

Review of: "[Short Communication] Advisory caution message on retail packaging of Levothyroxine and its significance in the treatment of hypothyroidism"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I found Doctor Takir's article on subclinical hypothyroidism very interesting. Thyroid hormone replacement in patients with subclinical hypothyroidism is a controversial issue. As cited in this article, there is data showing that patients benefit. However, good endocrine knowledge is required for its follow-up. The decision whether to treat or not to treat subclinical hypothyroidism should be made after careful consideration of the patient's age, the presence of symptoms, the presence of thyroid antibodies and other risk factors such as cardiovascular disease (1). It has been noted that GPs undertake the follow-up of these patients in India and there are wrong practices in drug dose adjustment. TSH level alone is not sufficient for drug dose adjustment. These cases can easily be confused with other thyroid disorders such as thyroid hormone resistance without check thyroid hormone levels. I agree with Doctor Takir's recommendation that the 'Advisory Caution' could significantly help in healthcare, and reduce the burden of new morbidities due to side reactions to levothyroxine.

Finally, Doctor Takir emphasized that every third person suffers from hypothyroidism in India, I do not think that the source where this information is given has a sufficient scientific level. There may be a need for large-scale national studies in India in this area.

1- Redford C, Vaidya B. Subclinical hypothyroidism: Should we treat? Post Reprod Health. 2017 Jun;23(2):55-62.