

Response to Letter to the Editor From Virú-Loza and Chávez-Nomberto: “Safety and Efficacy of Pediatric Growth Hormone Therapy: Results From the Full KIGS Cohort”

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Abbreviation: GH, growth hormone.

To the Editor,

We thank Virú-Loza and Chávez-Nomberto for highlighting some of the limitations and concerns raised in the discussion section of our paper, “Safety and Efficacy of Pediatric

Growth Hormone Therapy: Results From the Full KIGS Cohort” (1), and agree with their conclusion “that longer follow-up and adequate comparisons are needed to have better information on whether or not there is a higher incidence

of some types of cancer or higher-risk subgroups” (2). Our paper was never intended as the final imprimatur of the safety of pediatric growth hormone (GH) therapy; it could not be. In the face of worrisome indirect evidence, challenges and limitations in the direct evidence of long-term (especially into adulthood) safety, as well as changes in both GH treatment practices and its recipients over time, continued scrutiny of GH safety is needed (3). Rather, our paper was intended to leverage real-world clinical data on more than 80 000 children treated with recombinant human GH in more than 50 countries to provide, as described by Abucham and Boguszewski, “a unique and valuable source of good-quality documentation of diverse growth disorders and their treatment outcomes” (4).

Disclosures

M.M. has received research support from Merck Serono and Pfizer, and has consulted for Ascendis, BioMarin, Ferring, Merck Serono, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, and Sandoz. M.B.R. has received speaker fees from Mediagnost, Merck, Pfizer, and Sandoz. M.E.G. has a research contract from Novo Nordisk; serves as a consultant for and/or on advisory boards for Adrenas, Eton Pharmaceuticals, Neurocrine Biosciences, Novo Nordisk, and Pfizer; is a member of a data safety monitoring board for Aeterna Zentaris and Ascendis; and receives royalties from McGraw-Hill and UpToDate. E.V. has received research support from Ascendis, OPKO, and Pfizer. W.C. has received research support from Pfizer. R.R. is a past member of the KIGS Strategic Advisory Board and serves as a consultant for Pfizer. A.L. has received speaker fees from Alexion, Kyowa Kirin, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, and Sandoz. A.C.S.H.-K. is a past

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