



M3 GLOBAL RESEARCH REVIEW

THYROID DISEASE

TREATMENT

The American Thyroid Association (ATA)* estimates approximately 20 million Americans have some form of thyroid disease, and estimates that more than 12% of the U.S. population will develop a thyroid condition during their lifetime.

One of the major functions of the thyroid gland is the regulation of body metabolism. T3 and T4 are hormones secreted by the thyroid. T4, popularly known as thyroxine, is converted in the body to T3 as it loses an iodine molecule. Hypothyroidism, from an underactive thyroid gland, leads to a less active metabolism characterized by fatigue, depression, and possibly weight gain.

Hyperthyroidism is often caused by an autoimmune disease that targets a natural regulator of thyroid function, resulting in over production of thyroid hormones – and symptoms of nervousness, anxiety, excessive sweating, and weight loss. Thyroid cancer is another common condition involving the thyroid glands. It is commonly detected when nodules in the thyroid glands are found to be cancerous upon biopsy. Thyroid cancer has about 64,000 new cases each year and is one of the most curable cancers with a 5-year survival rate above 98% (NCI SEER).

Endocrinologists handle most thyroid therapies after referral from a patient's primary care physician. Treatment of thyroid cancer is handled by oncologists, surgeons, and radiologists.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE THYROID AREA?

New research covering a meta analysis of 22 studies across more than 2 million people suggests excessive weight may be causing the "slowing down" of thyroid function, the opposite of what has been commonly thought. The possibility that slower thyroid function could be a consequence of, rather than the cause of, excessive weight is a new idea in the field.

An eight-year longitudinal study among 8,500 patients in Europe found that patients with pre-diabetes and low thyroid function were much more likely to progress to full blown Type 2 diabetes than those without pre-diabetes. This supports common belief of a link between diabetes and the regulation of metabolism by the thyroid.

Endocrinology is a very active area of market research on many disease area fronts and continues to be a major healthcare issue around the world. M3 is active in recruiting for our client's studies addressing the myriad issues and disease areas seen by Endocrinologists. In 2015 M3 studies alone, endocrinologists completed over 1,000 surveys across 50 plus studies and 24 countries.

M3 also provides several syndicated services in this sector. The Complete Endocrinologist is a syndicated study examining the challenges faced by endocrinologists in their daily practice. Physician Map is a KOL mapping service offered in specific disease areas. Patient Map is a syndicated service that examines patient loads across 400 diseases and includes endocrinology and Primary Care specialties.

*American Thyroid Association, 2016. ** National Cancer Institute, 2016

Contact us on how to access our robust panel of Endocrinologists or for additional information on our syndicated offerings.

PHYSICIANMAP
BY M3 GLOBAL RESEARCH

PATIENTMAP
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COMPLETESERIES
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