

Endocrine System Case Studies

1. An 18-year old male comes to you concerned about his height. His parents are both around 6 feet tall yet he is only 4 foot tall. His proportions are normal; they are all just smaller than would be expected given his family's heights.

Hormone Involved:

Diagnosis:

2. A small 4-year old girl is brought to the clinic by her father. The girl fatigues easily and seems mentally sluggish. You notice a slight swelling in the anterior neck region. The father tells you that their family just moved to the United States from India, where the girl was born.

Hormone Involved:

Diagnosis:

3. A middle-aged woman comes to you complaining of weakness and the inability to get over a cold. She says if she weren't constantly stressed out she would enjoy the "natural" tan she seems to have developed.

Hormone Involved:

Diagnosis:

4. A mother brought her 10-year old son in because he has started to lose weight surprisingly fast even though he is constantly hungry and eating. She also is alarmed at how frequently he has to use the bathroom. His main complaint is that he feels like he is always thirsty and can never drink enough to satisfy his thirst.

Hormone Involved:

Diagnosis:

5. This 30 year old male (pictured to the left) is presented to you with an irritable mood, a nervous disposition, and complaints of difficulty with sleep recently. The patient reports recent weight loss of nearly 20 pounds with an increase in appetite and no change in exercise or diet routine. Upon physical examination of the patient, you have found that he has a large amount of swelling occurring under the chin on his neck.

Hormone Involved:

Diagnosis:



6. Bubba Wise, age 40, comes to the clinic troubled by swelling in his face and unusual fat deposition on his upper back (near the neck) and abdomen. He also says that he bruises easily and when you check his blood pressure it is unusually high.

Hormone Involved:

Diagnosis:

7. You enter the examination room and find a person sitting on the table who has breasts but also a beard. When she speaks, her voice is low like that of a man. After questioning and examining her you find that she anatomically is a woman. She is obviously alarmed and comes looking for an explanation of these new characteristics.

Hormone Involved:

Diagnosis:

8. Mr. Cassius complains of always being thirsty and always having to urinate. This causes him serious problems as a bus driver. He says that his appetite and weight have remained normal and has no other symptoms.

Hormone Involved:

Diagnosis:

9. The patient is presented to you two weeks after surgery for throat cancer. The patient is experiencing constant body shakes. Upon examination you find that the patient's muscles are continuously contracting at low levels. This particular case puzzles you, so you decide to consult your attending physician about the matter. He wants you to order the proper tests and figure out what is causing the problems here.

Hormone Involved:

Diagnosis:

Other Case Study Problems

10. Mrs. Patton has been 3 weeks past her due date to have her first baby. You decide you need to induce labor by giving her an injection of a synthetic form of a natural hormone. What hormone are you going to give her?

11. A married couple comes in distraught that they cannot get pregnant. What hormone(s) would you test for first? Would you test for this hormone in the husband, wife or both? If that came back within normal limits, what other hormones could you test for? Would you test the man or woman for these hormones? What treatment might you be able to offer in each case?