Contents

Prologue IX

General Introduction 1-6

Outline of the Thesis 7

General Discussion 9-15

General Conclusion 16

Summary/Résumé/Samenvatting 21-32

1 Section “GH/IGF and Atherogenic Lipid Phenotype”

1.1 Elevated Remnant-Like Particle cholesterol (RLP-C) concentration: a characteristic feature of an atherogenic lipoprotein phenotype (review) 35-53

1.2 Isolation of remnant particles by immunoseparation: a new approach for investigation of postprandial lipoprotein metabolism in normolipidemic subjects. 55-64

1.3 Physicochemical properties of the remnant-like particle fraction and its susceptibility to oxidative stress. 65-71

1.4 Adult-onset growth hormone deficiency: relation of postprandial dyslipidemia to premature atherosclerosis (review). 73-86

1.5 Effect of growth hormone therapy in adult-onset growth hormone deficiency on home measured capillary triglyceride status. 87-96

1.6 Growth hormone (GH) treatment decreases postprandial-like particle cholesterol concentration and improves endothelial function in adult-onset GH deficiency. 97-108

1.7 Growth hormone treatment in adult-onset GH deficient patients but have no effect on remnant lipoproteins, due to an increased expression of the hepatic LDL-receptor. 109-118

1.8 Induction of postprandial inflammatory response in adult onset growth hormone deficiency is related to plasma remnant-like particle cholesterol concentration. 119-129

1.9 Elevated remnant-like particles in heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia and response to statin therapy. 131-139

1.10 High dose of simvastatin normalizes postprandial like particle response in patients with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. 141-151

1.11 Remnant lipoprotein levels and carotid intima media thickness in patients with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (FH); the effect of one-year Simvastatin treatment. 153-160

1.12 The atherogenic plasma remnant-like particle cholesterol (RLP-C) concentration is increased in the fasting and postprandial state in active acromegalic patients. 161-170
2. Section “GH/IGF and pro-diabetic phenotype”
   2.1 The role of the IGF system in pancreatic β-cell function (review). 173-182
   2.2 Insulin-like growth factor-I and low birthweight. 183-185
   2.3 Plasma IGF-II relates to insulin secretion in man. 187-191
   2.4 Fasting plasma IGF-I levels in AGHD predicts the level of insulin resistance after start of growth hormone therapy. 193-197
   2.5 Endogenous glucose production rate during GH therapy in adult-onset growth hormone deficiency is maintained due to an elevated contribution of gluconeogenesis. 199-211

3. Section “GH/IGF and myocardial adaptation”
   3.1 Acromegaly and Heart Failure “Revisions on the growth hormone (GH) / Insulin-like growth factor (IGF) axis in its relation with the cardiovascular system”The IGF system in acromegaly and heart failure (review). 215-222
   3.2 Significant improvement of acromegaly-induced cardiomyopathy after normalisation of GH levels - A case report and review. 223-230

Acknowledgements 231-234
Curriculum Vitae 235-236
List of publications 237-240