

EFFECTS OF TREATMENT ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN WITH INFANTILE
PLURICARENCIAL SYNDROME (KWASHIORKOR). D. Wilson and N. S. Scrimshaw,
Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), Guatemala, C. A.

One of the constant findings in protein malnutrition is the retardation of growth and development. There are doubts about the possibility that children with a lag of two years or more, which characterizes the infantile pluricarencial syndrome (kwashiorkor), will ever succeed in reaching normal weight, height and bone age, even if they receive an adequate diet after the treatment. Eleven children between the ages of 23 months and $5\frac{1}{2}$ years, hospitalized with IPS, were studied for periods ranging between 4 and 18 months, during which time they received different diets, which, however, supplied a generally adequate protein intake. The children showed variable increases in height, which varied between 120 and 160% of those proper for their age. The relative gain in weight was even more marked, since in 4 cases the increase was 4 times greater than that which could be expected during this period of observation. The bone age also showed an equally striking increase. The findings revealed that the increased growth and development of all the children included in this study generally approached the normal values for these ages. However, the period of observation was too short to determine whether these children, should they continue to receive an adequate diet, would succeed in developing their genetic potential or not.

Abstracts, Fifth International Congress on Nutrition, September 1-7, 1960, Washington, D. C., p. 6. Publicación INCAP I-200 (Orig. E-252).