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Nikos Dafnis (nikdafnis@gmail.com), Department of Mathematics, University of Athens, 157 84 Athens, Greece, and **Grigorios Paouris*** (grigoris@math.tamu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX TX 77843. *Small ball probability estimates, ψ_2 -behavior and the hyperplane conjecture.*

We introduce a method which leads to upper bounds for the isotropic constant. We prove that a positive answer to the hyperplane conjecture is equivalent to some very strong small probability estimates for the Euclidean norm on isotropic convex bodies. As a consequence of our method, we obtain an alternative proof of the result of J. Bourgain that every ψ_2 -body has bounded isotropic constant, with a slightly better estimate. (Received February 23, 2009)