

# Hyperthyroidism

We were unable to identify an authoritative, non-copyrighted article on hyperthyroidism. However, an excellent article prepared by A.D.A.M., Inc. for the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health is available for free on-line viewing at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000356.htm>.

To obtain a free copy of the present document, go to [www.masterdocs.com](http://www.masterdocs.com).

Hyperthyroidism (thyrotoxicosis) is the clinical syndrome caused by an excess of circulating thyroid hormones. Major causes in humans are Graves' disease (about 80% of all cases), toxic thyroid adenoma, toxic multinodular goitre, subacute thyroiditis, other inflammations of the thyroid, tumors of testes or ovaries, excessive amounts of oral thyroid hormone or iodine.

## Signs and symptoms include:

- Weight Loss (often accompanied by a ravenous appetite)
- Fatigue and Weakness
- Hyperactivity and Irritability
- Heat Intolerance and Sweating
- Apathy and Depression
- Polyuria
- Palpitations
- Menstrual Irregularities
- Loss of Libido or Infertility
- Frequent Bowel Movements, Nausea, or Vomiting
- Visible Goiter (enlarged thyroid gland)
- Protruding Eyes (exophthalmos)

Neurological manifestations may include tremor, chorea, myopathy, and periodic paralysis. Stroke due to coexisting atrial fibrillation may occur.

## Diagnosis

A diagnosis is usually made through blood tests that show decreased TSH (Thyroid Stimulating Hormone) and increased thyroid hormones (T3 and T4).

## **Treatment depends on the cause and severity and may include:**

- Antithyroid medications
- Radioiodine treatment
- Surgery

Hypothyroidism may result from excessive doses of antithyroid medications or radioiodine. Hypothyroidism is also common after surgery as it is difficult to gauge how much of the thyroid gland should be removed. Oral thyroid hormone therapy may be required in these cases.

### **The following information relates to the article on hyperthyroidism at the above website:**

Update Date: 5/4/2004 by: Ram Chandran Kalyanam, M.D., Department of Psychiatry, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA. Review provided by VeriMed Healthcare Network.

A.D.A.M., Inc. is accredited by URAC, also known as the American Accreditation HealthCare Commission ([www.uran.org](http://www.uran.org)). URAC's accreditation program is the first of its kind, requiring compliance with 53 standards of quality and accountability, verified by independent audit. A.D.A.M. is among the first to achieve this important distinction for online health information and services. Learn more about A.D.A.M.'s editorial process. A.D.A.M. is also a founding member of Hi-Ethics ([www.hiethics.com](http://www.hiethics.com)) and subscribes to the principles of the Health on the Net Foundation ([www.hon.ch](http://www.hon.ch)).

The information provided herein should not be used during any medical emergency or for the diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. A licensed physician should be consulted for diagnosis and treatment of any and all medical conditions. Call 911 for all medical emergencies. Links to other sites are provided for information only -- they do not constitute endorsements of those other sites. Copyright 2002 A.D.A.M., Inc.

**This document is provided as a service to the public by TMT (Taylor MicroTechnology, Inc.). TMT does not provide medical advice to you. TMT does inform you of publicly available medical information. However, please realize that the possible diagnoses provided may not include the cause of your own pain, and that a reliable diagnosis can only be obtained by contacting your own health care provider. For details of the Content Disclaimer and Legal Disclaimers regarding materials provided by TMT, see [www.masterdocs.com/disclaimer.htm](http://www.masterdocs.com/disclaimer.htm).**