

Published in final edited form as:

Horm Res Paediatr. 2017; 87(3): 170-178. doi:10.1159/000457952.

# Characterization of Thyroid Abnormalities in a Large Cohort of Children with Down Syndrome

Melinda J Pierce, MD, MCR<sup>1</sup>, Stephen H LaFranchi, MD<sup>1</sup>, and Joseph D Pinter, MD<sup>2</sup>
<sup>1</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Division of Endocrinology, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR USA

<sup>2</sup>Institute on Development and Disability, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR USA

#### **Abstract**

**Background/Aims**—Thyroid disease is a common comorbidity in individuals with Down syndrome (DS) but historical studies have multiple limitations. We assessed thyroid abnormalities in a large cohort of children with Down syndrome.

**Methods**—Retrospective review of records from patients from a single institution. Calculated prevalence of common thyroid abnormalities and possible associations with common comorbidities.

**Results**—Among 508 patients, 120 (24%) had a thyroid-related diagnosis, the majority having subclinical hypothyroidism. A Kaplan-Meier estimate projects that 50% have thyroid disorder by adulthood, with 20% of hypothyroidism diagnosed before age 6 months. When tested, approximately 50% had positive antithyroid antibodies, though this was 100% in overt hypothyroidism. There was no association between congenital or acquired hypothyroidism and common comorbidities

**Conclusion**—Thyroid disease in Down syndrome is more common and occurs earlier than in the general population, and is often transient. Thyroid disease is unrelated to gender, obesity, or other comorbidities. Apart from overt hypothyroidism, much of hypothyroidism in DS appears unrelated to autoimmunity and we recommend checking of anti-thyroid antibodies only in select cases. Additional screens for thyroid disease at routine 6–8 week and 4-month well-child visits will detect early cases of hypothyroidism who passed their newborn screen.

#### Keywords

Down syndrome; thyroid diseases; congenital heart malformation; congenital hypothyroidism	,
screening	

Corresponding Author: Melinda Pierce, MD; piercme@ohsu.edu, Oregon Health and Science University, Mail Code CDRC-P, 707 SW Gaines St., Portland, OR 97239, Phone: +1 503-494-1926, Fax: +1 503-494-1933.

PES Membership: Both Drs. Pierce and LaFranchi are members of PES

The authors have no financial relationships relevant to this article to disclose. The authors have no conflicts of interest to this article to disclose.

# Introduction

Down syndrome is the most common autosomal aneuploidy with national birth prevalence of 14.57 per 10,000, or 1 in 691, live births[1]. It is well established that patients with Down syndrome (DS) are at increased risk for the development of thyroid hormone abnormalities, with reported prevalence between 8–49%, depending on the definition of abnormality [2–18]. This includes all forms of thyroid disease: congenital hypothyroidism; acquired subclinical hypothyroidism; acquired overt hypothyroidism; and hyperthyroidism. The wide range is due to small patient numbers in historical studies, and though some recent studies have greater numbers, they lack diagnostic detail. Many studies also lack information related to possible associations of thyroid disease with other comorbidities, or were too small to reach statistical significance. The current American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines on the care of patients with DS, based mainly on expert opinion, recommend screening for thyroid dysfunction at birth, 6 months, 12 months, and annually thereafter[19]. The absence of a solid evidence base has made criteria for diagnosis and treatment decisions, in cases of subclinical hypothyroidism in particular, a hotly debated topic in the pediatric endocrinology literature.

The goals of this study are to better characterize the timing and prevalence of thyroid abnormalities in children with DS, to compare age at diagnosis between different types of thyroid disease, and to reexamine the screening recommendations. This study also investigates biochemical thyroid status, autoimmunity, treatment decisions, and possible related comorbidities. Of particular interest was evaluation of the prevailing wisdom that most thyroid disease in DS is both permanent and related to autoimmunity[20].

## **Methods**

The Child Development and Rehabilitation Center at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) sees pediatric patients with DS primarily from Oregon and Washington in a multidisciplinary team setting. A retrospective review of the electronic medical record (EMR) revealed 508 eligible patients seen in the DS Clinic between the clinic opening in November 2007 through January 2015. Fifty-seven additional patients with DS and a thyroid-related ICD-9 visit code were identified in the OHSU Pediatric Endocrine Clinic (PEC), though 2 were ultimately not diagnosed with thyroid disease. Data from PEC patients were added to DS Clinic data to increase power in association analyses but were not used in prevalence calculations. Study data were collected and managed using REDCap electronic tools hosted at OHSU. REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) is a secure, web-based application that supports data capture for research studies, providing 1) interfaces for validated data entry; 2) audit trails for tracking data manipulation and export procedures; and 3) automated export for data downloads. Approval for this study was obtained from the OHSU Institutional Review Board.

Demographic data included gender, ethnicity, and primary language at home. Ethnicity was determined by patient report, was retrieved from the EMR, and was assessed in the study because of possible differences in rates of autoimmunity or other comorbidities. Historic health information included karyotype, history and type of thyroid disease, age and thyroid

function tests (TFTs) at time of diagnosis, presence and type of antithyroid antibodies, treatment, history and type of cardiac disease and surgical interventions, and other notable comorbidities. Anthropometric data at visits included height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) as well as height, weight, and BMI percentile for age. Height and weight percentiles were based on the Down syndrome growth charts from Cronk et al[21]. BMI percentiles were based on Center for Disease Control growth charts for patients older than age 2 years[22].

Thyroid disease was characterized as congenital hypothyroidism, subclinical hypothyroidism, overt hypothyroidism, isolated hyperthyrotropinemia, unknown hypothyroidism, and hyperthyroidism according to the criteria in Table 2 as defined by the American Thyroid Association[23]. Although there are potentially differences in treatment practices with mildly elevated TSH levels, biochemical evidence of subclinical hypothyroidism was used to define cases where available. In cases where diagnostic data was unavailable, classification was made based on abnormal TFTs, if available, within 6 months before starting treatment. All "unknown" patients on levothyroxine were counted among those with "acquired hypothyroidism."

For comparisons between two groups, including percentage of patients tested for autoimmunity, percentage of those testing positive, and differences in levothyroxine doses, a two-sided t-test was used. Logistic regression was used to evaluate associations between thyroid disease and age, gender, ethnicity, presence of cardiac disease, BMI percentile, weight and weight percentile, and presence of gastrointestinal anomalies (Hirschprung, duodenal atresia, and other gastrointestinal atresias). Because of collinearity, regression was repeated with cardiac surgery or cardiopulmonary bypass in place of cardiac disease. The Wald tests was used to compare individual variables for significant associations. Linear regression was used to evaluate differences in weight-based levothyroxine dose between subclinical and overt hypothyroidism. Within each subgroup, analysis was done with chisquared comparison, except when groups were smaller than 5, in which case Fisher's exact test was used. All statistical analyses were performed using STATA 14.1 software (StataCorp, College Station TX).

#### Results

#### **Prevalence and Summary Statistics**

Five hundred sixty-five patients were included in the study: 508 patients in the DS Clinic and 57 patients in the PEC (Table 1). There was a slight male predominance (54%) and a high number of patients identified as Hispanic/Latino(a) (31%). The cohort is similar to published cohorts of patients with DS with regards to karyotype and common co-morbidities (Table 1). Patients in the PEC were older and less likely to have a reported history of cardiac disease, though rates of cardiac surgery were not different between the clinics. The PEC had a higher percentage of patients with leukemia/myeloproliferative disease and type I diabetes.

There were 422 patients without a thyroid-related diagnosis who had TSH and FT4 recorded within 6 months of a visit, resulting in 648 TSH and FT4 measurements total. This excludes

any children diagnosed with thyroid disease based on TFTs at the visit in question. Mean TSH was 3.30 uIU/ml (range 0.04–9.66). Mean FT4 was 1.04 ng/dl (range 0.6–2.0).

As shown in Table 3, 120 (24%) patients in the DS Clinic had documented history of a thyroid-related diagnosis: 2% congenital hypothyroidism; 10% subclinical hypothyroidism; 1% overt hypothyroidism; 4.5% with isolated hyperthyrotropinemia; 4.3% unknown hypothyroidism; and 1.6% hyperthyroidism. There was no difference in rates of any type of thyroid disease between males and females; mean serum TSH and free T4 at diagnosis are shown in Table 3. There was a statistically significant difference in TSH and mean FT4 between those with overt and subclinical hypothyroidism (p < 0.005). All those with hyperthyroidism were diagnosed with Graves' disease and treated with methimazole with good response to therapy.

For all patients, the median age of diagnosis with any thyroid disease was 4 years 10 months. For any acquired hypothyroidism, there was no statistical difference in age of diagnosis between those with subclinical and overt hypothyroidism. Among those diagnosed with hypothyroidism outside of newborn screening, 11 patients (7.5% of all acquired hypothyroidism) were diagnosed before the 6 month screening recommended by the AAP, although indications for testing earlier were not determined. For hyperthyroidism, median age at diagnosis was just under 9 years. Odds of developing thyroid disease increased by 10% per year with increasing age. Using a Kaplan-Meier estimate for the development of thyroid disease, it is estimated that 25% of patients with Down syndrome will carry a diagnosis of thyroid dysfunction by age 7.5 years and projected that up to 50% will by the time they reach adulthood (Figure 1). This projection agrees with our clinical data, where at a mean age of 7 years at the time of the visit, 24% of patients had thyroid disease.

#### **Associations with Comorbidities**

Logistic regression for odds of developing any thyroid disease and congenital hypothyroidism or acquired hypothyroidism separately, showed no relationship to gender, history of cardiac disease or cardiac surgery, need for cardiopulmonary bypass, BMI weight or height percentile, or presence of gastrointestinal anomalies. There was an increased risk for thyroid disease in those with type I diabetes, though this was weighted to patients seen in the PEC.

#### Autoimmunity and Differences between Subclinical and Overt Hypothyroidism

A total of 99 patients had antithyroid antibodies tested, with 46 (46%) having any positive antibody (Table 4). Half of patients with positive antibodies had only one antibody present and 6 (13%) (all with hyperthyroidism) had more than two. There were no differences in rates of antibody positivity between males and females ( $\chi^2$  p-value = 0.2). Of those with diagnosis of acquired hypothyroidism, 62 had antibodies tested and 29 (47%) were positive. It was unclear in EMR documentation whether antibody positivity impacted diagnostic decisions. Of those with positive antibodies, 15/29 with acquired hypothyroidism and 7/15 with hyperthyroidism developed antibody positivity before age 8 years, including two patients with anti-thyroperoxidase (antiTPO) antibodies detected at 10 and 14 months respectively.

Patients were equally likely to be tested for antibodies across all forms of acquired hypothyroidism. However amongst those tested, patients with overt hypothyroidism had twice the rate of antibody positivity (100% vs 46%). For the population without thyroid dysfunction, 22 were tested for antithyroid antibodies with only 2/22 having any positive test.

### Thyroid hormone dosing

Patients with TSH > 11 mIU/ml appeared to require 0.5 mcg/kg/day higher dose of levothyroxine when controlling for gender, age, and weight (95% CI 0.2–0.8 mcg/kg, p-value = 0.001).

#### **Transient Cases**

Of note, 18 patients with a diagnosis of hypothyroidism (1/14 congenital, 10/76 subclinical, 4/28 isolated hyperthyrotropinemia, and 3/32 unknown) were not on therapy and had normal TSH and FT4 at their most recent screening. There was one case of remission in the patients diagnosed with Graves' disease. There were no significant differences in rates of non-treatment between diagnoses. The highest recorded diagnostic TSH for all transient cases was 13.6 uIU/ml. Almost half (8/18) were diagnosed at or before age 3 years. Of these, 4 had measurements of antithyroid antibodies in the EMR, with 2 having positive antibodies. For those diagnosed after age 3 years, 5/6 tested had positive antibodies. As a sensitivity analysis, repeat analyses of differences in antibody testing and positivity between types of hypothyroidism, as discussed above, did not change conclusions when excluding those with transient hypothyroidism.

## **Discussion**

## **Prevalence and Summary Statistics**

This study confirms the previously reported high prevalence of thyroid disease in patients with Down syndrome. The majority of our patients have mild, subclinical hypothyroidism or hyperthyrotropinemia without measurement of free T4. Unlike the general population, there is no female predominance for any type of thyroid disorder, including hyperthyroidism. When looking at all types of thyroid disease, both treated and untreated, up to 50% of patients with DS are expected to have a diagnosis of thyroid disease by adulthood.

Our study appears to confirm a relatively high prevalence of congenital hypothyroidism in children with DS. All patients were diagnosed by newborn screen, most often with a primary total T4 less than the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile and elevated TSH [24]. The majority of these cases are presumed to be permanent. The prevalence in the Down Syndrome clinic population of 1:50 (2%) as shown in Table 3 is similar to rates seen in other studies [3, 6, 25]. TSH by NBS blood spot was available for 8/14 and suggested milder disease with only moderately elevated TSH, though all but one were still on levothyroxine replacement at mean age 6 years at follow-up. Although an association between congenital hypothyroidism and gastrointestinal anomalies has been suggested previously, in this larger study no patients with congenital hypothyroidism had duodenal atresia, anal atresia, or Hirschsprung disease [3, 26].

The high rate of diagnosis after NBS but before age 6 months suggests a nonimmune thyroid dysfunction in infancy. This early dysfunction is also supported by the finding that more than half of patients diagnosed with hypothyroidism are diagnosed before age 5 years. This early dysfunction could be a mild form of congenital hypothyroidism that escapes detection by NBS, as suggested in earlier, smaller studies, though more conclusive studies would be needed to confirm this hypothesis[25, 27]. In congenital hypothyroidism, it is well established that every month without thyroid hormone supplementation worsens developmental outcomes at school age [28, 29]. If an additional screening for hypothyroidism were added at the routine well-child visits at 6–8 weeks and at 4 months for children with Down syndrome, this could improve the developmental trajectory of some patients without adding additional physician visits for the family.

## Autoimmunity and Differences between Subclinical and Overt Hypothyroidism

Rates of autoimmunity in those without thyroid disease, as indicated by antithyroid antibody positivity, were lower than previously reported. This may be sampling bias as those with minor abnormalities in TFTs may have been more likely to be labeled as hypothyroid if they had positive antibodies. Rates of positivity in our study population for antiTPO were much higher than for antithyroglobulin (antiTG). In the general population, antibody positivity for either is approximately 10%, though antiTPO is more likely to be associated with biochemical thyroid disease[30]. Although a previous study showed no cases of antibody positivity in early childhood in Down syndrome, we found almost half of patients with positive antibodies developed them before age 8 years[8]. There was also no difference in antibody positivity between males and females. When sorted by degree of TSH elevation or FT4 depression, antibody positivity did not impact levothyroxine requirements, though higher diagnostic TSH seemed to be associated with antibody positivity and all patients with low FT4 had evidence of autoimmunity when measured.

Some authors have argued that patients with Down syndrome have a non-pathological shift in the normal range of TSH and that perhaps this leads to over-diagnosis of subclinical hypothyroidism [31, 32]. Indeed, Meyerovich et al reported a normal TSH reference range for healthy patients with Down syndrome to be 1.5–8.9 uIU/ml [32]. Our data showed a lower upper limit of normal with 2.5 standard deviations above the mean for TSH of 7.1 uIU/ml. Diagnostic TSH in subclinical hypothyroidism overlapped with this range but mean TSH was higher in in those labeled as having hypothyroidism. However, even in cases where TSH was clearly elevated, FT4 was maintained in the normal range in all but 9 of 83 patients in whom it was measured. TSH also did not appear to be greatly affected by obesity as seen in the general population[33]. When tested, much of subclinical hypothyroidism does not appear to be autoimmune mediated, though the rates of antibody positivity are higher in all groups than reported for the US healthy adult population[30].

#### **Transient Cases**

Thirteen percent of patients with history of hypothyroidism were not receiving treatment and had normal TFTs, despite high rates of antibody positivity when tested. Similar high rates of normalization of TSH elevation are also found in the general population and have been reported in those with DS, though typically associated with absence of autoimmune

disease[34, 35]. In congenital hypothyroidism, the disease is also more likely to be transient in patients with DS [36]. Combined, these factors suggest that TSH elevation may be transient in a significant portion of patients including those diagnosed in the first year of life. Patients may be mislabeled as having permanent hypothyroidism and will be subject to more frequent laboratory testing and physician follow-up.

It has been suggested in one randomized controlled trial of patients with DS that treatment in the first two years of life results in small benefits in growth and gross motor development at 24 months, but there was no difference at follow-up at age 10 years [37, 38]. The idea that there could be benefit and little harm may result in physicians being more likely in this vulnerable population to treat transient TSH elevations without waiting for a confirmatory second test. This bias towards treatment increases the rate of recorded diagnoses of thyroid disease in the DS population. The interpretation becomes self-perpetuating and is flawed, as the increased rate of diagnosis is likely due to the application of a different diagnostic treatment threshold compared to the general population rather than a true difference in disease rates. We posit that this greater likelihood of diagnosing a normal patient with thyroid disease may be mitigated by delaying diagnosis of subclinical hypothyroidism until more than one sample over 2–3 months suggests sustained TSH elevation, though greater caution and clinical judgement may be required in children under the age of 3 years.

There are multiple limitations to the current study. All patients were seen in specialty clinics that potentially draw more complex patients, although rates of common co-morbidities were similar to other published cohorts[11, 12]. Diagnosis of thyroid disease was made by outside providers in most cases, including decisions regarding interpretation of TFTs. Results for TSH and FT4 came from multiple institutions. Although there was broad overlap between the normal ranges from different laboratories, the reported means should be interpreted with caution as laboratories do not share the same reference standards. There was a moderate amount of missing diagnostic data including TFTs for the 32 patients classified as "unknown hypothyroidism." Finally, a relatively small number of patients were screened for antithyroid antibodies, particularly among those labeled as not having thyroid disease.

# Conclusion

We believe our data support the conclusion that high rates of hypothyroidism are evidence of inherent dysfunction of the thyroid axis in patients with Down syndrome. Given the significant number of patients diagnosed before age 6 months, we recommend additional screening of TSH and FT4 at both a 6–8 weeks and 4 months. While patients would otherwise be detected at the currently recommended 6 month screen, with these additional tests most, if not all, patients, with early hypothyroidism not detected on NBS would be started on critical therapy earlier. Approximately 100 patients would need to be screened to detect one case of infantile hypothyroidism. Although compliance with routine screening is low, the additional points of testing could theoretically improve rates of any testing being done in the first year[10].

We also encourage recognition that all hypothyroidism is potentially transient. Particularly in patients diagnosed before the age of 3 years, we recommend management similar to that

for congenital hypothyroidism: consideration of a structured trial off therapy with recheck of TSH and FT4 in 4 weeks in patients who have not had a rise in TSH > 10 uIU/ml on treatment or required increases in levothyroxine dose after initiation of therapy [24, 39].

It would appear that most, if not all, cases of severe hypothyroidism with low FT4 and cases of hyperthyroidism are secondary to autoimmune thyroid disease. However, autoimmunity was not predictive of thyroid disease severity in the absence of significant elevations in TSH and may not be useful in the diagnosis of acquired hypothyroidism in Down syndrome in cases with a single test showing mild TSH elevation. Repeat testing of TSH and FT4 in 2–3 months should be considered before decision is made to treat what could be a transient biochemical finding.

# **Acknowledgments**

Dr. Pierce conceptualized and designed the study and data collection instruments, performed data collection, drafted the initial manuscript, and approved the final manuscript as submitted. Dr. Pierce had full access to all the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis. Dr. LaFranchi provided critical feedback in the development of the study, reviewed and revised the manuscript and approved the final manuscript as submitted. Dr. Pinter assisted with the conceptualization and design of the study, reviewed and revised the manuscript, and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

Salary support for M Pierce provided in part by the National Institutes of Health Training Grant T32HD007497. REDCap Database managed by the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute and supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Science of National Institutes of Health under grant 1 UL1 RR024140 01

The authors would like to acknowledge Daniel Pinter for assistance with data collection and Katrina Ramsey, MPH for advise on statistical analysis. Ms. Ramsey is supported by the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute, with funding by the National Center for Advancing Translational Science of National Institutes of Health under grant 1 UL1 RR024140 01.

## **Abbreviations**

**AAP** American Academy of Pediatrics

**BMI** body mass index

**DS** Down syndrome

**EMR** electronic medical record

**NBS** newborn screen

**OHSU** Oregon Health and Science University

**PEC** Pediatric Endocrine Clinic

TFT thyroid function test

TG thyroglobulin

**TPO** thyroperoxidase

**TSH** thyrotropin

**FT4** free thyroxine

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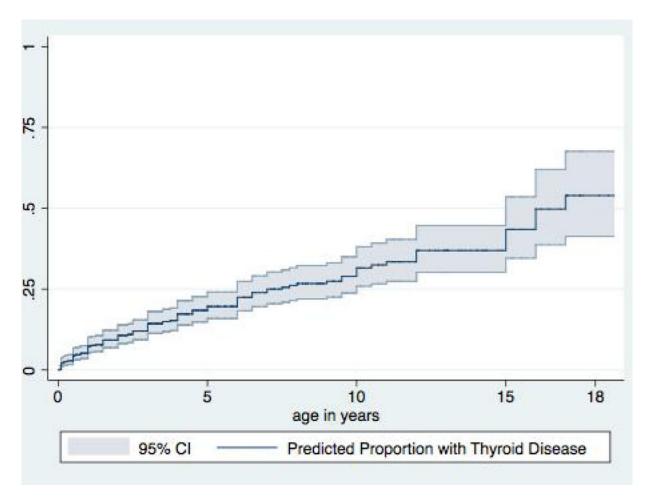
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**Figure 1.**Kaplan-Meier curve showing prevalence of any type of thyroid disease in pediatric Down syndrome population.

Table 1

Demographics and Comorbid Diagnoses for Children seen in Down Syndrome Clinic and Pediatric Endocrine Clinic.

	Down Syndrome Clinic		Pediatric Endocrine Clinic	
	n = 508	%	n = 57	%
Age, Mean and Range (years)	6.5		11.4 <sup>a</sup>	
	0.05-26		0.2–28	
Gender				
Male	282	55.5	25	44
Female	226	44.5	32	56
Ethnicity (n=494)				
Non-Hispanic/Latino	336	68.0	43	80
Hispanic/Latino	158	32.0	11	20
Karyotype (n= 448)				
47, XX/47, XY	420	93.8	14	
46 XX, t(14;21)/46 XY, t(14;21)	6	1.3		
Other (mosaic, other translocations)	22	4.9		
Unknown	60		43	
Primary Language at Home (n = 506)				
English	372	73.5	44	79
Spanish	109	21.5	10	18
Other	25	4.9	2	4
Congenital Cardiac Disease				
No	160	31.5	27	47 <i>b</i>
Yes	348	68.5	30	52
Required Surgery	145	41.6 <sup>C</sup>	13	43 <sup>c</sup>
Visual Impairment (including astigmatism, strabismus)	312	61.4	24	42 <sup>b</sup>
Hearing Impairment (including pressure equalization tubes)	270	53.2	24	42
Sleep Apnea	154	30.3	14	25
Gastrointestinal Atresia (duodenal, anal, other)	27	5.3	5	9
Seizure Disorder	26	5.1	3	5
Autism Spectrum Disorder	25	4.9	3	5
Undescended Testicles (one or both; males only)	21	7.5		
Celiac Disease	19	3.7	4	7
Hirschsprung	14	2.8	2	4
Leukemia/Myeloproliferative Disorder	15	3.0	5	9 <i>b</i>
Type I Diabetes	4	0.8	4	7 <sup>b</sup>

 $<sup>^{</sup>a}$ two-sided t-test, p < 0.05

 $^b\chi^2$  p-value < 0.05 comparing Down Syndrome Clinic and Pediatric Endocrine Clinic, cardiac disease and visual impairment are more common in Down Syndrome Clinic, leukemia and type 1 diabetes are more common in Pediatric Endocrine Clinic.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>mathcal{C}}$ Percent of patients requiring cardiac surgery is taken only from patients with cardiac disease.

Table 2

Diagnostic Criteria for Types of Thyroid Disease

Thyroid Disease	Diagnostic Criteria <sup>a</sup>
Congenital Hypothyroidism	Diagnosed by newborn screen, or as stated in the electronic medical record
Subclinical Hypothyroidism	"High" TSH with normal free T4 at diagnosis or while off medication, or as stated in the medical record
Overt Hypothyroidism	"High" TSH with low free T4 at any time
Isolated Hyperthyrotropinemia	"High" diagnostic TSH without diagnostic free T4
Unknown Hypothyroidism	Diagnosis in electronic medical record of non-specific hypothyroidism and/or prescribed levothyroxine. No diagnostic thyroid function tests available.
Hyperthyroidism	Diagnosis in electronic medical record of Graves' disease, hyperthyroidism, or prescribed methimazole

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Representative reference ranges after one month of age are TSH 0.5–5.0 uIU/ml and Free T4 0.8–1.8 ng/dl, however classification of "high" and "low" was assessed for individual laboratory normal ranges.

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Prevalence of Different Types of Thyroid Disease.<sup>a</sup>

Thyroid Disease	Down Syndrome Clinic, n Ped Endo Clinic, n	Ped Endo Clinic, n	Age at Dx	Mean TSH at Dx, mIU/ml (range)	Mean FT4 at Dx, ng/dl (range)
Congenital Hypothyroidism	10 (2%)	4	1.5 m (n=13)	52.7 (15.66–109.5) (n=8)	Total T4: b 6.95 (3.9-9.8) (n=8)
Subclinical Hypothyroidism	52 (10%)	24	5 yr 5 m	11.6 (5.31–72.7)	1.03 (0.6–1.8)
Overt Hypothyroidism	5 (1%)	4	7 yr 11 mo (n= 9)	52.1 (21.6–150) (n = 9)	0.43 (0.1–0.75) (n=9)
Isolated Hyper-thyrotropinemia	23 (4.5%)	5	2 yr 5 mo $(n = 24)$	13.5 (5.55-45.4) (n = 15)	
Unknown Hypothyroidism	22 (4.3%)	10	4 yr 4 m (n=23)		
Hyperthyroidism	8 (1.6%)	8	8 yr 11 m (n=16)	0.02 (0.008-0.1) (n = 15)	3.64 (1.0–6.5) (n=15)
Total	120 (24%)	25			

<sup>a</sup>Diagnostic data for age, mean TSH, and mean free thyroxine (FT4) at diagnosis are taken from all patients for whom the data was available.

 $^{b}$  Total T4 values from newborn screen, instead of free T4, are reported for congenital hypothyroidism cases.

 Table 4

 Rates of Anti-Thyroid Antibody Testing and Antibody Positivity by Diagnosis.

Diagnosis	Antibodies Tested	Antibodies Positive
Subclinical	37/76 (49%)	17/37 (46%)
Overt	5/9 (55%)	5/5(100%) <sup>a</sup>
Isolated TSH	12/28 (43%)	4/12 (33%) <sup>a</sup>
Unknown hypothyroidism	8/32 (25%)	3/8 (38%)
Hyperthyroidism	15/16 (94%)	15/15 (100%)
No thyroid dysfunction	22/390 (5.6%)	2/22 (10%)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Statistically significant difference in proportions of positive antibodies between subclinical and overt hypothyroidism and isolated hyperthyrotropinemia and overt hypothyroidism. p-value = 0.02 and 0.01. No difference in antibody positivity between subclinical hypothyroidism and isolated hyperthyrotropinemia.