

Thyroid Disease: List of Clinical Questions

1. What information should people with thyroid disease, their family and carers receive?
2. Which thyroid function tests should be requested?
3. Who should be tested for thyroid disease?
4. Which imaging tests should be requested (for thyroid enlargement)?
5. Which people with structural abnormalities should have a fine-needle aspiration?
6. Should a fine-needle aspiration be under ultrasound guidance?
7. What is the accuracy of anti-TPO testing, TRAb testing, ultrasound scanning and isotope scanning for diagnosing Graves' disease?
8. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of using anti-TPO testing, TRAb testing, ultrasound scanning or isotope scanning in the diagnosis of Graves' disease?
9. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of antibody testing during investigation of hypothyroidism?
10. Which people with non-malignant thyroid enlargement should be referred for surgery?
11. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of non-surgical treatments (e.g. radiofrequency ablation, high intensity focused ultrasound) for non-malignant thyroid enlargement?
12. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of using levothyroxine [L-T4], liothyronine [L-T3], combination of L-T4 and L-T3, thyroid extracts, and iodine and selenium supplementation to treat primary hypothyroidism?
13. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of using radioactive iodine vs antithyroid drugs vs surgery to treat thyrotoxicosis secondary to Graves' disease?
14. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of using radioactive iodine vs surgery to treat thyrotoxicosis secondary to toxic nodular goitre?
15. When anti-thyroid drugs are used, what is the most clinically and cost-effective way of using these drugs to treat thyrotoxicosis (for example choice of drugs, different treatment regimens)?
16. When radioactive iodine is used, what is the most clinically and cost-effective way of using this treatment to treat thyrotoxicosis (for example different dosing strategies)?
17. When surgery is indicated, what is the most clinically and cost-effective way of using surgery to treat thyrotoxicosis (for example total vs subtotal thyroidectomy)?
18. How should non-malignant thyroid enlargement, hypothyroidism, thyrotoxicosis and subclinical thyroid dysfunction be monitored?
19. What is the clinical and cost-effectiveness of treating subclinical hypothyroidism?
20. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of treating subclinical thyrotoxicosis?