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Diseases and Conditions

Hyperparathyroidism

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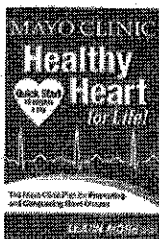
Preparing for your appointment

Tests and diagnosis

Treatments and drugs

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Definition

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Hyperparathyroidism is an excess of parathyroid hormone in the bloodstream due to overactivity of one or more of the body's four parathyroid glands. These oval, grain-of-rice-sized glands are located in your neck. The parathyroid glands produce parathyroid hormone, which helps maintain an appropriate balance of calcium in the bloodstream and in tissues that depend on calcium for proper functioning.



Parathyroid glands

Two types of hyperparathyroidism exist. In primary hyperparathyroidism, an enlargement of one or more of the parathyroid glands causes overproduction of the hormone resulting in high levels of calcium in the blood (hypercalcemia), which can cause a variety of health problems. Secondary hyperparathyroidism is a result of another disease that causes low levels of calcium in the body. Surgery is the most common treatment for hyperparathyroidism.

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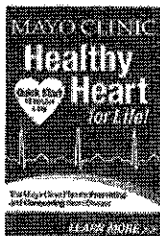
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In-depth

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Risk factors

Depression

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Dry skin

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Fatigue

Fatigue can signal many things. Here are some tips to help you decipher why you're wiped out and to regain your energy.

Headache

Most headaches aren't caused by a serious illness, but some could be a sign of a life-threatening condition.

Peripheral neuropathy

Peripheral neuropathy symptoms can range from annoying to disabling. Learn how to deal with the burning, numbness and tingling.

Tests and diagnosis

Bone density test

Are you at risk of fractures due to weakened bones caused by osteoporosis? A bone density test will tell.

Electrocardiogram

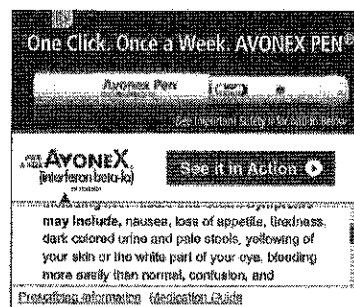
An electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) is a test that provides valuable clues about your heart health. Here's what you need to know about the test.

Urinalysis

Urinalysis can be used to assess your overall health, detect a wide range of disorders, or monitor a medical condition or treatment.

X-ray

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