

thyroid papers

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To: **Nigel Bean** | nigel.bean@adelaide.edu.au

Dear Nigel,

I re-checked the papers. We have 2 papers from the Dutch study group concerning AF- Heeringa and Chaker. The Chaker study is bigger and later but includes some of the patients analysed earlier by Heeringa. The conclusions of the papers are slightly contradictory- in the initial Heeringa paper there was a relationship with TSH but not FT4 but the p value for FT4 was 0.06. In the later Chaker study the relationship was positive for FT4 but not TSH. In view of this discrepancy Chaker did a sensitivity analysis including only the participants of the earlier study, finding with 'updated number of events and follow up time results comparable to the findings of the current study, ie, without an association with TSH but an increased risk of AF with increased FT4 levels'. How would you like to handle this? Should we throw out the Heeringa study and explain why in the text?

Regards

stephen
