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ЕЖЕМЕСЯЧНЫЙ НАУЧНЫЙ ЖУРНАЛ

Медицинские новости Грузии  
საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი

## GEORGIAN MEDICAL NEWS

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**GMN: Georgian Medical News** is peer-reviewed, published monthly journal committed to promoting the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health, published by the GMN Editorial Board since 1994. GMN carries original scientific articles on medicine, biology and pharmacy, which are of experimental, theoretical and practical character; publishes original research, reviews, commentaries, editorials, essays, medical news, and correspondence in English and Russian.

GMN is indexed in MEDLINE, SCOPUS, PubMed and VINITI Russian Academy of Sciences. The full text content is available through EBSCO databases.

**GMN: Медицинские новости Грузии** - ежемесячный рецензируемый научный журнал, издаётся Редакционной коллегией с 1994 года на русском и английском языках в целях поддержки медицинской науки и улучшения здравоохранения. В журнале публикуются оригинальные научные статьи в области медицины, биологии и фармации, статьи обзорного характера, научные сообщения, новости медицины и здравоохранения. Журнал индексируется в MEDLINE, отражён в базе данных SCOPUS, PubMed и ВИНТИ РАН. Полнотекстовые статьи журнала доступны через БД EBSCO.

**GMN: Georgian Medical News** – საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი – არის ყოველთვიური სამეცნიერო სამედიცინო რეცენზირებადი ჟურნალი, გამოიცემა 1994 წლიდან, წარმოადგენს სარედაქციო კოლეგიისა და აშშ-ის მეცნიერების, განათლების, ინდუსტრიის, ხელოვნებისა და ბუნებისმეტყველების საერთაშორისო აკადემიის ერთობლივ გამოცემას. GMN-ში რუსულ და ინგლისურ ენებზე ქვეყნდება ექსპერიმენტული, თეორიული და პრაქტიკული ხასიათის ორიგინალური სამეცნიერო სტატიები მედიცინის, ბიოლოგიისა და ფარმაციის სფეროში, მიმოხილვითი ხასიათის სტატიები.

ჟურნალი ინდექსირებულია MEDLINE-ის საერთაშორისო სისტემაში, ასახულია SCOPUS-ის, PubMed-ის და ВИНТИ РАН-ის მონაცემთა ბაზებში. სტატიების სრული ტექსტი ხელმისაწვდომია EBSCO-ს მონაცემთა ბაზებიდან.

### WEBSITE

[www.geomednews.com](http://www.geomednews.com)

## К СВЕДЕНИЮ АВТОРОВ!

При направлении статьи в редакцию необходимо соблюдать следующие правила:

1. Статья должна быть представлена в двух экземплярах, на русском или английском языках, напечатанная через **полтора интервала на одной стороне стандартного листа с шириной левого поля в три сантиметра**. Используемый компьютерный шрифт для текста на русском и английском языках - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, для текста на грузинском языке следует использовать **AcadNusx**. Размер шрифта - **12**. К рукописи, напечатанной на компьютере, должен быть приложен CD со статьей.

2. Размер статьи должен быть не менее десяти и не более двадцати страниц машинописи, включая указатель литературы и резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках.

3. В статье должны быть освещены актуальность данного материала, методы и результаты исследования и их обсуждение.

При представлении в печать научных экспериментальных работ авторы должны указывать вид и количество экспериментальных животных, применявшиеся методы обезболивания и усыпления (в ходе острых опытов).

4. К статье должны быть приложены краткое (на полстраницы) резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках (включающее следующие разделы: цель исследования, материал и методы, результаты и заключение) и список ключевых слов (key words).

5. Таблицы необходимо представлять в печатной форме. Фотокопии не принимаются. **Все цифровые, итоговые и процентные данные в таблицах должны соответствовать таковым в тексте статьи**. Таблицы и графики должны быть озаглавлены.

6. Фотографии должны быть контрастными, фотокопии с рентгенограмм - в позитивном изображении. Рисунки, чертежи и диаграммы следует озаглавить, пронумеровать и вставить в соответствующее место текста **в tiff формате**.

В подписях к микрофотографиям следует указывать степень увеличения через окуляр или объектив и метод окраски или импрегнации срезов.

7. Фамилии отечественных авторов приводятся в оригинальной транскрипции.

8. При оформлении и направлении статей в журнал МНГ просим авторов соблюдать правила, изложенные в «Единых требованиях к рукописям, представляемым в биомедицинские журналы», принятых Международным комитетом редакторов медицинских журналов - <http://www.spinesurgery.ru/files/publish.pdf> и [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html) В конце каждой оригинальной статьи приводится библиографический список. В список литературы включаются все материалы, на которые имеются ссылки в тексте. Список составляется в алфавитном порядке и нумеруется. Литературный источник приводится на языке оригинала. В списке литературы сначала приводятся работы, написанные знаками грузинского алфавита, затем кириллицей и латиницей. Ссылки на цитируемые работы в тексте статьи даются в квадратных скобках в виде номера, соответствующего номеру данной работы в списке литературы. Большинство цитированных источников должны быть за последние 5-7 лет.

9. Для получения права на публикацию статья должна иметь от руководителя работы или учреждения визу и сопроводительное отношение, написанные или напечатанные на бланке и заверенные подписью и печатью.

10. В конце статьи должны быть подписи всех авторов, полностью приведены их фамилии, имена и отчества, указаны служебный и домашний номера телефонов и адреса или иные координаты. Количество авторов (соавторов) не должно превышать пяти человек.

11. Редакция оставляет за собой право сокращать и исправлять статьи. Корректур авторам не высылаются, вся работа и сверка проводится по авторскому оригиналу.

12. Недопустимо направление в редакцию работ, представленных к печати в иных издательствах или опубликованных в других изданиях.

**При нарушении указанных правил статьи не рассматриваются.**

## REQUIREMENTS

Please note, materials submitted to the Editorial Office Staff are supposed to meet the following requirements:

1. Articles must be provided with a double copy, in English or Russian languages and typed or computer-printed on a single side of standard typing paper, with the left margin of 3 centimeters width, and 1.5 spacing between the lines, typeface - **Times New Roman (Cyrillic)**, print size - 12 (referring to Georgian and Russian materials). With computer-printed texts please enclose a CD carrying the same file titled with Latin symbols.

2. Size of the article, including index and resume in English, Russian and Georgian languages must be at least 10 pages and not exceed the limit of 20 pages of typed or computer-printed text.

3. Submitted material must include a coverage of a topical subject, research methods, results, and review.

Authors of the scientific-research works must indicate the number of experimental biological species drawn in, list the employed methods of anesthetization and soporific means used during acute tests.

4. Articles must have a short (half page) abstract in English, Russian and Georgian (including the following sections: aim of study, material and methods, results and conclusions) and a list of key words.

5. Tables must be presented in an original typed or computer-printed form, instead of a photocopied version. **Numbers, totals, percentile data on the tables must coincide with those in the texts of the articles.** Tables and graphs must be headed.

6. Photographs are required to be contrasted and must be submitted with doubles. Please number each photograph with a pencil on its back, indicate author's name, title of the article (short version), and mark out its top and bottom parts. Drawings must be accurate, drafts and diagrams drawn in Indian ink (or black ink). Photocopies of the X-ray photographs must be presented in a positive image in **tiff format**.

Accurately numbered subtitles for each illustration must be listed on a separate sheet of paper. In the subtitles for the microphotographs please indicate the ocular and objective lens magnification power, method of coloring or impregnation of the microscopic sections (preparations).

7. Please indicate last names, first and middle initials of the native authors, present names and initials of the foreign authors in the transcription of the original language, enclose in parenthesis corresponding number under which the author is listed in the reference materials.

8. Please follow guidance offered to authors by The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidance in its Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals publication available online at: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)  
[http://www.icmje.org/urm\\_full.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/urm_full.pdf)

In GMN style for each work cited in the text, a bibliographic reference is given, and this is located at the end of the article under the title "References". All references cited in the text must be listed. The list of references should be arranged alphabetically and then numbered. References are numbered in the text [numbers in square brackets] and in the reference list and numbers are repeated throughout the text as needed. The bibliographic description is given in the language of publication (citations in Georgian script are followed by Cyrillic and Latin).

9. To obtain the rights of publication articles must be accompanied by a visa from the project instructor or the establishment, where the work has been performed, and a reference letter, both written or typed on a special signed form, certified by a stamp or a seal.

10. Articles must be signed by all of the authors at the end, and they must be provided with a list of full names, office and home phone numbers and addresses or other non-office locations where the authors could be reached. The number of the authors (co-authors) must not exceed the limit of 5 people.

11. Editorial Staff reserves the rights to cut down in size and correct the articles. Proof-sheets are not sent out to the authors. The entire editorial and collation work is performed according to the author's original text.

12. Sending in the works that have already been assigned to the press by other Editorial Staffs or have been printed by other publishers is not permissible.

**Articles that Fail to Meet the Aforementioned  
Requirements are not Assigned to be Reviewed.**

## ავტორთა საქურაღებოლ!

რედაქციაში სტატიის წარმოდგენისას საჭიროა დაიცვათ შემდეგი წესები:

1. სტატია უნდა წარმოადგინოთ 2 ცალად, რუსულ ან ინგლისურ ენებზე დაბეჭდილი სტანდარტული ფურცლის 1 გვერდზე, 3 სმ სიგანის მარცხენა ველისა და სტრიქონებს შორის 1,5 ინტერვალის დაცვით. გამოყენებული კომპიუტერული შრიფტი რუსულ და ინგლისურენოვან ტექსტებში - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, ხოლო ქართულენოვან ტექსტში საჭიროა გამოვიყენოთ **AcadNusx**. შრიფტის ზომა – 12. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს CD სტატიით.

2. სტატიის მოცულობა არ უნდა შეადგენდეს 10 გვერდზე ნაკლებს და 20 გვერდზე მეტს ლიტერატურის სიის და რეზიუმეების (ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე) ჩათვლით.

3. სტატიაში საჭიროა გაშუქდეს: საკითხის აქტუალობა; კვლევის მიზანი; საკვლევი მასალა და გამოყენებული მეთოდები; მიღებული შედეგები და მათი განსჯა. ექსპერიმენტული ხასიათის სტატიების წარმოდგენისას ავტორებმა უნდა მიუთითონ საექსპერიმენტო ცხოველების სახეობა და რაოდენობა; გაუტკივარებისა და დაძინების მეთოდები (მწვავე ცდების პირობებში).

4. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს რეზიუმე ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე არანაკლებ ნახევარი გვერდის მოცულობისა (სათაურის, ავტორების, დაწესებულების მითითებით და უნდა შეიცავდეს შემდეგ განყოფილებებს: მიზანი, მასალა და მეთოდები, შედეგები და დასკვნები; ტექსტუალური ნაწილი არ უნდა იყოს 15 სტრიქონზე ნაკლები) და საკვანძო სიტყვების ჩამონათვალი (key words).

5. ცხრილები საჭიროა წარმოადგინოთ ნაბეჭდი სახით. ყველა ციფრული, შემაჯამებელი და პროცენტული მონაცემები უნდა შეესაბამებოდეს ტექსტში მოყვანილს.

6. ფოტოსურათები უნდა იყოს კონტრასტული; სურათები, ნახაზები, დიაგრამები - დასათაურებული, დანომრილი და სათანადო ადგილას ჩასმული. რენტგენოგრამების ფოტოასლები წარმოადგინეთ პოზიტიური გამოსახულებით **tiff** ფორმატში. მიკროფოტოსურათების წარწერებში საჭიროა მიუთითოთ ოკულარის ან ობიექტივის საშუალებით გადიდების ხარისხი, ანათალების შედეგის ან იმპრეგნაციის მეთოდი და აღნიშნოთ სურათის ზედა და ქვედა ნაწილები.

7. სამამულო ავტორების გვარები სტატიაში აღინიშნება ინიციალების თანდართვით, უცხოურისა – უცხოური ტრანსკრიპციით.

8. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს ავტორის მიერ გამოყენებული სამამულო და უცხოური შრომების ბიბლიოგრაფიული სია (ბოლო 5-8 წლის სიღრმით). ანბანური წყობით წარმოდგენილ ბიბლიოგრაფიულ სიაში მიუთითეთ ჯერ სამამულო, შემდეგ უცხოელი ავტორები (გვარი, ინიციალები, სტატიის სათაური, ჟურნალის დასახელება, გამოცემის ადგილი, წელი, ჟურნალის №, პირველი და ბოლო გვერდები). მონოგრაფიის შემთხვევაში მიუთითეთ გამოცემის წელი, ადგილი და გვერდების საერთო რაოდენობა. ტექსტში კვადრატულ ფხიხლებში უნდა მიუთითოთ ავტორის შესაბამისი N ლიტერატურის სიის მიხედვით. მიზანშეწონილია, რომ ციტირებული წყაროების უმეტესი ნაწილი იყოს 5-6 წლის სიღრმის.

9. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს: ა) დაწესებულების ან სამეცნიერო ხელმძღვანელის წარდგინება, დამოწმებული ხელმოწერითა და ბეჭდით; ბ) დარგის სპეციალისტის დამოწმებული რეცენზია, რომელშიც მითითებული იქნება საკითხის აქტუალობა, მასალის საკმაობა, მეთოდის სანდოობა, შედეგების სამეცნიერო-პრაქტიკული მნიშვნელობა.

10. სტატიის ბოლოს საჭიროა ყველა ავტორის ხელმოწერა, რომელთა რაოდენობა არ უნდა აღემატებოდეს 5-ს.

11. რედაქცია იტოვებს უფლებას შეასწოროს სტატია. ტექსტზე მუშაობა და შეჯერება ხდება საავტორო ორიგინალის მიხედვით.

12. დაუშვებელია რედაქციაში ისეთი სტატიის წარდგენა, რომელიც დასაბეჭდად წარდგენილი იყო სხვა რედაქციაში ან გამოქვეყნებული იყო სხვა გამოცემებში.

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## FEATURES OF THYROID DYSFUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

A.Y. Abbasova, V.A. Mirzazade, I.I. Mustafayev, N.R. Ismayilova.

*Azerbaijan State Advanced Training Institute for Doctors named after A. Aliyev, Department of Therapy, Baku, Azerbaijan.*

### Abstract.

This study explores the prevalence and clinical significance of thyroid dysfunction in patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation (AF). A total of 134 AF patients (72 males and 62 females) were evaluated using clinical assessments, anthropometric measurements, electrocardiography, Doppler echocardiography, thyroid ultrasound, and thyroid hormone testing (TSH, free T3, free T4, anti-TPO). Participants were grouped according to thyroid gland functional, structural, and autoimmune status.

Results indicated that 61.9% had normal thyroid function, whereas 38.1% demonstrated dysthyroidism (subclinical/overt hypothyroidism, subclinical/overt hyperthyroidism, or “pseudo-dysthyroidism”). Notably, hypothyroidism was associated with a higher frequency of severe AF symptoms (EHRA class IV). However, it did not significantly influence AF type (bradysystolic, normosystolic, tachysystolic), AF form (paroxysmal, persistent, permanent), or disease duration. Hyperthyroidism also showed no statistically significant effect on AF type, form, or duration, though there was a trend toward more severe symptoms (EHRA III–IV).

The study emphasizes the importance of “pseudo-dysthyroidism,” a condition marked by secondary alterations in thyroid hormone levels due to other comorbid illnesses. Recognizing such cases is critical to prevent unnecessary thyroid-directed interventions. Overall, the findings suggest that thyroid dysfunction—particularly hypothyroidism—may exacerbate symptom severity in AF without necessarily altering the arrhythmia’s fundamental characteristics. Comprehensive thyroid evaluation, including hormone measurements and ultrasound, is recommended for all AF patients to detect both overt and subclinical thyroid disorders and guide appropriate management.

**Key words.** Thyroid dysfunction, atrial fibrillation, electrocardiography, thyroid ultrasound.

### Introduction.

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is regarded as the most common supraventricular arrhythmia capable of causing serious hemodynamic disturbances [1]. During AF, the atria undergo irregular activation, preventing coordinated atrial contractions [1]. The principal diagnostic criteria for AF on a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) include irregular R-R intervals, absence of P waves, and evidence of irregular atrial activity [1,2].

Recent years have witnessed a rise in the incidence of AF in developed countries, attributed to population aging, the spread of obesity, improved diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases, and increased survival rates due to better treatments. Studies indicate that AF prevalence reaches approximately 3% in individuals

over 20 years of age, and one in three Europeans older than 55 is at lifetime risk of developing AF [2-5].

AF elevates the risk of mortality by an average of 1.5–2 times and predisposes patients to serious complications, including stroke, dementia, myocardial infarction, sudden cardiac death, heart failure, chronic kidney disease, and peripheral artery disease [4,6-9]. The pathogenesis of AF involves both modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors [1,2,4]. Among these, the functional status of the thyroid gland has garnered particular attention [10,11]. Even subclinical thyroid dysfunction may trigger AF [10-13].

### Aim of the study.

To determine the prevalence of thyroid gland dysfunction in patients with atrial fibrillation.

### Materials and Methods.

A total of 134 patients with AF (72 males and 62 females) participated in this study. The diagnosis of AF was confirmed via a 12-lead ECG. The following parameters and evaluations were performed:

- Clinical assessment
- Anthropometric measurements (height, weight, body mass index)
- Blood pressure measurement
- Electrocardiography
- Doppler echocardiography
- Thyroid ultrasound
- Levels of thyroid hormones (TSH, free T3, free T4) and anti-TPO

**Inclusion criteria:** Prior to enrollment, none of the patients had a recorded diagnosis of thyroid pathology. During the study, patients were stratified into different groups based on the functional, structural, and autoimmune status of the thyroid gland.

### Grouping by Thyroid Functional Status:

1. **Normal Thyroid Function (n=83; 61.9%)** – Normal TSH, free T4 (FT4), and free T3 (FT3) levels.

2. **Dysthyroidism (n=51; 38.1%)** – Thyroid function parameters outside the normal range.

Within the Normal Thyroid Function cohort, two subgroups were identified:

- **Ideal Normal (IN) group (n=20; 14.9%).**  
No structural abnormalities on thyroid ultrasound and normal anti-TPO levels.
- **Functional Normal (FuN) group (n=63; 47.0%):** Normal TSH, FT4, and FT3 levels but accompanied by autoimmune and/or structural changes:
  - **FuNA:** Functional normal with autoimmune changes.
  - **FuNS:** Functional normal with structural changes.



- **FuNAS:** Functional normal with both autoimmune and structural changes.

Within the dysthyroidism cohort, the following subgroups were identified:

**Hypothyroidism (HypoT) group (n=21; 15.7%):** Patients with TSH, FT4, and FT3 changes suggestive of hypothyroidism (subclinical or overt).

**Hyperthyroidism (HyperT) group (n=11; 8.2%):** Patients with elevated thyroid hormone levels (subclinical or overt hyperthyroidism).

**Pseudo-dysthyroidism (PDT) group (n=19; 14.2%):** Normal TSH levels but pathological changes in FT3 and/or FT4 (consistent with Euthyroid Sick Syndrome [ESS] or Non-Thyroidal Illness Syndrome [NTIS]). A key characteristic of this “pseudo-dysthyroidism” (PDT) syndrome is that the observed thyroid-related changes are secondary and appear as an adaptive response to the patient’s primary comorbid condition [22-24].

### Results.

Among the participants, 61.9% had normal thyroid function (IN and FuN groups), whereas 38.1% belonged to the dysthyroidism groups (HypoT, HyperT, PDT). These findings confirm the relatively high frequency of thyroid abnormalities in AF patients.

### Comparison of hypothyroidism (HypoT) and ideal normal (IN) groups.

The HypoT and IN groups were compared with respect to AF type (bradysystolic, normosystolic, tachysystolic), AF form (paroxysmal, persistent, permanent), and disease duration (0–1 year, 1–3 years, 3–5 years, 5–10 years, over 10 years) (Tables 1 and 2).

**AF Type and form:** No statistically significant difference was found. Presence of hypothyroidism did not decisively influence the brady-, normo-, or tachysystolic pattern of AF, nor did it affect paroxysmal, persistent, or permanent forms.

**Symptomatic severity (EHRA):** In the HypoT group, the frequency of EHRA class IV (severe symptoms) was 28.6%, whereas it was only 5.0% in the IN group ( $p < 0.05$ ). This suggests that hypothyroidism may exacerbate clinical manifestations in AF.

**Disease duration:** No significant intergroup difference was noted for durations of 1 year or less, 1–3 years, 3–5 years, 5–10 years, or more than 10 years.

**Comorbid conditions:** Patients with hypothyroidism tended to have fewer multiple comorbidities but a higher frequency of single comorbidities. This might reflect the lower co-occurrence of other risk factors in hypothyroid patients.

**Table 1.** The frequency of occurrence of AF symptomatology at various degrees of severity in the IN (n=20) and HypoT (n=21) groups.

EHRA	Group % (95% CI)		P
	IN (n=20)	HypoT (n=21)	
I	5.0 (0.00 – 14.80)	9.5 (0.00 – 22.39)	> 0.05
II	50.0 (27.52 – 72.48)	28.6 (8.77 – 48.37)	> 0.05
III	40.0 (17.97 – 62.03)	33.3 (12.67 – 53.99)	> 0.05
IV	5.0 (0.00 – 14.80)	28.6 (8.77 – 48.37)	< 0.05
I - II	55.0 (32.63 – 77.37)	38.1 (16.81 – 59.38)	> 0.05
III - IV	45.0 (22.63 – 67.37)	61.9 (40.62 – 83.19)	> 0.05

**Table 2.** The duration of AF in the IN (n=20) and HypoT (n=21) groups.

Duration of disease	Group % (95% CI)		P
	IN (n=20)	HypoT (n=21)	
Unknown	5.0 (0.00 – 14.80)	14.3 (0.00 – 29.62)	> 0.05
0-1 year	30.0 (9.39 – 50.61)	14.3 (0.00 – 29.62)	> 0.05
1-3 years	15.0 (0.00 – 31.06)	19.0 (1.84 – 36.26)	> 0.05
3-5 years	15.0 (0.00 – 31.06)	9.5 (0.00 – 22.39)	> 0.05
5-10 years	0.0	0.0	-
More than 10 years	35.0 (13.55 – 56.45)	42.9 (21.17 – 64.56)	> 0.05

**Table 3.** The frequency of occurrence of AF symptomatology at various degrees of severity in the IN (n=20) and HyperT (n=11) groups.

EHRA	Group % (95% CI)		P
	IN (n=20)	HyperT (n=11)	
I	5.0 (0.00 – 14.80)	9.1 (0.00 – 26.91)	> 0.05
II	50.0 (27.52 – 72.48)	18.2 (0.00 – 42.09)	> 0.05
III	40.0 (17.97 – 62.03)	63.6 (33.82 – 93.45)	> 0.05
IV	5.0 (0.00 – 14.80)	9.1 (0.00 – 26.91)	> 0.05
I – II	55.0 (32.63 – 77.37)	27.3 (0.00 – 54.88)	> 0.05
III - IV	45.0 (22.63 – 67.37)	72.7 (45.12 – 100.00)	> 0.05

**Table 4.** The duration of AF in the IN (n=20) u HyperT (n=11) groups.

Duration of disease	Group %(95% CI)		p
	IN (n=20)	HyperT (n=11)	
Unknown	5.0 (0.00 – 14.80)	9.1 (0.00 – 26.91)	> 0.05
0-1 year	30.0 (9.39 – 50.61)	18.2 (0.00 – 42.09)	> 0.05
1-3 years	15.0 (0.00 – 31.06)	45.5 (14.59 – 76.32)	> 0.05
3-5 years	15.0 (0.00 – 31.06)	18.2 (0.00 – 42.09)	> 0.05
5-10 years	0.0	0.0	-
More than 10 years	35.0 (13.55 – 56.45)	9.1 (0.00 – 26.91)	> 0.05

**Conclusion:** Although hypothyroidism does not significantly affect the principal forms and types of AF, it may lead to more severe symptomatology (EHRA IV).

**Comparison of hyperthyroidism (HyperT) and ideal normal (IN) groups.**

These two groups were similarly compared (Tables 3 and 4).

**AF type and form:** No statistically significant differences emerged between hyperthyroid and IN patients in terms of brady-/normo-/tachysystolic AF or paroxysmal/persistent/permanent forms.

**Symptomatic severity (EHRA):** Although EHRA III–IV was noted in 72.7% of the HyperT group vs. 45% of the IN group, this difference did not reach statistical significance ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Disease duration:** No significant differences were observed regarding the duration of AF.

**Comorbidities:** The average number of comorbidities (approximately 2–2.5) did not differ substantially between these groups.

**Conclusion:** Hyperthyroidism did not exert a statistically significant effect on AF type, form, or duration, nor on secondary pulmonary hypertension. However, a trend toward higher EHRA III–IV symptomatology may warrant further investigation.

**Discussion.**

These findings demonstrate that although thyroid dysfunction plays an important role in the clinical course of AF, its primary effect appears to manifest through symptom severity. In particular, patients with hypothyroidism exhibit markedly more severe clinical symptoms (EHRA IV). This may be explained by reduced circulatory dynamics, slowed metabolic processes, and additional strain on the cardiovascular system [17].

On the other hand, the absence of a significant impact of hyperthyroidism on brady/normo/tachysystolic characteristics or overall AF form might reflect the fact that, aside from markedly elevated heart rates or post-infarction scenarios, hyperthyroidism does not serve as a decisive factor in the initiation or maintenance of AF. Generally, the influence of hyperthyroidism on the myocardium is often exhibited through palpitations, diastolic dysfunction, or sinus tachycardia, rather than by definitively altering AF progression [14-16].

Furthermore, “pseudo-dysthyroidism” (PDT) is emphasized in this study. This syndrome is typically observed in patients with acute or chronic illnesses that cause transient or secondary changes in thyroid hormone levels [18,19]. Its occurrence in AF patients highlights the importance of comprehensive thyroid evaluations, as misinterpretation of thyroid function tests might lead to unnecessary therapies.

**Recommendations.**

1. Although hypothyroidism does not substantially impact the type or form of AF, it is associated with more severe symptomatic burden.
2. Hyperthyroidism has no statistically significant effect on key AF parameters (type, form, duration) or on the frequency of secondary pulmonary hypertension, although there is a non-significant trend toward higher EHRA III–IV severity.
3. Comorbidities in both hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism groups underscore that, overall, the presence of multiple comorbid conditions can complicate the clinical picture in AF.
4. Pseudo-dysthyroidism (ESS/NTIS) is not uncommon in AF yet remains underreported. Recognizing this syndrome is essential to avoid unwarranted thyroid-specific treatments.
5. In AF patients with concomitant hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism, appropriate thyroid-specific management (thyroxine replacement therapy or antithyroid drugs) should be undertaken alongside arrhythmia control (rate or rhythm control strategies, anticoagulation, etc.).

**Conclusion.**

Although the pathophysiology of AF is multifaceted, the functional status of the thyroid gland merits special attention. This study’s findings indicate that thyroid dysfunction is not a rare occurrence in patients with AF. In particular, hypothyroidism can exacerbate AF symptom severity, while hyperthyroidism does not show a statistically significant impact on AF type or duration but may intensify subjective complaints in some instances.

Future investigations involving larger patient cohorts may further improve AF diagnosis and inform personalized treatment strategies. Specifically, evaluating TSH, free T4, free T3, anti-TPO, and thyroid ultrasound in all AF patients—and ruling out pseudo-dysthyroidism when indicated – are important steps in minimizing both AF-related complications and unnecessary risks for patients.

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