

Table 3. Diverse effects of hypercortisolism upon tissues and metabolic functions and commonest clinical findings.

Cardiovascular system - Kidneys

- Hypertension
- Water and salt retention
- Renal calculi

Central Nervous System

- Depression
- Psychosis
- Euphoria
- Apathy
- Lethargy
- Pseudotumor cerebri

Endocrine system

- Decreased gonadotrophin release
- Decreased GH release
- Decreased TSH release

Gastrointestinal system

- Peptic ulcer disease
- Pancreatitis with fat necrosis
- Fatty infiltration of the liver

Carbohydrate, protein, and lipid metabolism

- Diabetogenic effect
 - Insulin resistance
 - Increased gluconeogenesis
 - Increased hepatic glycogen deposition
 - Increased free fatty acid production (increased lipolysis)
- Increased deposition of visceral and central adipose tissue
- Increased total cholesterol and triglycerides, decreased HDL
- Increased protein catabolism

Skin-muscle-connective tissue

- Skin thinning
- Muscular atrophy
- Collagen breakdown
- Protein catabolism

Bone – calcium metabolism

- Inhibition of osteoblast function
 - Osteoporosis
- Decreased linear growth (children)
- Decreased intestinal calcium absorption
- Hypercalciuria

Blood - Immune System

- Neutrocytophilia
- Lymphocytopenia
- Immunosuppression

Eye

- Glaucoma
 - Posterior subcapsular cataracts
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