

Radioiodine therapy in benign thyroid disease

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Background

Radioiodine is a safe and effective treatment for benign thyroid disease. It aims to treat hyperthyroidism and achieve a euthyroid state. Radioiodine is indicated in cases of hyperthyroidism caused by Graves' disease or toxic goitre (solitary toxic adenomas or multinodular goitre). In practice there has been concerns about long term safety, worsening of eye disease and weight gain with this treatment.

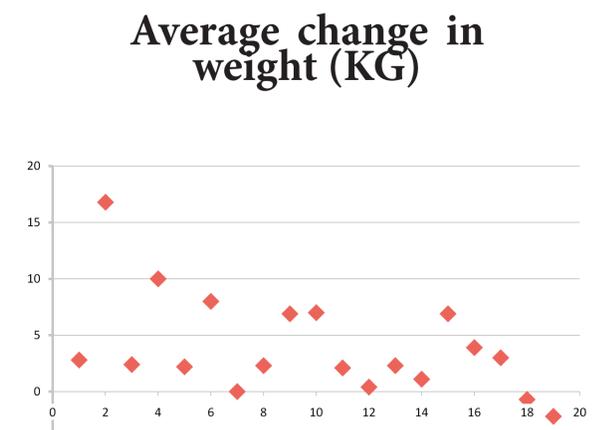
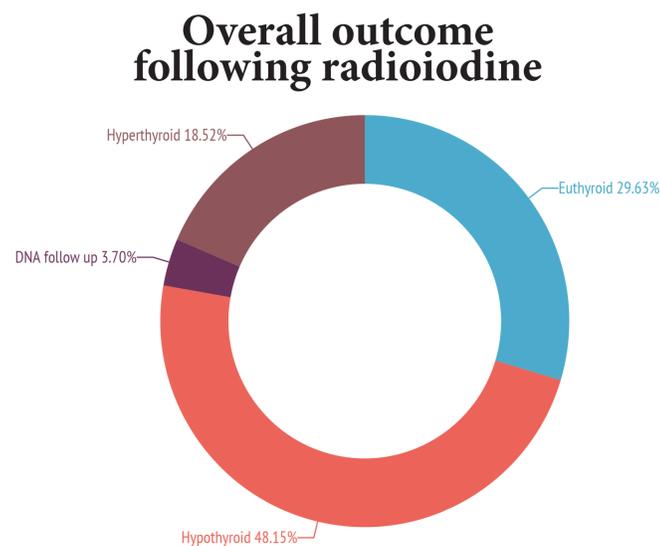
Methods

A retrospective review of patients treated with Radioiodine at North Middlesex Hospital between January 2012 and December 2014. All patients were treated with 555MBq as a fixed dose.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the North Middlesex University Hospital Audit Department for approving the project.

Results



- Total number of patient 27. Average age was 49 years (21-88). 23 patients (88%) were on antithyroid therapy prior to radioiodine treatment.
- 21 patients (78%) had their thyroid function checked at approximately 6 weeks and only 11 patients (40%) had it rechecked at 12 weeks. 23 patients (85%) had ongoing thyroid function monitoring at 1 year.
- Overall outcome 13 patients (48%) became hypothyroid requiring levothyroxine, 8 patients (29%) became euthyroid, 5 patients (18%) remained hyperthyroid and 1 did not attend follow up.
- Average time to commence levothyroxine was 4.5 months.
- 16 patients (59%) gained weight with an average weight gain of 4.9KG over 12 months.

Discussion

There were no other complications of Radioiodine treatment recorded. We conclude that with appropriate patient selection and monitoring, Radioiodine treatment for benign thyroid disease is a safe and effective treatment option.

Citations

1. Royal College of Physicians. Radioiodine in the management of benign thyroid disease, 2007. <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/radioiodine-management-benign-thyroid-disease.pdf> (accessed 15/10/2015).

Further Information

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