

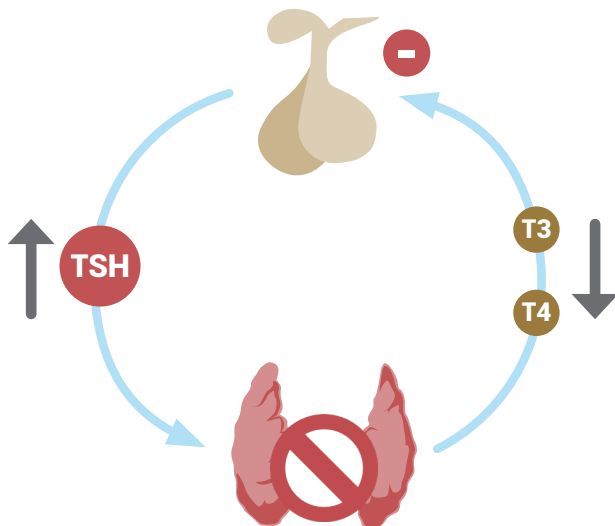
HYPOTHYROIDISM

Interpreting lab values in the diagnosis of hypothyroidism

Hypothyroidism is defined as low thyroid hormone levels.

Primary hypothyroidism

With low thyroid hormone levels due to problems with the thyroid, there is no feedback inhibition at the level of the pituitary, so TSH increases. Labs in primary hypothyroidism show **low T3/T4** with **high TSH**.



Secondary hypothyroidism

Low TSH due to a pituitary problem is seen with secondary hypothyroidism. In this case **TSH is low** and **T3/T4 are also low** due to lack of stimulation from the pituitary.

