

The Measurement of Stature: Letter to the Editor

Recently Genentech, Inc. and Ross Laboratories distributed to many pediatricians a plastic instrument for the measurement of "standing" stature. This instrument consists of a vertical track (graduated in 1.0-mm and 0.16-inch increments), a movable horizontal headboard to be placed on the individual's head for measurement, and a track for the headboard, which is fixed to a wall to provide a flat vertical surface against which the heels, buttocks, scapulae, and head can be aligned. Installation is easy, and a bubble level is provided to ensure that the headboard is horizontal.

Dr. Alex Roche and colleagues conducted a small study of 30 children in which they compared the reliability of the apparatus with that of the Holtrain stadiometer and the Healthometer instrument, which is a scale for weight as well as a measuring device. In a Letter to the Editor, they reported that the Accustat stadiometer, distributed by Ross Laboratories and Genentech, Inc., is more reliable than the Healthometer and can be recommended as an alternative to the more expensive Holtrain stadiometer.

Roche AF, Guo S, Baumgartner RN, Falls RA. *Am J Clin Nutr* 1988; 47:922.

Editor's comment—*The companies are to be commended for providing this device at no charge. Several members of the Editorial Board of Growth, Genetics, and Hormones have found that the data derived from its use are reproducible, as did Roche et al. Readers who would like to acquire the device for their use in the office or clinic are encouraged to contact their local Ross Laboratories representatives.*

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