



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**



University Hospitals of Leicester  
NHS Trust

# The artist formerly known as Diabetes Insipidus

Miles Levy

Consultant Endocrinologist UHL

RCP Update 2024



**Royal College  
of Physicians**

# Declarations

- Nil

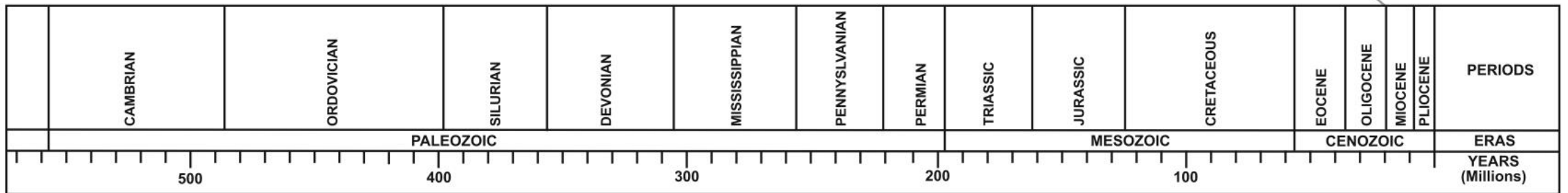
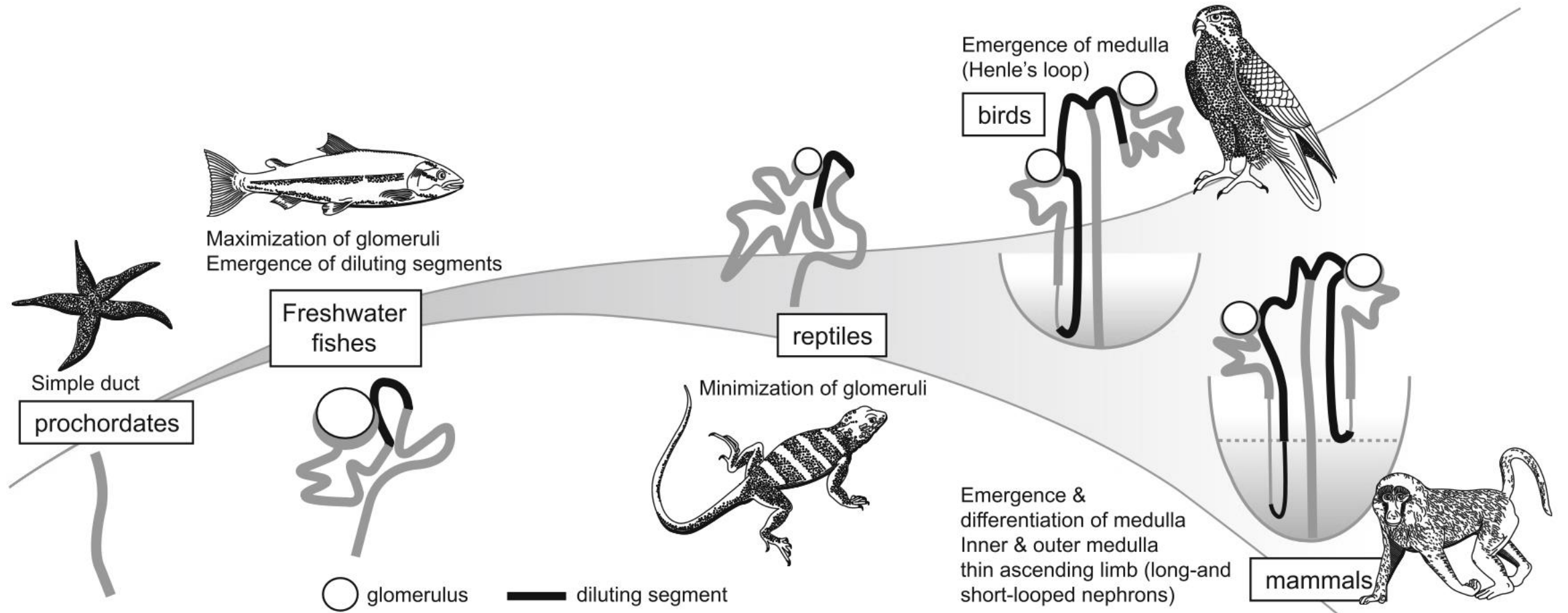
# Overview of talk

- Mechanism of thirst and water regulation
- Reasons for new terminology
- Test drive with cases
- Update on diagnosis
- A terrible story

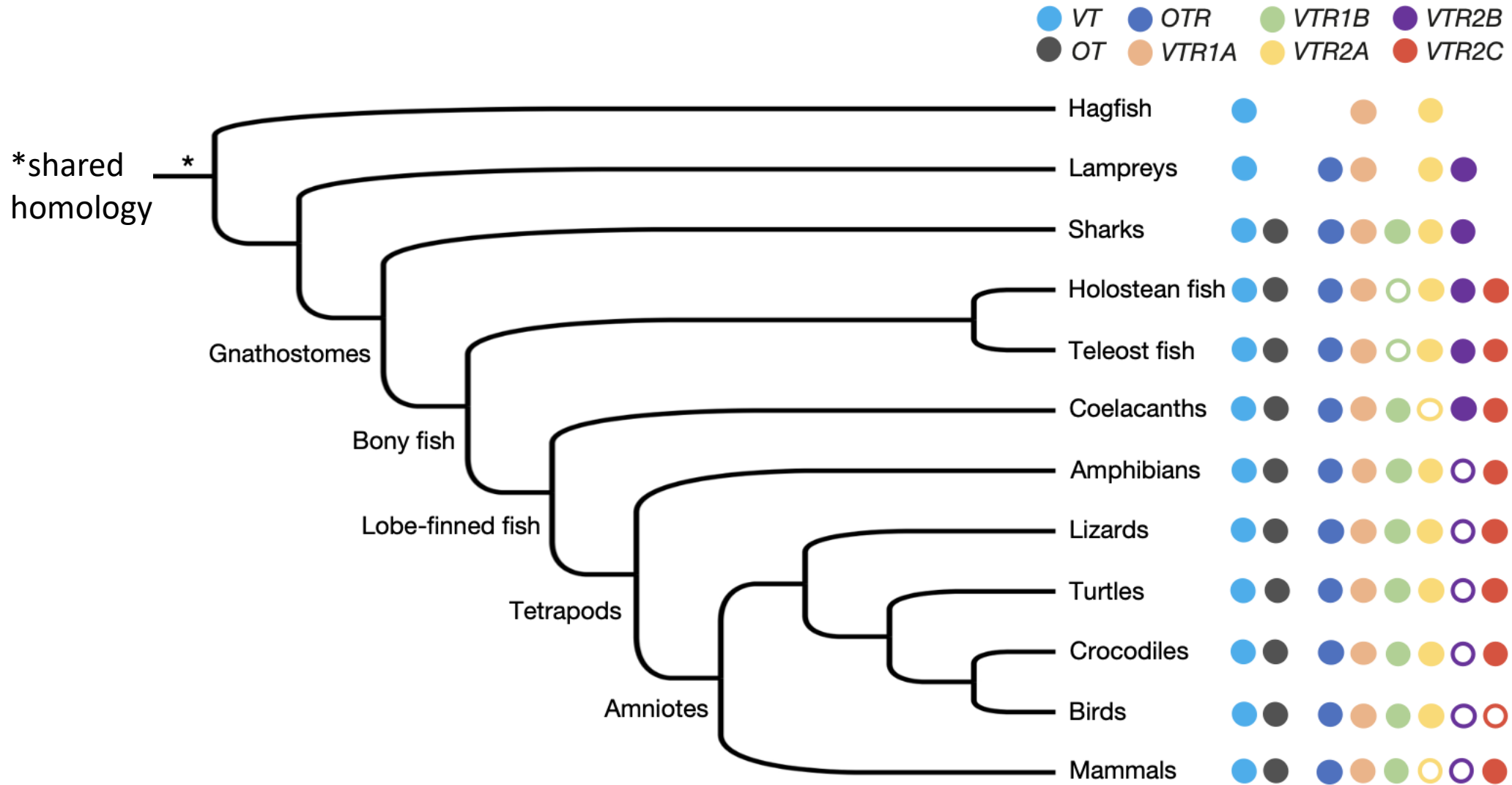
Thirst



<https://youtu.be/ouYKeeTz7Yw>



# Vasopressin highly conserved

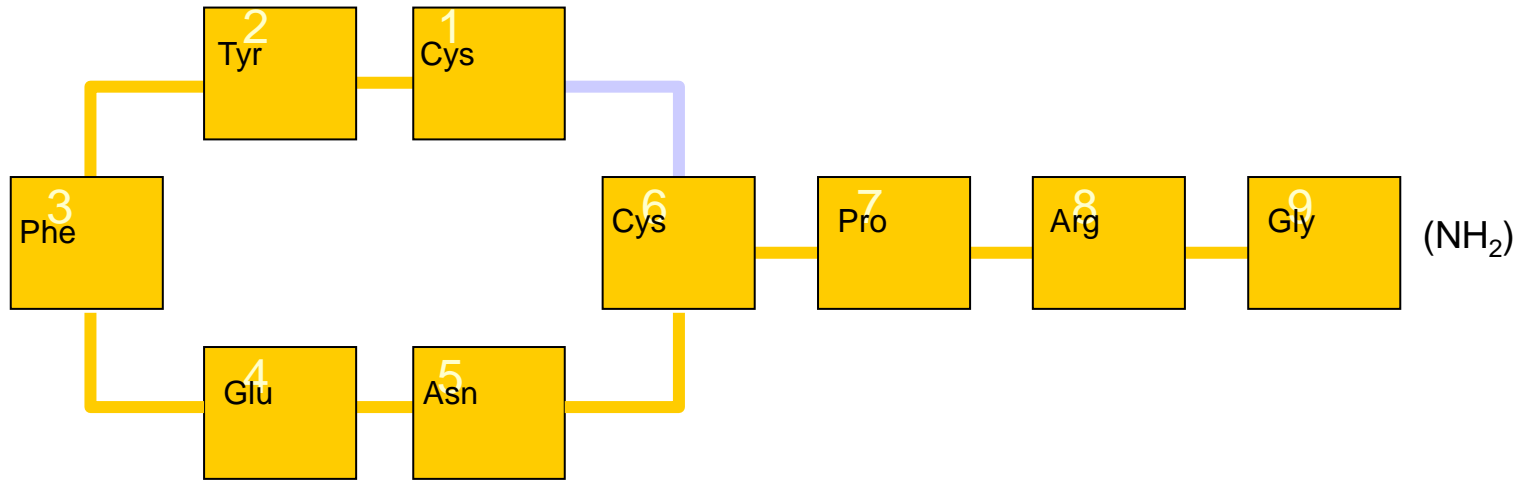


	Hormone	Species
Cys-Tyr-Phe-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Arg-Gly-NH <sub>2</sub>	Vasopressin	Mammals <sup>a</sup>
Cys-Tyr-Phe-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Lys-Gly-NH <sub>2</sub>	Lysipressin	Pigs, hippopotamuses, warthogs, some marsupials
Cys-Phe-Phe-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Arg-Gly-NH <sub>2</sub>	Phenypressin	Some marsupials
Cys-Tyr-Ile-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Arg-Gly-NH <sub>2</sub>	Vasotocin <sup>b</sup>	Non-mammals

Mammals produce Arginine Vasopressin (AVP)



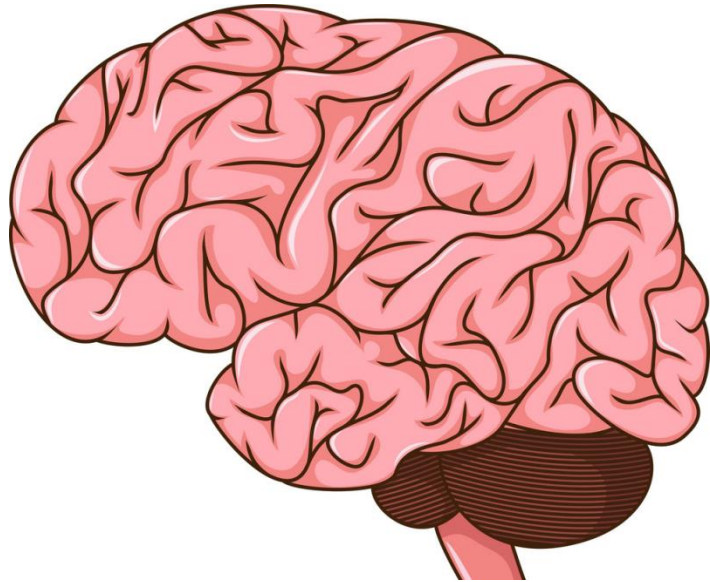
AVP is a small peptide hormone



# Pre-pro-vasopressin



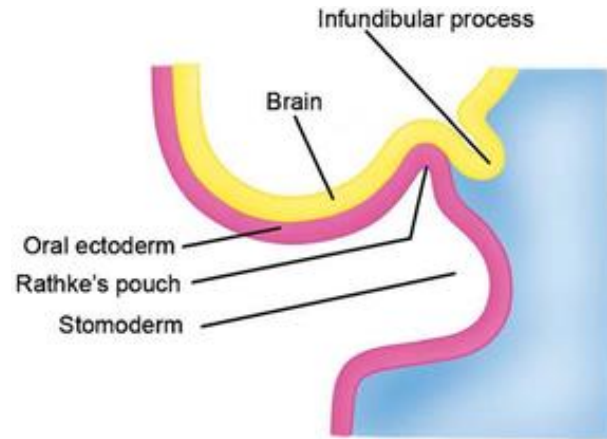
# Whole purpose to preserve water



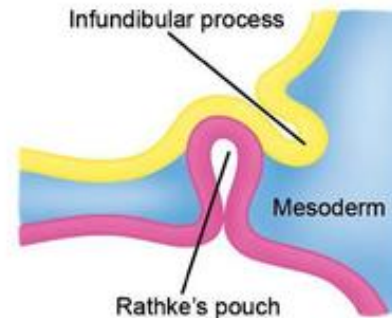
Profound water loss



# Embryology of posterior pituitary gland



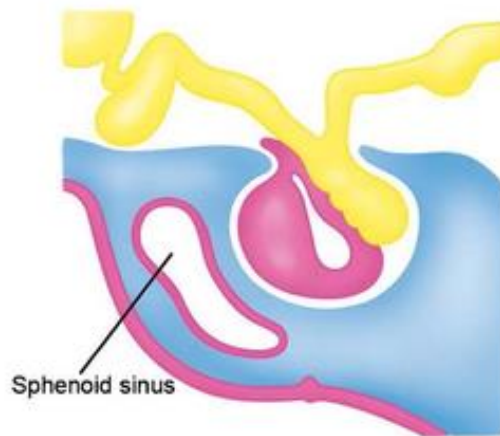
1. Start of development of Rathke's pouch and infundibular process



2. Growth of the mesoderm is limited by the neck of Rathke's pouch



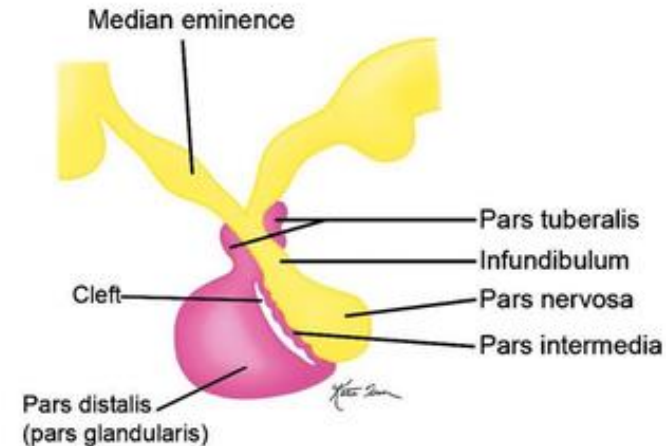
3. Rathke's pouch "compressed"



4. "Compressed" segment integrates the neural process, forming pars distalis, pars intermedia, and pars tuberalis



5. Pars tuberalis wraps around the infundibular stalk

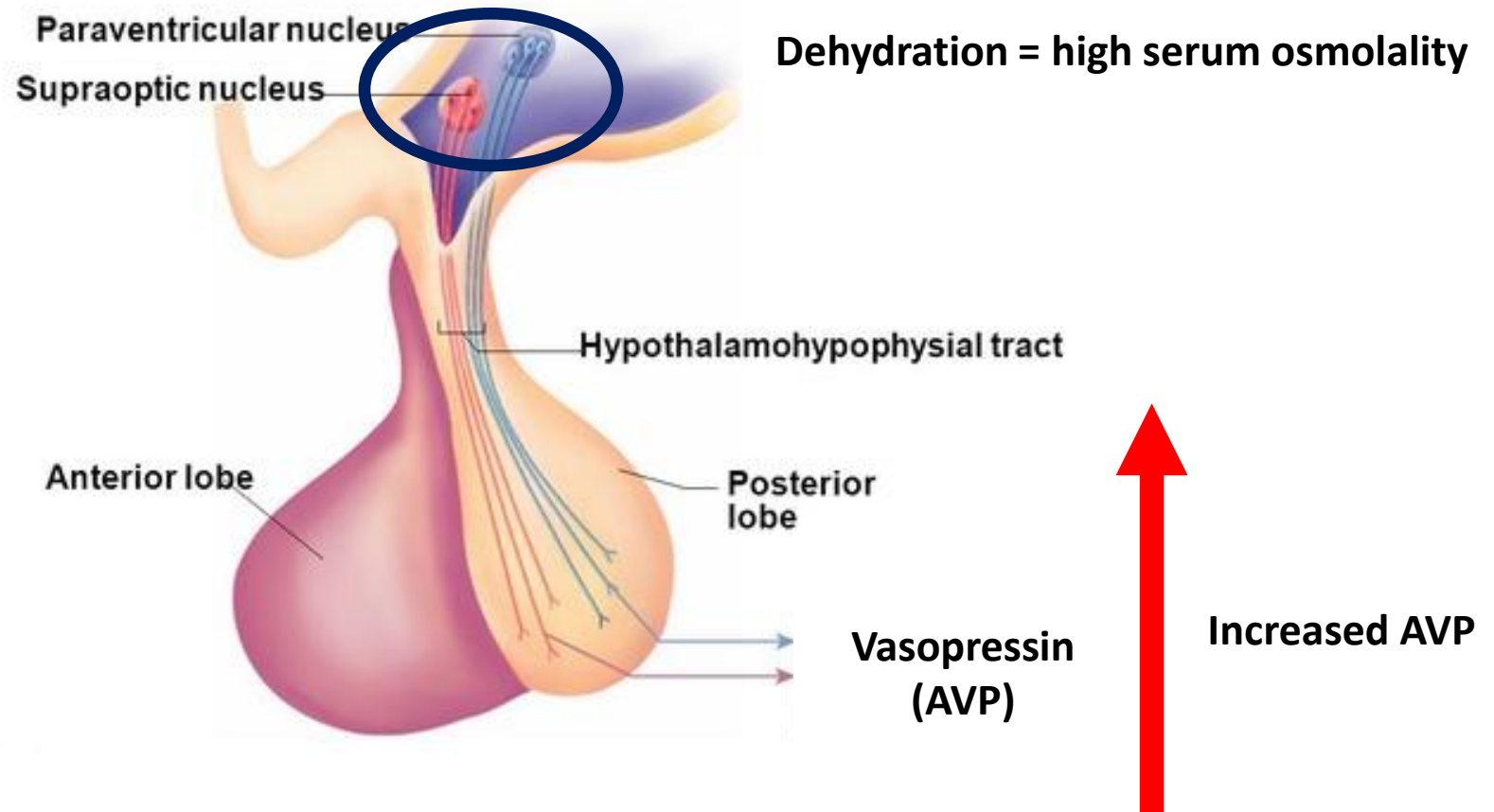


6. Mature form

# Mechanism of thirst



thirst



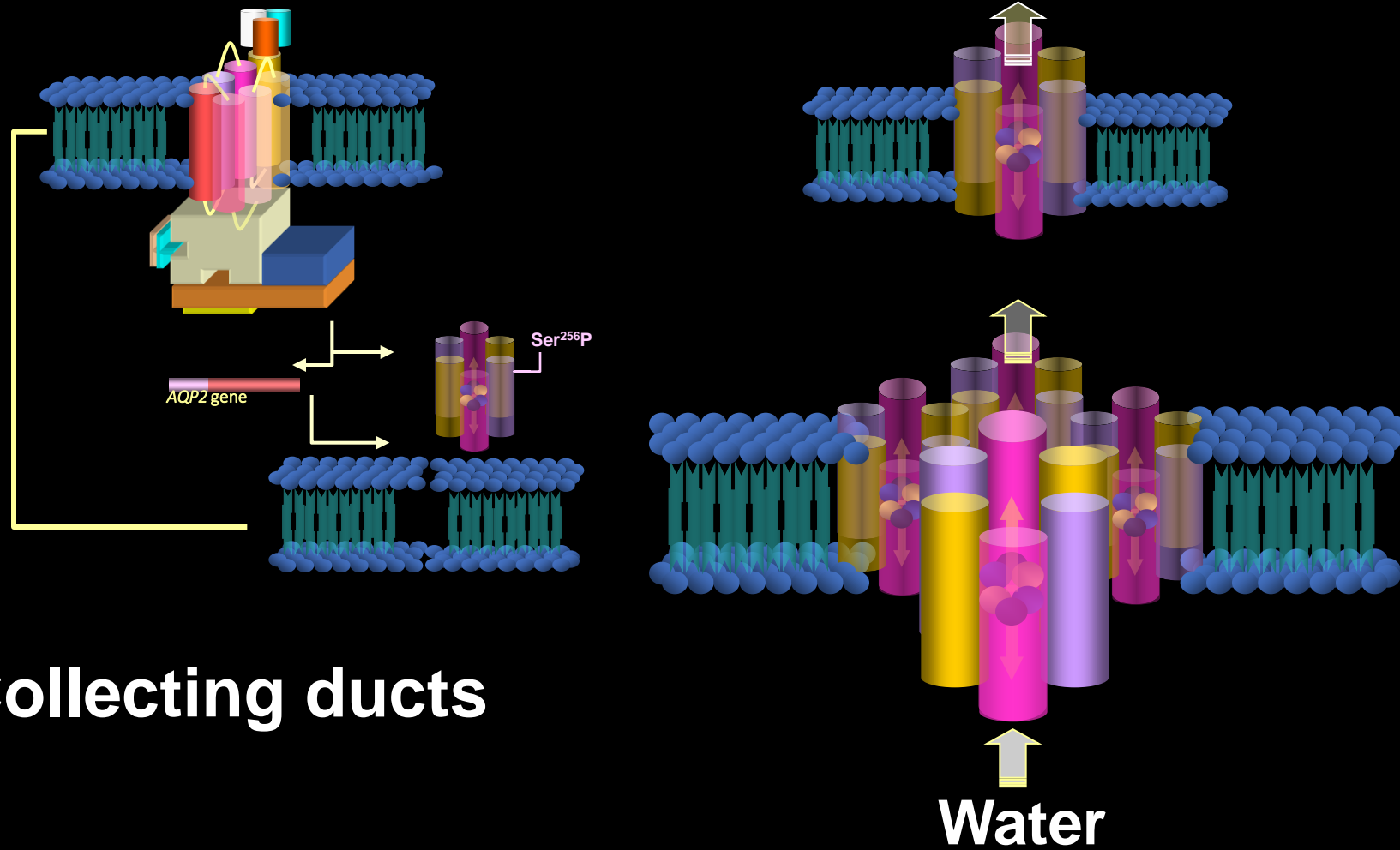
# Action of vasopressin (AVP)



stops water  
leaking out

# Action of AVP

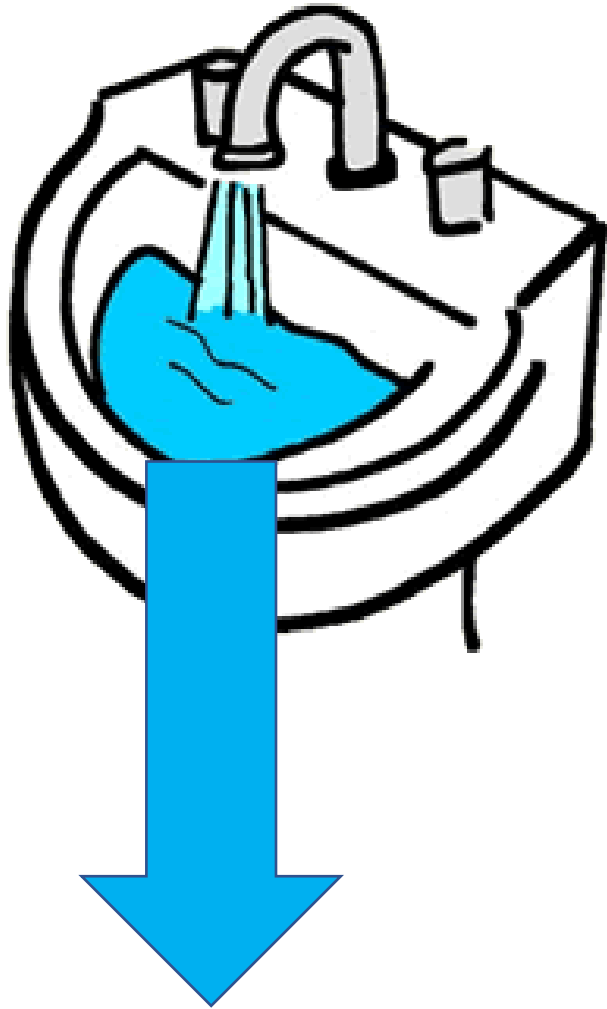
## Renal interstitium



AVP-related polyuria



# AVP-related polyuria



stops water  
leaking out

# 'Diabetes Insipidus'



Unquenchable thirst



Large quantities pale urine

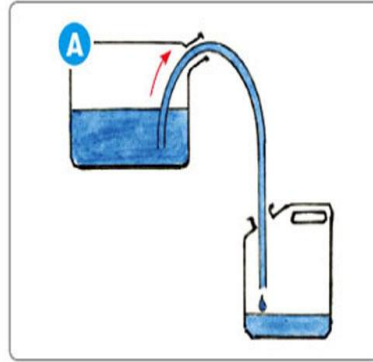
‘I recall leaning over the running cold tap, letting the water just run through my parched mouth. I was desperate to quench my thirst but couldn’t’

‘The only fluid in sight was the water in my flower vase, so with one final effort I grabbed the rim and gulped’

Change in terminology

Diabetes

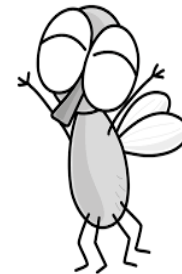
diabetes



“passing water like a siphon” (*Greek*)

mellitus

“sweetened with honey”

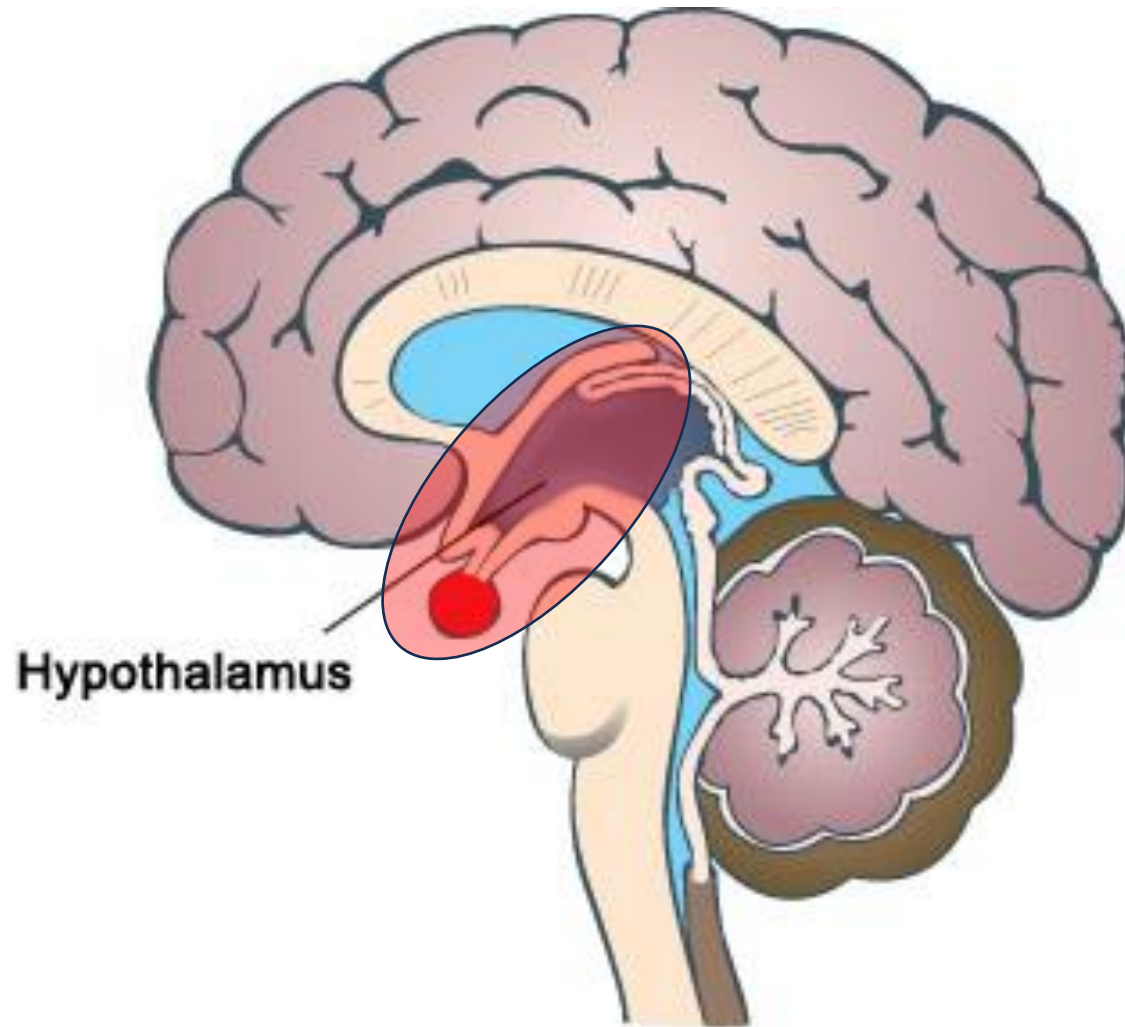


insipidus

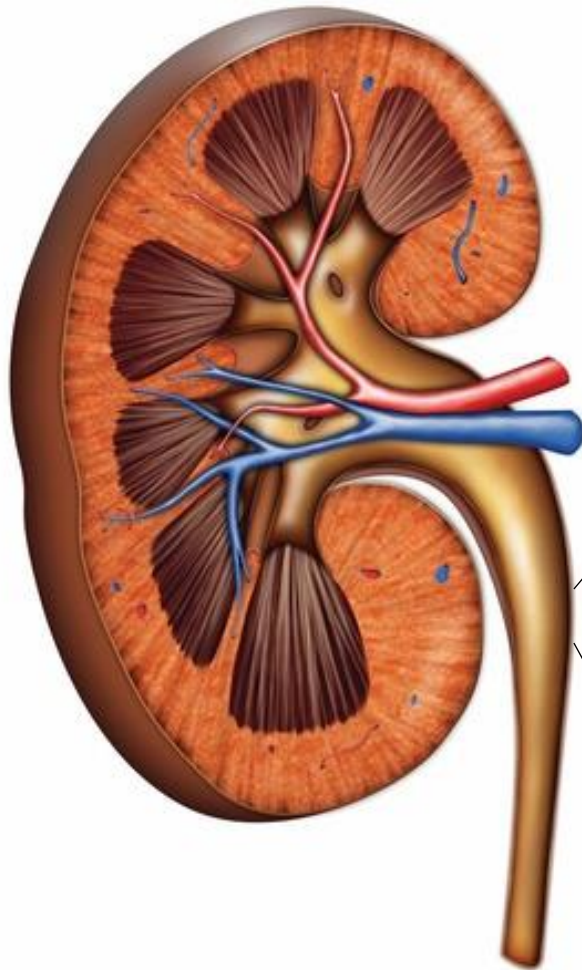
“without taste”



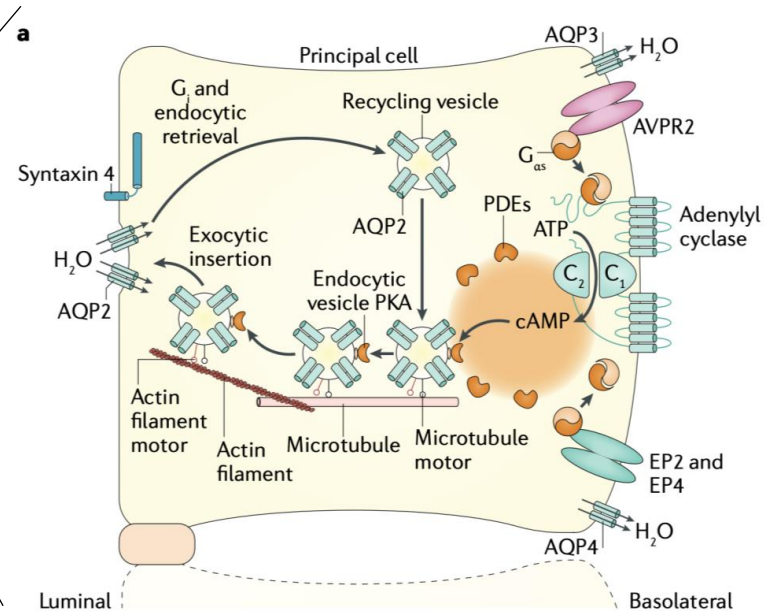
‘Central Diabetes Insipidus’ AVP not produced



# 'Nephrogenic Diabetes Insipidus'



## AVP doesn't work




# 'Diabetes Insipidus'

- An old-fashioned term for passing large amounts pale urine
- Indicates nothing of pathology or treatment
- Commonly confused with sugar diabetes
- Patients are not happy about it
- We can do better in 2024



# Evidence that patients want change



**Central diabetes insipidus from a patient's perspective: management, psychological co-morbidities, and renaming of the condition: results from an international web-based survey**

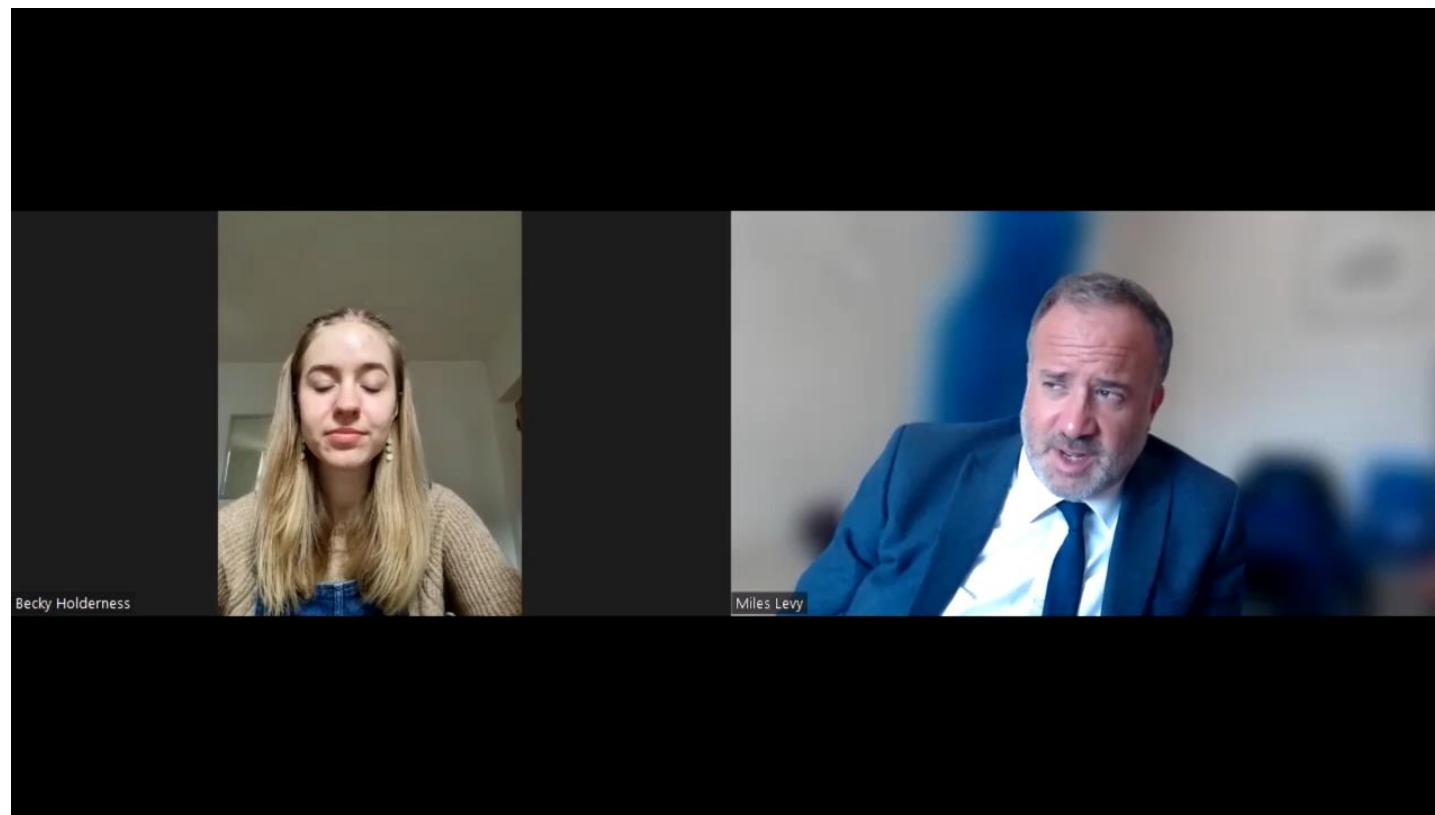
*Cihan Atila, Paul Benjamin Loughrey, Aoife Garrahy, Bettina Winzeler, Julie Refardt, Patricia Gildroy, Malak Hamza, Aparna Pal, Joseph G Verbalis, Christopher J Thompson, Lars G Hemkens, Steven J Hunter, Mark Sherlock, Miles J Levy, Niki Karavitaki, John Newell-Price, John A H Wass, Mirjam Christ-Crain*

**Summary**  
**Background** Central diabetes insipidus is a rare neuroendocrine condition. Data on treatment-associated side-effects, psychological comorbidities, and incorrect management are scarce. The aim of this study was to investigate patients' perspectives on their disease.

Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol  
2022; 10: 700-09  
Published Online  
August 22, 2022

- > 1000 patients with 'Diabetes Insipidus'
- 80% were confused with Diabetes Mellitus
- 85% want name change

# Becky



<https://youtu.be/2E4CMjGyEpA>

# Changing the name of diabetes insipidus: a position statement of The Working Group for Renaming Diabetes Insipidus

**The Working Group for Renaming Diabetes Insipidus, Hiroshi Arima<sup>1,2</sup>, Timothy Cheetham<sup>3,4</sup>, Mirjam Christ-Crain<sup>5,6</sup>, Deborah Cooper<sup>7</sup>, Mark Gurnell<sup>6,8</sup>, Juliana B Drummond<sup>9,10</sup>, Miles Levy<sup>11,12</sup>, Ann I McCormack<sup>13,14</sup>, Joseph Verbalis<sup>15,16</sup>, John Newell-Price<sup>16,17</sup> and John A H Wass<sup>18,19</sup>**

*This article is CC-BY and has been published in the following titles: Archives of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Clinical Endocrinology, Endocrine Connections, Endocrine Journal, European Journal of Endocrinology, Hormone Research in Pediatrics, Pituitary and The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. The articles are identical except for*

Central D.I becomes AVP-Deficiency  
Nephrogenic D.I becomes AVP-Resistance

# SNOMED responds to community call for improved diabetes insipidus terminology in SNOMED CT

February 12, 2024

[← Back](#)



MedGen

MedGen

Limits Advanced

Full Report

Send to

### Central diabetes insipidus (CDI)

MedGen UID: 146919 • Concept ID: C0687720 • Disease or Syndrome

**Synonym:** Arginine vasopressin deficiency

**SNOMED CT:** Diabetes insipidus - pituitary (45369008); Vasopressin deficiency (45369008); Central diabetes insipidus (45369008); Diabetes insipidus secondary to vasopressin deficiency (45369008); Vasopressin deficiency syndrome (45369008); Neurohypophyseal diabetes insipidus (45369008); Pituitary diabetes insipidus (45369008); Primary central diabetes insipidus (45369008); Neurogenic diabetes insipidus (45369008); Cranial diabetes insipidus (45369008)

**Modes of inheritance:** Autosomal recessive inheritance (Orphanet)  
Autosomal dominant inheritance (Orphanet)  
X-linked dominant inheritance (Orphanet)

**Related gene:** AVP

**HPO:** HP:0000863

**Monarch Initiative:** MONDO:0015790

**OMIM®:** 125700; 192340

**Orphanet:** ORPHA178029

Definition

Go to

A form of diabetes insipidus related to a failure of vasopressin (AVP) release from the hypothalamus. [from HPO]

Test-driving some cases

# Polyuria polydipsia syndrome

- Primary polydipsia **Behavioural drive to drink**
- AVP-related polyuria **AVP-deficiency or resistance**

There is no substitute for taking  
a good history and sound clinical  
judgement



# Case 1

Urinary frequency

# Case 1

- 53-year-old female
- Always needing to pass urine
- Feeling tired and has low libido
- Computer says 'Diabetes Insipidus'

# Case 1

- 70 kg in weight
- No clinical signs
- Euvolaemic

# Home 24h urine volume

- 2100 ml
- 30 ml/kg

Urine volume  $< 50\text{ml/kg}$   
unlikely to be pathological

# Basic biochemistry

- Serum sodium 143 mmol/L
- Serum osmolality 290 mOmol/Kg
- Urine osmolality 850 mOsmol/Kg



Good ability to concentrate urine  
Suggests AVP produced and working OK

# Summary of case

- Urine volumes not high
- Urine osmolality > 800 mosmol/kg

# Diagnosis

- This is not AVP-related polyuria
- Computer gets the sack
- Investigate bladder



Suspected hypotonic polyuria

Urine Volume  
< 50ml/kg/day

Urine Osmolality  
> 800 mosmol/Kg

**AVP Related polyuria excluded**

# Case 2

## Primary Polydipsia

## Case 2

- 36-year-old female
- Constantly feeling thirsty
- High volumes of pale urine

## Case 2

- 60 kg in weight
- Psychological issues
- Always has bottle of water

# Home 24h urine volume

- 6000 ml
- 100 ml/kg

# Case 2

- Serum sodium
- Serum osmolality
- Urine osmolality

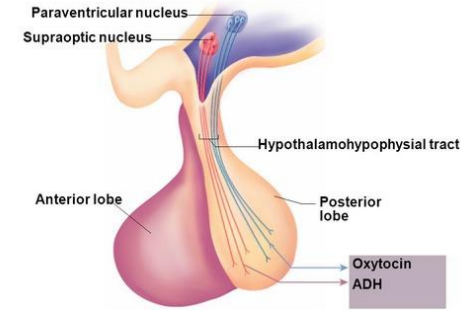
129 mmol/L

275 mOsmol/Kg **Dilute blood**

90 mOsmol/Kg



**Dilute urine**



# Diagnosis

- Primary Polydipsia
- AVP suppression due to water intake
- She cannot compensate and sodium low

Suspected hypotonic polyuria

Urine Volume  
> 50ml/kg/day

Urine Osmolality  
< 800 mosmol/Kg

Plasma Osmolality  
< 285 mosmol/Kg

Serum sodium  
< 135 mmol/L



**Primary Polydipsia**



# Case 3

AVP-Resistance

## Case 3

- 50-year-old female
- Constantly feeling thirsty
- Large volumes of pale urine

## Case 3

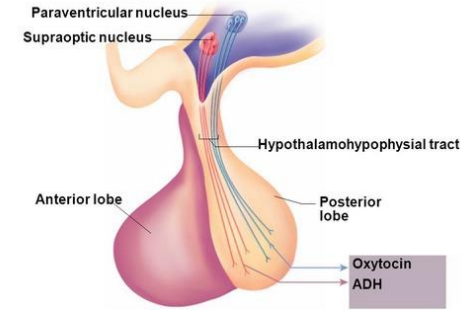
- 90 kg in weight
- Long-standing bipolarity
- On lithium for for years
- No symptoms before drug

# Home 24h urine volume

- 4950 ml
- 55 ml/kg

# Case 3

- Serum sodium 147 mmol/L
- Serum osmolality 301 mOsmol/Kg
- Urine osmolality 95 mOsmol/Kg



Concentrated blood



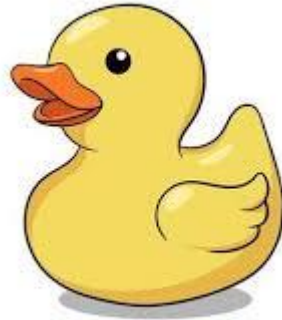
Dilute urine

# Case 3

- Calcium 2.95 mmol/L *Slightly high*
- Phosphate 0.5 mmol/L
- PTH 20.4 pmol/L

# Diagnosis

- AVP Resistance (nephrogenic Diabetes Insipidus)

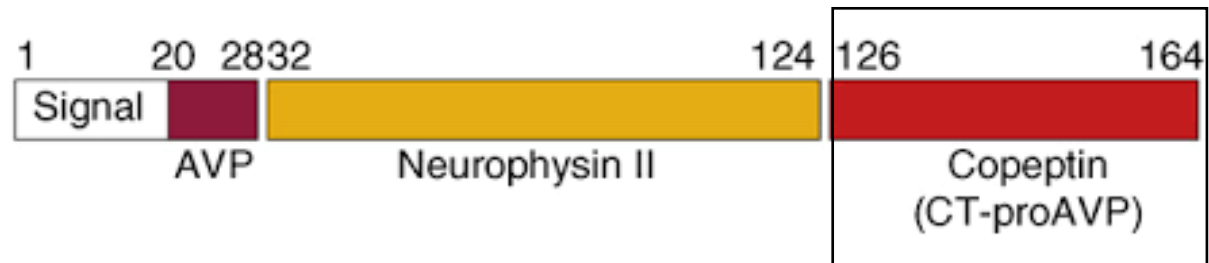


# Confirmatory tests

- If you are someone who likes certainty
- Copeptin is a good new surrogate marker of AVP



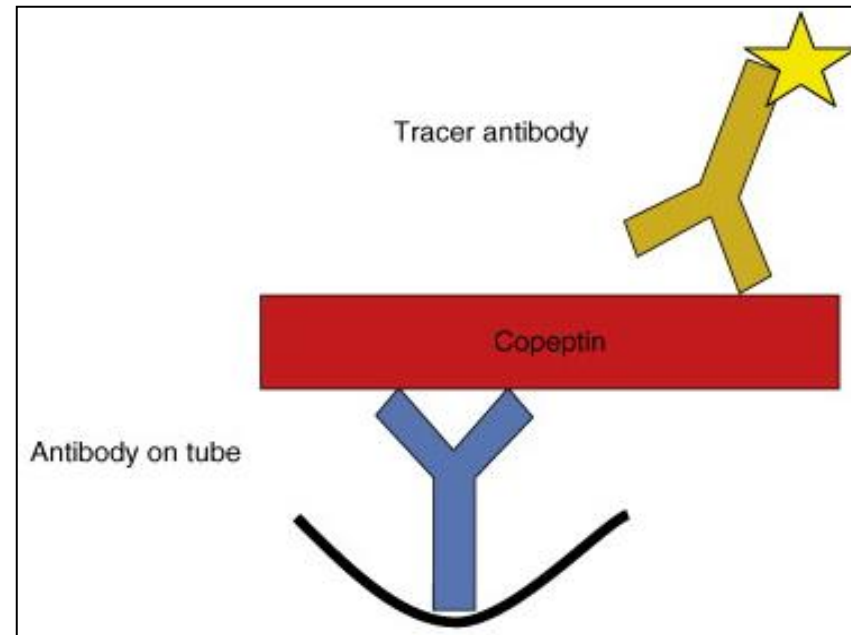
# Pre-pro AVP



It is technically difficult to assay AVP

Copeptin is a stable immuno-assay

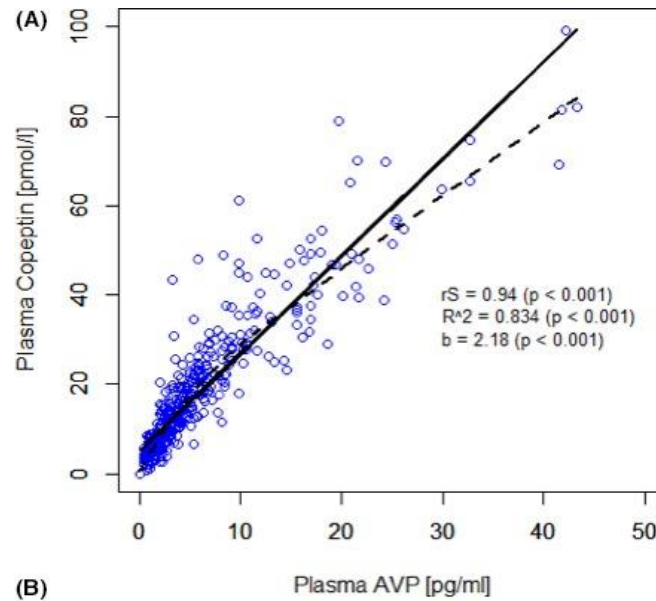
# Copeptin immuno-assay



# Copeptin based tests

- Surrogate marker circulating AVP
- High basal levels suggest resistance
- Low basal levels suggest deficiency

# Copeptin and AVP correlation



Suspected hypotonic polyuria

Urine Volume  
> 50ml/kg/day

Urine Osmolality  
< 800 mosmol/Kg

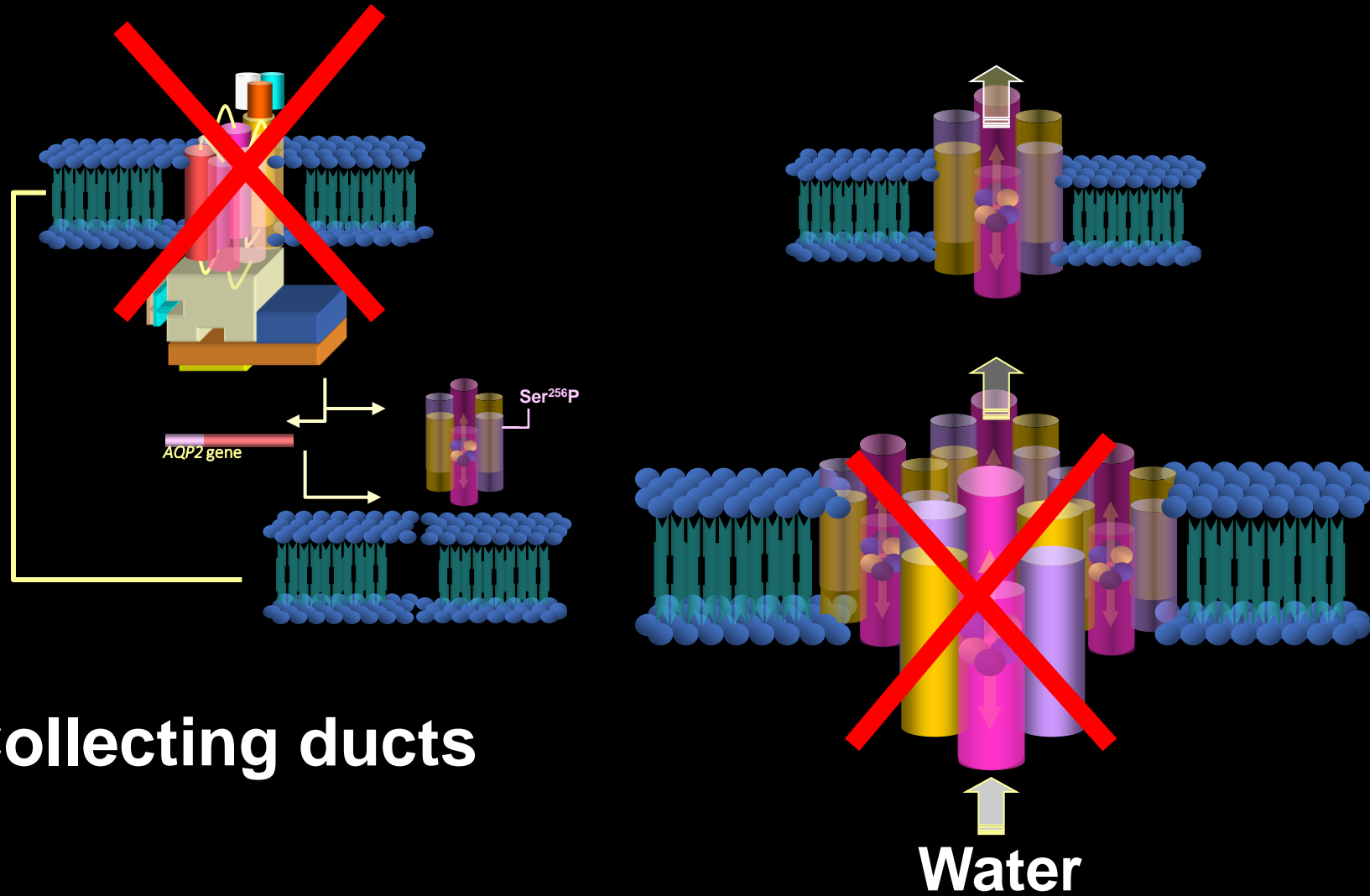
Plasma Copeptin  
> 21.4 pmol/L



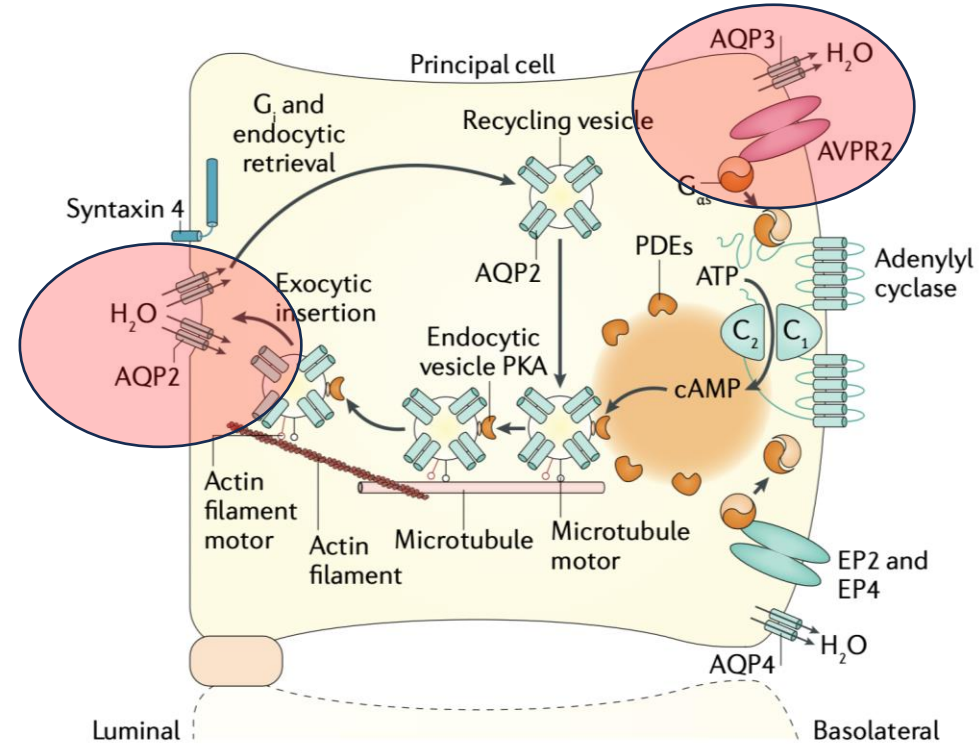
**AVP Resistance**

# Action of AVP

Renal interstitium



# AVP action



# Case 3

## AVP-Deficiency

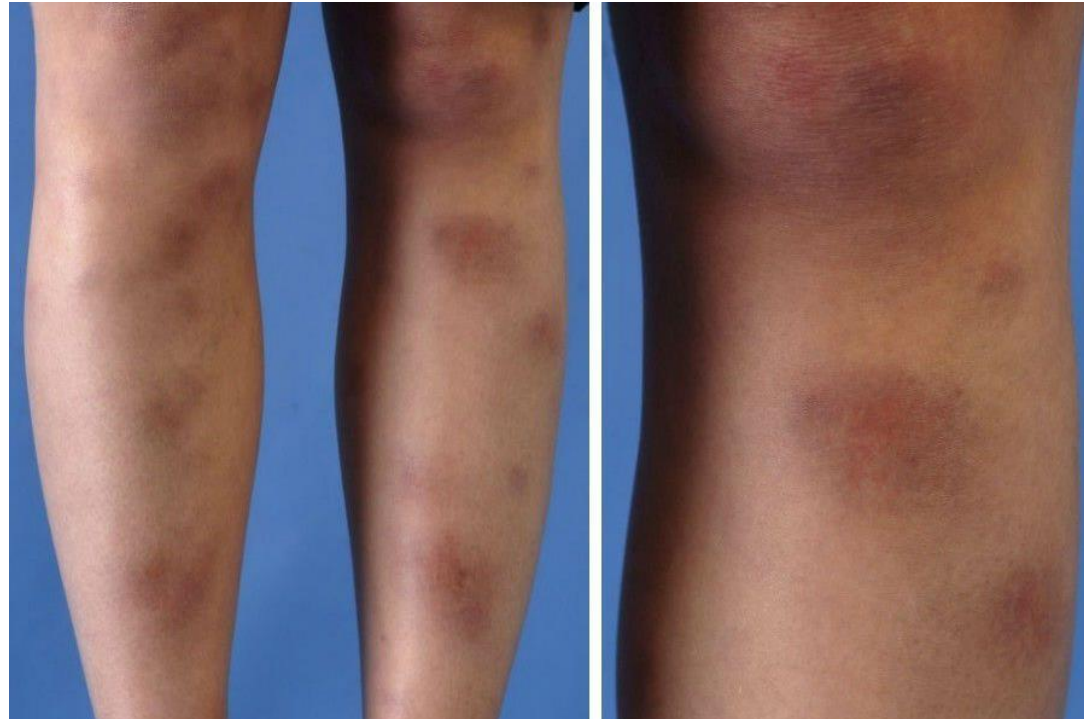


# Case 4

- 31-year-old female
- Always feeling tired
- Constantly feeling thirsty
- High volumes of pale urine
- Getting up a lot at night

# Case 4

- Abrupt onset about 8 weeks ago
- Recently put on steroids by rheumatologists
- Painful rash on shins and joint pains
- Energy better but new onset polyuria



Erythema Nodosum

# Endocrine tests

- fT4 8.5 pmol/L
  - TSH 1.2 miU/L
  - Prolactin 1195 miU/L
  - Cortisol < 25nmol/L
- TSH deficiency
- Hyperprolactinaemia
- Likely ACTH deficiency

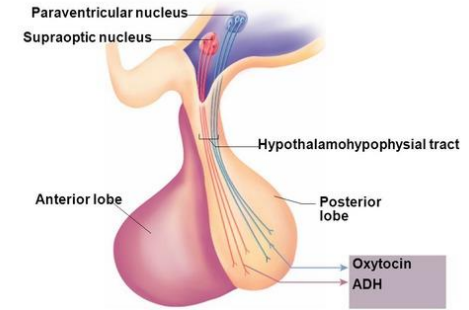
More than a whiff of pituitary pathology

# Home 24h urine volume

- 4200 ml
- 60 ml/kg

# Case 3

- Serum sodium 145 mmol/L
- Serum osmolality 299 mOsmol/Kg
- Urine osmolality 86 mOsmol/Kg



Concentrated blood

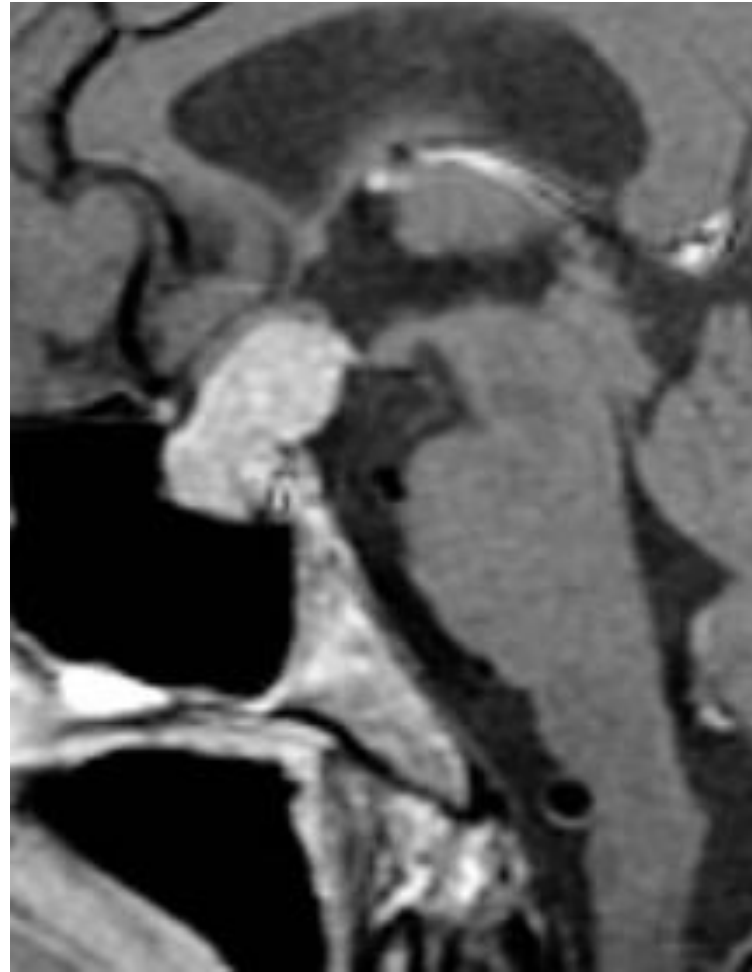


Dilute urine

# Bilateral hilar lymph nodes



# Thickened pituitary stalk

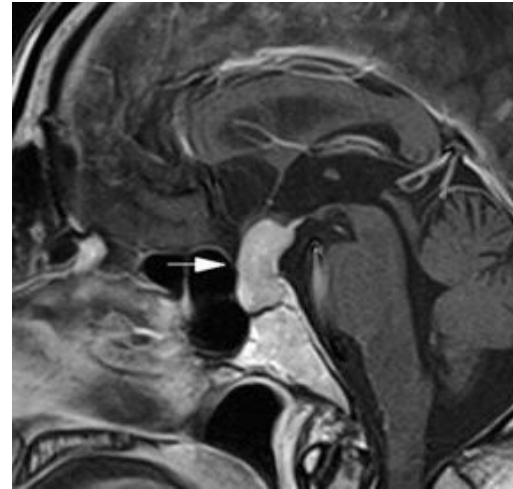




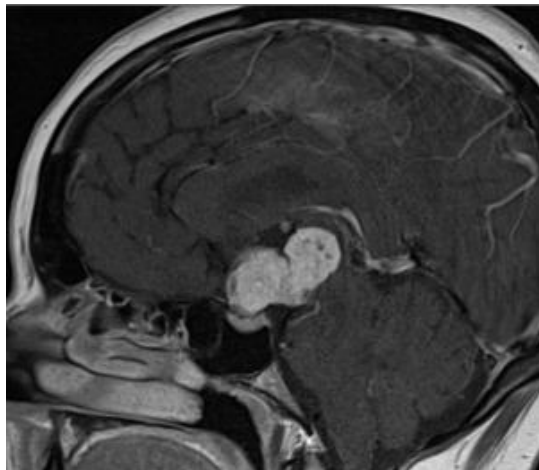
# Causes of AVP-D



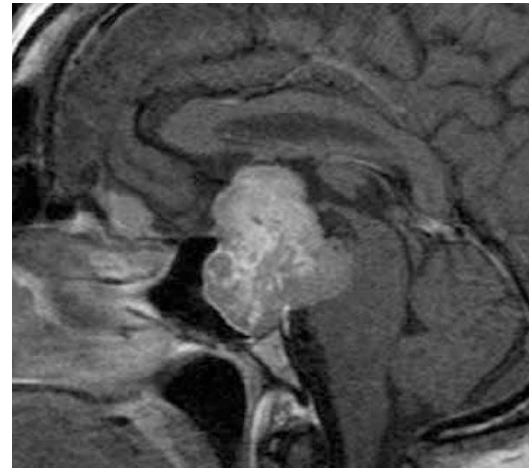
Surgery or trauma



Stalk thickening



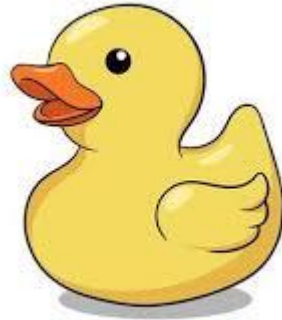
Supra-sellar mass



Weird looking mass

# Diagnosis

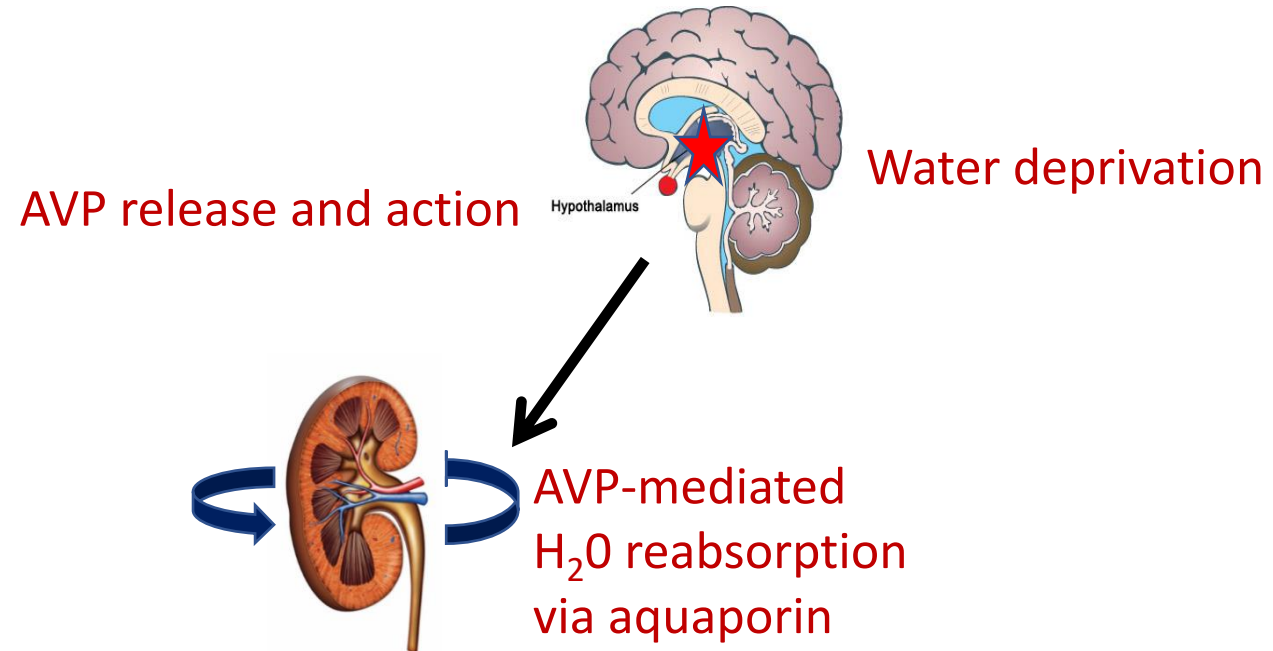
- AVP Deficiency (cranial Diabetes Insipidus)



# Confirmatory tests

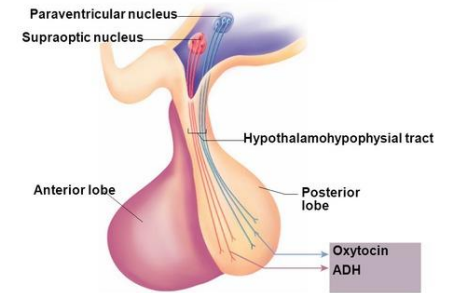
- If you are someone who likes certainty
- Water deprivation indirect test of AVP action
- Copeptin is a direct marker of AVP reserve

# Water deprivation and AVP



# Water deprivation tests

- Water deprivation should increase serum osmolality
- Leading to increased thirst and AVP release
- Water reabsorption stops further rise osmolality
- Appropriate reduction in urine volume
- Absolute torture for patient with severe AVP-D



# Mina



<https://youtu.be/3EdQTgzRKkE>

# Water deprivation test

## **Part 1**

- No fluid intake allowed 08:30 – 16:30
- Serial measurements of urine volume and urine osmolality
- Serial measurements of plasma sodium and osmolality (stop if  $> 300$ )
- Hourly weight measurement – stop if lose  $> 3\%$  weight

## **Part 2**

- At 1630 drink freely, give DDAVP (20ug nasal spray or 2ug IM)
- In AVP-D the urine volume drops and urine osmolality rises

# Normal Water Deprivation Test

- Plasma osmolality  $< 300$  mosmol/Kg **Not high**
- Urine osmolality  $> 750$  mosmol/Kg **Good concentrating ability**
- Urine volume reduces





# AVP-Deficiency

- Plasma osmolality  $> 300$  mosmol/Kg **Abnormally high after water deprivation**
- Urine osmolality  $< 300$ mosmol/Kg **No rise after water deprivation**
- Urine volume remains high



- After desmopressin
- Urine osmolality  $> 750$ mosmol/Kg
- Urine volumes fall as DDAVP works



# AVP-Resistance

- Plasma osmolality  $> 300$  mosmol/Kg **Abnormally high after water deprivation**
- Urine osmolality  $< 300$ mosmol/Kg **No rise after water deprivation**
- Urine volume remains high



- After desmopressin

- No response

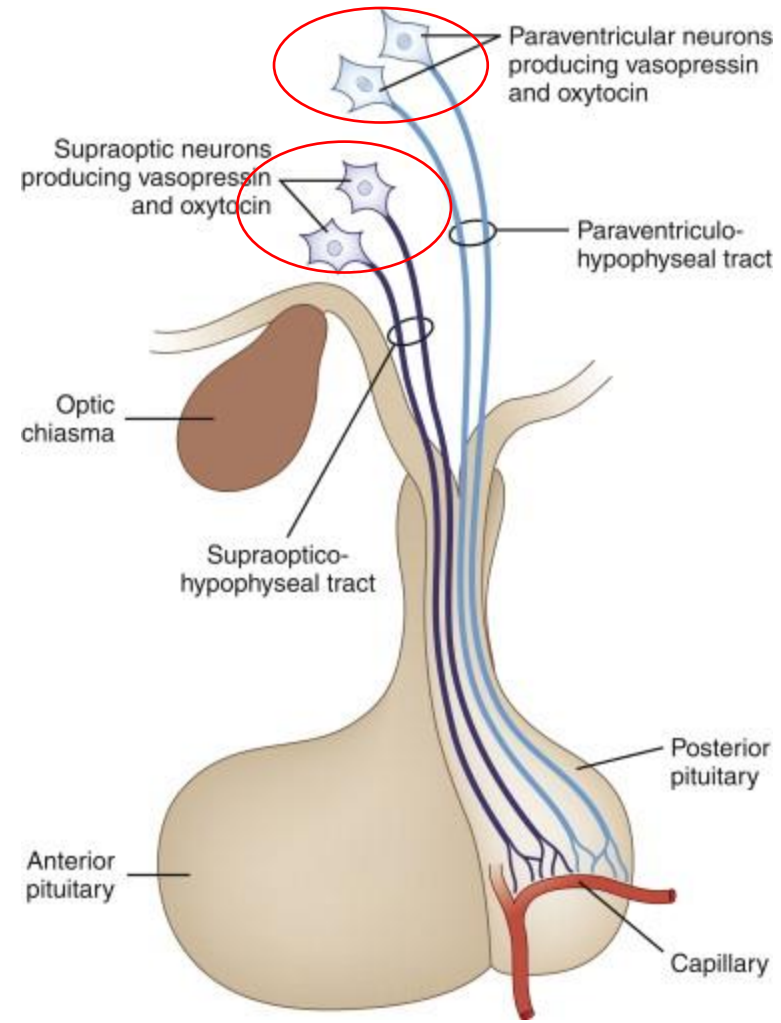


# Problems with WDT

- Diagnostic accuracy only 70% as indirect test
- Particularly bad with Primary Polydipsia (41%)
- PP washes out medullary concentrating gradient
- Impaired concentration and response to DDAVP

# Copeptin stimulation tests

A new alternative to Water Deprivation tests



Arginine\*  
Hypertonic Saline\*

# Arginine stimulated copeptin

Arginine-stimulated copeptin measurements in the differential diagnosis of diabetes insipidus: a prospective diagnostic study



Bettina Winzeler, Nicole Cesana-Nigro, Julie Refardt, Deborah R Vogt, Cornelia Imber, Benedict Morin, Milica Popovic, Michelle Steinmetz, Clara O Sailer, Gabor Szinnai, Irina Chifu, Martin Fassnacht, Mirjam Christ-Crain

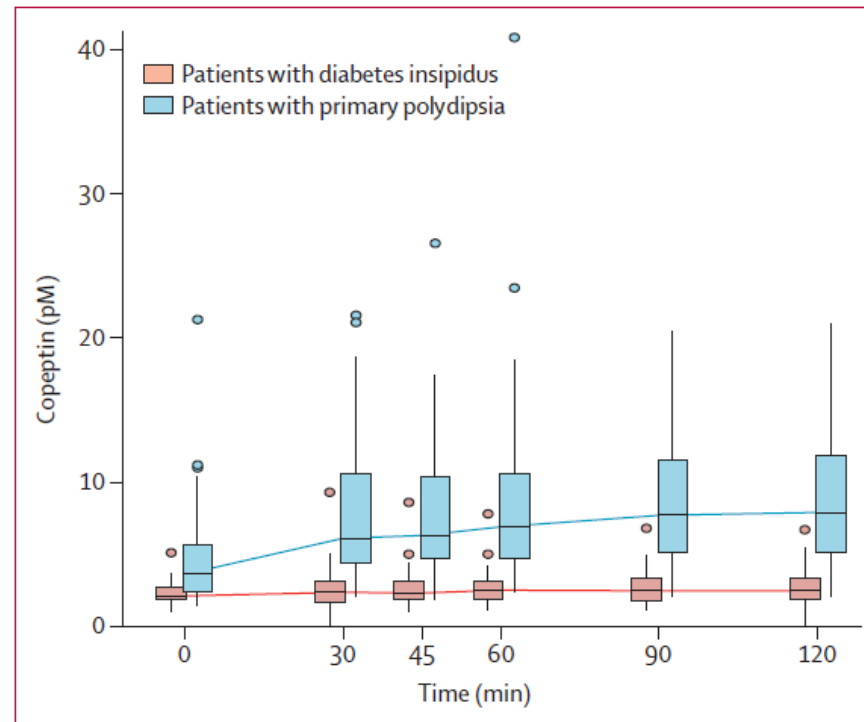
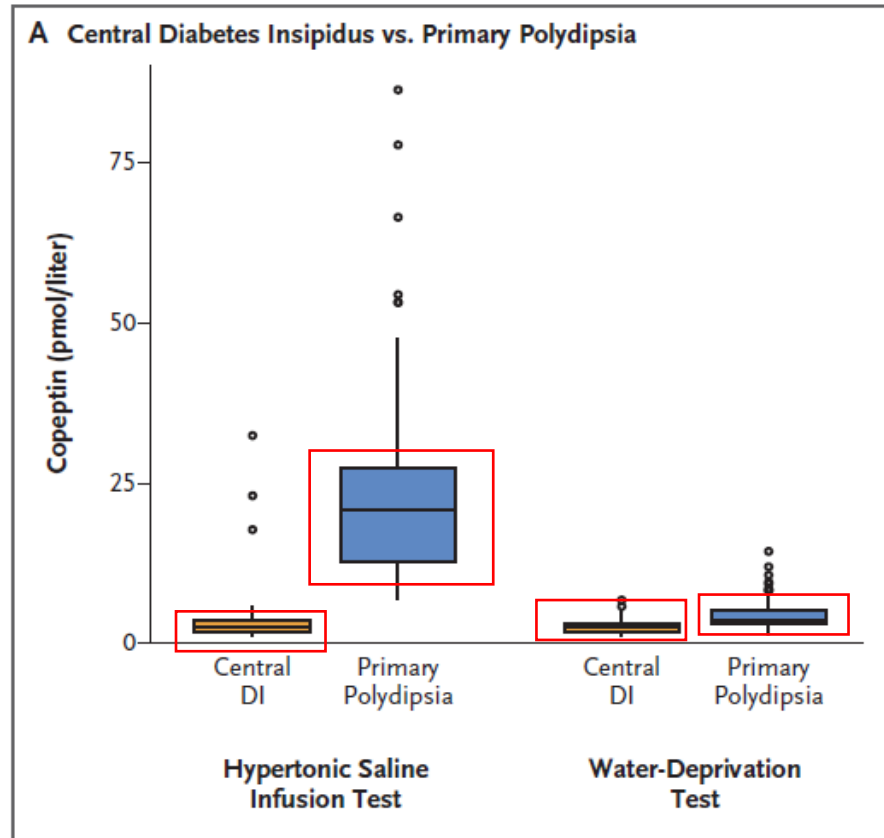


Figure 1: Copeptin concentrations after arginine stimulation in patients with diabetes insipidus (complete and partial) and primary polydipsia, in the pooled patient dataset

# Hypertonic saline better than WDT



Close sodium monitoring and constant surveillance needed due to risk of overstimulation and possible side effects

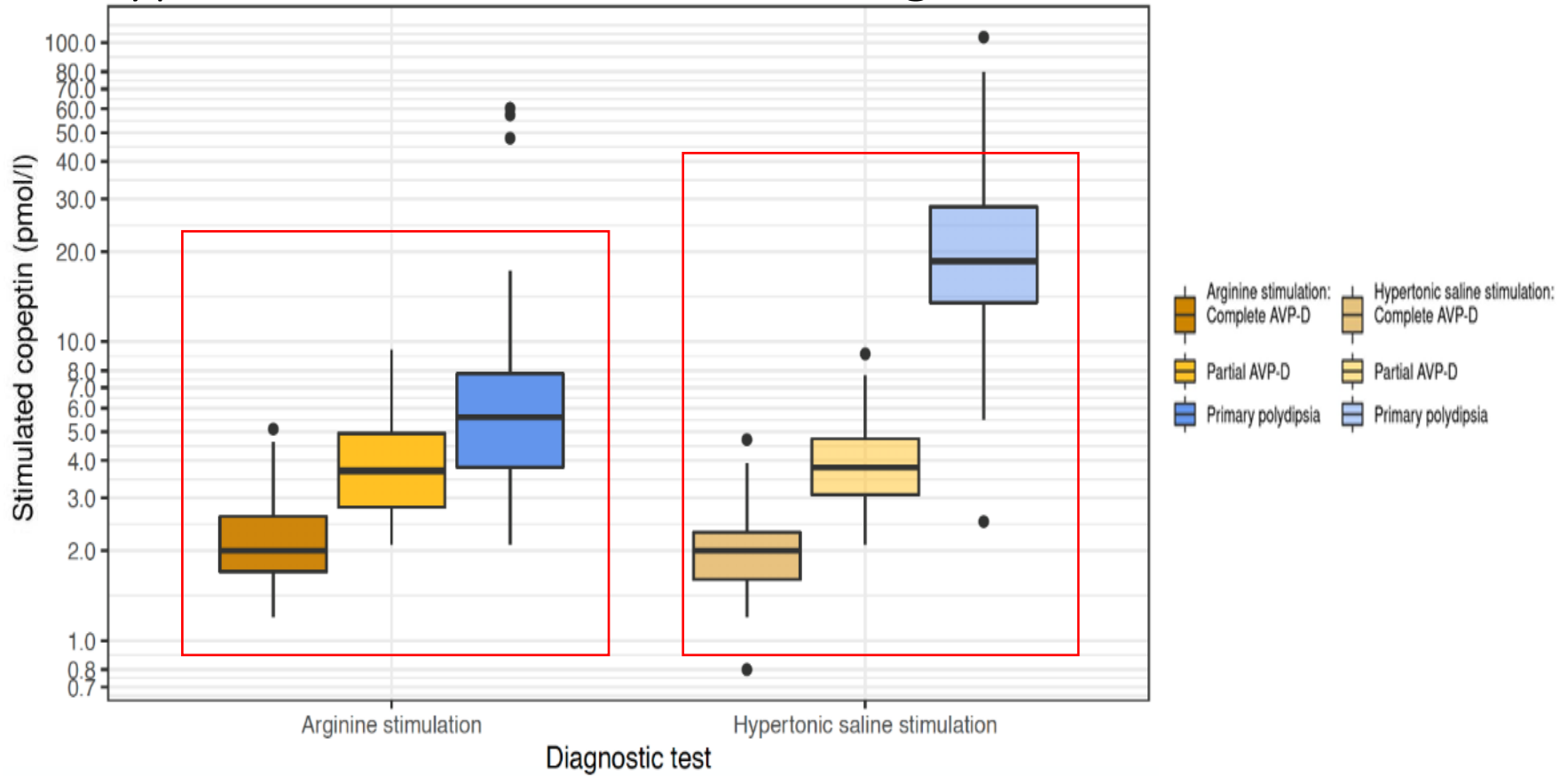
Diagnostic accuracy:

- Hypertonic saline **96.5%**
- Water deprivation test **76.6%**

**Figure 1.** Stimulated Copeptin Levels in Response to the Hypertonic Saline Infusion Test in Patients with Central Diabetes Insipidus and Primary Polydipsia.

Fenske, Refardt et al. NEJM 2018

# Hypertonic saline better than arginine stimulation



**Diagnostic accuracy:**  
**74.4%**

**Diagnostic accuracy:**  
**95.6%**



Preventing catastrophe

# Kane's story

Why this matters for all doctors



Died on his 22<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

**GOOD Health**

The bunion operations that could cripple you



**40 REASONS YOUR DIET IS DOOMED**

Inquest hears of mother's fury at nurses who neglected son

# PATIENT DYING OF THIRST RANG 999

**WOMAN'S FURY**  
A 50-year-old woman who said she was "in a state of shock" after her 11-year-old son died of thirst in hospital has accused nurses of neglecting him. The mother, who is now suing the hospital, said she was told her son had a urinary tract infection and was given antibiotics. She said she was told the boy was "fine" and that she should go home. She said she rang 999 when she returned to the hospital and was told her son was "fine". She said she was told her son was "fine" and that she should go home. She said she rang 999 when she returned to the hospital and was told her son was "fine".



**Airmiles Andy and a huge new travel bill**

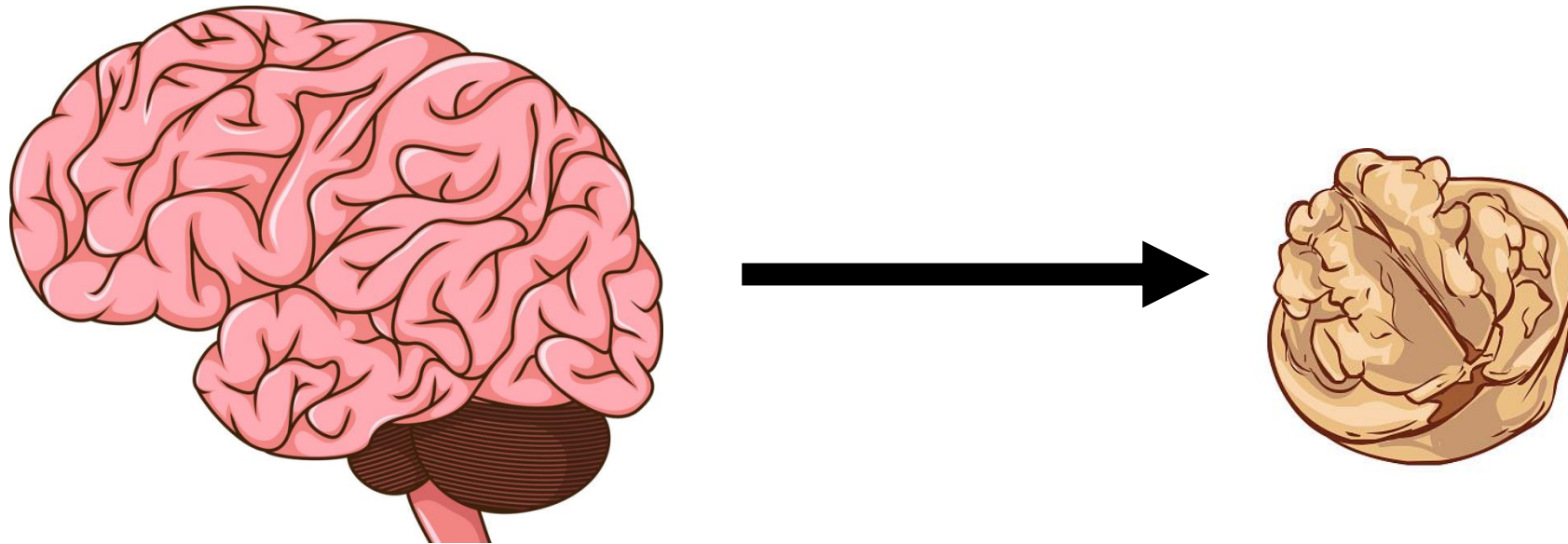
**New Labour is dragged into bank rate scandal**  
The Government has been accused of dragging New Labour into a bank rate scandal. The scandal involves the Bank of England's decision to raise the bank rate to 5.75% in 2003. The Government has been accused of not providing sufficient information to the public about the reasons for the rate increase. The scandal has led to a loss of confidence in the Government and the Bank of England.

# Rita



# The tragedy of this case

- All Kane needed was water and desmopressin
- He was becoming increasingly hypernatraemic



GUIDELINES AND GUIDANCE

SOCIETY FOR ENDOCRINOLOGY CLINICAL GUIDANCE

# Inpatient management of cranial diabetes insipidus

S E Baldeweg<sup>1</sup>, S Ball<sup>2</sup>, A Brooke<sup>3</sup>, H K Gleeson<sup>4</sup>, M J Levy<sup>5</sup>, M Prentice<sup>6</sup> and J Wass<sup>7</sup> on behalf of the Society for Endocrinology Clinical Committee<sup>8</sup>

# Things you can get involved with if you like

- Name change might help
- Animated video roll out
- Social media education
- Life sustaining medication
- NCEPOD hospital audit
- UK AVP-D registry



[miles.j.levy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:miles.j.levy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)



# Overview of talk

- Mechanism of thirst and water regulation
- Reasons for new terminology
- Test drive with cases
- Update on diagnosis
- A terrible story

# The end

Nearly time to go home