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[PubMed Central](#) 1: [Clin Endocrinol \(Oxf\)](#). 2002 Apr;56(4):519-24.[Related Articles, Links](#)**Reduced capillary permeability and capillary density in the skin of GH-deficient adults: improvement after 12 months GH replacement.**[Oomen PH](#), [Beentjes JA](#), [Bosma E](#), [Smit AJ](#), [Reitsma WD](#), [Dullaart RP](#).

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OBJECTIVE: Several lines of evidence suggest that the GH-IGF-1 axis affects capillary permeability and angiogenesis. We evaluated skin capillary permeability and capillary density in GH-deficient adults, before and after GH replacement therapy. **PATIENTS:** Seven normotensive, nondiabetic GH-deficient adults (two women) were matched with 14 control subjects. **MEASUREMENTS:** Large-window videodensitometry with sodium fluorescein was performed in all subjects. Capillary permeability was expressed as the average relative light intensity over the first 7 min after the appearance of fluorescein in the skin capillaries; Iav(7). Skin capillary density was determined by counting the visualized capillaries and was expressed as n/mm². The GH-deficient patients were restudied after 12 months of GH replacement therapy (2 U/day). **RESULTS:** Both capillary permeability and capillary density were lower in untreated GH-deficient patients than in control subjects (median, interquartile range): Iav(7) in GH-deficient patients 47.1 (45.1-52.2)% vs. 57.5 (50.5-64.8)% in controls, P < 0.05; capillary density in GH-deficient patients 18 (12-24)/mm² vs. 32 (26-36)/mm² in controls, P < 0.05. GH treatment normalized plasma IGF-1 from 4.3 (1.0-13.4) to 22.2 (19.8-48.2) nmol/l (P < 0.05). Furthermore, both capillary permeability [Iav(7) 53.1 (48.8-58.4)%, P < 0.05] and capillary density [26 (17-34)/mm², P < 0.05] increased to a level that was not different from that in control subjects. **CONCLUSIONS:** The present study demonstrates that the growth hormone deficiency syndrome is associated with microvascular alterations, which are responsive to growth hormone replacement therapy.

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