

Discuss the differential diagnosis and investigation of a child below 3rd centile for height

1. Is the child really short? (1)
2. Is the child shorter than expected? (1)
 - a. Assess family members especially parents (1)
3. Is the child dysmorphic? (2)
 - a. Yes
 - i. Karyotype studies (1)
 - ii. DNA studies (2)
 - b. No
 - i. Disproportionate growth? (2)
 1. Yes
 - a. Skeletal survey (1)
 - i. Skeletal dysplasia (1)
 2. No
 - a. Height velocity normal (~5cm/yr)? (2)
 - i. No
 1. Bone age delayed (2)
 - a. Pituitary function (GH, TFTs)* (2)
 - i. Psychosocial deprivation (1)
 - ii. GH deficiency (1)
 - iii. Hypothyroidism (1)
 - ii. Yes
 1. Bone age appropriate
 - a. Genetic short stature (1)
 - b. IUGR (1)
 - c. Constitutional delay (1)

*in children with bone age over 10yrs → prime first with sex steroid therapy (2)

Differential diagnosis

Investigation