



ESCUELA DE  
**MEDICINA**  
UNIVERSIDAD SAN SEBASTIAN



# Thyroid Function During the Fetal and Neonatal Periods.

Función tiroidea durante los periodos fetal y neonatal.

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- Niveles de hormona tiroidea materno, desarrollo adecuado del cerebro y crecimiento fetal
- La pesquisa precoz y el tratamiento temprano de hipotiroidismo en mujeres embarazadas y recién nacidos
- Embriología de la glándula tiroides
- Génesis del eje hipotálamo-hipofisis-tiroides (HHT)

- Se origina del endodermo (4ta semana)
- Las hormonas tiroideas (HT) durante el embarazo son esenciales para la neurogenesis fetal
- Los niveles de HT fetal son bajos los primeros dias, el 2do trimestre comienza su ascenso.
- Hipotalamo fetal secreta TRH
- Bajos niveles de TSH

- Desarrollo cerebral y crecimiento
- Niveles fetales bajos hasta 2do Trimestre
- Feto dependiente de concentraciones Madre
- Los niveles de T4 maternos corresponden al 30-50% de los niveles medidos en sangre de cordón
- Importancia de niveles eutiroides de la madre en el CI a futuro del niño y RDSM

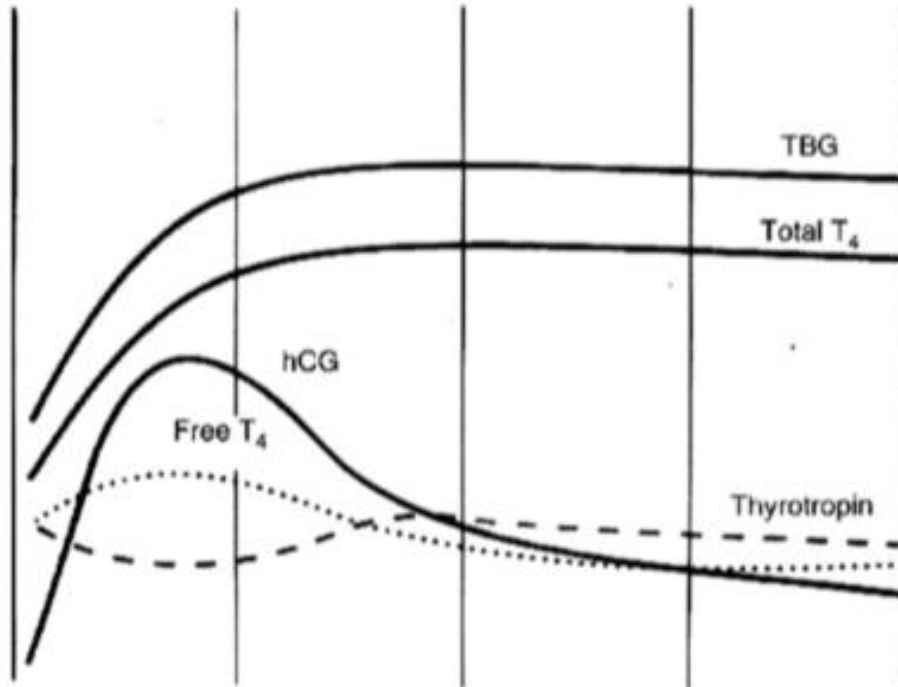
- Aumento de la TBG y requerimientos de yodo
- Deficit de yodo materno durante el embarazo  
→ hipotiroidismo y cretinismo
- TRH y T4 atraviesan placenta pero también anticuerpos.



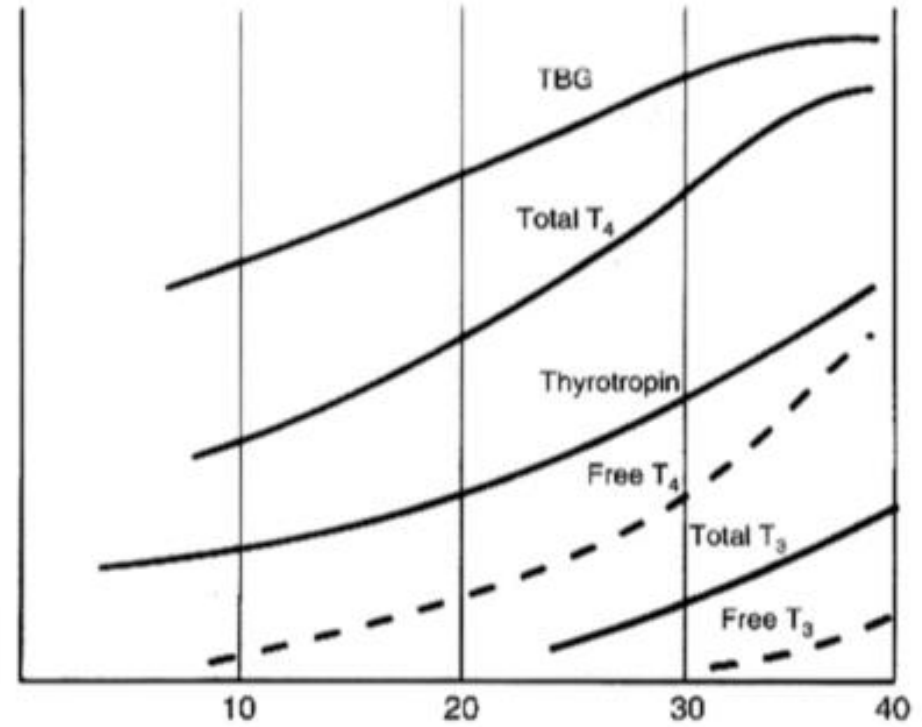
Al momento del parto ocurren cambios que estimulan la producción de hormona tiroidea neonatal

- El cambio de T° del ambiente
- El aumento brusco de TRH y TSH
- Aumento exagerado y sostenido de T4 (peak 48horas)
- Por consiguiente aumento de T3

Mother



Fetus



- Idealmente se mide como primera línea la TSH entre el 2do y 4to ddv
- En caso de ser un RNPT debe ser entre los primeros 7 ddv
- Como segunda línea se hace la medición de T4
- El uso de la medición de TSH puede fallar en la detección del hipotiroidismo central o en déficit de TBG
- Medición de T4 como primera línea con reflejo de TSH en casos de anomalías límite

- RNPT < 34 semanas tienen niveles bajos de T4
  - Hipotiroxinemia del prematuro
  - Suele corregirse solo a medida que el eje madura, puede tardar semanas mas de la EGC esperada
- Enfermedades criticas no tiroideas
- Enfermedad de Graves neonatal
  - Madres no controladas o dg en embarazo
  - Niveles fetales elevados de T4 y T3
  - TRAbs estimulantes → upregulation
  - Riesgo del RN de Hipertiroidismo o incluso Hipotiroidismo

- El desarrollo de la glandula tiroidea y del eje HHT es un proceso complejo muy dependiente de la funcion tiroidea de la madre
- Son importantes tambien las reservas de yodo de la mujer gestante, particularmente en el primer trimestre



1. Thyroid hormones play a critical role in fetal development. Which of the following statements regarding thyroid hormones during pregnancy is correct?
  - A. Fetal thyroid hormone production typically begins at the 30th week of gestation.
  - B. Thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH) is not produced by the fetus and therefore, the fetus depends on maternal signaling to initiate thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH).
  - C. TSH concentration in fetal circulation remains low until 18 to 20 weeks of gestation when the thyroid gland functionally matures.
  - D. During the fetal period, free triiodothyronine ( $T_3$ ) levels are always higher than free thyroxine ( $T_4$ ) levels.
  - E. Both  $T_4$  and  $T_3$  exert a strong inhibitory signal on TSH secretion in utero because of a hyperresponsive negative feedback response in the fetus.
2. Because of relatively low thyroid hormone production by the fetus, maternal contribution of thyroid hormone plays an important role in development. For infants born at term, what percentage of the  $T_4$  measured in cord blood consists of maternal  $T_4$ ?
  - A. Zero.
  - B. 10%.
  - C. 30%–40%.
  - D. 50%–60%.
  - E. 90%.
3. A pregnant woman presents during her third trimester with a history of hypothyroidism and inconsistent adherence to thyroid hormone replacement therapy. Which of the following statements regarding hypothyroidism during pregnancy is correct?
  - A. Children born to mothers with low  $T_4$  levels during pregnancy have lower IQs than children born to mothers with normal  $T_4$  concentrations.
  - B. Maternal hypothyroidism during the third trimester, more so than earlier during pregnancy, appears to confer the highest risk for delayed neurodevelopment in the child.
  - C.  $T_4$ , but not TRH, crosses the placenta from the pregnant woman to her fetus.
  - D. To supply fetal development, the pregnant woman's  $T_4$  concentration increases by 100% to 200% during pregnancy.
  - E. The mainstay of treatment for maternal hypothyroidism in developed countries is iodine supplementation, as levothyroxine is contraindicated during pregnancy because of its teratogenic effects.
4. A term newborn receives routine newborn screening, which includes screening for congenital hypothyroidism. Which of the following statements about screening is correct?
  - A. Because it is not an established benefit, screening for hypothyroidism in 2019 occurred in only 25 states.
  - B. Newborn screening is ideally performed on the second to fourth day after birth in term neonates and within the first 7 days after birth in preterm neonates.
  - C. Using TSH level as the primary screening test is the most sensitive method for thyroxine-binding globulin deficiency and central hypothyroidism.
  - D. Using  $T_4$  as first-tier screening will be close to 100% sensitive for primary hypothyroidism presenting as delayed TSH elevation.
  - E. Most states use both TSH and  $T_4$  as the first-line screening test.





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