

# Myxedema Coma

**Myxedema coma** is the escalation of the symptoms of hypothyroidism into a life-threatening condition.

## Etiology

Untreated or poorly treated hypothyroidism + provocative moment (stress, cold, infection, injury, surgery, medication, alcohol).

## Klinical picture

- Decrease in body temperature (up to 30 °C),
- hypoventilation + increased retention CO<sub>2</sub>,
- extreme drowsiness; gradually progresses to coma,
- bradycardia,
- hyponatremia + hypercapnia → arrhythmia → heart failure + cardiac arrest.

## Diagnostics

- In peripheral etiology significantly ↑ TSH + ↓ fT4, hypercapnia, ↓ Na<sup>+</sup> + Cl<sup>-</sup>, ↑ CK, liver function tests, LDH,
- assessment cortisol + ACTH.

## Therapy

- Glucocorticoids (e.g. hydrocortisone 100 mg i.v./d – current renal insufficiency cannot be excluded in most patients),
- adjustment of water + electrolyte balance,
- levothyroxine (200–500 µg/d gastric tube),
- preventively antibiotics, heart failure therapy, gradual warming,
- ALV (in respiratory insufficiency), pacing (in severe bradycardia).

## Links

### Related articles

- Coma
- Hypothalamus
- Thyroid gland

## References

- KLENER, P, et al. *Vnitřní lékařství*. 3. edition. Prague : Galén, 2006. ISBN 80-7262-430-X.
- DÍTĚ, P., et al. *Vnitřní lékařství*. 2. edition. Prague : Galén, 2007. ISBN 978-80-7262-496-6.

## References

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