

Clinical Indicators of Surgical Thyroidectomy in Graves' Disease

PRK Bhargav

ABSTRACT

Pathognomonic clinical triad of Graves' disease are diffusely enlarged goiter, exophthalmos, and acropachy. Thyroidectomy appears to be ideal treatment for this condition in comparison to radioiodine.

Keywords: Goiter, Radioiodine therapy, Thyroidectomy.

How to cite this article: Bhargav PRK. Clinical Indicators of Surgical Thyroidectomy in Graves' Disease. *World J Endoc Surg* 2016;8(3):220.

Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None

INTRODUCTION

The clinical image shows bilateral exophthalmos, large diffuse goiter, and clubbing of fingers in a 45-year-old gentleman with clinical features of hyperthyroidism. The triad is strongly suggestive of Graves' disease or toxic diffuse goiter. Especially, thyroid acropachy characterized by clubbing of fingers and toes is a characteristic stigmata of this condition.¹ Graves' disease is an organ-specific autoimmune thyroid disease caused by thyrotropin (TSH) receptor stimulating antibodies.² Amongst the three therapeutic options, surgical thyroidectomy appears to



Fig. 1: Bilateral exophthalmos, diffuse goiter, and acropachy (inset showing digital clubbing)

be optimal compared to antithyroid drugs or radioiodine for permanent resolution of disease.³ Twelve months after uneventful total thyroidectomy and thyroxine replacement, the patient had significant relief of symptoms and resolution of all clinical stigmata (Fig. 1).

REFERENCES

1. Fatourech V, Ahmed DD, Schwartz KM. Thyroid acropachy: report of 40 patients treated at a single institution in a 26-year period. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 2002 Dec;87(12):5435-5441.
2. Rees Smith B, MacLachlan SM, Furmaniak J. Autoantibodies to the thyrotropin receptor. *Endocr Rev* 1988 Feb;9(1):106-121.
3. Frilling A, Goretzki PE, Grussendorf M, Erbsloh M, Roher HD. The influence of surgery on endocrine ophthalmopathy. *World J Surg* 1990 May-Jun;14(3):442-446.

Consultant and Ex-Associate Professor

Department of Endocrine and Metabolic Surgery, Endocare Hospital, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author: PRK Bhargav, Consultant and Ex-Associate Professor, Department of Endocrine and Metabolic Surgery, Endocare Hospital, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India Phone: +918666617633, e-mail: kingbhargav@gmail.com