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Headaches, Weight Gain and Fatigue May Indicate Pituitary Disease

Despite being told by friends and physicians that her expanding waist was simply a matter of pushing away from the table, Bethany felt something was wrong. Her blood pressure was going up, she had headaches, she barely had enough energy to make it through the day. She had so many subtle complaints, like increased hair on her face, mood changes and a decreasing interest in sex, that she hated bringing them up. Finally, an MRI revealed a tiny tumor of the pituitary, making sense of years of misery.

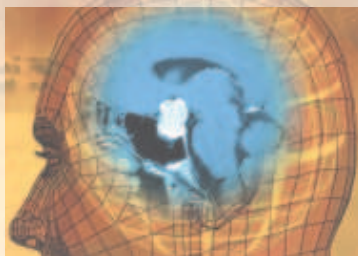
"Most patients with pituitary disease have seen up to six doctors before getting the right diagnosis," explains Edward R. Laws, MD, recognized as the world's most experienced pituitary surgeon and a pioneer in minimally invasive transnasal endoscopic surgery. "The symptoms are very common and often associated with other underlying conditions. As a result, screening for pituitary tumors is not routinely ordered by physicians. But they are much more prevalent than previously thought and potentially very dangerous. As many as 1 in 5 people have some sort of pituitary abnormality. The good news is that it typically responds well to treatment, often without surgery."

Pituitary disease is most typically caused by a tumor that interferes with



Patients can expect expert consultation and individualized care at the Stanford Pituitary Center.

**In the right hands,
treatment for pituitary
disease is hugely
successful...up to an
80% success rate.**



the pituitary gland's ability to regulate seven different hormones. "If you are suspicious, or if an MRI scan reveals anything abnormal around the pituitary gland, insist on an endocrine evaluation that includes blood and urine tests," says Dr. Laws.

World-Class Care of Pituitary Disorders

Dr. Laws recently joined endocrinologist Laurence Katznelson, MD to establish the Pituitary Center at Stanford Hospital & Clinics. This internationally renowned team is credited with breakthroughs in the treatment of complex conditions and the creation of new surgical approaches that are now the gold standard of care for prolactinoma, Cushing's syndrome, acromegaly and other pituitary-related disorders. Drs. Laws and Katznelson are continually at the forefront of new discoveries, and patients are often able to participate in research studies of innovative medical treatments.

The Pituitary Center's multidisciplinary clinic is unique in northern California. The state-of-the-art facility is home to specialists in the areas of endocrinology, neurosurgery, skull

base surgery, radiosurgery and radiation oncology. "We offer a streamlined approach that avoids unnecessary months of waiting and uncertainty for patients," says Dr. Katznelson. "We review any tests and the history of referred patients before they arrive. On the day of their appointment, they can be seen by all of the specialists involved. Labs are on site, so patients will be able to get immediate laboratory results and immediate test results. We consult with the referring physician before and after treatment as long as needed."

The entire team is totally committed to patient outreach, patient support and patient education. "It's not unusual for our patients to have suffered for years before seeing us," says Dr. Laws. "We consult with the referring physician before and after treatment for as long as needed."



Dr. Edward R. Laws (left) and Dr. Laurence Katznelson lead the team of professionals at the Stanford Pituitary Center.



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