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Tear quantity in thyroid dysfunction

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Aim: The aim of this study was to measure the tear volume in patients with thyroid dysfunction and to estimate vision and outer eye condition.

Material & Methods: This is prospective cross-sectional hospital based study; it was done at Omdurman military hospital and Al Ribat University Hospital (Khartoum) in the period from June to October 2016. One hundred and thirty patients with thyroid dysfunction (80 hyperthyroidism and 50 hypothyroidism) were included in this study. The vision was estimated by Snellen's chart, outer eye was investigated by torch and hand-held magnifier, Schirmer paper test was used to assess the tear quantity.

Results: Eighty four percent of hyperthyroidism and 88.75% of hypothyroidism were females. Hyperthyroidism patients represent 61.54%; 20% of them showed exophthalmos and the mean of vision was 0.84±0.25 (range: 0.1 to 1.00). The patients with hypothyroidism (38.46%) had slightly better vision with mean 0.92±0.19 and range 0.1-1.00. No significant different was found in tear quantity of hyperthyroidisms patients (mean 10.8±5.8 and range: 3-35 mm) and hypothyroidisms (mean 12.8±6.7 mm and range: 4-35 mm); p: 0.407.

Conclusion: Regular ocular examination is recommended for patients with thyroid dysfunction to save their eyes.

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