LATE-ONSET HYPOPARATHYROIDISM 15 YEARS AFTER THYROIDECTOMY

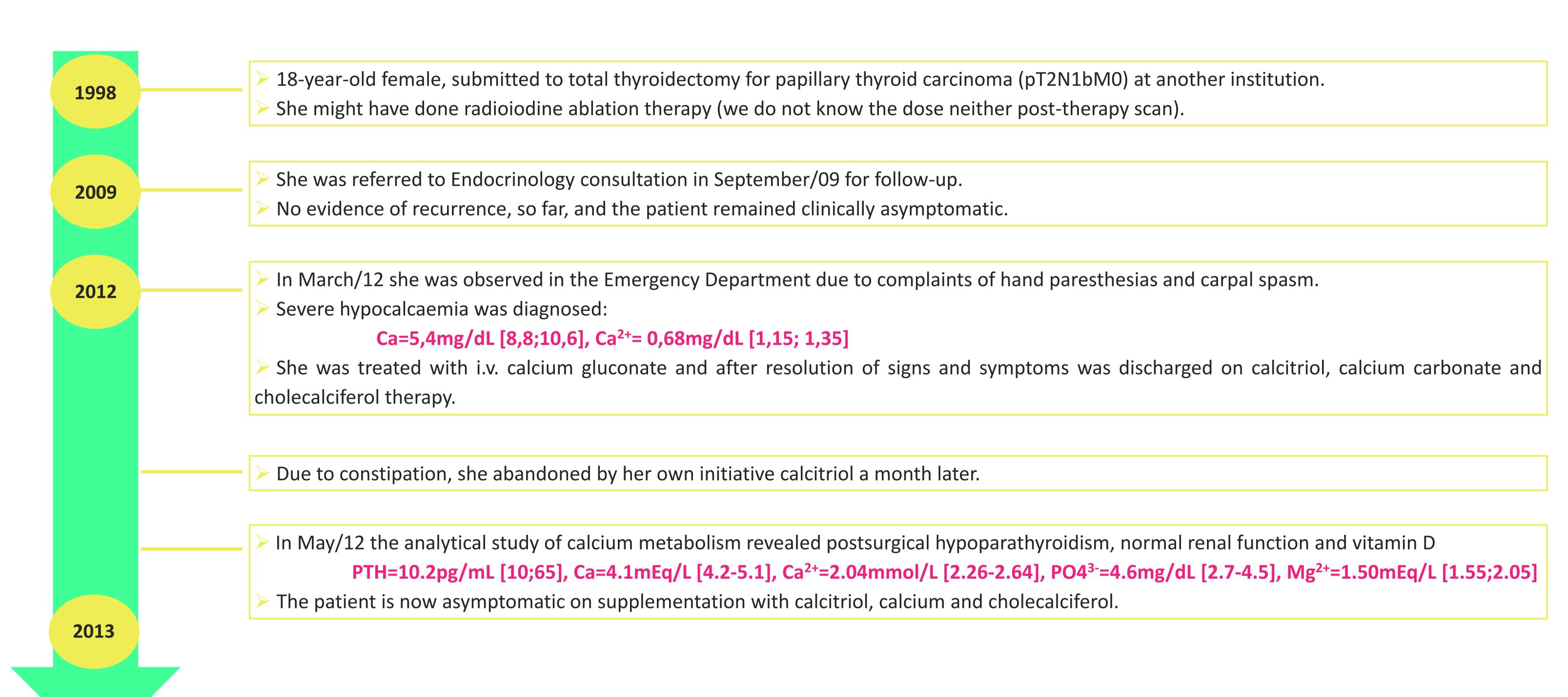


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INTRODUCTION

- Post-surgical hypoparathyroidism is a well known complication of total thyroidectomy. It may occur as transitory hypoparathyroidism that spontaneously recover within a few weeks/months and as permanent hypoparathyroidism needing long-term treatment.
- Only few cases of hypoparathyroidism newly diagnosed many years after surgery have been reported.
- We present a patient with hypoparathyroidism that became clinically evident 15 years after the thyroid surgery.



CONCLUSION

- Late-onset hypoparathyroidism appearing years after total thyroidectomy is a rare condition.
- Symptoms of hypocalcemia may be latent and subtle (such as weakness, tiredness, irritability and depression) and thus attributed to other diseases.
- Although hypocalcemia typically occur after surgery, progressive atrophy of the parathyroid glands, leading to its insufficiency years after thyroid surgery, may result in a late latent hypocalcemia.
- Although we lack data on radioactive iodine (1131) therapy and she is not able to ensure us that information, it is another possible factor contributing to late hypoparathyroidism.

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