

Changes of serum cortisol and thyroid hormones after irradiation

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摘要

OBJECTIVE: Determine the frequency and changes in thyroid hormones in Cushing's disease. **METHODS:** Free thyroxin and thyrotropin levels were measured in 11 patients (age range 17 to 60 years) with Cushing's disease both before and after resection of the pituitary adenoma. **RESULTS:** Free thyroxin levels were low (8.3 to 11.7 pmol/l) in 7 patients. These patients had no clinical manifestations of hypothyroidism. In 4 patients, cure of the pituitary adenoma led to normalization of the thyroid hormones 10 days after operation (13 to 55 pmol/l); in the other cases surgical cure was unsuccessful and thyroxin levels remained low. Cortisol levels were finally normalized in these patients after irradiation of the pituitary, a second pituitary operation, or bilateral resection of the adrenal glands in 2 patients. Normal thyroxin levels were thus achieved. There was no correlation between serum cortisol and free thyroxin. **CONCLUSION:** Thyroid hormones should be assayed regularly in patients with Cushing's disease as a supplementary control of treatment effectiveness.