**SUMMARY**

**Objectives:** To investigate the incidence of hyperthyroidism in Stockholm County, in patients diagnosed with hyperthyroidism for the first time during the years 2003-2005.

**Design:** All new cases of hyperthyroidism aged 18 years or more were prospectively registered to calculate the total incidence of hyperthyroidism, as well as the incidence of etiological subgroups: Graves’ disease (GD), toxic multinodular goiter and solitary toxic adenoma (STA). Eight specialized units/hospitals in Stockholm County participated in the registration. Participating physicians were specialists in medical endocrinology, oncology, nuclear medicine or surgery.

**Results:** During a 3-year period, 1,431 new patients of hyperthyroidism were diagnosed in a well-defined adult population of 1,457,036 inhabitants. This corresponds to a mean annual incidence of hyperthyroidism of 32.7/100,000 per year. The incidence of GD was 24.5/100,000/year, toxic nodular goitre 3.3/100,000/year and STA 4.9/100,000/year.

**Conclusions:** The total incidence of hyperthyroidism in Stockholm County was found to be 32.7/100,000 per year, of which 75% had GD. The percentage of smokers among patients with hyperthyroidism was higher compared with the overall population in Stockholm, but there was no difference in the frequency of smoking between patients with GD and toxic nodular goiter.

**COMMENT**

True incidence data in the field of thyroid diseases are relatively scarce, hence the particular interest of the present article. Furthermore, our Swedish colleagues were intrigued by the previous report of an increase in the incidence of hyperthyroidism in the Malmö area, from two studies carried out in 1970-74 and 1988-90, showing incidence figures that had increased from 26/100,000 inhabitants per year in the older study to 43/100,000 inhabitants per year in the more recent study.

In the present cooperative study between eight specialized centers in the Stockholm area, 1,431 patients with hyperthyroidism were diagnosed in a 3-year period. The female to male ratio was 4/1. Mean annual incidence of hyperthyroidism was 33/100,000 inhabitants, Graves’ disease representing 75% of the cases.

Such epidemiological data, based on a 1.5 million population from a well-defined area, are important to delineate future topics of research and also to assess changing disease trends in populations.

*(Daniel Glinoer, M.D.; Ph.D.)*
See Figure below

**Figure 2** Annual incidence of subgroups of hyperthyroidism divided on the basis of different ages in Stockholm 2003–2005.