

Investigation 13.A: Evaluating Potential Uses for Human Growth Hormone Answer Key

Answers to Opinions and Recommendations

3. a) Some possible questions include:

- What is human growth hormone?
- What does human growth hormone normally do?
- Why is human growth hormone replacement therapy normally used?
- What are the dangers of excess human growth hormone?
- What other health risks are associated with human growth hormone?
- What is the cost of human growth hormone therapy?

b) Parents might want synthetic hGH for their children to increase their growth or to reduce obesity. Parents should be aware that it is very expensive (\$25 000 or more per year) and is associated with several negative health effects.

c) Some possible questions you should consider in deciding whether athletes should be allowed to use synthetic hGH include:

- Is it fair for an athlete to use a substance that enhances his/her athletic ability?
- How close are officials to determining ways of detecting the use of human growth hormone in athletes?
- What are the dangers of excess growth hormone?
- What other health risks are associated with human growth hormone?
- Can athletes easily obtain safe hGH pills over the Internet?
- Where can I find more information?

d) Some possible questions students might research in preparing an answer for whether health insurance should cover hGH therapy include:

- What are the costs associated with hGH therapy?
- Does hGH therapy really work?
- For which health conditions would using hGH therapy improve the quality of life?
- What are the health risks involved in not using hGH therapy for those that need it?
- What is the current state of gene therapy?
- What factors might limit the effectiveness of gene therapy?
- What other health risks are associated with human growth hormone?
- Where can I find more information?

CHAPTER 13	Investigation 13.A: Evaluating Potential Uses for Human Growth Hormone Answer Key (cont'd)	BLM 13.2.3A
ANSWER KEY		

4. Your table should resemble the one shown below:

Issue	Benefits	Risks
1. Should people have the option to take synthetic hGH just to increase their genetically predetermined height?		
2. Should hGH be approved as a diet treatment for obesity?		
3. Should athletes be allowed legal access to hGH?		