

Hyperthyroid Myopathy

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Definition

A disease in which overproduction of thyroxine, produced by the thyroid gland, damages the muscles

Cause

Often an autoimmune disease, a mistaken attack by the immune system, in this case on the thyroid gland

Onset

Average is in 40s

Symptoms

Weakness and wasting of muscles around shoulders and sometimes hips; possible weakness of muscles in face, throat and in respiratory muscles; possible damage to muscles controlling eyes and eyelids; possible severe attacks of muscle weakness

Progression

Can usually be alleviated by restoring normal thyroxine levels through medication or surgery

Inheritance

There appears to be a genetic predisposition to autoimmune diseases.