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RADIOIODINE IN THE THERAPY OF GRAVES' DISEASE

Abstract: Radioiodine therapy for Graves' disease Several therapeutic modalities are available for the treatment of patients with hyperthyroidism. These are long-term antithyroid drug medication, total or near-total surgical resection and therapy with radioactive isotopes of iodine. The purpose of all forms of treatment is to diminish thyroid hyperfunction and to lower the thyroid hormones levels in circulation. As with surgery, the objective of radioiodine therapy is to ablate functional thyroid tissue. Radioiodine, given in enough amount can induce either remission of disease or permanent hypothyroidism in all patients. Despite the fact that radioiodine therapy was introduced almost sixty years ago several questions are still the subject of dispute. How to treat patients with Graves disease, when first diagnosed, is influenced by geographical location, volume of the goitre, age of the patient, severity of hyperthyroidism and the personal experience of the treating physician. It is accepted by most thyroidologists that the only factor influencing the outcome of Graves' disease treated by radioiodine is the radioactivity dose delivered to a certain thyroid volume. Radioiodine therapy of Graves' disease is suitable and cost-effectice therapy in patients with Graves' disease, though the choice regarding treatment should be taken on an individual basis, paying due respect to the course and severity of disease, the presence of Graves' ophtamopathy and the wishes of the patient.

Key words: radioiodine, therapy, Graves' disease