

DISTHYROID ORBITOPATHY

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A correlation of autoimmune Graves' hyperthyroiditis and mild forms of autoimmune Graves' ophthalmopathy (GO) occurs in approximately 50% of patients, while severe form of autoimmune Graves' ophthalmopathy occurs in 3-7% of all patients. Around 80% of Graves' ophthalmopathy cases occur in association with hyperthyroidism, although not all coincide with the onset of hyperthyroid symptoms. Because an increase in orbital content compresses the eye, elevated intraocular pressure, protrusion of the eye and/or isolated optic nerve neuropathy can be developed. The aim of our work was to demonstrate that autoimmune Graves' disease of the thyroid gland in patients without other autoimmune diseases is in correlation with an increased risk of protrusion of an eye and increased eye pressure.

The research included a group of 42 patients (84 eyes) who were divided into two equal groups. The first group consisted of patients with Graves' disease of the thyroid gland, without other autoimmune diseases, while the second, control group consisted of patients who did not have autoimmune disease. All patients were subjected to a complete ophthalmological and internal examination in the morning hours. The χ^2 test and Fisher exact test were used in statistical analysis. Patients with Graves' disease of the thyroid gland had statistically higher values of intraocular tension and values of protrusion of patients of control group ($p < 0.001$). Elevated intraocular pressure was measured in 14 eyes of patients with autoimmune hyperthyroidism (16.67%) and 5 eyes of patients of the control group (5.95%). Mild protrusion was found in 12 eyes in the patients with autoimmune hyperthyroiditis (14.29%) and 4 eyes in the control group patients (4.76%). Patients with the disease of thyroid gland have a higher risk of the intraocular pressure increase and protrusion of the eye. Because of that, it is necessary to do a complete ophthalmological and internal examination of patients with Graves' hyperthyroiditis in order to prevent glaucoma.

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