

# Optimizing Pediatric Nutrition & Growth in Practice

## Part 2 (of 2)



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# Overview

## The Tools (part 1)

- Free Water
- Calories
- Growth & Gain



## Practice (part 2)

- Cases



# Growth Charts - WHO

- WHO (World Health Organization) charts 2006
  - Data collected 1997-2003
  - Healthy children living under optimal conditions, likely to achieve full genetic growth potential
  - Exclusively breastfed for 4 mo—almost all
  - Sample from 6 regions: USA, Brazil, Ghana, Norway, Oman, India
  - Longitudinal data: birth, 1 week, q2wk x 2mo, q mo to 12 mo, q 2mo 14-24 mo
  - \* Slower growth among breastfed infants during ages 3-18 months is normal



# NHANES

- “American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) children make up about half (51.9%) of the state’s school districts” (1)
- “NHANES datasets are not large enough to provide estimates for this relatively small and geographically specific population and do not offer an AIAN race/ethnicity category” (2)

1. District enrollment by ethnicity as of October 1, 2013: FY 2014. Juneau (AK): Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development; 2014.
2. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: 2011–2012 data documentation, codebook, and frequencies. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2015.



SPECIAL TOPIC

## Estimating the Prevalence of Childhood Obesity in Alaska Using Partial, Nonrandom Measurement Data

Erik Everson, MPH; Myde Boles, PhD; Karol Fink, MS; Rebecca Topol, SM;  
Andrea Fenaughty, PhD

- Weight and height, K-7th grade
- 8 (of 52) Alaska school districts; 2013–2014 yr
  - 62.8% of the state's K–7 student population
- Race/ethnicity (white, black, Asian, Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian, American Indian, Alaska Native, multiracial, and Hispanic)
- Sex, grade, and age in months
- Socioeconomic status



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- $n = 26,206$  (K-7)
- Results
  - Model indicates that obesity among AI/AN students was 32.0%.
  - In the 8 districts for which there were measurements (24.1%).
- In 2011–2012, approximately 1 in 6 (17.7%) children in the US were obese

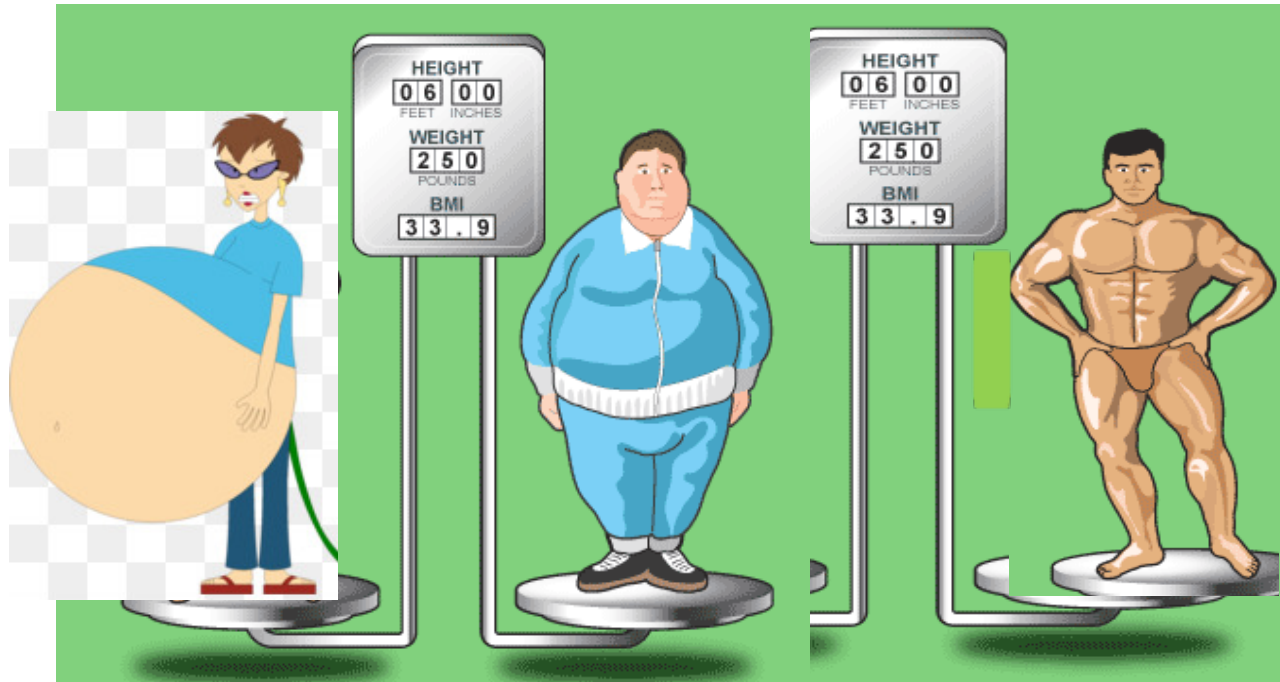


# Growth Chart Interpretation

- Include the history & physical exam when interpreting growth charts



# Physical Exam - Nutrition Focused





# When weight and height (BMI & wt-for-ht) do not represent nutrition

## Weight

- Edema
- Ascites
- Solid Organ Txp
- Amputation
- Orthopedic devices
- Tubes, lines, masks
- Items in pocket



## Height

- Non-ambulatory
- Spinal curvatures
- Contractures
- Shoes or boots
- Large hair braids/ accessories

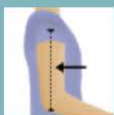
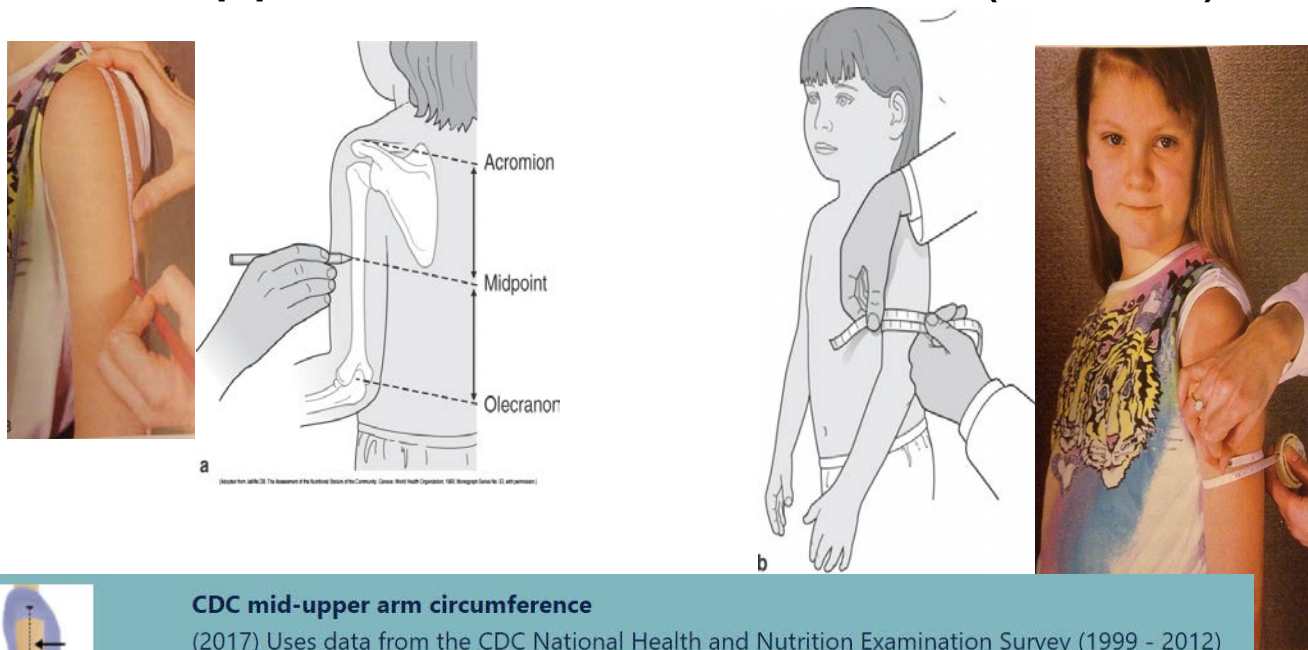


## Other Anthropometrics

- Mean Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)
- Triceps Skin Fold
- Scapular Skin Fold
- Height surrogates
  - Knee-Ht Caliper
  - Arm Span
  - Segmental Height



# Mean Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

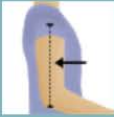


## CDC mid-upper arm circumference

(2017) Uses data from the CDC National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (1999 - 2012) for mid-upper arm circumference percentiles and Z-scores on children from 2 months to 18 years of age.

[Peditools.org](http://Peditools.org) Wyllie R, Hyams JS, Pediatric Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease, 3rd ed





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# PediTools

*Clinical tools for pediatric providers*

## From 2 to 222 months

Male  Female

Age (months)

**OR** Date of birth

and Date of measure

Arm circumference (cm)

Optional: GA at birth

Submit



# Peditools.org

72 months, female

	Value	%ile	Z-score	50%ile
Arm circumference (cm)	16	7%	-1.50	18.39

## From 2 to 222 months

Male  Female

Age (months)

**OR** Date of birth

and Date of measure

Arm circumference (cm)

Optional: GA at birth

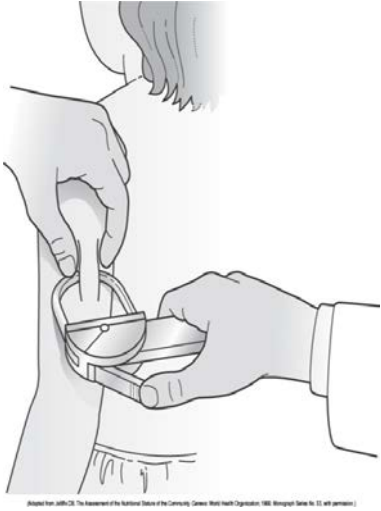
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[Chou JH et al., J Med Internet Res 2020;22\(1\):e16204](#)

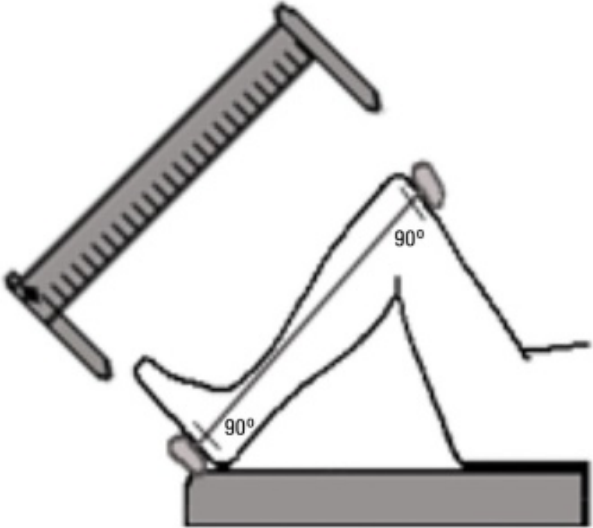


# Triceps Skin Fold

 **WHO arm circumference and triceps / subscapular skin fold**  
2007 WHO child growth standard to calculate arm circumference, triceps skin fold, and subscapular skin fold percentiles and Z-scores on children from 3 to 60 months of age.



# Knee-Height



## Step 3 Physical Exam

- Nutrition Focused Physical Exam (NFPE)
  - Fat Loss
  - Muscle Loss
  - Fluid Status
  - Micronutrient Status

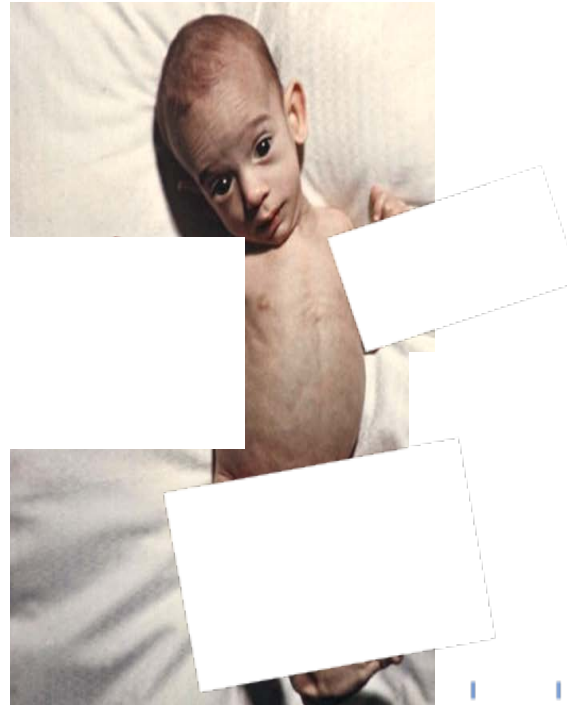




# Visualization

## Fat Loss

1. Periorbital region
2. Cheeks
3. Upper arm-triceps
4. Thighs



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# Visualization

## Fat Loss

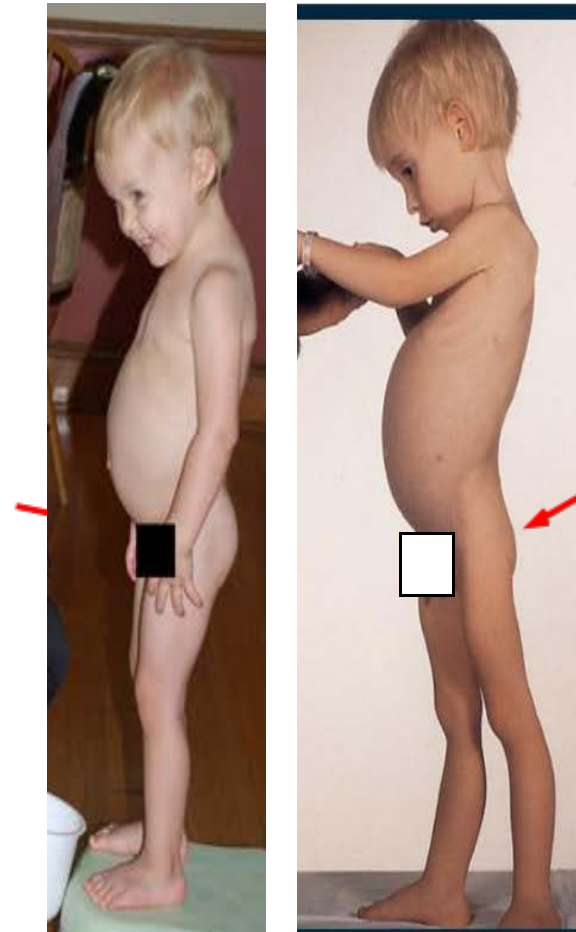
1. Periorbital region
2. Cheeks
3. Upper arm-triceps
4. Thighs



## Visualization

### Fat Loss

1. Periorbital region
2. Cheeks
3. Upper arm-triceps
4. Thighs
5. Buttocks



## Muscle Loss

- Temple Region
- Clavicular Region
- Scapular Region
- Interosseous regions-hand
- Thenar Eminence
- Patellar Region-Quadriceps



# Scenarios and Cases for Practice



# 1. Home call-Fluids:

- A mother calls you because her (previously healthy) toddler won't drink more than a sip and is refusing to eat. He has a low grade temp of 99.9. Energy is down but he's still playful. Urine output is normal. You tell her to try to give him 1 TBSP of fluids (Pedialyte) every 15-30 minutes, and increase the volume as he tolerates.

- She asks, how much should I try to get him to drink today? What will keep him hydrated?

- You check his chart—he weighs **16kg**. | |

- You tell her 1300 mL = his maintenance

## 2. PICU Case-Fluids

- Patient is a 6 mo baby girl, with short bowel syndrome due to mid-gut volvulus at birth, admitted for respiratory distress from RSV. She is well hydrated on her admission to the PICU. Her Creatinine is 0.25. She gets intubated in the late afternoon.
- At home she receives about 50% of her calories and fluids by parenteral nutrition (PN) and the other 50% of her calorie and fluid needs by GJ (j-port) feedings. Both run over 24 hours.
- She is tolerating her GJ(j-port) feedings just fine, has no diarrhea.

Potassium level on her blood gas came back at 6.5



## Case 3

- 21mo M, born full term
- BW, BL, BHC all > 97th%ile
- Mom and dad both ~5'8"
- Breastfed via nursing
- Food refusal

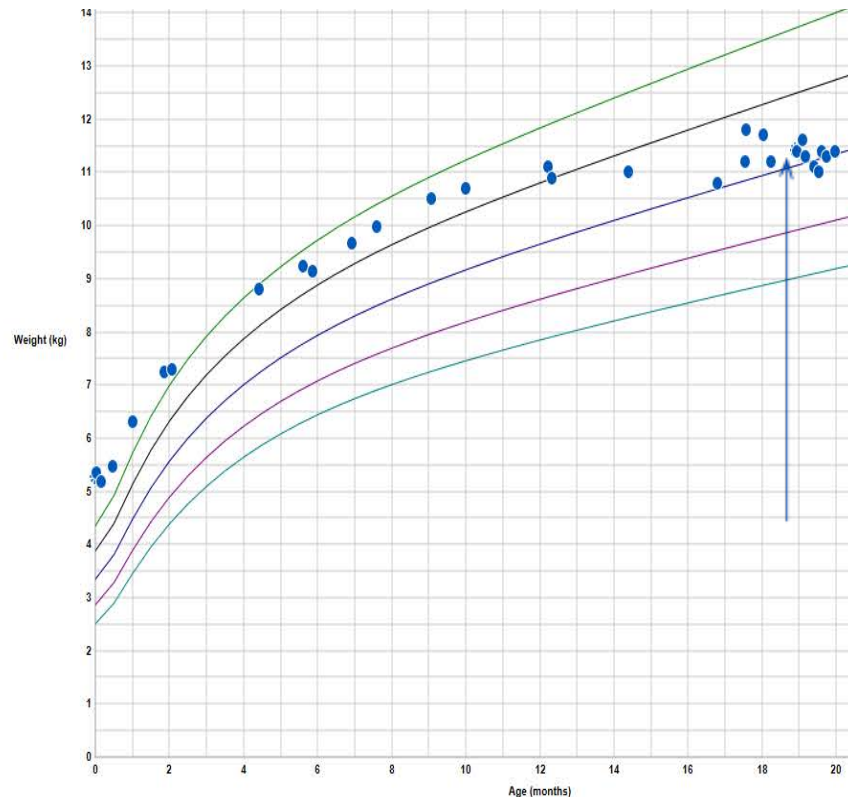


1. Growth curves
  - < 24 months: WHO growth curves
  - Wt, Length, HC, Wt-for-Length
2. grams/day of weight gain
3. Physical exam-nutrition focused
4. Other anthropometrics if needed

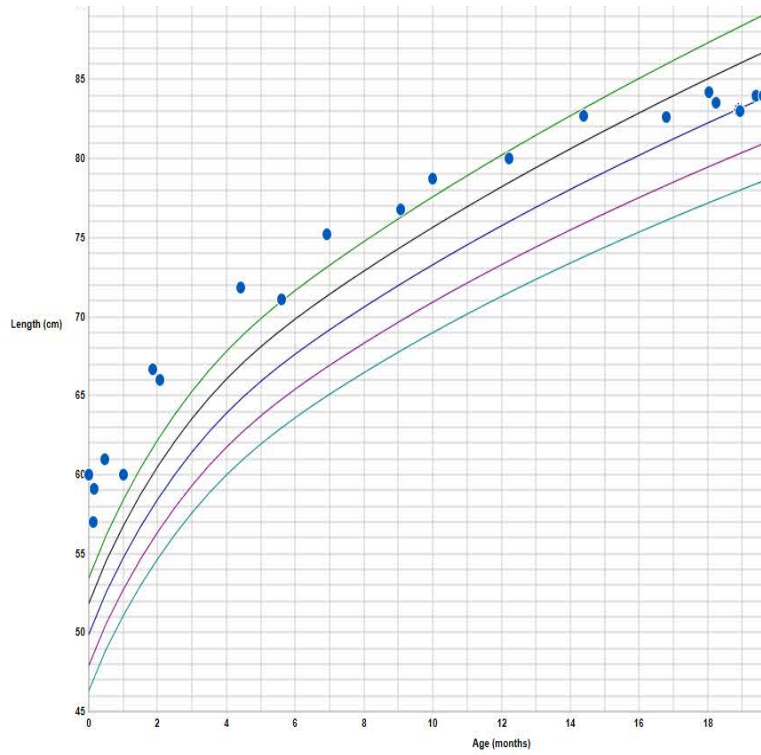


## Case 3

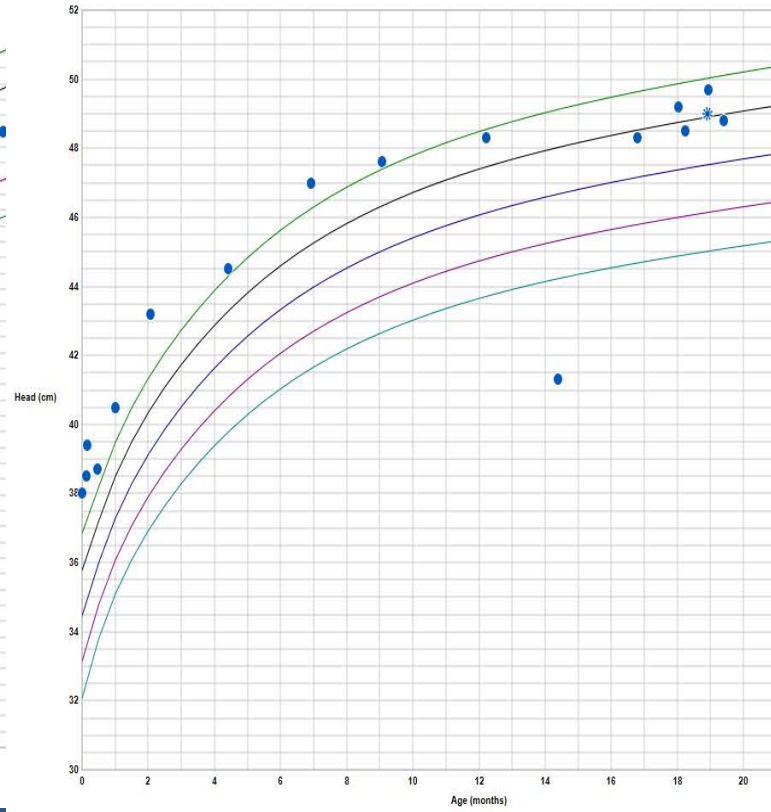
- 19 mo M, born full term
- BW, BL, BHC all > 97th%ile
- Mom and dad both ~5'8"
- Breastfed via nursing
- Food refusal



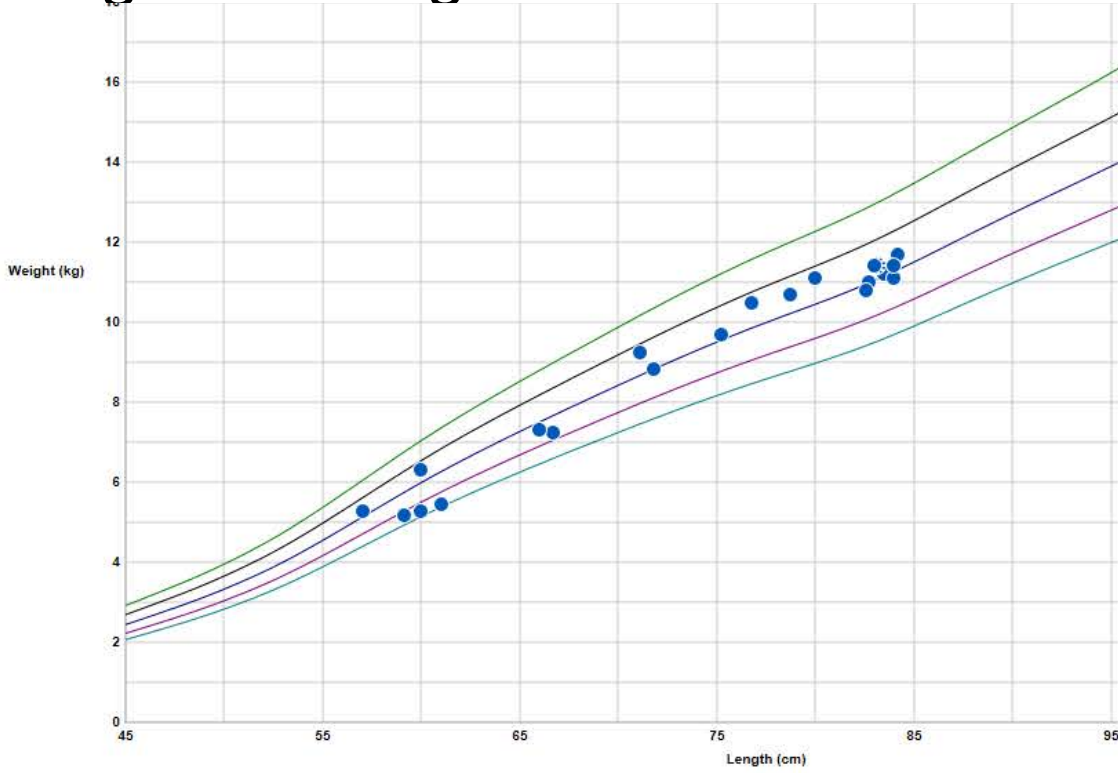
# Length



# and HC

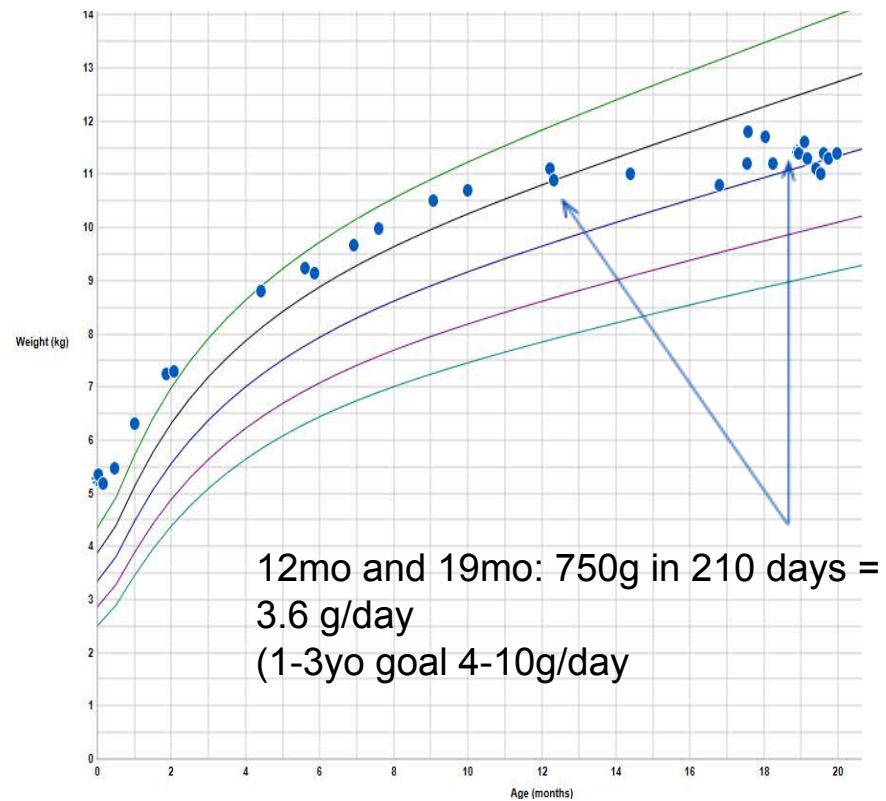


# Weight for Length

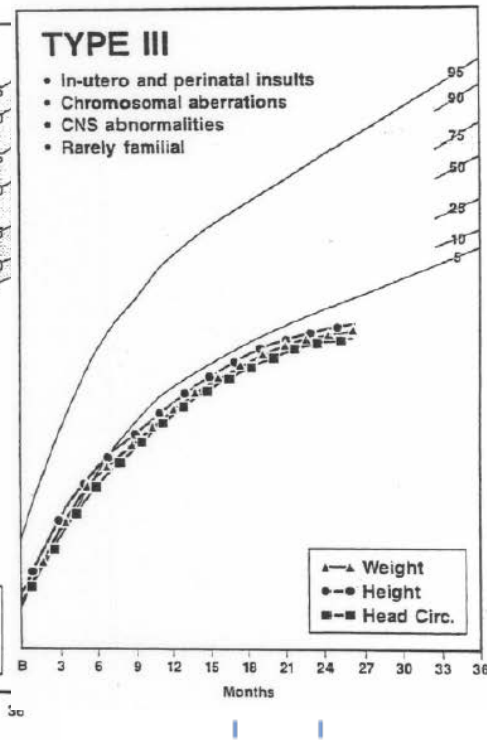
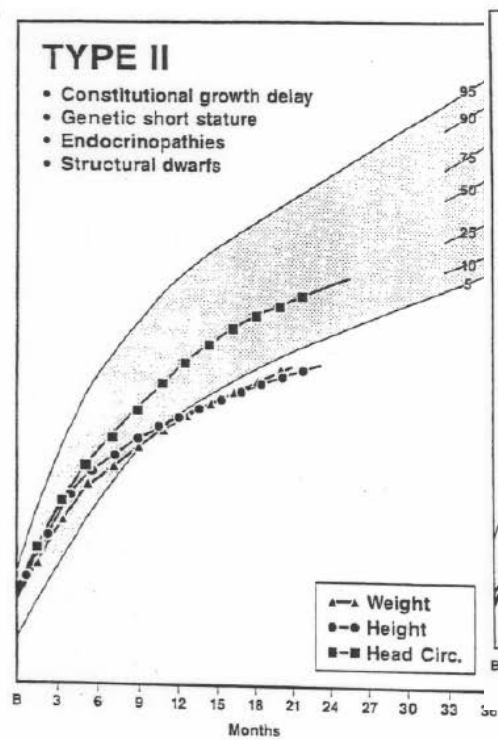
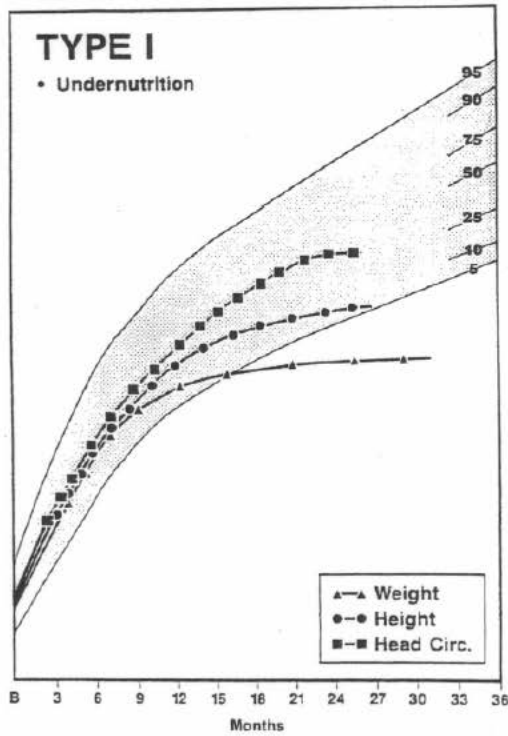


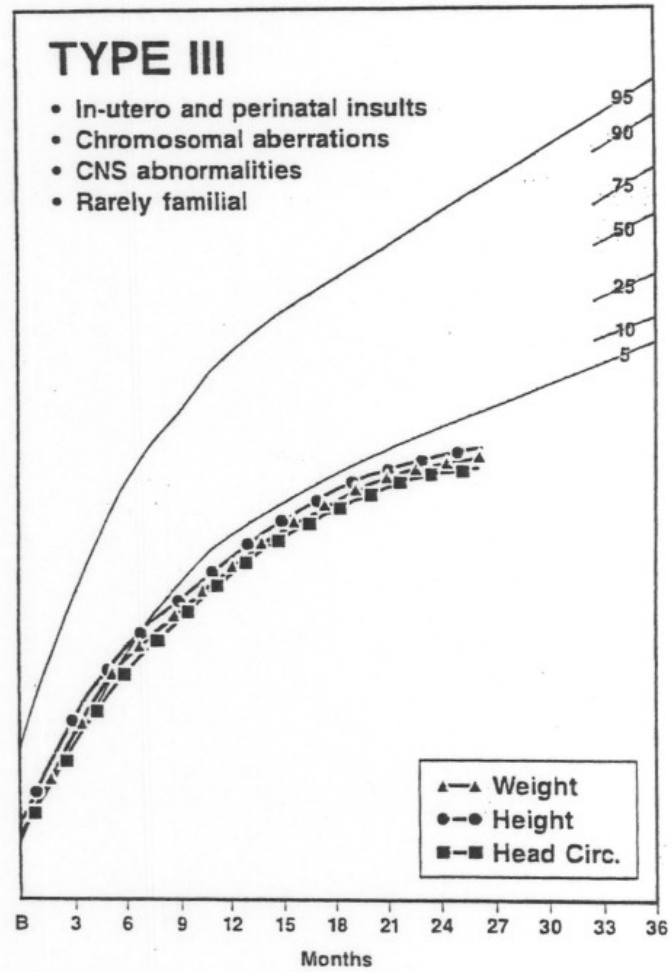
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- 19 mo M, born full term
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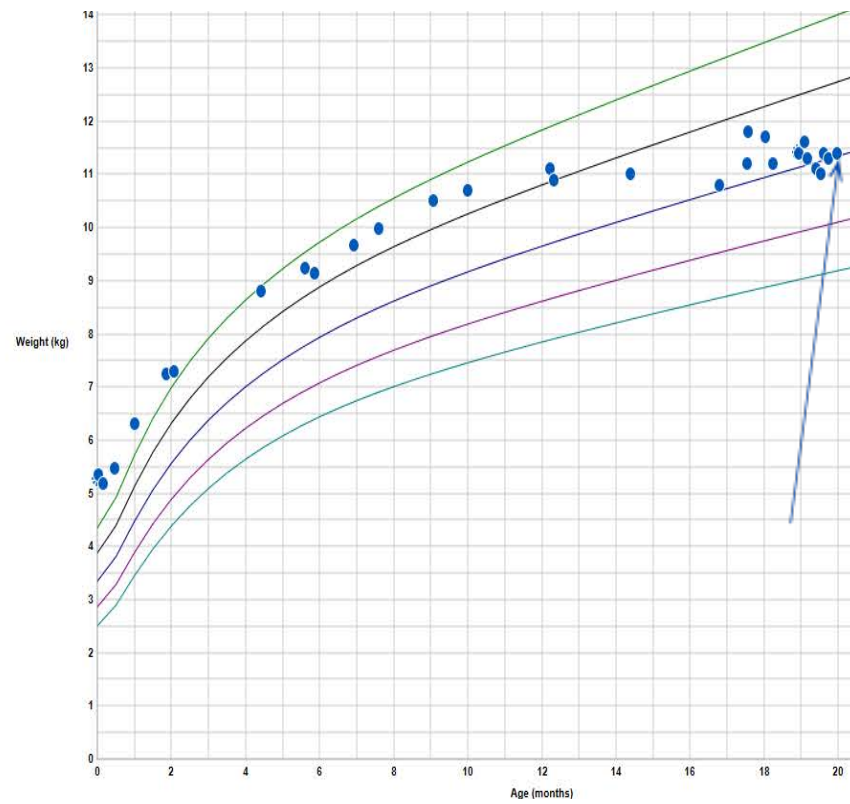
# Infant Growth Curve Patterns





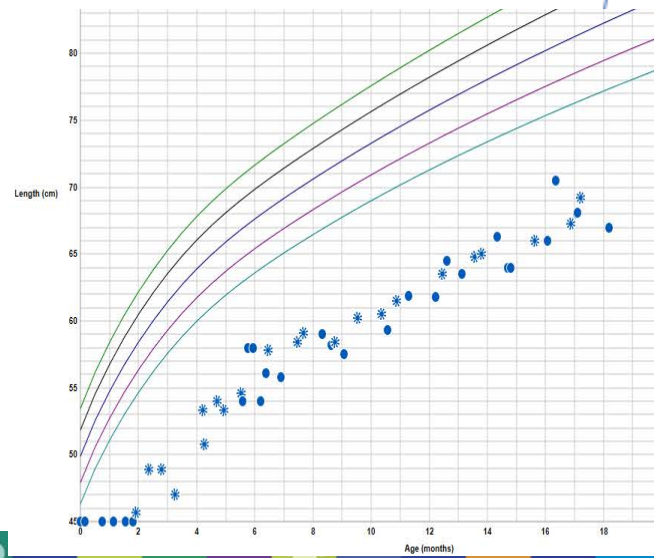
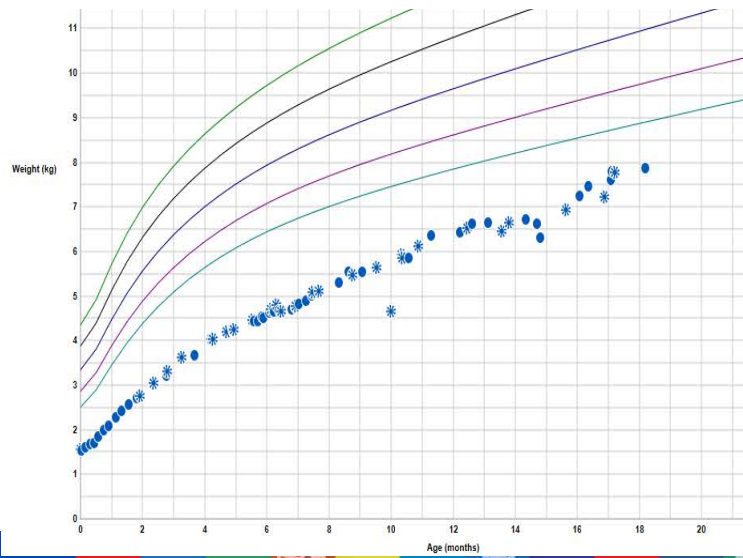
*Fig. 1-4. Concomitant retardation of weight, height, and head growth.*



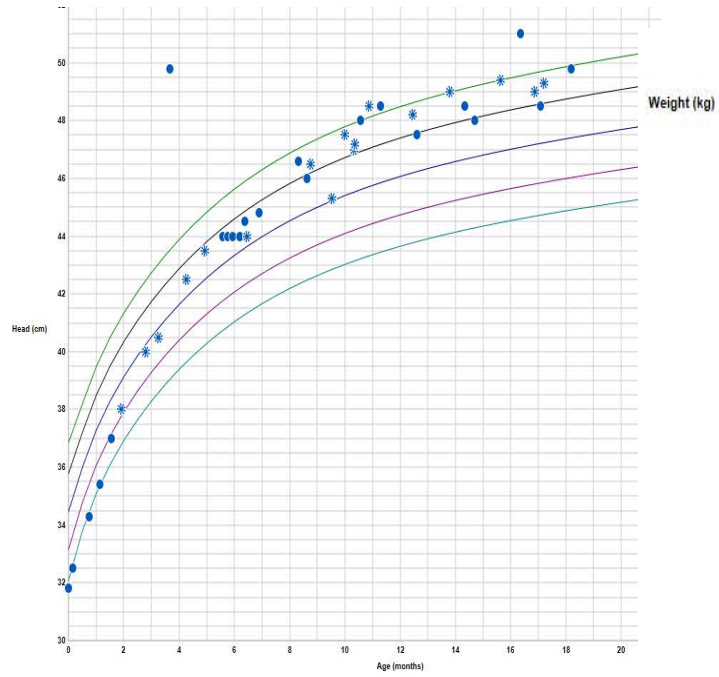


# Case 4

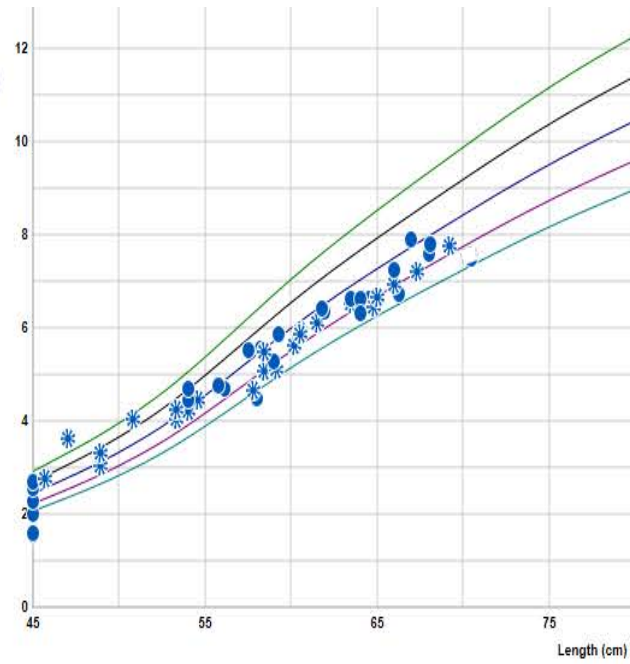
- 19mo, ex-34 week preemie M
- Spitting up and constipation



# HC

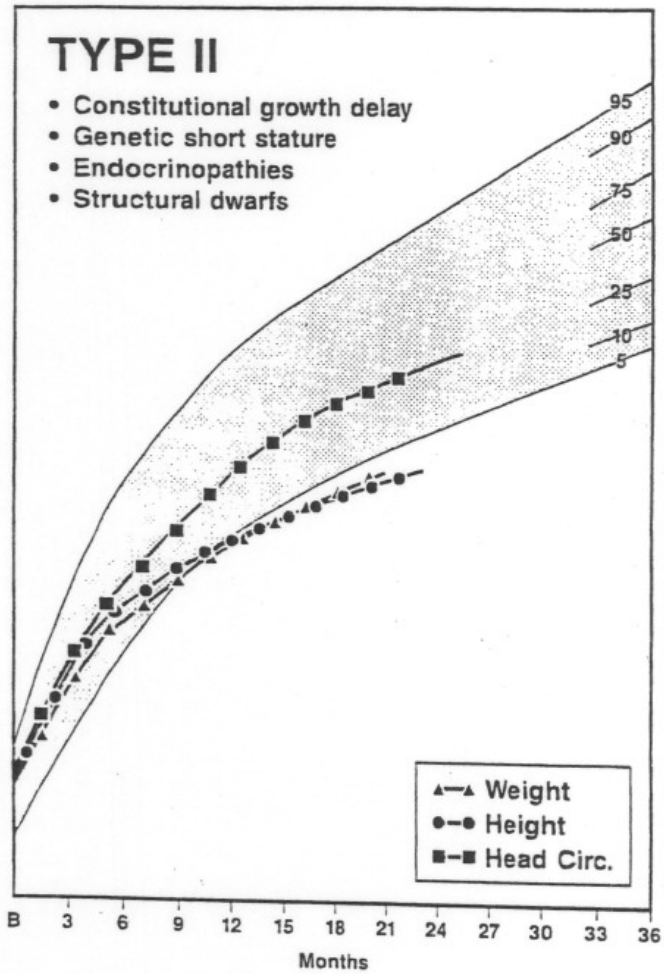


# Wt-for-Length



a. What type of growth curve does this child have?





*Fig. 1-3.* Near proportional retardation of height and weight and normal head growth.



## Normal Variants with Type II growth

- **Genetic short stature**

- Short parents
- Low percentiles, but usually do not cross percentiles

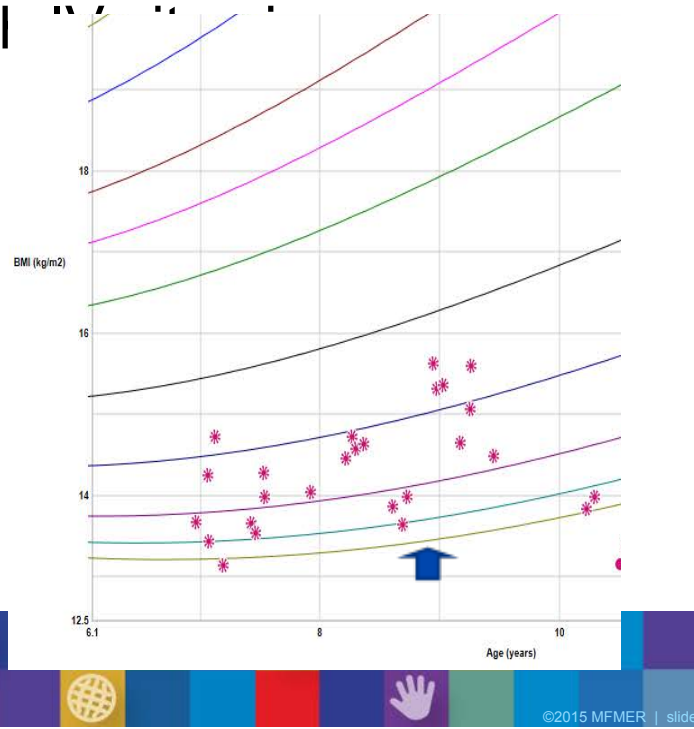
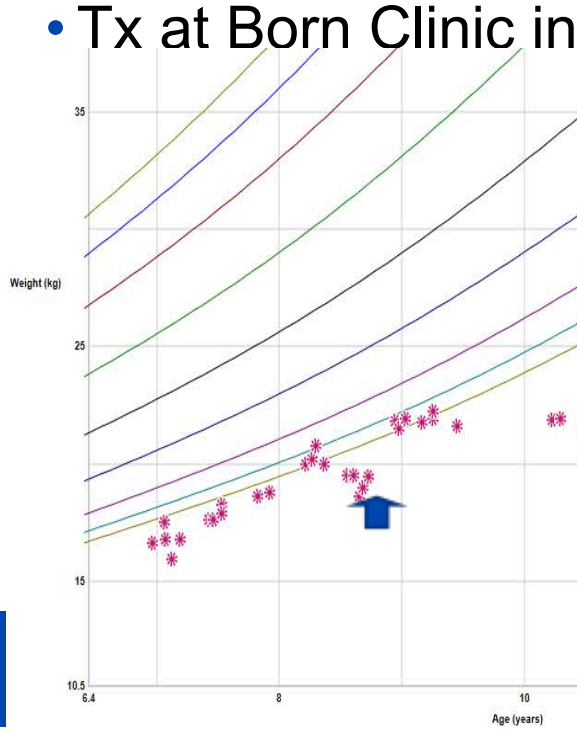
- **Midparental height**

- Average of parent's heights
  - + Add 2.5" if male
  - - Subtract 2.5" if female
- This is the **MEDIAN** height expected for that child

• Add and Subtract 8.5 cm (**3.3"**) on either side of median to give 2 standard deviations from

# Case 5

- 10yo F with no sx. Hx of hematochezia, treated with steroids x 2 mo
- Tx at Born Clinic in GR with " / " "



- DX 2 years ago
  - Hashimotos thyroiditis –treated
  - Continued to have poor growth
  - Karyotype-normal
  - Bone age ~ 10 yo chronological age = 10yo
- Work-up
  - Labs: CRP 1.2 (0.6), ESR 13 (10), rest of labs=normal
  - Endoscopy: grossly normal. Histology=UC
  - Pentasa started

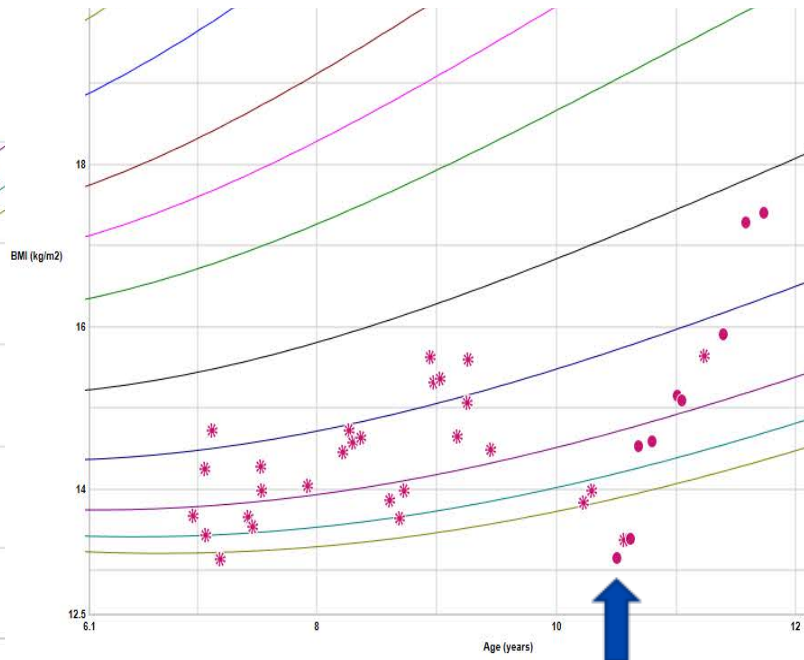
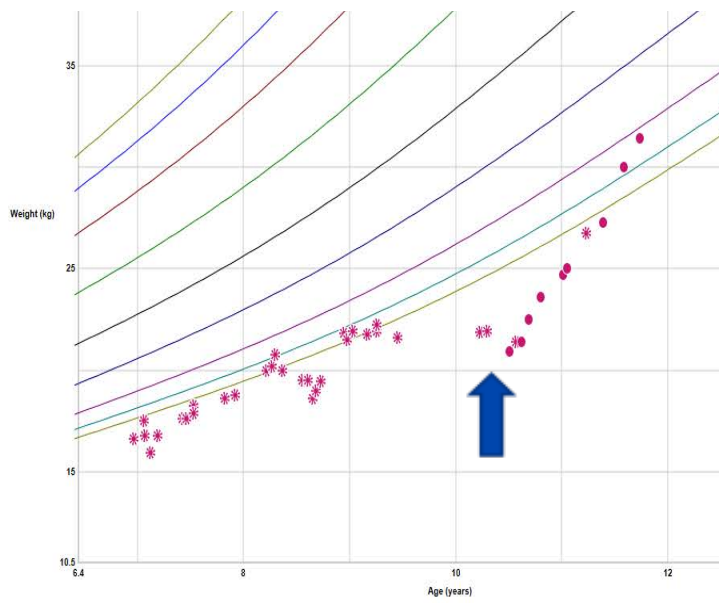




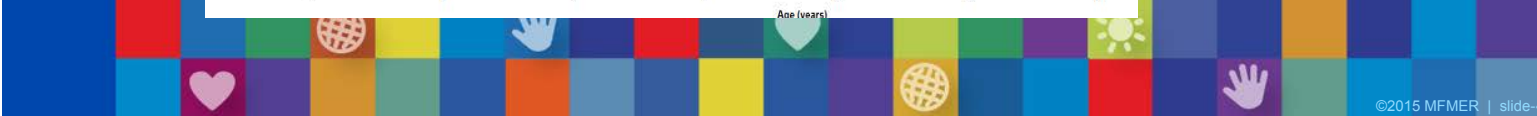
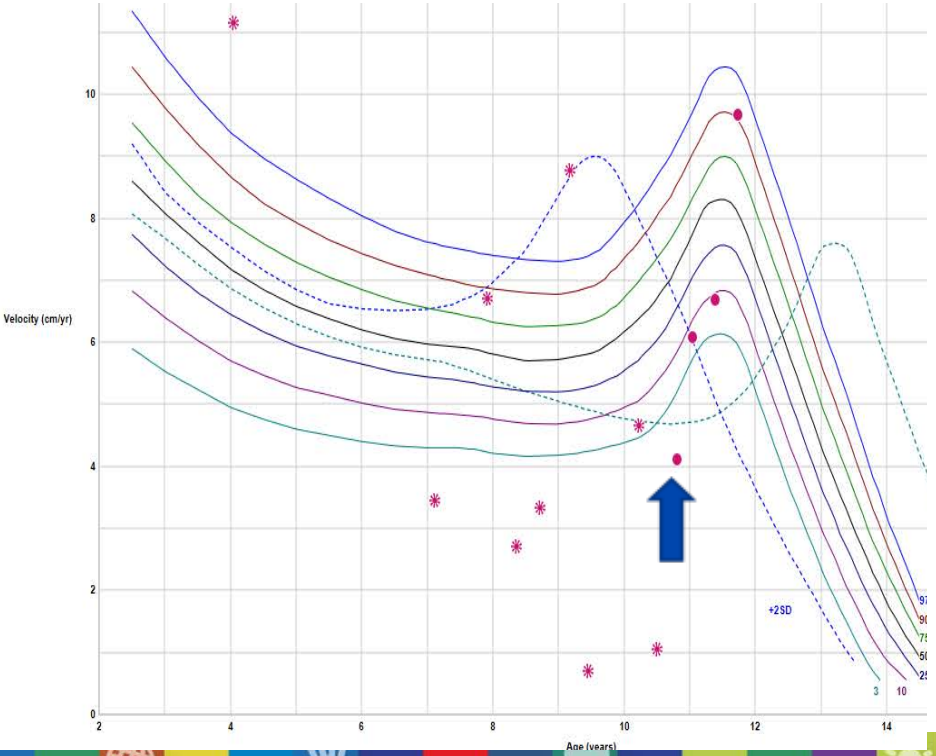
# Wt

# and

# BMI



# Height velocity



## Question:

- I have a question about what might be done regarding recurrent bouts of spitting up in an older infant say a happy 9mth old who might be receiving adequate amounts of food (formula and solids) but is having difficulty maintaining adequate weight.
- Post prandial positioning and frequent burping all being done per parents. How might we approach repetitive regurgitation other than with a PPI? Thanks much



# Questions & Discussion



# “At Risk” or Normal

## <10 Years old

- Height
  - <10th percentile
- Weight
  - <10th percentile
- Wt-for-Ht (2<yo)
  - <10th percentile
- BMI (>2 yo)
  - <10th percentile
- History of weight loss

## >10 Years old

- Weight
  - <10th percentile
- BMI
  - <10th percentile
- History of weight loss
- Weight
  - > 90th percentile
- BMI
  - > 85th percentile



# “Failure to Thrive”

## Percentile of Median

1. Weight < 75% of median weight for chronologic age (Gomez criterion)
2. Weight < 80% of median weight for length (Waterlow criterion)

## Percentiles

3. Body mass index (if > 2yo) for chronological age < 5th%ile
4. Wt-for-Length (if < 2yo) for chronological age < 3rd or 5th %ile
5. Weight for chronological age < 5th%ile
6. Length for chronological age < 5th%ile

## Weight deceleration

7. Crossing more than 2 major centile lines from birth until weight

## Standard deviation or Z-scores

8. Z-score  $\leq -2$ : wt-for-age, ht-for-age, or wt-for-ht



Coding and Screening for Pediatric Malnutrition (undernutrition)

- In children ages 1 month to 18 years
- Use clinical judgment and history when applying these as diagnostic criteria
- When a child meets more than one malnutrition acuity level, the provider should document the severity of the malnutrition at the highest acuity level to ensure that an appropriate treatment plan and intervention, monitoring and evaluation are provided.
- For undernourished former preemies—use a corrected age until 36 months chronological age

# Malnutrition

		Mild Malnutrition	Moderate Malnutrition	Severe Malnutrition
		E44.1	E44.0	E43.0
Single data point available	BMI for age Wt-for-Length	-1 to -1.99 Z score Requires supporting documentation, eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Lower than expected wt-gain velocity</li> <li>• Declining Z score</li> <li>• Inadequate energy/protein intake</li> </ul>	-2 to 2.9 Z score	≥ -3 Z score  * no time frame specified <sup>N</sup> weight gain increments at the median of the WHO growth velocity standards for the time span between the 2 data points Gray: Needs additional positive diagnostic criteria to make malnutrition diagnosis  Considerations during diagnosis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute typically &lt; 3 months</li> <li>• Chronic typically &gt; 3 months</li> </ul>
	MUAC (Mid Upper Arm Circumference) < 5 years old	-1 to -1.99 Z score	-2 to 2.9 Z score	≥ -3 Z score
	Length, Height for age	No data	No data	≥ -3 Z score
Trending 2 or more data points	Weight gain velocity < 2 years old	< 75% of norm <sup>N</sup> for expected weight gain	< 50% of norm <sup>N</sup> for expected weight gain	< 25% of norm <sup>N</sup> for expected weight gain
	Weight Loss * 2-20 years old	5% of usual body weight	7.5% of usual body weight	10% of usual body weight
	Deceleration in BMI or weight-for-length *	Decline of 1 Z score	Decline of 2 Z scores	Decline of 3 Z scores
	Inadequate nutrient intake *	51-75% of estimated energy/protein need	26-50% of estimated energy/protein need	≤ 25% estimated energy/protein need



## FTT: History

- Pregnancy and labor
- Birth weight (and percentile)
  - Length and Head Circumference (and percentiles)
  - \* Peditools
- Early neonatal history
  - NICU? Complications?
- Development—does the pediatrician have any concerns?

• Medical or surgical illnesses

• Medications?



## FTT: Calorie History -- Baby

- Feeding behaviors and environment
- Quantitative assessment of intake...
- .....When in doubt, ask about last 24 hours.
  - Who mixes the formula?
    - Is it mixed before each feeding?
    - OR is it mixed in bulk for the day?
  - Who feeds the child?
    - \*When, what time?
    - How much is offered each feeding?
    - How much does baby take?
    - How much is typically left? How often is



# FTT: Calorie History -- Baby

- What time is baby fed?
  - When is the first feeding of the day?
    - When is the next feeding? And the next?  
And the next? And the next?...
  - How many bottles has baby had today?
  - How many hours does baby typically sleep overnight?



# FTT: Calorie History – Toddler, Child, Adolescent

- Obtain typical meal-time schedule and intake in last 24 hr.
- Differentiate offered vs intake
  - B- slkdjfs (breakfast)
  - L- lskdjfr (lunch)
  - D- lskjdf (dinner)
  - S- lskdjf (snack)
  - F- llskjdf (fluids) how much volume? Water, Milk, Juice, Pop, Other drinks?

• Volumes: Spoonful, cup, plate

## FTT: Social History

- Life stressors
- Social supports
- Economic supports
- Perception of growth failure as a problem ?
  
- Empathy



