Soto's Syndrome

Soto's syndrome is a rare genetic disorder. It causes excessive physical growth during the first 2 to 3 years of life. Most cases of Soto's syndrome occur sporadically. But familial cases have also been reported.

SYMPTOMS

Children with Soto's syndrome tend to be large at birth. They are often taller, heavier, and have larger heads (*macrocrania*) than is normal for their age.

Symptoms of the disorder vary among individuals. They include:

- Large and long head with a slightly protrusive forehead.
- Large hands and feet.
- Large distance between the eyes (*hypertelorism*).
- Downslanting eyes.
- Clumsiness.
- Awkward gait.
- Unusual aggressiveness or irritability.

These conditions may go along with the disorder:

- Mild mental retardation.
- Delayed motor, cognitive, and social development.
- Low muscle tone (*hypotonia*).
- Speech impairments.

TREATMENT

There is no standard course of treatment for this syndrome. Treatment is symptomatic.

Soto's syndrome is not a life-threatening disorder. Patients may have a normal life expectancy. The initial abnormalities of Soto's syndrome usually resolve as the growth rate becomes normal. This happens after the first few years of life. Developmental delays may improve in the school-age years. But coordination problems may last into adulthood.

RESEARCH BEING DONE

The NINDS supports and conducts a wide range of studies. These focus on identifying and learning more about the genes involved in normal brain development. The knowledge gained from these studies provides the basis for understanding how this process can go awry. It may eventually give clues to understanding disorders such as Soto's syndrome.

Research is continually being done to learn more about this problem.

Provided by: The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Document Released: 12/18/2006 Document Re-Released: 03/16/2010

ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.