

Original Article

A PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY ON PREVALENCE OF HYPOTHYROIDISM IN A TERTIARY CARE TEACHING HOSPITAL

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To determine the prevalence of hypothyroidism in a rural population of Nandyal.

Methods: A prospective study was conducted in Santhiram medical college and general hospital, Nandyal from July 2017 to December 2017, to study the prevalence of hypothyroidism among the population.

Results: In this study, 1000 patients were evaluated for the thyroid functioning, among them n=104(10.4%) showing positive results in hypothyroidism. The positive 104 patients showed that n=63 (60.57%) of the population are in the age limit of 21-40. Out of the same population are n=11 (10.6%) are male and female are n=93 (89.43%). In age group distribution more prevalence was observed in 21-30 y of age group n=36 (34.61%). In this study, sub-clinical hypothyroidism was prevalent in females n=80 (76.92%) than males n=10 (9.61%).

Conclusion: Our study demonstrates that hypothyroidism was higher in a female with age group as 21-40 y and there is a significant prevalence of hypothyroidism in the study population.

Keywords: Hypothyroidism, Prevalence study, Chi-square test

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INTRODUCTION

Worldwide about 1 billion people are estimated to be iodine deficient however, it is unknown how often this results in hypothyroidism [1].

The Prevalence of hypothyroidism in the world is about 4-8% [1].

Thyroid diseases are the commonest endocrine disorders worldwide, India too is no exception. It has been estimated that about 42 million people in India suffer from thyroid disease. Hypothyroidism is characterized by an overt state of myxedema, multisystem failure to an asymptomatic or sub-clinical condition with normal levels of thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3) and mildly elevated levels of serum thyrotropin [2-4].

Serum TSH measurement is the most convenient and sensitive method for screening of hypothyroidism because there is a linear relationship with serum TSH and circulating thyroid hormone level. Hypothyroidism can occur if the thyroid gland fails to work properly or if the thyroid gland is not stimulated properly by the hypothalamus or pituitary gland [5-8].

The risk of hypothyroidism is higher in people with a family history of thyroid disease and those aged over 60 y. Hypothyroidism is most commonly affects women, from middle age onwards, but it can occur at any age [9, 10]. There are no national wide studies on the prevalence of hypothyroidism from India either in the pre or post iodization periods. Hence a large cross-sectional, comprehensive and prospective study was required to provide a clear picture of the evolving profile of thyroid disorders across the whole country, especially as the country is in the post iodization era [11]. The main aim of this study was to find out the prevalence of thyroid disorder among the population of Nandyal and to create awareness among the population about the disorder so that adequate management is possible which will prevent developing of further systemic complications related to abnormal thyroid status [12].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design

This was prospective, an epidemiological study conducted in Santhiram medical college and general hospital, this study was carried out from July 2017 to December 2017.

The study was reviewed and approved by Institutional Ethical committee (Registration No: IECR/05/SRMCGH/AP/2017. A total of 104 cases of thyroid abnormality were found during this study period. The data was collected from the patients that referred to a central laboratory, of our hospital for thyroid function test, which includes T3, T4 and TSH.

Enrollment criteria

All male or female subjects referred to a central lab for the thyroid function test were included. Participants were excluded if they were thyroid ablation persons and the subjects having the chronic systemic illness or if they were receiving drugs that could interfere with thyroid function test [13].

Study procedure

All the subjects underwent medical history assessment, general clinical examination, before enrollment including examination of thyroid glands. Evaluation of thyroid profile was done in the central clinical laboratory of our hospital.

Assess for thyroid hormone T3, T4, and TSH was performed by ECL technology. Based on previous thyroid history and current thyroid function test results participants were classified using following definitions like Sub-clinical hypothyroidism and overt hypothyroidism. The Prevalence of different thyroid function disorders was summarized as count and percentage. A chi-square test was used to determine the trends in the Prevalence of the disorder among different age group and genders.

RESULTS

Hypothyroidism is a lifelong chronic condition particularly prevalent in women and the elders. The present study was initiated from July 2017 to December 2017; in this study, we assessed the prevalence of hypothyroidism in all age group of patients in Santhiram general hospital. There are several important findings from this prospective analysis of 1000, subjects who underwent screening for abnormal thyroid function. Based on T3 (80-220ng/dl), T4 (4.5-11.5µg/dl) and TSH (0.5-5mIU/l) observational levels, subjects with abnormal

T3, T4 and TSH levels were categorized into hypothyroidism patients. Hypothyroidism was found to be a common form of thyroid dysfunction affecting 104 subjects (10.4%) of the study population.

Among the 104 hypothyroidism patients the prevalence of female patients n=93 (89.42%), were more when compared with male patients n=11 (10.6%), this data was tabulated in table 1.

Table 1: Gender wise distribution of hypothyroidism patients

Gender	Total No. of patients(n=104)	Percentage
Male	11	10.6%
Female	93	89.42%

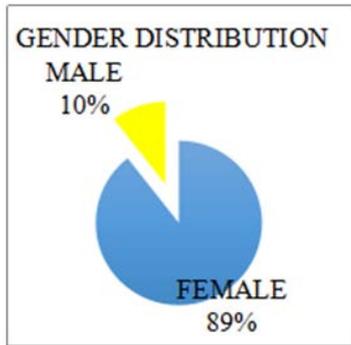


Fig. 1: Gender wise distribution of hypothyroidism patients

Chi-square test demonstrated a statically significant (p<0.05) interaction of subjects, gender with the prevalence of hypothyroidism. In age group distribution more prevalence was observed in 21-30 y of age group n=36 (34.61%), followed by 31-40 y of age group n=27(26%), less than or equal to 20 y of age group

n=15(14.42%), 41-50 y of age group n=11(10.57%), 51-60 y of age group n=9 (8.7%),>61 y of age group n=6(5.7%), this data was tabulated in table 2.

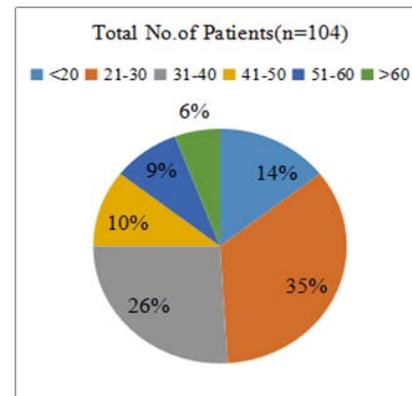


Fig. 2: Age wise distribution of patients

Table 2: Age wise distribution of patients

S. No.	Age group in years	Total No. of patients (n=300)	Total % of the distribution
1.	<20	15	14.42
2.	21-30	36	34.61
3.	31-40	27	25.96
4.	41-50	11	10.57
5.	51-60	9	8.7
6.	>60	6	5.76

In the current study, we assessed the Prevalence of thyroid disorders particularly hypothyroidism in population residing in Nandyal. Hypothyroidism was found to be a common cause of thyroid dysfunction affecting 9.76% of the population, the similarity with a study conducted in other parts of India suggesting the nationwide higher Prevalence of hypothyroidism in India. Hence it requires the regular monitoring of thyroid status, of the population who are at greater risk of developing hypothyroidism particularly in the adult group [13, 14]. There was a predominance of hypothyroidism in women in our study and is consistent with worldwide report especially those in midlife. The Prevalence fig: 2. noted for women in the study to draw an attention for the growing health needs of this important segment [15]. The Prevalence of sub-clinical hypothyroidism was also high in the study. In this study, sub-clinical hypothyroidism was present in female 76.92% (n=80) and males 9.61% (n=10), this data was tabulated in table 3.

were done only once. To get accuracy, this should have to be performed repeatedly for their confirmation.

Limitation of the current study was that it was an observational study. Therefore a controlled study would be more appropriate to confirm the association of Hypothyroidism and its complications. Moreover, the screening tests for complications of hypothyroidism

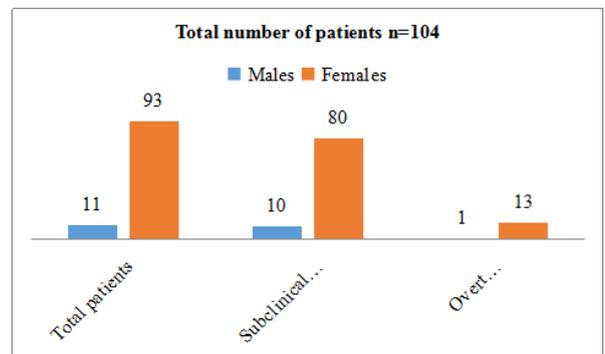


Fig. 3: Classification of patients based on thyroid profile

Table 3: Classification of patients based on thyroid profile

S. No.	Particulars	Males	Females	Total percentage of distribution
1.	No of patients with Overt Hypothyroidism (n=14)	1	13	13.46
2.	No of patients with Subclinical Hypothyroidism (n=90)	10	80	86.53

CONCLUSION

Our study suggests that Hypothyroidism is the most prevalent disease in the rural population of Nandyal in both males and females. It was proved that hypothyroidism was higher in a female with age group as 21-40 y. The severity of hypothyroidism was increased with age group. Prevalence of overt hypothyroidism is around 12.46% and subclinical hypothyroidism is around 76.92% in females. Hence, Prompt detection and corrective treatment with thyroxine can prevent many complications. Therefore, routine testing with serum TSH is a sufficient and cost-effective screening tool.

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ABBREVIATION

ECL-electro-chemiluminescence

T4-thyroxin

T3-triiodothyronine

TSH-thyroid stimulating hormone

IEC-institutional Ethical Committee

AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

All the author have contributed equally

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflict of interest

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