LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of this chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Understand the physiology of the human pituitary gland and the primary functions of anterior and posterior pituitary hormones.
2. Explain the underlying pathophysiology of acromegaly and describe the typical clinical features of acromegalic patients.
3. Discuss the role of drug therapy, transsphenoidal surgery, and radiation therapy for patients diagnosed with acromegaly.
4. Design an appropriate pharmacologic treatment plan for an acromegalic patient based on patient-specific factors.
5. Formulate appropriate patient-counseling information to be provided to an acromegalic patient receiving somatostatin analog therapy.
6. Describe the typical clinical features of patients with growth-hormone–deficient short stature.
8. Propose an appropriate monitoring plan for a patient given recombinant human growth hormone.
9. Discuss the different etiologies of persistent elevated serum prolactin, and describe the typical clinical features of patients diagnosed with hyperprolactinemia.
10. List common pharmacologic agents that can potentially induce hyperprolactinemia.
11. Describe the role of clinical observation, drug therapy, transsphenoidal surgery, and radiation therapy in the management of prolactinoma.
12. Discuss clinically important differences between dopamine agonists used in the management of prolactinoma.
14. Describe the pharmacologic treatment of panhypopituitarism.