

manifestations are myxedematous skin changes (dry skin, puffiness around the eyes, sparse hair), constipation, lethargy, and mental decline ([Box 28-5](#)).

Box 28-5

Clinical Manifestations of Juvenile Hypothyroidism

Decelerated growth

- Less when acquired at later age

Myxedematous skin changes

- Dry skin
- Puffiness around eyes
- Sparse hair
- Constipation
- Sleepiness
- Mental decline

Therapy is TH replacement, the same as for hypothyroidism in infants, although the prompt treatment needed in infants is not required in children. Levothyroxine is administered over a period of 4 to 8 weeks to avoid symptoms of hyperthyroidism. Children treated early continue to have mild delays in reading, comprehension, and arithmetic but catch up. However, adolescents may demonstrate problems with memory, attention, and visuospatial processing.

Nursing Care Management