

Identifying and treating thyroid disorders in kids

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Primary care physicians are critical in identifying children and adolescents who have thyroid disorders and early identification and treatment helps to optimize growth and development.

Andrew J. Bauer, M.D., of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and coauthors examined the presentation, evaluation and treatment of thyroid disorders seen in [primary care](#) practice in a new review article published online by *JAMA Pediatrics*. The authors conducted a literature review and the article includes 83 publications.

The authors focused on congenital hypothyroidism, acquired hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism and [thyroid nodules](#).

"An understanding of risk factors, clinical signs and symptoms, and interpretation of screening laboratories ensures an efficient and accurate diagnosis of these common disorders. Regular communication between the [primary care physician](#) and the subspecialist is critical to optimize outcomes because the majority of patients with thyroid disorders will require long-term to lifelong medical therapy and/or surveillance," the article concludes.

More information: *JAMA Pediatr*. Published online August 29, 2016.
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