

# Prevalence of Thyroids Dysfunction among Saudi Adult Males and Females from (June–September 2016)

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## Abstract

**Background:** Thyroid disorders are amongst the most prevalent of medical conditions. Their manifestations vary considerably from area to area and are determined principal by the availability of iodine in the diet.

**Aim:** To determine the prevalence of thyroid dysfunction (hypo and hyperthyroidisms in Saudi adults males and females.

**Methods:** Total 71 Saudi adults' males and females were Tested for Thyrotropin (TSH) level using direct antigen EIA by fully automated DS2 ELISA system.

**Results:** We found that prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in overall males and females is 43.6%, 40.8% hypothyroidisms and 2.8 hyperthyroidisms, the prevalence in females separately is 46.03% 29 /6 3 cases, 42.8 % of them hypothyroidisms and 3.17 hyperthyroidism case and in males is 25% 2/8 hypothyroidisms and no case of hyperthyroidisms observed .

**Conclusion:** Thyroid dysfunction is highly prevalent in albahra city in females more prevalent than males we recommend more researches in this area with high sample size especially in females.

## Introduction

The thyroid gland plays a vital role in body metabolism, through the production of thyroid hormones, which are known to have important actions in controlling many of the human reproductive functions[1]. Thyroid disorders are amongst the most prevalent of medical conditions. Their manifestations vary considerably from area to area and are determined principal by the availability of iodine in the diet. Epidemiological studies of thyroid dysfunction have limitations, for example the definition of overt hypothyroidism and subclinical hypothyroidism, the selection criteria of the sample used, the influence of age, sex, genetic and environmental factor and the different techniques used for the measurement of thyroid hormones and the relative paucity of incidence data[2]. Almost one-third of the world's population lives in areas of iodine deficiency[3]. In areas where

the daily iodine intake is below 50µg, goitre is usually endemic, and when the daily intake falls below 25µg, hypothyroidism is seen. The prevalence of goitre in areas of severe iodine deficiency can be as high as 80%. Populations at particular risk tend to be remote and live in mountainous areas in South-East Asia, Latin America and Central Africa[4]. Iodisation programmes are of proven value in reducing goitre size and in preventing goitre development and cretinism in children. Goitrogens in the diet, such as thiocyanate in incompletely cooked Cassava or thioglucosides in Brassica vegetables, can explain some of the differences in prevalence of endemic goitre in areas with similar degrees of iodine deficiency[4]. The prevalence of spontaneous hypothyroidism is between 1% and 2%, and it is more common in older women and ten times more common in women than in men.<sup>2</sup> In the Whickham survey, the prevalence of newly diagnosed overt hypothyroidism was 3 per 1000 women.<sup>5</sup> The prevalence of previously diagnosed and treated hypothyroidism was 14 per 1000 women, increasing to 19 per 1000 women when possible but unproven cases were included. The overall prevalence in men was less than 1 case per 1000. One third had been previously treated by surgery or radioiodine for thyrotoxicosis. Excluding iatrogenic causes, the prevalence of hypothyroidism was 10 per 1000 women, increasing to 15 per 1000 when possible but unproven cases were included. The mean age at diagnosis was 57 years. Other studies in Northern Europe, Japan and the USA have found the prevalence to range between 0.6 and 12 per 1000 women and between 1.3 and 4.0 per 1000 in men investigated. In the Colorado and NHANES III studies, the prevalence of newly diagnosed hypothyroidism was 4 per 1000 and 3 per 1000 respectively, [6, 7] prevalence of hyperthyroidism in women is between 0.5 and 2%, and is ten times more common in women than in men in iodine-replete communities. In the Whickham survey, the prevalence of undiagnosed hyperthyroidism was 4.7 per 1000 women [5]. Awad Saad Al Shahrani, et al. discuss the prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in different Arab country region with systemic review of previous research they found that the prevalence of different types of thyroid disease varied

between the reported studies in Arab world ranging from 6.18 to 47.34% prevalence of goiter reported by several studies conducted in Arab world, such as Egypt, Algeria and Bahrain with 25.25, 86 and 1.7%, respectively [8] in Saudi Arabia most of study of thyroid problems done by using thyroid biopsy [8]. Our study area albahah city is a city in the south west of Saudi Arabia, It is the capital of Al Bahah Region nestled between the resorts of Mecca and Abha the climate in Al-Baha is mild with temperatures ranging between 12 to 23 °C due to its location at 2,500 meters (8,200 ft) above sea level [9], so high altitude and demand of iron as seen in literature may affect the prevalence of thyroid dysfunction.

## Materials and methods

This was a cross-sectional hospital-based study designed to investigate thyroid dysfunction by estimation of Thyrotropin level (TSH) among Saudi adult males and females to determine the prevalence of hyper and hypothyroidisms in studies population in order to compare the result to other population world wide. All studies population above 18 years who attended to ASHFA MEDICAL COMPLEX located in ALBAHAH city during the period June–September 2016 exclude pregnant women from the study and other citizens not living in albahah city or staying short period in albahah city. Total number of studies population was 71 study participants: 63 were females and 8 were males. Five ml of venous blood sample were collected by standard method of blood collection in serum gel tube from each participant to evaluate the thyrotropin level. Serum was separated immediately by a fine centrifugation machine and sent for thyroid function test. TSH was quantitatively determined using direct antigen–EIA HUMAN lot 15007 and 16002 respectively, curve automatically prepared by DS2 ELISA system. Results more than 4 mIU/L considered as abnormal high result and also result less than 0.3 mIU/L considered as abnormal low results.

## Result

During study period 71 study participants: 63 are females and 8 males [Fig 1] were included in our study. We found that prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in overall males and females is 43.6% [Fig 2], 40.8% hypothyroidisms and 2.8% hyperthyroidisms, the prevalence in females separately is 46.03% (29/63 cases) [Fig 3], 42.8% of them hypothyroidisms and 3.17% hyperthyroidism case and in males is 25% (2/8) [Fig 4].

Hypothyroidisms and no case of hyperthyroidisms observed.

## Discussions

In this study aimed to detect prevalence of thyroid dysfunction using a serum thyrotropin level for indicators of hypo and hyperthyroidisms respectively in adults males and females in albahah city. We found prevalence of thyroid dysfunction is 43.6%. This is high percent comparing to other population but agreed with some extent with study done in Saudi Arabia population which is 47.43% [10]. All reported thyroid abnormalities were hypothyroidisms with exception of three cases of hyperthyroidisms. Predominant of hypothyroidisms manifest females populations with 13.5:1 females to male ratio

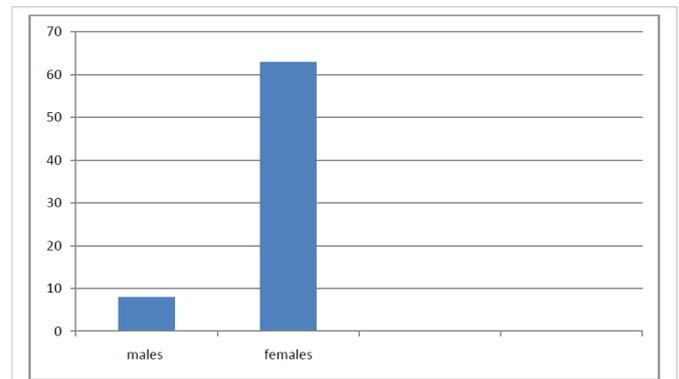


Figure 1: Total number of studies population.

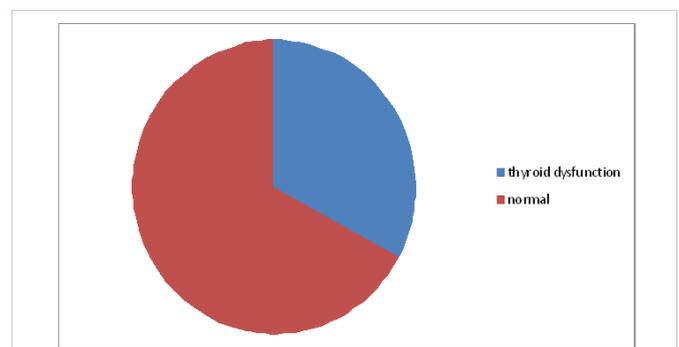


Figure 2: Prevalence Thyroid dysfunction in all studies population

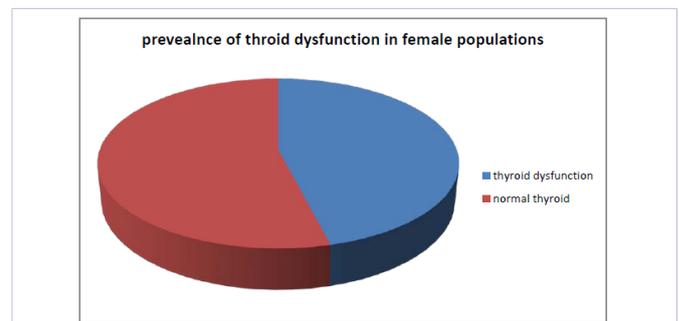


Figure 3: prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in female populations.

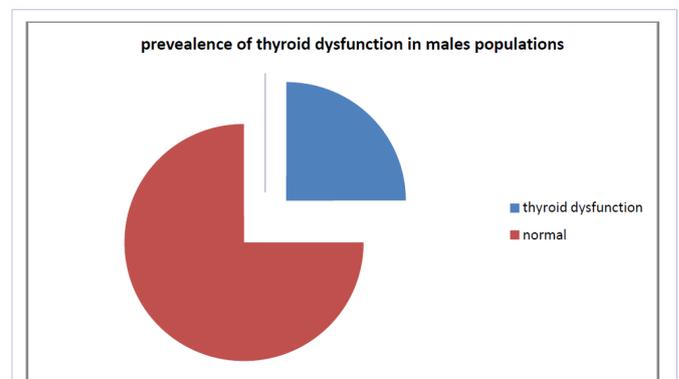


Figure 4: prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in males populations.

this result agreed with result in literature that females have high risk of hypothyroidisms than males it is ten times in females than males<sup>5</sup>.the prevalence of hyperthyroidisms is 2.8 % our result agreed with another study which express the prevalence of hyperthyroidism between 0.5 to 2%[5],our all result isn't consider as truly prevalence of hpo and hyperthyroidisms because low sample size and as research rules health center and hospitals based study not give true prevalence of any diseases because not all community or participant have equal choice to participate in the study, but our study give background to high prevalence of hypothyroidisms in albahah this may be due to low iodine intake or high altitude and low iron due to demand of hemoglobin as in literature .

### Limitations

Limitation of this study is partly due to the small size sample and being confined to only one health center which did not underestimate over all prevalence in community , Also the study is not consider as prevalence in all community of albahah .

### Conclusions

Thyroid dysfunction is highly prevalent in albaha city in females more prevalent than males we recommend more researches in this area with high sample size especially in females.

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