## Adipose tissue as an endocrine organ: the role in obesity and type2 diabetes

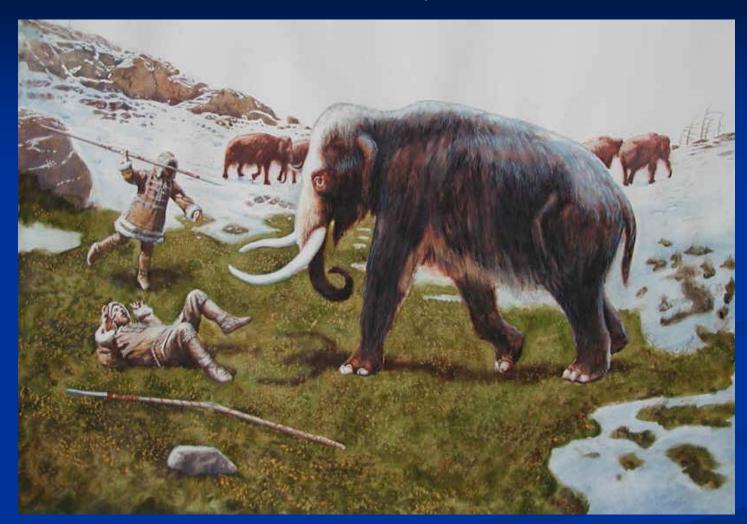
Dr. Ivana Dostalova, Ph.D. 3rd Department of Medicine, 1st Faculty of Medicine and General University Hospital, Prague

25. 3. 2008



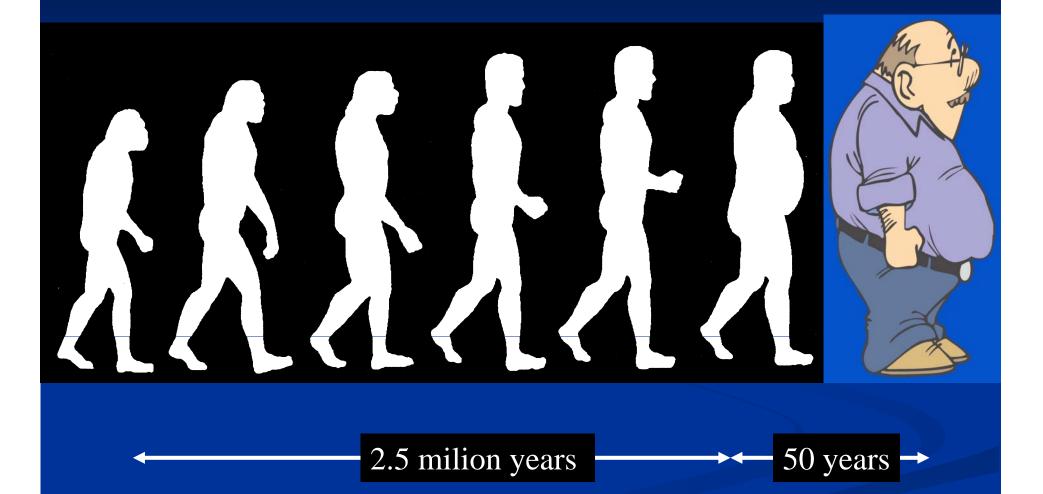


Our prehistorical progenitors clearly did not have the opportunity to suffer either from obesity or anorexia nervosa



**Thrifty genes theory** – genes predisposing to effective energy storage enabled to survive during times of starvation, however they predispose to obesity nowadays.

### Progression of mankind development



Adapted from R. Unger

..... But in modern societies the thrifty genes are rather harmful than useful

## Increasing prevalence of obesity represents one of the major problems of current medicine



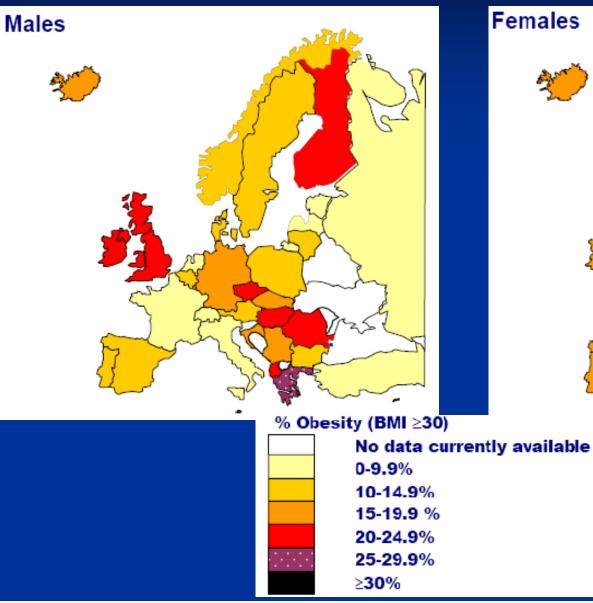
#### Insulin resistance syndrome

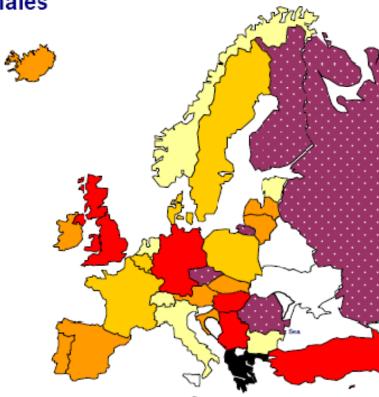
3-fold increased risk of atherosclerosis and its complications (myocardial infarction, Stroke etc.)

- •Obesity
- Arterial hypertension
- Hypercoagulation state
- Insulin rezistance/type
  - 2. diabetes mellitus
- Dyslipidemia

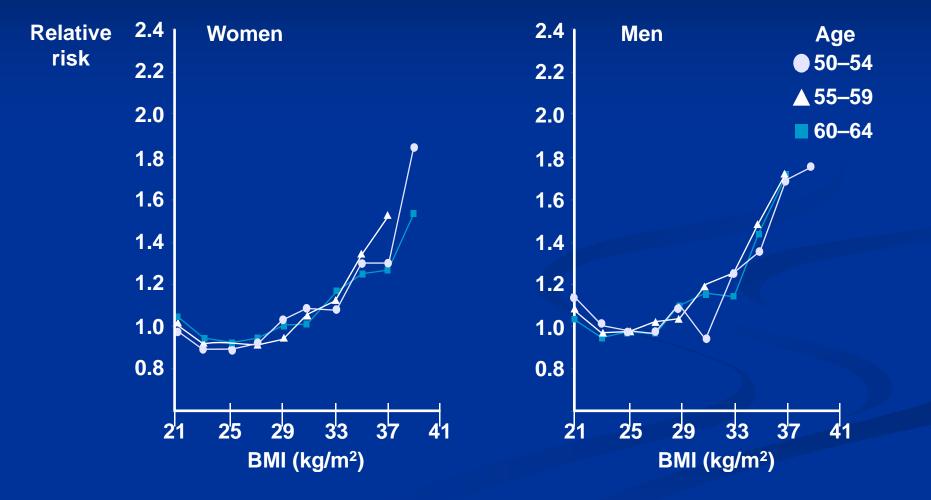


### Obesity is a major health problem





### **BMI** a mortality



Waaler. Acta Med Scand 1984; 679(Suppl): 1–56

### **Definition of obesity**

### Increased fat storage in organism

Normal content of body fat
In men less than 15 - 20 %
In women less than 25 %

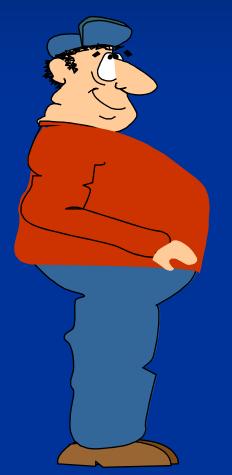
But the body fat measurement is sometimes complicated.....

Clinically useful are

- anthropometry (skin folds, waist to hip ratio (WHR), SAD)
- bioimpedancy
- imaging methods (CT, DEXA, MR, UZ)

In practise supplied by body weight measurement

## Obesity is classified by Body Mass Index (BMI)

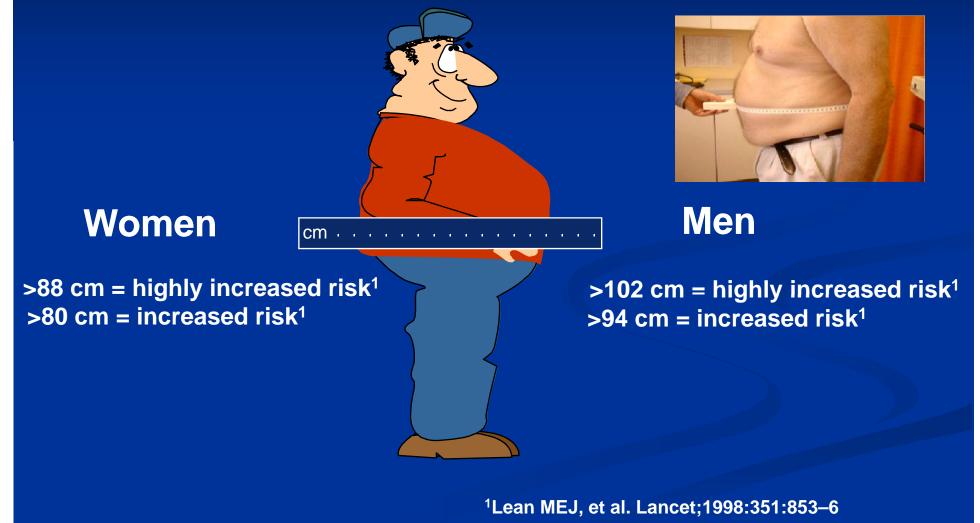


BMI =	Weight (kg)
	Height (m <sup>2</sup> )

Clasification	BMI (kg/m²)	Metabolic c
Normal weight	18.5–24.9	average
Overweight	25–29.9	increased
Obesity I	30.0–34.9	middle
Obesity II	35.0-39.9	high
Obesity III	≥40.0	Very high

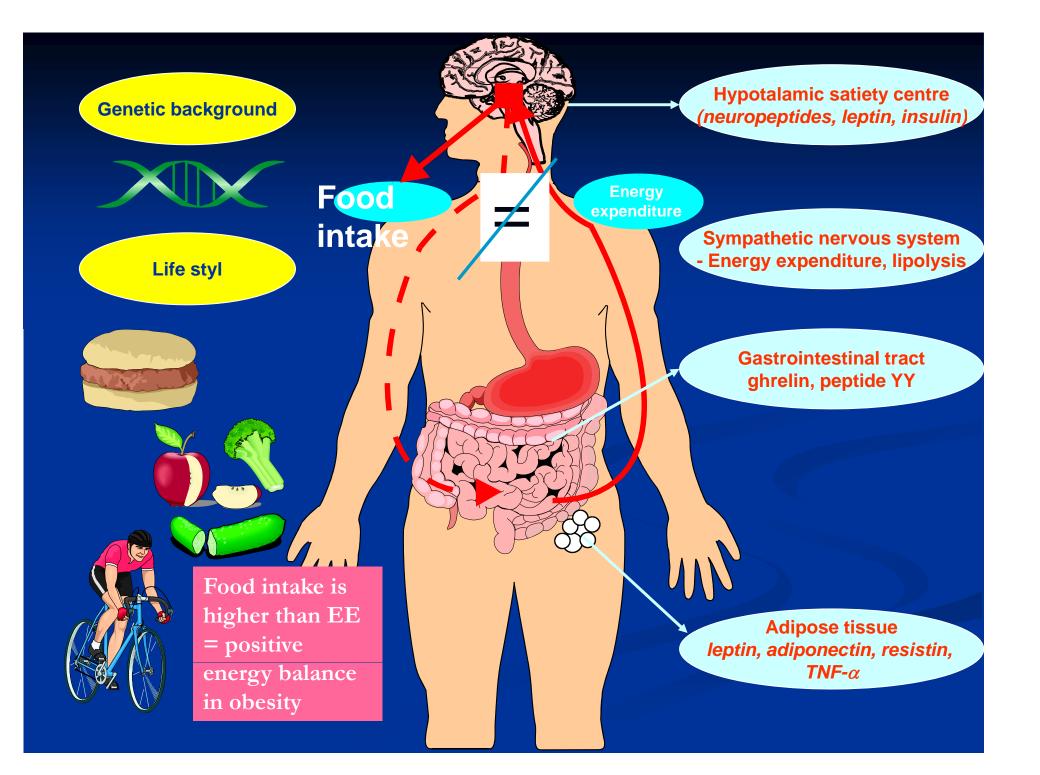
WHO, 1998

Waist circumference is a helping indicator of visceral fat – this fat is the most metabolically active and thus the most harmful



# "Simple" obesity

Multifactorial metabolic disease with genetically-determined tendency to the accumulation of fat storage during positive energy balance



Fit fat vs. unfit fat – it is better to be obese sportsman than lean unsportsman

Obese sportsmen are of significantly lower cardiovascular complications than obese unsportmen of equal BMI

Why obesity leads to severe health complications? The basis of the obesity dangerness is its close connection with other parts of metabolic syndrome

The presence of metabolic syndrome significantly increases mortality and morbidity on cardiovascular diseases

Insulin resistance syndrome (Syndrome X, Metabolic Syndrome, Deadly quartet, Secret killer)

Group of clinical manifestations and biochemical abnormalities that increases the risk of atherosclerosis and associated complications (heart failure, cerebral apoplexy, ischemic disease atc.) – primary abnormality leading to other complications is insulin resistance, important part is obesity of visceral type (apple type)

**Revised definition of Metabolic** Syndrome (Reaven, 1993) Primary abnormality is insulin resistance Most tightly related complications are hypertension, hypertriglyceridemia and diabetes/altered glucose tolerance Less tighly related are alterations in coagulation and fibrinolysis More less related are ischemic heart disease and android obesity

## The new International Diabetes Federation (IDF) definition of MS

**Central obesity** (defined as waist circumference  $\geq$  94cm for Europid men and  $\geq$  80cm for Europid women, with ethnicity specific values for other groups)

plus any two of the following four factors:

- raised TG level: ≥ 150 mg/dL (1.7 mmol/L), or specific treatment for this lipid abnormality
- reduced HDL cholesterol: < 40 mg/dL (1.03 mmol/L\*) in males and < 50 mg/dL (1.29 mmol/L\*) in females, or specific treatment for this lipid abnormality</li>
- raised blood pressure: systolic BP ≥ 130 or diastolic BP ≥ 85 mm Hg, or treatment of previously diagnosed hypertension
- raised fasting plasma glucose (FPG) ≥ 100 mg/dL (5.6 mmol/L), or previously diagnosed type 2 diabetes
   If above 5.6 mmol/L or 100 mg/dL, OGTT is strongly recommended but is not necessary to define presence of the syndrome.

### Additional metabolic criteria for MS

### in research

	-
Abnormal body fat distribution	General body fat distribution (DXA) Central fat distribution (CT/MRI) Adipose tissue biomarkers: leptin, adiponectin Liver fat content (MRS)
Atherogenic dyslipidaemia (beyond elevated triglyceride and low HDL)	ApoB (or non-HDL-c) Small LDL particles
Dysglycaemia	OGTT
Insulin resistance (other than elevated fasting glucose)	Fasting insulin/proinsulin levels HOMA-IR Insulin resistance by Bergman Minimal Model Elevated free fatty acids (fasting and during OGTT) M value from clamp
Vascular dysregulation (beyond elevated blood pressure)	Measurement of endothelial dysfunction Microalbuminuria
Proinflammatory state	Elevated high sensitivity C-reactive protein (SAA) Elevated inflammatory cytokines (eg TNF-alpha, IL-6) Decrease in adiponectin plasma levels
Prothrombotic state	Fibrinolytic factors (PAI-1 etc) Clotting factors (fibrinogen etc)
Hormonal factors	Pituitary-adrenal axis

## Why does SIR initiate?

 ≤ 50 % genetic background
 The rest environmental and other factors
 Heredity is polygenic – disruption is determined from tens to hundreds genes – the resolution is not the gene therapy

### Why is SIR dangerous?

- 3-times higher risk 2type DM, hyperlipidemia, lung disease, sleeping apnoe syndrome
- 2-3 times higher risk ICHS, hyperurikemia, joint disease
- 2-times higher risk postmenopausal breast cancer, endometrial and intestinal tumours, infertility

### Definition of insulin resistance

Conditions when physiological level of insulin evokes subphysiological (insufficient) biological effect.

#### Main effects of insulin in humans:

- Stimulation of glucose uptake by peripheral tissues and its metabolism and storage in a form of glycogen and fat
- Reduction of glycogenolysis and de novo glucogenesis in liver
- Reduction of these effects leads to hyperglycemia (but IR does not influnce antilypolitic effects of insulin)

## Obesity is always accompanied by some degree of insulin resistance



IR is defined as a smaller than expected biological response to a given dose of insulin. Insulin resistance is a principal component of Insulin resistance syndrome: -Obesity -Insulin resistance/diabetes -Dyslipidemia -Arterial hypertension

The presence of Insulin resistance syndrome markedly increases cardiovascular morbidity and mortality.

## Causes a consequences of insulin resistance

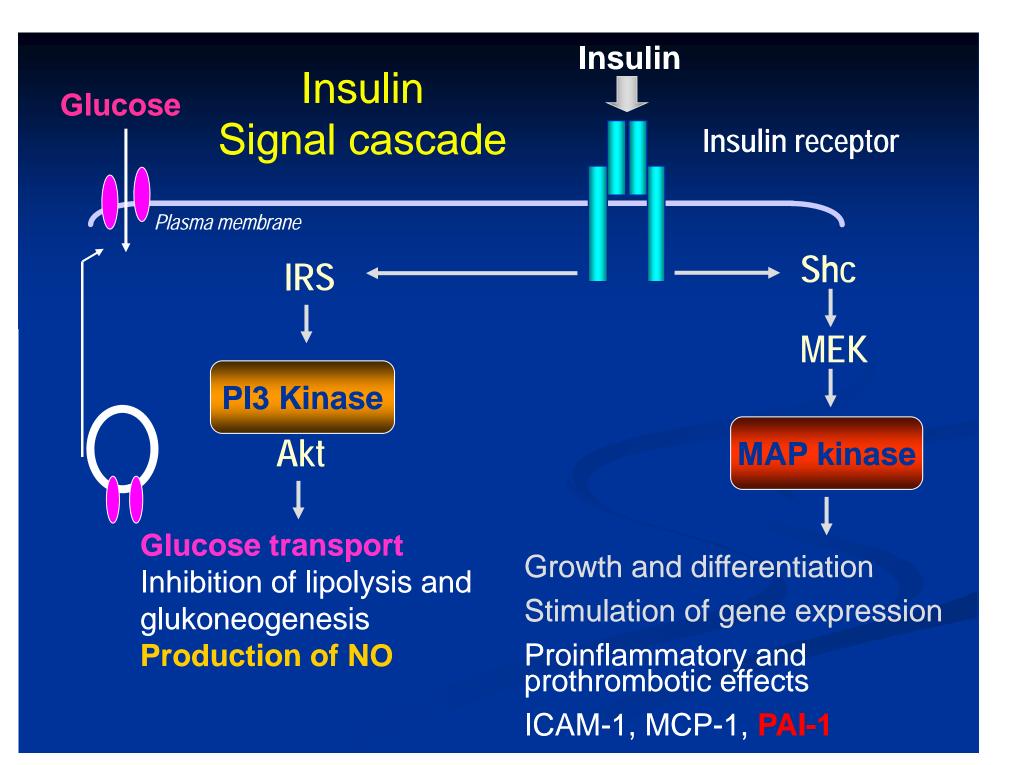
Cause is reduced sensitivity of peripheral tissues (liver, muscle, adipose tissue) on effects of insulin

Consequence is compensatory increase of insulin secretion that shortly compensates insulinoresistance, but leads to its worsening in a long-lasting manner.

⇒ after depletion of secretory storage of pancreas relative insufficence of insulin occurs and 2 type Diabetes mellitus develops

## Mechanism of development of insulin resistance

- Mutation of gene for insulin receptor
- antibodies against insulin receptor
- Decrease number of insulin receptors during hyperinsulinemia
- Defect(s) on the level of postreceptor signal cascade of insulin receptor – most common in obese subjects



### Adipose tissue in obesity





#### The role of adipose tissue in human body

- Adipose tissue constitutes about 20-30 % of total body mass
- Source of energy (long-term starvation induces triglyceride breakdown to fatty acids and glycerol, both is further used as an energy source)
- Thermoregulatory function (thermic isolator)
- Mechanical protection of internal organs
- Endocrine function (control of food intake, lipid and carbohydrate metabolism)
- Accumulation of lipophyllic compounds (exogenous toxins)
- Conversion of prohormones to active hormones (increased local production of cortisol in visceral adipose tissue)
- Adipocyte capacity to differentiate and to store lipids is a principal determinant of protection against insulin resistance induced by ectopic fat storage

### All adipose tissue is not the same

#### Visceral adipose tissue

- Only ~ 20% of total body fat
- Smaller adipocytes
- More metabolically active
- Direct access of biochemical and hormonal products to the liver
- Closer correlation with metabolic complications of obesity





#### Subcutaneous adipose tissue

- Quantitatively predominant adipose tissue depot
- Larger adipocytes relative to visceral
- Less metabolically active
- Correlation with metabolic complications of obesity is still present but is weaker than that of visceral fat





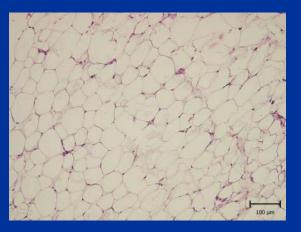
### The size of adipocytes closely correlates with its metabolic features



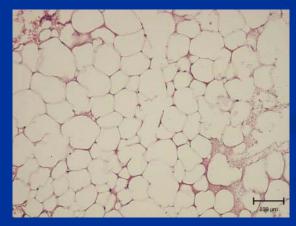




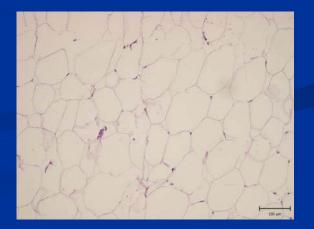
#### Malnutrition (Anorexia nervosa)



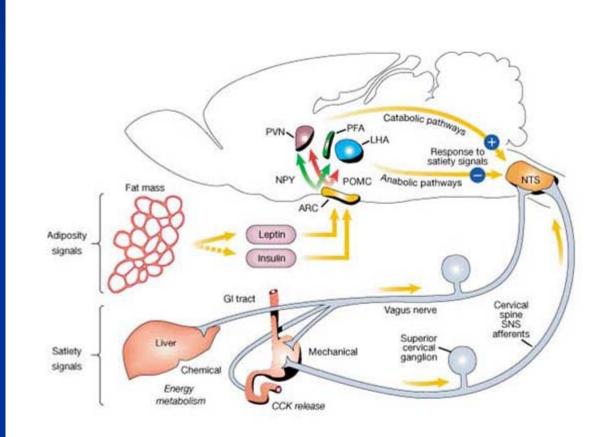
Normal (sligthly overweight)



Obese



### Adipose tissue plays an important role in the regulation of energy homeostasis



### Products of adipose tissue

Adipocyte secreted cytokines

(leptin, adiponectin, visfatin, acylation

stimulating protein, metallothionein I,

II, nerve growth factor, haptoglobin

FFA, glycerol

Chemokines – MCP-1, IL-8, Eotaxin, CCL-5

Growth factors – FGF, TGF-β, CNTF, MCSF

Hemostatic factors – PAI-1, Tissue factor

Adhesion molecules – VCAM-1, ICAM-1



Stromovascular and adipocyte-secreted cytokines - IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ 

Extracellular matrix proteins – collagen type III, fibronectin

RAS components – renin, angiotensinogen, angiotensin I, II

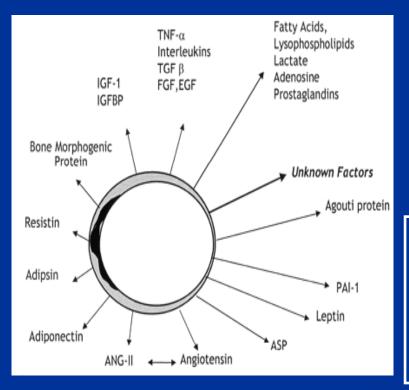
Other factors – resistin, RBP-4, vaspin, omentin, apelin, prolactin

Enzymes – lipoprotein lipase, adipsin, matrix metalloproteinases

Angiogenic factors – VEGF, HGF

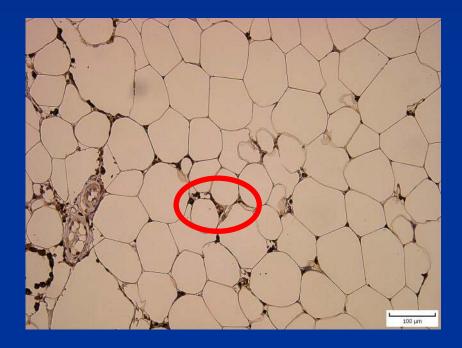
### Adipose tissue produces numerous hormones and cytokines

These factors are produced not only by adipocytes, but also by macrophages, fibroblasts, endothelial cells and other cells present in adipose tissue



Adipose tissue- derived hormones:
1. Proinflammatory (TNF-α, IL-6, resistin)
2. Anti-inflammatory (adiponectin)

These hormones markedly contribute to metabolic regulations Hormonal production of adipose tissue is not limited to adipocytes. Other cells residing in fat contribute (immunocompetent cells, endothelial cells etc.)

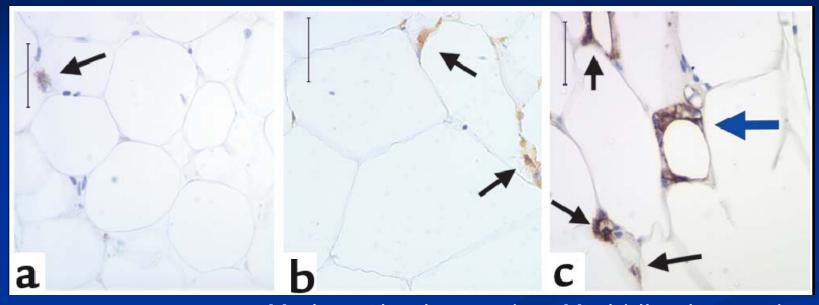




Mayers Hematoxyllin staining CD68 antibody – immunocompetent cells marker

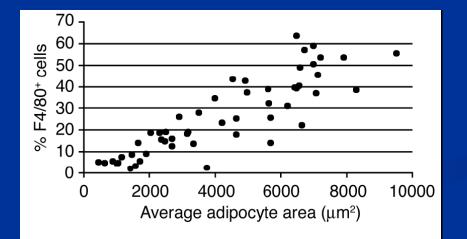
Van Gieson staining

## Obesity leads to subclinical inflammation in adipose tissue



Lean mice

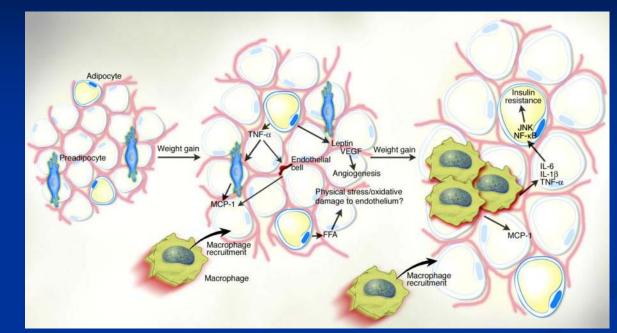
Moderately obese mice Morbidly obese mice

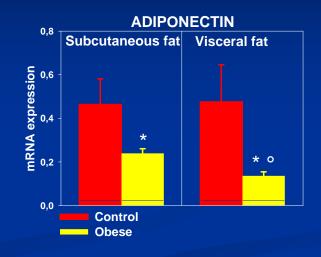


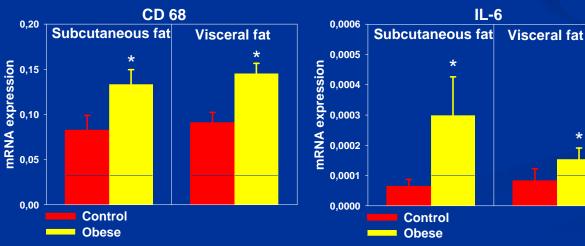
Strong positive correlation between adipocyte size and the number of macrophages in adipose tissue

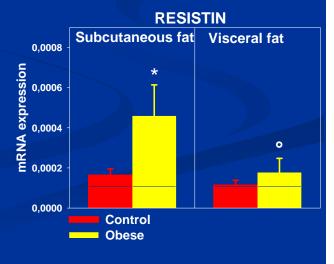
Weisberg et al., JCI, 112:1796–1808 (2003).

## Obesity is accompanied by local inflammatory response in adipose tissue

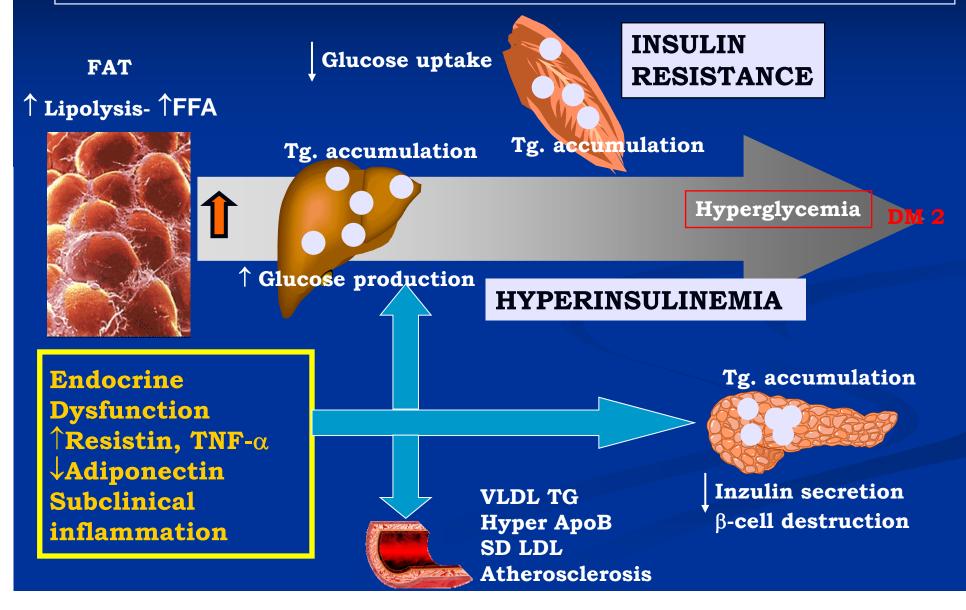








# The role of adipose tissue in the etiopathoegensis of insulin resistance



# Obesity – "obese" (hypertrophic) adipocyte

"Obese" adipocyte has very low capacity for further storage of triglycerides ⇒ ectopic fat storage (muscle, liver, pancreas)

Release of more free fatty acids leading to insulin resistance

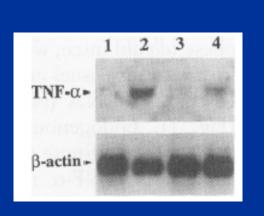
 Produces low amount of hormones decreasing insulin resistance (adiponectin) and/or overproduces hormones increasing insulin resistance (rezistin, TNF-α)

#### Adipose Expression of Tumor Necrosis Factor- $\alpha$ : Direct Role in Obesity-Linked Insulin Resistance

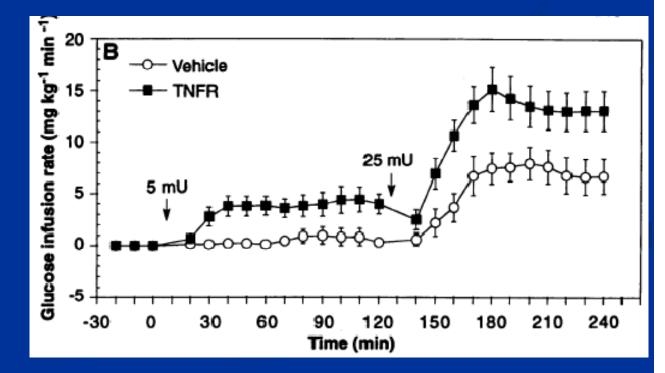
Gökhan S. Hotamisligil, Narinder S. Shargill, Bruce M. Spiegelman\*

SCIENCE • VOL. 259 • 1 JANUARY 1993

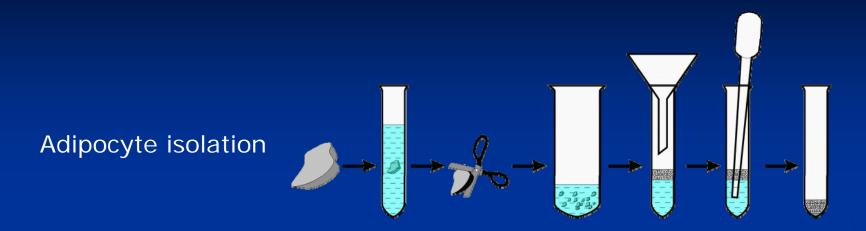
TNF-α is abundantly expressed in both adipocytes and stromavascular cells of obese mice



TNF- $\alpha$  neutralization by a recombinant soluble TNF- $\alpha$  receptor IgG chimeric protein improves insulin sensitivity

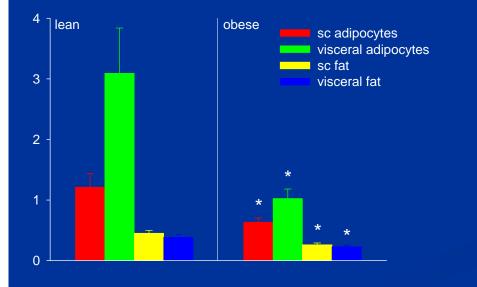


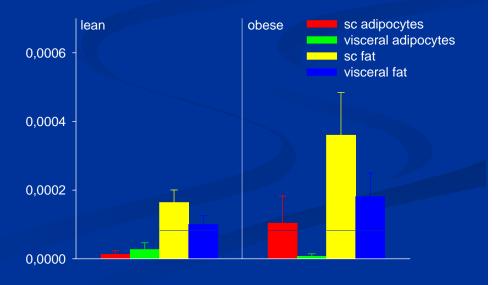
#### Adipocytes vs. adipose tissue as a source of adipokines



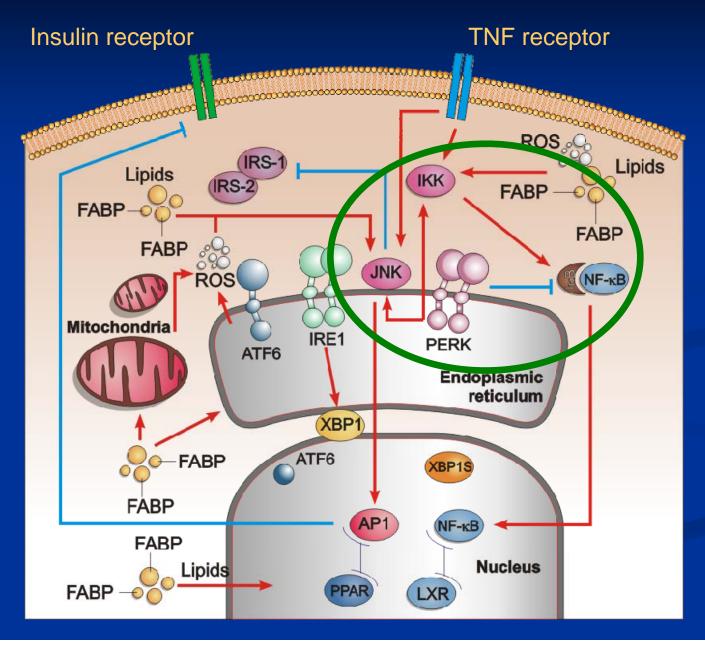
#### Adiponectin mRNA expression





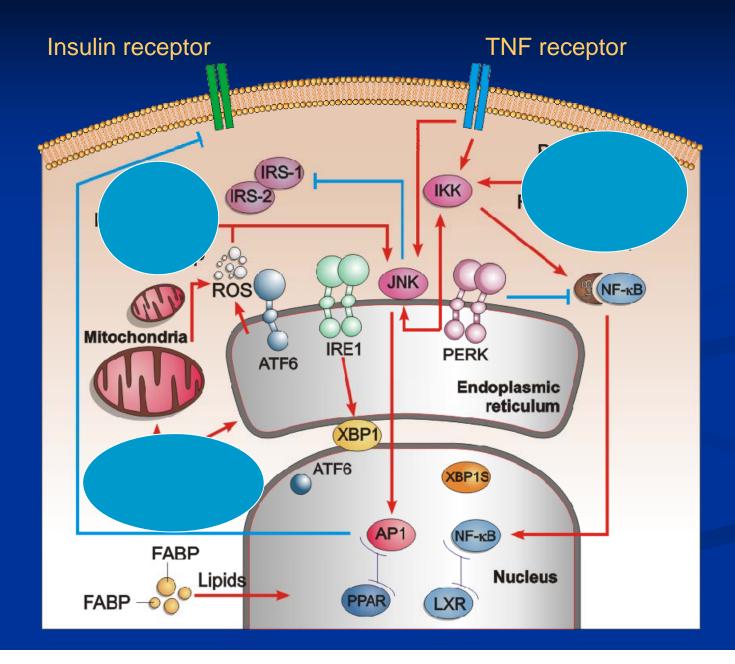


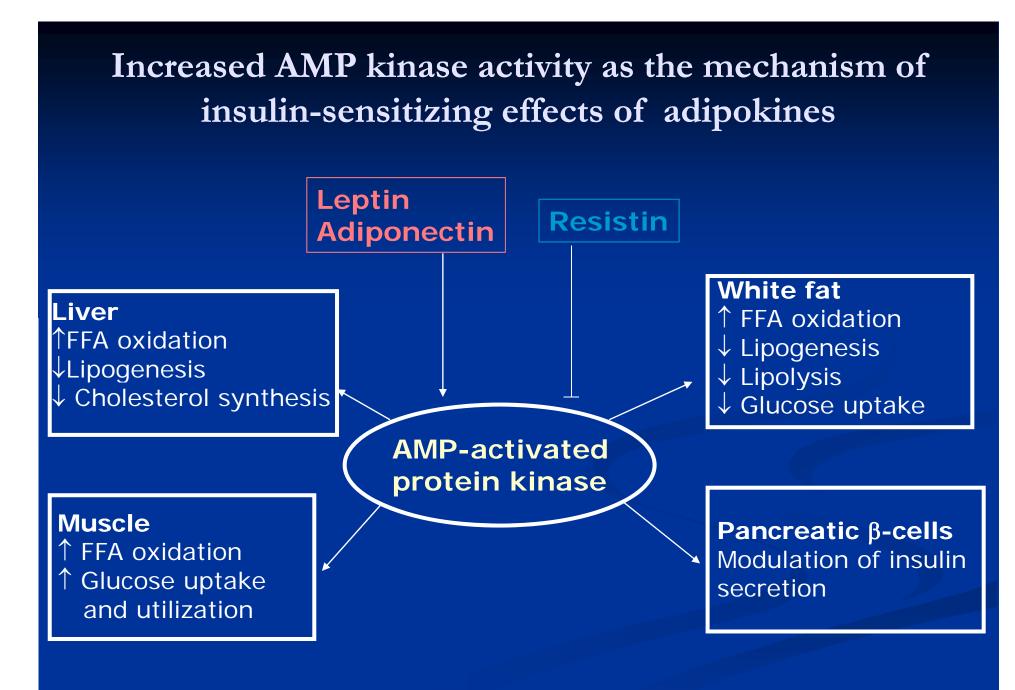
# Mechanism of insulin resistance induced by proinflammatory cytokines



Adapted from Hotamisligil Nature, 2006

#### Decreased ectopic lipids improve insulin sensitivity





Adapted from J. Kopecky

The main cause of the development of insulin resistance is probably "dysfunction" of adipose tissue How is the dysfunction of adipose tissue manifested?

Ectopic fat storage

 Altered production of adipose tissue hormones

Increased release of free fatty acids with disrupted antilipolytic effect of insulin Hypothesis of the disturbance of production of adipose tissue hormones

# 1994 - Adipose tissue can produce hormones

### Obese mouse started it all.....

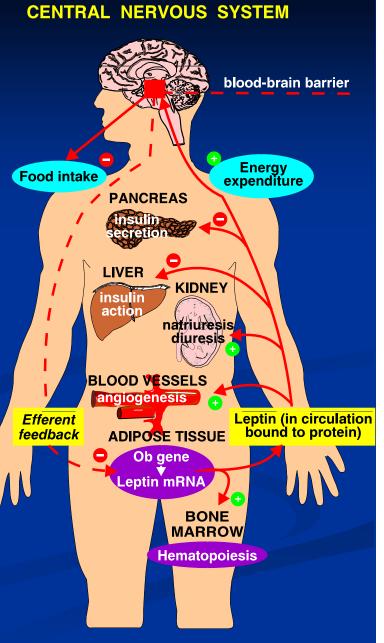


Mutation of *ob* gene encoding protein hormone leptin produced by adipocytes results in morbid obesity in mouse

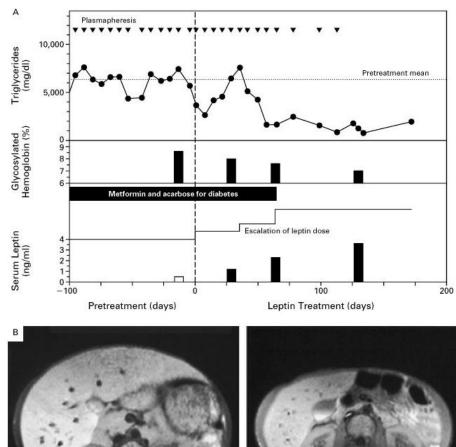
Zhang et al, Nature, 1994.

# Leptin

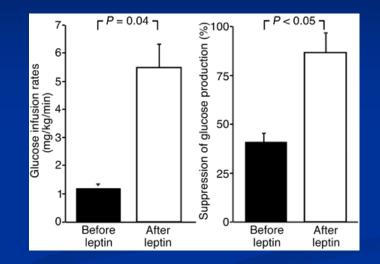
- Pleiotropic protein hormone produced predominantly by adipocytes, its circulating levels usually positively correlate with body fat content
- Regulator of food intake and energy expenditure (central effects in hypothalamus)
- Leptin treatment of leptin-deficient *ob/ob* mice normalized their body weight and recovered their fertility
- Leptin treatment of normal mice induced decrease in body weight (predominantly due to loss of fat)
- Additional possible physiological functions of leptin include the regulation of angiogenesis, blood pressure, hematopoesis etc.



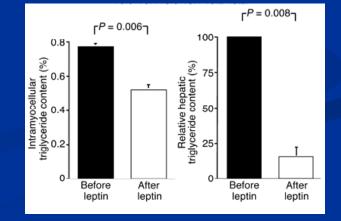
#### Leptin replacement decreases ectopic fat storage and improves insulin sensitivity in patients with lipodystrophy



#### Leptin improves insulin sensitivity



#### Leptin reduces ectopic fat in liver and muscle



Oral EA, NEJM, 2002; Petersen, KF, JCI, 2002

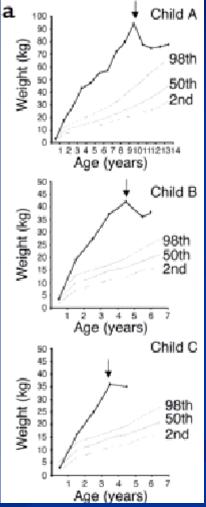
**Base Line** 

4 Months

# Mutation of leptin gene in humansSubstitution of leptinleads to morbid obesityAdjusts fenotype







Farooqi SI, J. Clin. Invest. 110:1093-1103 (2002)

## Leptin and obesity

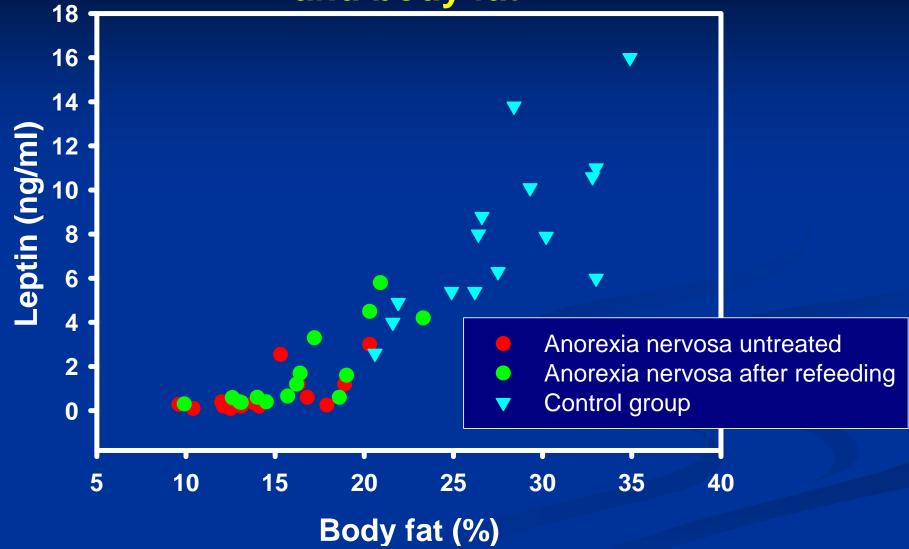
- Leptin deficiency is not epidemiologically significant cause of obesity (3 cases of leptin-gene mutation in humans accompanied by morbid obesity)
- Most of obese patients have hyperleptinemia i.e. circulating leptin levels correlate with body fat content
- Body weight loss induces decrease in circulating leptin levels
- Clinical trials focused on the treatment of obesity with leptin did not show significant benefit of leptin treatment to body weight loss
- Leptin resistance phenomena vs. stronger role of leptin signalling in malnutrition rather than overnutrition

Why hyperleptinemia does not suppress food intake in patients with obesity?

 Resistance to leptin effects: either on the levels of leptin transport across the blood-brain barrier or on the postreceptor level

Primary function of leptin is not to suppress food intake, but to trigger complex adaptive reaction of human body to starvation.

#### Correlation of serum leptin levels and body fat



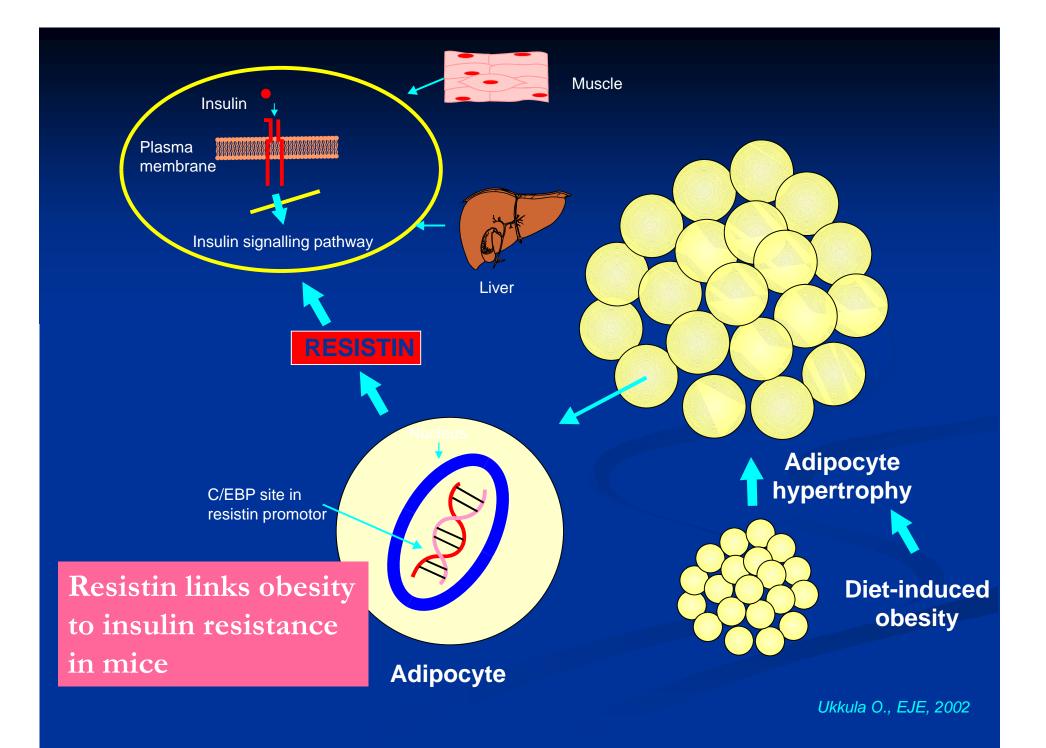
### Clinical application of leptin

- Under stabilized nutritional state very precise marker of body fat content
- Total leptin deficiency can be cause of morbid obesity in human
- Hypoleptinemia plays an important role as an initiator of complex neuroendocrine response on chronic malnutrition/fasting
- Substitution of leptin as a treatment of obesity or insulin resistance has not fulfilled expectations

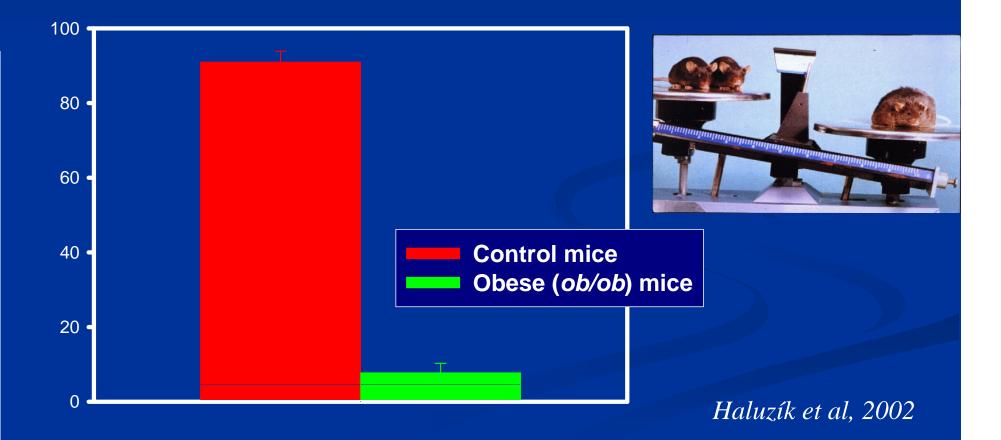
# Resistin

Steppan et al, Nature, 2001:

- Protein hormone produced by adipocytes
- Resistin administration in mice worsened glucose tolerance
- Anti-resistin antibody treatment increased insulin sensitivity
- Rajala et al, JCI, 2003:
- In vivo resistin treatment selectively impaired liver insulin resistance in rats



# BUT....Fat resistin mRNA is reduced in obese mice



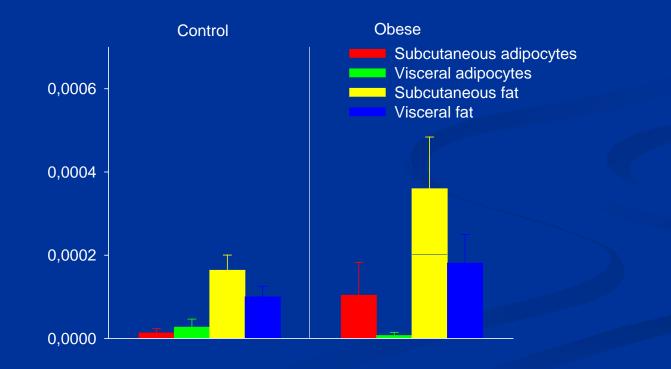
# But in human obesity....

 Adipose resistin expression was even undetectable in some obese subjects (Nagaev, 2001)

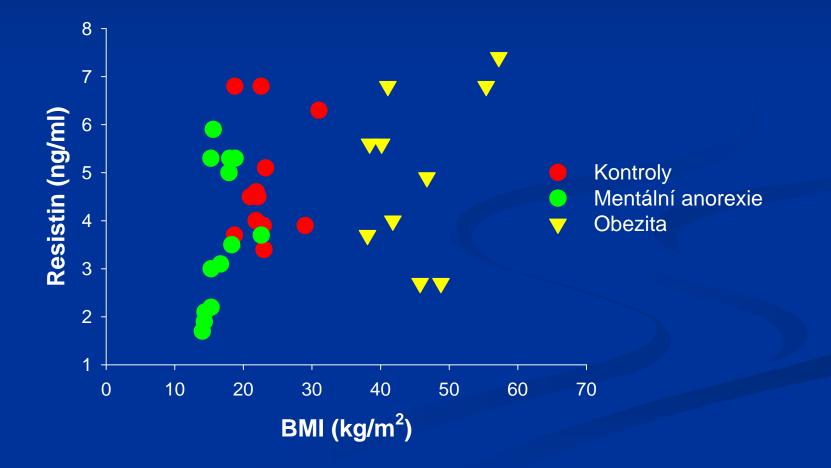
 Resistin expression was increased only in whole adipose tissue samples but not in adipose cells lysates (Savage et al, 2001)

Resistin in humans has probably proinflammatory than direct prodiabetic effects and is produced predominantly by macrophages Resistin is produced predominantly by stroma-vascular (non-adipocyte) fraction of adipose tissue – namely macrophages and other immunocompetent cells

#### **Resistin mRNA expression**

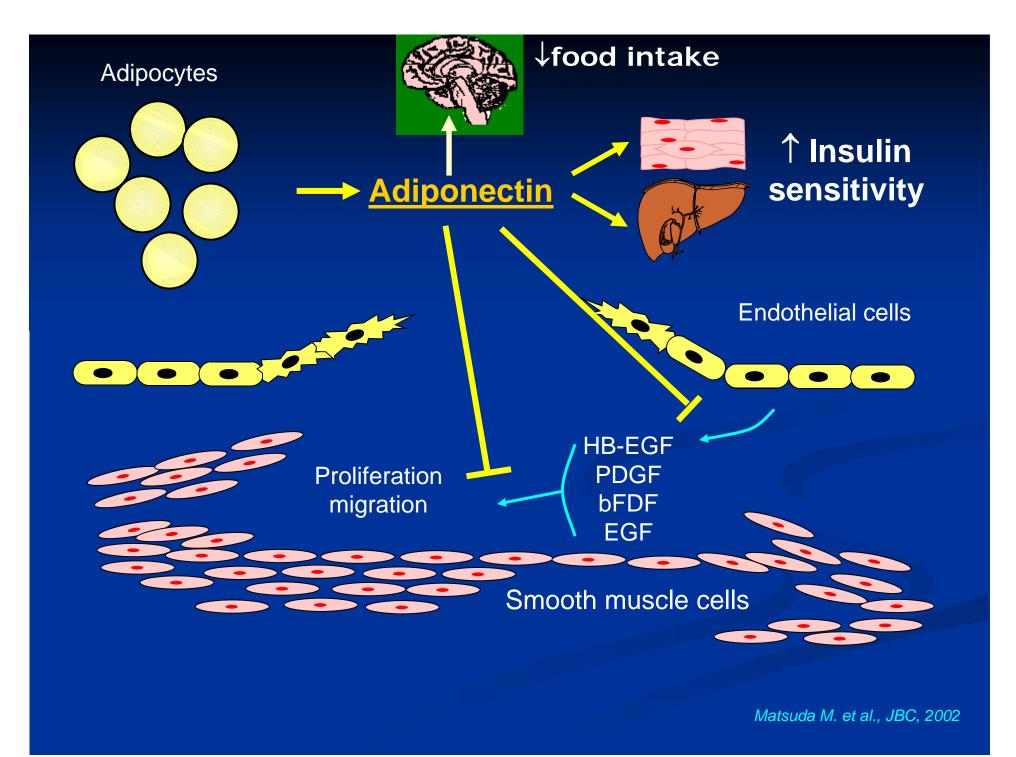


# Correlation of plasma resistin levels and body mass index

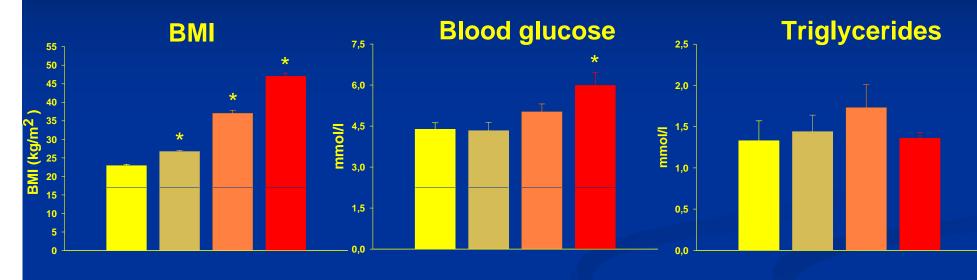


### Adiponectin – one of the few fat hormones with positive metabolic effects

- Adipose tissue-derived protein
- Circulating adiponectin levels are decreased in patients with obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and patients with coronary heart disease
- Adiponectin treatment increased insulin sensitivity in both obese and lipoatrophic mice
- Adiponectin exerts antiatherogenic and antiinflammatory effects
- Adiponectin knockout mice have mild insulin resistance and accelerated atherosclerosis



### Patients characteristics



Lean controls 40 Overweight 35 I. and II. degree obesity 11 III. degree obesity 25 20

15

10

0

\* p<0,05 x vs. controls



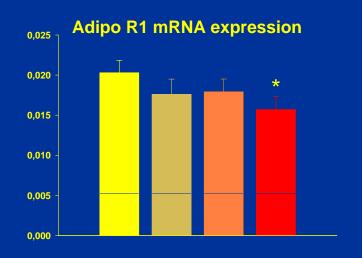
HOMA index

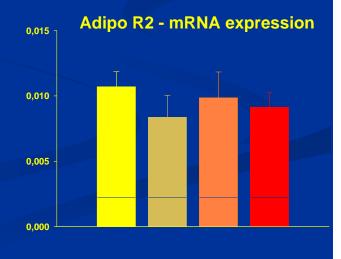
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#### Serum adiponectin concentrations and mRNA expression of adiponectin and its receptors in subcutaneous adipose tissue

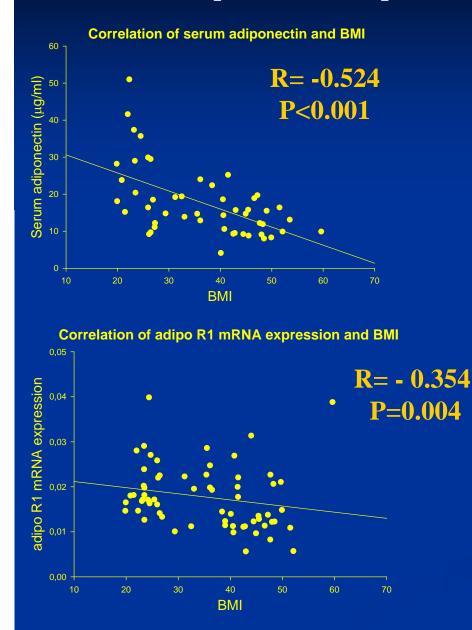


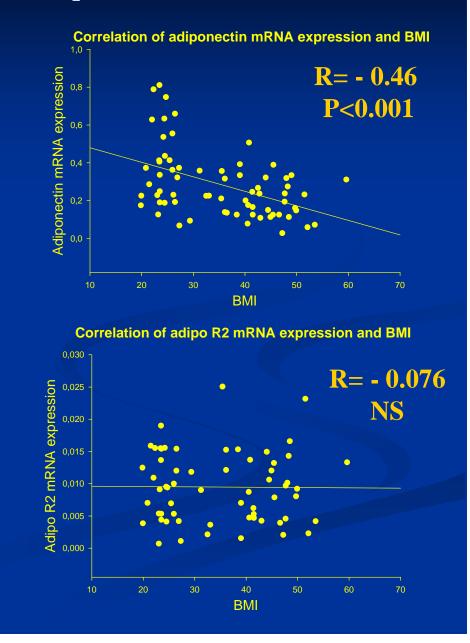
\* **p<0.05** x vs. control



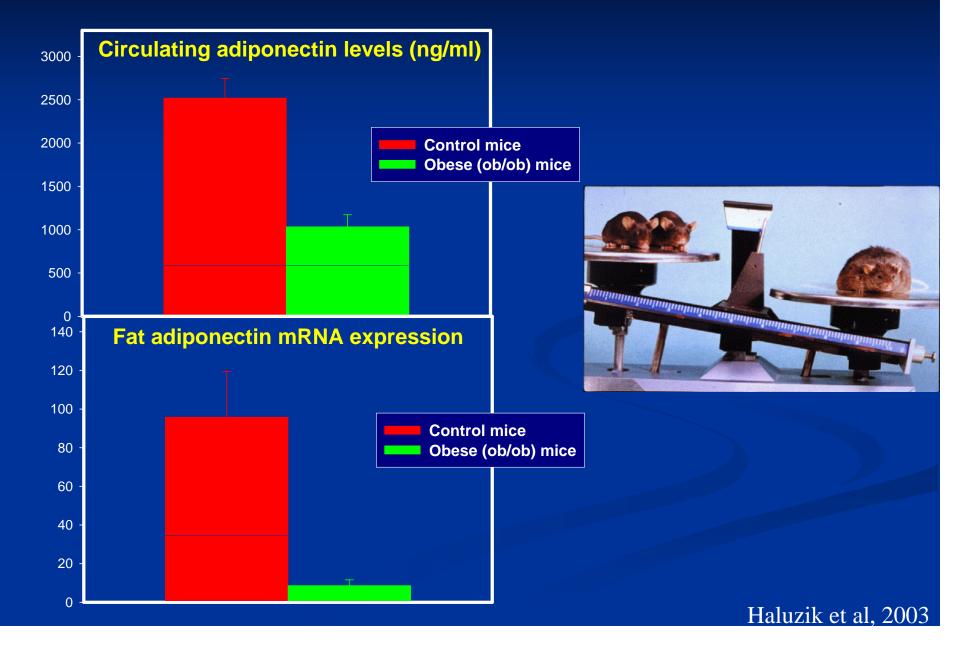


# Correlation of serum adiponectin, subcutaneous adiponectin mRNA and adiponectin receptors mRNA expression with BMI





#### Obesity in mice is accompanied by decreased adiponectin



### **Clinical importance of adiponectin**

- Adiponectin strongly correlates with insulin sensitivity and with endothelial (dys)function
- Application as an early marker of endothelial dysfunction
- Deficit of adiponectin can have etiopathogenetic relationship with the insulin resistance syndrome
- Substitution of adiponectin could be one of ways to prevent and/or treat insulin resistance syndrome

# Ectopic fat storage syndrome

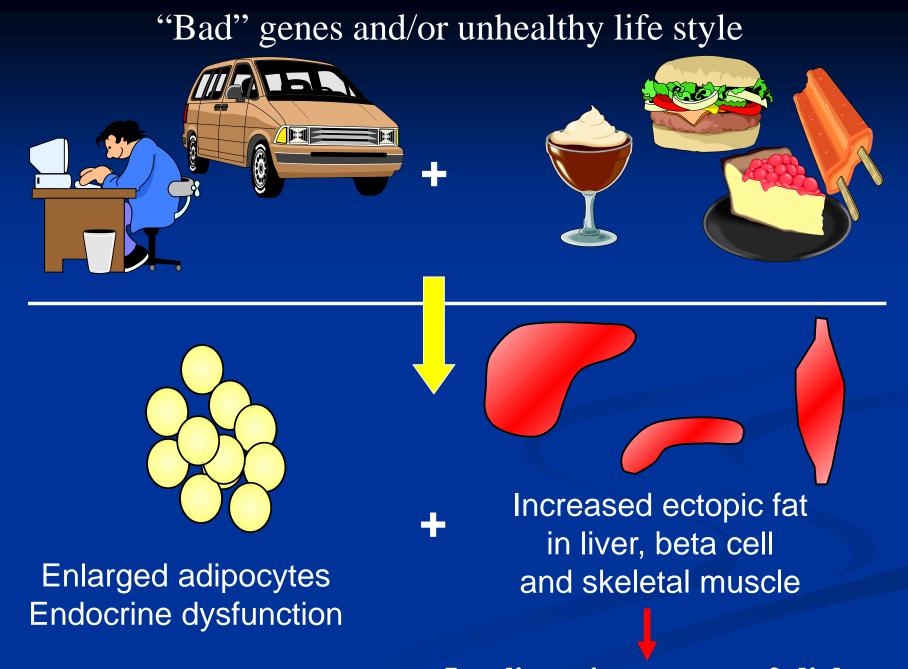
#### "Good" genes and healthy life style



Small adipocytes

Minimal ectopic fat in liver, beta cell and skeletal muscle

Ravussin et al., 2002

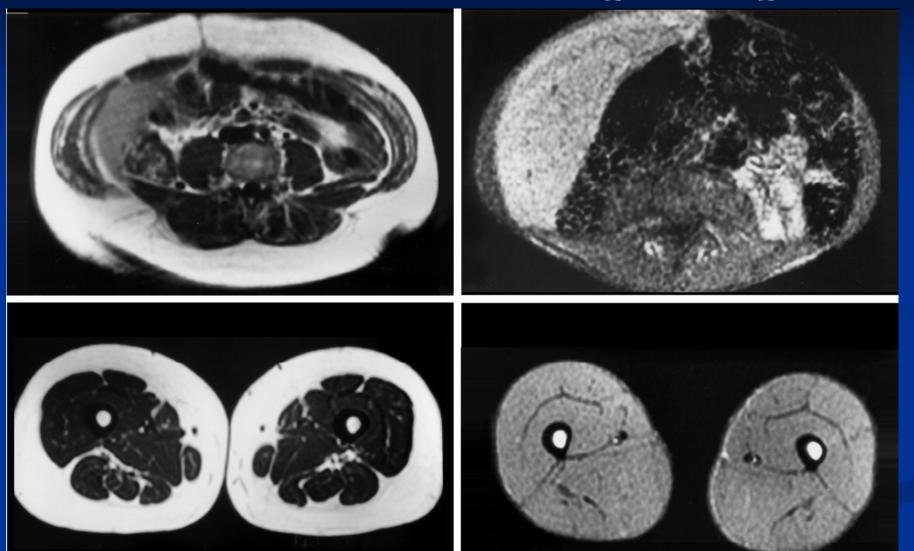


**Insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes** 

# Human lipoatrophy/lipodystrophy

Heterogeneous group of diseases Fat loss: generalized, partial, and localized Redistribution of fat in some cases Etiology: genetic, autoimmune, other Onset: congenital, puberty, other Metabolic severity roughly correlates with degree of fat loss

## Normal Lipoatrophic



#### Genetic factors or other causes (retroviral therapy in HIV)



÷

No adipose tissue No adipose tissue-derived hormones Increased ectopic fat in liver, beta cell and skeletal muscle

**Insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes** 

Both too fat and too lean mouse have similar pattern of metabolic abnormalities and both have health complications ob/ob mice A-ZIP/F-1 mice (total absence (mutation of leptin gene) of white adipose tissue)





## Fenotypic features od morbid obesity (*ob/ob* mice) and lipoatrophy (A-ZIP/F-1 mouse)

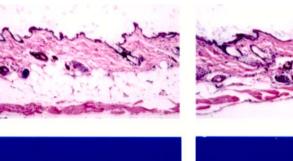
#### ob/ob mouse

- Total absence of leptin
- Hyperfagia, morbid obesity
- Increased levels of TGL, FFA
- Ectopic lipid storage (muscle, liver, pancreas)
- Extreme insulin resistance/diabetes
- Reduced BMR, infertility
- Increased corticosterone

#### A-ZIP/F-1 mouse

- Total absence of white adipose tissue, total absence of all adipose tissue hormones
- Hyperfagia
- Increased levels of TGL, FFA
- Ectopic lipid storage (muscle, liver, pancreas)
- Extreme insulin resistance/diabetes
- Reduced BMR, infertility
- Increased corticosterone

#### Skin



#### Liver

B

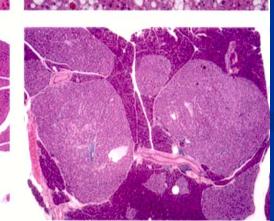
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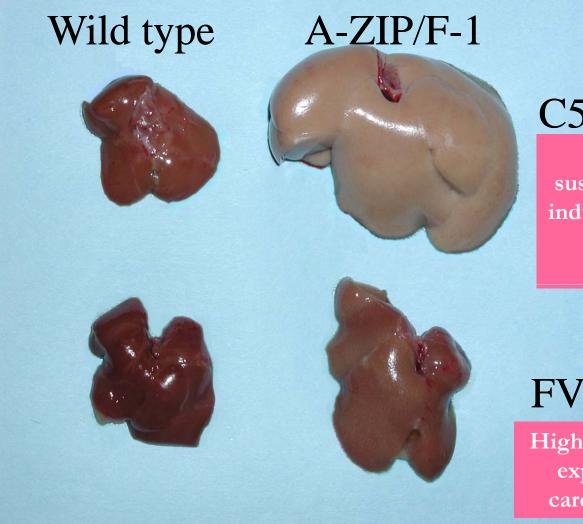








# Effect of genetic background (modification genes) on liver steatosis in A-ZIP/F-1 mice



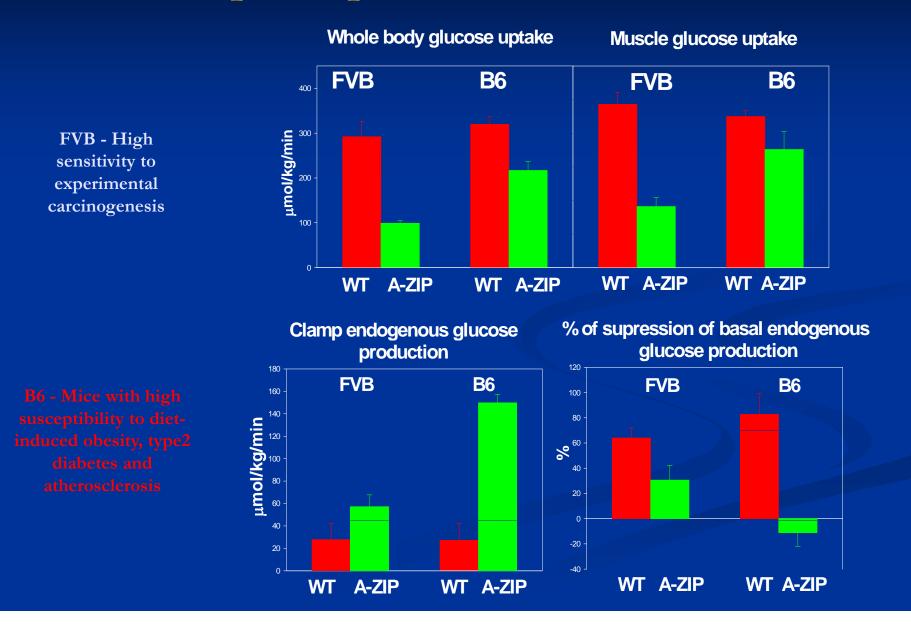
#### C57BL/6J

Mice with high susceptibility to dietinduced obesity, type2 diabetes and atherosclerosis

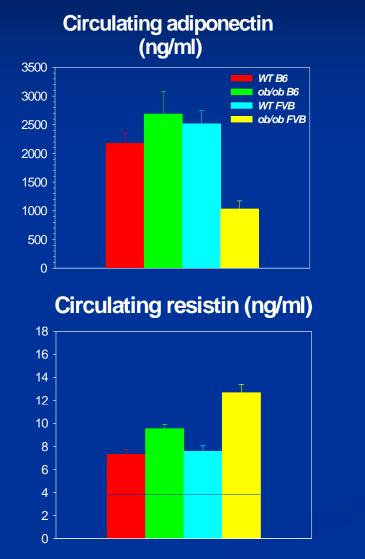
#### FVB/N

High sensitivity to experimental carcinogenesis

## Effect of modification genes on insulin sensitivity in lipoatrophic A-ZIP/F-1 mice

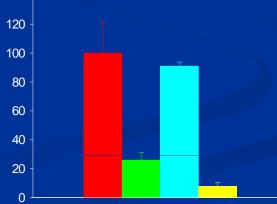


#### mRNA expression and concentrations of adipocyte hormones in *ob/ob* mice

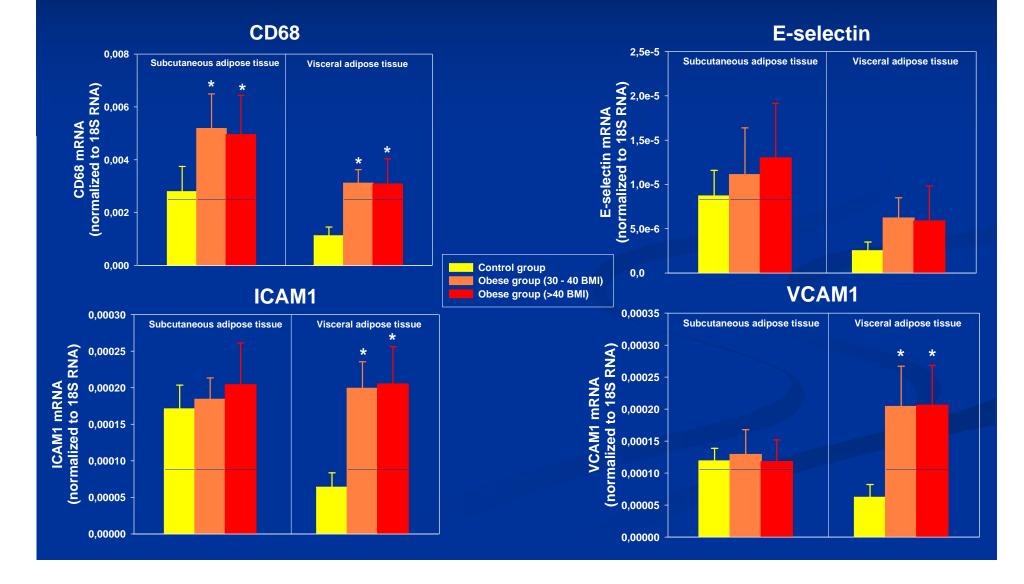


Fat adiponectin mRNA amount (B6 VVT=100)

> Fat resistin mRNA amount (B6 WT=100)



## FAT adhesion molecules expression is increased in obesity



How important is the disrubted endocrine function of adipose tissue in the etiopatogenesis of insulin resistance/metabolic syndrome?

## Leptin

- Total deficit has absolutely crucial metabolic implications, but is extremely uncommon
- Partial deficit can be of importance in a part of obese patients, but the clear evidence of the beneficial effect of leptin substitution is lacking
- To date knowledge about leptin does not confirm the importance of its measurement or substitution in clinical setting

## Resistin

 The original hypothesis about etiopathogenetic role of resistin in the development of insulin resistance associated with obesity is not unitary confirmed

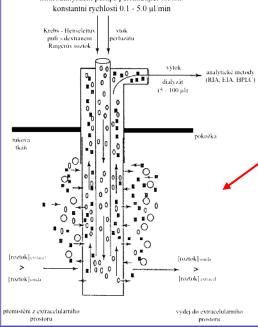
Clinical application is not clear yet

## Adiponectin

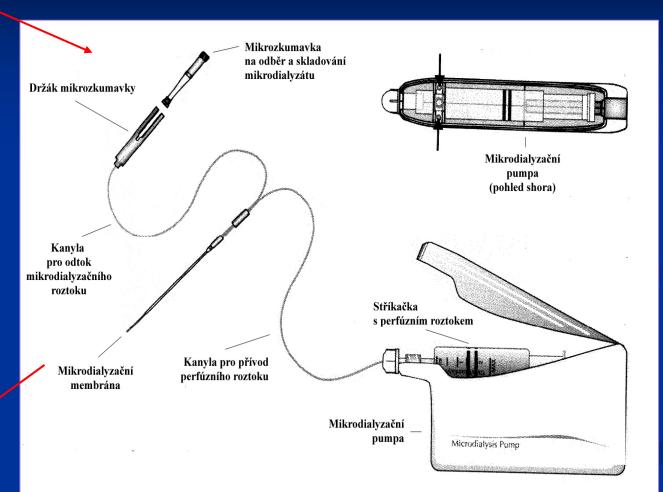
- Most perspective adipocytokine in a way of therapeutic use
- Measurement of serum adiponectin concentrations as a criterion of insulin sensitivity and/or endothelial dysfunction? – further studies needed
- Administration of adiponectin could theoretically influnce minimally two components of IRS – insulin resistance a dyslipidemia
- Administration of adiponectin could also potentially decrease the risk of cardiovascular complications in MS

In vivo microdialysis is a new technique for continuous monitoring of tissue metabolism





## Principle of microdialysis



### Conclusions

- Adipose tissue produces numerous bioactive compounds that directly or indirectly affect energy homeostasis and metabolic regulations
- Immunocompetent cells residing in adipose tissue contribute to overall activation of immune system by different stimuli
- Excess of adipose tissue in obesity shifts its endocrine profile towards increased production of metabolically harmful factors
- Disturbed endocrine function of adipose in concert with other factors markedly contributes to increased risk of morbidity and mortality in patients with obesity