

CHILDREN WITH PRADER–WILLI SYNDROME FREQUENTLY HAVE CENTRAL HYPOTHYROIDISM

Vaiani E, et. al.


establishment of an age-dependent reference range for the thyroid tests. Obviously, TRH testing would have been helpful, but the test is no longer available, although it was used in a limited number of cases reported earlier.

Patients with Prader–Willi syndrome benefit from growth hormone treatment in two ways: the treatment improves final height, but more importantly, it reduces severe obesity. The patients do not have an absence of

growth hormone but only a partial deficiency. In view of the crucial role of thyroid hormones for early brain development, one can only agree with the authors, who raise the question of whether infants with Prader–Willi syndrome who have an abnormal free T_4 /TSH ratio, but normal serum T_3 levels, will benefit from thyroid hormone treatment.

— Albert G. Burger, MD


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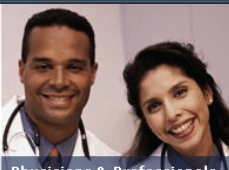
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