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ANTITHYROID DRUGS IN THE TREATMENT OF HYPERTHYROIDISM

Abstract: Hyperthyroidism is defined as hypermetabolic state as a consequence of hyperfunctioning thyroid tissue. The causes of hyperthyroidism are diffuse toxic goitre, uninodular or multinodular hyperfunctioning goitre, pituitary tumour secreting thyrotropin (TSH), hypersecretion of human chorionic gonadotropine and hyperfunctioning ectopic thyroid tissue. The diagnosis of hyperthyroidism makes on clinical grounds and confirms by low or unmesurable level of thyrotropin. The determination of free thyroid hormones (FT3 or FT4) is better in follows of therapeutic effects.

For the treatment of hyperthyroidism we have three general principles- medicaments (thionamides), surgery or radioactive iodine. The thionamides, methimazole (MMI) and propylthiouracil (PTU) are in use more than sixty years. These drugs are verry effective but they have a lot of undesirable effects. Among the most serious side effects of thionamides are agranulocytosis, toxic hepatitis and vasculitis. Less dangerous consequences of thionamide drugs are skin rash, poliarthralgias, pruritus and gastrointestinal incomppliance. These drugs are also effective and safe in pregnant and lactating women as wwll as in children and adolescents. Instead of different therapeutic protocols these drugs are effective in only about 50% of treated patients.