

Growth Surveillance and Linear Growth Failure

Growth Assessment Flow Diagram

Evaluation of a child with abnormal linear growth

The evaluation of growth is an integral part of the health supervision exam and pediatric physicians must assess growth and development of children on a regular basis. When a child has short stature or is suspected of having poor linear growth, coordinated efforts can identify if a growth problem exists, and if so, what steps are necessary to evaluate this problem.

A growth assessment flow diagram like the one below may be helpful in developing a plan for patient evaluation. Since clinical practice varies, a discussion with a pediatric endocrinologist is strongly recommended to determine how this flow fits with his or her particular recommendations for assessing growth.

