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## ACHIEVEMENTS OF SCIENCE ARE IN THE STUDY OF ACROMEGALY

Acromegaly is a serious neuro-endocrine disorder caused by chronic excessive secretion of growth hormone (GH). Usually, people with practically completed physiological growth and disproportionate growth of bones, cartilages and soft tissues, internal organs, as well as those with a violation of the functional state of cardiovascular and pulmonary systems and peripheral endocrine glands suffer from it. The disease is usually caused by hormone pituitary tumor (somatotropinoma). Mostly women suffer from acromegaly.

The absence of treatment can lead to sustained disability and a significant reduction in life expectancy. Approximately 50 % of untreated patients die before the age of fifty. High level of mortality and reduction in life expectancy are caused by complications of this disease:

cardiovascular pathology, diabetes and its complications, respiratory diseases, malignant neoplasms of the gastrointestinal tract and others. Fortunately, prompt diagnosis and adequate treatment of acromegaly can greatly reduce the level of mortality from acromegaly.

Surgery, medical treatment and radiation therapy are used to treat acromegaly. The choice of treatment is determined by the following factors: the size and nature of growth of adenomas, the degree of hormonal activity, patient's age and possible complications of each method of treatment.

Over the past decade in many countries a lot of national registers of patients with acromegaly were formed in order to provide access to qualified medical care to all patients regardless of their financial position and place of residence.