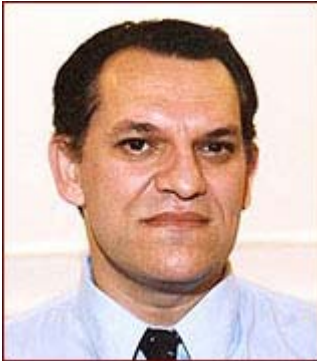


Acromegaly – Brett

ACROMEGALY: Tumour on the Pituitary Gland



In 1997, at the age of 37, I was at work when I started to feel hot with sweat running down my face and soon pain generating down my left arm. As I worked at a medical service I called for a doctor who confirmed that I was having a heart attack. I was looked after at an emergency department and was informed that I had an enlarged heart and if I wanted to could see a cardiologist. As I had recently returned from Asia and had been sick with some sort of virus it was determined that my heart problem was from the virus.

I didn't think much more about this as I was a fit and healthy man. In 1999 I was experiencing severe abdominal pain and was diagnosed with a large tumour on my right femoral nerve, which required having sixteen centimetres of nerve removed.

During this operation the neurologist clinically diagnosis me with a pituitary gland tumour, because of my exaggerated facial features. Sure enough this was confirmed with a MRI scan. The tumour was pressing on the pituitary gland. As the removal of the femoral nerve took a few months to recover from it was about 10 months later that I was operated on, Transphenoidal surgery, for the removal of the pituitary tumour.

The Acromegaly, once diagnosis, was obvious. What I thought was middle age spread, larger fingers & toes, change in shoe size, feeling sluggish and tired, oily skin and an offensive coffee sweat smell were all signs. As I am a health professional, now doctors who I worked with for many years were saying yes it is obvious, we can see the facial changes. Relatives who I had not seen for years had previously commented on how much my looks and slender body features had changed drastically.

I think I was lucky. The entire tumour pressing on the pituitary gland was removed, after initial steroid treatment I required no further treatment and things have remained this way. My attitude to life has changed for the better and I notice more rather my previous fast life style always in a rush to move forward.

The most difficulties I have are coming to terms with the changes to my looks, at times worrying if things will stay calm and I will remain tumour free. I don't dwell on this.

Brett McCann
CEO Impotence Australia

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