The full report is titled: “The tall and the short: Repainting the landscape about the growth effects of inhaled and intranasal corticosteroids”. It is in the May-June 2016 issue of Allergy Asthma Proceedings (volume 37, pages 180 to 191). The author is David P. Skoner.

Who or What was Proposed to be Studied?

Major published studies evaluating growth suppressing effects of inhaled and intranasal corticosteroids in children with asthma or allergic rhinitis were included in the present study.

How was the Study Done?

The author reviewed several published growth studies based upon definitions of sources of funding, i.e., pharmaceutical vs federal funding, and whether the studies were primary (growth was the primary outcome) or secondary (growth was a secondary outcome).

What are the Limitations of the Proposed Study?

One of the limitations of the study was the great variability of the research design and purpose of the studies.

What are the Implications of the Study?

The results of the study suggest that the older studies were heavily flawed, were conducted primarily by the pharmaceutical industry and painted an inaccurate landscape of safety and efficacy of ICS and INCS usage in children. More recent studies funded by the NIH and the pharmaceutical industry have been better performed with stronger evidence collected during the course of longer and better-designed trials and have provided data suggesting that newer ICS formulations are safer than the older versions. Continued research in this area is clearly indicated.