

Estimation Cut-off values for ST2 , IGF-1 and GALP in obesity

Nagham Qasim Kadhim^{1,*}, Sabbar Rashid Lateef²

1. Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Tikrit University, IRAQ
naghamkassim@tu.edu.iq
 2. Department of Medical Laboratory Technology, University of Imam Jaafar Al-Sadiq, Iraq
- * Correspondence: naghamkassim@tu.edu.iq , +9647709862888

Abstract: (1) Introductions; Universal, Obesity is a leading cause of preventable chronic diseases. Both obesity and overweight have increased dramatically in recent years. The liver cells mainly secrete insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF1), which is an anabolic hormone, and its production and release by the pituitary gland are depending on growth hormone. The soluble interleukin-1 receptor is suppression of tumorigenicity-2 (ST2) that was previously known as the interleukin-1 receptor-like receptor1. A neuropeptide known as galanin-like peptide (GALP) is taking part in the control of energy balance. (2); Materials and methods: The ST2 levels were carried out by using Afias 10 instrument, IGF-1 by Maglumi 800, GALP by Eliza kit, and data Analysis by XLSTATE program. (3) Results; Increase ($p < 0.002$, $p < 0.001$) the level of ST2 in the overweight comparing to normal-weight, and in obese comparing to normal and overweight groups, and a high AUC (0.85) implies a strong correlation between obesity and the ST2 (ng/ml). Decrease ($P < 0.001$, $P < 0.0013$) the level of IGF-1 (ng/ml) in obese group comparing to normal and overweight groups, a strong substantial relation between obesity and IGF-1 (ng/ml) is shown by a high AUC (0.92). Increase ($P < 0.003$, $P < 0.001$) the level of GALP (pg/ml) in obese group comparing to normal and overweight groups, a strong substantial relation between obesity and GALP (pg/ml) is shown by a high AUC (0.88). (4); Conclusions: The relationships between ST2, IGF-1, GALP and obesity are close and fundamental. This may be because the accumulated adipose tissue acts as an inflammatory factor that negatively affect.

keywords: Cut-off values , ST2 , IGF-1 , GALP, obesity.

1 Introduction

Universal, Obesity is a leading cause of preventable chronic diseases. Both obesity and overweight have increased dramatically in recent years. Obesity is associated with and is a risk factor for many diseases such as hypertension, dyslipidaemias, impaired insulin sensitivity/insulin resistance (IR) that leading to type 2 diabetes, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (extra fats liver), heart disorders, strokes, and tumors, ultimately leading to increased morbidity and mortality rates [1],[2]. The liver cells mainly secrete insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF1), which is an anabolic hormone, that biosynthesis and release by the pituitary gland are depending on growth hormone (GH). This relationship forms the GH-IGF-1 axis, plays a role in metabolism (both carbohydrates and lipids), body composition, and the development of malignant tumor [3], controlling processes such as cell proliferative, cells differentiate, and cell death, and, in addition, tissue growth and organs functions are affected. IGF-1 is less sensitive to factors that alter GH concentrations than growth hormone because its half-life is longer than that of growth hormone. These factors include exercise, severe dietary restriction, pulsatile secretion, circadian rhythms, and blood sugar changes [4]. IGF-1 is regulated by a number of variables, including dietary consumption (nutritional), hormone levels (cortisol, thyroxine & estrogen). Apart from these physiological control (regulators), IGF-1 levels are



Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

also influenced by age, disorders that change the concentration of IGFBP, and variations in IGF-1 sampling [5]. The maintaining of normal insulin response, increasing glucose absorption, lowering plasma triacylglycerol, and managing cholesterol are the main metabolic actions of IGF-1. Furthermore, Hepatic glucose metabolism directly increased the transcription of the IGF-1 gene. IGF-1 is affected by a complex of genetic and epigenetic mechanisms in both healthy and pathological cases [6]. The soluble interleukin-1 receptor (IL-1R) is suppression of tumorigenicity-2 (ST2) that was previously called as the interleukin-1 receptor-like receptor 1. There are two main types of receptors in serum: the transmembrane and the abbreviated soluble receptors. The soluble interleukin-1 receptor considered an important and novel biomarker of heart stress, fibrotic scarring, and inflammation. Furthermore, the recommendations allow the use of the ST2 as a risk stratification measure and monitoring for patients with heart and cardiovascular diseases [7-9]. A neuropeptide known as galanin-like peptide (GALP) is participating in the control of energy balance. However, GALP appears to have a variety of effects on food consumption and body weight. A neuropeptide GALP, contains 60 amino acids, positions 9–21 of the GALP sequence are homologous to that of galanin. There are a small number of cells that express GALP, most of which are located in the pituitary and hypothalamus glands [10-12].

1. Materials and methods

Ninety sampling their ages (33 to 35) years were used,. Samples have been divided in to:- GROUP1= (30) normal-weight (N.WT)their BMI was (22-24.7 kg/m²), GROUP2= (30) overweight (O.WT) their BMI was (25.3-29.8 kg/m²) and GROUP3=30 obese (OB) their BMI was (30.4-35 kg/m²). The ST2 levels were carried out by using Afias 10 instrument, IGF-1 by Maglumi 800, GALP by Eliza kit, and data Analysis by XLSTATE program.

2. Results & Discussion

2.1 Suppression of tumorigenicity-2

The (mean ± SD) of ST2 ng/ml of groups (N.WT, O.WT and OB) levels in the serum were shown in table and figure (1). The results showed increase (p<0.002, p<0.001) the level of ST2 in the overweight comparing to normal-weight, and in obese comparing to normal and overweight groups.

Table (1): ST2 levels

ST2 ng/ml		
N.WT BMI (22-24.7 kg/m ²) n=30	O.WT BMI (25.3-29.8 kg/m ²) n=30	OB BMI (30.4-35 kg/m ²) n=30
20.3 ± 3.4	23.9 ± 5.6	33.3 ± 3.4
<i>P value</i>		
N.WT/ O.WT	N.WT/OB	O.WT/OB
<0.05	<0.002	<0.001
N.WT= Normal-Weight / O.WT=Overweight / OB=Obese		

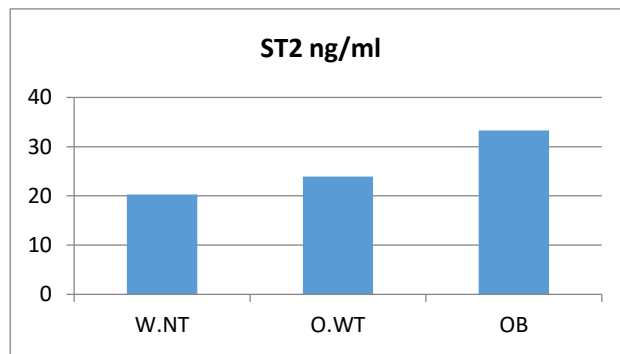


Fig. (1): ST2 levels

Current research examined several biochemical diagnoses for the distribution or illness and determined the best limit or threshold using Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) curves. The ROC curve was summarized using the Area under the Curve (AUC). Sensitivity (0.78), specificity (0.95), accuracy(0.81), and ST2 cut-off point (27.9 ng/ml) are provided in table (2). A high AUC (0.85) implies a strong correlation between obesity and the ST2 (ng/ml).

Table (2): Diagnostic properties value of ST2

Sensitivity	Specificity	Accuracy	AUC	CUT OFF
0.87	0.95	0.81	0.85	27.9

In chronic inflammatory diseases, a poor prognosis was indicated by high levels of the ST2 marker. Higher concentrations of ST2 and its ligand, interleukin (IL)-33, are found in adipose tissue in obese patients [13]. Zeyda et al. reported that obese individuals had higher levels of sST2 in plasma compared to lean or non-obese controls, as well as increased expression of ST2 and IL-33 in adipose and subcutaneous tissue [14]. In addition, Gleimer et al found that among adolescents and adults, obese individuals had greater sST2 than normal-weight patients [15]. Oxidative stress and inflammatory markers were positively associated with elevated circulating sST2 levels in metabolic syndrome patients [16]. Numerous clinical and experimental findings imply that : sST2 has a role in inflammatory illnesses [17]. Obese animals have higher levels of sST2, which is reflected in elevated markers of vascular inflammation[18]. Furthermore, associations between inflammatory markers and sST2 have been reported in a number of illnesses [19-20]. The proinflammatory compounds linked to raised sST2 levels have the capacity to stimulate and activate inflammatory cells in injured blood vessels, making them particularly crucial as a risk factor for metabolic syndrome, and they are essential for the onset and development of insulin resistance and inflammation in adipose tissue [21-22].

2.2 Insulin-like growth factor-1

The (mean ± SD) of IGF-1 ng/ml levels in (N.WT, O.WT and OB) groups were listed in table (3) and in figure (3). The results found decrease ($P < 0.001$, $P < 0.0013$) the level of IGF-1 (ng/ml) in obese group comparing to normal and overweight groups.

Table (3): IGF1 levels

IGF-1 ng/ml		
N.WT BMI (22-24.7 kg/m ²) n=30	O.WT BMI (25.3-29.8 kg/m ²) n=30	OB BMI (30.4-35 kg/m ²) n=30
178.8±45.6	167.7±39.1	95.3±22.2
P value		
N.WT/ O.WT	N.WT/OB	O.WT/OB
≥ 0.05	<0.001	<0.0013

N.WT= Normal-Weight / O.WT=Overweight / OB=Obese

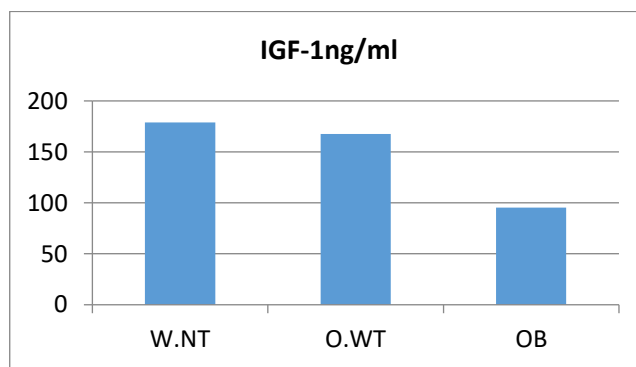


Fig. (2): IGF1 levels

Sensitivity(0.90), specificity(0.88), accuracy(0.83), and IGF-1 cut-off point (136.90ng/ml) are provided in table (4). A substantial relation between obesity and IGF-1 (ng/ml) is shown by a high AUC (0.92).

Table (4): Diagnostic properties of IGF1

Sensitivity	Specificity	Accuracy	AUC	CUT OFF
0.90	0.88	0.83	0.92	136.90

There are several limitations to this study. First, the fact that the samples were collected from a single hospital and a single external laboratory and the small sample size reduces statistical power. Several studies have shown that IGF-1 and BMI have a negative relationship [23-25], despite contradicting findings, it has also been observed that obese people have normal or high IGF-1 levels. There is strong evidence linking the pathophysiology of obesity to the growth hormone/insulin-like growth factor system. Adipose tissue and the pituitary gland interact through the mechanism of this system, which is directly influenced by growth hormone and insulin-like growth factor on the growth and division of fat cells [26]. Additionally, they disclosed the manifestations of obese individuals with low IGF-1, including heightened inflammation and adiposity as well as metabolic comorbidities such hyperuricemia . Furthermore, in individuals without diabetes, low IGF-1 levels were linked to increased blood glucose in people with higher BMI [27-29]. Unlike our findings, De Marinis et al. observed that IGF-1 did not substantially change in obese female patients before and after weight loss [30]. Utz et al. reported that IGF-I levels were not significantly decreased [31]. Additionally, the results conflict with those of other studies that have found that: Hyperinsulinemia induced by insulin resistance reducing circulating binding protein and raising free levels of IGF-1 in the blood [32-37] .

2.3 Galanin-like peptide

The (mean ± SD) of GALP pg/ml levels in serum of (N.WT, O.WT and OB) groups were listed in table (5) and in figure (3). The results found increase ($P<0.003$, $P<0.001$) the level of GALP (pg/ml) in obese group comparing to normal and overweight groups.

Table (5): GALP (pg/ml) levels

GALP pg/ml		
N.WT BMI (22-24.7 kg/m²) n=30	O.WT BMI (25.3-29.8 kg/m²) n=30	OB BMI (30.4-35 kg/m²) n=30
396.39±88.20	422.12±78.91	513.36±110.01
<i>P value</i>		
N.WT/ O.WT	N.WT/OB	O.WT/OB
≥ 0.05	<0.003	<0.001

N.WT= Normal-Weight / O.WT=Overweight / OB=Obese

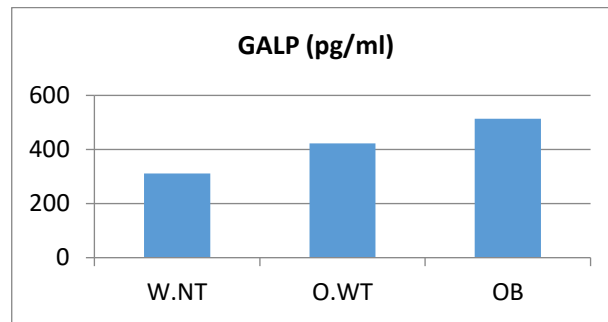


FIG. (3): GALP (pg/ml) levels

Sensitivity(0.94), specificity(0.89), accuracy(0.81), and GALP cut-off point (449.31pg/ml) are provided in table (6). A strong substantial relation between obesity and GALP (pg/ml) is shown by a high AUC (0.88).

Table (6): Diagnostic properties value of GALP

Sensitivity	Specificity	Accuracy	AUC	CUT OFF
0.94	0.89	0.81	0.88	449.31

Galanin has a variety of central and peripheral effects. It is specifically linked to endocrine processes that regulate anterior pituitary hormone, reproduction, carbohydrate metabolism, inflammation, appetite, obesity gain, impaired insulin sensitivity, hypertension, and overall metabolism [38]. Human studies have demonstrated the contribution of GAL in metabolic diseases. Patients with gestational diabetes and high BMI have significantly higher plasma GAL levels [39–41]. Since GAL is associated with increased food intake, functional characterization so far has shown that it acts primarily as an appetite stimulant [42], and Weight has an impact on the body's levels of galanin [43]. results concur with the study's finding that obese patients have greater blood galanin levels [44]. Elevated blood levels of galanin in obese individuals may be due to being overweight or may be one of several variables and risk that contribute to obesity [45].

- 3. Conclusions:** Obesity has a clear effect on the studied variables (ST2, IGF-1, GALP), whose levels in serum were changed significantly. This may be because the accumulated adipose tissue acts as an inflammatory factor that negatively affect.

References

- 1- Zielinska-Pukos MA, Kopiasz Ł, Hamulka J. The Effect of Maternal Overweight/Obesity on Serum and Breastmilk Leptin, and Its Associations with Body Composition, Cardiometabolic Health Indices, and Maternal Diet: The BLOOM Study. *Metabolites*. 2024; 14(4):221.
- 2- Fida Hussain, Kausar Abbas Saldera, Dr Rabail Irfan, Dr Ammara Naeem, Dr Abdullah Zia, Dr Muhammad Haider Ali, Muhammad Shahroz Khan, & Fahad Asim.. The relationship between obesity and serum albumin levels in adults without liver or kidney dysfunction. *Journal of Population Therapeutics and Clinical Pharmacology*, 2024; 31(7), 302–306.
- 3- Kaya Durmuş, M., Karakurt, C., Taşkapan, &, Öncül, M., Elkıran, &., Bulut, N., & Gözükara Bağ, H., Serum-Soluble ST2 (sST2) and NT-proBNP Levels in Children With Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. *Iranian Heart Journal*, 2022, 23(4), 46-51
- 4- Dong Y, Hu H, Fu D, Zheng S, Wang Q, KC K, et al. Serum expression of il-33 and st2 in patients with psoriasis vulgaris. *Arch Iran Med*. 2021;24(9):689-695.
- 5- Shi T, Ge J, Li S and Zhang Y, Soluble suppression of tumorigenicity 2 associated with major adverse cardiac events in children with myocarditis. *Front. Cardiovasc. Med*. 2024;11:1404432.
- 6- R. Noordam, D.A. Gunn, C.C. Tomlin, A.B. Maier, T. Griffiths, S.D. Catt, S. Ogden, P.E. Slagboom, R.G.J. Westendorp, C.E.M. Griffiths, D. van Heemst, A.J.M. de Craen, on behalf of the Leiden Longevity Study group, Serum insulin-like growth factor 1 and facial ageing: high levels associate with reduced skin wrinkling in a cross-sectional study, *British Journal of Dermatology*, Volume 168, Issue 3, 1 March 2013, Pages 533–538
- 7- Huang R, Shi J, Wei R, Li J. Challenges of insulin-like growth factor-1 testing. *Crit Rev Clin Lab Sci*. 2024;61(5):388-403.
- 8- Blum WF, Alherbish A, Alsagheir A, et al. The growth hormone-insulin-like growth factor-I axis in the diagnosis and treatment of growth disorders. *Endocr Connect*. 2018;7(6):R212–R222.
- 9- Kasprzak A. Insulin-Like Growth Factor 1 (IGF-1) Signaling in Glucose Metabolism in Colorectal Cancer. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*. 2021; 22(12):6434.
- 10- Zhu S, Hu X, Bennett S, Charlesworth O, Qin S, Mai Y, Dou H and Xu J., Galanin family peptides: Molecular structure, expression and roles in the neuroendocrine axis and in the spinal cord. *Front. Endocrinol*. 2022; 13:1019943.
- 11- Fumiko Takenoya, Subchapter 33B - Galanin-like peptide, Editor(s): Hironori Ando, Kazuyoshi Ukena, Shinji Nagata, Handbook of Hormones (Second Edition), Academic Press, 2021, Pages 359-360, ISBN 9780128206492.
- 12- Kageyama, H., Shiba, K., Hirako, S. et al. Anti-obesity effect of intranasal administration of galanin-like peptide (GALP) in obese mice. *Sci Rep* 6, 2016; 28200 .
- 13- Demyanets S, Kaun C, Kaider A, et al. The pro-inflammatory marker soluble suppression of tumorigenicity-2 (ST2) is reduced especially in diabetic morbidly obese patients undergoing bariatric surgery. *Cardiovasc Diabetol*. 2020;19(1):26.
- 14- Zeyda M, Wernly B, Demyanets S, Kaun C, Hammerle M, Hantusch B, Schranz M, Neuhofer A, Itariu BK, Keck M, et al. Severe obesity increases adipose tissue expression of interleukin-33 and its receptor ST2, both predominantly detectable in endothelial cells of human adipose tissue. *Int J Obes (Lond)*. 2013;37(5):658–65
- 15- Gleimer M, Li Y, Chang L, Paczesny S, Hanauer DA, Frame DG, Byersdorfer CA, Reddy PR, Braun TM, Choi SW. Baseline body mass index among children and adults undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation: clinical characteristics and outcomes. *Bone Marrow Transplant*. 2015;50(3):402–10.
- 16- Roy, I.; Jover, E.; Matilla, L.; Alvarez, V.; Fernández-Celis, A.; Beunza, M.; Escribano, E.; Gainza, A.; Sádaba, R.; López-Andrés, N. Soluble ST2 as a New Oxidative Stress and Inflammation Marker in Metabolic Syndrome. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2023, 20, 2579
- 17- Pascual-Figal, D.A.; Januzzi, J.L. The biology of ST2: The International ST2 Consensus Panel. *Am. J. Cardiol*. 2015, 115, 3B–7B.
- 18- Martinez-Martinez, E.; Lopez-Andres, N.; Jurado-Lopez, R.; Rousseau, E.; Bartolome, M.V.; Fernandez-Celis, A.; Rossignol, P.; Islas, F.; Antequera, A.; Prieto, S.; et al. Galectin-3 Participates in Cardiovascular Remodeling Associated With Obesity. *Hypertension* 2015, 66, 961–969.
- 19- Sun, Z.; Chang, B.; Huang, A.; Hao, S.; Gao, M.; Sun, Y.; Shi, M.; Jin, L.; Zhang, W.; Zhao, J.; et al. Plasma levels of soluble ST2, but not IL-33, correlate with the severity of alcoholic liver disease. *J. Cell. Mol. Med*. 2019, 23, 887–897.
- 20- Chen, W.; Lin, A.; Yu, Y.; Zhang, L.; Yang, G.; Hu, H.; Luo, Y. Serum Soluble ST2 as a Novel Inflammatory Marker in Acute Ischemic Stroke. *Clin. Lab*. 2018, 64, 1349–1356.
- 21- Bartosinska, J.; Przepiorka-Kosinska, J.; Sarecka-Hujar, B.; Raczkiwicz, D.; Kowal, M.; Chyl-Surdacka, K.; Bartosinski, J.; Kosinski, J.; Krasowska, D.; Chodorowska, G. Osteopontin Serum Concentration and Metabolic Syndrome in Male Psoriatic Patients. *J. Clin. Med*. 2021, 10, 755.
- 22- Kiefer, F.W.; Zeyda, M.; Gollinger, K.; Pfau, B.; Neuhofer, A.; Weichhart, T.; Saemann, M.D.; Geyeregger, R.; Schleder, M.; Kenner, L.; et al. Neutralization of osteopontin inhibits obesity-induced inflammation and insulin resistance. *Diabetes* 2010, 59, 935–946.

- 23- Yamamoto H, Kato Y. Relationship between plasma insulin-like growth factor I (IGF-I) levels and body mass index (BMI) in adults. *Endocr J.* 1993;40(1):41-45.
- 24- Juul A. Serum levels of insulin-like growth factor I and its binding proteins in health and disease. *Growth Horm IGF Res.* 2003;13(4):113-170.
- 25- Sherlala RA, Kammerer CM, Kuipers AL, et al. Relationship Between Serum IGF-1 and BMI Differs by Age. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci.* 2021;76(7):1303-1308.
- 26- Potluri, S., Hamad, A. A., Godavarthi, D., & Basa, S. S. (2024). Enhanced Task Scheduling Using Optimized Particle Swarm Optimization Algorithm in Cloud Computing Environment. *EAI Endorsed Transactions on Scalable Information Systems*, 11(3).
- 27- Kubo, H., Sawada, S., Satoh, M. et al. Insulin-like growth factor-1 levels are associated with high comorbidity of metabolic disorders in obese subjects; a Japanese single-center, retrospective-study. *Sci Rep*,2022, 12, 20130 .
- 28- Khattab MH, Said SM, Fayez MA, Elaguizy MM, Mohamed AAA, Ghobashy AM. The Association Between Preoperative Insulin-Like Growth Factor I Levels and the Total Body Weight Loss in Women Post Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy. *Obes Surg.* 2024;34(3):874-881.
- 29- Juiz-Valiña P, Pena-Bello L, Cordido M, Outeiriño-Blanco E, Pértega S, Varela-Rodríguez B, Garcia-Brao MJ, Mena E, Sangiao-Alvarellos S, Cordido F. Altered GH-IGF-1 Axis in Severe Obese Subjects is Reversed after Bariatric Surgery-Induced Weight Loss and Related with Low-Grade Chronic Inflammation. *Journal of Clinical Medicine.* 2020; 9(8):2614.
- 30- De Marinis, L.; Bianchi, A.; Mancini, A.; Gentilella, R.; Perrelli, M.; Giampietro, A.; Porcelli, T.; Tilaro, L.; Fusco, A.; Valle, D.; et al. Growth Hormone Secretion and Leptin in Morbid Obesity before and after Biliopancreatic Diversion: Relationships with Insulin and Body Composition. *J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab.* 2004, 89, 174–180.
- 31- Hamad, A. A., Ahmed, F. M., Khalf, M. F., & Thivagar, M. L. (2023). Dynamic system linear models and Bayes classifier for time series classification in promoting sustainabilitys. *Heritage and Sustainable Development*, 5(2), 183-198..
- 32- Wardana, Z. S., Sari, G. M., & Tinduh, D. , The Relation Between IGF-1 Levels and Fasting Blood Glucose in Obese Women. *STRADA Jurnal Ilmiah Kesehatan*,2020; 9(1), 140–146.
- 33- Lewitt M, Dent M. and Hall K. The Insulin-Like Growth Factor System in Obesity, Insulin Resistance and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 2014;3(4):1561-1574.
- 34- Alvarez-Nava F. and Lanes R. GH/IGF-1 signaling and current knowledge of epigenetics; a review and considerations on possible therapeutic options. *International Journal of Molecular Science*, 2017;18(10):E1624.
- 35- Guo J, Xie J, Zhou B, Gaman M-A, Kord-Varkaneh H, Clark CCT, Salehi-Sahlabadi A, Li Y, Han X, Hao Y. and Liang Y. The influence of zinc supplementation on IGF-1 levels in humans: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of King Saud University – Science*, 2020.
- 36- TaeHo Kim, Chang JS, Kim H, Lee KH. and Kong ID. Intense Walking Exercise Affects Serum IGF-1 and IGFBP3. *Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*, 2015;5(1):21-25.
- 37- Haywood NJ, Slater TA, Matthews CJ, Wheatcroft SB. The insulin like growth factor and binding protein family: Novel therapeutic targets in obesity & diabetes. *Mol Metab.* 2019;19:86-96.
- 38- Altinkaya S. O., Galanin and glypican-4 levels depending on metabolic and cardiovascular risk factors in patients with polycystic ovary syndrome. *Archives of endocrinology and metabolism, Arch Endocrinol Metab.* 2021;65/4
- 39- Baranowska B, Wasilewska-Dziubińska E, Radzikowska M, Płonowski A, Roguski K, Neuropeptide Y. Galanin, and Leptin Release in Obese Women and in Women With Anorexia Nervosa. *Metabolism* ,1997, 46(12):1384–9.
- 40- Sandoval-Alzate HF, Agudelo-Zapata Y, González-Clavijo AM, Poveda NE, Espinel-Pachón CF, Escamilla-Castro JA, et al. Serum Galanin Levels in Young Healthy Lean and Obese Non-Diabetic Men During an Oral Glucose Tolerance Test. *Sci Rep* ,2016, 6:31661.
- 41- Fang P, Bo P, Shi M, Yu M, Zhang Z. Circulating Galanin Levels Are Increased in Patients With Gestational Diabetes Mellitus. *Clin Biochem* ,2013, 46(9):831–3.
- 42- Mohd Zahir I, Ogawa S, Dominic NA, Soga T, Parhar IS. Spexin and Galanin in Metabolic Functions and Social Behaviors With a Focus on Non-Mammalian Vertebrates. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne)*. 2022;13:882772. Published 2022 May 25.
- 43- Şahin A, Yılmaz M. Relation between obesity and the gastrointestinal system. *Firat Med J.* 2018 [cited on Jun. 20, 2018];23:22-29.
- 44- Fang P, Yu M, Gu X, Shi M, Zhu Y, Zhang Z, et al. Low levels of plasma galanin in obese subjects with hypertension. *J Endocrinol Invest.* 2017;40:63-8.
- 45- Uygur FA, Dişçi E, Peksöz R, Öztürk N, Yildirgan Mİ, Albayrak Y. Diagnostic value of serum levels of galanin and obestatin in patients with gastric cancer. *Rev Assoc Med Bras [Internet]*. 2022Jul;68(7):888–92.