



Società Italiana dell'Ipertensione Arteriosa  
Lega Italiana contro l'Ipertensione Arteriosa

# Paralisi ipokaliemica tireotossica

Una presentazione inusuale  
di una patologia comune

EVENTO FORMATIVO  
INTERREGIONALE SIIA  
PIEMONTE  
LIGURIA  
VALLE D'AOSTA

*Torino, 14 ottobre 2023*

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# Sig. M 39 aa

Anamnesi familiare: madre diabetica, 1 sorella affetta da distiroidismo

Anamnesi fisiologica: coniugato, 3 figli in abs, magazziniere (cella frigo a  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), non fumatore, non bevitore, non assume liquirizia, possibile roncopatia

Allergie: non note

**A.P.R:** diabete mellito di tipo 2 in trattamento dietetico.

A.P.P.: recente reperto di PA 162/79 mmHg.

inviato dopo accesso al DEA per dolore toracico, tachicardia, paresi arti inferiori e ipostenia arti superiori, 160/80 mmHg, fc 91;

es. EE ipokaliemia severa 2 mmol/L → dopo KCl ev in infusione, dimesso con  $\text{K}^+$  4,2 mmol/L). TSH  $< 0,01$



# Esame obiettivo

- buone condizioni generali
- **PA 150/80 (media su 3 rilevazioni) braccio sx**
- **in ortostasi PA 140/75 mmHg**
- Peso 75 Kg; h 170 cm
- toni cardiaci validi, ritmici, tachifrequenti (100/min), impurità sistolica
- torace MV ubiquitario, non rumori patologici
- addome globoso trattabile, non dolente né dolorabile, fegato a 2 cm dall'arcata costale, milza non palpabile
- arterie normoisosfigmiche, non soffi patologici udibili
- non edemi declivi
- **Tiroide soffice, non dolorabile**
- **Fini tremori arti superiori**
- **Riferisce calo ponderale di alcuni Kg negli ultimi tempi ed insonnia**



Terapia in atto (dal DEA): KCL 600 mg 2 cp x 2

Esami eseguiti:

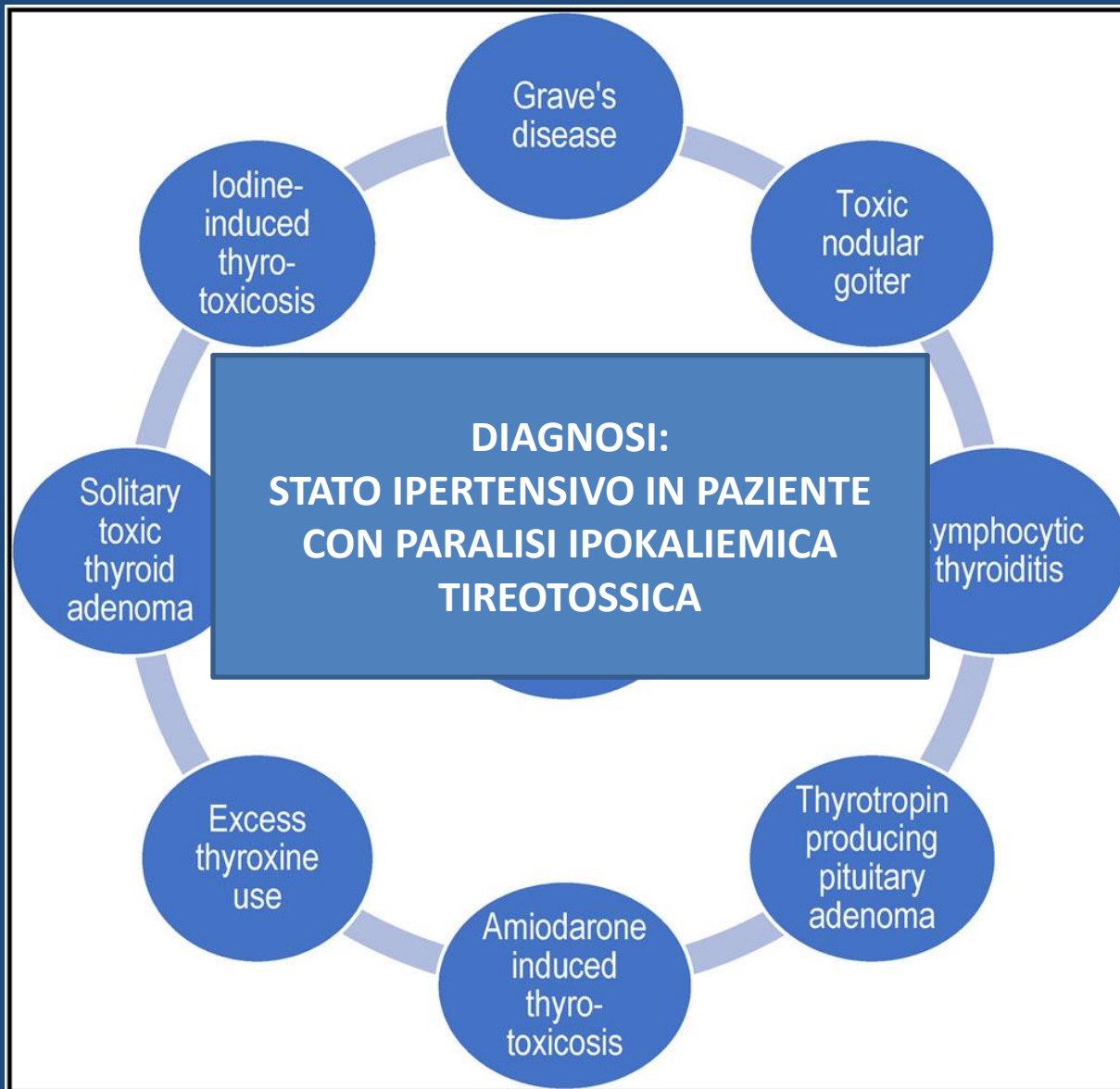
- K<sup>+</sup> 4,2, Na<sup>+</sup> 138 mmol/L TSH < 0.010, fT4 43,6 (v.n. 7,6 -14,6 ng/L), fT3 20,52 ng/L
- ECG: ritmo sinusale a 106/min, alterazioni della ripolarizzazione verosimilmente secondarie ad ipokaliemia

TRAb 3,5 U/L (v.n. < 1,8)

AbTPO 493 U/L (v.n. < 35)

AbTG < 20 (v.n. <40)

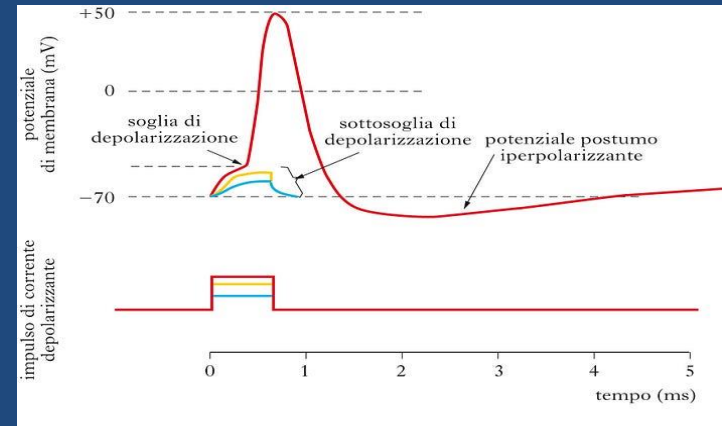
IPERTIROIDISMO AUTOIMMUNE (M DI BASEDOW)





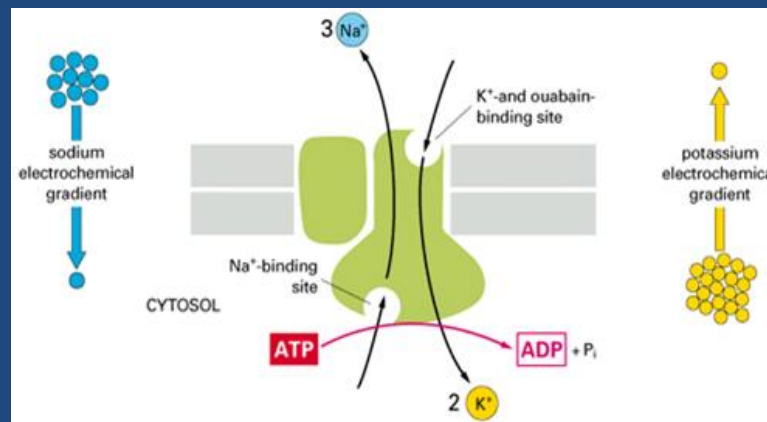
# Paralisi ipokaliemica tireotossica

- Rara causa di astenia muscolare acuta
- Maschi > femmine (17:1 → 70:1)
- 20 - 40 aa
- No storia familiare di paralisi periodica
- Qualsiasi forma di ipertiroidismo > Basedow
- Prevalente negli Asiatici
- Spesso sfumati /assenti segni di tireotossicosi (problemi dg)
- Prevalente al mattino
- Base ereditaria: nel 33% mutazioni gene KCNJ2 sensibile ad ormoni tiroidei codifica Kir, prot correlata ai canali muscolari scheletrici del K<sup>+</sup> - inoltre polimorfismi CACNA1S e GABRA3



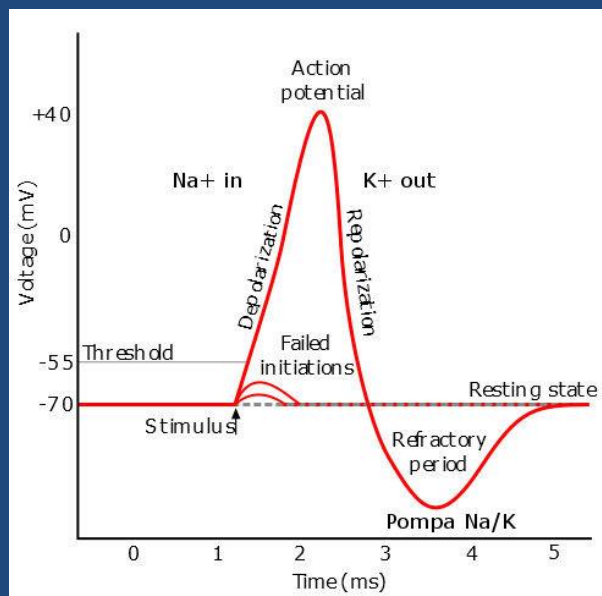
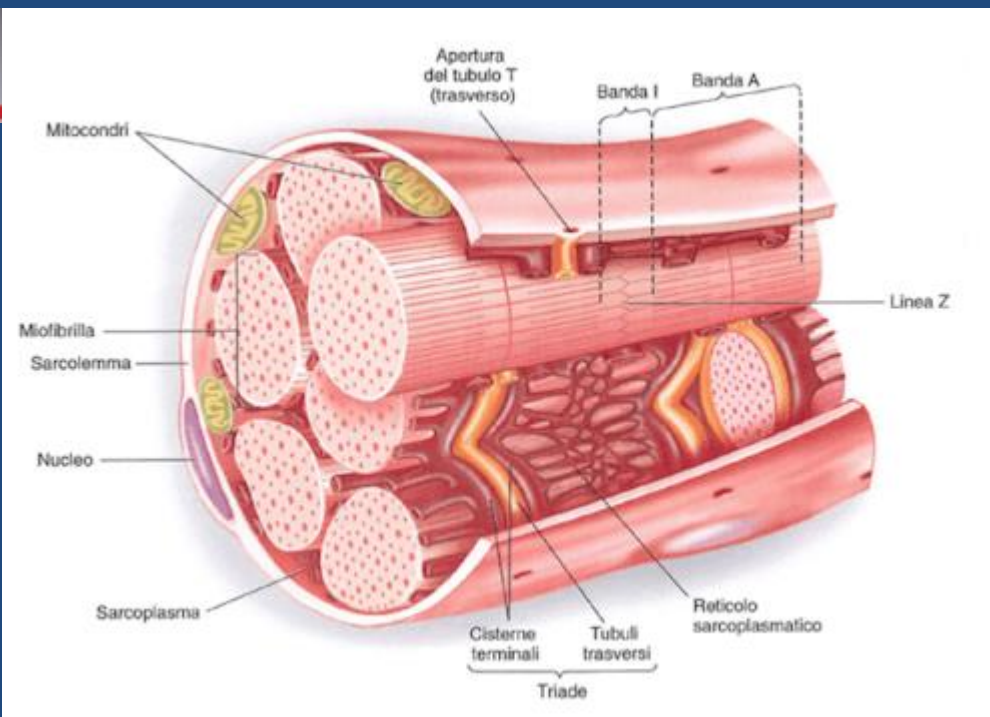
## STIMOLATA DA:

- Ormoni tiroidei
- Catecolamine
- Attività beta adren
  - Androgeni
  - insulina

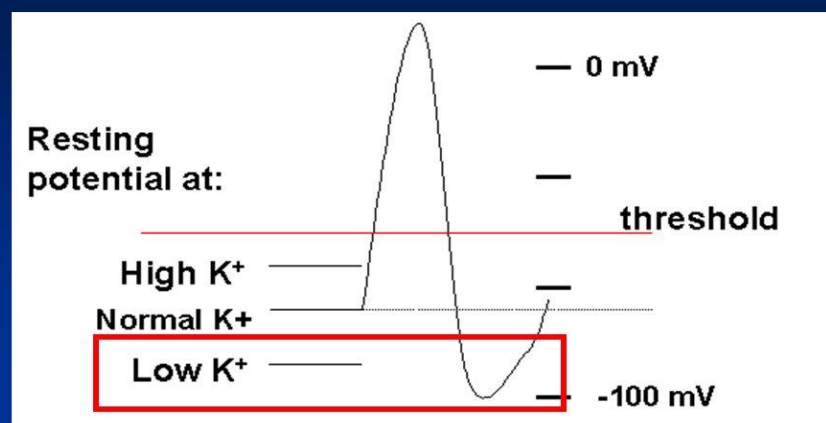


## INIBITA DA:

- ESTROGENI
- BETA B (indir.)
  - - Cn-
- ouabaina



**Effetti dell'ipopotassiemia sul potenziale d'azione:  
minore eccitabilità cellulare (singola cellula)**





# Trattamento

- Correzione della Kaliemia (ev e per os): prevenzione aritmie e recupero stenia muscolare
- Attenzione a rebound iperk+ (40%) se infusione di KCl > 90 meq in < 24 ore!!
- Propranololo (blocco stimolazione adrenergica di Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> ATPasi)
- Farmaci antitiroidei
- Eventuali radioiodio o tiroidectomia

## Terapia consigliata:

metimazolo 5 mg 1 cp x 3

inderal 40 mg 1 cp x 2

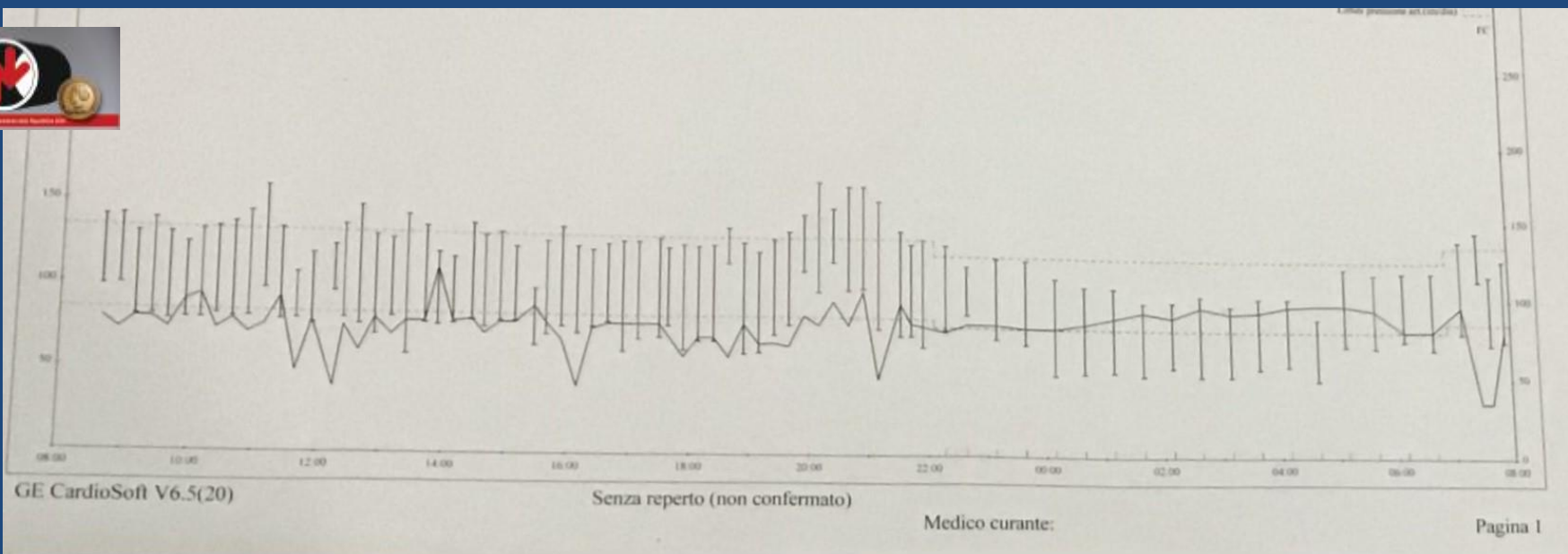
Kcl retard 600 mg 1 cp x 3



TABLE 4. BETA-ADRENERGIC RECEPTOR BLOCKADE IN THE TREATMENT OF THYROTOXICOSIS

| Drug                     | Dosage                   | Frequency | Considerations                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Propranolol <sup>a</sup> | 10–40 mg                 | TID QID   | Nonselective beta-adrenergic receptor                                                                                                                               |
| Atenolol                 |                          |           |                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Metoprolol               |                          |           |                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Nadolol                  |                          |           |                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Esmolol                  | IV pump 50–100 µg/kg/min |           | Least experience to date<br>May block T <sub>4</sub> to T <sub>3</sub> conversion at high doses<br>In intensive care unit setting of severe thyrotoxicosis or storm |

Each of these drugs has been approved for treatment of cardiovascular diseases, but to date none has been approved for the treatment of thyrotoxicosis.



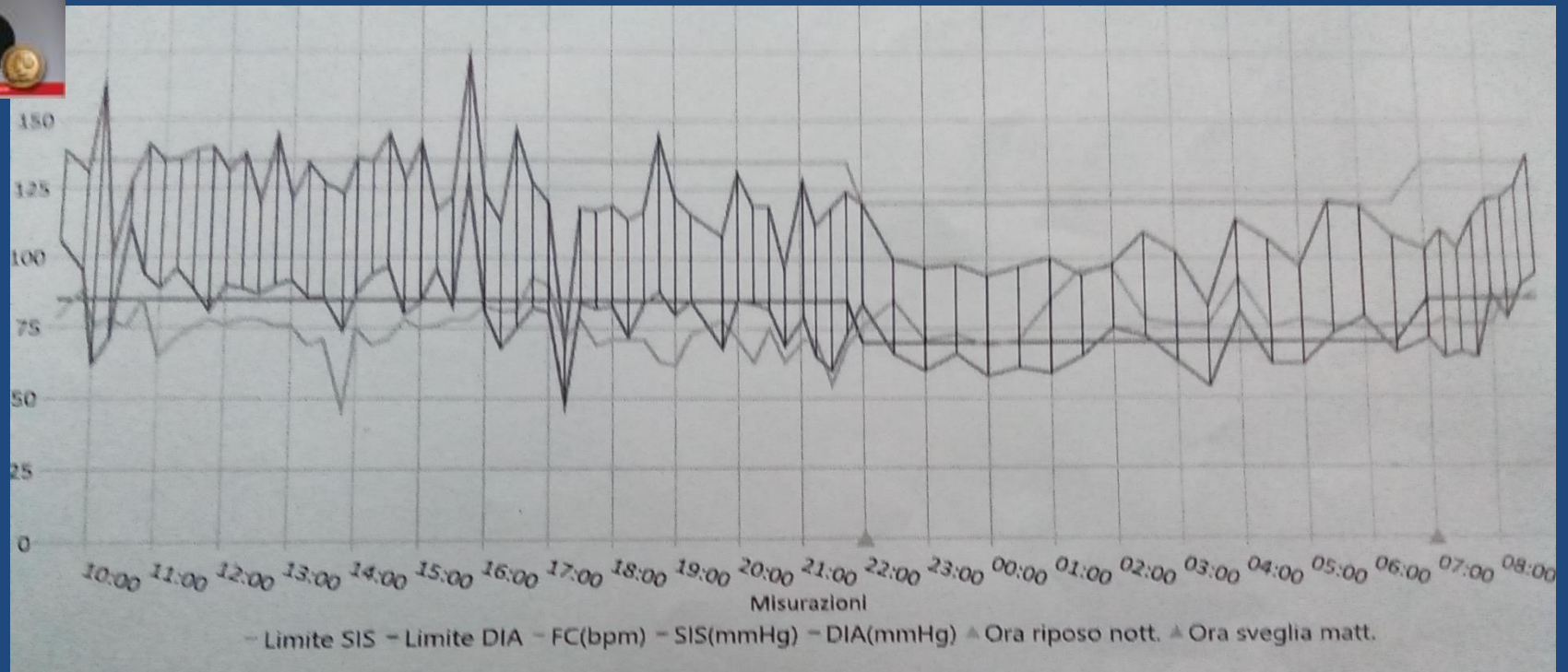
- Medie sisto-diastoliche delle 24 ore oltre i limiti di riferimento (PA 129,8/76,8)
- Fasi di veglia: medie sistoliche oltre i limiti e diastoliche nei limiti di riferimento (PA 136/81 mmHg)
- Medie notturne: nei limiti (PA 110/62 mmHg), dipping presente (caduta pressoria notturna- 19%)
- Con propranololo 40 mg x 2 e metimazolo 5 mg x 3

TSH < 0.10, fT4 39,6



# Nel corso del mese successivo ...

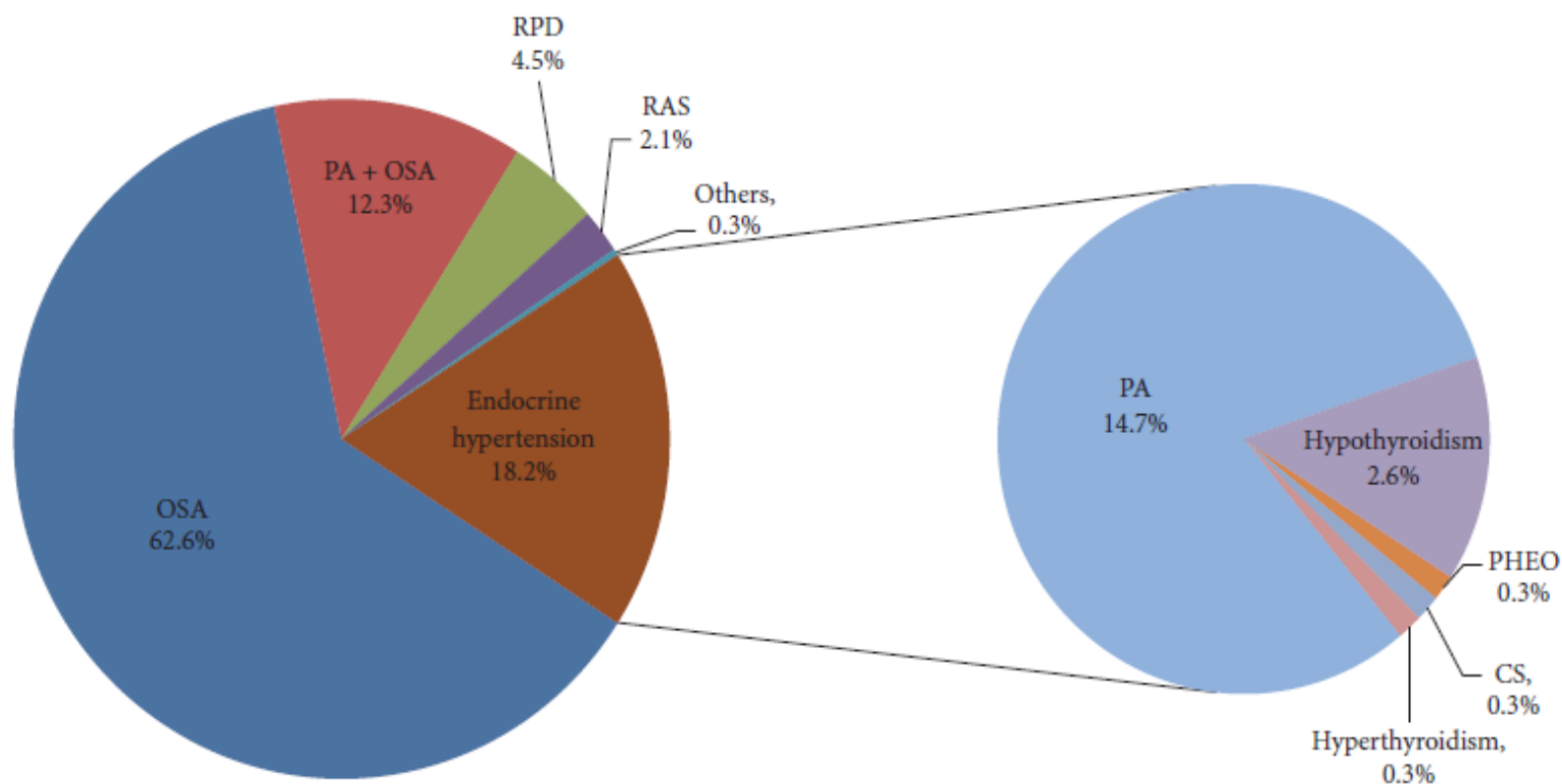
- Rapido rientro della PA nei limiti di riferimento
  - 120/70 mmHg
  - in ortostasi PA 120/80 mmHg
- 
- F-U con rimodulazione di KCL per os e necessità episodica di integrazione con KCL ev + MgSO<sub>4</sub> → fino a graduale sospensione in alcuni mesi



- Medie sisto-diastoliche delle 24 ore oltre i limiti di riferimento (PA 120/78,8)
- Fasi di veglia: medie sistoliche oltre i limiti e diastoliche nei limiti di riferimento (PA 125,3/82,6 mmHg)
- Medie notturne: nei limiti (PA 103,2/67 mmHg), dipping presente (caduta pressoria notturna- 19%)



## Detection of Secondary Causes and Coexisting Diseases in Hypertensive Patients: OSA and PA Are the Common Causes Associated with Hypertension





# Effects of thyroid hormones on cardiovascular system

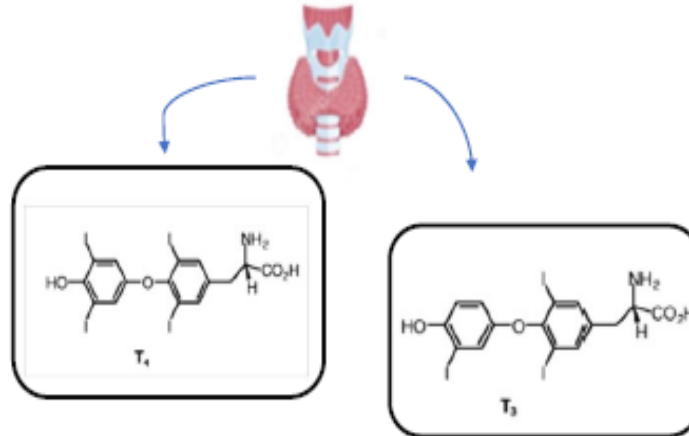
## Cardiac function

- ↑ Myosin heavy chains
- ↑ Cardiac muscle
- ↑ Ventricular contractility and function
- $\beta_1$  adrenergic signaling



## Electrophysiological activity

- Effects on  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+/\text{ATPase}$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ATPase
- $\beta_1$  adrenergic activity



## Renal effects

- ↓ Renal perfusion
- ↑ RAAS activity



## Metabolic effects

- Lipid metabolism
- Gluconeogenesis
- Insulin signaling
- Mitochondriogenesis



Non-Genomic

Mechanisms of Action

Genomic

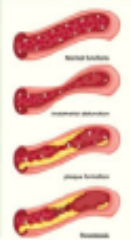
## Direct effects on coronary arteries

- Effects on VSMCs
- Effects on vascular tone



## Cardioprotective actions

- Anti-inflammatory
- Anti-apoptotic
- Anti-fibrotic
- Anti-oxidant
- Angiogenetic





# Summary of molecular and clinical effects of hyperthyroidism on cardiovascular system

## Effects of hyperthyroidism on heart

### Molecular and cellular effects

1. Affects myocellular contraction:
  - Upregulation of  $\alpha$ -myosin heavy chain
  - Affects intracellular calcium levels
2. Affects plasma membrane of cardiomyocytes:
  - Prolongation of activation of Na channels
  - Decreased L-type calcium channels
  - Upregulates  $\beta$ -adrenergic receptors
  - Affects on gap-junction protein, e.g. connexion
3. Affects sinoatrial node also directly
4. Increases oxidative stress
5. Local deiodinase upregulation

### Clinical results

- Increased stroke volume due to:
  1. Increased preload  
More diastolic relaxation and increased total blood volume (decreased renal perfusion → increased RAS → increased sodium retention)
  2. Decreased afterload  
Decreased systemic vascular resistance and increased myocardial contractility
- Increased heart rate due to increased sympathetic tone on heart

### Effects of hyperthyroidism on vessel.

VPR reduction: secondary to :

- a local release of vasodilators in peripheral tissues (NO)
- Inhibition myosin light chain kinase

Sinusal tachycardia, atrial fibrillation and tachyarrhythmias, thyrotoxic cardiomyopathy, endothelial dysfunction, widened blood pressure, decreased exercise threshold, myocardial ischemia in patients with underlying diseases



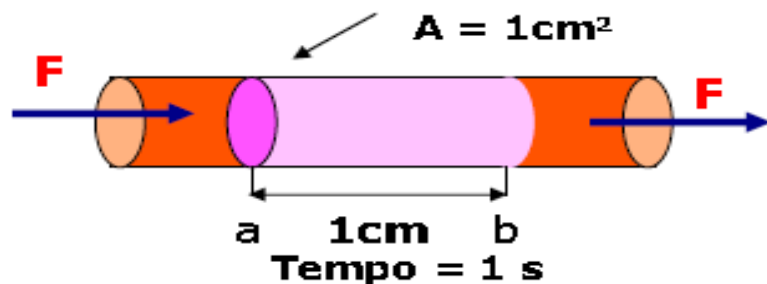
# Fattori determinanti la Pressione arteriosa

$$P = F (Gc = \text{precarico} \times \text{a.c.}) \times R (8\eta L / \pi r^4)$$

- 1 - volume ematico
- 2 - attività cardiaca
- 3 - viscosità ematica ( $\eta$ )
- 4 - raggio medio arteriolare ( $r$ )

Attività di pompa del cuore

IPERTENSIONE  
SISTOLICA  
ISOLATA



$$V = F/A$$
$$F = V \cdot A$$
$$F = (1 \text{ cm/sec}) \cdot 1 \text{ cm}^2 = 1 \text{ cm}^3/\text{sec}$$



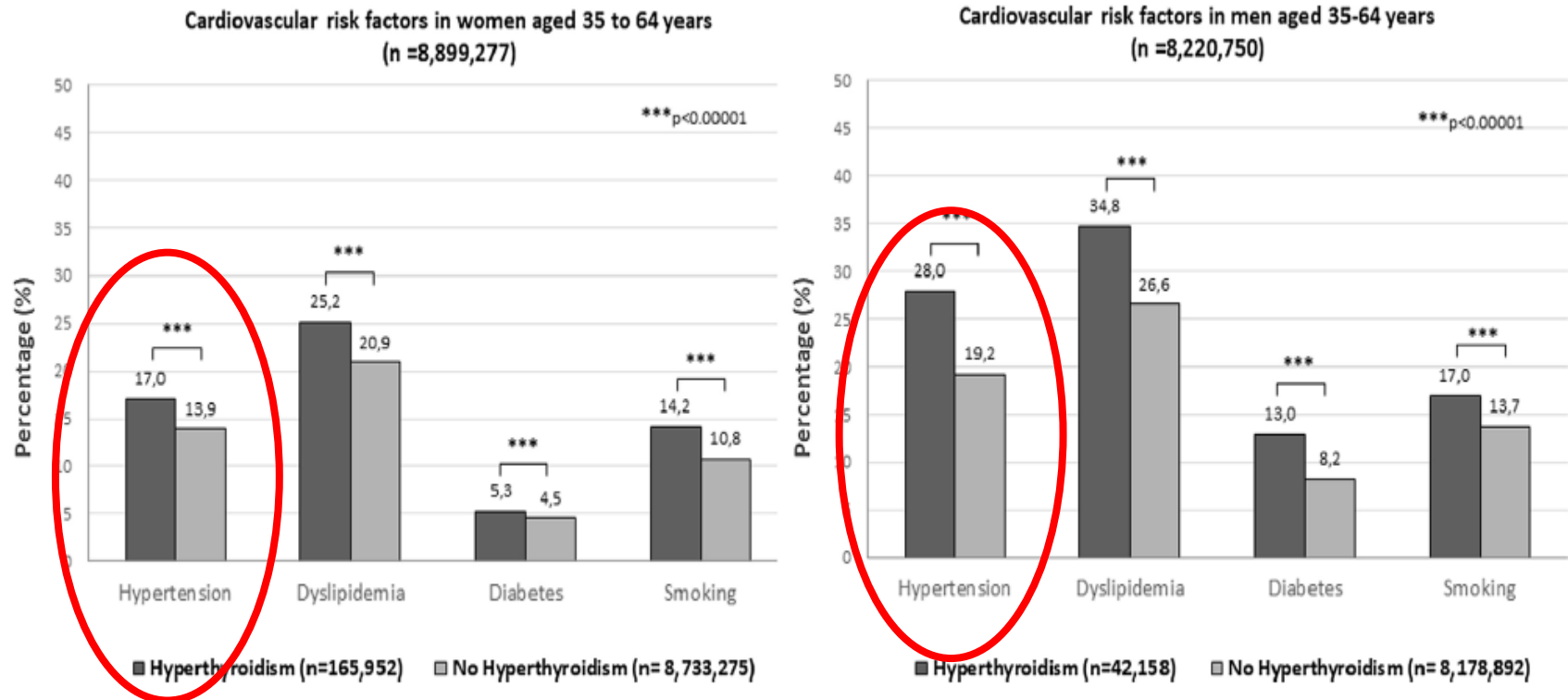
# Hyperthyroidism and CV risk factors

**Table 1** Total population with health problems registered in the BDCAP database in 2019 and its distribution in patients with hyperthyroidism according to age, gender and cardiovascular risk factors.

|                                    | Total population in BDCAP | Patients with hyperthyroidism |            |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
|                                    |                           | Number                        | Percentage |
| <i>All</i>                         | 38,365,258                | 384,182                       | 1.00       |
| <i>Gender</i>                      |                           |                               |            |
| Male                               | 18,230,737                | 83,939                        | 0.46       |
| Female                             | 20,134,521                | 300,243                       | 1.49       |
| <i>Age (years)</i>                 |                           |                               |            |
| 0-14                               | 5,598,051                 | 2,327                         | 0.04       |
| 15-34                              | 7,591,284                 | 32,664                        | 0.43       |
| 35-64                              | 17,119,977                | 208,110                       | 1.21       |
| 65 and over                        | 8,055,946                 | 141,080                       | 1.75       |
| <i>Cardiovascular risk factors</i> |                           |                               |            |
| Hypertension                       | 7,690,491                 | 134,090                       | 1.74       |
| Dyslipidemia                       | 8,326,527                 | 132,420                       | 1.59       |
| Diabetes                           | 3,133,467                 | 49,486                        | 1.57       |
| Smoking                            | 2,931,070                 | 41,832                        | 1.42       |



# Hyperthyroidism and CV risk factors



**Figure 1** Cardiovascular risk factors in women (left) and men (right) aged 35–64 years according to the presence or absence of hyperthyroidism.

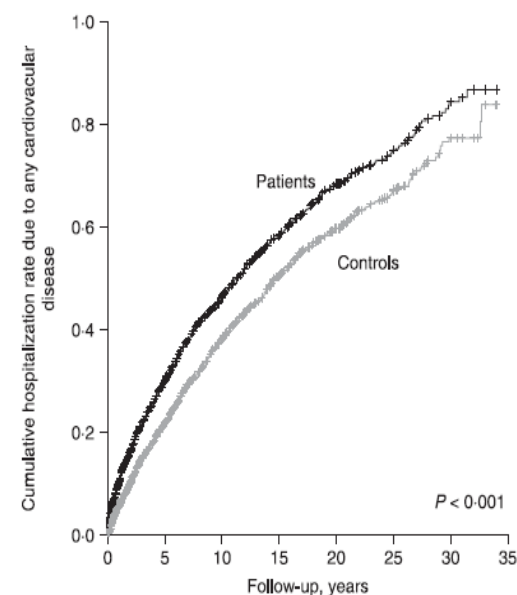
# Increased long-term cardiovascular morbidity among patients treated with radioactive iodine for hyperthyroidism

Saara Metso\*†, Anssi Auvinen‡§, Jorma Salmi\*, Heini Huhtala‡¶ and Pia Jaatinen\*†

Clinical Endocrinology (2008) 68, 450–457

**Table 2.** Hospitalization rate caused by different cardiovascular diseases per 10 000 person-years in the hyperthyroid patients and the age- and sex-matched control group

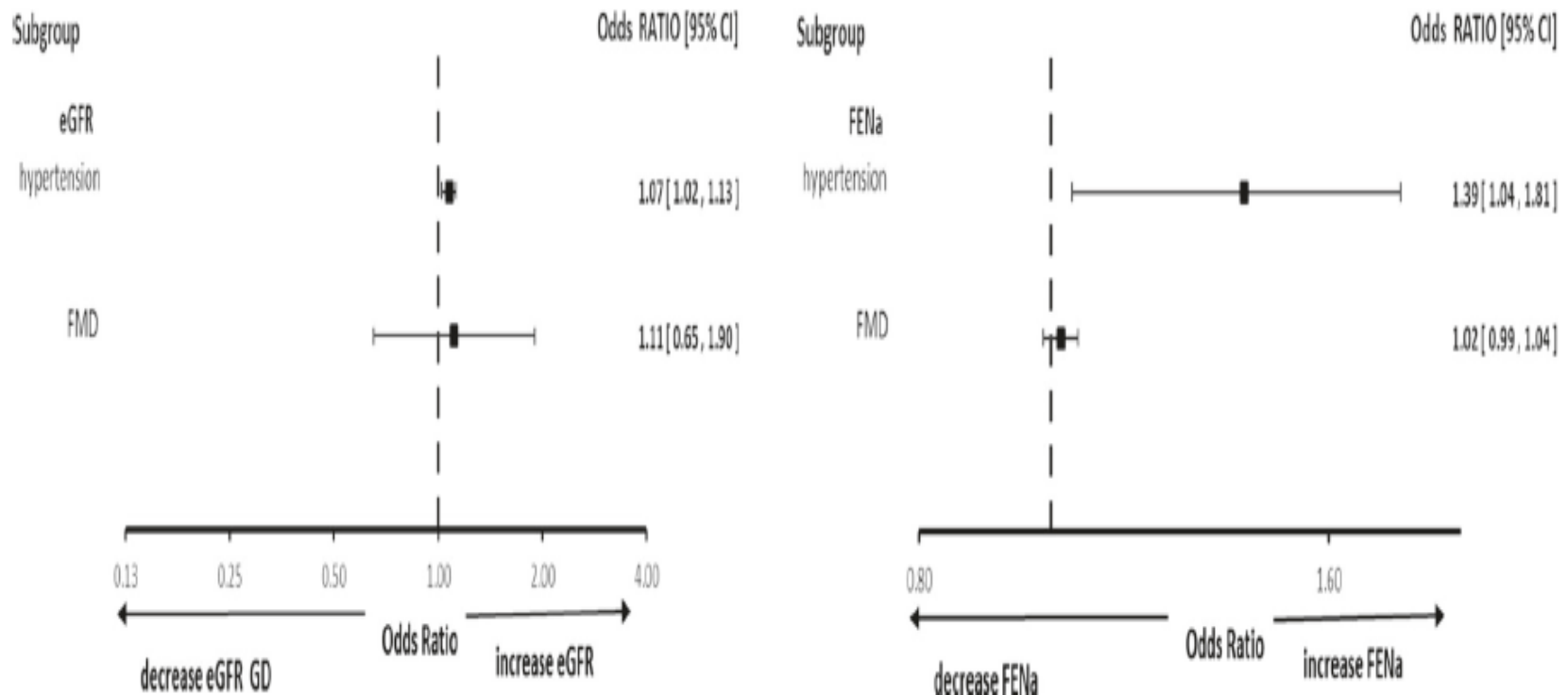
| Cardiovascular disease   | Patients |              |                      | Controls |              |                      | Patients vs. controls<br>Rate ratio (95% CI) |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------|----------------------|----------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|                          | Cases    | Person-years | Hospitalization rate | Cases    | Person-years | Hospitalization rate |                                              |
| Arrhythmias              | 643      | 24 864       | 258.6                | 397      | 27 218       | 145.9                | 1.22 (1.07–1.39)*                            |
| Coronary artery          | 538      | 25 785       | 208.7                | 507      | 26 840       | 188.9                | 1.05 (0.93–1.19)                             |
| Cerebrovascular          | 428      | 26 725       | 160.2                | 344      | 28 015       | 122.8                | 1.31 (1.14–1.51)*                            |
| Other arteries and veins | 357      | 25 917       | 137.7                | 296      | 27 219       | 108.7                | 1.22 (1.05–1.43)*                            |
| Hypertension             | 344      | 26 276       | 130.9                | 271      | 27 716       | 97.8                 | 1.20 (1.02–1.41)*                            |
| Heart failure            | 346      | 27 141       | 127.5                | 214      | 28 650       | 74.7                 | 1.48 (1.24–1.76)*                            |
| Pulmonary artery         | 86       | 27 821       | 30.9                 | 61       | 28 969       | 21.1                 | 1.36 (0.98–1.89)                             |
| Other†                   | 54       | 27 947       | 19.3                 | 47       | 29 064       | 16.3                 | 1.16 (0.78–1.71)                             |



**Fig. 1** Cumulative hospitalization rate due to cardiovascular disease (CVD) by time since treatment in the hyperthyroid patients treated with RAI compared with the age- and sex-matched control group ( $P < 0.001$ , log rank test).



# Renal function changes in patients with subclinical hyperthyroidism



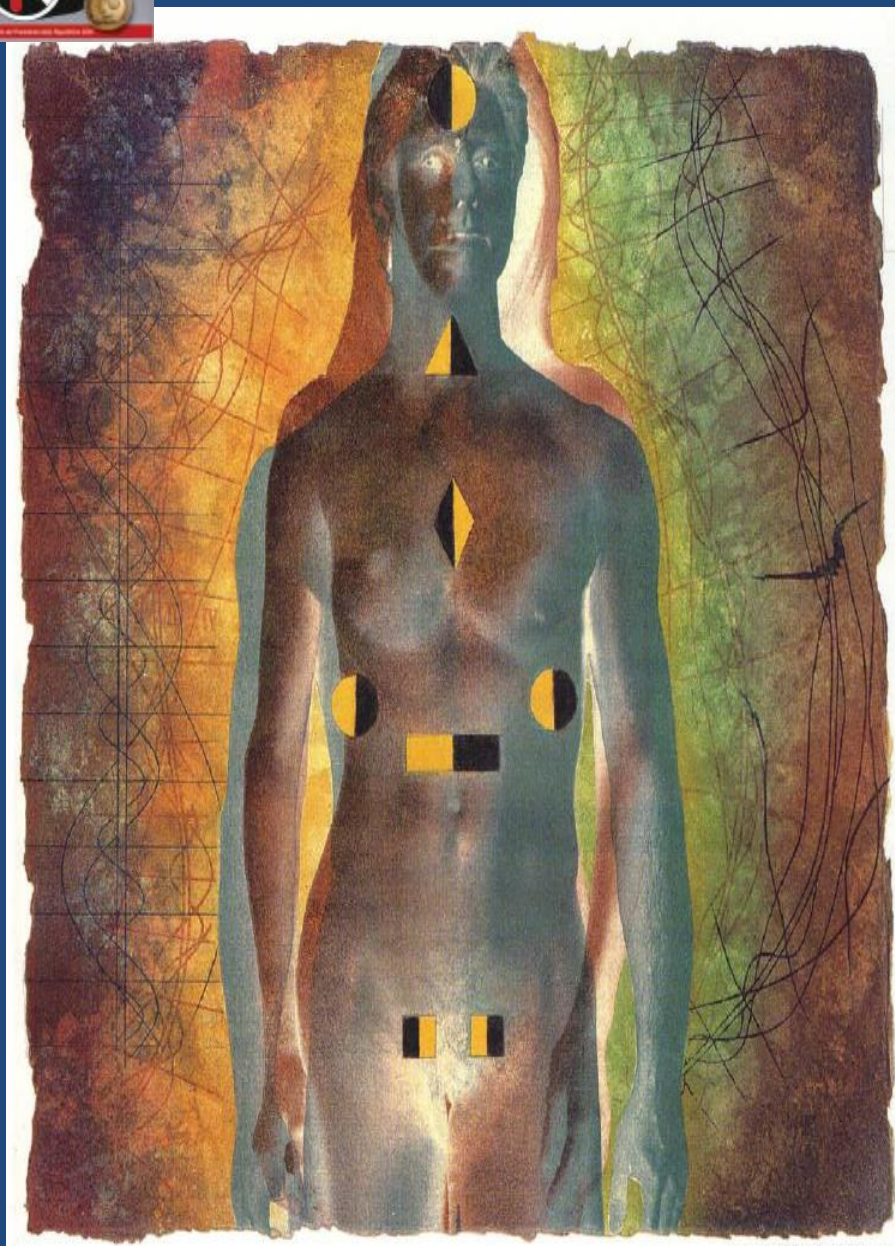


# The Incidence and Prevalence of Thyroid Dysfunction in Europe: A Meta-Analysis

Table 1. Category 1: Undiagnosed Thyroid Dysfunction Prevalence

| Study                 | Year | n            | Age Range, y | Tests                                                | Hypothyroidism, % |             |             | Hyperthyroidism, % |             |              |
|-----------------------|------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      | Total             | SC          | Overt       | Total              | SC          | Overt        |
| Tunbridge et al (13)  | 1977 | 2779 (54% F) | >18          | TSH, FT <sub>4</sub> , FT <sub>3</sub> , TPOAb, TgAb | 0.18 (100% F)     |             |             | 0.25 (71% F)       |             |              |
| Vanderpump et al (14) | 1995 | 1877 (56% F) | 38–93        | TSH, FT <sub>4</sub>                                 | 4.84 (89% F)      |             |             | 1.06 (95% F)       |             |              |
| Knudsen et al (15)    | 1999 | 2613         | 41–71        | TSH, FT <sub>4</sub>                                 | 1.81% F           | 0.7 (83% F) | 0.3 (75% F) | 2.7 (71% F)        | 1.4 (57% F) | 0.6 (100% F) |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | 0.34 (91% F) |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | 0.4          |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | 5.65 (51% F) |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | 0.18 (50% F) |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | 0.35         |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | 0.29–0.41    |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | 6.86         |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | .076         |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | 3            |
|                       |      |              |              |                                                      |                   |             |             |                    |             | antibody;    |

- AACE: 13 M people (4.78%) in USA have undiagnosed thyroid dysfunction
- NHANES III screened 13344 people with previously unrecognized thyroid disease: 4.6% had hypothyroidism (0.3% overt and 4.3% subclinical) and 1.3% had hyperthyroidism (0.5% overt and 0.7% subclinical)
- In a Eu meta-analysis (17 studies) prevalence of undiagnosed thyroid dysfunction in Europe was 6.71%: 4.94% for undiagnosed hypothyroidism and 1.72% for undiagnosed hyperthyroidism.



## SINTOMI

## FREQUENZA%

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| ERETISMO, INSONNIA      | 80 – 90 |
| IPERIDROSI              | 50 – 91 |
| INOLLERANZA AL CALDO    | 41 – 89 |
| CARDIOPALMO             | 63 – 89 |
| ASTENIA E FATICABILITA' | 44 – 88 |
| PERDITA DI PESO         | 52 – 85 |
| AUMENTO DELLA'PPETITO   | 11 – 65 |
| DIARREA                 | 12 – 33 |

## SEGNI

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| GOZZO DIFFUSO          | 37 – 100 |
| OFTALMOPATIA           | 49 – 62  |
| RETRAZIONE PALPEBRE    | 38       |
| LAGOFTALMO             | 48 – 62  |
| TREMORI                | 40 – 97  |
| MANI CALDE             | 72       |
| MANI UMIDE             | 76       |
| TACHICARDIA (> 90/MIN) | 58 – 100 |
| FIBRILLAZIONE ATRIALE  | 10 – 38  |

9146  
hypertensive  
patients

## Screening for Thyroid Disorders Among Resistant Hypertension Patients: Are We Doing Enough?

1125  
resistant  
hypertension

Dr. Anupam, MD; Mian Tanveer Ud Din, MD; Divya Venkat, MD; Patrick Wedgeworth, MD; and Sheng Fu, MD

6/74  
screened  
due to HT

74 TSH  
(6.6%)

7 abnormal TSH  
1 HTR  
6 subclinical dis

**Objective:** A quality assurance study assessing if hypothyroidism is appropriately screened in patients with resistant hypertension.

**Design:** Retrospective study of patients with resistant hypertension, defined as requiring four or more different classes of antihypertensive medications. These patients were filtered to determine if thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) measurement occurred within 90 days of the addition of a fourth medication class.

**Setting:** Two internal medicine resident clinics at a tertiary care hospital in New York City.

**Participants:** Patients were selected with resistant hypertension and were seen in clinic between January 1, 2018 and December 23, 2018.

**Methods:** A single center retrospective review was performed.

**Results:** A total of 1,125 patients were identified as having resistant hypertension. Of these, 74 patients were found to have a TSH measurement taken within 90 days of the addition of a fourth class prescribed. Seven TSH values were found to be abnormal with one patient having overt hyperthyroidism, demonstrating a screening rate of 6.6%. There were no significant differences in age, body mass index, and diastolic blood pressure in those screened versus those not screened.

**Conclusions:** Thyroid disease is under-screened as an etiology for resistant hypertension, given the ease of diagnosis and reversibility of these conditions.

**Keywords:** Thyroid dysfunction; Resistant hypertension; Thyroid screening; Primary care



# Take home messages

- According to a meta-analysis, nearly 11% of Europeans have thyroid dysfunction and only about half of them are aware of their condition.
- Hyperthyroidism is identified as cause of HT in  $< 1\%$ , but the frequency of HT in thyreotoxicosis is estimated at 20- 68% .
- Even middle changes in thyroid hormones levels increase cardiovascular mortality from 20% to 80%.
- Thyroid disorders have serious effects on the CV system via plenty mechanisms, including dyslipidemia, hypertension, systolic and diastolic myocardial dysfunction, as well endothelial dysfunction.
- Thyroid disease is under-screened as an etiology for resistant hypertension, particularly given the ease of diagnosis and reversibility of these conditions
- Screening TSH level is costeffective
- Treatment of hyperthyroidism results in an average decrease SBP 5 mmHg.
- Early diagnosis would prevent the development of complications and cardiovascular diseases



*La natura delle cose  
ama celarsi*

*Eracrito*

*Grazie per l'attenzione*