

right-angle device of sufficient size to rest on the crown of the head(2). To ensure accuracy of the vertical component, precision metal tapes can be used. Alternatively, if one is unwilling to go to all this trouble, the Child Growth Foundation (UK) supplies reasonably accurate and not very expensive growth assessment equipment. For height measurement, they have wall mounted MINIMETERS (a 183 m version costing 20 pounds sterling, and a 2 m version at 21 pounds), as well as free standing ones: a LEICESTER HEIGHT MEASURE for 36 pounds, and a MAGNIMETER for 334 pounds. Further details and catalogs can be obtained from their office:

2 Mayfield Avenue, Chiswick, London W4 1PW; Phone: [+44 181] 995 0257/994 7625; Fax: 995 9075.

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1. Passi GR. A cheap alternative to a stadiometer. *Indian Pediatr* 1997; 34: 652-653.
2. Van Wyk JJ. Normal and aberrant growth. *In: Williams Textbook of Endocrinology.* Eds Wilson JD, Foster DW, Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1985; p 196.

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### Infantile Spasms

The recent article on this subject was informative(1). However, certain terminologies require clarification. Infantile spasms are typically classified into 2 groups: cryptogenic and symptomatic. Cryptogenic infantile spasm cases present with an uneventful pregnancy and birth history, normal developmental milestones prior to onset of seizures, normal neurological examination, normal CT scan (head), no associated risk factor and a good prognosis even without therapy(2). The article (1) mentions that cryptogenic indicates that child was not developmentally normal prior to onset of seizures and thus brain abnormality can be presumed. Further, infantile spasms

have been classified into a third group idiopathic, which overlaps with cryptogenic infantile spasm of another classification(2), without giving any adequate reference. Can this be please clarified?

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2. Haslam RHA. Infantile spasms. *In: Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics,* 15th edn. Eds. Behrman RE, Kleigman RM, Arcoin AM. Bangalore, Prism Books Pvt Ltd, 1996; p 1690.