Lectures in Holistic Health

4th in a series

Jakob Jaggy h MD



AHMA www.holisticmedicine.org

FoCuS www.foothillsustainability.org

OuterAisle www.tablemountain.com



Chronic Fatigue

Most common etiologies for fatigue persisting for more than 6 months.



Fatigued and don't know why?

The 11 most common reasons for fatigue are:

- 🔺 Anemia
- ▲ Iron deficiency
- 🔺 Sleep apnea
- ▲ Vitamin B12 deficiency
- ▲ Hypothyroidism
- 📥 Hypoadrenia

- Sick building syndrome
- → Hormone imbalance
- ▲ Hypoglycemia
- ▲ Candidiasis/Food allergies
- ▲ Stealth viruses



Anemia / Iron deficiency

▲ Simply get your Hemoglobin and your Ferritin levels checked.

- *▶ Hemoglobin* : *14.0* − *18.0 gm/dl*
- *▶ Ferritin* : 22 322 ng/ml



Sleep apnea

- ▲ Symptoms that are suspicious are as follows:
 - wake up tired
 - snoring
 - take naps during the day
 - stop breathing for prolonged time

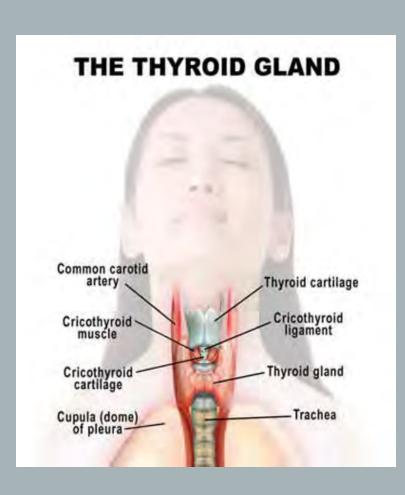


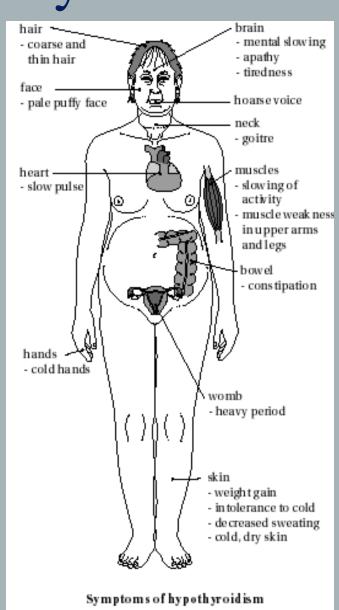
Vitamin B12 deficiency

- ▲ I have found that many patients as they are getting older become vitamin B12 deficient. B12 levels do rarely correlate with the deficiency.
- ▲ Mostly likely due to a decrease in the production of intrinsic factor.



Clinical Hypothyroidism







Types of Hypothyroidism

- ▲ Hypothyroidism grade 1
- ▲ Hypothyroidism grade 2
- ▲ Hypothyroidism grade 3
- ▲ Non-thyroidal Hypothyroidism



The tyranny of the TSH

▲ Reference range for TSH is 0.4 to 5.5.

▲ How do reference ranges come about?

▲ What is an optimum range?



Non-thyroidal Hypothyroidism?

- ▲ Environmental endocrine disruptors interfere with the production and function of hormones at all levels, including the level of the receptors.
- ► For info go to <u>www.scorecard.org</u> and <u>www.ourstolenfuture.com</u>.



Flame retardants

- ▲ Brominated flame retardants have a similar structure as Thyroxine (T4).

 Tox Science 2000
- ► PCB's, DDT and organochlorine pesticides have a similar action.

 Env Health Perspective 1999



West Nile Virus vs Hypothyroidism

Animal tests have shown that chronic exposure to pyrethroids can cause thyroid cysts and decrease production of T4 and T3.

J of Applied Toxicology 1996



Safe water?

▲ There is a statistical association between low-level perchlorate in drinking water and abnormal thyroid functioning.

J of Occupational and Env Med 2000



Anti-clumping agent in bread

- ▲ In an unfortunate move in the 80's Iodine was replaced with Bromide as an anti-clumping agent. Therefore decreasing an already insufficient supply of Iodine with an antithyroid substance.
- ▲ Goitrogenic substances include: brussel sprouts, rutabaga, turnips, kohlrabi radishes, cauliflower, cabbage, kale, millet and soy.



Soy isoflavones

- ▲ Isoflavones in soy can cause hypothyroidism.
- ▲ Isofavones are part of flavonoids which inhibit thyroid peroxidase and increase TSH production (cancer risk?).
- ▲ Caveat when using soy based baby formulas (increased risk for autoimmune thyroiditis).
- ▲ Pesticides in baby food (and all non-organic food) are oftentimes endocrine disruptors.



Nuclear power

- A "As a child my mother used to sit outside and watch the nuclear cloud float over her school. We even have some home movies of her running after the "cloud"."
- ▲ During 1950's and 60's about 100 nuclear bomb tests were performed northwest of Las Vegas.
- ▲ In a case of nuclear power plant accident the population is given Iodine tablets to protect the thyroid.



How about iodized salt?

- ▲ About 60% of Swiss food is made with iodized salt vs a small percentage in the US.
- ▲ Urinary Iodine levels have dropped in the last 30 years by 50% in the US.
- ▲ Swiss officials monitor iodine levels every 5 years and adjust iodine levels in salt if needed.
- ▲ Lack of sufficient iodine is the leading cause for preventable mental retardation in the world. Even a mild deficiency lowers IQ by 5 15 points.



Neck trauma

▲ Some research suggest that whiplash type trauma can cause hypothyroidism.



Adrenal fatigue?

- ▲ Predisposing factors:
 - -periods of stress (emotional, financial, environmental, physical)
 - -type A personality
 - -worry constantly
 - -intense steroid therapy
 - -alcohol and drug abuse
 - -chronic pain or illness



Clues you might have adrenal fatigue

- ▲ I have never felt the same since....
- Decreased ability to handle stress
- ▲ Less productive, foggy
- Unexplained fears and anxiety
- ▲ Low sex drive
- ▲ My energy fluctuates
- ▲ Persistently sick

- ▲ Allergies are getting worse
- ▲ PMS is worse
- Crave sweets or salty foods
- ▲ Need coffee to get going



Signs of adrenal fatigue

- ▲ Low blood pressure and/or drop in BP when getting up.
- ▲ Asthenocoria: pupils do not stay contracted when exposed to light (they "pump"). Dr Arroyo 1924
- ▲ Persistent white line after scratching the skin (Sergent's white line). Dr Sergent 1917



Stages of adrenal fatigue

- ▲ Stage 1: on the go all the time
- ▲ Stage 2a: energy fluctuates, "flip-flopper"
- ▲ Stage 2b: days and nights mixed up
- ▲ Stage 3: tired all the time
- ▲ Stage 4: can't hardly get out of bed, needs assistance
- ▲ Stage 5: Addison's



Treating hypothyroidism and adrenal fatigue (hypoadrenia)

- ▲ Oftentimes treatment of both organsystems is required.
- ▲ Preference for thyroid:
 - Armour thyroid / Naturethroid
- ▲ -Adrenal support depends on the stage of adrenal fatigue :
 - Adaptogenic herbs, B vitamins for stages 1+2
 - Glandular extracts, B Vitamins, tonifying herbs for stage 3
 - Cortef and above for stage 4+5



Thank you for your time and attention!

