

How is Graves' Disease Diagnosed?

Some of the methods used to diagnose Graves' Disease include:

Clinical Visit: During a clinical visit, your healthcare provider will discuss your personal and family medical history as well as your complaints; He or she will also check for signs of an enlarged thyroid gland, eye irritation, blood pressure, and/or tremors.

Blood Tests: Very low TSH levels and high T4 and T3 levels in your blood suggest hyperthyroidism. An antibody test called the Thyrotropin receptor antibody test (TRAb) that causes Graves' disease in the blood can be measured.

Radioactive Iodine Uptake Test: The thyroid absorbs iodine from your blood and uses it to make thyroid hormone. When the thyroid produces too much thyroid hormone, it absorbs more iodine. This test involves swallowing a capsule containing a small, harmless amount of radioactive iodine. The amount of iodine taken up by your thyroid is then measured. High uptake of radioactive iodine suggests Graves' disease.

Thyroid Ultrasound: A thyroid gland affected by Graves' disease is usually enlarged and there may be increased blood flow; both of these items can be visualized with a thyroid ultrasound. Nodules can also be detected by ultrasound; An alternative cause of hyperthyroidism may be a thyroid hormone-producing nodule (toxic nodule; toxic adenoma). In this case, thyroid scintigraphy may also be required.