Rannán na nOspidéil Ghéarmhíochaine
Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bóthar Míleata
Cill Mhaighneann
Baile Átha Cliath 8

Acute Operations
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Dublin 8

4th July 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 29489/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the pathway to diagnosis for Addison's disease

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to the pathway to diagnosis for Addison Disease which was forwarded to the HSE by the Department of Health for direct reply.

Addison's disease is a rare disorder of the adrenal glands. It is also known as primary adrenal insufficiency or hypoadrenalism. Differential diagnosis/aetiology is guided by age and clinical features at presentation. In summary, the pathway to diagnosis includes the following steps:

- Initial review by GP when the patient is first referred for investigation
- GP may then perform confirmatory blood tests locally
- At the point of high clinical suspicion, the GP may then refer the patient to a national (regional) specialist Endocrinologist for further testing
- If clinical suspicion of adrenal insufficiency, replacement therapy with hydrocortisone is commenced immediately

There are a number of centres of expertise which specialise in Endocrine conditions around the country including for Addison Disease. The National Rare Diseases Office has listed all centres of expertise on Orphanet, the international rare disease information portal accessed by healthcare professionals and people affected by rare diseases.

Three Irish Centres of Expertise have become part of the European Reference Network for Rare Endocrine disorders (ERN-Endo). For clinical specialists when needed this facilitates mobility of expertise, virtually or physically, develop and share information, knowledge and best practice and foster developments of the diagnosis and multidisciplinary treatment of rare diseases such as primary adrenal insufficiency.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Dunne

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Brian Dunne
General Manager, Acute Operations