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Endocrine functions during cardiac surgery in hypo-
thermia.

Hyperglycemia and hypocalcemia frequently complicate open heart surgery (OHS) in hypothermia (HOTH). We have studied 21 children (6 wks-6yrs) before, during, and after OHS in HOTH and determined serum glucose (G), insulin (IN), growth hormone (GH), calcium (Ca), calcitonin (CT), and thyroid hormone concentrations:

	Baseline	Cooling	Arrest	Re- Warming	Normo- thermia	1 hour off pump
Temp., °C	37°	23°	15°	23°	37°	37°
G(mg/dl)	120	165	185	265	180	175
IN(uU/ml)	18	20	15	18	57	25
GH(ng/ml)	10	22	21	45	65	5
Ca(mg/dl)	9.1	8.3	7.0	7.8	10.0	10.5
CT(pg/ml)	21	15	18	25	17	18

IN conc. were suppressed during HOTH with an attendant increase in serum G. IN rebounded rapidly but transiently during rewarming. Ca declined during HOTH and increased only after Ca infusion during rewarming. CT showed no variation with changing body temp. GH increased with HOTH and during post-arrest rewarming, but returned to normal within one hour of surgery. RIA-T₄ and T₃ decreased markedly with HOTH, partly because of diminished TBG binding. TSH showed a decrease rather than the expected increase with cooling. CONCLUSION: OHS in HOTH is associated with profound endocrine changes. Their understanding is essential to improvement of management and surgical outcome.

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Thyroid function in cystic fibrosis (CF) patients compared with healthy Israeli children.

In order to investigate whether the thyroid gland, an organ of endodermal origin, is affected in CF, thyroid metabolism was investigated in CF patients ranging in age from 1 to 20 years.

Serum T₄, T₃, TSH, rT₃ conc. as well as T₃ in vitro uptake % were compared to the values elicited in a large group of healthy Israeli children in the same age range.

The mean serum T₄ conc. in CF patients (n=24) was $8.7 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{g/dl}$ (mean-SEM), and thus was not different from the mean of 8.8 ± 0.1 in the normals (n=261). Serum T₃ conc. were $170 \pm 7 \text{ ng/dl}$ compared to 166 ± 2 (n=213). The mean serum TSH (n=21) of $5.0 \pm 0.5 \mu\text{U/ml}$ and the mean T₃ U₆ (n=12) of 25 ± 0.9 were not different from the normals. However, the mean rT₃ conc. of $44 \pm 8.6 \text{ ng/dl}$ (n=12) was significantly (p<0.005) higher than the mean of 17 ± 2.3 (n=20) in the normal children. There was no correlation between the percentile for weight or the severity of the disease as represented by the Shwachman score and the thyroid function.

Conclusion: There is apparently no disturbance of the hypothalamo-pituitary-thyroid axis nor in the thyroid binding in the serum of CF patients. The peripheral conversion of T₄ to T₃ is normal. The increase in rT₃ conc. in CF patients suggests that this is not due to malnutrition alone and might be due to chronic hypoxia.

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Cortisol concentrations in prematures and fullterm newborns.

Our recently developed method for the RIA of cortisol in heel-riek blood spots collected on filter paper enabled us to determine cortisol concentrations in premature (PM) and fullterm (FT) newborns.

Cortisol conc. ($\mu\text{g/dl}$) in PM 30' and 60' after birth were (mean \pm SEM, n): 21.7 ± 2.7 (8), 22.5 ± 3.8 (8), respectively and declined to 12.7 ± 1.5 (10) at 24 hours. At the age of 2 months, the levels were 8.0 ± 0.4 (9). In FT, cortisol conc. at 3, 6, 12, 20, 24, 45 and 72 hours were: 11.2 ± 1.5 (5), 11.1 ± 2.6 (5), 12.5 ± 1.4 (4), 12.6 ± 2.8 (5), 10.4 ± 1.7 (14), 10.8 ± 1.2 (8) and 8.2 ± 0.8 (7).

The data suggest that: 1. The PM group responds to birth with increased cortisol conc. which declined 24 hours later; 2. In the FT group, cortisol conc. at 3 hours are already as low as in the PM group at 24 hours; 3. No change in cortisol conc. occurs from 3 hours to 2 days postnatally in the FT group.

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Transient hypothyroidism in children with chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis.

Transient hypothyroidism was observed in 5 children aged 6 to 14 years with chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis. In two cases, all thyroid function tests showed definite hypothyroid status and returned to normal range within a few months. The titer of thyroid autoantibodies did not change in these periods. In another two cases, the blood thyroid hormone levels were found to be lowest at the first examination and became normal within one or two months. In one more case, thyroid function tests were found to be hypothyroid range at 9 years of age during the course of the disease from 3 years of age and she was supplemented with desiccated thyroid only for six months. Thereafter she has remained in euthyroid status. It is suggested that transient hypothyroidism might be a common finding in girls suffering from chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis. The pathogenesis remains obscure.

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The Late Effects of Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT) on Thyroid Function

Thyroid function studies were followed prospectively in 25 patients, all long-term (>1 year) survivors of BMT. There were 13 males and 12 females, ages 0.9-22.5 years (mean 11.7). 21 of 25 patients received 750 R either total body (10) or total lymphoid (11) irradiation as a single dose plus cyclophosphamide as prep for BMT. 10/21 irradiated patients had received additional chemotherapy prior to BMT. 4 patients received only chemotherapy and no irradiation as prep for BMT. Thyroid function was normal pre-BMT in 11/11. Duration of follow-up ranged from 0.75-4.5 years (mean 2.0 years). 8 of 21 (38%) irradiated patients developed biochemical evidence of thyroid failure, 6-20 (mean 13.2) mos after BMT; 7 had elevated TSH (>6 $\mu\text{U/ml}$) with normal T₄ index (5-10.5) and 1 had elevated TSH (30 $\mu\text{U/ml}$) combined with a low T₄ index (3.8). Among the 7 patients with only an elevated TSH, 4 have had subsequent TSH values in the normal range during an 8-33 mos period, whereas 3 have had persistently elevated values. Thyroid function abnormalities did not correlate with age when irradiated, type of radiation or previous chemotherapy. Thyroid studies have remained normal in the 4 patients treated with chemotherapy alone. These results indicate the need for careful monitoring of thyroid function after single dose radiation for BMT. Since some abnormalities appear to be transient, replacement therapy may not be indicated in these individuals.

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Detection of nocturnal hypoglycemia in children with Typ I diabetes mellitus.

Nocturnal hypoglycemia occur in most diabetic children but only a small part of the children show severe symptoms as seizures and unconsciousness. Hypoglycemia is a potent stimulus for the hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis resulting in a rise of plasma cortisol. MOORE was the first to report that a raised early morning urinary cortisol/creatinine ratio of 55×10^{-6} may therefore indicate nocturnal hypoglycemia in adult diabetics.

In 23 diabetic children the cortisol/creatinine ratio was determined in 1.) early morning urine samples and 2.) overnight urine samples without early morning urine voidings.

The cortisol/creatinine ratio in early morning urine did not differ in children with and without nocturnal hypoglycemia ($33 + 10 \times 10^{-6}$ vs $35 + 12 \times 10^{-6}$). Whereas the cortisol/creatinine ratio in overnight urine samples was significantly higher in children with nocturnal hypoglycemia compared to euglycemic children ($5 + 2 \times 10^{-6}$ vs $31 + 10 \times 10^{-6}$ p<0.01).

Our results suggest that the cortisol/creatinine ratio in early morning urine is mainly influenced by the diurnal variation of cortisol secretion whereas in overnight urine sampling the cortisol/creatinine ratio can serve as an indicator for nocturnal hypoglycemia.