

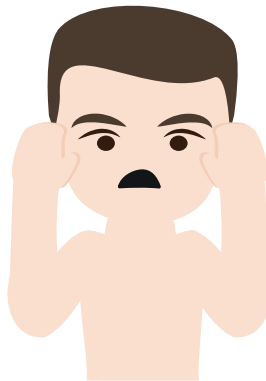
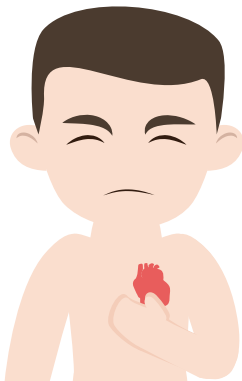
# HYPERTHYROIDISM

## Recognizing the clinical presentation of hyperthyroidism

Hyperthyroidism occurs when the thyroid gland is producing too much thyroid hormone.

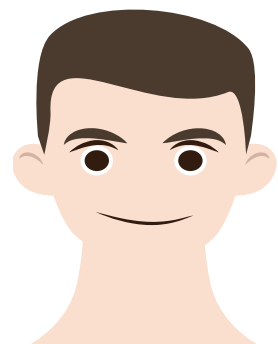
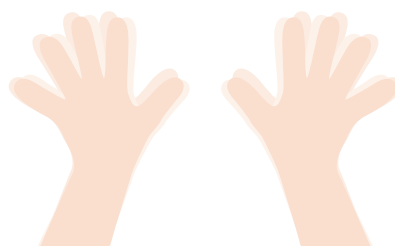
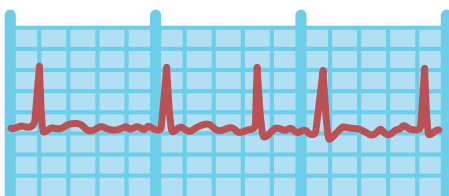
*Patients present with symptoms of excess thyroid hormone:*

- Palpitations
- Anxiety
- Restlessness and difficulty sleeping
- Heat intolerance
- Weight loss
- Muscle wasting
- Irregular menses
- Frequent bowel movements



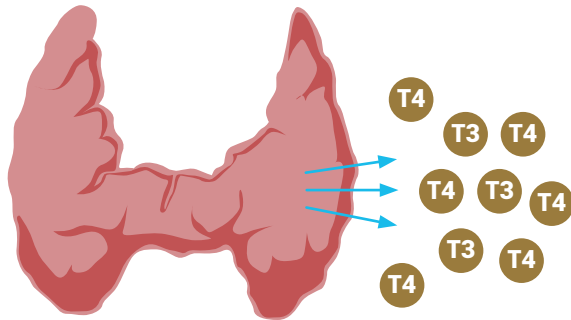
*On exam patients have signs of elevated thyroid hormone:*

- Tachycardia
- Tremor
- Warm, soft skin
- Brisk reflexes
- Pronounced stare

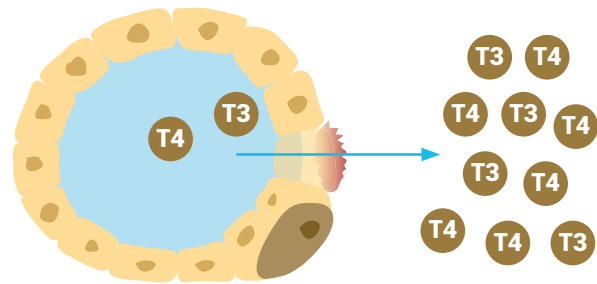


## Hyperthyroidism can be due to several different causes:

**Increased hormone production** (usually autoimmune or due to autonomously functioning nodule)



**Inflammation**, with release of stored thyroid hormone



**Iatrogenic**, due to taking too much thyroid hormone medication



Hyperthyroidism is diagnosed by lab tests demonstrating high levels of thyroid hormone.

### Further reading

Ross DS. American Thyroid Association guidelines for diagnosis and management of hyperthyroidism and other causes of thyrotoxicosis. *Thyroid*. 2016. 26(10):1343–1421.