

Table 1. Etiology of Cushing's syndrome

ACTH-dependent

Cushing's disease (CD)

Ectopic ACTH Cushing's syndrome (ECS)

Overt ECS (small cell carcinoma of the lung)

Occult ECS (bronchial carcinoids,
pheochromocytomas, MTC*, pancreatic islet
cell tumours)

Ectopic CRH secretion

Unknown source of ACTH

ACTH-independent

Adrenal neoplasm (adenoma or carcinoma)

Nodular adrenal hyperplasia

Macronodular adrenal hyperplasia

PPAND*

Aberrant adrenal receptor expression for

GIP*

LH*

IL-1*

β -adrenergic receptors

Vasopressin

Adapted from: Stewart PM¹³⁶

*MTC: Medullary Thyroid carcinoma; PPAND: Primary pigmented adrenal nodular dysplasia; GIP: gastric inhibitory peptide; LH: Luteinizing Hormone; IL-1: Interleukin - 1