

# **A Longitudinal Study of Thyroid Function in Saudi Pregnant Women**

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## **Abstract**

A prospective longitudinal study of thyroid function was undertaken in 23 pregnant women. There was a significant increase in serum free thyroxine and a decrease in thyrotropin in early pregnancy relative to the levels in non-pregnant controls. Free thyroxine significantly correlated with human chorionic gonadotrophin in early pregnancy. The level of decreased and that of thyrotropin increased significantly towards the end of pregnancy. On follow-up of pregnant women, thyroid function returned to normal 6 weeks postpartum. These data indicate that the thyroid gland is physiologically activated in early pregnancy, possibly by human chorionic gonadotrophin.