

The Society for Endocrinology supports British Thyroid Association position on management of primary hypothyroidism

The Society for Endocrinology has endorsed the 2015 British Thyroid Association (BTA) Executive Committee statement on the management of primary hypothyroidism which was published online in [Clinical Endocrinology](#) on 25 June 2015.

Hypothyroidism affects 2 % of the UK population and is caused by reduced activity of the thyroid gland which produces the thyroid hormones, Thyroxine (T4) and Triiodothyronine (T3) which regulate the body's metabolic rate. Hypothyroidism is usually treated by taking daily hormone replacement tablets. However, there is currently much debate about the role of combined treatment with L-T4 (levothyroxine) and L-T3 (liothyronine) in the treatment of patients with primary hypothyroidism.

President of the British Thyroid Association, Dr Mark Vanderpump said, "The statement is based on a systematic review of the recently published positions of the American Thyroid Association (ATA) and the European Thyroid Association (ETA), current literature and the best principles of good medical practice."

Due to the insufficient evidence available from controlled trials, the BTA guidelines are that L-T4/L-T3 combination therapy should not be used routinely.

Dr Vanderpump, "in the future, clinical trials on combination therapy for patients with specified genetic or clinical characteristics will be conducted with the aim of improving patient outcomes."

---ENDS---

Notes for Editors:

1. For more information about the BTA Executive Committee Statement please contact the [British Thyroid Association](#) or [British Thyroid Foundation](#).

2. The BTA Executive Committee Statement is available via the following link:
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cen.12824/full>

3. For press enquiries please contact the Society for Endocrinology press office:

Dr Fiona Docherty

Communications Executive

Tel: +44 (0)1454 642 252

Email: Fiona.docherty@endocrinology.org

Omar Jamshed

Communications Executive

Tel: +44 (0)1454 642 206

Email: Omar.jamshed@endocrinology.org

4. The Society for Endocrinology is a UK-based membership organisation representing a global community of scientists, clinicians, and nurses who work with hormones. Together we aim to improve public health by advancing endocrine education and research, and engaging wider audiences with the science of hormones www.endocrinology.org.