

Society for Endocrinology



Ms Christine Wrightson

25 January 2011

Dear Ms Wrightson

Thank you very much for your enquiry dated 7 January 2011 concerning the diagnosis of hypopituitarism. We are very sorry to hear about the difficulties you faced in receiving a correct diagnosis for your condition. I'm glad to hear that you are now receiving the correct treatment and hope that your health continues to improve.

Thank you for raising the important issue of diagnosis of hypopituitarism to us. I forwarded your enquiry to our Clinical Committee and they agree with your analysis of the situation that if a patient receives the short synacthen test and the results come back as in the normal range, but the patient still exhibits clinical symptoms characteristic of adrenal insufficiency, then further testing to rule out hypopituitarism should be arranged for that patient.

The Society for Endocrinology is committed to promoting patient care. Our role is to represent clinicians, scientists and nurses who work on hormones. As such, we aim to support these professionals in carrying out their jobs by providing a number of services. These include publishing journals on hormone research, organising meetings and training events, providing a voice for endocrinologists and providing information to the public on all aspects of endocrinology.

We are aware of the issues that surround the diagnosis of hypopituitarism and the current lag time to diagnosis experienced by many patients. We are currently carrying out a number of initiatives to try to improve this situation and provide more information to both our members and the wider public about this.

1. We run an annual training course called Clinical Update for trainee doctors and new consultants in endocrinology. This course provides them with training on the national curriculum in endocrinology and prepares the doctors to sit their exams in this speciality. One of the key areas covered by this training course is the diagnosis and treatment of pituitary disorders, including hypopituitarism.

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