

OTHER CAUSES OF ABNORMAL THYROID LAB VALUES

Recognizing subclinical hyperthyroidism

Subclinical hyperthyroidism is diagnosed with low TSH but normal thyroid hormone levels.

Common causes include:

- · Non-thyroidal illness
- Resolving thyroiditis
- · Hyperfunctioning nodule

- · Early Graves' disease
- Excess thyroid hormone replacement
- Normal changes seen with early pregnancy









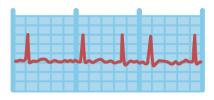


Patients are typically asymptomatic and most do not need treatment.

Subclinical hyperthyroidism is associated with several clinical consequences:

- Increased risk of arrhythmias
- · Decreased bone mineral density

 May be associated with increased risk of cardiovascular death







Consider treating patients at high risk for these complications: elderly patients, patients with history of cardiovascular disease, and post-menopausal women with osteoporosis.

Further reading

Cooper DS and Biondi B. Sublinical thyroid disease. *Lancet*. 2012. 379:1142–1154.

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