 10\%$  body weight) vs.  $< 10\%$  body weight loss or weight gain

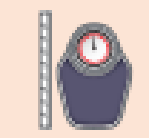


Outcomes:

- Patient survival
- Graft failure



N = 7270  
KTR



32 kg/m<sup>2</sup>  
Mean BMI

### Results



Patient survival



Graft failure

HR (95% CI) vs. non-obese patients

**0.94**  
(0.73–1.23)

**1.40**  
(1.09–1.78)



Obese  
KTR

HR (95% CI) vs. obese patients  
with no weight loss

**0.79**  
(0.35–1.77)

**2.17**  
(1.02–4.63)



Obese:  
weight loss

### Conclusion

Obesity is not a risk factor for excess mortality after kidney transplantation and should not therefore be an obstacle to having access to a graft. Pre-transplantation weight loss is not associated with improved outcomes in kidney transplant recipients.



# IMPACT OF OBESITY IN KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION: A PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY FROM FRENCH REGISTRIES BETWEEN 2008 AND 2014.

- Greater risk in obese patients of delayed graft function (24.6 versus 12.3%,  $P < 0.001$ ),
- Cardiovascular complications
- Post-transplant diabetes
- Post-transplant length of hospital stay was also significantly longer in obese patients
  
- Mean BMI at transplant was 29.1 kg/m<sup>2</sup> in obese WL and 32.4 kg/m<sup>2</sup> in obese nWL ( $P < 0.001$ ).
- Dialysis duration was longer in the obese WL than in the obese nWL and the time between start of dialysis and registration on the waiting list was longer for obese WL
- Graft survival at 5 years was significantly lower in obese WL than in obese nWL
- In contrast, patient survival at 5 years was comparable in the two groups
- Graft survival was significantly lower in obese WL than in obese nWL, whereas patient survival was similar in the two groups

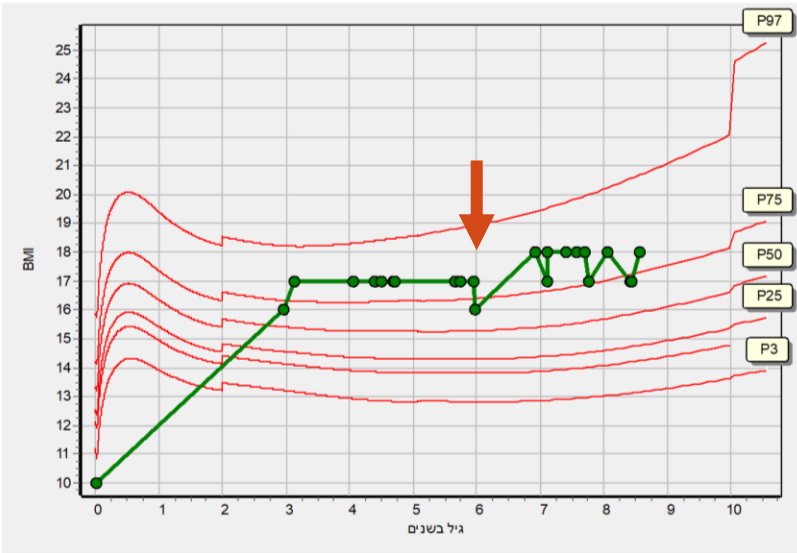




# OUR EXPERIENCE

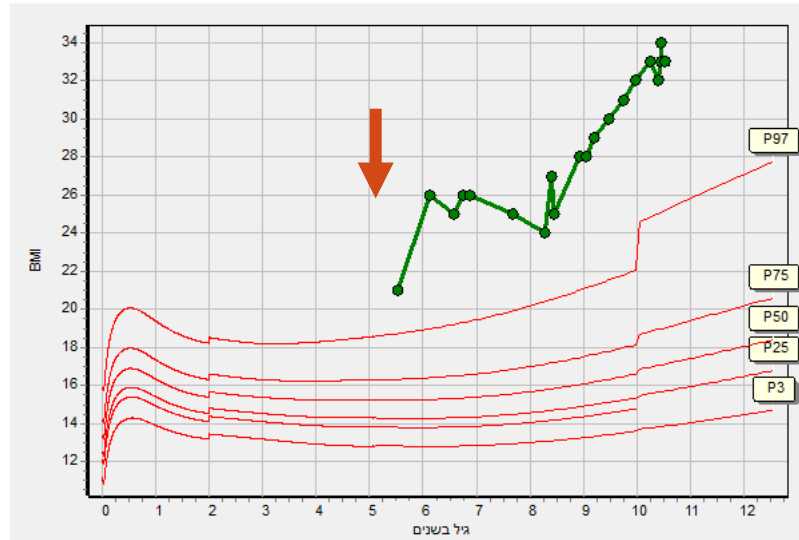
BMI (בנות)

סודי רפואי



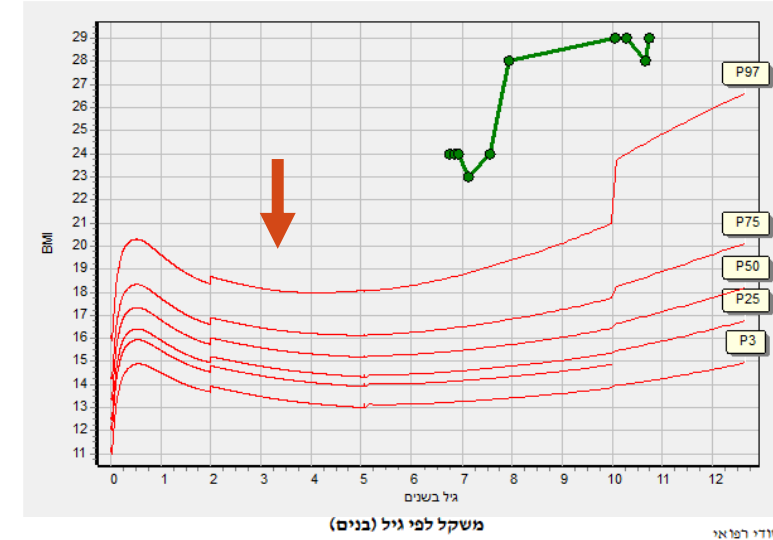
BMI (בנות)

סודי רפואי

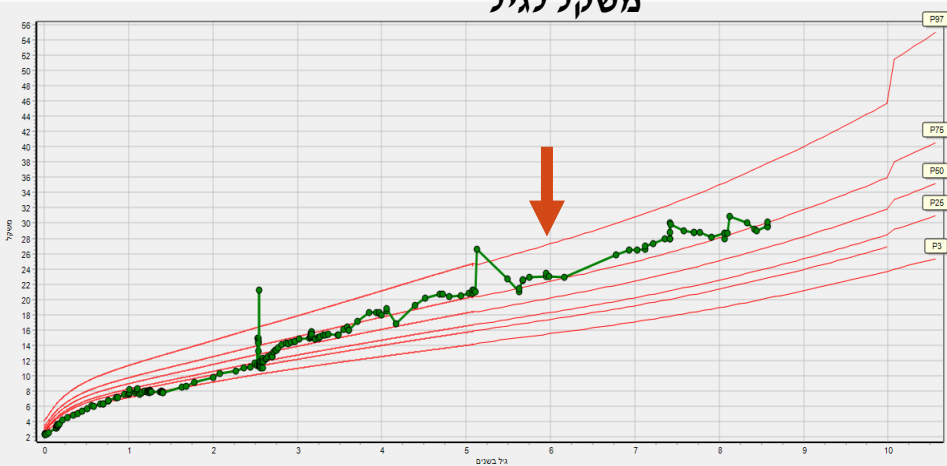


BMI (בנים)

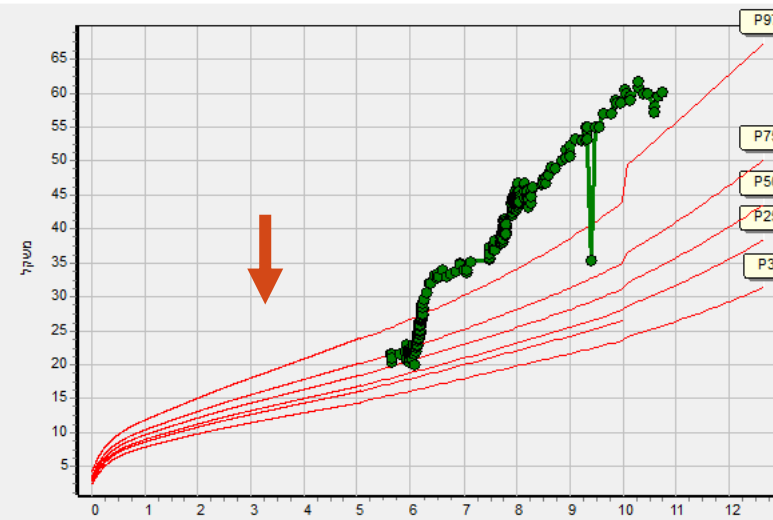
סודי רפואי



משקל לגיל

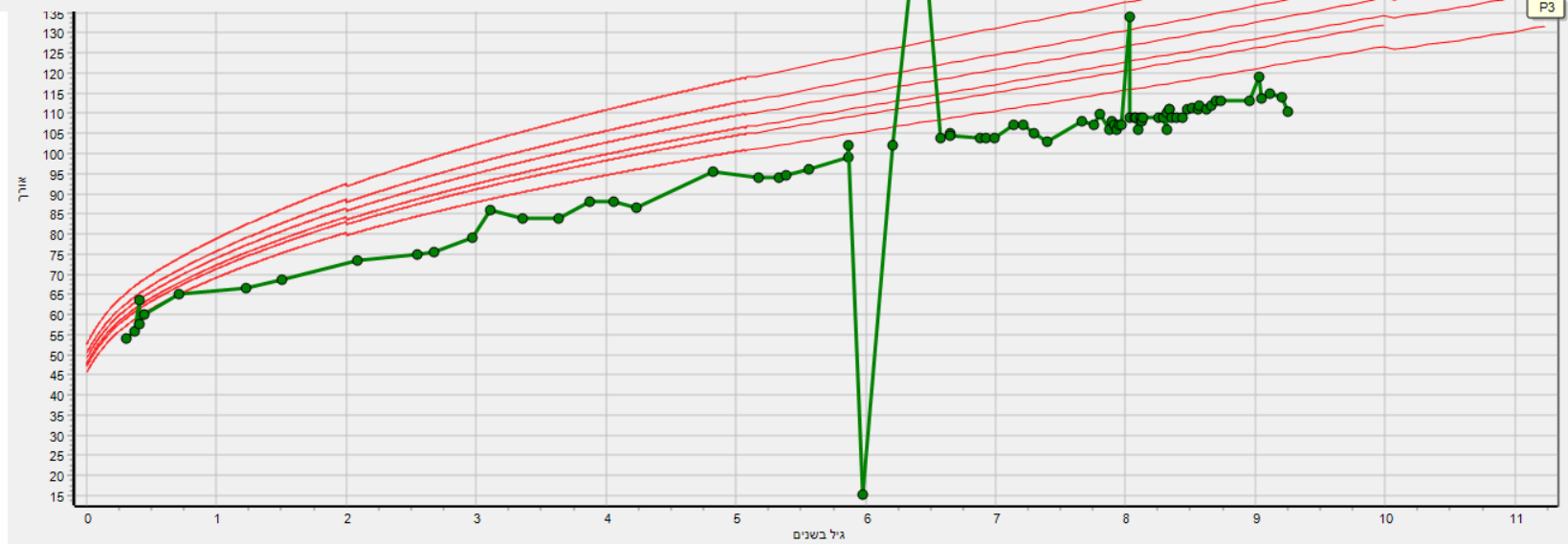
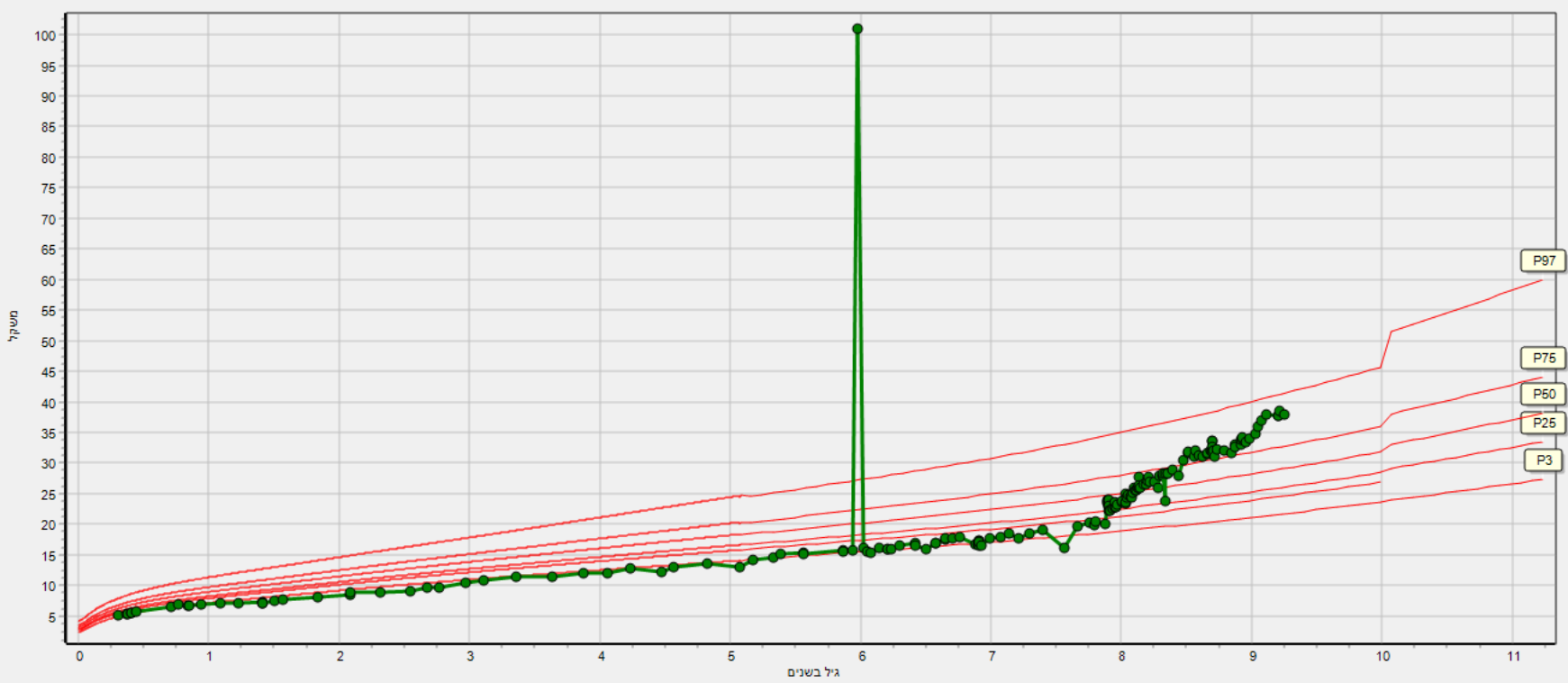


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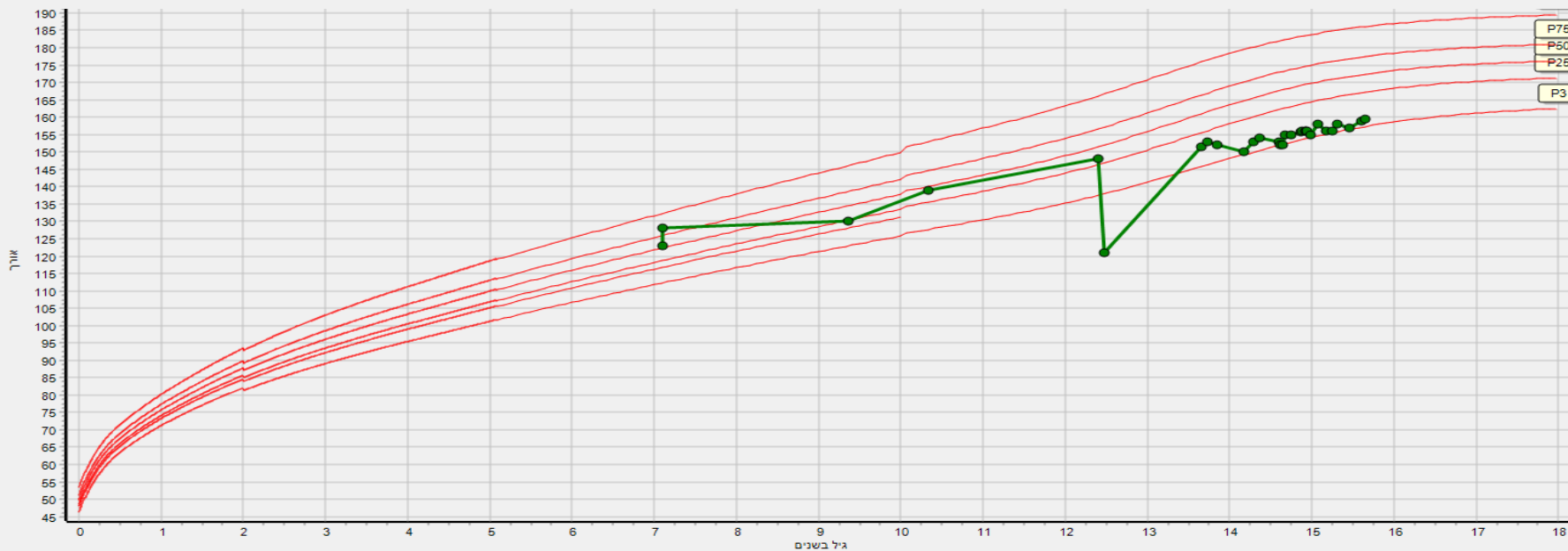
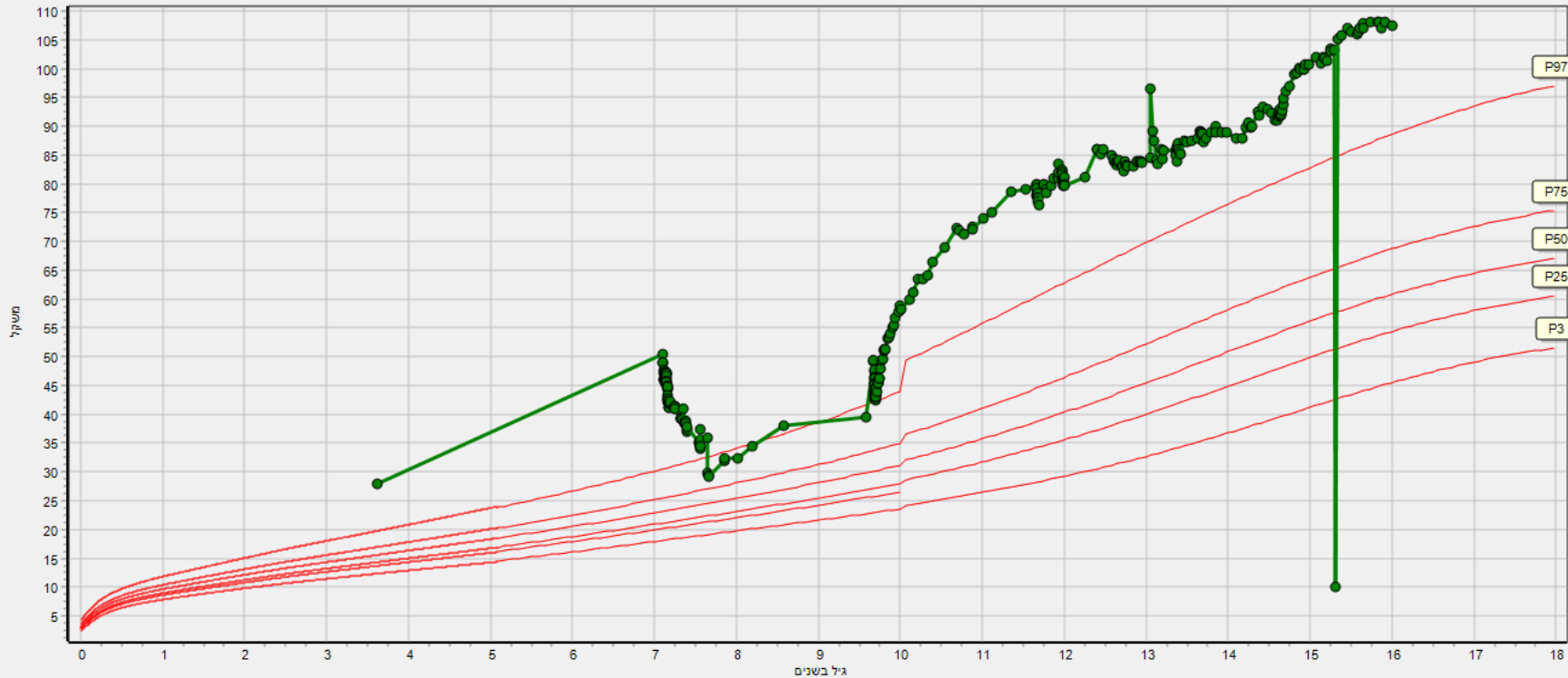


# ע.ג.י.

איסי"ק כליות מגיל 6 חודשים על  
רקע כליות דיספלסטיות (בירור  
גנטי לא אבחנתי)  
השתלה 10.10.23 מהמת  
ללא ארועי דחיה  
BK נפרופטיה  
Pseudotumor cerebri (לכן  
לא חודש GH)



# ח.ע.



- תסמונת נפרוטית עמידה לטיפול
- השתלה מהמת 28.9.18 (גיל 11)
- הישנות FSGS מספר פעמים
- דחיה הומורלית כרונית
- סכרת מטופלת בglucophage
- ת"ל ל- GLP1R agonists



# OUR EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2024 33 pediatric renal transplantation
- 3/33 (10%) obese prior to transplantation
- 9/33 (27%) obesity and severe obesity post-transplantation
- 2/9 (1/3 prior to transplantation) history of immunologic disease and steroid treatment in the past
- Anti rejection protocol in all pediatric transplanted patients in our center include steroids, tacrolimus, MMF
- 1/9 (11%) was treated with high dose steroids post-transplantation due to rejection episode



# TREATMENTS FOR OBESITY

- מרפאת אורח חיים בריא – דיאטנית, רופא ספורט, קרדיולוג
- Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) (ozempic, liraglutide)
- Side effects – GIT symptoms, acute pancreatitis,
- sGLT-2 inhibitors –
- S/e recurrent uti, AKI, hypotension
- Setmelanotide in central hyperphagia –
- S/e hypokalemia??? Dehydration and AKI



HHS Public Access

Author manuscript

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**Efficacy and safety of setmelanotide, a melanocortin-4 receptor agonist, in patients with Bardet-Biedl syndrome and Alström syndrome: a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial with an open-label period**

Prof. Andrea M. Haqq, MD<sup>1</sup>, Prof. Wendy K. Chung, MD<sup>2</sup>, Prof. Hélène Dollfus, MD<sup>3</sup>, Robert M. Haws, MD<sup>4</sup>, Gabriel Á. Martos-Moreno, MD<sup>5</sup>, Prof. Christine Poitou, MD<sup>6,7</sup>, Prof. Jack A. Yanovski, MD<sup>8</sup>, Robert S. Mittleman, MD<sup>9</sup>, Guojun Yuan, PhD<sup>9</sup>, Elizabeth Forsythe, MD<sup>10</sup>, Prof. Karine Clément, MD<sup>6,7</sup>, Prof. Jesús Argente, MD<sup>5,11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Pediatric Endocrinology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

<sup>2</sup>Division of Molecular Genetics, Department of Pediatrics, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA

<sup>3</sup>Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, CARGO and Department of Medical Genetics, Strasbourg, France

<sup>4</sup>Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Marshfield, WI, USA

<sup>5</sup>Department of Pediatrics and Pediatric Endocrinology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Hospital Infantil Universitario Niño Jesús, CIBER “Fisiopatología de la obesidad y nutrición” (CIBEROBN), Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain

<sup>6</sup>Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Nutrition Department, Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, France

<sup>7</sup>Sorbonne Université, Inserm, NutriOmics Research Unit, Paris, France

<sup>8</sup>Section on Growth and Obesity, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA

**Correspondence and reprint requests to:** Jesús Argente, MD, PhD, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Hospital Infantil Universitario Niño Jesús, Avenida Menéndez Pelayo, 65, 28009 Madrid, Spain, Phone: +34 91 5035912, Fax: +34 91 5035939, [jesus.argente@fundacionendo.org](mailto:jesus.argente@fundacionendo.org).

#### CONTRIBUTORS

RMH contributed to conceptualization, investigation, supervision, validation, and writing – review & editing. AMH contributed to conceptualization, investigation, statistical analytic plan, and writing – review & editing. WKC contributed to conceptualization, investigation, statistical analytic plan, and writing – review & editing. HD contributed to conceptualization, investigation, supervision, and writing – review & editing. GÁM-M contributed to conceptualization, data collection, investigation, statistical analytic plan, and writing – review & editing. GÁM-M contributed to conceptualization, investigation, supervision, and writing – review & editing. JAY contributed to conceptualization, investigation, supervision, and writing – review & editing. JAY contributed to conceptualization, investigation, statistical analytic plan, and writing – review & editing. RSM contributed to data collection, interpretation, analysis, and writing – review & editing. GY contributed to data analysis and interpretation. EF contributed

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# SUMMARY

- Weight gain, over-weight and obesity are prevalent in the pediatric population and increasing prevalence in the pediatric kidney transplant population than in the past decades
- Rapid weight gain and obesity have been shown to effect outcomes of kidney transplant and long-term cardiovascular risk, which is already increased in the pediatric CKD population
- There are conflicting results regarding the effect of weight loss prior to transplantation and scares literature regarding the effect of post-transplant weight loss



# EFFECTIVE WEIGHT LOSS INTERVENTIONS

- **Lifestyle and Behavioral Modifications:** The Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI) recommends therapeutic lifestyle measures, including dietary changes and increased physical activity, as first-line interventions.
- **Nutritional Counseling:** Regular dietary assessment and counseling.
- **Pharmacologic Interventions:** like glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1RAs)
- **Bariatric Surgery???**

