



Gigantism

It is difficult to find a lot of information about gigantism. It seems like there is much more information on acromegaly, which is associated with gigantism. What is the difference between the two? The first page or two of the following web site gives a basic explanation of the difference.

<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health/endo/pubs/acro/acro.htm>

Browse the book shelves near these call numbers to find additional information about your topic.

Ask a librarian for help!

Locating Information in Books

According to the Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, that can be found within [InfoTrac's Health Reference Center Academic](#), gigantism is a disorder associated with the pituitary gland, which makes this an Endocrine disorder.

There are not many books devoted to just gigantism. However, there are books about medical and endocrine disorders/diseases that will contain information about topics such as gigantism. Use the index in the back of each of these books in order to find information about specific disorders/medical conditions, such as gigantism.

- *The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy* - Reference RC 55 .M4 2006. Look on pages 1185 - 1187. An online version of *The Merck Manual* is available at: <http://www.merck.com/mrkshared/mmanual/home.jsp>
- *The Merck Manual of Medical Information (Home Edition)*. Reference RC 81 .M47 1999. Look on page 770.
- *Current: Medical Diagnosis and Treatment* - Reference R 71 .A14. Look on pages 1072 - 1074.
- *Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders Sourcebook* - RC 648 .E418 1999. There is not much here on gigantism but there is something to look at on pages 290 and 300.
- *Encyclopedia of Endocrine Diseases and Disorders*. Reference RC 649 .P48 2005. Pages 101 to 102 give a very good summary.
- *The Endocrine System* - Reference QP 187 .W34 2004. Look at the index.
- *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* - Reference RC 46 .H333. Look at the index.
- *How the Endocrine System Works* - QP 187 .N35 2002. Look at the index.

Online Reference Books:

Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine and *The Columbia Encyclopedia* are reference books that are accessed through [InfoTrac's Health Reference Center Academic](#).

For OFF-Campus access, use your Delta College username and password. For help, please call the Reference Desk (989) 686-9560.

[NetLibrary](#) provides access to the full-text of books, online. Through NetLibrary you can access the eBook *The Official Patient's Sourcebook on Acromegaly*. If ON-CAMPUS, you can click on this link: <http://www.netlibrary.com/>. Within NetLibrary's search box, type acromegaly. Click on the "Search" button and you will be presented with the ability to view the full-text of *The Official Patient's Sourcebook on Acromegaly*. There is not a lot on gigantism but this endocrine disorder is mentioned in this online book.

PLEASE NOTE: If you access NetLibrary from on-campus you do not need a userID or password. However, if you want to access NetLibrary from home, you need to:

1. Go to a library that links to NetLibrary (like Delta).
2. Access NetLibrary through the Library's account in order to create your own personal NetLibrary username and password.
3. Once you have your own username and password, you can access NetLibrary from home.

APA example of citing NetLibrary:

Parker, J.N. & Parker, P.M. (2002). *The official patient's sourcebook on Acromegaly*. San

Diego: Icon Group International. Retrieved December 6, 2005 from NetLibrary:

<http://www.netlibrary.com>

Locating Information in Periodicals

Search the following online databases/indexes to locate journal articles (electronic format) on your topic:

[InfoTrac](#) is available from the [Delta Library website \(Journals and Magazines\)](#) either on campus or remotely with password. For OFF-Campus access, use your Delta College username and password. For help, please call the Reference Desk (989) 686-9560.

[Medline](#), within FirstSearch, is a different medical database (index) that will lead you to a few scholarly articles about gigantism. You can click on the [Medline](#) link, or go to the [Delta Library website \(Journals and Magazines\)](#), either on campus or remotely with authorization code and password. For OFF-Campus access, use your Delta College username and password. For help, please call the Reference Desk (989) 686-9560.

Once you see the main search screen for Medline :

1. Type gigantism within the white search box next to "Search for:"
2. Before clicking on the "Search" button, you need to make a choice:
 - Most people want to see the full-text of the article on the computer. To do this, click within the white box next to "Limit to:" and "Full text."
 - If there are not many full-text articles, the next choice would be to find journals that are located within Delta Library. Click within the white box next to "Subscriptions held by my library (EDK, DELTA COL LIBR)."
NOTE: Please do NOT click both boxes at the same time.
 - If you do not check either box, you will get quite a few articles that are suppose to contain the word "gigantism." Many of these may not be what

you want and most will not be located at Delta College Library. However, you can interlibrary loan, for free, articles that look like they may help. The interlibrary loan process takes, at least, two weeks or more.

3. Once you decide on which box to check or not check, click on the "Search" button.
4. You will be presented with a list of citations for journal articles that should have something to do with gigantism. NOTE: MOST, but not all, are scholarly journals in Medline.

[PubMed](#) is a service of the National Library of Medicine, that provides access to over 11 million MEDLINE citations back to the mid-1960's and additional life science journals. PubMed also links to sites with full-text articles and resources.

TIP: PubMed offers a link to "limit" your search. By clicking on "Limits", you can limit the search to free full-text (entire article) and you can limit to articles presented in English.

Here are some examples of scholarly journal articles that can be found in peer-reviewed journals by using indexes such as Medline (FirstSearch), InfoTrac, and PubMed:

Eugster, E.A. (1999). Gigantism. *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, 84 (12), 4379-4384.

(This is not a research study but this scholarly journal article gives an EXCELLENT overview of gigantism. Currently, the full-text of this article can be found on the Web at: <http://jcem.endojournals.org/cgi/content/full/84/12/4379>

Rix, M., Laurberg, P., Hoejberg, A. S., and Brock-Jacobsen, B. (2005). Pegvisomant therapy in pituitary gigantism: successful treatment in a 12-year-old girl. *European Journal of Endocrinology*, 153, 195-201.

(This IS a research study (case report) from the "*European Journal of Endocrinology*" which is a peer-reviewed journal (refereed). As the title of this article suggests, this study covers the use of pegvisomant for treating a young patient diagnosed with pituitary gigantism. This journal is not at Delta, but the full-text of this article can be retrieved through PubMed).

Locating Information on the World Wide Web

eMedicine - Gigantism and Acromegaly covers acromegaly but does give quite a bit of information on gigantism. <http://www.emedicine.com/ped/topic2634.htm>

The Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases Information Service, a part of the National Institute of Health, provides a web site with helpful information about acromegaly, with some mention of gigantism:

<http://www.endocrine.niddk.nih.gov/pubs/acro/acro.htm>

The Mayo Clinic provides the following information about acromegaly, with some mention of gigantism:

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/acromegaly/DS00478>

[How to Cite Books and Journals in APA and MLA Format](#)

- Citing Electronic Resources in APA Format
- Citing Print Resources in APA Format
- Citing Electronic Resources in MLA Format
- Citing Print Resources in MLA Format