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Women's health depends on a lifetime of answers—one test at a time.

Women and Thyroid Disease

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As an integrated healthcare company, our comprehensive solutions follow the complete continuum of thyroid care, including diagnosis, therapy, and aftercare. In addition, our solutions in healthcare IT support the exchange of data for making informed decisions.

What is Thyroid Disease?

The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland that rests in the middle of the lower neck. Its primary function is to control the body's metabolism. In order for the thyroid gland to function properly, it must maintain the proper amount of hormones to keep the body's metabolism at an acceptable rate. If there is too much hormone or not enough hormone, metabolism

is affected. Thyroid disease is one of the most common endocrine disorders and affects people of all ages and races, but predominantly women.¹

Hypothyroidism is a condition that occurs when the thyroid cannot produce enough thyroid, resulting in the body using energy slower than it should. The most common cause is an autoimmune disease called Hashimoto's thyroiditis.²

Hyperthyroidism is a condition where the thyroid produces too much thyroid hormone, which makes the body use energy faster than it should. Graves' disease is the most common cause of hyperthyroidism. It is an autoimmune disorder, also known as toxic diffuse goiter.²

Answers for life.

Abnormal thyroid status before, during, and after pregnancy is associated with numerous problems in mother and baby. In the woman, this may include infertility, miscarriage, pre-eclampsia, and post-partum thyroid disease. The infant may be affected with low birth weight, congestive heart failure, and mental retardation. Therefore it is very important for high risk pregnant women to be screened for thyroid dysfunction, and treated appropriately.³

Thyroid diseases are life-long conditions. With careful management, people with thyroid disease can live healthy, normal lives.

- Thyroid disease is more prevalent in women than in men at a ratio of 8:1²
- Hashimoto's thyroiditis is the most common cause of hypothyroidism with a prevalence of 1% of the general population²

- Graves' disease is the most common cause of hyperthyroidism, with a prevalence of 1% of the general population.²
- TSI, the autoantibody that causes Graves' disease, can cross the placenta from mother to fetus, causing hyperthyroidism in the baby.³
- Subclinical hypothyroidism is described as a finding of elevated TSH values and normal FT4. It affects 8% of women.²
- The prevalence of thyroid goiter in countries with severe iodine deficiency can be as high as 80%.⁴
- Patients with thyroid disease can be well-managed with medication and regular blood monitoring using thyroid function tests.
- Thyroid cancer is the 7th most common cancer in women.⁵

- Thyroid cancer is the most common malignant endocrine tumor.⁶
- Increase in thyroid cancer diagnoses can be partially attributed to better diagnostic imaging technology.⁷

References

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Empowering you to advance the health and vitality of women throughout the continuum of life. **Your results. Her lifetime.**

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