



ANZSPED

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
SOCIETY FOR PAEDIATRIC
ENDOCRINOLOGY AND DIABETES

Want to know more about

Tall stature

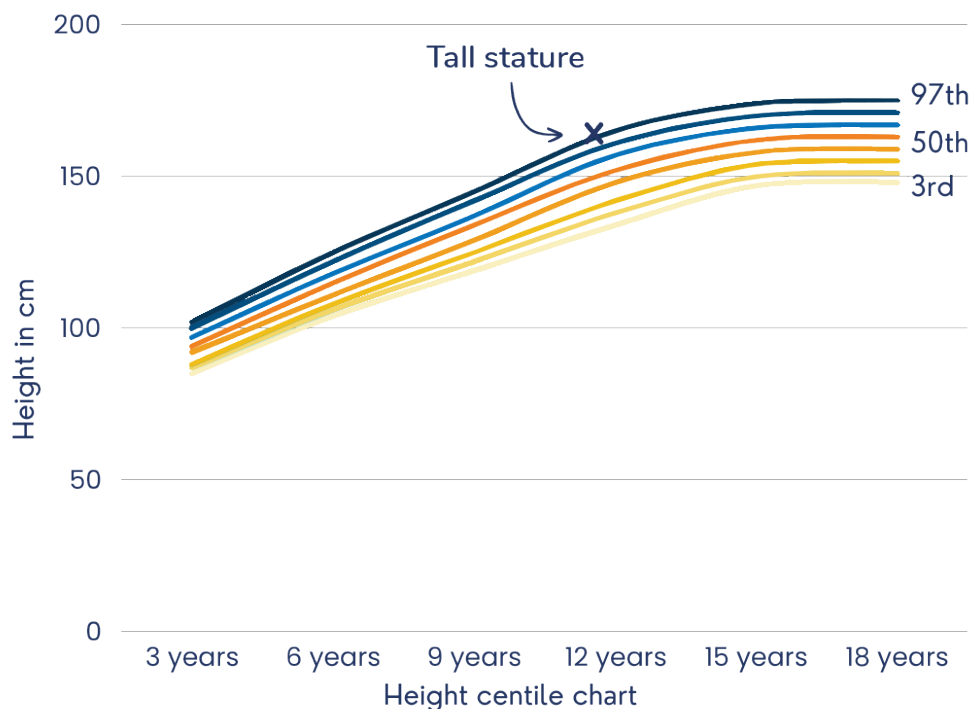


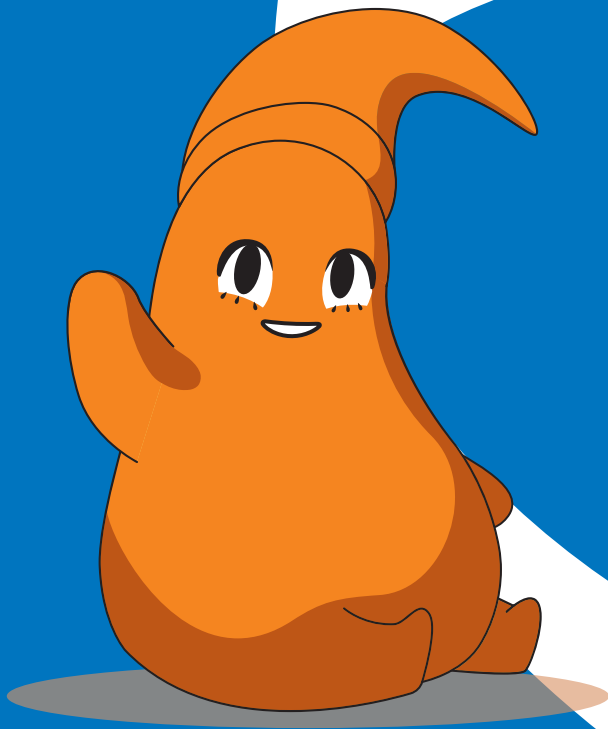
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What is tall stature?

Tall stature refers to a height more than the 97th percentile on a growth chart, based on the child's age and sex. Tall stature is not a problem in itself but sometimes may be associated with other medical conditions. A child's height is always considered with their weight, parental heights and whether they have any other medical issues.





Causes of tall stature

The most common cause of tall stature is due to tall parents (familial tall stature) and is not a medical problem. However, some children may be tall because of:

- Hormonal or 'endocrine' conditions such as high thyroid hormone levels or early puberty.
- Overweight or obesity.
- Genetic conditions.
- Rarely: a tumour in the pituitary gland making too much growth hormone.

Investigations

Your doctor may examine your child to look for conditions that can affect growth. Depending on what they find, your doctor may ask for your child to have blood tests and a bone age (x-ray of the wrist and hand). Watching growth rate over 6-12 months may be all that is required.



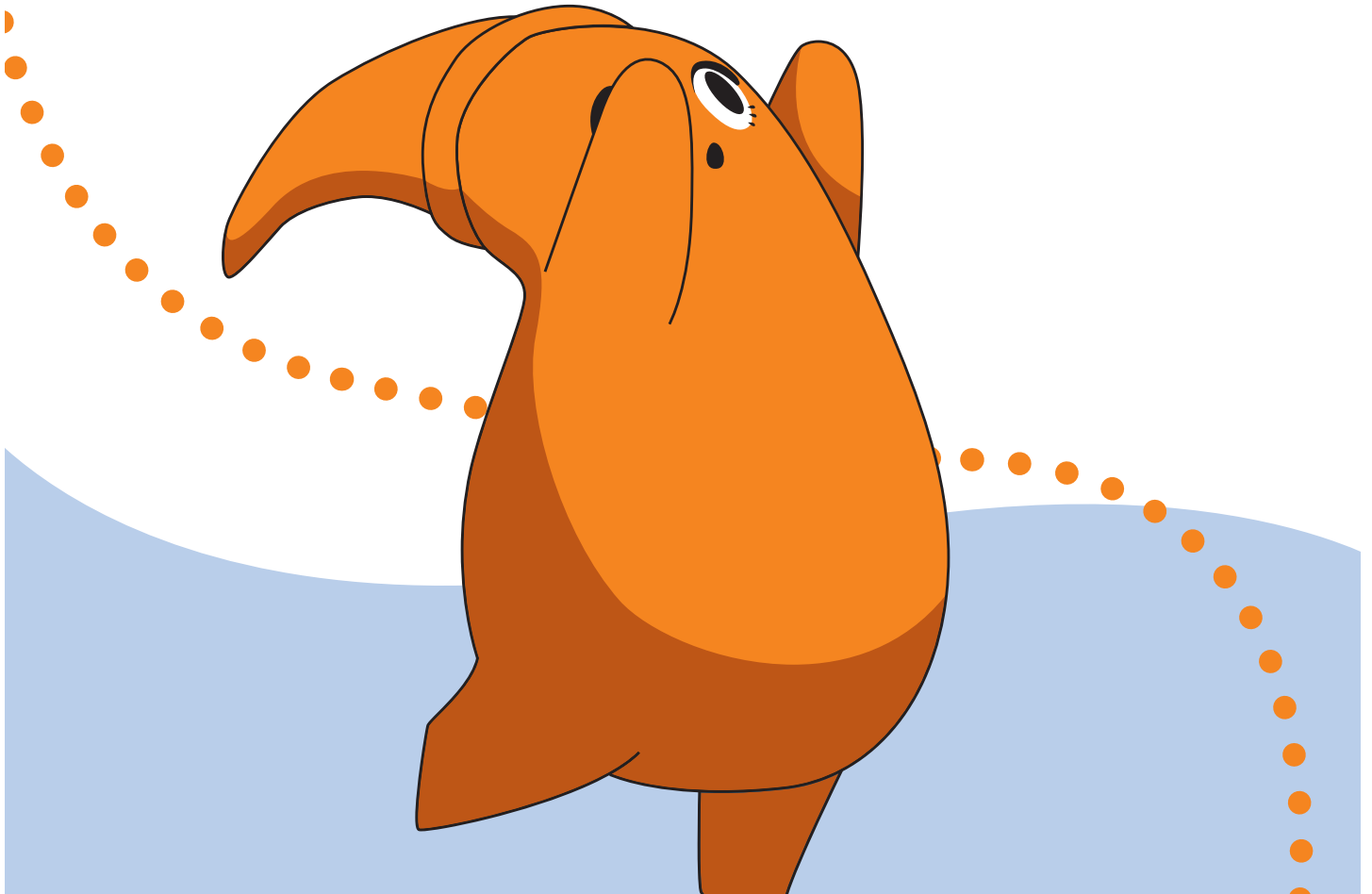
Treatment

Children who have familial tall stature and no other medical conditions do not need treatment.

If the tall stature is because of a medical condition, then your child may require treatment for that underlying condition. For example, if the cause is early puberty, then your child may need treatment to delay or slow down puberty. Your doctor or nurse will be able to talk to you about any treatment required in more detail.

Disclaimer

This leaflet has been written by members of ANZSPED. It is designed to give you some general information about your child's condition and treatment. If you have any questions about your child's condition and treatment, it is best to speak to your child's doctor or specialist nurse.





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Remember

Most children who are tall do not have a medical problem. Monitoring your child's height and weight regularly with your doctor or nurse is important. Speaking to your medical team about other concerns you might have about your child can help pick up any medical reasons for tall stature.

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