

DRUGS, THYROID-STIMULATING HORMONE AND CENTRAL HYPOTHYROIDISM

A great number of drugs affect thyroid function by different mechanisms. A wide range of mechanisms include modifications to the hypothalamo-pituitary axis, synthesis and secretion of thyroid hormone by thyroid and change in thyroid hormone metabolism as well as their activities in tissue. A small subset of drugs including glucocorticoids, dopamine and dopamine agonists, somatostatin analogs and rexinoids cause suppression of TSH and central hypothyroidism. This central hypothyroidism usually is not clinically evident and its medical treatment is not necessary. Non-thyroidal illness syndrome (NTIS) also causes TSH suppression and central hypothyroidism by complex mechanisms. It becomes clinically apparent if the treatment of NTIS is associated with using glucocorticoids and dopamine and then possibilities of treatment this hypothyroidism should be considered. Different mechanisms by which these drugs cause central hypothyroidism and their clinical relevance were analysed in this review.

Key words: drugs, TSH, central hypothyroidism
