



Cumbria Advisory Thyroid Service

INFORMATION SHEET



THYROID ANTIBODIES

Antibodies are chemical platelets in your blood that fight off infection etc (eg flu antibodies fight off the flu virus when its attacks the body).

However there are other kinds of antibodies called Auto-antibodies, these turn against certain parts of your body and attacks them. There are many kinds of this sort of antibody but we are only going to look at the ones that can cause problems for thyroid patients.

Thyroid Inhibiting Antibodies

The most common ones are Thyroglobulin and the Microsomal Antibodies. Microsomal is also known as Thyroid Peroxidase (TPO) Antibody. The TPO antibodies destroys thyroid cells and is usually found in patients with Hashimoto's disease. The auto-immune destruction process is a very slow process and it can take many months before patients are aware they have a problem.

The presence of these antibodies in your blood, are a market for doctors to be aware that you will probably develop thyroid problems or other auto-immune diseases at some stage in your life. Most diabetics have thyroid antibodies in their blood indicating that there is a link between the two conditions.

Thyroid stimulating antibodies

These antibodies increase the activity of the thyroid gland and are probably the cause of Graves' disease, they are also present in patients who have Hashimoto's under activity, but will have had at least one episode of Thyrotoxicosis. It is quite common for several episodes of over activity to occur (many of these go undiagnosed or mis-diagnosed particularly if the symptoms are mild) before the thyroid finally becomes underactive.

C.A.T.S RECOMMENDS YOU ALWAYS SEEK YOUR DOCTORS ADVICE

Disclaimer

The purpose of this information leaflet is to help those suffering with thyroid disease. Whilst every effort is made to provide accurate information, it is impossible to ensure that the information given is relevant to every individual. No responsibility is accepted by CATS and it is recommended and essential, that if in any doubt about your condition, that you should always contact your doctor, specialist physician or surgeon to seek medical advice.