

Treating Yoyo Testicles

This article....

Ethan was treated with HCG, 3 injections. Dr Hess thought it would only be effective up to 6 months of age and that he should keep both testicles down after the cartilage ring closes at about 6 months.

Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) is a [peptide hormone](#) produced in [pregnancy](#), that is made by the [embryo](#) soon after [conception](#) and later by the [syncytiotrophoblast](#) (part of the [placenta](#)). Its role is to prevent the disintegration of the [corpus luteum](#) of the [ovary](#) and thereby maintain [progesterone](#) production that is critical for a [pregnancy](#) in humans. hCG may have additional functions, for instance it is thought that it affects the immune tolerance of the pregnancy. Early [pregnancy testing](#) generally is based on the detection or measurement of hCG. Because hCG is produced also by some kinds of [tumor](#), hCG is an important [tumor marker](#), but it is not known whether this production is a contributing cause or an effect of [tumorigenesis](#).

hCG interacts with the [LHCG receptor](#) and promotes the maintenance of the [corpus luteum](#) during the beginning of [pregnancy](#) causing it to secrete the hormone [progesterone](#). Progesterone enriches the [uterus](#) with a thick [lining](#) of [blood vessels](#) and [capillaries](#) so that it can sustain the growing [fetus](#). Due to its highly negative charge hCG may repel the immune cells of the mother, protecting the fetus during the first trimester. It has also been hypothesized that hCG may be a placental link for the development of local maternal immunotolerance. For example, hCG-treated endometrial cells induce an increase in T cell apoptosis (dissolution of T-cells). These results suggest that hCG may be a link in the development of peritrophoblastic immune tolerance and may facilitate the trophoblast invasion which is known to expedite fetal development in the endometrium.^[1] It has also been suggested that hCG levels are linked to the severity of [morning sickness](#) in pregnant women.^[2]

Because of its similarity to [LH](#), hCG can also be used clinically to induce [ovulation](#) in the [ovaries](#) as well as [testosterone](#) production in the [testes](#).