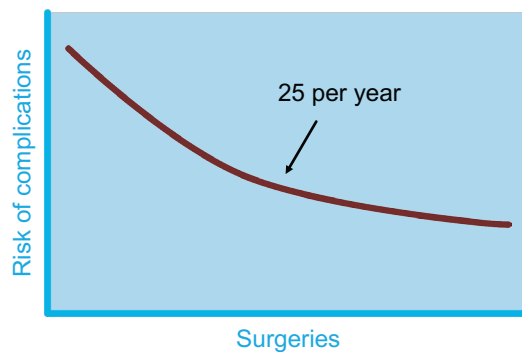


TREATING THYROID DISEASE

Recognizing when surgery is needed

Surgery is an option for patients with Graves' disease that are unable to tolerate thionamides.



Surgery is also preferred for large hyperfunctioning nodules, women who are pregnant and unable to take thionamides, or when rapid control of hyperthyroidism is needed.

Experience of the surgeon is an important consideration in order to minimize risk of complications, including hypoparathyroidism and recurrent laryngeal nerve injury.



Surgery is effective in treating hyperthyroidism, but 100% of patients will be hypothyroid following treatment.

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.