



ANZSPED

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
SOCIETY FOR PAEDIATRIC
ENDOCRINOLOGY AND DIABETES

Want to know more about
Hypoparathyroidism



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What is hypoparathyroidism?

Hypoparathyroidism occurs when the parathyroid glands don't make enough parathyroid hormone.

What does parathyroid hormone do?

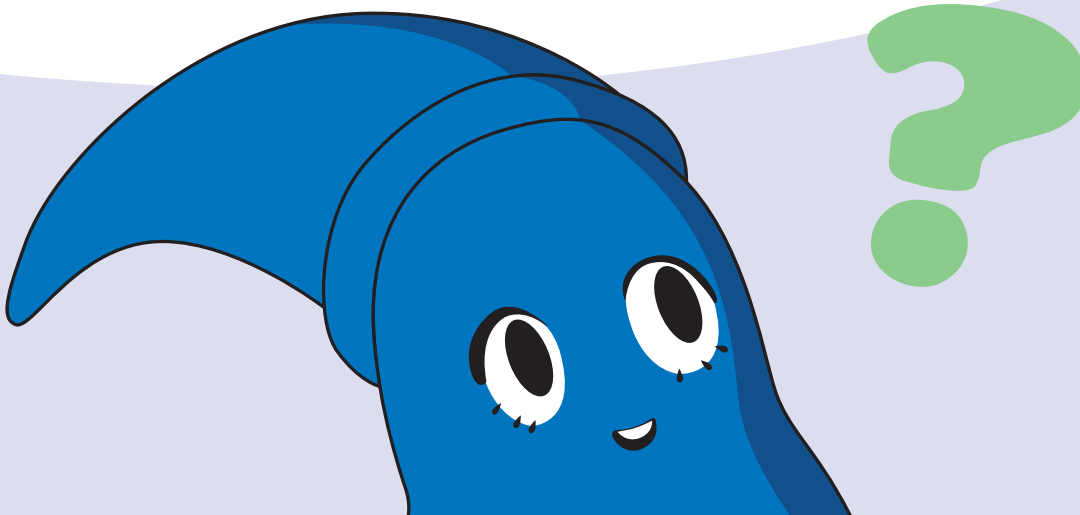
Parathyroid hormone helps keep calcium levels in the bloodstream within a normal range. In hypoparathyroidism, the parathyroid hormone levels are low. This causes low calcium levels while phosphate levels may rise.

What may cause hypoparathyroidism in a child?

Some children are born with hypoparathyroidism. Other causes include autoimmune conditions or accidental removal of the parathyroid glands during surgery to the neck or thyroid gland.

How is hypoparathyroidism diagnosed?

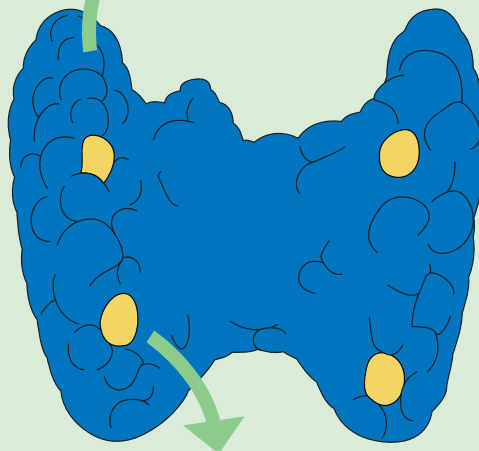
Hypoparathyroidism is diagnosed on blood tests.



Where are the parathyroid glands located?

The parathyroid glands are four very small glands in the lower neck, behind the thyroid gland.

Thyroid gland

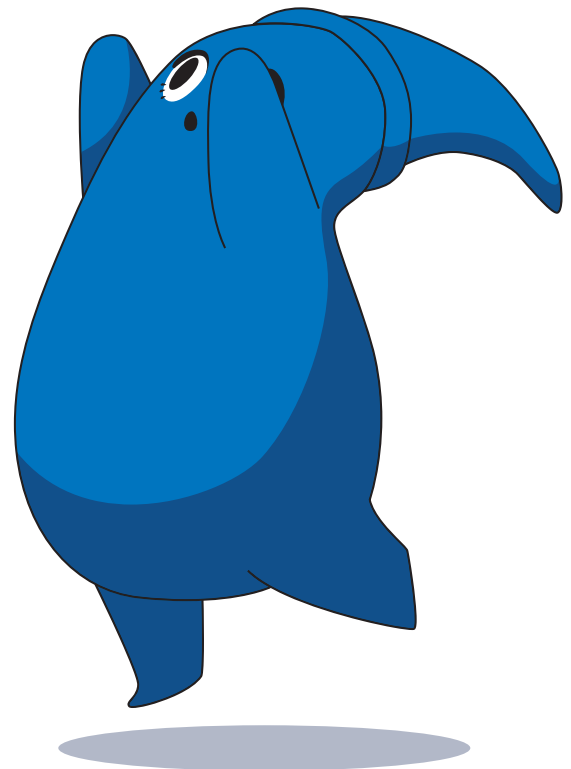


Parathyroid glands

What are the symptoms of hypoparathyroidism?

Symptoms of hypoparathyroidism can be different in each child. Some possible symptoms include:

- 1 Numbness or tingling sensation around the mouth, hands or feet
- 2 Uncontrollable, painful spasms of the face, hands, arms, and feet
- 3 Seizures
- 4 Mood problems
- 5 Dental problems
- 6 Coarse, brittle hair



The symptoms of hypoparathyroidism can also be present in other conditions and so it is important to see your doctor to make this diagnosis.

What treatment is required?

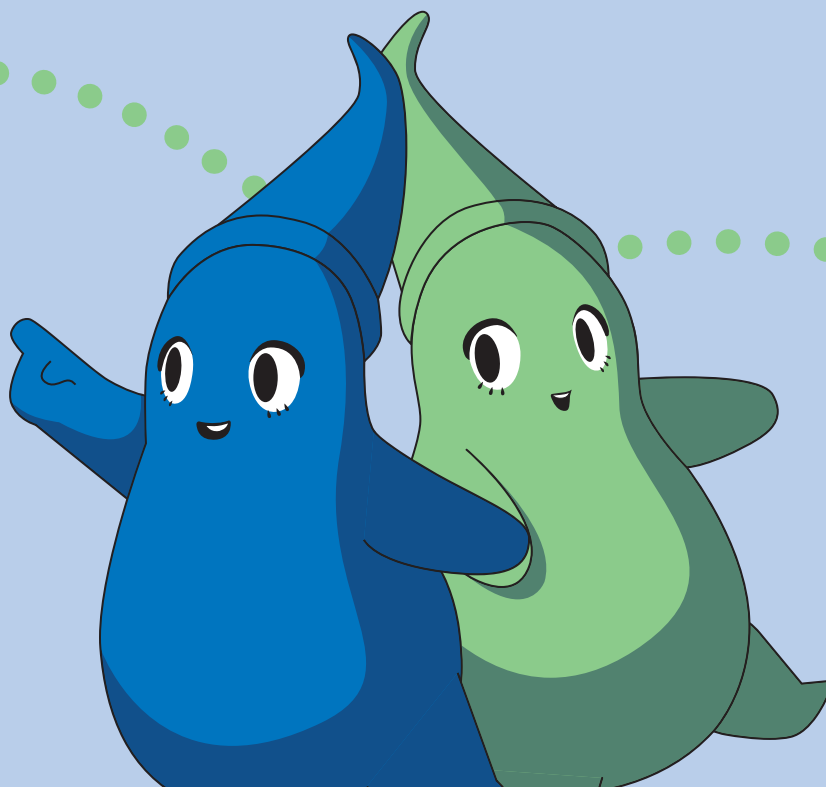
Children with hypoparathyroidism usually require treatment with medications such as Calcium and Vitamin D. Additional medications may also be needed. There may also be dietary recommendations.

What are the complications of this condition?

If untreated, hypoparathyroidism can have effects on nerves, muscles, kidneys and heart, and a child's growth and bone health can be affected.

Disclaimer

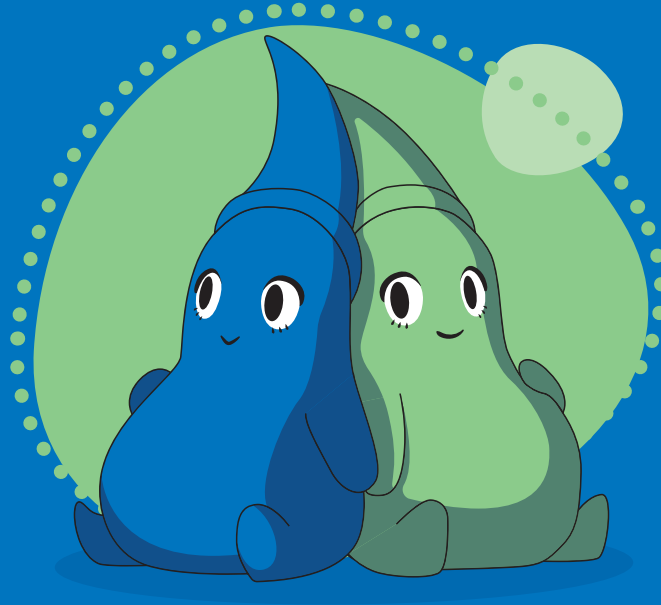
This leaflet has been written by members of ANZSPED. It is designed to give you some general information about your child's condition and treatment. If you have any questions about your child's condition and treatment, it is best to speak to your child's doctor or specialist nurse.





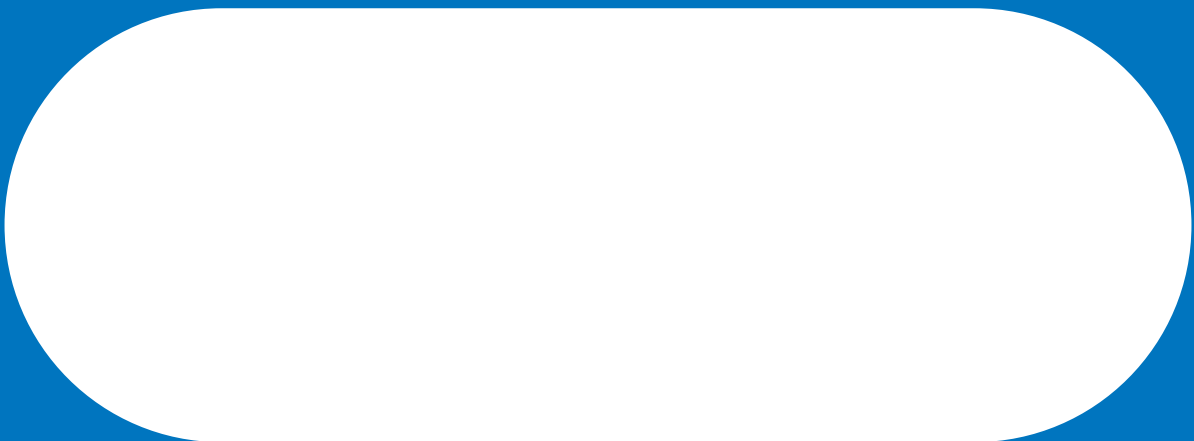
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Remember

**Close review with your child's medical team is essential to
guide treatment and to help prevent complications.**



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