

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

mechanism of reproductive physiology (5). Initially cGnRH II was an important substance that, in general, controlled nerve function. Only later, as the forebrain developed, did other forms of GnRH develop to control the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis.

Finally, we would be the first to suggest that these analogs be used only in patients who have seriously disabling symptoms and who have failed conventional therapy, and that they be used by physicians who are thoroughly familiar with the use of the medication. Note that the adverse side effects reported by the patients in this study were similar in both the treated and placebo groups. GnRH analogs, like all drugs, are not without side effects and their risks must always be weighed against the benefits. In our experience of >500 patients treated with this drug, we have observed remarkable results in subjects with disabling disease unresponsive to conventional medication, and these very ill patients do not object to the "burden" of a single monthly injection (Depot) or daily injections and treatment consequences like amenorrhea if their symptoms are relieved and they can regain a quality of life. Although not everyone responds to leuprolide and not everyone becomes completely well, we re-

member only too well how difficult it was to care for so many of these patients before using this drug.

JOHN R. MATHIAS, MD
MARY H. CLENCH, PHD
*Division of Gastroenterology
Department of Internal Medicine
The University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas 77555-0764*

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