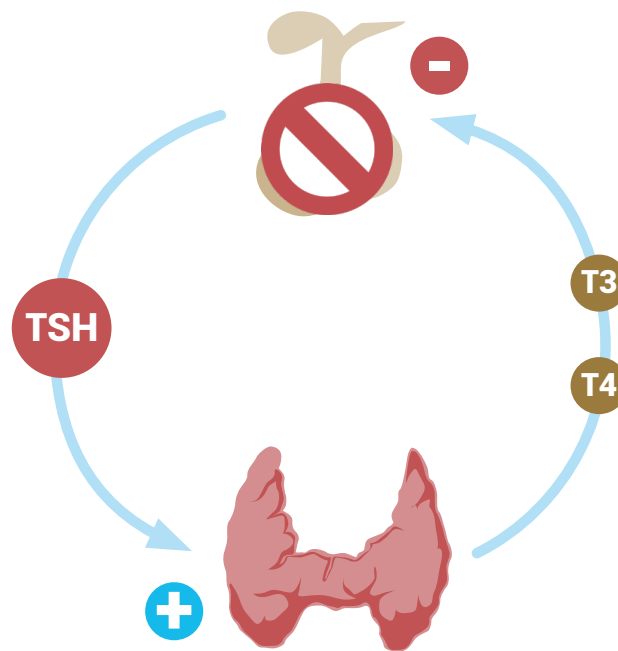


# HYPOTHYROIDISM

## Detecting secondary hypothyroidism

Only 1% of hypothyroidism is due to secondary hypothyroidism—a problem with the pituitary gland. This leads to low TSH, which results in decreased stimulation of the thyroid and low thyroid hormone levels.



This is usually due to a pituitary tumor, or prior pituitary surgery.

Symptoms are those of hormone deficiency as well as those of mass effect due to pituitary tumor—headaches and vision changes.

If a patient has symptoms of hypothyroidism, but **low TSH—suspect secondary hypothyroidism!**

Treatment is the same as primary hypothyroidism: levothyroxine replacement. However, since TSH secretion is impaired, you monitor therapy using T4 levels, not TSH.