

Last Second Medicine

PEARLS

THYROTOXICOSIS

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- Thyrotoxicosis is the condition of excessive Thyroid hormone in the body due to any cause
- Hyperthyroidism is the overproduction of thyroid hormone by the thyroid gland, leading to thyrotoxicosis
- The terms are, however used interchangeably

Here are 10 PEARLS for Thyrotoxicosis!

THYROTOXICOSIS

1

Exogenous Thyroxine intake suppresses Thyroglobulin as well as T3 levels, so doing Thyroglobulin levels is a useful test in diagnosing *Factitious* Thyrotoxicosis.

Thyroglobulin level is also useful in monitoring the treatment of thyroid carcinoma.

THYROTOXICOSIS

2

Painful goitre with thyrotoxic symptoms, think of subacute de Quervain's thyroiditis.

Isotope scan of the thyroid will show low uptake.

THYROTOXICOSIS

3

There is no evidence of increased cancer, birth defects or infertility in women with radio-iodine therapy.

However, pregnancy and lactation are a contraindication for this therapy.

THYROTOXICOSIS

4

Eye disease may be the first presenting sign of grave's disease.

The patient can be euthyroid, hypothyroid or hyperthyroid at presentation.

THYROTOXICOSIS

5

Smoking is a major risk factor for the development of eye disease in Grave's disease.

Smoking cessation is important in the treatment of Thyroid eye disease.

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6

In Thyroid eye disease, an afferent pupillary defect may indicate optic nerve compression.

Therefore, seek expert advice at once as decompression may be needed.

THYROTOXICOSIS

7

Low TSH does not always mean hyperthyroidism. TSH can be low along with Low T3 and T4 occurs in systemic illnesses and is known as Sick Euthyroid Syndrome.

The test should be repeated after recovery.

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8

In clinical thyrotoxic patients but with normal T4, perform T3 levels also.

1% of patients have T3 Thyrotoxicosis.

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9

Free T3 and T4 are biologically active hormones.

Perform FT3 and FT4 levels and not Total T3 and Total T4 levels which are otherwise affected by the levels of Thyroxine Binding Globulin (TBG) levels.

THYROTOXICOSIS

10

If Thyroid Peroxidase (TPO) antibodies are positive in Grave's disease, there are increased chances of development of hypothyroidism at a later stage.

Keep monitoring with TSH.

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