

# ADRENAL INSUFFICIENCY

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Adrenal insufficiency may be primary, secondary or tertiary. Primary insufficiency (Addison's disease) is due to adrenocortical disease, whereas secondary and tertiary insufficiency arise from pituitary and hypothalamic pathology, respectively. Addison's disease most commonly occurs when there is autoimmune (70–90%) or tuberculous destruction of the adrenal cortex and results in glucocorticoid and mineralocorticoid deficiency. This is in contrast to secondary disease (lack of ACTH) and tertiary disease (lack of CRH secretion), where the, UK, described this syndrome in 1911. He his account of the syndrome in 1918.

Type of AI Primary AI a Secondary AI Tertiary AI

tion (under control of the renin-angiotensin system) is spared. The causes are summarised in Table 57.1.

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