

10 Signs You Have A Thyroid Problem And 10 Solutions For It

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January is Thyroid Awareness Month. It's estimated that as many as 27 million Americans have a thyroid problem such as Hashimoto's or Graves', and half of them have no idea that they do. Hypothyroidism, or an under-active thyroid, accounts for 90% of all thyroid imbalances.

The thyroid, a butterfly-shaped gland in the center of your neck, is the master gland of metabolism. How well your thyroid is functioning is inter-related with every system in your body. If your thyroid is not running optimally, then neither are you.

10 Signs of an Underactive Thyroid:

1. Fatigue after sleeping 8 to 10 hours a night or needing to take a nap daily
2. Weight gain or the inability to lose weight
3. Mood issues such as mood swings, anxiety, or depression
4. Hormone imbalances such as PMS, irregular periods, infertility, and low sex drive

5. Muscle pain, joint pain, carpal tunnel syndrome, or tendonitis
6. Cold hands and feet, feeling cold when others are not, or having a body temperature consistently below 98.5
7. Dry or cracking skin, brittle nails and excessive hair loss
8. Constipation.
9. Mind issues such as brain fog, poor concentration, or poor memory
10. Neck swelling, snoring, or hoarse voice

How does your thyroid gland work?

Thyroid hormone production is regulated by a feedback loop between the hypothalamus, pituitary gland, and the thyroid gland. Hypothalamic thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH) stimulates pituitary thyrotropin (TSH) synthesis and secretion.

In turn, TSH stimulates production and release of T4 and T3 from the thyroid gland. When enough T4 is produced, it signals to TRH and TSH that there is enough thyroid hormone in circulation and not to produce more.

About 85% of the hormone produced by our thyroid gland is T4, which is an inactive form of the hormone. After T4 is made, a small amount of it is converted into T3, which is the active form of thyroid hormone.

To complicate matters, T3 also gets converted into either Free T3 (FT3) or Reverse T3 (RT3). It is the Free T3 that really matters in all of this, since it's the only hormone that can attach to a receptor and cause your metabolism to rise, keep you warm, keep your bowels moving, mind working, and other hormones in check. The role of Reverse T3 is not well known, however, I do see it elevated in persons under extreme stress and those who have mercury toxicity.

And finally, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, an autoimmune disease, is the most common form of hypothyroidism and its numbers are rising annually. An autoimmune disease is one in which your body turns on itself and begins to attack a certain organ or tissue believing it's foreign.

I routinely screen all of my patients for autoimmune thyroid disease by ordering Thyroid Peroxidase Antibodies (TPOAb) and Thyroglobulin Antibodies (TgAb).

Why is hypothyroidism so under diagnosed in the USA?

Many symptoms of thyroid imbalance are vague and most doctors spend only a few minutes talking with patients to sort out the cause of their complaint.

Most conventional doctors use only one or two tests (TSH and T4) to screen for problems. They are not checking FT3, RT3, or thyroid antibodies.

Most conventional doctors use the 'normal' lab reference range as their guide only. Rather than listening to their patients symptoms, they use 'optimal' lab values and temperature as their guide.

Which lab tests are best to determine if you have a thyroid problem?

I check the below panel on each of my patients. Make sure your doctor does the same for you.

- TSH
- Free T4
- Free T3
- Reverse T3
- Thyroid Peroxidase Antibodies (TPOAb)
- Thyroglobulin Antibodies (TgAb)

What are the 'optimal' lab values for thyroid tests?

In my practice, I have found that the below are the ranges in which my patients (and myself) thrive. I listen to my patients as well and take how they are feeling into account.

- TSH 1-2 UIU/ML or lower (Armour or compounded T3 can artificially suppress TSH)
- FT4 >1.1 NG/DL
- FT3 > 3.2 PG/ML
- RT3 less than a 10:1 ratio RT3:FT3
- TPO – TgAb – < 4 IU/ML or negative

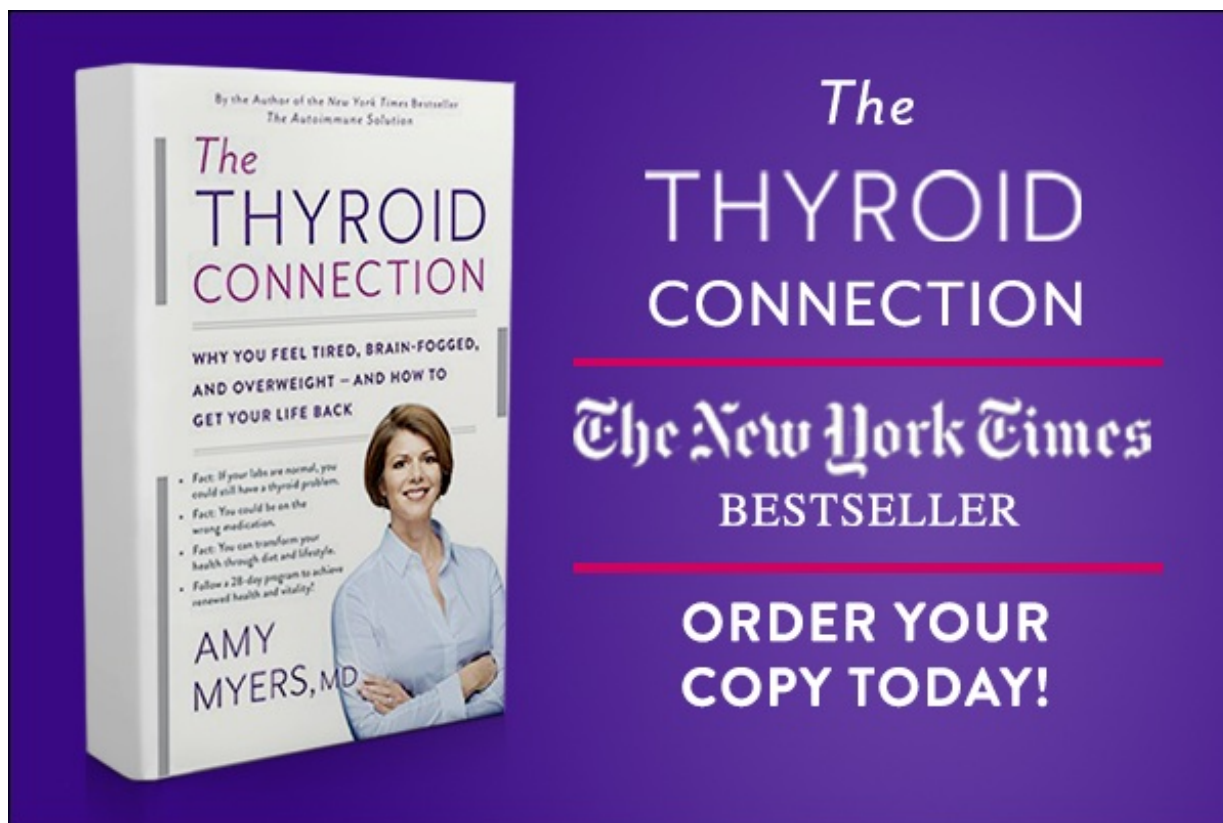
What are 10 things you can do to improve your thyroid function?

1. Make sure you are taking a high quality [multivitamin](#) with Iodine, Zinc, Selenium, Iron, Vitamin D, and B vitamins.
2. Also make sure that your multivitamin contains sufficient levels of tyrosine and iodine to help with the FT4 to FT3 conversion. I specially designed my [custom-formulated multivitamin](#) to include all of the essential nutrients for thyroid function.
3. Go gluten-free! If you have Hashimoto's, try going completely grain and legume free.
4. Deal with your stress and support your adrenal glands. The adrenal glands and thyroid work hand and hand. I recommend restorative yoga and [adaptogenic herbs](#), which support the adrenal glands in coping with stress.
5. Get 8 to 10 hours of sleep a night.
6. Have a biological dentist safely remove any amalgam fillings you may have.
7. Watch your intake of cruciferous vegetables. There is a bit of a debate surrounding this.
8. Get fluoride, bromide, and chlorine out of your diet and environment.
9. [Heal your gut](#). A properly functioning digestive system (gut) is critical to good health.

10. Find a [functional medicine doctor](#) in your area and have them run the above laboratory test and work with you to find our root cause of the thyroid imbalance.

Restore Thyroid Function & Take Your Health Back

In my new book, [The Thyroid Connection](#), I cover everything you need to know about thyroid disease, including its true underlying causes, how to work with your doctor, how to choose the right supplemental thyroid hormone, and a 28-day program to get your life back. [Order your copy today!](#)



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