

In Dermatology



Graves disease is a syndrome characterized by hyperthyroidism, Graves ophthalmopathy, and pretibial myxedema. It can occur at any age, but the peak of disease occurs between the ages of 30 to 50 years, affecting women more often than men.

Almost half of the patients with Graves hyperthyroidism experience Graves ophthalmopathy, also known as thyroid-associated ophthalmopathy or thyroid eye disease.

Pretibial myxedema, also called thyroid dermopathy, is a dermatologic manifestation of Graves disease characterized by accumulation of glycosaminoglycans in the reticular dermis.

Therapies used to treat Graves hyperthyroidism are drugs that inhibit thyroid hormone production (methimazole and propylthiouracil), radioactive iodine to induce shrinkage of thyroid tissue, and surgical removal of the gland. Along with these, beta blocking agents are useful for symptom control of moderate to severe thyrotoxicosis.

Prof. Jayakar Thomas
Dermatologist, Chennai