The 2020 Digital Learning Journey on Growth Disorders

OVERVIEW

Growth failure is the most common reason for referring children to a secondary or tertiary medical center, and many diseases are known for underlying poor growth throughout all stages of childhood. A science-based approach to managing a correct differential diagnosis is crucial for care providers, saving both time and resources. However, growth disorders due to rare diseases may challenge healthcare professionals, delaying correct diagnostic procedures and therapeutic interventions. Thanks to new medical treatments, the percentage of survivors from childhood neoplastic disease has been increasing, highlighting the issue of long-term complications from their life-saving treatment. This fragile population is more likely than their cancer-free peers to develop severe growth impairment in childhood, due to damage to the GH-IGF1-bone system, directly related to the cancer or side-effects of chemotherapy/radiotherapy. Short stature in adult life is not the only potential consequence for these children. Other problems include impairment of glucose/lipid metabolism, multi-endocrine dysfunction, and bone-muscle system impairment. All these conditions, together or separately, can seriously affect quality of life and psychosocial health in young adulthood and beyond. Much effort has been expended by researchers to gain a better understanding of these mechanism and in finding solutions. Therapy with recombinant human growth hormone (rhGH) is widely available and has been the most important treatment for several growth disorders since 1985. Although medical progress has delivered many significative improvements in growth, reducing long-term complications and improving quality of life in a large cohort of patients, many other growth disorders still lack successful treatments. Pediatricians, and pediatric endocrinologists especially, are of primary importance in the multidisciplinary care of these children and promoting continuing medical education and research. We propose a high-level digital learning journey on growth disorders in children, delivered flexibly to fit within ever busier schedules and work commitments. We strongly believe that telematic tools are essential to provide healthcare providers with continuing medical education with practical implications for patients' lives. In an era of serious world events affecting travel between nations, this collaboration with some of the world's top experts in this field, provides content of the very highest standard directly to your computer.

TARGET AUDIENCE

These e-learning activities are intended for all healthcare providers involved in the care of diseases affecting growth in childhood, including pediatric endocrinologists, scientists, pediatricians involved in chronic disease care and pediatric nurses.

E-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

This Digital learning journey is a structured educational program comprising multiple e-learning resources:

- **Video interview:** New genetic causes of growth disorders - H. Domené (Argentina)
- **Live Webinar:** Investigation and Diagnosis of proportional and non-proportional short stature M. Savage (UK), M. Cappa (Italy)
- **Interactive clinical case:** Role of brain MRI in the diagnosis of growth disorders in childhood
- **Article:** Growth failure in children Small for Gestational Age - C. Giacomozzi (Italy)

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