

Iatrogenic cushing's syndrome described in 9-year-old girl

January 20 2017



(HealthDay)—In a case report published online Jan. 19 in *Pediatrics*,

iatrogenic Cushing's syndrome (CS) is described in a 9-year-old girl who received topical ocular glucocorticoid (GC) treatment for bilateral iridocyclitis.

Daisuke Fukuhara, M.D., Ph.D., from the Kyorin University School of Medicine in Mitaka, Japan, and colleagues present the case of a 9-year-old girl suffering from idiopathic uveitis. She arrived at the ophthalmology department with a complaint of painful eyes, and was diagnosed with bilateral iridocyclitis and started on betamethasone sodium phosphate eye drop [treatment](#).

The authors note that the patient was referred to the pediatric department with stunted growth, truncal obesity, purple skin striae, buffalo hump, and moon face six months after initiation of topical ocular GC treatment. She was diagnosed with iatrogenic CS as her serum cortisol and plasma adrenocorticotrophic hormone levels were undetectable. The clinical symptoms of CS were improved after the doses of topical ocular GC were reduced. On genetic analysis, the patient was found to have a single heterozygous nucleotide substitution in the 3' untranslated region of the *NR3C1* gene.

"However, additional investigations are required to determine if our findings can be extrapolated to other patients," the authors write. "In conclusion, clinicians should be aware that even extremely low doses of topical ocular steroid therapy can cause iatrogenic CS."

More information: [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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Citation: Iatrogenic cushing's syndrome described in 9-year-old girl (2017, January 20) retrieved

5 May 2024 from

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