

A Great Imagination

It all began in September 2004, when I went to purchase new shoes. I always went to the same shoe store and boy did I get a shock. My feet had changed from size 8.5 to 9.5 6E. I phoned my doctor, and when I told him about the changes in the size of my feet, he then looked back on my other symptoms which I was experiencing, including the size of my hands, sinus, excessive sweating, skin tags, joint pain, fatigue, and high blood pressure. He said “I think I know what is happening, but I would like to do some further blood tests”. The results came back: acromegaly

My doctor referred me to an internal [medicine] specialist, who scheduled an MRI where they found a tumour on my pituitary gland. He said he would be sending me to an endocrinologist. Months were passing and I hadn't heard anything. So I phoned my sister, to get the endocrinologist's number, and to see if my papers had arrived. The answer was no, but that the endocrinologist would see me.

Before that, I remember that my doctor had referred me to a specialist about my symptoms and I remember him saying, “Anyone who experiences that much pain sure has a great imagination”.

The sad thing about this condition is that it is misdiagnosed. I was so lucky to have the great expertise of the endocrinology clinic who were able to make the diagnosis that I had acromegaly.

Clinical Pearls

- The importance of getting blood tests done in a timely fashion cannot be stressed enough.
- Acromegaly not only affects the way you look, but also the way you feel.