

DDAVP in diabetes insipidus

Sir,

Recent reports have indicated that 1-deamino-8-D-arginine vasopressin (DDAVP) is an effective anti-diuretic 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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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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TABLE

Sex	Age (yr)	Cause of diabetes insipidus	Previous treatment	Mean 24-h urine output (72-h collection) (in ml)		Date DDAVP started
				On previous treatment	On DDAVP	
F	17	Pineal teratoma	Daily pitressin tannate in oil	700	1 000	Dec 1972
M	20	Craniopharyngioma	Lysine vasopressin spray	3 000	1 900	Jan 1973
M	19	Neurofibromatosis	Lysine vasopressin spray + chlorpropamide	3 000	2 500	Dec 1972
F	13	Craniopharyngioma	Lysine vasopressin spray	4 500	1 050	Sept 1973