

# Chronic (autoimmune) thyroiditis

'**Chronic thyroiditis**' (chronic autoimmune thyroiditis, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, etc.) is chronic *autoimmune inflammation* of the thyroid gland. It is the most common cause of hypothyroidism, but it may not develop in all cases.

## Epidemiology

A common disease, it occurs in about 5% of the population with a predominance of women (4: 1).

## Etiopathogenesis

The etiology is unknown, the production of antibodies and the sensitization of lymphocytes by thyroid antigen are involved in the pathogenesis.

## Clinical picture

It usually takes place completely asymptotically for a long time. Hypothyroidism is the most important clinical set of symptoms. In the initial phase, " *diffuse goiter*" (mostly painless) may occur, but in the subsequent phase, the thyroid gland usually shrinks (' *atrophy*' ).

## Diagnostics

Diagnosis is based on

1. ' *antibodies*' against thyroid Ag (TgAb, TPOAb),
2. ' *USG*' (hypoechoogenic inhomogeneous thyroid).

We will also add an examination of thyroid function (free-T4, TSH).

## Treatment

Thyroid hormone replacement therapy is initiated in hypothyroidism. We monitor a patient without a significant thyroid disorder.

## References

### Related Articles

- Hormony štítné žlázy

### References

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### References

### External links

- Článek z časopisu Solen: Záněty štítné žlázy (<http://solen.cz/pdfs/med/2013/08/07.pdf>)

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