

What is acromegaly?

Acromegaly is a rare disease typically caused by a benign tumor in the pituitary gland that produces excess growth hormone and in turn causes the liver to overproduce another hormone, insulin like growth factor-1 or IGF-1. Too much GH or IGF-1 in the bloodstream signals organ systems in the body to grow, resulting in a wide range of symptoms in patients, including altered facial features, intense headaches, joint pain, impaired vision and enlargement of the hands, feet, tongue and internal organs. If left untreated, the progression of acromegaly can result in serious morbidity and mortality including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, respiratory disorders, and cardiac and cerebrovascular disease.

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