



# MD-PhD Candidate Chady Omara

*Leiden University Medical Center*

‘Contributing to the Achondroplasia module: a student experience’



**EuRREB**

European Registries for Rare  
Endocrine and Bone conditions

# Contributing to the Achondroplasia module: A student experience

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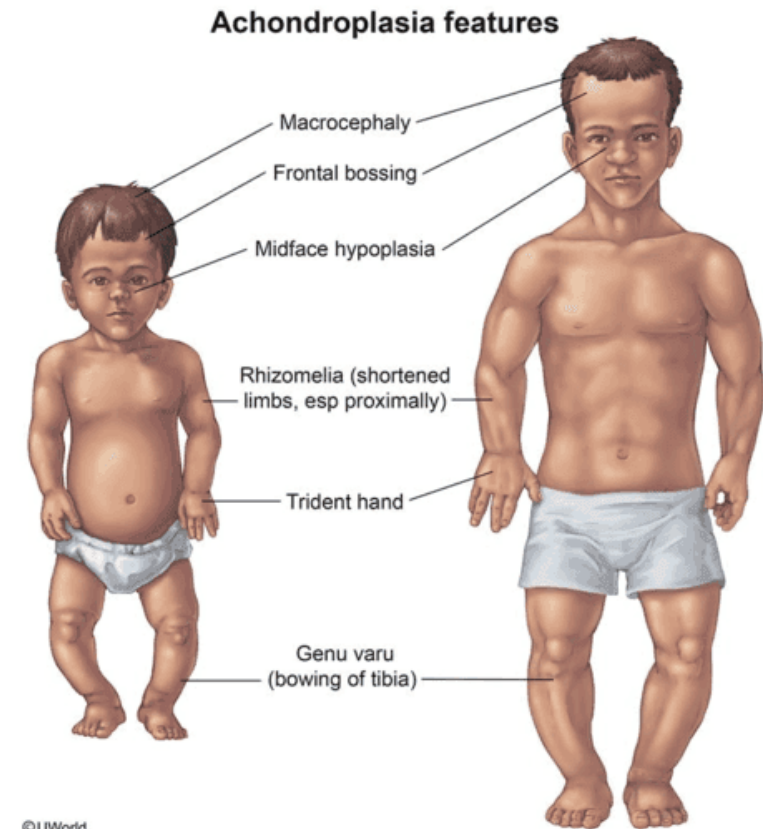
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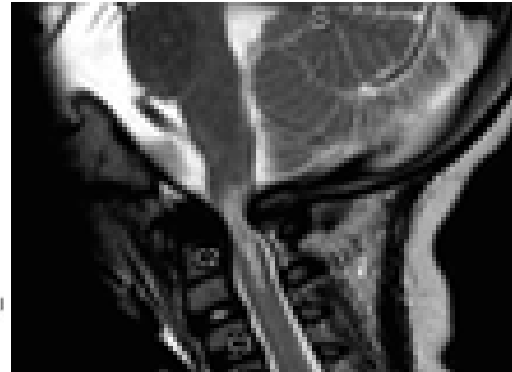
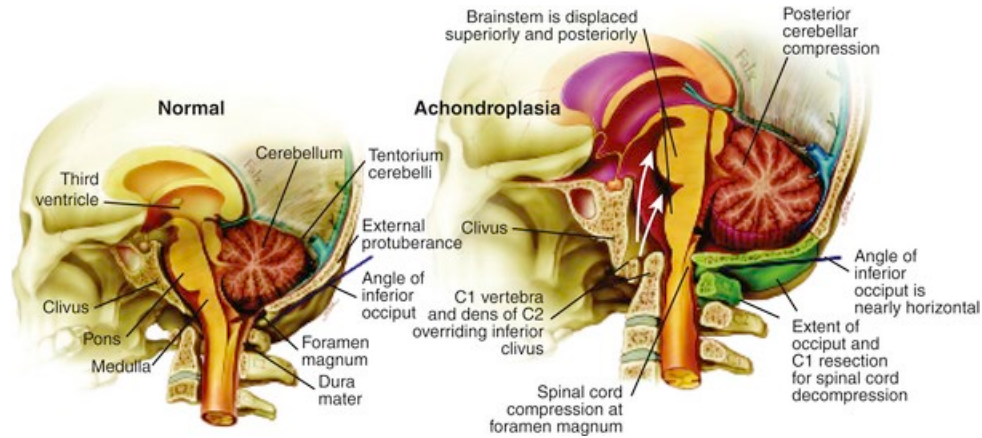


# Achondroplasia

- Most common type of skeletal dysplasia
- Gain-of-function mutation in FGFR3
  - Inhibits endochondral ossification at growth plates
- Clinical characteristics:
  - Short stature
  - Rhizomelic limb shortening
  - Macrocephaly with frontal bossing



# Multisystem complications



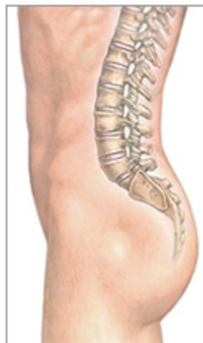
Developmental Screening Form for Children with Achondroplasia

Name:		Age of child (yrs/months):	
Date of assessment:			
Crawling	Snow plough	Reverse snow plough	Commando Crawl
<b>GROSS MOTOR</b> Lift head when lying on stomach Roll over Sit up Reverse snow plough Commando crawl Bear walking Traditional crawling Into sitting from lying Into sitting from standing Into standing from sitting Stand holding on Stand unsupported Walk holding on Walk independently			

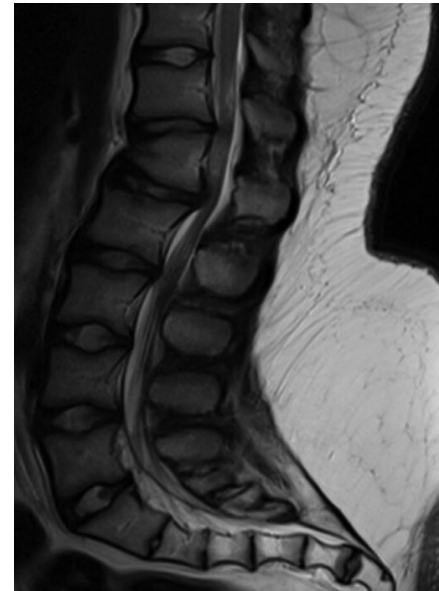


Normal spine

Lordosis of the spine



Exaggerated lumbar curve



Optimal management requires a coordinated multidisciplinary approach








ORIGINAL ARTICLE



## C-Type Natriuretic Peptide Analogue Therapy in Children with Achondroplasia

**Authors:** Ravi Savarirayan, M.B., B.S., M.D., Melita Irving, M.B., B.S., M.D., Carlos A. Bacino, M.D., Bret Bostwick, M.D., Joel Charrow, M.D., Valerie Cormier-Daire, M.D., Ph.D., Kim-Hanh Le Quan Sang, Ph.D., , and Julie Hoover-Fong, M.D., Ph.D. [Author Info & Affiliations](#)

Published June 18, 2019 | N Engl J Med 2019;381:25-35 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1813446 | [VOL. 381 NO. 1](#)  
[Copyright © 2019](#)

- Vosoritide: Recombinant C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP) analogue → Inhibits overactive FGFR3 gene <sup>1</sup>
- Significantly increases length

<sup>1</sup>Savarirayan R, Irving M, Bacino CA, et al. C-Type Natriuretic Peptide Analogue Therapy in Children with Achondroplasia. *N Engl J Med*. 2019;381(1):25-35. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1813446

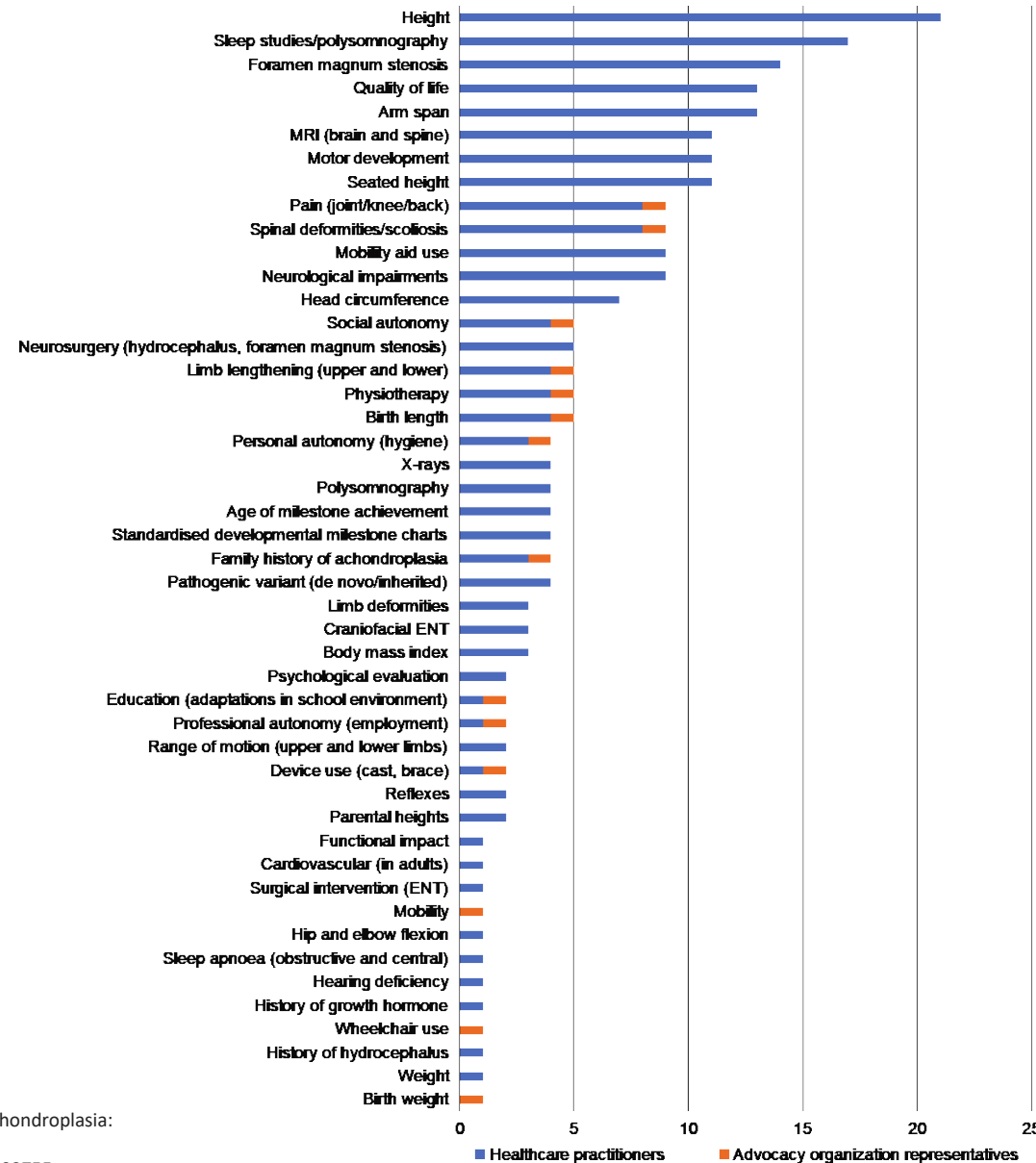


# Need for Prospective, Standardized Data Collection



# Most important variables

*Figure 1: Data elements considered of greatest value for an achondroplasia registry<sup>2</sup>*



<sup>2</sup> Alanay Y, Mohnike K, Nilsson O, et al. Real-world evidence in achondroplasia: considerations for a standardized data set. *Orphanet J Rare Dis*. 2023;18(1):166. Published 2023 Jun 26. doi:10.1186/s13023-023-02755-w

# The Achondroplasia Module: Design and Current Status





# Achondroplasia Module: Design

- Part of EuRREB Core Registry (Since 2022) – *Recently updated*
- **Key study focuses**
  - Children: Thoracolumbar kyphosis, spinal stenosis and foramen magnum stenosis
  - Adults: Thoracolumbar kyphosis and spinal stenosis
- **Longitudinal follow up:** anthropometric data, diagnostics, medical treatment and surgical treatment
- **Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)**



# Achondroplasia Module: Current status

- **Data from 5 centers**
- **Adult database**
  - 100 patients
  - 77 patients underwent thoracolumbar spine surgery
  - 60 patients filled in PROMs
- **Children database**
  - 39 patients
  - 25 children treated with vosoritide



# New Insights: Spinal Pathology in Achondroplasia



# New Insights: Spinal Pathology in Achondroplasia

Children



- Thoracolumbar kyphosis (TLK)
- Formed from improper seating posture



Adults

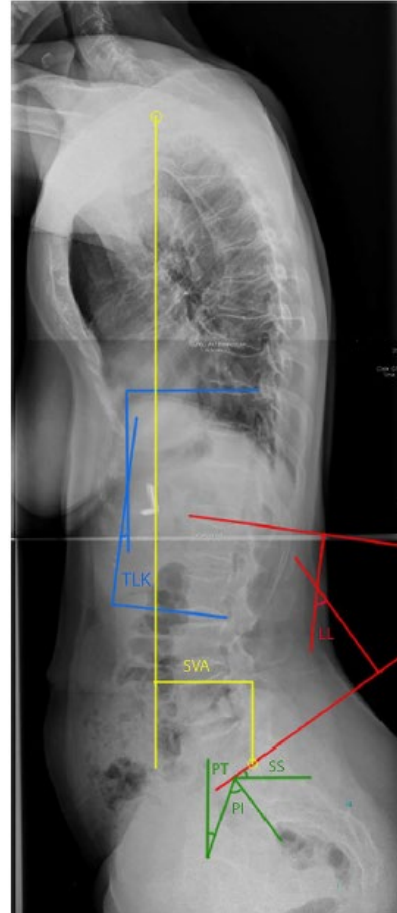


- Spinal stenosis
- Upper lumbar levels

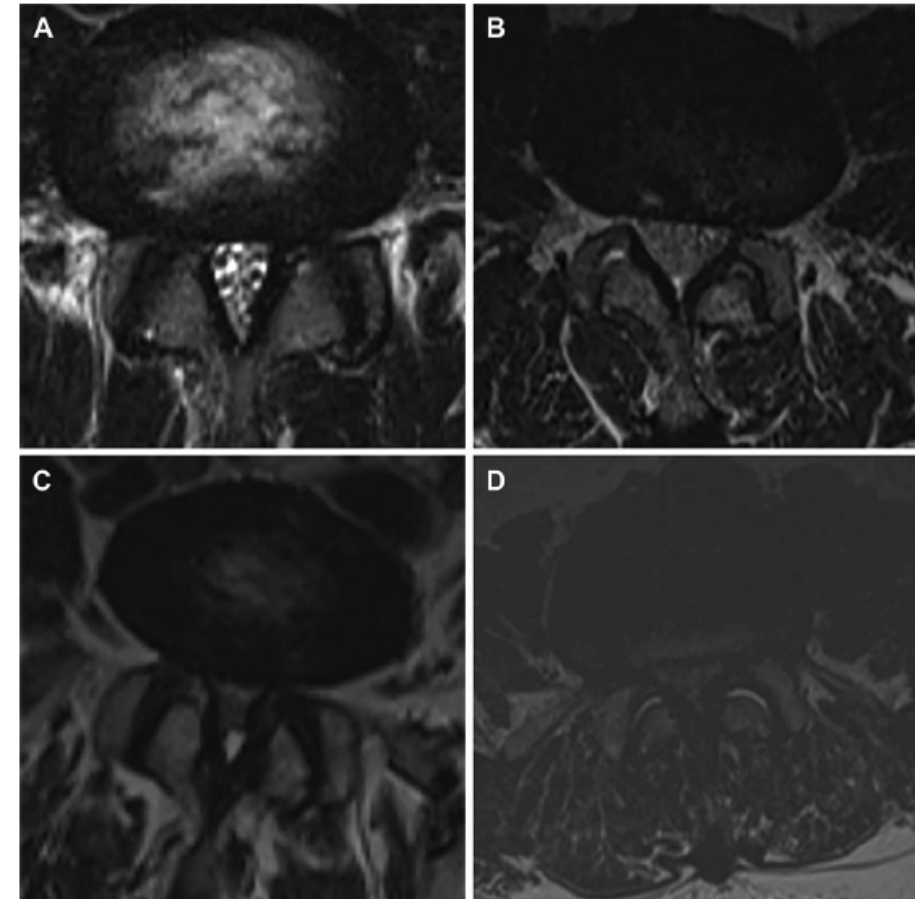


# New Insights: Spinal Pathology in Achondroplasia

- Evaluate each vertebral level individually (From Th12 to S1)
- Assess correlation between:
  - Severity of TLK (°)
  - Severity of stenosis (Schizas scale)



**Figure 3:** Measurement method of sagittal balance parameters<sup>3</sup>



**Figure 4:** Schizas scale overview on axial T2-weighted MRI<sup>3</sup>



# New Insights: Spinal Pathology in Achondroplasia

TABLE 4. Correlation Between Schizas Scales and Sagittal Balance Parameters

	Schizas scales					
	T12L1	L12	L23	L34	L45	L5S1
TLK						
r (p)	0.10 (0.727)	0.44 (0.020) <sup>a</sup>	0.29 (0.121)	0.14 (0.457)	−0.26 (0.150)	0.07 (0.728)
N	14	29	30	33	34	31

- **Positive correlation** between the presence of **TLK** and **upper lumbar spinal stenosis** ( $r=0.44$ ,  $p=0.020$ )
- Multivariate linear regression: Every **1 degree** increase in **TLK** → **1% worse** outcome on **EQ-5D**

<sup>3</sup> Cai H, Omara C, Vleggeert-Lankamp CLA. Association Between Radiological Severity of Lumbar Spinal Stenosis and Spinopelvic Parameters in Adult Patients With Achondroplasia. *Neurosurgery*. 2024;95(6):1317-1328. doi:10.1227/neu.0000000000003007





# New Insights: Spinal Pathology in Achondroplasia

Children



Adults



**Which patients are at risk for developing persistent  
TLK?**



# New Insights: Spinal Pathology in Achondroplasia





- **Meta-analysis on risk factors** for persistent **TLK** in children with achondroplasia
- Significant clinical parameters
  - Developmental motor delay (OR 3.0; 95% CI 1.5 – 5.9;  $p = 0.002$ )
- Significant radiological parameters
  - Percentage vertebral wedging (MD 10.9%; 95% CI 5.6% – 16.3%;  $p < 0.001$ ),
  - Apical vertebral translation (OR 8.4; 95% CI 2.8 – 25.4;  $p < 0.001$ )



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• Roll over					
• Snow plough					
• Reverse snow plough					
• Commando crawl					
• Bear walking					
• Traditional crawling					
• Into sitting from lying					
• Into sitting from standing					
• Into standing from sitting					
• Stand holding on					
• Stand unsupported					
• Walk holding on					
• Walk independently					



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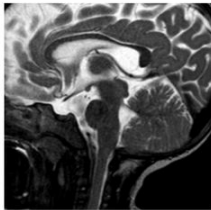
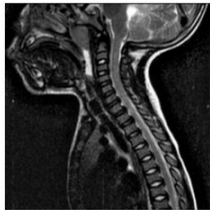
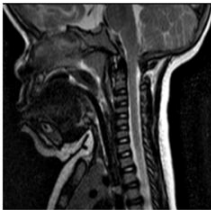


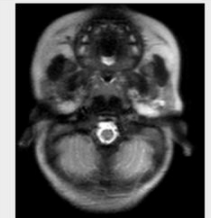
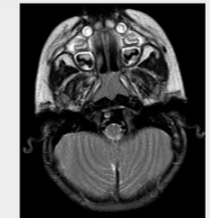
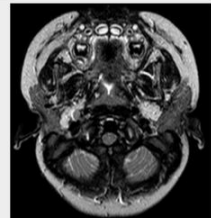
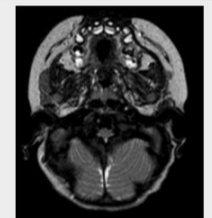
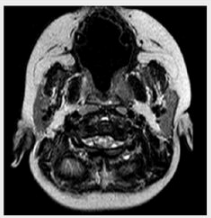


# Next Steps and Research Directions



# Next Steps and Research Directions

- Continue research on spinal pathology in achondroplasia
- Optimal management of foramen magnum stenosis
  - Wide variation across centers: MRI vs clinical exam vs polysomnography
  - Some centers operate early, others only if symptomatic

AFMS0	AFMS1	AFMS2	AFMS3	AFMS4
Normal foramen magnum	Constitutional narrowing of the foramen magnum with preserved CSF (no cord distortion)	Narrowing of the foramen magnum with loss of CSF space surrounding the cord	Loss of the CSF space with cord compression	Cord compression and signal changes (Myelomalacia)
				
				





# Call for collaboration

- Join the achondroplasia module!
- Multidisciplinary participation is essential
- Need help?



# Achondroplasia Working group

## Achondroplasia

### Members of this Working Group

<b>Lead:</b> Klaus Mohnike	pediatric endocrinologist
<b>Co-Lead:</b> Inês Alves	patient representative, ePAG ERN BOND
Chady Omara	phD candidate, neurosurgeon, responsible researcher
Carmen Vleggeert-Lankamp	neurosurgeon
Geert Mortier	clinical geneticist
Genevieve Baujat	clinical geneticist
Marco Sessa	patient representative
Maria Francesca Bedeschi	clinical geneticist
Mariya Cherenko	endocrinologist, EuREB data manager
Natasha Appelman-Dijkstra	endocrinologist, EuREB coordinator
Svein O. Fredwall	senior medical consultant

## Achondroplasia Research group Dept. Neurosurgery, LUMC



Prof. dr. C.L.A. Vleggeert-Lankamp



Dr. H. Cai



# Thank you

## Ways to contact us:



[eurreb.eu](http://eurreb.eu)



[registries@lumc.nl](mailto:registries@lumc.nl)



drop-in sessions via Zoom



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