

Issue

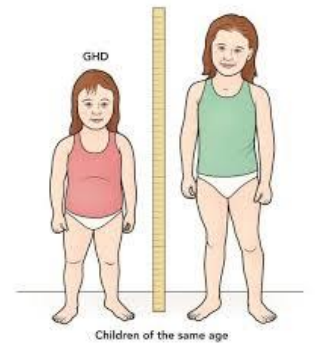
Since the approval of the restricted use of synthetic hGH, concerns have arisen about its use and potential abuse. Health Canada has approved extremely limited use of the hormone, which is very expensive (\$25 000 or more per year) and is associated with several negative health effects. Should Health Canada approve the widespread use of synthetic hGH for Canadians?



Gathering Data and Information

Issue 1

Until recently, the use of synthetic hGH was approved only for those children who had malfunctioning pituitary glands and could not produce adequate amounts of the hormone themselves. Recently, the use of synthetic hGH has been approved for children who are genetically of short stature. Should people have the option to take synthetic hGH just to increase their genetically predetermined height?



Issue 2

In adults, the production of natural hGH declines with age. This makes it increasingly difficult to reduce one's body fat as one ages. Given that obesity has reached epidemic levels in the North American population, and one of the functions of hGH in the body is to reduce cellular fat, should synthetic hGH be approved as a diet treatment for obesity?



Issue 3

Because one of the functions of hGH in the body is to build lean muscle mass, its use has become widespread among various athletes. In fact, many athletes at the 1996 summer Olympic games in Atlanta, Georgia, referred to the event as the "hGH Games." Despite its expense, many athletes from baseball players to weightlifters are acquiring synthetic hGH because it is difficult for drug testers to detect. Should competitive athletes be allowed legal access to synthetic hGH?



Organizing Findings

1.) Use google: What are some side effects of hGH use?

Opinions and Recommendations

2.) Suppose Health Canada is re-evaluating its regulations for the use of synthetic hGH and is asking for input on the matter. What are two questions that Health Canada should investigate before changing its regulations on the use of synthetic hGH?

3.) Why might parents want synthetic hGH for their children? What should parents be aware of before deciding to obtain hGH for their children?

4.) Should elderly people be allowed to use hGH to increase their bodies ability to burn fat?

5.) Should athletes be allowed to use synthetic hGH? Why or why not?

6.) Should health insurance cover the use of synthetic hGH, and if so, in which circumstances?
