



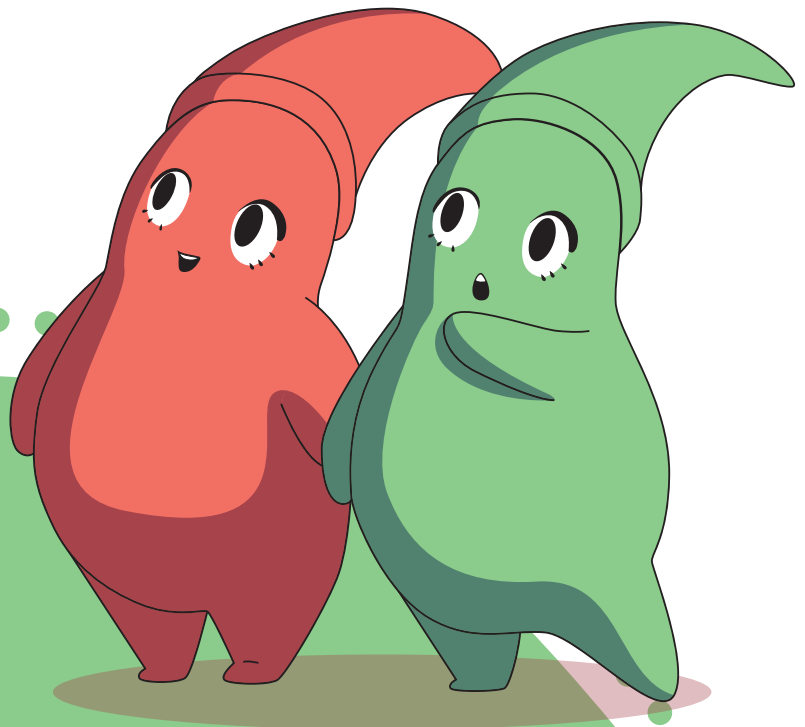
**ANZSPED**

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND  
SOCIETY FOR PAEDIATRIC  
ENDOCRINOLOGY AND DIABETES

Want to know more about

# Hypopituitarism

(Multiple Pituitary Hormone Deficiency)



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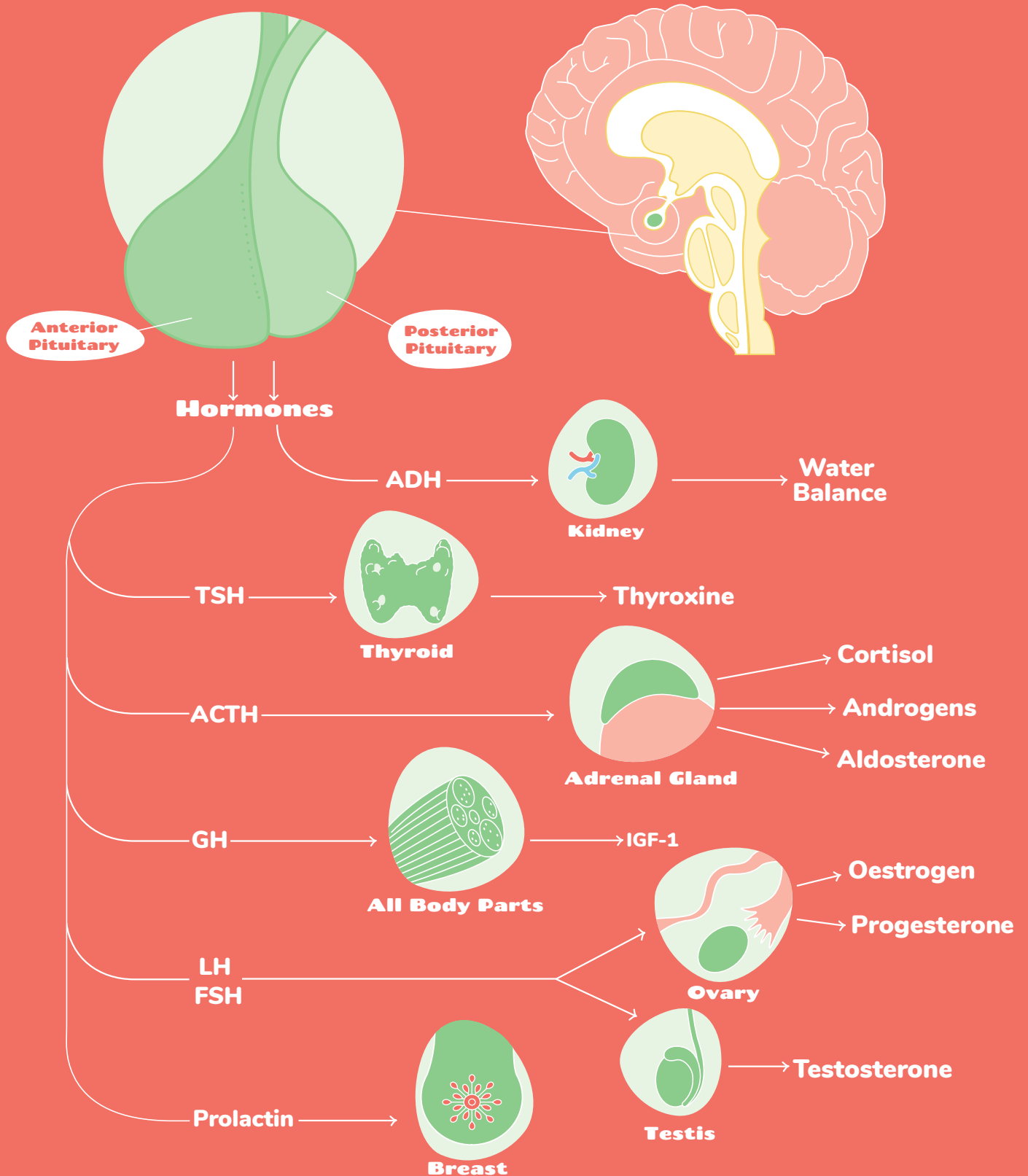
## What is hypopituitarism?

**The pituitary gland** is a small gland located in the brain that makes hormones needed for normal growth and development in children.

**Hypopituitarism**, also known as Multiple Pituitary Hormone Deficiency, is a condition where the pituitary gland does not produce enough hormones. Hormones are chemical messengers that help different organs in the body work properly. If a child does not have enough of some of these hormones, it can be life-threatening.



# Pituitary Gland



## What causes hypopituitarism?

**There are different reasons why children can develop hypopituitarism.**

Hypopituitarism can be caused by:

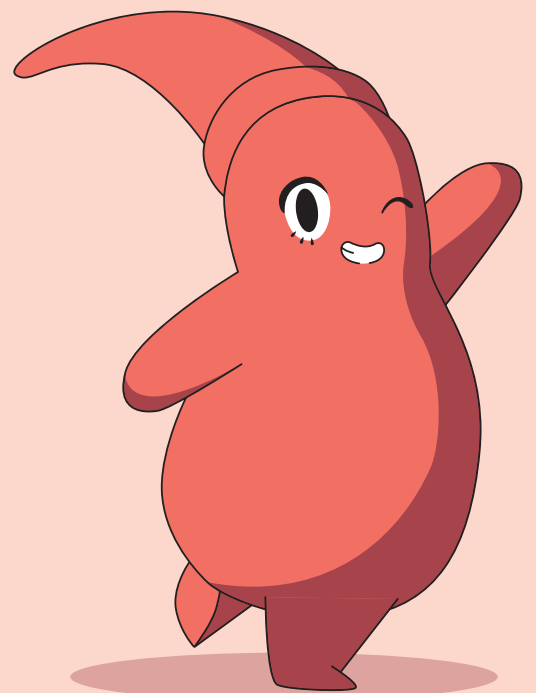
- Incomplete development of the pituitary gland before birth
- Genetic causes
- Head injury
- Brain tumours or treatment for brain tumours

## How does hypopituitarism affect a child?

**The hormones produced by the pituitary gland include:**

- Growth hormone, which is needed for growth in childhood,
- Thyroid stimulating hormone, which controls the rate of metabolism,
- Adrenocorticotrophic hormone, which stimulates the adrenal glands to produce cortisol, and
- Gonadotrophins, which are needed for physical development during puberty.

The posterior pituitary gland produces antidiuretic hormone, which is needed to maintain the body's water balance.



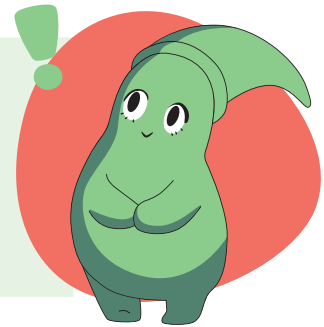


## How is it treated?

To treat hypopituitarism, doctors will determine which hormones the child is not able to make and prescribe replacement hormones.

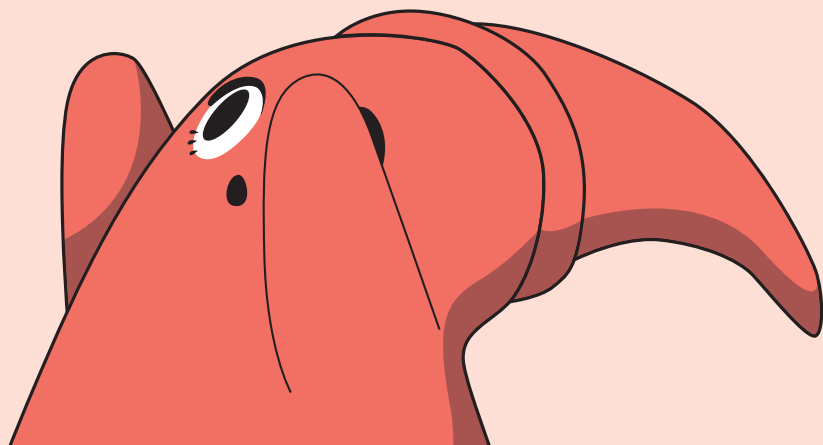
These synthetic hormones will need to be taken for the rest of the child's life. Treatment is important because the hormones produced by the pituitary gland are essential for good health and normal growth and development. Your child's doctor or nurse will be able to talk about this in more detail with you.

**Suggested sites for further information:**  
[pituitary.asn.au](http://pituitary.asn.au)



### Disclaimer

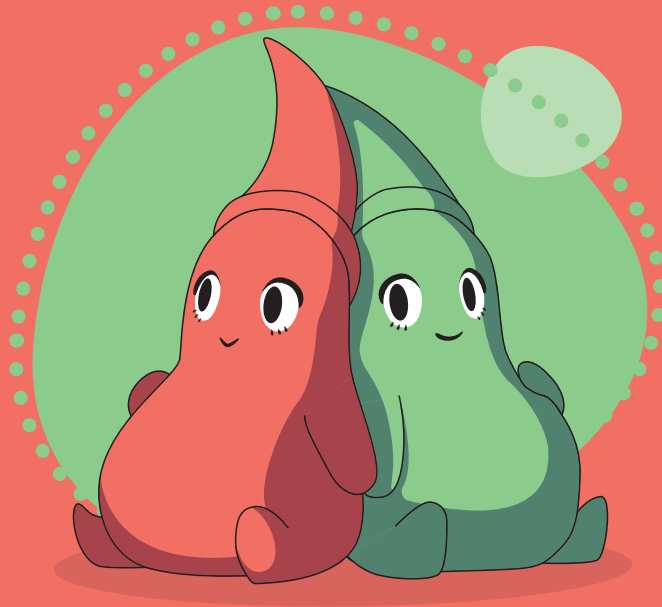
This leaflet has been written by members of ANZSPED. It is designed to give you some general information about your child's condition and treatment. If you have any questions about your child's condition and treatment, it is best to speak to your child's doctor or specialist nurse.





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## **Remember**

**Regular medication is important for your  
child's growth and development and close review  
by your child's medical team is essential.**

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