DDAVP in diabetes insipidus

Sir,
Recent reports have indicated that 1-deamino-8-D-arginine vasopressin (DDAVP) is an effective antidiuretic agent in children (Nash, 1973; Kauli and Laron, 1974) and adults (e.g. Ward and Fraser, 1974) with diabetes insipidus. I have used this preparation, supplied by Dr. Jan Mulder of Ferring Pharmaceuticals, in 4 patients whose diabetes insipidus could not be controlled adequately by lysine vasopressin spray. Details are given in the Table. All the patients echo the enthusiasm of others about its effectiveness and freedom from side effects.

After it had been used regularly in a dose of 0.1 ml twice daily for 6 to 18 months a number of investigations were done: full blood count, liver function tests, serum transaminases and electrolytes, plasma protein, and urine analysis. These were normal in all the patients.

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REFERENCES

11 pairs of ribs in E-trisomy

Sir,
The ribs in E-trisomy have been described as being thin and hypoplastic (James et al., 1969), but so far no abnormality in the number of ribs has been documented. This is in contrast to Down's syndrome or trisomy 21 where the presence of 11 pairs of ribs is a recognized feature (Beber, Litt, and Altman, 1966).

We examined the chest x-rays of 11 cases of E-trisomy admitted to the Neonatal Unit of the Kandang Kerbau Hospital, Singapore, specifically for the presence of abnormality in the number of ribs. It was found that in 6 cases, i.e. 54%, there were only 11 pairs of ribs present.

We therefore suggest that the presence of 11 pairs of ribs is a common feature in E-trisomy.

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REFERENCE


TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age (yr)</th>
<th>Cause of diabetes insipidus</th>
<th>Previous treatment</th>
<th>Mean 24-h urine output (72-h collection) (in ml)</th>
<th>Date DDAVP started</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Daily pitressin tannate in oil (72-h collection) (in ml)</td>
<td>On previous treatment</td>
<td>On DDAVP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pineal teratoma</td>
<td>Daily pitressin tannate in oil</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Craniopharyngioma</td>
<td>Lysine vasopressin spray</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Neurofibromatosis</td>
<td>Lysine vasopressin spray</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Craniopharyngioma</td>
<td>Lysine vasopressin spray + chlorpropamide</td>
<td>4500</td>
<td>1050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letter DDAVP in diabetes insipidus.

J M Parkin

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