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Mechanisms of endocrinology

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Mechanisms of disease:

The endocrinology of obstructive sleep

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apnoea

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osteoporosis, fractures.

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hormone, acromegaly, goiter, hypothyroidism, hypogonadism, polycystic ovarian syndrome,

Abstract

Obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) is a common disorder that is associated with serious co-morbidities with a negative impact on quality of life, life expectancy and health costs. As OSA is related to obesity and is associated with sleep disruption, increased inflammation and oxidative stress, it is not surprising that OSA has an impact on the secretion of multiple hormones and is implicated in the development of many endocrine conditions. On the other hand, many endocrine conditions that can affect obesity and/or upper airways anatomy and stability have been implicated in the development or worsening of OSA. This bi-directional relationship between OSA and the endocrine system has been increasingly recognised in experimental and epidemiological studies and there are an increasing number of studies examining the effects of OSA treatment on endocrine conditions and vice-versa. In this review article, we will critically appraise and describe the impact of OSA on the endocrine system including obesity, dysglycaemia, the pituitary, the thyroid, the adrenals, the reproductive system and the bones. In each section, we will assess whether a bi-directional relationship exists, and we will describe the potential underlying mechanisms. We have focused more on recent studies and randomised controlled trials where available and attempted to provide the information within clinical context and relevance.

Introduction:

Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) is a common disorder that affects 13-33% of men and 6-19% of women¹. OSA is characterized by instability in the upper airways (UAs) leading to recurrent episodes of the UA obstruction, particularly during the transition to sleep and rapid-eye-movement (REM) sleep (characterised by low-amplitude, mixed-frequency theta EEG waves, pronounced eye activity and low muscle tone²) (see online supplement)³⁻⁶. These repeated obstructions are associated with recurrent episodes of oxygen desaturation/ re-saturation, cyclical changes in blood pressure (BP), heart rate, sympathetic activity, and intrathoracic pressure, brief microarousals and changes to sleep architecture, such as the loss of REM and slow wave sleep (SWS or deep sleep, is stage N3 of NREM sleep characterised by high-amplitude slow waves, further decrease in muscle tone, possible eye movement cessation and is a restorative sleep stage decreasing though with age²) (Figure 1 & online supplement) ^{3,5,7}.

The interactions between OSA and the endocrine system have attracted much attention and they often can be bi-directional, which is not surprising considering the diurnal secretion pattern of many hormones. In addition, OSA treatment (namely continuous positive airway pressure CPAP) has an impact on the endocrine system (such as insulin resistance, cortisol secretion) while treating endocrine disorders (such as obesity, hypothyroidism, or acromegaly) can also improve OSA. Moreover, the well-established higher OSA risk in men vs. women also emphasises the potential relationship between sex hormones and OSA pathogenesis. Hence, it is important to understand the links between OSA and the endocrine/metabolic system in order to improve our understanding of the pathogenesis and the comorbidities and mortality associated with OSA and a variety of endocrine disorders⁸.

In this article, we will review the interactions between OSA and the endocrine system and we will highlight the underlying mechanisms underpinning this bidirectional relationship when exists, as well as explore the potential impact of OSA treatment on the endocrine disorders and vice versa. Some aspects of this article require some understanding of the pathogenesis of OSA, hence we have provided an overview of OSA and its pathogenesis in the online supplement.

OSA & Obesity Interplay

Obesity is a major risk factor for the development of OSA⁹⁻¹¹, which is driving the increase in OSA prevalence^{1, 12}. Obesity prevalence in patients with OSA (approx. 70%) is also higher than that of the general population 13.

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The impact of weight change on OSA

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Weight changes have significant impact on OSA and its severity. In a longitudinal study of randomly selected patients from Wisconsin, a 10% weight gain over 4 years was associated with 32% (95%CI 20-45%) increase in the Apnoea- Hypopnoea Index (AHI: the average number of apnoea and hypopnea events per hour of sleep) and 6-fold higher risk of developing moderate to severe OSA (95%CI 2.2-17) compared to weight stability¹¹. On the other hand, 10% weight loss was associated with 26% (95%CI 18-34%) decrease in the AHI compared to weight stability¹¹, partly due to a reduction in UAs collapsibility observed with weight loss¹⁴. The favourable impact of weight loss on OSA and its severity seems to be evident regardless of the method of losing weight such as life-style interventions, pharmacotherapy, or bariatric surgery as has been shown by several studies among them and randomized controlled trials (RCTs)¹⁴⁻¹⁸.

In a RCT, of 60 patients with obesity and moderate to severe OSA, laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding (LAGB) resulted in greater weight loss (5.1 vs. 27.8 kg), and greater reductions in AHI (based on PSG) (-14.0 vs. -25.5 events/hour; between-group difference was -11.5 events/h 95% CI -28.3 to 5.3; P = 0.18) over 2 years compared to life-style intervention (dietary, physical activity and behavioral conventional program)¹⁵. In a recent post-hoc analysis of this RCT, patients who achieved a normal supine AHI (i.e. AHI < 5/h) lost significantly more weight than those who had persistently elevated AHI (weight change $-23.0 [-21.0 \text{ to } -31.6]\% \text{ vs. } -6.9 [-1.9 \text{ to } -17.4]\%, p = 0.001)^{19}$. Other studies also showed significant improvements in the AHI and a high proportion of OSA resolution following sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass^{16, 17}. A meta-analysis confirmed the positive impact of bariatric surgery on OSA severity, by showing a significant reduction of AHI post-surgery (by 38.2 events/hour, 95% CI: 31.9-44.4)²⁰. A more recent systematic review and meta-analysis by Wong et al showed that bariatric surgery was associated with a reduction in the AHI (WMD -25.1 events/h (95%CI - 29.9, -20.2)); with the pooled mean pre- and post-surgery AHI of 39.3 ± 15.1 and 12.5 ± 5.6 events/h respectively; however OSA persisted in most patients and there was high between studies heterogeneity mostly due to baseline AHIO and duration of follow up²¹. Hence, RCTs remain needed to address the impact of bariatric surgery on OSA, although these might be challenging to conduct. In another RCT, liraglutide 3mg daily combined with lifestyle intervention resulted in greater reductions in weight (-5.7% vs -1.6%, P<0.0001) and AHI (-12.2 vs -6.1 events/h, estimated treatment difference: -6.1 events/h; 95% CI -11.0 to -1.2, P=0.015) compared to life-style intervention only over 32 weeks¹⁸.

Obesity can affect multiple aspects of OSA pathogenesis, as summarised in Figure 2²²⁻³⁶.

The degree of weight loss correlated significantly with improvements in OSA in this trial¹⁸.

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The impact of OSA on weight (Figure 2B)

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The impact of OSA on obesity is controversial. One possibility is that OSA could lead to worsening obesity via multiple mechanisms such as increased excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS) leading to a reduction in physical activity, sleep disruption leading to changes in hunger and satiety hormones, 37-39 (leptin resistance, increased ghrelin, increased orexin, and neuropeptide Y levels), changes to sleep duration and architecture Sleep restriction was associated with increased activation of the brain regions related to emotional response to stimuli and motivation and reward system based on functional MRI, which was similar to what observed following energy deprivation resulting in corrective behavior of seeking food^{45, 46}. This is supported by cross-sectional studies showing that the AHI was significantly associated with increased preference of calorie-dense foods independent of the severity of obesity in adolescents and children^{47, 48} and that visceral obesity was increased in patients with OSA and short sleep duration (< 5 h/night) (OR, 4.40, 95% CI, 1.80-10.77), compared to those who slept ≥ 7 h/night⁴⁹. In addition, disruption of sleep architecture (suppression of SWS as happens in OSA) without affecting sleep duration in young healthy men, increased hunger for high-calorie food in the afternoon and evening⁵⁰. OSA could also contribute to increased fat mass by activation of the HPA axis and increased cortisol secretion and by hypercapnia induced adipogenesis-OSA could also cause obesity via increased cortisol secretion, and hypercapnia induced adipogenesis, 12. However, despite the above mentioned plausible mechanisms, epidemiological evidence for an impact of OSA on weight longitudinally is lacking. One small (n=53) prospective study of patients with newly diagnosed OSA showed 7.4±1.5 kg weight-gain over 12 months, but these patients had also a history of weight gain in the year preceding OSA diagnosis⁵³, hence quantifying the impact of OSA is difficult without an appropriate control group.

Nonetheless, if OSA is a cause of obesity, then it would be expected that OSA treatment will lead to weight loss. However, a systematic review of 3181 patients from 25 RCTs showed that CPAP resulted in a modest but statistically significant increase in BMI and weight compared to control (BMI change: -0.018±0.243 kg/m² for controls vs. 0.134±0.273 kg/m² for CPAP; weight change: -0.096±0.718 kg for controls vs. 0.417±0.718 kg for CPAP)⁵⁴. The mechanisms behind the weight gain after CPAP are not fully elucidated. However, CPAP reduces leptin (satiety hormone), intermittent hypoxia and sympathetic activity leading to reductions in lipolysis and energy expenditure and hence can cause weight gain ⁵⁵⁻⁶¹.

Furthermore, it is plausible that OSA can lead to weight loss via increased sympathetic activity leading to increased energy expenditure and lipolysis via lipoprotein lipase inhibition and sympathetic activation.^{62, 63}. The net effects of the above-mentioned opposing mechanisms/impacts of weight gain

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and weight loss is potentially weight maintenance in patients with OSA. CPAP treatment tilts the balance between these opposing mechanisms towards weight gain by inhibiting sympathetic activity (Figure 2), but this might be opposed to a certain degree by the impact of CPAP on increasing GH levels leading to lipolysis The above, however, is only a hypothesis that requires further investigations. "It is plausible that OSA might have multifaceted effects that can promote weight gain

and weight loss resulting in largely opposing effects and when patients receive CPAP then the balance

is tilted towards weight gain (Figure 2). This is, however, a hypothesis that needs to be examined.

OSA & Dysglycaemia

As obesity is a major risk factor for OSA, much of the research in this field has focused on prediabetes/T2D. However, it is now increasingly recognized that OSA is common in patients with T1D as well. In this section, we will focus mostly on pre-diabetes/T2D but we will also summarise the evidence regarding T1D.

Epidemiology:

including T2D⁹, which is not surprising since obesity is a common risk factor for OSA and T2D^{7, 65}. Several cross-sectional studies showed a high prevalence of OSA (mild: $5 \le AHI < 15$; moderate: $15 \le AHI < 30$; severe: $AHI \ge 30$) in patients with T2D (8.5-86%, 23.8-70% moderate-to-severe OSA), and a high prevalence of T2D in patients with OSA (15-30%)^{7, 66}. This variation in prevalence estimates is due to different diagnostic methods and criteria used to define OSA and differences in studies populations⁶⁷⁻⁷¹.

In general population studies, OSA has been shown to be associated with various comorbidities,

Longitudinal studies have also shown that OSA is an independent risk factor for the development of T2D. A recent meta-analysis of 8 studies (63,647 participants) showed that OSA was an independent risk factor for T2D after adjustment for age, sex, and BMI (adjusted RR 1.49, 95% CI:1.27, 1.75), which remained significant even in studies that defined OSA as AHI \geq 5 (adjusted RR 1.42; 95% CI 1.02, 1.99)⁷². A small RCT of 12 weeks in 80 patients with obesity (BMI > 45 kg/m² and mostly with metabolic syndrome) suggested that CPAP resulted in improvements in impaired glucose tolerance status compared to no CPAP and that CPAP lowered the 2-h glucose levels following OGTT ⁷³. However, there remains a need for large RCTs of long duration to assess the impact of CPAP, on its own or in combination with lifestyle intervention, on T2D prevention.

OSA and insulin resistance and β -cell function:

The impact of OSA on incident T2D is likely to be mediated by the effects of OSA on insulin resistance (IR) and β -cell dysfunction⁷. Studies that examined the relationship between OSA and IR had

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conflicting results, due to variations in the definitions of OSA and IR, but most of the studies showed an association⁶⁵. The association between OSA and IR was present in lean men, suggesting that the relationship is not dependant on obesity^{74, 75}. Variation in EDS might contribute to the variation in the associations between IR and OSA observed in the different studies as Barcelo et al showed that the association between OSA and IR was only evident in patients with EDS vs. without EDS despite being matched for BMI⁷⁶. In support of the relationship between OSA and IR, a recent meta-analysis of 6 RCTs of adults without diabetes showed a favourable effect of CPAP on IR vs. no CPAP (mean difference in HOMA-IR -0.43; 95%CI:-0.75 to -0.11, p=0.008)⁷⁷.

The impact of OSA on β -cell function is much less examined in the literature. In one study of patients without diabetes, patients with moderate-to-severe OSA had a lower β -cell function (measured using the disposition index during frequent sampling intravenous glucose tolerance test (IVGTT)) compared to healthy controls; and higher AHI was associated with lower β -cell function despite adjustment for obesity⁷⁸. Similar results were found in a more recent study⁷⁹ and in another study in patients with T2D⁸⁰. Similar to IR, CPAP improved β -cell function in compliant patients with moderate to severe OSA without diabetes (uncontrolled trial)⁸¹ or with pre-diabetes (RCT)⁸².

Mechanisms: OSA leading to dysglycaemia and T2D:

There are several putative mechanisms linking intermittent hypoxia (IH) and sleep fragmentation to IR, β -cell dysfunction, and dysglycaemia³³ summarised in **Figure 3**.

In rodent models, IH has been shown to increase β -cell death ⁸³ and impair β -cell function ⁸⁴. Results from experimental studies in healthy adults showed that 5 hours of IH (24.3 events/h, average oxygen saturation 90.6%, range 75.4-98%) resulted in blunted, rather than increased, insulin secretion despite reductions in insulin sensitivity (based on IVGTT)⁸⁵. Chronic IH–(CIH) can lead to β -cell dysfunction and IR via increased oxidative stress⁸⁶, which pancreatic β -cells are less able to handle compared to other tissues⁸⁷⁻⁸⁹, and increased inflammation (increased CD8⁺ cytotoxic T-cells recruitment, shift to M1-proinflammatory macrophages in crown-like structures, IL and TNF-a)^{90, 91}. In addition, chronic IH can increase free fatty acid (FFA) release leading to ectopic fat deposition in the liver and muscle rusting in IR⁹⁰. The impacts of chronic IH and oxidative stress on IR could also be mediated by hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) tissue effects⁹². In rodents, 35 days of chronic IH decreased insulin receptor expression and phosphorylation in skeletal muscle and adipose tissue, but not in the liver which was accompanied by up-regulation of HIF-1 α in the liver and down-regulation HIF-1 α and HIF-2 α in skeletal muscle⁹³.

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Changes in sleep architecture can also contribute to the effects of OSA on glucose metabolism⁹⁴. In an experimental study of young healthy adults, all-night suppression of SWS (without awakening the subjects, changing sleep duration, or REM sleep) was achieved via acoustic stimuli of varying intensity and frequency for three nights⁹⁴. This resulted in a reduction in insulin sensitivity (by 25%, which is similar to a weight gain of 8-13 kg) without a compensatory increase in insulin release (based on IVGTT) ⁹⁴. These changes in insulin sensitivity and β -cell function were associated with increased sympathetic activity and in some cases changes in cortisol levels^{94, 95}. In addition, several other neurohormonal mechanisms are invovled in the links between OSA and T2D, which are summarised in **Figure 3** ^{30,39, 51, 65, 96-113}.

The impact of Dysglycaemia on OSA:

While the impact of OSA on glucose metabolism has been widely studied, the impact of T2D and dysglycaemia on OSA has not received much attention. Many cross-sectional studies showed a high prevalence of OSA in patients with T2D as we detailed above, but whether this prevalence is higher than an age- and obesity- matched population without T2D remains unclear. Recently, a population-based study of 151,194 participants with T2D showed a Hazard risk of incident OSA 1.53 (95% CI: 1.32-1.77) and further patients treated with insulin had higher risk of OSA, especially if they were women (1.43; 95%CI: 1.11-1.83). In addition, the incidence and natural history of OSA in patients with T2D are currently unknown. One longitudinal study assessed the relationship between IR and possible OSA prospectively and showed that HOMA-IR was an independent predictor for incident witnessed sleep apneas (not formally diagnosed OSA) over 6 years (OR: 1.31; 95%CI1.13-1.51)¹¹⁵.

Several possible mechanisms make it plausible that dysglycaemia/diabetes can lead to the development or worsening of OSA as summarized in **Figure 3** ^{7, 11, 115-132}.

OSA in patients with T2D

OSA and glycaemic control in T2D:

Several cross-sectional studies in patients with T2D showed that patients with OSA had worse fasting plasma glucose, glycaemic variability and HbA1c compared to patients without OSA despite adjustment for confounders (difference in HbA1c between patients with and without OSA 0.7 to 3.7%)^{7, 133-135}. In addition, OSA severity is correlated with worse glycaemic measures⁷. Interestingly, one study showed that the relationship between AHI and HbA1c was only evident for the AHI during REM sleep and not during NREM sleep (after adjustment for confounders)¹³⁶. This raised the possibility that OSA treatment might improve glycaemic parameters in patients with T2D.

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Several uncontrolled trials showed that CPAP improved glycaemic variability, postprandial glucose levels and HbA1c over the short-term^{65, 137}. However, 3 RCTs showed conflicting results. Two of these RCTs showed that CPAP had no impact on HbA1c^{138, 139}, while another RCT showed that CPAP for 6 months lowered HbA1c by -0.4% (95%CI: -0.7% to -0.04%; P = 0.029) while there was no change in HbA1c in the control group 140. These conflicting results could be due to differences in studies population (β-cell reserve), baseline glycemic control (for example one of the negative RCTs had a baseline HbA1c of 7.3%, while the RCT that showed positive effects of CPAP had baseline HbA1c of 7.6%)¹³⁹, or study duration (3 vs 6 months)¹³⁸. There were no significant changes in weight or anthropometrics measures in these RCTs between the CPAP and the control arm to explain the conflicting results. However, an important difference between these RCTs was compliance with CPAP; the positive RCT showed CPAP usage of 5.2 hours per night compared to below 4 hours/night in the trial by West et al^{138, 140}. Longer CPAP duration per night might have an important impact on glycaemic control as REM tend to occur later during sleep and the AHI during REM correlated with HbA1c better than the AHI during NREM^{82, 136}. Hence, there is still a need for well-designed RCTs of longer CPAP duration to answer the question whether CPAP can (or cannot) improve glycaemic control in patients with T2D.

OSA and vascular complications in patients with T2D:

Several plausible mechanisms have led to the hypothesis that OSA could lead to the development or progression of macro- and micro- vascular complications in patients with T2D as shown in **Figure 4** ¹⁴¹⁻

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The relationship between OSA and CVD in patients with T2D has not been studied widely. A retrospective observational study showed that in patients with T2D and newly diagnosed OSA, CPAP for 9-12 months lowered systolic (mean change -6.81, 95%CI -9.94 to -3.67) and diastolic (-3.69, -5.53 to -1.85) BP ¹⁴⁷. Similar reductions in BP levels were observed after 3 months of CPAP in an RCT in which patients with T2D and OSA were randomised to early (<1 week) or late (1–2 months) CPAP¹⁴⁸. The Sleep AHEAD study showed an association between AHI and a history of stroke (adjusted OR 2.57; 95% CI:1.03, 6.42) but not with coronary artery disease ¹⁴⁹. In a longitudinal study in 132 patients with T2D and a normal baseline exercise echocardiography test, OSA predicted incident coronary artery disease (adjusted HR 2.2; 95% CI: 1.2–3.9; p = 0.01) and heart failure (3.5; 1.4–9.0; p < 0.01) over a median follow-up of 4.9 years ¹⁵⁰. In another recent study of 1311 patients who had percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), OSA was associated with increased risk of major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events (MACCE) over 3 years in patients with diabetes mellitus (adjusted HR 2.03, 95% CI 1.10–3.74, P = 0.023) after adjustment for age, sex, ethnicity, BMI, and

hypertension¹⁵¹. There is no interventional RCT published regarding the impact of CPAP on CVD in patients with T2D.

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OSA has been shown to be associated with diabetes-related microvascular complications including peripheral neuropathy, chronic kidney disease (CKD), retinopathy and autonomic neuropathy⁷¹. Most of these studies were cross-sectional and no interventional studies have been published although several are ongoing.

A recent systematic review of 15 cross-sectional studies concluded that there was no convincing evidence that OSA was associated with diabetic retinopathy (DR), but that there was some evidence to suggest that OSA was associated with greater DR severity ¹⁵². The systematic review also suggested that OSA was associated with maculopathy¹⁵². It is plausible that the impact of OSA on DR is more related to disease progression rather than the development of disease (which is a function of hyperglycaemia) 7. The increased retinal oxygen demands overnight will make the retina particularly vulnerable to the effects of the IH that occur in patients with T2D and OSA. This is supported by a recent longitudinal study in patients with T2D in which OSA was not associated with the development of DR but was associated with progression to pre-proliferative and proliferative DR¹⁵³. In this longitudinal study, OSA was associated with sight threatening DR (STDR) (adjusted OR 2.3; 95% CI, 1.1–4.9; P = 0.035), and maculopathy (adjusted OR 2.7, 95%CI 1.2–5.9, p = 0.01) at baseline ¹⁵³. After a median follow-up of 43.0 (IQR 37.0-51.0) months, patients with OSA were more likely than patients without OSA to develop pre-proliferative/ proliferative DR (18.4% vs. 6.1%; P = 0.02), which remained significant after adjustment for potential confounders (adjusted OR 5.2; 95% CI 1.2-23.0; P = 0.03)¹⁵³. Interestingly in this study, patients with moderate to severe OSA who were compliant with CPAP were significantly less likely to develop pre-proliferative/proliferative DR compared to non-compliant patients¹⁵³. This finding was supported by another proof of concept study that showed that CPAP treatment ≥2.5 h/night CPAP over 6 months in individuals with OSA and significant macular oedema was associated with improvement in visual acuity but without improvement in the oedema ¹⁵⁴. Currently, RCTs assessing the impact of CPAP on DR are ongoing.

In a systematic review of 2 longitudinal and 10 cross-sectional studies there was an association between OSA and CKD in patients with T2D (pooled OR 1.73, 95% CI: 1.13-2.64)¹⁵⁵. In a longitudinal study in patients with T2D, CKD prevalence was higher in patients with OSA vs. without OSA (49.3% vs. 23.8%, P < 0.001), which remained significant after adjustment for confounders (adjusted OR 2.64, 95% CI 1.13-6.16), P = 0.02). OSA was also associated with lower eGFR and more micro- and macro-albuminuria¹⁵⁶. After an average follow-up of 2.5 (0.7) years, eGFR decline was greater in patients with vs. without OSA (median -6.8% [IQR -16.1 to 2.2] vs. -1.6% [-7.7 to 5.3%], P = 0.002)¹⁵⁶. After

adjustment, having OSA (B = -3.8, P = 0.044) and higher AHI (B = -4.6, P = 0.02) were predictors of lower study-end eGFR 156 .

The relationship between OSA and peripheral neuropathy in patients with T2D was examined in a cross-sectional study, which showed that OSA is associated with peripheral neuropathy based on the Michigan Neuropathy Screening Instrument (MNSI) vs. patients without OSA (60% vs. 27%, P < 0.001), which remained significant after adjustment (OR 2.82; 95% CI 1.44-5.52; P = 0.003)¹⁴³. In addition, OSA was associated with lower intra-epidermal nerve fibre density (based on skin biopsies), and a history of foot ulceration in patients with T2D¹⁴¹. These studies suggest that OSA was associated with both large and small fibre neuropathy in patients with T2D. Cohort studies and RCTs assessing the relationship between OSA and CPAP on diabetes-related neuropathy and its complications are ongoing.

OSA and T1D:

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As patients with T1D tend to be lean or leaner than patients with T2D, examining OSA in T1D received much less attention than in T2D ¹⁵⁷. However, there is increasing interest in OSA in patients with T1D, particularly that some recent studies suggest that OSA in T1D might be more related to autonomic neuropathy rather than obesity ¹⁵⁸. In addition, epidemiological studies suggest that obesity prevalence is increasing in patients with T1D which might further increase their risk of developing OSA ¹⁵⁹.

In a systematic review of 4 studies (n= 186 patients), the prevalence of OSA (defined as AHI \geq 5) was 51.9% among adult patients with T1D, but the 95% CI was wide (31.2-72.6) reflecting the small sample size the variation between studies¹⁶⁰. The prevalence of moderate to severe OSA (AHI \geq 15) in the same meta-analysis was 16.7% (95% CI: 1.1, 34.5)¹⁶⁰.

Autonomic neuropathy was suggested as one potential mechanism for the high prevalence of OSA in T1D as shown in a cross-sectional study of 199 patients with T1D in which OSA was present in 32% of the patients with normal BMI ¹⁶¹. And another study showed a higher prevalence of OSA in patients with T1D and cardiac autonomic neuropathy compared to patients with T1D but without neuropathy (67% vs. 23%)¹⁶². Other factors might contribute to the high prevalence of OSA in children and adolescents with T1D including lower mean lung volumes (FVC, PEF, MMEF) ^{163, 164} and impaired gas exchange with lower diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide ¹⁶⁵. There are similar findings of impaired pulmonary function in adult patients with T1D ¹⁶⁶⁻¹⁶⁸. The natural history, impact, and pathogenesis of OSA in patients with T1D remain poorly explored and large well-designed studies are needed.

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OSA & the Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System (RAAS)

- 343 The links between OSA and RAAS activation are potentially bi-directional (Figure 5).
- 344 Hyperaldosteronism might also play an important role in the well-established links between OSA and
- hypertension (particularly resistant hypertension-RH) (Figure 5)^{9, 169-173}.
- 346 The pathophysiology of hyperaldosteronism in patients with OSA is mainly attributed to the
- 347 activation of the RAAS due to cyclical/intermittent hypoxia¹⁷². In addition, some studies suggested a
- 348 higher prevalence of primary aldosteronism (PA) in patients with OSA compared to patients without
- 349 OSA¹⁷³.

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- 350 A recent meta-analysis has examined the relationship between OSA and RAAS activation 174. The
- 351 meta-analysis included 14 studies, all but one, were case-control studies and they included a
 - relatively small sample size (mostly < 100, range 12 to 120) ¹⁷⁴. The studies generally included middle
 - age men and 8 of them included patients with hypertension¹⁷⁴. The meta-analysis found no significant
 - relationship between OSA and plasma renin activity (PRA) (mean difference 0.17 ng/mL per hour
 - (95% CI: -0.22 to 0.55, P = 0.40)) or plasma renin concentration (PRC) (mean difference 0.95 ng/mL
 - $(95\% \text{ CI:} -0.58 \text{ to } 2.48, P = 0.23)^{174}$. However, angiotensin II levels were significantly higher in patients
- 357 with OSA compared to those without OSA (mean difference of 3.39 ng/L; 95% CI 2.00 to 4.79, P <
- 358 0.00001)¹⁷⁴. There was a trend towards higher plasma aldosterone concentration (PAC) in patients
 - with OSA vs. no OSA (mean difference 0.95 ng/dL; 95% CI: -0.16 to 2.07, P = 0.09)¹⁷⁴. However, when
 - examined in patients with and without hypertension separately, patients with hypertension and OSA
 - had significantly higher PAC vs. patients with hypertension but without OSA (mean difference 1.32
- 362 ng/dL; 95% CI: 0.58 to 2.07, P = 0.0005)¹⁷⁴.
- 363 The above-mentioned meta-analyses had high heterogeneity, which could be due to variations in the
- definition of OSA¹⁷⁴. The heterogeneity can also be attributed to the medication used prior to RAAS
- 365 measurements; however, a meta-regression showed that anti-hypertensives did not affect the
- 366 relationship between OSA and PAC¹⁷⁴. Supporting the findings of this meta-analysis, another study
- 367 showing that the AHI correlated significantly with PAC and urinary aldosterone levels (r= 0.568, p =
- 0.0009; r = 0.533, p = 0.002, respectively) in patients with RH and hyperaldosteronism¹⁷⁵.
- 369 Several uncontrolled studies in patients with hypertension (mostly RH) showed that CPAP lowered
- 370 angiotensin II and aldosterone levels 176-179. One RCT in which 117 patients with RH were
- 371 randomised to CPAP (n=57) vs. no CPAP (n=60) showed that 6 months of CPAP resulted in greater
- 372 reduction in aldosterone excretion (based on 24 h urine) compared to the control group in the per-
- 373 protocol analysis (mean difference: $-3.3 \,\mu\text{g}/24 \,\text{h}$; 95% CI -6.1 to $-0.4 \,\mu\text{g}/24 \,\text{h}$; $P = 0.027)^{180}$.

However, the intention to treat analysis showed only a trend (p=0.07). The impact of CPAP on lowering aldosterone was particularly evident in those with uncontrolled hypertension, non-dipping in nocturnal BP, not using spironolactone, and with patients with worse hypoxia¹⁸⁰. A recent meta-analysis of 3 observational studies and 2 RCTs (did not include the above-mentioned RCT) showed that CPAP lowered aldosterone levels compared to no/sham CPAP (mean difference - 0.236, 95 % CI - 0.45 to -0.02, p = 0.034)¹⁸¹.

380 Chronic IH seems to play an important role in the impact of OSA on the RAAS and the mechanistic

pathway is shown in **Figure 5** 172,182-185,176-178.

On the other hand, RAAS activation and hyperaldosteronism might lead to or worsen OSA via multiple mechanisms as detailed in **Figure 5.** In a retrospective cohort registry based study, the risk of developing OSA was higher in patients with hypertension and hyperaldosteronism compared to those without hyperaldosteronism after adjustment for age, sex, BMI, diabetes mellitus, and heart failure (adjusted OR: 1.8; 95% CI 1.3-2.6)¹⁸⁶. Moreover, in a cross-sectional study of patients with RH, spironolactone treatment was associated with lower AHI¹⁸⁷. In another uncontrolled study in patients with RH, spironolactone (25-50mg daily for 8 weeks) improved OSA severity (based on PSG) (AHI: 39.8±19.5 vs 22.0±6.8 events/h; P<0.05;) ¹⁸⁸. A recent systematic review and meta-analysis found 3 studies (1 RCT) and concluded that spironolactone reduced the AHI by a mean of -21.12 (95% CI -27.47 to -14.77, P<0.00001)¹⁷⁵. Furthermore, in a small study of 20 patients with PA who had PSGs, having MR antagonists (n=13) or adrenalectomy (n=7) resulted in AHI reduction from 22.5 (14.7) to 12.3 (12.1) (P=0.02)¹⁸⁵. These studies support the notion that hyperaldosteronism could worsen OSA and suggest that aldosterone antagonists can be useful in patients with hypertension or PA and OSA.

Finally, due to the links between OSA and PA the recent guidelines of the Endocrine Society on the management of PA recommend that patients with hypertension and OSA are screened for PA¹⁷³. Furthermore, well designed RCTs assessing the impact of MR antagonists on OSA are needed, particularly that OSA is associated with increased CVD risk and that CPAP compliance is often not optimal.

Although not directly related to RAS activation, it is important to note that patients with OSA can present with hypertension and the clinical and biochemical features of phaeochromocytoma without the presence of a catecholamine secreting tumour (i.e. pseudo-phaeochromocytoma). These cases are rare but have been reported in multiple case reports and series, and the clinical and biochemical features usually resolve with CPAP treatment or weight loss.

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OSA & hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis

Cortisol secretion has a well described circadian rhythm and is closely related to sleep stages^{192, 193}.

Sleep onset and SWS are associated with a decline in cortisol levels followed by increased cortisol secretion in late sleep (which is consistent with the rise in early morning)¹⁹⁴. On the other hand, cortisol might impact on sleep architecture, for example, HPA axis hyperactivity inhibits SWS and

The impact of OSA on HPA axis is controversial with conflicting results due to the confounding effects

promotes nocturnal awakening¹⁹³.

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and lean controls²⁰².

OSA and HPA axis activation:

of obesity, the sampling frequency (single time point vs. 24-hours profile), variability in matching between patients with and without OSA, small sample sizes, and short CPAP duration with variability in compliance. Some studies showed no relationship between OSA and the HPA axis, while some even suggested that OSA might inhibit the HPA axis [AHI and ODI correlated negatively with morning cortisol levels: r = -0.444, P = 0.002 and r = -0.381, P = 0.011 respectively) ¹⁹⁵⁻¹⁹⁸. In a systematic review of studies that compared cortisol levels in patients with OSA to either obese or lean control, there was no evidence of HPA activation in patients with OSA in 6/7 studies¹⁹⁹. However, only 2 of these studies had plasma cortisol measurements over 24-h, while the rest had single time point measurements¹⁹⁹. The two studies that measured 24-h cortisol profile reported contradicting results as one showed no difference in mean 24-h plasma cortisol between patients with OSA and obese controls²⁰⁰, while the other showed that OSA was associated with HPA activation compared to obese controls 201. However, the impact of OSA on HPA axis may not necessarily be consistent over the 24-h period, as the study by Vgontzas et al. showed that mean plasma cortisol levels between 23:00h and 7:00h were higher in patients with OSA and obesity vs. obese controls, consistent with nocturnal HPA activation when there is intermittent hypoxia and disruption of the sleep architecture 201 (Figure 6). Another important aspect is that the impact of OSA on HPA axis may not be simply related to basal or 24-h cortisol profiles but might be related to the dynamic responses to HPA inhibition or stimulation. Carneiro et al. showed that although basal salivary cortisol wasn't different between patients with OSA vs. obese controls, the salivary cortisol inhibition following overnight dexamethasone suppression test (ONDST) was significantly less pronounced in patients with OSA compared to obese controls¹⁹⁶. Interestingly, this deficit was corrected after 3 months of CPAP¹⁹⁶. Another study also showed that ACTH responses to CRH stimulation were higher in patients with OSA compared to obese In the same above-mentioned systematic review, 8 uncontrolled studies assessed the impact of CPAP on cortisol levels (blood or salivary)¹⁹⁹. Five studies showed no impact^{76, 196, 203-205}, while 3 studies showed that CPAP lowered cortisol levels (blood and salivary)^{201, 206, 207}. The studies that showed favourable impacts of CPA measured cortisol more frequently during the 24 hours compared to the negative studies¹⁹⁹. However, a recent in-laboratory study showed that 8 hours of CPAP per night did not have any effect on 24-h cortisol profile²⁰⁸. Nonetheless, this study was over a 1-week period, unlike the studies that showed positive impact of CPAP on cortisol which were over 3 months period. A slightly longer study of 14 days, showed that CPAP can lower morning salivary cortisol in men and women with obesity and OSA²⁰⁹. The confounding effects of obesity and gender on the relationship between OSA and HPA axis were addressed in a recent study of non-obese men and postmenopausal women which showed that OSA patients had higher 24h blood cortisol levels compared to controls, which were lowered after 2 months of CPAP⁵¹.

Overall, while the studies showed conflicting results there is evidence that OSA is associated with HPA activation particularly nocturnally and that CPAP (14 days to 3 months) can lower cortisol 24-h profile rather than cortisol levels at single time points. The effects of OSA on the HPA axis can be mediated

via mechanisms related to night awakenings (even when brief), sleep restriction, and intermittent

hypoxia^{51, 210-216} as shown in **Figure 6.**

OSA in patients with Cushing's syndrome:

Several studies have shown that OSA is common in patients with Cushing's syndrome (CS) (whether endogenous or exogenous)²¹⁷. The prevalence of OSA (based on PSG) was higher in women with active CS (n=35) compared to age- gender- and BMI- matched controls (n=30) (50% vs 23%, P=0.003)²¹⁸. After controlling for BMI and HOMA score, serum cortisol remained independently associated with AHI (R²: 77.8%, P<0.001), suggesting that the relationship between CS and OSA are not only related to obesity²¹⁸. A recent Taiwanese population-based cohort study showed that patients with CS (n=53) were at increased risk of developing OSA compared to matched controlled (matched for age, sex and comorbidities including obesity, T2D, and hypertension) (4.11 vs. 1.70 per thousand person/ year; HR 2.82, 95% Cl: 1.67-4.77), with slightly higher risk in men vs. women²¹⁹. Interestingly in this study, the survival curves for OSA development starting separating clearly from the first year after the diagnosis of CS²¹⁹. Similarly, in patients without OSA (n=17) who had PSG before and after 3 months of prednisolone (10mg daily or more), AHI worsened by 56% compared to controls (with mild OSA but no steroid treatment)²²⁰. This increase in AHI did not correlate with changes in weight and neck circumference suggesting mechanisms other than adiposity responsible for the worsening in AHI²²⁰.

While obesity might play an important role in the relationship between CS and OSA, it is clear from the above-mentioned studies that obesity is not the only factor. In addition to obesity, hyperglycaemia, IR, and ectopic fat (in the peritoneum, mediastinum and parapharyngeal spaces) may also play a role in the increased risk of OSA in patients with CS^{217, 221}. Moreover, hypercortisolism can induce UA myopathy leading to compromised UAs (Figure 6)^{217, 219, 222}.

Future studies need to assess the impact of CS treatment on the incidence and severity of OSA and to examine whether the increased OSA risk in patients with CS is lifelong or simply related to the period where CS is active. In addition, endocrinologists, surgeons and anesthetists need to be aware of the high risk of OSA in patients with CS when considering surgical treatment (both pituitary and adrenal)

in order to ensure the safety of the surgical intervention.

OSA & Growth Hormone (GH)/IGF axis

Summary of OSA impact on GH/IGF axis as well as the relation of GH excess and deficiency to OSA development or worsening can be found in **Figure 7**.

OSA and the dysregulation of GH/IGF axis

OSA-associated chronic IH and disruption of sleep architecture can lead to dysregulation of the GH/IGF axis as GH secretion is increased after sleep onset and during SWS (both of which are disrupted in patients with OSA)^{223, 224}. Overall, studies in rodents and humans suggest that OSA is associated with suppression of basal and stimulated GH and IGF-1 levels which are improved by CPAP²²⁵.

In rodents, IH was shown to cause a recoverable dose-dependent suppression of GH release and GH mRNA expression, possibly due to modulation of somatostatin activity²²⁶. In humans, OSA was shown to be associated with a marked reduction in GH blood levels, which increased following one night of CPAP⁶⁴. In addition, fasting IGF-1 levels correlated negatively with the ODI in men with OSA, but increased following 3 months of CPAP¹⁹⁵. Sleep disruption also plays a role in the relationship between OSA and the GH/IGF-1 axis. In an experimental study of patients with OSA who were examined for 1 night without CPAP and 1 night with CPAP, GH plasma levels and secretion rate (bloods were collected every 10 minutes over night) were reduced and increased after CPAP treatment; this improvement correlated with the improvement in SWS²²⁷.

In support of the impact of OSA on the GH/IGF axis, a recent RCT in 65 middle-aged men with moderate to severe OSA showed that CPAP vs sham CPAP increased IGF-1 levels, total and pulsatile GH secretion, mean GH concentration, mass of GH secreted per pulse and pulse frequency after 12 weeks of treatment with further increases in IGF-1 levels and a decrease in IGFBP-1 levels by week

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24²²⁸. Furthermore, other treatments that can improve OSA, such as adenotonsilectomy in children,
 have also been shown to improve IGF-1 and IGFBP-3 levels²²⁹.

Obesity is a potential confounder for the relationship between OSA and GH/IGF-1 dysregulation as obesity (particularly visceral) is linked to a reduction in GH secretion, IGF-1 levels and peripheral GH sensitivity, which can recover with weight loss²³⁰. However, IGF-1 levels were lower in patients with OSA compared to the weight matched controlled despite that both these groups had lower IGF-1

levels compared to the lean control⁹⁶.

OSA and acromegaly

Many cross-sectional studies showed that OSA is highly prevalent in patients with active acromegaly (45-80%)²³¹, with an average prevalence of 69% in PSG-based studies ²³². Although lowering GH/IGF-1 improves OSA, up to 40% (range 21-58%²³¹) of those with controlled acromegaly have persistent OSA that required evaluation and the consideration of CPAP^{233, 234}. "Although clinicians seem to be aware of the links between acromegaly and OSA (as shown by a survey in Italy), only few patients undergo PSG in clinical practice.²³⁵.

In addition, OSA contributed to the adverse outcomes of acromegaly, despite that there were no differences in GH or IGF-1 levels between patients with OSA + acromegaly vs. acromegaly alone 236 .

The presence of impaired glucose tolerance or T2D was higher in patients with acromegaly and OSA vs. acromegaly only (n: 10/17 vs. 5/19)²³⁶; although this was not adjusted for obesity. In addition, OSA

contributed to insulin resistance in patients with acromegaly, which improved by CPAP in a RCT²³⁷.

Furthermore, OSA might play an important role in other acromegaly-related comorbidities such as

hypertension and heart failure/cardiomyopathy²³⁸.

As a result of the high prevalence of OSA and its impact on acromegaly-related comorbidities, the 2014 Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline for acromegaly recommended evaluating all patients for OSA²³⁴. In addition, the guidelines recommended that patients with severe pharyngeal thickness and OSA should be treated with somatostatin receptor ligands preoperatively to reduce the OSA-related surgical risks²³⁴.

On the other hand, a recent study of 507 patients with OSA showed that 10 patients (1.97%) had elevated IGF-1 levels, of which 9 patients suppressed GH levels on OGTT giving an acromegaly prevalence of 0.2% (1/507)²³⁹. These findings suggest that screening for acromegaly in OSA should not be routinely performed. However, if in addition to OSA, there are other features of acromegaly or acromegaly-associated conditions (such as T2D, debilitating arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, hyperhidrosis, and hypertension), then measurement of IGF-1 levels is recommended as per the Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline for acromegaly²³⁹. Finally, although we have focused

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here on OSA, central sleep apnoea (SA) can also occur in the context of acromegaly²⁴⁰, but far less common than OSA²³⁶.

The mechanisms leading to the high prevalence of OSA in patients with acromegaly are summarised in **Figure 7** $^{231, 234, 240-254}$.

The impact of Acromegaly treatment on OSA:

Considering that OSA is driven by the excess of GH/IGF-1 in patients with acromegaly, it is not surprising that treating acromegaly can improve OSA but it is also common for OSA to persist or even worsen after acromegaly is brought under control²³⁴. In a small study of 6 patients with SA syndrome (obstructive or central with EDS) and acromegaly, trans-sphenoidal adenomectomy resulted in resolution of the SA syndrome in all patients regardless of whether acromegaly was cured or not²⁵⁵. In another study of 24 patients with acromegaly (20 with OSA) who had remission following trans-sphenoidal surgery; at 1 month post-surgery, the tongue area declined while the airway volume increased significantly, accompanied with improved OSA²⁵⁶. The prevalence of severe OSA was reduced from 45.8% to 28% by 6 months with significant improvements in AHI but the average AHI remained in the moderate OSA range ²⁵⁶. Similar results were observed in patients with acromegaly following treatment with somatostatin analogues ^{246, 249, 257-260} and pegvisomant ^{261, 262}.

The above-mentioned studies clearly show that curing acromegaly or significant improvements in GH/IGF-1 levels can improve OSA, but many patients with acromegaly have persistent moderate to severe OSA that might require CPAP. In fact, OSA might occur in patients with acromegaly following achieving normal IGF-1 levels even when OSA was not present at baseline as shown by Chemla et al (OSA cured in 57%, new OSA that was not present at baseline 22%)²⁶³. Similarly, Castellani et al. showed that AHI increased in 55.5% of patients with acromegaly after complete/ partial biochemical control (either after surgery, radiotherapy, and/or medical therapy)²³¹. OSA persistence following acromegaly treatment is probably due to multiple factors including increased BMI and/ or irreversible craniofacial-skeletal deformities/fibrosis²³¹. Hence, OSA evaluation is needed post acromegaly treatment regardless of the normalisation of GH/IGF-1 ²⁶⁴.

OSA in adults with GH deficiency (GHD):

OSA is much less examined in GHD in comparison to acromegaly. OSA is very common in adults with GHD with a prevalence of 63%; which is mainly due to the increased obesity either due to GHD or hypothalamic obesity as a result of surgical or radiotherapy treatment delivered to the underlying pituitary or hypothalamic pathology.

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GH replacement and OSA:

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GH replacement in patients with GHD might improve OSA due to a reduction in adiposity (strong lipolytic properties of GH^{266, 267}) or it could worsen OSA if the replacement was excessive. The studies in the literature show a mixed picture. In a small study of 5 men who received GH replacement (median dose 2 U/day; median serum IGF-I 351 mcg/I) for 1-2 years post pituitary surgery GHD, showed that 6 months after stopping GH treatment the median obstructive AHI decreased significantly from 4.4 to 0.1 (P = 0.03) whereas the central AHI increased from 6.3 to 14.6 (P = 0.03); suggesting that GH replacement worsened the OSA but improved central SA ²⁶⁸. However, another study of 19 patients with GHD showed that GH replacement for 6 months had no impact on AHI (pre vs post treatment: 28.2/h vs. 28/h), regardless of baseline OSA status²⁶⁵. Still, in a large observational longitudinal study of GH-treated (n = 1988) and untreated (n = 442) patients with GHD showed that after a mean follow up of 2.3 years the sleep apnoea incidence was greater in the group that received GH replacement (3.3% vs 0.9%, p<0.05), despite that the GH treated vs. untreated groups had similar BMI at baseline and the GH-treated group were younger 269. However, the GH-treated group had higher baseline IGF-1 levels (108 ± 61 vs. 90 ± 51 mcg/l, p <0.001) and serum IGFBP-3 levels (2.4 ± 0.9 vs. $2.1 \pm 1.0 \text{ mcg/l}$, p<.001)²⁶⁹. In a 12-month double blind RCT of 40 men with obesity and dysglycaemia who were randomised to either GH or placebo; GH treatment increased IGF-1 from 168±72 to 292±117 mcg/L, the AHI from 31±20 to 43±25 and the ODI from 18±14 to 29±21 (all p values ≤ 0.001)²⁷⁰. Interestingly, GH treatment in this study increased neck transverse diameter, circumference, and total cross-sectional area, while reduced abdominal visceral adipose tissue (based on CT)²⁷⁰.

Hence, more data is required to assess the impact of GH replacement on pre-existing OSA and the development of new OSA. However, GH replacement might result in the development or worsening of pre-existing OSA via increasing IGF-1 levels or via affecting adipose tissue distribution (increasing neck circumference).

OSA in Prader -Willi syndrome

Children and patients with Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) are also at high risk of having OSA (prevalence: 1:10,000- 25,000 live children), and as a result screening for OSA in this population has been recommended ²⁷¹. The high prevalence of OSA in patients with PWS is likely to be multifactorial due to GH deficiency, increased viscosity of upper airways secretions, craniofacial abnormalities with small airways, upper airways muscles hypotonia and secondary alveolar hypoventilation (obesity and scoliosis causing lung volume restriction) all leading to airway collapsibility ²⁷¹.

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The impact of GH replacement on OSA in children with PWS is debatable. Salvatoni et al. showed that short-term treatment with rhGH (6 weeks) did not worsen the AHI and there was no difference in AHI between the treatment and control group at baseline or study-end²⁷². Nonetheless, in this study, the AHI increased (i.e. OSA worsened) in 50% of the cases following GH replacement²⁷². Similar results were shown in another study suggesting that the AHI worsen in a subgroup of patients following GH replacement over the short run²⁷³; which in part could be due to the development of adenotonsillar hyperthophy following GH treatment²⁷³. However, longer term follow-up (2 years) showed that GH replacement did not worsen AHI during the follow up except in those who worsened shortly after GH initiation ²⁷⁴, ²⁷⁵. As a result, the 2013 consensus guidelines considered untreated severe obstructive sleep apnea as an exclusion criteria for rhGH initiation, till the patient is treated with CPAP²⁷⁶, ²⁷⁷. This is particularly important considering that sudden death early in the course of GH replacement in patients with PWS, associated with sleep disordered breathing/OSA, have been reported in the literature²⁷⁸⁻²⁸⁰.

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OSA & hypothalamic-pituitary-thyroid (HPT) axis

OSA in patients with hypothyroidism

A recent systematic review of 1 observational and 5 interventional studies (501 patients in their 4^{th} - 5^{th} decade of life) found that 25-50% of patients with overt hypothyroidism (OH) had nocturnal breathing abnormalities (snoring, choking, apnoea periods); which improved with levothyroxine 4 (LT4) treatment²⁸¹. In one study, 30% of patients with recently diagnosed OH had evidence of OSA (AHI \geq 5 based on PSG), and LT4 improved the AHI (from a median of 14.3 (7.4–33.6) to 2.1 (0.8–4.6))²⁸². In addition, in the later study LT4 treatment improved hypoxaemia and sleep architecture (TpO2 sat<90%c: 14% (2.2–19.9) vs 0.2% (0–1.7), p<0.05; SWS%: 18.4 (7.2–25.2) vs 28.2 (15–33.4), p<0.05)²⁸². This suggests that hypothyroidism can lead to/worsen OSA which improves with LT4 treatment. However, larger studies including RCTs are needed before confirming this relationship.

There is lack of good quality data regarding the relationship between OSA and subclinical hypothyroidism (SH); one small observational study (n=108) showed that 53% of patients with untreated SH had OSA (based on PSG)²⁸³. However, these results are likely to represent selection bias as the prevalence of OSA in healthy controls with normal thyroid functions was higher (75%) than that in patients with untreated SH despite that SH patients were heavier and the patients recruited from the respiratory department ²⁸³. Hence, currently we cannot be certain about the relationship between OSA and SH.

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Hypothyroidism in patients with OSA

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While studies are not consistent, overall there is no evidence that hypothyroidism is more common in patients with OSA compared to patients without OSA^{284, 285}. A recent study also supported this conclusion as it showed that the prevalence of raised TSH in 813 patients with severe OSA was 4.7% which is similar to the general population²⁸⁶. Some studies showed that the prevalence of SH was higher in OSA vs. control, but these studies have potential selection bias as the population was recruited from sleep clinics and the control group was younger and leaner²⁸⁷⁻²⁸⁹. Other studies did not show a high prevalence of SH in patients with OSA²⁹⁰. In a study of 245 euthyroid patients with suspected OSA, the prevalence of Hashimoto's thyroiditis was 32.2% in patients without OSA vs. 46.8% in patients with OSA (based on PSG) (p=0.03) ²⁹¹. The prevalence of Hashimoto's increased with worsening severity of OSA²⁹¹.

Mechanisms linking OSA and thyroid disorders:

- Hypothyroidism can lead to the development or worsening of OSA via multiple mechanisms
- summarized in **Figure 8** ^{232, 281, 282, 284, 291-300}.

OSA and non-thyroidal illness syndrome (NTIS)

interpreting thyroid function results in patients with OSA.

- 654 A recent cross-sectional study showed that patients with moderate to severe OSA (n=125) had a higher prevalence of NTIS (defined as normal TSH and low FT3) compared to controls (n=60) (10.4% 655 656 vs. 0%), but the control group was lean and there were more men in the OSA group³⁰¹. Within the OSA group, patients with NTIS had worse nocturnal hypoxemia compared to patients without NTIS 301. 657 This suggests that IH could play a role in the high prevalence of NTIS in patients with OSA, possibly 658 659 via down-regulation of deidodinase 1 and enhancing deiodinase 3 inactivating T3 and T4³⁰². In addition, oxidative stress and low grade inflammation, resulting from OSA, can also contribute to the 660 association between OSA and NTIS303, 304. CPAP for 5 months has been shown to improve FT3 levels in 661 662 patients with NTIS supporting the notion that OSA might lead to NTIS, but this study was not
- In summary, sleep apnoea and thyroid specialists need to have a low threshold to test for thyroid disorders if indicated clinically. In addition, OSA can be associated with NTIS and clinicians interpreting the thyroid function results need to take the presence of OSA into consideration. However, cohort studies with well-matched control groups and RCTs are needed to enable us to understand the complex relationship between OSA and HPT axis and the impact of treating one or the other.

controlled 301. However, it is important the clinicians take into account the possibility of NTIS when

OSA & the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Gonadal (HPG) axis

The interaction between sex hormones and OSA was initially brought to attention by the consistently reported a higher prevalence of OSA in men vs. women. This relationship was further emphasized by several observations including that testosterone replacement in men worsens/ increases the risk of having OSA, the prevalence of OSA in postmenopausal women was higher than in premenopausal women; hormone-replacement therapy reduced the risk of OSA in postmenopausal women and oral contraceptives were associated with lowered OSA risk in women with polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS)^{65, 305}.

In Men

OSA is associated with hypogonadotropic hypogonadism due to altered gonadotropin synthesis and release³⁰⁶. In a cross-sectional analysis of a prospective study of healthy older men (n=1312, \geq 65 years old), lower testosterone levels (based on quartiles) were associated with significantly less SWS, higher AHI (based on PSG) and more sleep time spent with O2 sat<90% after adjustment for age and race³⁰⁷. However, adjustment for BMI made these associations non-significant³⁰⁷. Other studies showed that patients with OSA had lower area under the curve and mean levels for LH (24.9 \pm 10.2 IU/I h vs. 43.4 \pm 9.5 IU/I, P < 0.005) and testosterone (67.2 \pm 11.5 nmol/I vs. 113.3 \pm 26.8 nmol/I, p=0.003) compared to healthy controls, but the control group was leaner numerically ³⁰⁸. Similar findings were found in other studies ³⁰⁹⁻³¹¹.

Testosterone replacement and OSA

Patients receiving testosterone replacement are at increased risk of developing OSA. In a cohort study, 3422 of US military service members, aged 40-64 years, who were free of OSA at baseline and received testosterone replacement, were matched based on age and comorbidities to men who did not receive testosterone treatment³¹². The absolute 2-year risk of incident OSA was greater in patients that received testosterone replacement vs those who did not (16.5% (95% CI: 15.1–18.1) vs 12.7% (95% CI: 11.4–14.2), p<0.001)³¹². Interestingly, the increased risk of OSA was greater for those who used injectable vs topical testosterone³¹². This is also supported by a small RCT in which healthy ambulatory men aged > 60 years were randomised to receive three injections of weekly intramuscular testosterone esters (500 mg, 250 mg, and 250 mg) or matching oil-based placebo and then crossed over to the other treatment after 8-week washout. Testosterone replacement in this RCT resulted in worsening RDI (approximately by 7 events per hour), mainly during non-rapid eye movement (NREM) sleep, and worsened nocturnal hyoxaemia measures; while placebo had minimal effects on RDI and hypoxia parameters ³¹³. Several other studies suggested a link between testosterone replacement and incident or worsening OSA³¹⁴⁻³¹⁷. As a result, the Endocrine Society

clinical practice guidelines recommended against the use of testosterone replacement in men with untreated severe OSA³¹⁸. It is unclear whether different methods of testosterone replacement have a differential impact on the risk of developing or worsening OSA due to the variations in the pharmacokinetics profiles of these agents.

The effects of testosterone can be time-limited as shown in a RCT of 67 men who received hypocaloric diet and were randomised to intramuscular injections of 1000 mg testosterone undecanoate or placebo 319 , in which testosterone replacement worsened the ODI by 10.3 events/h (95%CI, 0·8–19·8 events/h; P = 0·03) and on nocturnal hypoxaemia at 7 weeks but not at 18 weeks 319 .

This time dependent effects might be as a result of time dependent changes in hyperoxic ventilatory recruitment threshold following testosterone replacement³²⁰.

Mechanisms

Low testosterone in men can lead to loss of muscle mass and increased visceral adiposity, which can contribute to the increased/worsening OSA in men with hypogonadism^{321, 322}. It is unclear how testosterone replacement leads to OSA, but postulated mechanisms include altered ventilator responses such as increased response to hypoxaemia (leading to CO2 levels below apnea threshold), reduced sensitivity to hypercapnia, or anabolic effects (leading to UA narrowing) and an effect on the neuromuscular control of UA^{323, 324}. However, these mechanisms are not well proven with multiple studies showing conflicting results. In one interesting mechanistic study, androgen blockade with flutamide did not influence chemo-responsiveness to hypoxia/ hypercapnia³²⁵.

In addition, OSA can impact the HPG axis via several mechanisms including IH, sleep fragmentation and obesity^{306, 310, 326}. Testosterone levels peak during REM (fewer REM sleep episodes and REM sleep latency are related to lower testosterone concentrations³²³), hence the disruption of sleep architecture in OSA (loss of REM) might explain the link between OSA and low testosterone¹⁹³.

The impact of OSA treatment on the HPG axis:

CPAP effects on the HPG axis in men remains controversial with a limited number of studies in the literature. A meta-analysis in 2014 found only 2 RCTs and 5 observational studies with a total sample size of 232 men showing the paucity of available data³²⁷. In this meta-analysis, an average of 6 months of CPAP treatment had no effects on testosterone levels despite good CPAP compliance (standardized mean difference (SMD) = -0.14, 95%CI: -0.63 to 0.34)³²⁷. CPAP also had no effects on free testosterone or SHBG levels³²⁷.

Summary of the trials assessing the impact of OSA treatment (CPAP and surgical) on HPG axis can be found in Table 1 (195, 205, 328-335). The 2 RCTs showed no effect of CPAP on testosterone levels, but the study participants did not have hypogonadism at baseline and the CPAP duration was short. The

uncontrolled studies mostly showed no effects of CPAP on testosterone levels except 2 studies, that showed that CPAP increased testosterone levels (Table 1). In one of these studies, the increase in total testosterone was associated with increased SHBG which suggest that the impact of free testosterone was rather limited. In the other study, patients had hypogonadism at baseline and CPAP improved testosterone levels along with LH, but the impact on SHBG was not reported (Table 1). Hence, the impact of CPAP on HPG axis in men remains unclear but future trials need to consider the potential difference in response between men with and without hypogonadism and need to ensure adequate CPAP treatment duration and the impact on free testosterone.

It is Important to note that CPAP might still have beneficial impacts on scores for sexual and erection function despite the lack of impact of hormonal measurements^{332, 333}. However, in two RCTs sildenafil was superior to CPAP in regards to ED^{336, 337}.

750 In women

- OSA impact on the HPG axis in women is less well studied compared to men. Based on animal studies sex hormones can influence breathing not only via androgens but also via the effects of progesterone and estradiol on CB and the brainstem³³⁸. In addition, lack of progesterone receptor in rodent led to reduced hypoxic ventilator response³³⁹ and lower UA resistance was found in the luteal phase in healthy premenopausal women with the peak in progesterone secretion³⁴⁰. On the other hand, OSA has a negative effect on female sex hormones and on sexual function and is associated with PCOs.
- In a cohort of 53 women (24-72 years old), AHI>10/hr was associated with lower morning levels of 17OH-progesterone, progesterone and estradiol³⁴¹. However, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) in
 post-menopausal women was associated with lower prevalence of moderate to severe OSA
 prevalence compared to women not taking HRT and less time spent in oxygen saturations < 90%,
 particularly in women who received combined estrogen-progesterone vs. estrogen alone ³⁴². The
 impact of CPAP on the HPG axis in women remains to be explored in large studies, and since one
 small uncontrolled study showed no effect³³⁰ RCTs in this area are needed.
- Similar to men, OSA has been associated with sexual dysfunction (FSFI score: desire, arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction, and pain) in pre- and post- menopausal women compared to matched controls ^{343, 344, 345}. Unlike in men, evidence for CPAP impact on sexual dysfunction in women is lacking ³⁴⁶. In this review we did not discuss the impact of OSA on pregnancy.

OSA & Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS)

OSA is highly prevalent in women of reproductive age with PCOS. A recent systematic review and meta-analysis from our group (15 studies, n=568) showed that 36.1% (95% CI: 22.4-51.0) of women

with PCOS had OSA regardless of the PCOS definition used³⁴⁷. In addition, OSA prevalence was significantly higher in obese women with PCOS compared to lean (OR: 3.96, 95%CI: 1.29-12.13) and in adult women compared to adolescents, both of which are expected since obesity and age are main risk factors of OSA, and thus PCOS precedes OSA development³⁴⁷. However, in this meta-analysis there was significant heterogeneity among studies, most studies came from the USA in women with obesity (class II) and there is a high level of selection bias since controls came from general population while exposed cohorts were recruited from specialised clinics³⁴⁷. It is plausible that in some cases the OSA could precede PCOS development as detailed in a recent study showing that 1/3 of adolescent girls with PCOS had previous tonsillar enlargement/ tonsillectomy ³⁴⁸.

It is also interesting that although androgens are considered to impact OSA pathogenesis, contributing to the higher OSA prevalence in women with PCOS, three studies showed that women with PCOS and increased androgens did not have higher prevalence of OSA compared to controls, and the relationship between OSA severity and hyper-androgonaemia were not consistent across the studies³⁴⁷. This could be due to the low circulating androgen levels in women with PCOS compared to men.

In another meta-analysis from our group comparing women with PCOS and OSA vs women with PCOS

only showed that the earlier group had higher BMI (mean difference: 6.01 kg/m², 95% CI: 4.69-7.33), waist circumference (MD: 10.93 cm, 95% CI: 8.03-13.83), IR (HOMA-IR: MD=2.23, 95% CI: 1.41-3.06; I²=0%), systolic BP (10.8 mmHg 95%CI 6.21 – 15.39), diastolic BP (4.63 mmHg 95%CI 1.06 – 8.21), impaired glucose tolerance (2 hour plasma glucose on OGTT: MD=2.23, 95%: 0.67-2.11, I²=0%) and worse lipids profile (higher total cholesterol, LDL, and triglycerides and lower HDL) compared to the alter group³⁴⁹. The androgen levels were not different between the two groups but hirsutism was worse in the OSA group³⁴⁹. However, these studies included were relatively small, at high risk of selection bias, and did not account for important potential confounders such as obesity³⁴⁹.

Several mechanisms link PCOS to OSA as summarised in Figure 9³⁵⁰.

OSA & Bone metabolism

Although cross-sectional studies assessing the relationship between OSA and bone mass density (BMD) showed conflicting results³⁵¹⁻³⁵⁴; longitudinal studies showed an increased risk of osteoporosis in patients with OSA^{355, 356}. In a large retrospective cohort study of 1377 patients with newly diagnosed OSA and 22655 matched controls (age, sex and index date), the risk of osteoporosis was greater in patients with OSA vs. control in both men and women (incidence rate: 2.52/1000 person-years vs. 1.00/1000 person-years, adjusted HR 2.74, 95% CI: 1.69-4.44) over the 6-year follow-up³⁵⁵.

The HR in this study was adjusted for: age, gender, diabetes status, obesity, CVD risk factors, CKD, CVD, gout, and social demographics.

Consistent with the increased risk of osteoporosis in patients with OSA, several studies suggested that OSA might increase the risk of fractures, although these studies examined conditions that are related to OSA rather than OSA per se. In a study of 2911 men older than 67 years-old, men who spent \geq 10% of their sleep time with O2 saturations < 90% had increased risk of incident non-spinal fractures compared to men spent < 1% of sleep time with O2 saturation < 90% over 7 years follow-up (adjusted relative hazards 1.42, 95% CI 0.94- 2.15, p=0.047)³⁵⁷. In the same study, the relative risk of having \geq 1 fall was also higher in the group with nocturnal hypoxaemia (relative risk 1.25, 95%CI 1.04 - 1.51)³⁵⁷. Another longitudinal study that followed up 8101 women aged 69 years or older for 6 years found that self-reported daily napping was associated with increased risk of incident hip fractures compared to women who did not nap daily (age-adjusted HR: 1.29, 95%CI 1.02-1.65; fully-adjusted HR 1.33, 95%CI 0.99-1.78) and similar to the previous study there was an increased risk of falls in women who napped daily ³⁵⁸. In a recent cohort study women (n=3220) and men (n=2969) aged 40 years and older, severe snoring (a common OSA symptom) was associated with increased risk of fractures over 10 years follow up in women (adjusted HR: 1.68, 95% CI: 1.16-2.43, p=0.006), with similar non-significant trend in men³⁵⁹.

Consistent with the increased risk of osteoporosis and fractures in patients with OSA, bone resorption markers (such as serum C-terminal telopeptide of type I collagen CTX) has been shown to be higher in patients with OSA compared to controls in men and the AHI was independently associated with urinary CTX independently of age, BMI and other variables^{352, 360}. Furthermore, CPAP for 3 months lowered the creatinine adjusted urinary CTX levels significantly (211 \pm 107 vs. 128 \pm 59 μ g/mmol/creatinine; p<0.01)³⁶⁰.

Several mechanisms might explain the impact of OSA on bone turnover, bone density and fractures risk summarized in **Figure 10** ³⁶¹⁻³⁷³.

Summary and conclusion:

In this review we have demonstrated that there are multiple bi-directional interactions between OSA and the endocrine system although the observed relationships varied depending on the endocrine system examined. The impact of OSA on the endocrine system was mostly mediated by intermittent hypoxaemia, sympathetic activation, the elevated blood pressure and the increased inflammation

and oxidative stress. While the impact of the endocrine system on OSA was mostly mediated via increased upper body adiposity, narrowing of the upper airways, weakening of upper airway muscles, changes to chemosensitivity and ventilatory drive as well as autonomic dysfunction.

Our review also shows that there are multiple knowledge gaps in the field at a mechanistic level and also due to the lack of well-designed cohort and interventional studies in many areas. This is further complicated by the difficulty in achieving good compliance with CPAP in clinical studies, the diurnal nature of the endocrine system and the interaction between OSA and other sleep disorders such as short sleep duration and misalignment in the circadian rhythm. In particular, our review found the following need to be explored in future studies due to either no, minimal, or inconsistent evidence currently available: the impact of OSA and CPAP on weight, the impact of Diabetes treatment on OSA as well as the impact of OSA on diabetes-related outcomes, the impact of primary aldosteronism treatment on OSA, the effects of OSA on the HPA axis and the natural history of OSA and its response to treatment in patients with Cushing's syndrome, the long term impact of GH replacement on OSA as well as central SA, the impact of thyroxine replacement on OSA in patients with hypothyroidism, the relationship between OSA and subclinical hypothyroidism, the impact of long term testosterone replacement and the different methods of replacement on OSA, the impact of OSA and CPAP in women with PCOS and men with hypogonadism, and the impact of CPAP on bone metabolism.

Finally, clinicians treating patients with endocrine conditions should not assume that OSA would recover by curing the underlying endocrine disorder (such as Cushing's, acromegaly or hypothyroidism) and that OSA status need to be clarified by formal testing following the successful treatment of the endocrine condition. Furthermore, clinicians, surgeons and anesthetists involved in the treatment of the endocrine conditions that are associated with OSA need to be aware of this association and treat the OSA in order to improve the safety of the general anaesthesia and surgical procedures.

Declaration of interest:

No Conflicts of Interest to Declare

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867 A. A. Tahrani is a clinician scientist supported by the National Institute for Health Research in the UK. 868 The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the 869 National Health Service, the National Institute for Health Research, or the Department of Health." Abbreviations: 870 871 American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) Adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) 872 873 Advanced Glycation End Product (AGE) 874 Apnea- Hypopnea index (AHI) 875 AnglI Receptor Type 1 (AT1) 876 Body Mass Index (BMI) 877 Blood Pressure (BP) 878 Bone Mineral Density (BMD) 879 Bone Turnover Markers (BTMs) Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) 880 881 C-terminal telopeptide of type I collagen (CTX) Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) 882 883 Cushing's Syndrome (CS) 884 Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) 885 Excessive Daytime Sleepiness (EDS) 886 Electroencephalogram (EEG) 887 Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS) 888 Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) 889 Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second (FEV1) 890 Fasting Plasma Glucose (FPG) 891 Growth hormone (GH) 892 GH deficiency (GHD) 893 Hypoxia-Inducible Factor (HIF) 894 Hormonal Replacement Therapy (HRT) 895 Homeostatic Model Assessment for Insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) 896 Intermittent Hypoxia (IH) 897 Insulin Resistance (IR) 898 Intravenous Glucose Tolerance Test (IVGTT) 899 Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding (LAGB) 900 Levothyroxine 4 (LT4) 901 Maximum Mid Expiratory Flow Rate (MMEF) 902 Mineralocorticoid Receptors (MR) 903 Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) 904 Non-rapid eye movement sleep (NREM) 905 Oral glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT) 906 Overnight Dexamethasone Suppression Test (ONDST) 907 Oxygen Desaturation Index (ODI)

Acknowledgment:

908	Obstructive Sieep Aphoea (OSA)
909	Parathormone (PTH)
910	Primary Aldosteronism (PA)
911	Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS)
912	Poly ADP Ribose Polymerase (PARP)
913	Peak Expiratory Flow (PEF)
914	Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)
915	Protein Kinase C (PKC)
916	Progesterone (PRG)
917	Polysomnography (PSG)
918	Randomized Controlled trial (RCT)
919	Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)
920	Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System (RAAS)
921	Respiratory Arousal Threshold (RAT)
922	Respiratory Disturbance Index (RDI)
923	Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep
924	Resistant Hypertension (RH)
925	Sleep Apnoea (SA)
926	Sex-Hormone Binding Globulin (SHBG
927	Short Sleep Duration (SSD)
928	Vital Capacity (VC)
929	Slow Wave Sleep (SWS)
930	Type 1 Diabetes (T1D)
931	Type 2 Diabetes (T2D)
932	Upper Airway (UA)
933	Upper Airways (UAs)
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Figures-Legends & text:

- 1996 Figure 1: Hypnograms and sleep stages of a healthy individual (top) and a patient with OSA (bottom).
 - Please note how the patient with OSA has disrupted sleep architecture with loss of REM and SWS.
- 1998 REM: Rapid Eye Movement; SWS: Slow Wave Sleep
- 2001 Figure 2: OSA & Obesity Interplay. A. The potential mechanisms linking obesity to obstructive sleep
- apnoea. B. The potential impact of obstructive sleep apnoea and its treatment on weight and the
- 2003 underlying mechanisms. Red boxes are the mechanisms of OSA that might lead to weight gain; Dark

UA: Upper Airways; TNF-A: Tumour Necrosis Factor- Alpha; IL-6: Interleukin-6; CNS: Central Nervous System; EDS: Excessive Daytime Sleepiness; CPAP: Continuous Positive Airway Pressure

Obesity can lead to increased UA collapsibility via increased parapharyngeal fat deposition, UA narrowing, intramuscular fatty deposits leading to reduced UA muscles activity and increased UA muscle fatigability, and reduced lung volume resulting in reduced tracheal caudal traction . In addition, the low lung volume in obesity can lead to hypoxaemia and ventilatory instability in the presence of increased whole body oxygen demand due to obesity (high loop gain) . Obesity is also associated with leptin resistance, which could inhibit the respiratory drive as leptin is a respiratory stimulant . Furthermore, visceral adiposity can affect the neural respiratory control and the responsiveness of the chemoreceptors, through neurohormonal and inflammatory mechanisms (such as (TNF) a, and IL-6) , but OSA itself can further worsen inflammation and possibly oxidative stress, therefore, leading to a vicious cycle

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Figure 3: The potential bi-directional relationship and the underlying mechanisms between obstructive sleep apnoea and Type 2 Diabetes. SWS: Slow-wave-sleep; CB: Carotid body; FFA: Free fatty acid; ROS: Reactive oxygen species; NAFLD: Non-Alcoholic Liver Disease; HPA: Hypothalamic Pituitary Adrenal Axis; T2D: Type 2 Diabetes

IH and sleep disruption result in increased oxidative stress and inflammation leading to IR an β - cell dysfunction. In addition, OSA can impact multiple hormones that can lead to dysglycaemia including: <mark>via</mark> activation of the Hypothalamus-pituitary- adrenal (HPA) axis, changes in the Growth hormone (GH)/IGF axis, hyperaldosteronism (via hypokalaemia, increased oxidative stress and inflammation), increased ghrelin, increased leptin and reduced adiponectin . Interestingly, CPAP treatment can interrupt most of the above mentioned pathways which might explain the favourable effects of CPAP on IR . However, the impact of CPAP on leptin and adiponectin has not been consistent 97-101 Furthermore, patients with OSA (due to recurrent microarousals, between the different studies the loss of SWS and the IH) have increased sympathetic activity which can contribute to the Several factors contribute to the sympathetic overactivation in OSA including the increased IR ecurrent microarousals, the loss of SWS and the IH ... The IH, via oxidative stress and its impact on HIF signaling, results in carotid body chemosensory reflex and hence to increased sympathetic activity , that is reversible by CPAP $^{104,\ 105}$. Another mechanism that links OSA to dysglycaemia is the

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increased risk of Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and progression to steatosis in those patients, due to ectopic fat accumulation and hepatic inflammation, with subsequent effects on insulin sensitivity. A recent meta-analysis of nine cohort studies showed that OSA was a predictor of the development and progression of NAFLD (based on liver enzymes and histology).

On the other hand, dysglycaemia could lead to OSA. One plausible mechanism in patients with prediabetes or diabetes is autonomic neuropathy, which might impact on UA innervation , ventilatory drive and central respiratory responses to hypercapnia . In addition, T2D is associated with reduced pulmonary volumes, (forced vital capacity FVC, Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second FEV1 and vital capacity VC) and functions compared to healthy individuals which could affect UA stability . A meta analysis of cross sectional studies showed that diabetes is associated with a modest but significant impairment of pulmonary function (in restrictive pattern) _____ and diffusion capacity for carbon monoxide . The impact of T2D on the lungs seems to be related to the

capacity for carbon monoxide . The impact of T2D on the lungs seems to be related to the severity of hyperglycaemia independently of obesity and smoking ; which raises the possibility that improvements in glycaemic control might have a favourable impact on OSA—but this needs to be examined. Furthermore, treatment intensification in patients with T2D is often associated with weight gain , which could lead to the development or worsening of OSA . Other independent predictors of incident witnessed apneas such as HOMA-IR, hypertriglyceridaemia, and smoking are also common in patients with T2D and thus can have a negative impact on OSA .

Figure 4: A. Mechanisms relating obstructive sleep apnoea to cardiovascular disease (A) and microvascular complications Adapted from Jullian-Desayes et al. with permission (B) in patients with Type 2 diabetes. Adapted from Tahrani et al. with permission. CRP: C-reactive protein; IH: intermittent hypoxia; NO: nitric oxide; NOx: total nitrate and nitrite; OSA: obstructive sleep apnea; PKC: protein kinase C; AGE: advanced glycation end product; PARP: poly ADP ribose polymerase; AR: aldose reductase; GAPDH: glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase.

Fig. 4.A. Obstructive sleep apnea and its cardiometabolic consequences.. Adapted from Kohler et al., 2065 2010 and Lavie et al., 2009 . IH, oxidative stress and inflammation play a key role in OSA and the development of associated cardiometabolic morbidities. Oxidative stress induces inflammation, while increased proinflammatory cytokines, adhesion molecules and procoagulant activities can exacerbate oxidative stress. This vicious circle leads to cardiovascular morbidity. Sympathetic overactivity and the

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decrease in NO induced by oxidative stress lead to hypertension. Both hypertension and inflammation promote endothelial dysfunction responsible for atherosclerosis, which in turn can also exacerbate oxidative stress . In addition, intrathoracic pressure swings and the increase in transmural pressure gradients over vessel walls could also contribute to the endothelial dysfunction observed in OSA. Recurrent arousals also activate the sympathetic nervous system and thus lead to endothelial dysfunction .

Fig. 4.B. Both OSA and hyperglycaemia share similar molecular consequences including oxidative stress, PKC activation and AGE production. Our own work has shown that patients with OSA and type 2 diabetes have increased oxidative and nitrosative stress increased PARP activation and impaired microvascular function compared with patients with type 2 diabetes only 141.

Figure 5: The potential bi-directional relationship between obstructive sleep apnoea and Hyperaldosteronism and the plausible linking mechanisms. IH: Intermittent hypoxia; RAAS: Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system; RH: resistant hypertension; PA: primary aldosteronism; MR: mineralocorticoid receptors.

In rodent studies, IH promoted angiotensin I and AT1 expression, increased the activation of the carotid body by Angiotensin II and resulted in increased renin and aldosterone levels leading to increased BP . In addition, oxidative stress has been shown to increase the activation of the mineralocorticoid receptors (MR) in rodent models . Whether OSA is associated with renin activations remains to be explored by further better designed studies of larger sample size as the current studies show a non-significant trend.

The plausible mechanisms for the increased risk of OSA in patients with hyperaldosteronism—are is plausible due to—the increased sodium and fluid retention resulting in UA oedema, increased UA resistance and collapse . This might have been worsened further by increases in neck circumference and oedema due to fluid displacement during recumbency overnight particularly in patients with RH , which is supported by a study showing a reduction in neck circumference with improvements in AHI after treatment of PA with either MR antagonist or adrenalectomy.

Figure 6: OSA & HPA axis dysregulation A. Possible underlying mechanisms linking OSA to HPA axis dysregulation **B.** Possible mechanisms linking hypercortisolism with OSA development CRH: Corticotropin Releasing Hormone, ACTH: Adrenocorticotropic hormone

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2102 Figure 7: OSA & GH/IGF axis. A. Possible underlying mechanisms for OSA leading to GH/IGF 2103 axis dysregulation. B. Possible mechanisms linking GH excess (red arrows) and GH deficiency 2104 (blue arrows) with OSA development. 2105 The main causal mechanisms linking acromegaly to OSA are related to the anatomical changes that 2106 occur as a result of GH excess leading to narrower and more collapsible UAs. Patients with acromegaly have vertical growth of the mandible, which leads to pharyngeal obstruction due to the 2107 retroposition of the tongue base with caudal displacement of the hyoid . In addition, soft tissue 2108 thickening/swelling, secondary to increased glycosaminoglycan deposition, collagen and tissue 2109 oedema, and macroglossia contribute to the compromise of UAs in patients with acromegaly 2110 2111 This is supported by a study using MRI and nasopharyngoscopy that showed the tongue base and uvula to be the main site of UA obstruction in patients with OSA and acromegaly . In addition, the 2112 2113 uvula diameter correlated to the severity of the UA collapse and tongue measurements correlated to . The weakness of UA muscles (sternohyoid muscle) also contributes to the AHI and IGF-1 levels 2114 the increased risk of UA collapsibility in patients with acromegaly $^{\tiny{235}}$. Other factors include 2115

Figure 8: Mechanisms linking OSA and Hypothyroidism

hypothyroidism, large goiters (detailed later)

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Hypothyroidism can lead to increased UA collapsibility due to soft tissue swelling (in tongue, neck, and pharynx) caused by mucopolysaccharides infiltration (myxoedema in the more severe form) 256 In support of this mechanism, LT4 treatment reduced soft tissue swelling and improved AHI, nocturnal hypoxaemia and sleep architecture in an uncontrolled study . Goitre (regardless of thyroid status) can cause UA obstruction and collapse . It causes narrowing of the UA by direct mechanical obstruction, especially in supine position, and by increasing laryngeal oedema due to reduced venous return; both of which can be resolved following thyroidectomy or LT4 in some . Hypothyroidism (especially when severe) can also result in blunted ventilatory drive and impaired chemosensors' response to hypoxia/ hypercapnia in animal and human studies . This is possibly due to decreased dopamine receptor (D1) expression in the brain stem and the CB in rodents with hypothyroidism , and can be reversed with LT4 treatment . Impaired UA dilator muscle function in hypothyroidism, due to altered myosin heavy chain expression in rodent studies and neuropathy in humans, has also been reported 217, 268 . Furthermore, the diaphragm has been shown to be weaker in rodents and human studies in hypothyroidism, which

219, 236, 237 , insulin resistance and dysglycaemia result in a reduction in lung volumes contributing to OSA development/worsening . The diaphragm weakness can be improved by LT4 treatment . Finally, obesity could be potentially another link between OH and OSA as studies have shown that patients with OH are about 5-7kg heavier compared to euthyroid matched-controlled . However, this weight-increase in OH seems to be related to expanded water compartment rather than fat mass. In addition, LT4 treatment causes weight loss by reducing lean mass rather than fat mass (based on DXA)

Figure 9: Obstructive Sleep Apnoea and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome; clinical interactions and underlying pathophysiology. Adapted from Kahal et al. with permission.

Sex hormones are thought to play a role in this bidirectional relationship, as in women with PCOS androgens excess along with lower progesterone (as a result of anovulation) can increase UA collapsibility and/ or lead to blunted ventilator chemo-responsiveness . While, IH and sleep fragmentation can impact HPG axis and can influence GnRH and gonadotropins pulsatility, leading to causing/ or worsening PCOS phenotype . In addition, IR and dysglycamia in women with PCOS can contribute to worsening or the development of OSA; . Obesity is common in both disorders and can contribute to the associations between OSA and PCOS. Other common comorbidities are oxidative stress, endothelial dysfunction and sympathetic activation all of which can lead to a vicious cycle of OSA and PCOS entities .

Figure 10: OSA & Bone metabolism.

GH: Growth hormone, PTH: Parathormone, BMD: Bone mineral density, BRMs: Bone Resorption

As with other endocrine consequences of OSA, hypoxaemia plays an important role as has been

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shown by Cauley et al and IH in human cell cultures and rodents can increase osteoclasts and inhibit osteoblasts' growth and differentiation via HIF transcription factor family (HIF-1a and HIF-2a) and VEGF

333-337

In addition, IH can result in increased inflammation and oxidative stress that can lead to higher risk of osteoporosis and fractures

Other mechanisms including hyperleptinaemia and sympathetic activation increase bone resorption and inhibit bone formation leading to bone mass loss

Changes in melatonin profile could also contribute to the impact of OSA on bones, as

patients with OSA might have changed melatonin profile and lower melatonin serum levels compared

to people without OSA due to frequent nocturnal awakening and light exposure 343. Melatonin has

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been shown to increase bone mass density in a RCT 344 . Furthermore, serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D was found to be lower (: 19.34 ± 9.54 ng/ml vs. 32.83 ± 16.93 ng/ml, p < 0.0001) and PTH levels higher (: 62.57 ± 29.97 pg/mL vs. 40.05 ± 31.12 pg/mL, p < 0.0001) in patients with OSA compared to healthy controls 345 . CPAP for 7 nights increased 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentrations (19.21 ± 9.45 vs. 21.03 ± 9.50 , F = 8.32, p < 0.01) but had no effect on PTH 345 . The suppression of the gonadal axis and GH in OSA and the associated insulin resistance could also contribute to the impact of OSA on bone metabolism 342 . T2D in particular can have detrimental effects on bone mass and fracture risk $^{374-377}$ and as OSA increases the risk of T2D, then T2D is a potential mechanism between OSA and bone disease.

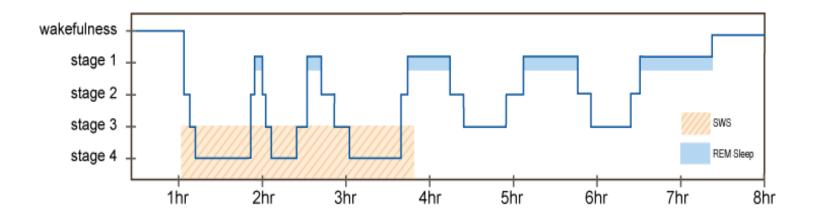
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Figure 1



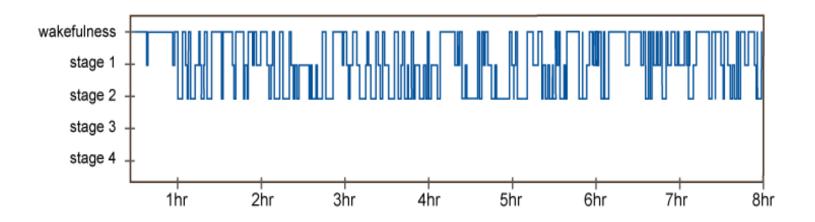
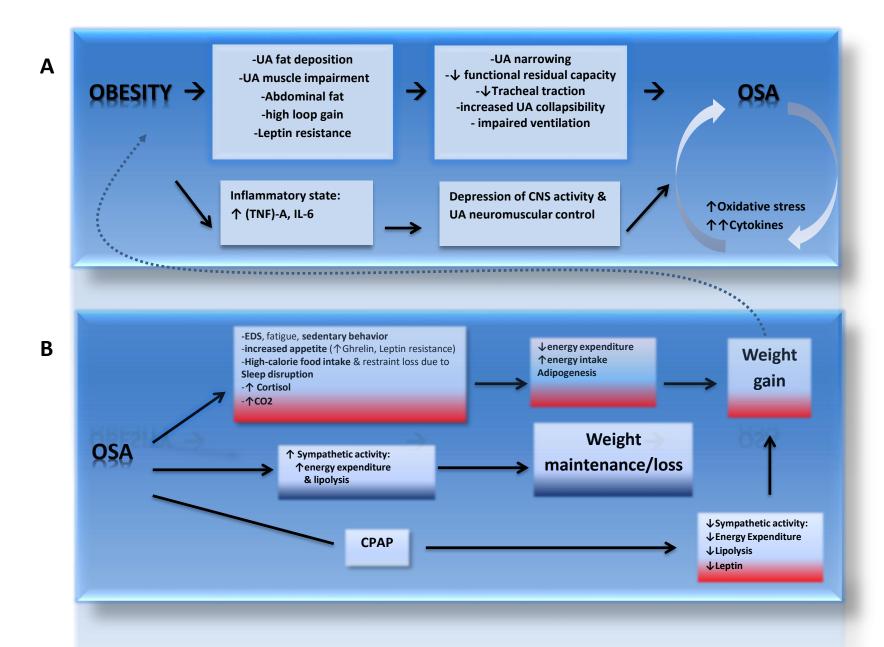


Figure 2





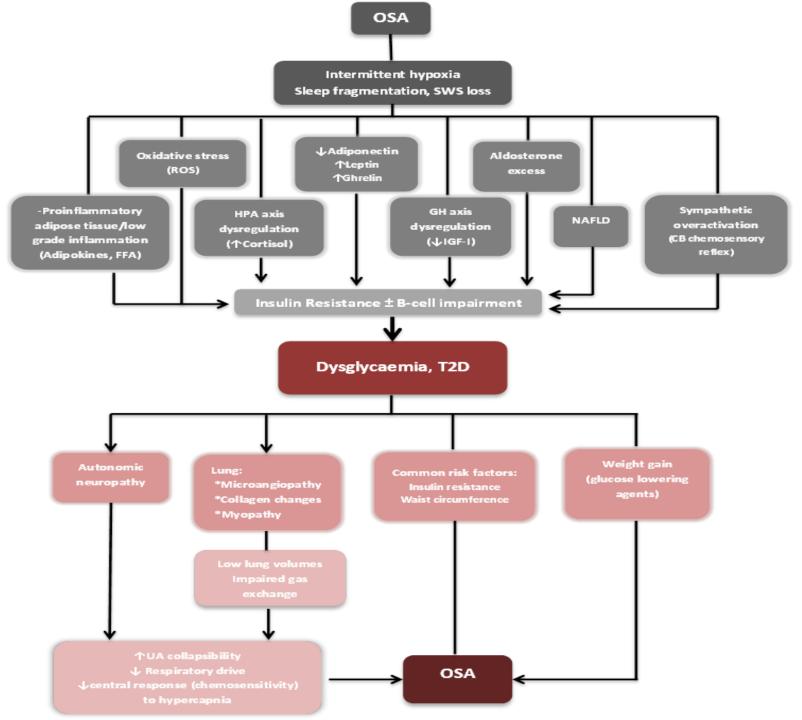


Figure 4. A

REF: Impact of obstructive sleep apnea treatment by continuous positive airway pressure on cardiometabolic biomarkers: a systematic review from sham CPAP randomized controlled trials. <u>Jullian-Desayes I</u>, <u>Joyeux-Faure M</u>, <u>Tamisier R</u>, <u>Launois S</u>, <u>Borel AL</u>, <u>Levy P</u>, <u>Pepin JL</u>. <u>Sleep Med Rev.</u> 2015 Jun;21:23-38. doi: 10.1016/j.smrv.2014.07.004. Epub 2014 Jul 31. *(Permission needed)*

Figure 4. B

REF: Obstructive Sleep Apnoea and Type 2 Diabetes. Abd A Tahrani1 and Asad Ali2. *European Endocrinology*, 2014;10(1):43–50 *(Permission needed)*

Figure 4

A.

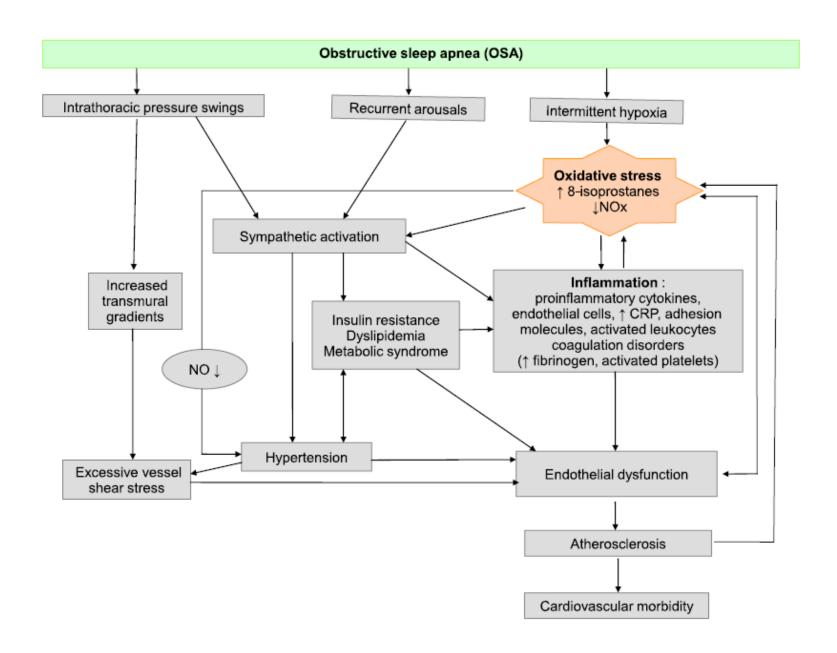


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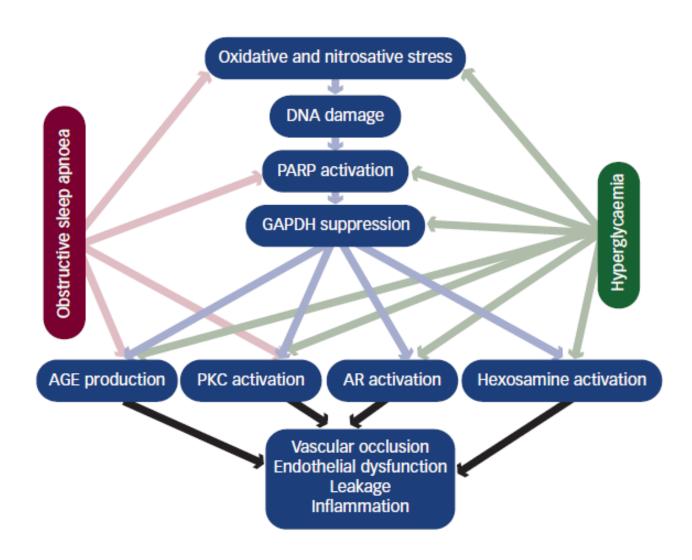


Figure 5

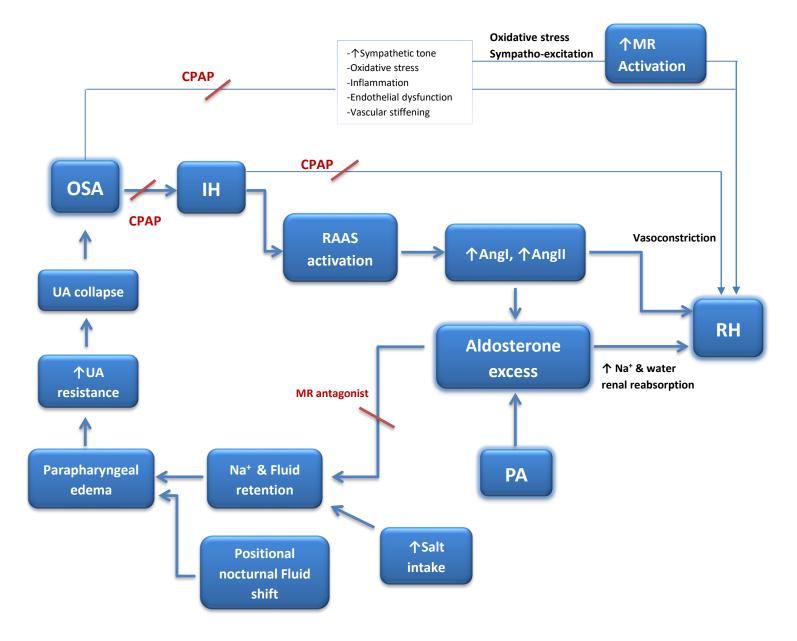


Figure 6

Α.

Obstructive
Sleep
Apnoea

Night awakenings

Acrit release

Acrit responsiveness

Autonomic activation

Acrit responsiveness

Autonomic activation

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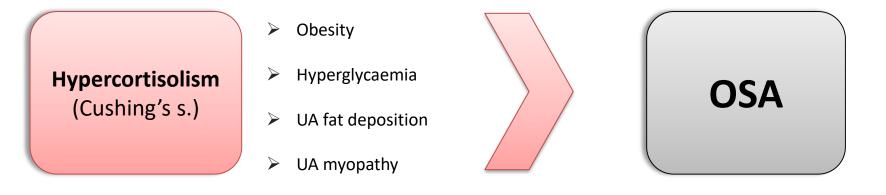
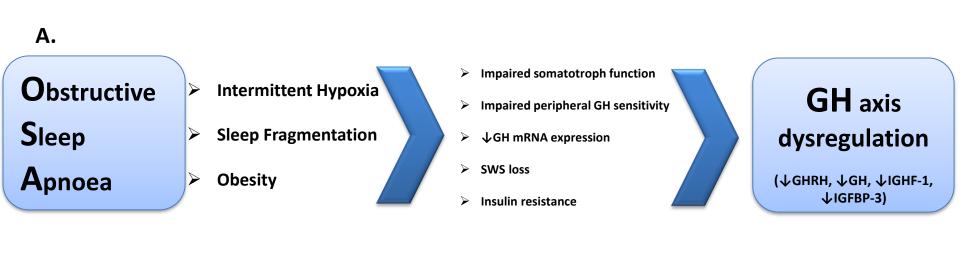


Figure 7



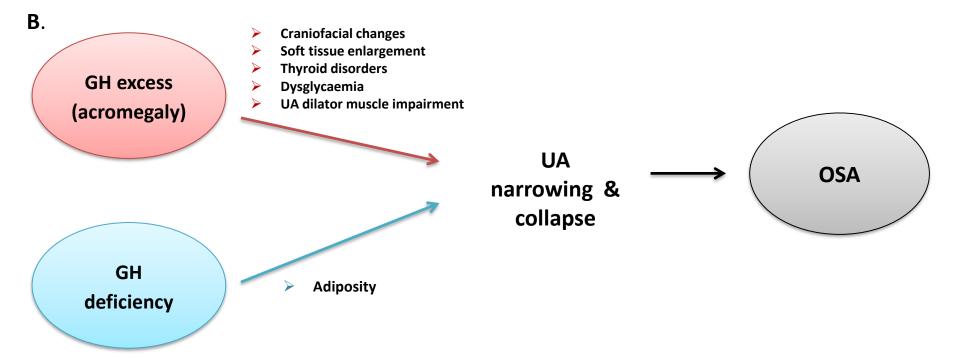


Figure 8

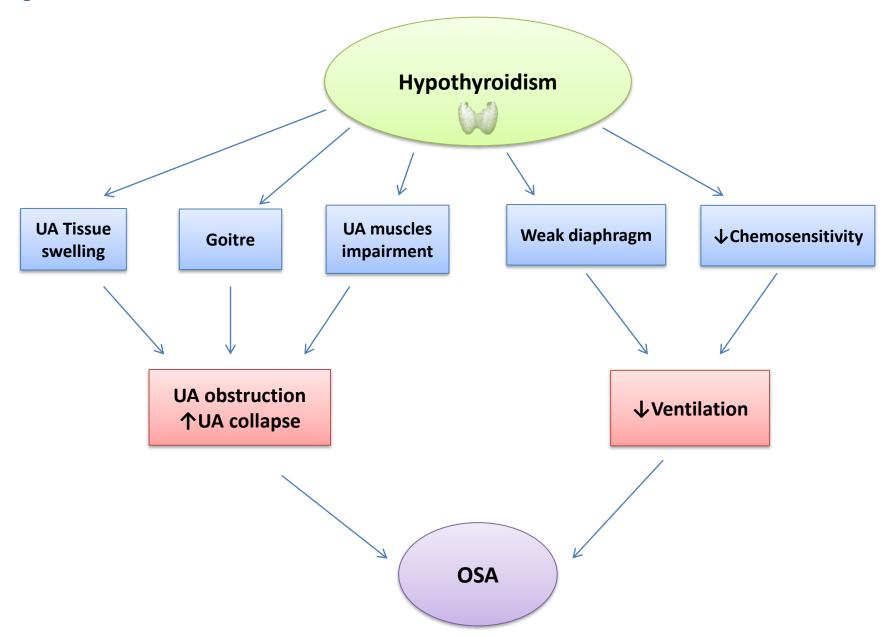
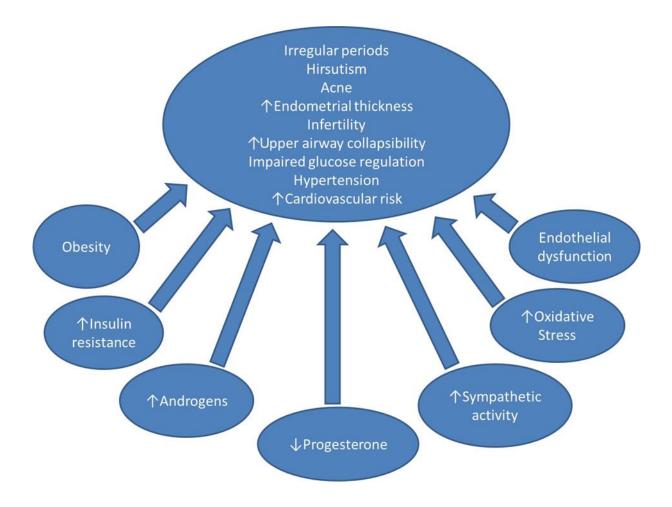
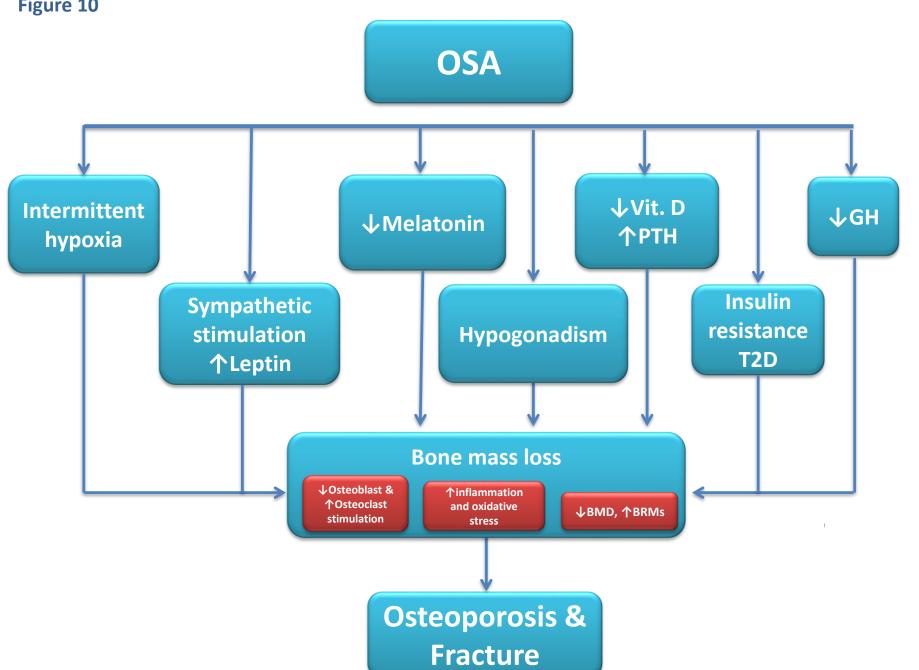


Figure 9



Ref:Hassan Kahal, Ioannis Kyrou, Abd A. Tahrani, Harpal S. Randeva. Obstructive sleep apnoea and polycystic ovary syndrome: A comprehensive review of clinical interactions and underlying pathophysiology. <u>Clin Endocrinol (Oxf).</u> 2017 Oct;87(4):313-319. doi: 10.1111/cen.13392. Epub 2017 Jul 14. **(Permission needed)**

Figure 10



Online Supplement

OSA overview

OSA pathogenesis

Although the upper airway (UA) consists of rigid, cartilaginous structures, its patency can be compromised along a soft segment extending from the hard palate to the larynx (the pharynx), which allows the UA to change shape for speech and swallowing during wakefulness ¹⁻³. However, in the presence of anatomically compromised upper airways (UAs), as in patients with OSA, the loss of wakefulness inputs to the control of the UAs and chest wall muscle motor neurons during sleep, produce UAs obstruction⁴. The underlying mechanisms driving these UAs obstructions are complex and multi factorial (Figure 1 of the online supplement).

Patients with OSA have narrower UAs^{5, 6} with enlarged surrounding soft tissues compared to healthy controls; thus increasing the risk of collapse during sleep (Figure 2 of the online supplement)⁷⁻¹¹. During wakefulness, the UA dilator muscles (genioglossus most studied) activity is increased in patients with OSA, compared to healthy controls, compensating for the anatomically diminished UA size; while during sleep the UA dilator muscles activity is greatly reduced leading to pharynx collapse and subsequently UA obstruction, particularly during rapid-eye-movement (REM) sleep ^{1, 2, 12, 13}. This reduction in UAs muscle tone during sleep is due to a combination of central lack of respiratory drive and local inhibitory reflexes that respond to changes in pressure in the UAs¹. The chemoreceptors are also less responsive to PaO₂ and PaCO₂ changes during sleep¹⁴, resulting in a reduced input to the respiratory centers in the brainstem and reduced UA dilators activity¹⁵⁻¹⁷. Even very small and transient reductions in PaCO₂ can result in significant apnoea due to the changes in chemoreceptors activity during sleep⁴. The reduced UA dilator muscles activity is also due to reduced mechanoreceptors' responses to changes in negative UA pressure (genioglossus negative pressure reflex^{18, 19}) during REM.

Respiratory arousal threshold (RAT) also plays an important role in the pathogenesis of OSA in some patients²⁰. In response to changes in gas exchange, pH, lung volumes or UAs resistance, the respiratory centres in the brainstem can increase respiratory effort, which triggers an arousal from sleep when RAT is reached^{2, 21}. Hence, arousals are protective as they increase UA muscle tone (similar to the awake state) and finally open obstructed UAs¹. However, low RAT can have detrimental effects in patients with OSA as more frequent

arousals can result in a disruption in sleep architecture and in restoring airflow before the development of adequate ventilatory drive and result in ventilatory overshoot associated with the sleep/wake transition leading to further obstructive episodes^{1, 2, 20-23}.

Another important element in OSA development is the ventilatory control stability, known as loop gain, which refers to the size of a "ventilatory correction" as a response to a "ventilatory disturbance"^{2, 24}. Accordingly, in case of a high loop gain, small decrease in breathing will lead to a large correction. In the case of OSA, the loop gain appears to be elevated²⁵, suggesting high responsiveness of the ventilatory system to disturbed breathing with a propensity to develop cyclical fluctuations in breathing output and increased response to arousal by hyperventilation driving $PaCO_2$ below the apnea threshold^{1, 26, 27}.

There are multiple other factors that contribute further to the pathogenesis of OSA and UA collapsibility including low lung volume (resulting in lack of pharyngeal stretching), reduced UAs surface tension and UA oedema ^{2, 28-32}.

OSA risk factors

Excess body weight is the main risk factor for OSA³³. Weight gain of 10% is associated with a 6-fold higher risk of moderate to severe OSA development³⁴. Similarly, 9% weight loss in patients with obesity and OSA results in 47% reduction in apneas frequency³⁵ and 60% reduction in the Apnoea- Hypopnoea index (AHI) after 17% drop in BMI³⁶. Men have consistently been shown to be at a 2- to 3-fold higher risk of OSA compared to women³⁷; possibly due to differences in sex hormones which will be detailed later. Multiple studies showed African-Americans to be at increased risk of OSA compared to White Caucasians³⁸⁻⁴⁰. Whereas, differences in the prevalence of OSA in Asians vs. white Caucasians were inconsistent across multiple studies^{38, 41, 42}. The ethnic variations could be related to differences in UA anatomy, respiratory arousal thresholds, fat distribution, genetic and environmental factors^{37, 43-45}. Prevalence of OSA increases with increasing age³³, being 2-3 fold higher in older people (≥65y), reaching eventually a plateau after the age of 65³⁷. Other risk factors include smoking, excess alcohol intake, nasal obstruction and menopause³⁷.

OSA clinical features

Snoring is the most frequent OSA symptom symptom but it is not diagnostic for the disease, as most snorers don't have OSA and; only 6% of patients with OSA do not report snoring⁴⁶, but it is very frequent in general population as well⁴⁶. Other clinical features include, witnessed apneas, nightly chocking and gasping (reflecting an arousal after an apnea event), insomnia, nocturia, enuresis, arousals, sweating⁴⁷, excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS), and a

variety of other daytime symptoms such as fatigue, memory loss, irritability, morning headaches, depression, and erectile dysfunction^{46, 48}.

OSA comorbidities and associations:

OSA is associated with significant comorbidities such as hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, mortality, road traffic accidents, chronic kidney disease amongst others ^{4, 47, 49, 50}.

OSA diagnosis and treatment:

Multiple definitions of OSA have been used in clinical research, which contributed to some of the variations in outcomes of studies in patients with OSA. OSA is generally diagnosed based on cut offs of parameters recorded during polysomnography or polygraphy. The AHI is defined as the average number of apnoea and hypopnea events per hour of sleep. The respiratory disturbance index (RDI) is defined as the AHI plus the respiratory-effort related arousals. The oxygen desaturation index (ODI) is the average number of oxygen desaturation per hour of sleep. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) recommendations regarding OSA diagnosis and the criteria used to define apnoea and hypopneas are detailed here ^{51, 52}.

Polysomnography remains the gold-standard for diagnosing OSA, although multiple portable devices have also been considered appropriate if adequate channels are recorded according to the latest AASM guidelines⁵². Sleep staging is desirable but not always considered essential. CPAP is the gold standard treatment for patients with moderate to severe OSA in addition to weight loss in patients with obesity^{48, 53, 54}. Intra oral devices can be used in mild OSA and more recently upper airway stimulation can also be used in certain patients groups 55, 56

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Figures for the online supplement

Figure 1: Summary of the pathogenesis of obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA). P_{crit}: Critical closing pressure (The pressure inside the airway at which the airway collapses); PaCO2: Partial pressure of Carbon dioxide in arterial blood

Ref: Dempsey JA, Veasey SC, Morgan BJ, O'Donnell CP. Pathophysiology of Sleep Apnea. Physiol Rev 90: 47–112, 2010; doi:10.1152/physrev.00043.2008 (Permission needed)

Figure 2: Upper airways size in patients with OSA and healthy individuals (top); and the impact of sleep on upper airways size in a healthy individual (bottom).

A: midsagittal magnetic resonance image (MRI) in a normal subject (left) and in a patient with severe OSA (right). Highlighted are the four upper airway regions (nasopharynx, retropalatal region, retroglossal region, hypopharynx) and upper airway soft tissue (soft palate, tongue, fat) and craniofacial structures (mandible). Fat deposits are shown in white on the MRI. Note that in the apneic patient: a) the upper airway is smaller, in both the retropalatal and retroglossal region; b) the soft palate is longer and tongue size is larger; and c) the quantity of subcutaneous fat is greater. B: state dependence of upper airway size in a normal subject as assessed via three-dimensional reconstructions of MRI images. Images represent averages taken over several respiratory cycles during eupneic breathing in sleep and wakefulness. Airway volume during NREM sleep is smaller in the retropalatal (RP) region, not in the retroglossal (RG) region. Such images show the marked effect of sleep, per se, on the loss of upper airway muscle dilator tone and also show that the upper airway does not narrow as a homogeneous tube during sleep.

Ref: Dempsey JA, Veasey SC, Morgan BJ, O'Donnell CP. Pathophysiology of Sleep Apnea. Physiol Rev 90: 47–112, 2010; doi:10.1152/physrev.00043.**2008 (Permission needed)**

Figure 1

PATHOGENESIS OF CYCLICAL OSA

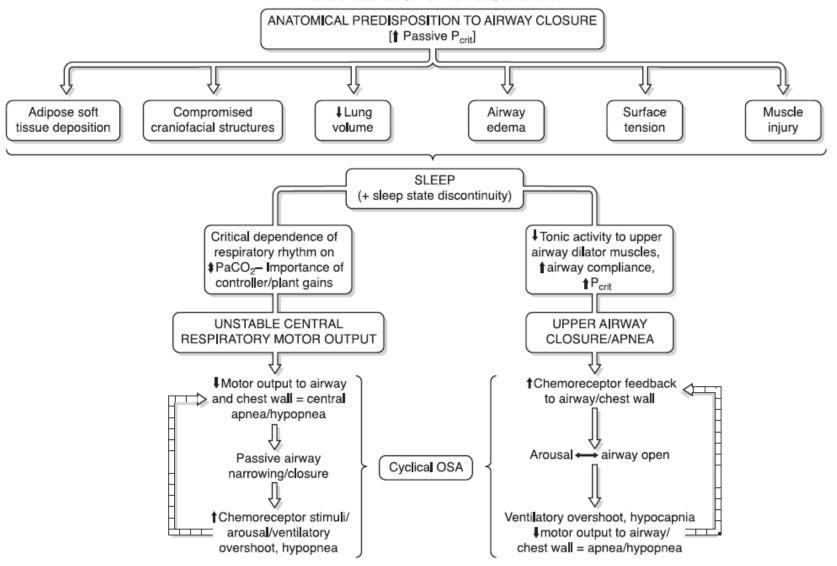


Figure 2

