



Research Article

The Association between the Levels of Phosphodiesterase 9, Insulin-like peptide 5 and Obesity in Women

Zuhair Assi Hussein^{1*}, Maysaa Jalal Majeed¹, Lubna Amer Al-Anbari², Suzan Adil Rashid Al-Naqeeb³

¹ University of Baghdad, College of Medicine, Baghdad, Iraq

² High Institute for Infertility Diagnosis and ART'S, Al-Nahrain University, Baghdad, Iraq

³ Northern Technical University, Kirkuk, Iraq

* Corresponding author's email: zuhairkirkuk2015@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Article history:

Received 22 July 2023

Accepted 19 September 2023

Available online 1 August 2024

<https://doi.org/10.47723/6btq4431>

Keywords: Obesity, Insulin-like peptide 5, Phosphodiesterase 9



This article is an open access article distributed under the

terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Background: The obesity epidemic is affecting worldwide health, increasing the risk of cardiovascular diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. This gave an impetus to study the new variables Insulin-like peptide 5, Phosphodiesterase 9 and their relationship as a cause or effect factors

Objective: To validate any associations between Phosphodiesterase 9 (PDE9) and Insulin-like peptide 5 (INSL5), specific factors and obesity, and to explore how they might integrate with other established agents to combat obesity and improve metabolism.

Subjects and Methods: The study was based on analytical cross-sectional research conducted from (February 2022) to (August 2022). The study based on apparently healthy women (primary analyses were made, their blood sugar and lipid profile with the normal reference range) 50 women with age range (20 – 40) years. Fasting blood samples were collected from all the participants in this study, (5 ml) was poured in plain tubes and sera were separated by centrifuging the samples for 10 minutes at 3000rpm for the biochemical and hormonal investigations, therefore they were divided into two groups: -first group: consisted of twenty-five obese women without previously diagnosed diseases (BMI>30 kg/m²). Second group: consisted of twenty-five women with normal BMI (BMI= 24.9-18.5 kg/m²).

Results: Serum insulin-like peptide 5 showed a significant increase in obese women without previously diagnosed diseases (16.31±3.88 µIU/ml), in comparison with women with normal BMI (11.17±3.88 µIU/ml). Serum PDE-9A significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) decreased in obese women (6.77±1.95ng/ml), in comparison with women with normal BMI (8.11±1.52ng/ml).

Conclusions: Insulin-like peptide 5 (INSL5) could play a role in promoting insulin resistance (IR), Phosphodiesterase 9 (PDE9) is a regulator of energy, Phosphodiesterase 9 (PDE9) inhibition is associated with an increase in the occurrence of insulin resistance.

Introduction

Obesity is a phrase that carries a lot of weight due to differing cultural conventions and stigmas concerning body size and form. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines "overweight" as a BMI 25 or higher, and "obese" as a BMI 30 or higher (1) abnormal or excessive fat buildup in the body that may be harmful to health, insulin triggers fat storage in the body (2,3). This important hormone, which also regulates blood sugar levels and helps to absorb glucose, also controls the fat building process. Insulin promotes the conversion of fatty acids into fat molecules, which are then stored in the body as fat droplets.

Hepatic or central nervous system insulin resistance may occur first, but we lack the means to detect it; then follows hyperinsulinemia, followed by obesity, and lastly peripheral insulin resistance, in a vicious cycle (4-6).

Insulin-like peptide (INSL) 5 is a member of the relaxin/insulin family, which also includes insulin, IGF (insulin-like growth factor) 1 and 2 (7,8), relaxin 1 and 2, and Insulin-like peptide-7 (8,9), and was recently discovered in colonic and brain tissue. INSL5's function is unknown, despite the fact that other members of the relaxin/insulin group have roles in glucose metabolism, reproduction physiology, and connecting tissue remodeling (10).

The C-terminus of the human INSL5 B-chain is essential for RXFP4 receptor activity. INSL5 is a colonic L-cell-secreted orexigenic hormone that stimulates appetite in conditions of energy deprivation (11).

Phosphodiesterase 9 (PDE9) is one of a novel identified isozyme, which is expressed in all tissues except blood. The highest expression levels of PDE9A are in the brain, spleen, small intestine and kidneys. In the brain, PDE9A is the most highly expressed PDE and almost all cell signaling pathways pass through cGMP. Regulation of the synthesis and degradation of cGMP fluctuates in different regions of the brain depending on physiological and pathological states (12). cGMP signaling is important for numerous functions in the brain, such as synaptic plasticity, phototransduction, learning, memory and stem cell differentiation. Differentiation of stem cells to neurons is promoted by a high level of cGMP, whereas a low level of cGMP promotes differentiation to non-neuronal cells (i.e., glial cells). PDE9 inhibition raises the levels of cyclic GMP, a tiny chemical that affects a variety of cellular activities. Pharmaceutical inhibitors of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase 9 (PDE9) increased protein kinase G (PKG) signaling and UCP1 expression in adipocytes. (13,14). An intrinsic lipolytic pathway is one coupled to cyclic GMP-protein kinase G (PKG) signaling stimulated by natriuretic peptides (NP) synthesized by the heart, or by nitric oxide. PKG is the primary kinase effector of cGMP and it phosphorylates hormone sensitive lipase (HSL) and perilipin, stimulates mitochondrial biogenesis and oxidative activity, and improves insulin signaling to suppress diet-induced obesity (15).

By studying the two biomarkers, it can provide an explanation for obesity or the idea of a PDE inhibitor causing obesity. On the other hand, does IL5 carry an addition to the occurrence of insulin resistance

Objectives is to study the level of PDE9 and its relationship to obesity and whether it is responsible. At the same time, studying INL5 and whether it has a role in the mechanism that causes obesity.

Subjects and Methods

The study included the age range (20 – 40) years. Their selection was made to serve the aim of the study therefore they were divided into two groups: -

- First Group: consisted of twenty-five obese women without previously diagnosed diseases (BMI>30kg/m²).
- second Group: consisted of twenty-five women with normal BMI (BMI= 24.9-18.5 kg/m²).

All women with metabolic or endocrinology disorders were excluded from this study, including Diabetes mellitus, Hypertension, Liver disease, Chronic renal disease, Premature ovarian failure.

Using the Magnum-800 Chemiluminescence Immunoassay (CLIA) System, insulin analysis was performed on fasting serum samples. The serum concentrations of INSL5 and PDE-9 were determined using an ELISA instrument. Using the BK-500 Auto Chemistry Analyzer, the serum levels of glucose, and lipid profile level were measured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. SPSS-22 program was dependent in the statistical analyses of the study's data, student's t-test was used in the determination of the significant level between the two groups, While the Pearsons correlation was dependent in the association determination between two parameters. Homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) calculates the IR by dividing the product of fasting plasma glucose (mmol/l) × fasting plasma insulin (μU/ml) by a constant, i.e 22.5 as shown in the following formula. HOMA-IR=Fasting plasma glucose (mmol/l) × Fasting plasma insulin (μU/mL)/22.5. A HOMA-IR value equal to or more than 2.5 was regarded as insulin resistant

The research ethical Committee of the College of Medicine, University of Baghdad approved the study.

All participants in this research were informed about the idea of the research and the reason for conducting it, a signed consent was obtained from each person on whom the study was performed.

Current study is analytical cross- section depending on the outcome of obesity.

Results

Matching ages the mean ±SD for obese women without previously diagnosed diseases (27.04 ± 5.86) years and women with normal BMI (24.36 ± 4.06) years of the study's population is confirmed by the non- significant (p>0.05) results, when the comparison done.

The choice of the groups BMI is also proven by the results which show significant difference (P≤ 0.05) between obese women without previously diagnosed diseases (34.70± 3.24) Kg/m² and women with normal BMI (21.20 ± 2.26) Kg/m².Waist circumference show significant differences (P≤ 0.05) among and between two groups shown in table (1)

Table (1): General demographic characteristics of the study's population

Parameters	Groups	No	Mean ±SD	P-Value
Age (years)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	24.36 ± 4.06	0.14 (n.s)
	Obese women (B)	25	27.04 ± 5.86	
BMI (Kg/m ²)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	21.20 ± 2.26	0.00 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	34.70± 3.24	
Waist circumference (cm)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	64.08±1.80	0.00 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	97.74±5.68	

Table (2): mean ± SD of Serum insulin, SFG, HOMA-IR and lipid profile for obese women with women with normal BMI

Parameters	Groups	No.	Mean ±SD	P-Value
Insulin(μIU/ml)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	11.17±3.88	0.00 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	16.31±3.88	
S.FG(mmol/l)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	4.85± 0.76	0.00 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	5.92± 0.10	
HOMA-IR	women with normal BMI (A)	25	2.36±0.78	0.02 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	3.98±0.95	
Total Cholesterol (mg/dl)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	153.76±22.82	0.06 (n.s)
	Obese women (B)	25	173.30±33.93	
S.TG (mg/dl)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	86.24±28.46	0.04 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	117.14±31.19	
S.HDL (mg/dl)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	38.640±4.150	0.01 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	29.76±2.75	
S.LDL(mg/dl)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	106.17±20.13	0.07 (n.s)
	Obese women (B)	25	120.11±31.82	
S.VLDL (mg/dl)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	17.25± 3.69	0.04 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	23.43± 6.24	

Student t-test analyses was dependent, mean ± SD, (s) = Significant P<0.05, (n.s) = Non-Significant P>0.05,

The measures of insulin resistance, using HOMA-IR equation the Mean ±SD for Obese women, serum insulin is (16.31±3.88) μIU/ml, and fasting glucose (5.92± 0.10) mmol/l, while the Mean ±SD for women with normal BMI, serum insulin is (11.17±3.88) μIU/ml, and fasting glucose (4.85± 0.76) mmol/l demonstrate a notable statistically significant rise in obese women when compared to women with normal BMI. However, it is important to highlight that these values remain within the normal reference range. Additionally, it is noteworthy to consider the association between obesity and issues related to abnormalities in lipid profile shown in table (2).

The mean ±SD of the results serum PDE9A of women with normal BMI show significant increase in its level in comparison with obese women, on the contrary serum INSL5 of obese show significant increase in its level in comparison with women with normal BMI shown in table (3).

Table (3): mean ± SD of serum PDE9A and INSL5 for obese women compared with women normal BMI

Parameters	Groups	No	Mean ±SD	P-Value
S.PDE-9A (ng/ml)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	8.11± 1.52	0.009 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	6.77±1.95	
S. INSL5 (ng/ml)	women with normal BMI (A)	25	72.61±17.5	0.000 (s)
	Obese women (B)	25	118.63±12.27	

Student t-test analyses was dependent, mean ± SD, (s) = Significant P<0.05 (n.s) = Non-Significant P>0.05,

HOMA-IR of obese women showed significant positive correlation with INSL5 (r = 0.43, P= ≤ 0.05), while it showed a negative significant with serum PDE9A (r = -0.87, P=≤0.05).

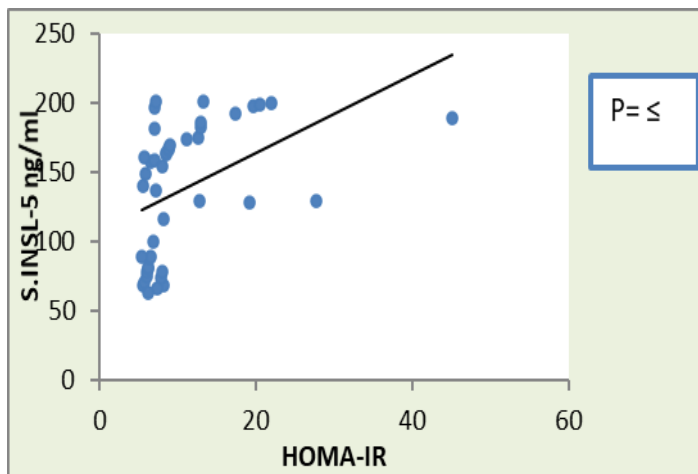


Figure (1): Person’s correlation (r) between Serum INSL-5 and HOMA-IR

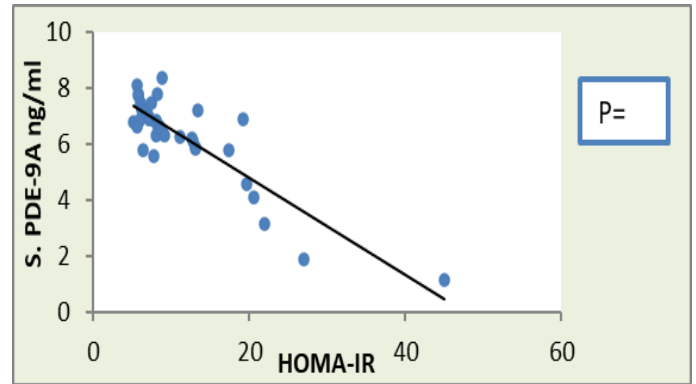


Figure (2): Persons correlation (r) between Serum PDE-9A and HOMA-IR

Discussion

It was noticed an increase in the insulin level in obese women when compared to normal weight, which indicates and gives an indication of the presence of insulin resistance while their INSL5 level increased, which point to the connection with insulin resistance. Although various investigations have shown that INSL5 has an effect on the metabolism of glucose and lipids, the physiological role of INSL5 in the individual's metabolic system is unclear. Controlling mouse dietary intake, body weight, and glucose levels (16-18). However, INSL5 reduced the number of beta cells in the pancreas and insulin production, resulting in a significant increase in blood glucose levels (19,20). INSL5 has been reported to co-store with glucagon-like peptide-1, or GLP-1 and peptides YY, and it has been proven in vitro and in vivo to activate insulin and GLP-1 (21, 22). INSL5 did not correlate with the levels of total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL, or LDL in the research, as it was presented in table2, which is consistent with some but not all earlier investigations found that raising INSL5 had no effect on food intake, body weight, or glucose management (18).

Another study reported that INSL5 enhances glucose-stimulated insulin secretion, both in vivo and in vitro (16). A more study suggested that INSL5 is an orexigenic gut hormone that is upregulated after fasting and calorie restriction from this ‘Therefore, it is expected that the liver level will change, but usually these processes are subject to insulin regulation, and since women are classified as healthy people, it did not find a clear change in the lipid level (17).

A study discovered that mice lacking PDE9 acquire less weight than wild-type mice when exposed to a high-fat diet due to an increase in global energy expenditure. This modest rise in the consumption of energy at any given time led to a significant decrease in body weight and fat mass over the duration of the 16-week study, during which the rodents were fed a high-fat diet, consistent with the study’s findings (23).

The possibility suggests that significant changes in the adipose tissue of these PDE9 knockout mice contributed to higher energy expenditure; the adipose tissue of the PDE9 mice elevated respiratory capacity (i.e., increased metabolism); and the researchers observed an increase in gene expression related to thermal activity in both white and brown adipose tissue. Improvements in the ability to control blood sugar levels have been linked to a decrease in body mass. In addition, the livers of PDE9 mice were resistant to the high-fat diet-induced lipid accumulation and liver injury. Inhibition of phosphodiesterase 9A (PDE9-I) prevents severe diet-induced obesity and metabolic cardiometabolic syndrome (CMS) in both male and female

ovariectomized mice, with or without superimposed modest cardiac stress load (24).

Phosphodiesterase 9A PDE9-I inhibition reduces total body, inguinal, hepatic, and cardiac fat, enhances the activity of mitochondria in brown and white fat, and improves cardiometabolic syndrome CMS without substantially affecting activity or food intake. PDE9 was discovered in mitochondria, and blocking it boosted PPAR-dependent lipolysis while simultaneously enhancing the respiration of mitochondria in both fatty tissue and myocytes in vitro (25). PPAR activation was required to achieve PDE9-I's lipolytic, antiobesity, and metabolic benefits. None of these PDE9-I-induced modifications were detected in obese CMS patients; despite the fact that PDE9 inhibitors offer a lot of benefits and good therapeutic outcomes, less investigations on them are undertaken than on other PDE families. According to the research, very effective PDE9 inhibitors, PDE9-I, decrease multi-organ lipid buildup by enhancing lipolysis and mitochondrial respiration (25,26).

Conclusion

Insulin-like peptide 5 (INLP5) could play in role in prompting insulin resistance (IR). Phosphodiesterase 9 (PDE9) is a regulator of energy, that inhibition of (PDE9) association with increase the occurrence of insulin resistance.

Recommendation

Based on the suggestion that PDE suppresses obesity, it is preferable to study it in women after and before menopause to confirm the relationship, additionally, we recommend Studying the IL5 level in diabetic patients to give a clear idea of its relationship to insulin resistance.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the field and laboratory technicians at Baghdad University, college of medicine, Department of Biochemistry for their assistance in this project.

Funding

This research did not receive any specific fund.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Data availability

Data are available upon reasonable request.

ORCID

Zuhair Hussein	0009-0002-2817-2456
Maysaa Majeed	0009-0002-8884-6715
Lubna Al-Anbari	0000-0001-5576-9579
Suzan Al-Naqeeb	0000-0002-4736-8967

References

- [1] "Obesity and overweight Fact sheet N°311". WHO. January 2015. Retrieved 2 February 2016.
- [2] Hassan HJ, Mohammad TU, Hameed EK. Assessment of Serum Metalloendopeptidase level in Patients with Double Diabetes. AL-Kindy College Medical Journal. 2023;19(3):21–25.
- [3] Abdulraheem Jabbar A, editor The effect of serum cortisol on the prediabetes stage under normal and stress state. Materials Science and Engineering Conference Series; 2020. <https://doi.org/10.47723/kcmj.v19i3.999>
- [4] Hameed EK, Al-Ameri LT, Hasan HS, Abdulqahar ZH. The cut-off values of triglycerides-glucose index for metabolic syndrome associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Baghdad Science Journal. 2022 Apr 1;19(2):0340-. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/928/5/052019>
- [5] Conklin D, Lofton-Day CE, Haldeman BA, Ching A, Whitmore TE, Lok S, Jaspers S. Identification of INSL5, a new member of the insulin superfamily. Genomics. 1999 Aug 15;60(1):50-6. <https://doi.org/10.1006/geno.1999.5899>
- [6] Rahimi L, Rajpal A, Ismail-Beigi F. Glucocorticoid-induced fatty liver disease. Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity. 2020;1133-45. <https://doi.org/10.2147/DMSO.S247379>
- [7] Bell GI, Merryweather JP, Sanchez-Pescador R, Stempien MM, Priestley L, Scott J, et al. Sequence of a cDNA clone encoding human preproinsulin-like growth factor II. Nature. 1984;310(5980):775-7. <https://doi.org/10.1038/310775a0>
- [8] Mashima H, Ohno H, Yamada Y, Sakai T, Ohnishi H. INSL5 may be a unique marker of colorectal endocrine cells and neuroendocrine tumors. Biochemical and biophysical research communications. 2013;432(4):586-92. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbrc.2013.02.042>
- [9] Thanasupawat T, Hammje K, Adham I, Ghia J-E, Del Bigio MR, Kreck J, et al. INSL5 is a novel marker for human enteroendocrine cells of the large intestine and neuroendocrine tumours. Oncology reports. 2013;29(1):149-54. <https://doi.org/10.3892/or.2012.2119>
- [10] Anand-Ivell R, Ivell R. Regulation of the reproductive cycle and early pregnancy by relaxin family peptides. Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology. 2014;382(1):472-9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mce.2013.08.010>
- [11] Patil NA, Bathgate RA, Kocan M, Ang SY, Tailhades J, Separovic F, et al. The C-terminus of the B-chain of human insulin-like peptide 5 is critical for cognate RXFP4 receptor activity. Amino Acids. 2016;48:987-92. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00726-015-2144-5>
- [12] Kleiman RJ, Chapin DS, Christoffersen C, Freeman J, Fonseca KR, Geoghegan KF, et al. Phosphodiesterase 9A regulates central cGMP and modulates responses to cholinergic and monoaminergic perturbation in vivo. Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. 2012;341(2):396-409. <https://doi.org/10.1124/jpet.111.191353>
- [13] Gómez-Pinedo U, Rodrigo R, Cauli O, Cabrera-Pastor A, Herraiz S, Garcia-Verdugo J-M, et al. cGMP modulates stem cells differentiation to neurons in brain in vivo pathological implications. BMC Pharmacology. 2011;11:1-2. <https://doi.org/10.1186%2F1471-2210-11-S1-O29>

- [14] Ashmore T, Roberts LD, Morash AJ, Kotwica AO, Finnerty J, West JA, et al. Nitrate enhances skeletal muscle fatty acid oxidation via a nitric oxide-cGMP-PPAR-mediated mechanism. *BMC biology*. 2015;13:1-17.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-015-0221-6>
- [15] Vinnakota S, Chen HH. The importance of natriuretic peptides in cardiometabolic diseases. *Journal of the Endocrine Society*. 2020;4(6):bvaa052.
<https://doi.org/10.1210/jendso/bvaa052>
- [16] Majeed Mj, Jabbar Aa. The Relationship Of Dermcidin Isoform-2 With The Occurrences and Severity of Diabetes Type 2. *Plant Archives*. 2020;20(2):1565-9.
<https://doi.org/10.1042/BJ20141113>
- [17] Luo X, Li T, Zhu Y, Dai Y, Zhao J, Guo Z-Y, et al. The insulinotropic effect of insulin-like peptide 5 in vitro and in vivo. *Biochemical Journal*. 2015;466(3):467-73.
<https://doi.org/10.1042/BJ20141113>
- [18] Billing LJ, Smith CA, Larraufie P, Goldspink DA, Galvin S, Kay RG, et al. Co-storage and release of insulin-like peptide-5, glucagon-like peptide-1 and peptide YY from murine and human colonic enteroendocrine cells. *Molecular metabolism*. 2018;16:65-75.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molmet.2018.07.011>
- [19] Burnicka-Turek O, Mohamed BA, Shirmeshan K, Thanasupawat T, Hombach-Klonisch S, Klonisch T, et al. INSL5-deficient mice display an alteration in glucose homeostasis and an impaired fertility. *Endocrinology*. 2012;153(10):4655-65.
<https://doi.org/10.1210/en.2012-1161>
- [20] Chen Y, Deng M, Chen Z, Han S, Chen J, Zhang H, et al. Insulin-like peptide 5 (INSL5) positively correlates with anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) in women with the polycystic ovary syndrome: a case-control study. *Journal of Ovarian Research*. 2022;15(1):118.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13048-022-01052-7>
- [21] Lee YS, De Vadder F, Tremaroli V, Wichmann A, Mithieux G, Bäckhed F. Insulin-like peptide 5 is a microbially regulated peptide that promotes hepatic glucose production. *Molecular metabolism*. 2016;5(4):263-70.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molmet.2016.01.007>
- [22] Billing LJ, Smith CA, Larraufie P, Goldspink DA, Galvin S, Kay RG, et al. Co-storage and release of insulin-like peptide-5, glucagon-like peptide-1 and peptide YY from murine and human colonic enteroendocrine cells. *Molecular metabolism*. 2018;16:65-75
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molmet.2018.07.011>
- [23] Mishra S, Sadagopan N, Dunkerly-Eyring B, Rodriguez S, Sarver DC, Ceddia RP, et al. Inhibition of phosphodiesterase type 9 reduces obesity and cardiometabolic syndrome in mice. *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*. 2021;131(21).
<https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI148798>
- [24] Patel NS, Klett J, Pilarzyk K, Lee D, Kass D, Menniti FS, et al. Identification of new PDE9A isoforms and how their expression and subcellular compartmentalization in the brain change across the life span. *Neurobiology of aging*. 2018;65:217-34.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neurobiolaging.2018.01.019>
- [25] Ceddia RP, Liu D, Shi F, Crowder MK, Mishra S, Kass DA, et al. Increased energy expenditure and protection from diet-induced obesity in mice lacking the cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase PDE9. *Diabetes*. 2021;70(12):2823-36.
<https://doi.org/10.2337/db21-0100>
- [26] Mishra S, Hahn VS, Sadagopan N, Dunkerly-Eyring B, Rodriguez S, Sarver DC, et al. PDE9 inhibition activates PPAR α to stimulate mitochondrial fat metabolism and reduce cardiometabolic syndrome. *bioRxiv*. 2021:2021.02.02.429442.
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.02.02.429442>

To cite this article: Hussein ZA, Majeed MJ, Al-Anbari LA, Al-Naqeeb SAR. The Association between the Levels of Phosphodiesterase 9, Insulin-like peptide 5 and Obesity in Women. *Al-Kindy College Medical Journal*. 2024;20(2):117-121.
<https://doi.org/10.47723/6btq4431>