

This Week's Citation Classic

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Haddad H M & Wilkins L. Congenital anomalies associated with gonadal aplasia.
Pediatrics 23: 885-902, 1959.

The paper reviews congenital anomalies in 55 cases with gonadal aplasia (Turner's syndrome). In addition to the characteristic stigmata of the disease, which each patient displayed, there were congenital anomalies, particularly ocular, which were quite prevalent in these patients. [The SC® indicates that this paper has been cited 150 times since 1961.]

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"It is gratifying to learn that this article, which I wrote in collaboration with the late Dr Lawson Wilkins, is one of the most cited papers in the field. The reason for this, in my opinion, is that this paper is the only comprehensive review of the largest number ever published of gonadal aplasia patients.

"When Wilkins was preparing to rewrite his book *The Diagnosis and Treatment of Endocrine Diseases in Childhood and Adolescence*, he asked me to review the cases with gonadal aplasia which we had seen in the Pediatric Endocrinology Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital. The review proved to be revealing in the abundance of congenital anomalies which these patients displayed. It was thus decided to increase the scope of the review to actual statistical analysis of the anomalies displayed for a separate publication.

"The obstacles encountered were those that one usually encounters in any review article,

especially when thoroughness is not always achieved. Even though almost all the patients had ophthalmological evaluations, not all patients had complete ophthalmological examinations including color vision, etc. Thus, the ocular manifestations might not be as accurate as other manifestations reported in the paper.

"The other difficulty was the writing of the paper. This manuscript was written and rewritten over twenty times, until it came into shape and form that was suitable for publication. To give a review article on such a subject would have been lengthy. However, we had to make it short and suitable for quick review of the congenital anomalies in gonadal aplasia, and thus it required considerable rewriting and editing. Also, the review of the literature had to be comprehensive and one could not always follow up the reported cases in the literature, especially in the Spanish and other foreign languages. This created tremendous hardship, because many of the publications which are cited in the references of the paper were not available in the Cumulative Index Medicus.

"All in all, the experience in writing this paper was very gratifying. It was a great learning experience for me personally, especially considering the fact that the late Lawson Wilkins was a great teacher with vivid ability for critique and editing. Without his help, the manuscript would not have come to light.

"May I add that the experience with the late Lawson Wilkins encouraged me in my path to develop the field of metabolic ophthalmology with subsequent formation of the International Society on Metabolic Eye Disease and its official publication, *Metabolic Ophthalmology*. The Society has introduced three international symposia with one book published called *Metabolic Eye Disease*. I consider this all a tribute to the late Lawson Wilkins."