Typical Progression of Female Pubertal Development

Pubertal development in size of female breasts.

Stage 1. The breasts are preadolescent. There is elevation of the areola only.

Stage 2. Breast bud stage. A small mound is formed by the elevation of the breast and papilla. The areolar diameter enlarges.

Stage 3. There is further enlargement of breasts and areola with no separation of their contours.

Stage 4. There is a projection of the areola and papilla to form a secondary mound above the level of the breast.

Stage 5. The breasts resemble those of a mature female as the areola has receded to the general contour of the breast.

Pubertal development of female pubic hair.

Stage 1. There is no pubic hair.

Stage 2. There is sparse growth of long, slightly pigmented, downy hair, straight or only slightly curled, primarily along the labia.

Stage 3. The hair is considerably darker, coarser, and more curled. The hair spreads sparsely over the junction of the pubes.

Stage 4. The hair, now adult in quantity and type, covers a smaller area than in the adult and does not extend onto the thighs.

Stage 5. The hair is adult in quantity and type, with extension onto the thighs.

Sequence of Pubertal Events—Average American Female

Age (Years)

Height Spurt

Menarche

Breast
(Tanner Stage)

Pubic Hair
(Tanner Stage)