Residência RP Pediátrica
Publicação Oficial da Sociedade Brasileira de Pediatria
ISSN-Online: 2236-6814

Submitted on:10/16/2019
Approved on: 10/18/2019

REVIEW

Short stature

Baixa estatura

Isabel Rey Madeira[1]

Short stature is a frequent complaint in pediatric care. However, not every child brought before a physician for that reason truly suffers from short stature. Many do not have a baseline disease causing them to be shorter than average, but are affected by familial short stature, failure to thrive, or developmental delays. Three percent of the general population may be categorized as having short stature based on the age vs. weight reference values used to monitor infant growth. Other cases include children of short stature for their family standards, or individuals growing at a slower pace without being necessarily of short stature.

In the pediatric population, growth failure is an early sign of involvement by a chronic disease. Growth hormone deficiency is a rare cause of short stature. The differential diagnosis of conditions leading to growth failure can be challenging.

Social stereotypes against individuals of short stature often set parents out on a search for a diagnosis and therapy to perfectly normal children from the standpoint of stature. Although the international medical community has largely recognized growth hormone therapy for individuals with idiopathic short stature, treatment indication requires judicious assessment.

In this context, the Growth Hormone Research Society recently published a paper – "Diagnosis, genetics, and therapy of short stature in children: a Growth Hormone Research Society international perspective"[1], after a panel in a workshop which experts discussed matters pertaining to the diagnosis and treatment of children of short stature.

It is a must-read for pediatricians and pediatrics residents looking into current perspectives on when to consider growth hormone deficiency as a cause of short stature and other conditions in which growth hormone therapy might be helpful.

Isabel Rei Madeira

REFERENCES

1. Collett-Solberg PF, Ambler G, Backeljauw PF, Bidlingmaier M, Biller BMK, Boguszewski MCS, et al. Diagnosis, genetics, and therapy of short stature in children: a Growth Hormone Research Society international perspective. Horm Res Paediatr. 2019 Sep;12:1-14. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1159/000502231

[1]Professora adjunta do Departamento de Pediatria da Faculdade de Ciências Médicas da UERJ, coordenadora do Setor de Endocrinologia Pediátrica da Unidade Docente Assistencial de Endocrinologia do HUPE-UERJ. Supervisora do Programa de Residência Médica em Endocrinologia Pediátrica do Hospital Universitário Pedro Ernesto (HUPE) da UERJ, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil

Correspondence to:
Isabel Rey Madeira.
Hospital Universitário Pedro Ernesto - Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. Boulevard 28 de setembro, nº 77, Vila Isabel.
Rio de Janeiro - RJ. Brazil. CEP: 20.551-030. E-mail: isabelreymadeira@gmail.com