



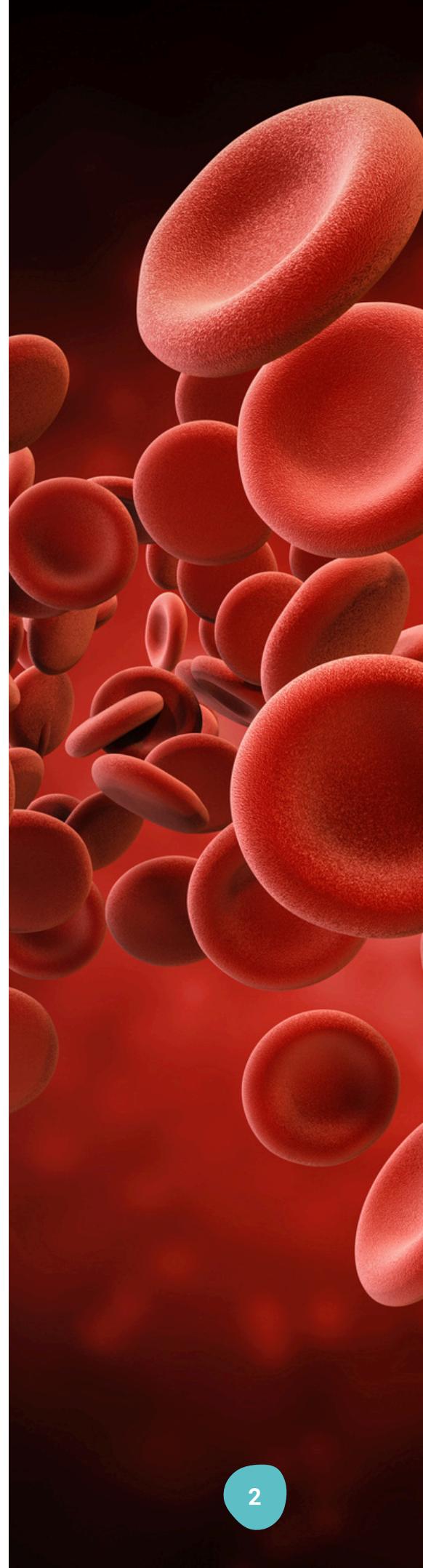
Research Spotlight: The Link Between Thyroid Dysfunction & Diabetes

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Thyroid disorders and diabetes are among the most prevalent endocrine diseases worldwide.

Thyroid hormones, primarily thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3), are crucial in regulating metabolism, influencing everything from energy expenditure to glucose regulation.

These hormones touch nearly every cell in the body, modulating the rate of metabolic processes and impacting glucose utilization and insulin sensitivity.

When these hormone levels are altered, swinging towards either hypothyroidism (too low) or hyperthyroidism (too high), the ripple effects can disrupt our entire metabolic balance. This imbalance is particularly significant for those with diabetes, where the interplay between glucose regulation and thyroid function is even more crucial.

In fact, people with diabetes are more likely to encounter thyroid disorders¹, hinting at a complex relationship yet to be fully understood.

In this article, we'll evaluate how thyroid diseases relate to diabetes markers using the latest Vibrant Wellness research, unraveling the complex biochemical pathways that link these two conditions and potentially improving predictive capability for these disorders.

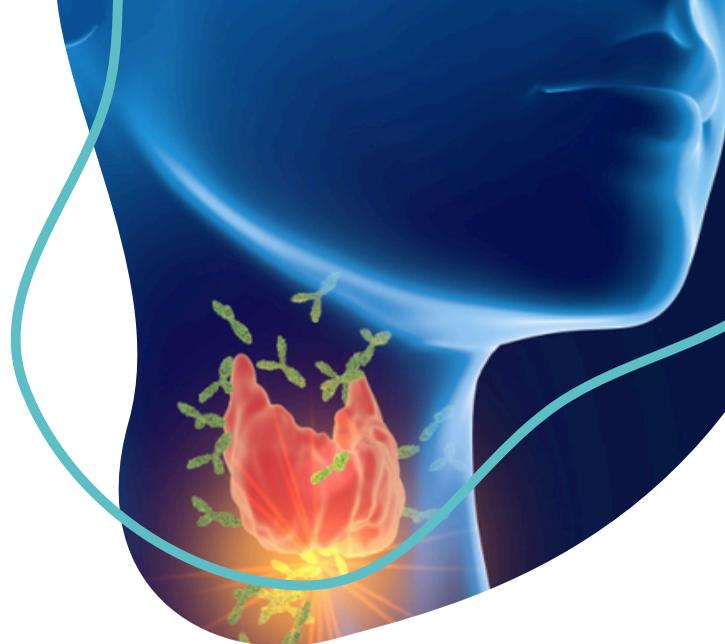
Insulin Resistance in Thyroid Disorders: Association Between Anti-TPO and HOMA-IR

["Insulin resistance in thyroid disorders: association between anti-TPO and HOMA-IR"](#) is a 2023 study published in medRxiv.

In this study, our research team aimed to assess the association between thyroid disorders and various diabetes markers and explore the sequence of development.

The study aims to identify whether specific thyroid dysfunctions precede or predict changes in diabetes markers such as insulin resistance.

Insulin resistance in thyroid disorders: association between anti-TPO and HOMA-IR:



The Study: The Prevalence of Diabetes Markers Among Different Thyroid Statuses

Through retrospective analysis, our research team assessed a large cohort from Vibrant America Clinical Laboratory's extensive database.

Our team tested 32,787 subjects for thyroid-related conditions and diabetes markers between January 2015 and June 2019 using Vibrant's Thyroid and Diabetes panels.

The Thyroid Panel included assessments of thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), free thyroxine (FT4), anti-thyroid peroxidase (anti-TPO), and anti-thyroglobulin (anti-Tg) antibodies.

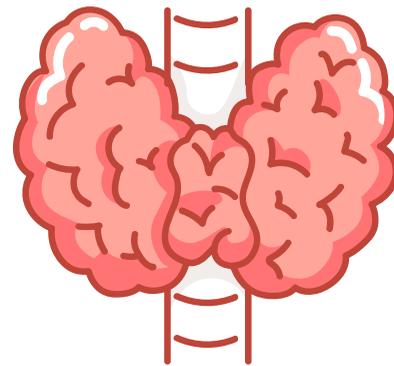
Concurrently, the Diabetes Panel measured markers such as hemoglobin A1c (HbA1C), fasting plasma glucose, and insulin levels. This dual-panel approach allowed for a nuanced exploration of the interplay between thyroid function and glucose metabolism.

The study revealed significant insights into the prevalence of diabetes markers among different thyroid statuses:

HOMA-IR Levels

Subjects with overt hypothyroidism (43.7%) and overt hyperthyroidism (42.2%) showed a notable increase in insulin resistance, as measured by the Homeostatic Model Assessment of Insulin Resistance (HOMA-IR).

This suggests a strong link between extreme thyroid hormone levels and altered glucose metabolism.



HbA1C Variations

Our research team found elevated HbA1C levels across various thyroid conditions, with 19.2% in subclinical hypothyroid, 22.3% in overt hypothyroid, and 21.2% in overt hyperthyroid subjects.

These findings indicate that thyroid dysfunction may affect glycemic control.

Insulin Levels

Insulin levels were significantly higher in overt hypothyroid subjects (15.1%) compared to controls.

This increase emphasizes the potential for thyroid dysfunction to impact insulin secretion and action.

Further, the results suggest a predictive role of anti-TPO antibodies, a major thyroid disease marker, in developing insulin resistance.

The analysis showed that subjects with elevated anti-TPO levels were more likely to experience a rise in HOMA-IR scores over time, suggesting that anti-TPO antibodies could serve as early indicators of metabolic disturbances leading to insulin resistance.

This finding is particularly significant as it may guide early preventative strategies in patients with thyroid autoimmunity.

Clinical Implications: The Correlation Between Thyroid Dysfunction and Insulin Resistance

The study's results suggest a direct correlation between thyroid dysfunction and increased insulin resistance.

Thus, monitoring patients with known thyroid conditions for signs of glucose metabolism disturbances can potentially help identify metabolic conditions earlier.

Additionally, the variations in HbA1C and insulin levels across different thyroid statuses support the need for comprehensive metabolic monitoring.

This would help in diagnosing diabetes at an earlier stage in these patients and also in adjusting therapeutic interventions aimed at stabilizing thyroid function to mitigate its impact on glucose metabolism.

These insights suggest that a patient's thyroid health could significantly influence their glycemic control and vice versa.

Therefore, a dual-focused monitoring approach is optimal for patients with either condition.

This ensures treatments are optimized to address both the primary condition and its potential effects on comorbid disorders.

Delineating how thyroid disorders influence diabetes markers can lead to more tailored and proactive patient care, potentially reducing the incidence of complications associated with these conditions.

Understanding the intricate relationship between thyroid dysfunction and the various diabetes markers can greatly enhance your ability to predict, monitor, and manage these conditions.



Early Interventions & Predictive Ability

This study reveals the potential role of anti-TPO antibodies as predictive markers for insulin resistance.

The early detection of elevated anti-TPO levels could signal the onset of metabolic issues before traditional diabetes markers reach concerning thresholds. This finding is particularly valuable for predicting the risk of developing insulin resistance and possibly type 2 diabetes.

A standout observation from the study is the significant positive correlation between omega-3 fatty acids—specifically DHA (docosahexaenoic acid), EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid), Total Omega-3, the Omega-3 index, and beneficial lipid markers.

These beneficial lipid markers include increased levels of Total Cholesterol, HDL Direct (high-density lipoprotein, or "good" cholesterol), ApoA, and more favorable LDL calculation profiles.

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This positive relationship demonstrates the role of omega-3 fatty acids in supporting a healthy lipid profile, an essential factor in reducing cardiovascular disease risk.

Moreover, these omega-3 fatty acids demonstrated a notable negative correlation with triglyceride levels. High triglyceride levels are a known risk factor for cardiovascular disease, and their reduction is an important goal in managing heart health.

Thyroid & Diabetes Testing

To assess your patients' anti-TPO levels and other influential thyroid and metabolic health markers, you can utilize precision testing.

Precision testing allows for a detailed analysis of patients' anti-TPO levels and a comprehensive profile of thyroid and metabolic biomarkers, aiding in the accurate diagnosis and management of endocrine health.

Thyroid Panel

Vibrant's Thyroid Panel detects key markers involved in thyroid function, including:

- T3 - Triiodothyronine
- T4 - Thyroxine
- Free T3
- Free T4
- TSH
- Anti-TPO
- Reverse T3
- Anti-TG

By detecting early predictive markers of thyroid disease and metabolic syndrome like Anti-TPO, alongside major thyroid hormones like TSH and FT4, you can help diagnose your patients earlier, prevent the spread of thyroid dysfunction to other body systems, and see improved outcomes.

Diabetes Panel

The Diabetes Panel assesses the most critical markers associated with diabetes, including:

- Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1C)
- Fasting plasma glucose
- Insulin
- Adiponectin
- Glycated Serum Protein (GSP)

Each of these markers plays a crucial role in evaluating different aspects of glucose metabolism and insulin function, providing a detailed snapshot of a patient's metabolic state.

The panel's ability to measure baseline glucose and insulin levels, along with HbA1C, facilitates the early detection of subtle changes in glucose metabolism.

This is particularly important for patients with thyroid conditions, as they may experience shifts in insulin sensitivity and glucose processing that precede overt diabetes.

Early detection of metabolic dysfunction allows for timely intervention, potentially staving off the development of full-blown diabetes.

Additionally, regular monitoring using the Diabetes Panel can provide ongoing insights into your patients' metabolic health.

This is essential for tracking the effectiveness of treatment regimens and making necessary adjustments, given the intertwined nature of thyroid and metabolic function.

Thyroid, Metabolism, & Health

The intricate relationship between thyroid disorders and diabetes reveals a fundamental truth about human health: The body is an interconnected system, where disturbances in one area can reverberate throughout, impacting overall well-being.

This study highlights the specific links between thyroid function and glucose metabolism and serves as a reminder of the complexity and interdependence of our bodily systems.

As we've seen, thyroid dysfunctions significantly influence diabetic markers, suggesting that disturbances in thyroid hormone levels can predispose individuals to metabolic syndromes such as insulin resistance.

By using advanced testing like Vibrant's Thyroid and Diabetes panels, you can gain a comprehensive view of patient health and potentially catch conditions like insulin resistance before they arise.

This allows for a healthier future where diseases are not only managed but possibly prevented.



References:

1. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.06.06.23291013v1>



Be a Healthcare Pioneer

Enhance patient care with state-of-the-art functional lab testing for accurate diagnoses and targeted treatment plans.

Get Started



Regulatory Statement:

The general wellness test intended uses relate to sustaining or offering general improvement to functions associated with a general state of health while making reference to diseases or conditions. This test has been laboratory developed and its performance characteristics determined by Vibrant America LLC and Vibrant Genomics, a CLIA-certified and CAP-accredited laboratory performing the test. The lab tests referenced have not been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Although FDA does not currently clear or approve laboratory-developed tests in the U.S., certification of the laboratory is required under CLIA to ensure the quality and validity of the tests.

