A case series of thyroid hormone resistance/failure

Hoi Lun Shing and Saadia Kamran Rao
Colchester General Hospital, UK

Abstract

Thyroid hormone resistance is a rare condition where there is an impaired sensitivity of target tissues to thyroid hormone. This leads to a situation where both the thyroid hormone levels and the thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) are raised, as TSH is not suppressed as would normally be expected. Incidence of this condition is around 1 in 40,000 live births. TR-beta gene mutation is the most common cause of thyroid hormone resistance. Clinical manifestations are dependent on the type of mutant thyroid hormone receptor and each target tissue’s predominant thyroid hormone receptor expression. Affected patients can present with a range of hyperthyroid or hypothyroid signs and symptoms. Majority of the cases described so far have an autosomal dominant inheritance. In this case series, we describe two young children and their father who have thyroid hormone resistance. They all possess a TR beta- gene defect secondary to a heterozygous mutation. Due to the wide ranging signs and symptoms and the non-typical trend of laboratory markers in thyroid hormone resistance, it can be difficult for the clinician to diagnose if one is not familiar with it. Thus, this entity should be taken into consideration when one encounters a patient with elevated serum FT4, unsuppressed TSH and decreased serum T4/ T3 ratio.

The syndrome can occur with variable signs and symptoms, even between participants of the identical own family harboring the identical mutation. Commonly maximum or all tissues are immune to thyroid hormone, so notwithstanding raised measures of serum thyroid hormone the character can also appear euthyroid (don’t have any symptoms of over- or underactivity of the thyroid gland). The most commonplace symptoms are goiter and tachycardia. It has additionally been connected to a few instances of interest deficit hyperactivity sickness (ADHD), although the general publics of people with that diagnosis don’t have any thyroid issues. An affiliation with melancholy has been proposed.

Ordinary thyroid hormone characteristic requires ordinary thyroid hormone transport across cellular membrane, suitable deiodination, thyroid hormone nuclear receptor, thyroid hormone response elements, co-activators, co-repressors, and normal histone acetylation. Any abnormalities on this chain can result in thyroid hormone resistance and it has now not been as nicely studied because the diverse varieties of insulin resistance.

The most widely recognized causes of the syndrome are mutations of the β (beta) shape (THRB gene) of the thyroid hormone receptor, of which over one hundred exclusive mutations have been documented. Mutations in MCT8 and SECISBP2 have additionally been associated with this condition.

Hypothalamus secretes a hormone called thyrotropin liberating hormone (TRH) which in turn launch thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH). TSH indicators thyroid to secrete thyroid hormones thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3). T4 gets converted to active T3 in peripheral tissues with the help of deiodinase enzymes. T3 negatively comments on the pituitary and decreases TSH secretion.

A sixty six-year-antique woman was referred for assessment of thyroid dysfunction. Her complaints were memory loss and intermittent gastrointestinal signs with alternating diarrhea and constipation attributed to irritable bowel syndrome. In 1998, she have been recognized with “a thyroid situation that nobody was able to repair.” At that time, she had a goiter and became handled with radioactive iodine (I-131) and become ultimately started on thyroid replacement remedy. For nearly 30 years, she turned into seen through more than one physician who continuously changed her thyroid hormone substitute but had been not able to “normalize” her thyroid hormone tiers, and this resulted in frustration for the affected person. Her family history changed into applicable for a son with “hypothyroidism.”

We describe a case of ISTH resulting from a commonplace germine mutation located at THRB exon 10 warm spot. The affected person went undiagnosed for decades. When reviewing her thyroid characteristic exams, we referred to a non-suppressed serum TSH regardless of a normal or accelerated loose T4 stage. Those extraordinary values led us to suspect THRB mutation and proceed with genetic research, which confirmed the diagnosis. The diagnosis of ISTH requires a excessive degree of suspicion, and we therefore believe it’s far crucial for the general practitioner on the way to apprehend the syndrome to avoid postpone in prognosis and needless invasive treatments, consisting of thyroid surgery or radioactive iodine ablation.

Thyroid hormone genomic moves are exerted through thyroid hormone binding frequently to nuclear receptors positioned within the nuclei and interplay with DNA to adjust the transcription of goal genes. Most of the instances of ISTH are resulting from mutations within the THRB gene positioned in chromosome three, and those mutations most usually clustered in three hot spots placed in exons 8, 9, and 10. The mutant thyroid hormone receptor beta protein has either reduced affinity for T3 or ordinary interplay with cofactors concerned in thyroid hormone motion, making the goal tissues refractory to thyroid hormones.

The medical presentation of sufferers with THRB mutations is variable. Sufferers might also gift with symptoms of hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, or a mixture of symptoms of thyroid hormone deficiency and excess relying on the extent of THRβ and THRα gene expression within the target tissues. Signs have a tendency to lower with age, and patients subsequently end up clinically euthyroid. Goiter is one of the maximum common findings for which sufferers are seeking for medical interest. It is typically refractory and recurs after surgery or treatment with radioactive iodine. Different common complaints encompass tachycardia, learning disabilities, and hyperactivity.