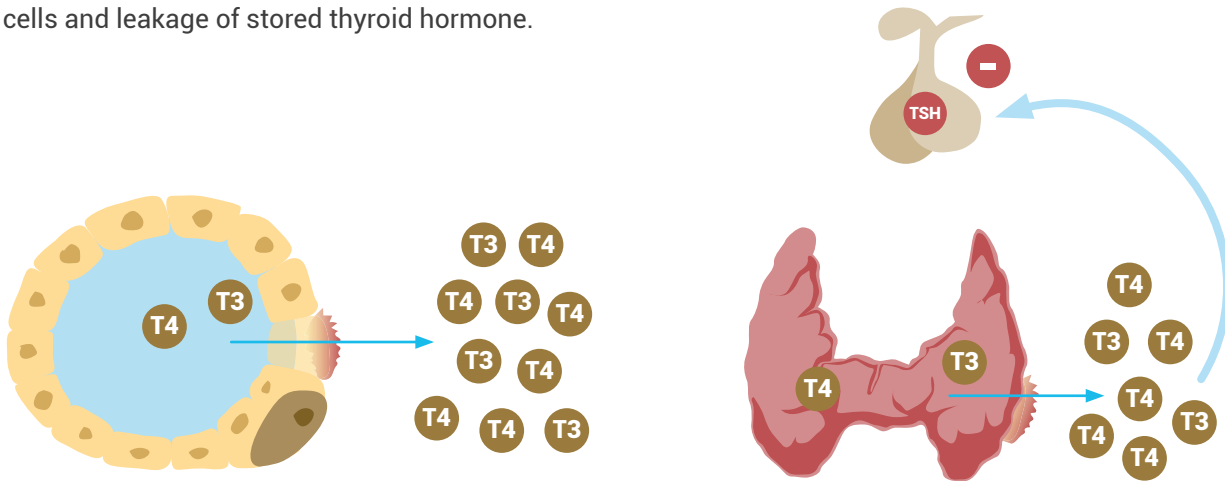


HYPERTHYROIDISM

Diagnosing thyroiditis

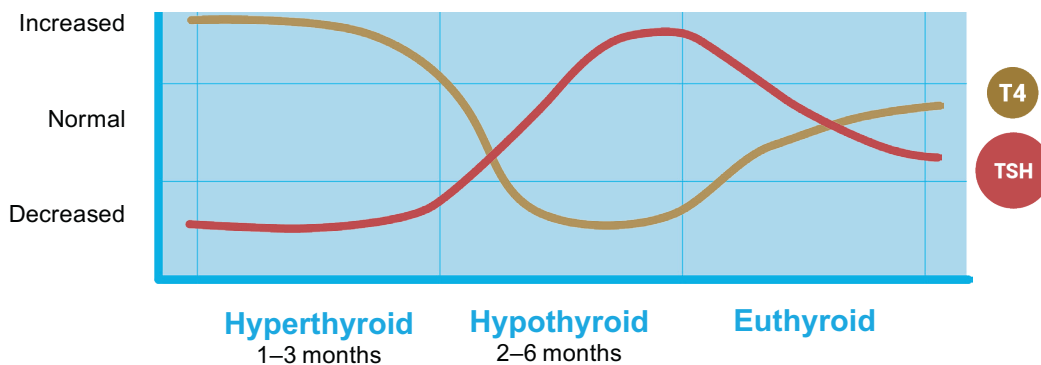
Thyroiditis is another common cause of hyperthyroidism and is due to inflammation of the thyroid, which causes damage to thyroid follicular cells and leakage of stored thyroid hormone.

The elevated T3/T4 feeds back at the level of the pituitary and suppresses TSH.



The thyroid is not producing excess thyroid hormone, simply releasing stored hormone. Thus on RAI, iodine uptake is low.

It is important to distinguish thyroiditis from other causes of hyperthyroidism, as thyroiditis does not require treatment. It is self-limited and will typically resolve within three months.



Further reading

Ross DS. American Thyroid Association guidelines for diagnosis and management of hyperthyroidism and other causes of thyrotoxicosis. *Thyroid*. 2016. 26(10):1343–1421.