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Parathyroid Disorders

Most people have four pea-sized glands, called parathyroid glands, on the thyroid gland in the neck. Though their names are similar, the thyroid and parathyroid glands are completely different. The parathyroid glands make parathyroid hormone (PTH), which helps your body keep the right balance of calcium and phosphorous.

If your parathyroid glands make too much or too little hormone, it disrupts this balance. If they secrete extra PTH, you have hyperparathyroidism, and your blood calcium rises. In many cases, a benign tumor on a parathyroid gland makes it overactive. Or, the extra hormones can come from enlarged parathyroid glands. Very rarely, the cause is cancer.







If you do not have enough PTH, you have hypoparathyroidism. Your blood will have too little calcium and too much phosphorous. Causes include injury to the glands, [endocrine disorders](#) [<https://medlineplus.gov/endocrinediseases.html>] , or genetic conditions. Treatment is aimed at restoring the balance of calcium and phosphorous.

NIH: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases


Start Here

- [About Hypoparathyroidism](https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/hypopara/conditioninfo) [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/hypopara/conditioninfo>]  (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
- [General Information about Parathyroid Cancer](https://www.cancer.gov/types/parathyroid/patient/parathyroid-treatment-pdq#_1) [https://www.cancer.gov/types/parathyroid/patient/parathyroid-treatment-pdq#_1]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/paratiroides/paciente/tratamiento-paratiroides-pdq>]
- [Primary Hyperparathyroidism](https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/endocrine-diseases/primary-hyperparathyroidism) [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/endocrine-diseases/primary-hyperparathyroidism>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)



Diagnosis and Tests

- [Calcium Blood Test](https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/calcium-blood-test/) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/calcium-blood-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-calcio-en-la-sangre/>]
- [Calcium in Urine Test](https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/calcium-in-urine-test/) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/calcium-in-urine-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-calcio-en-orina/>]
- [How Do Health Care Providers Diagnose Hypoparathyroidism?](https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/hypopara/conditioninfo/diagnosed) [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/hypopara/conditioninfo/diagnosed>]  (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
- [Parathyroid Hormone \(PTH\) Test](https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/parathyroid-hormone-PTH-test/) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/parathyroid-hormone-PTH-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-hormona-paratiroidea-PTH/>]
- [Phosphate in Blood](https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/phosphate-in-blood/) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/phosphate-in-blood/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-fosfato-en-la-sangre/>]
- [Stages of Parathyroid Cancer](https://www.cancer.gov/types/parathyroid/patient/parathyroid-treatment-pdq#_21) [https://www.cancer.gov/types/parathyroid/patient/parathyroid-treatment-pdq#_21]  (National Cancer Institute)


Also in Spanish [https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/paratiroides/paciente/tratamiento-paratiroides-pdq#_22]

- Vitamin D Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/vitamin-d-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-vitamina-d/>]

Treatments and Therapies

- How Is Hypoparathyroidism Treated? [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/hypopara/conditioninfo/treatment>]  (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
- Parathyroidectomy - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100093_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100093_1.htm]
- Treatment Option Overview (Parathyroid Cancer) [https://www.cancer.gov/types/parathyroid/patient/parathyroid-treatment-pdq#_27]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/paratiroides/paciente/tratamiento-paratiroides-pdq#_46]





Related Issues

- Hypercalcemia [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hypercalcemia/symptoms-causes/syc-20355523?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Mineral and Bone Disorder in Chronic Kidney Disease [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/kidney-disease/mineral-bone-disorder>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/enfermedades-rinones/alteracion-metabolismo-mineral-oseo/>]





Specifics

- Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type I [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/endocrine-diseases/multiple-endocrine-neoplasia-type-1>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
- Primary Hyperparathyroidism [<https://www.endocrine.org/patient-engagement/endocrine-library/primary-hyperparathyroidism>] (Endocrine Society)

Genetics

- Familial isolated hyperparathyroidism: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/familial-isolated-hyperparathyroidism>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Hyperparathyroidism-jaw tumor syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/hyperparathyroidism-jaw-tumor-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Learning about Velocardiofacial Syndrome [<https://www.genome.gov/Genetic-Disorders/Velocardiofacial-Syndrome>]  (National Human Genome Research Institute)
- Parathyroid cancer: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/parathyroid-cancer>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Hyperparathyroidism [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Hyperparathyroidism%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Hypoparathyroidism [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Hypoparathyroidism%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Multiple+Endocrine+Neoplasia%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Parathyroid Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Parathyroid+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles


References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: US of the Neck beyond the Thyroid Gland: Parathyroid Glands. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40440190>]
- Article: Bone in Parathyroid Diseases Revisited: Evidence From Epidemiological, Surgical and New... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40177730>]
- Article: Chinese Association of Ultrasound in Medicine and Engineering, Superficial Organs and... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40064560>]
- Parathyroid Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Parathyroid+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29>]

Reference Desk

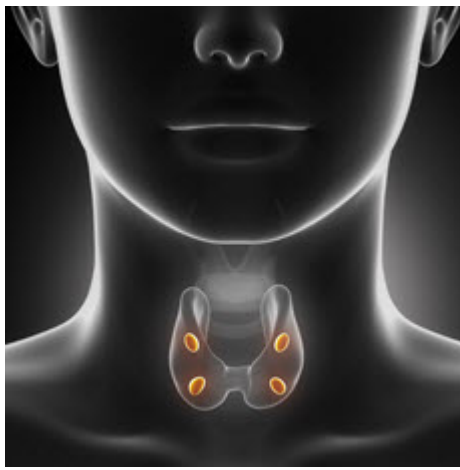
- Endocrine System [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/endocrine.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/endocrine.html>]

Find an Expert

- Find an Endocrinologist [<https://www.endocrine.org/patient-engagement/find-an-endocrinologist-directory>] (Endocrine Society)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov>] 

Patient Handouts

- Calcium - ionized [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003486.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003486.htm>]
- Calcium - urine [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003603.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003603.htm>]
- Calcium blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003477.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003477.htm>]
- Hypercalcemia - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000044.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000044.htm>]
- Hyperparathyroidism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001215.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001215.htm>]
- Hypoparathyroidism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000385.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000385.htm>]
- Parathyroid adenoma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001188.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001188.htm>]
- Parathyroid cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007264.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007264.htm>]
- Parathyroid gland removal [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002931.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002931.htm>]
- Parathyroid hormone (PTH) blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003690.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003690.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Calcium - ionized [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003486.htm>]

Calcium - urine [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003603.htm>]

Calcium blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003477.htm>]

Hypercalcemia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000365.htm>]

Hypercalcemia - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000044.htm>]

Hyperparathyroidism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001215.htm>]

Hypoparathyroidism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000385.htm>]

Osteitis fibrosa [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001252.htm>]

Parathyroid adenoma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001188.htm>]

Parathyroid cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007264.htm>]

Parathyroid gland removal [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002931.htm>]

Parathyroid hormone (PTH) blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003690.htm>]

Parathyroid hormone-related protein blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003691.htm>]

Parathyroid hyperplasia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001189.htm>]

Parathyroidectomy - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100093_1.htm]

Phosphorus blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003478.htm>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Parathyroid Disorders* is the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/parathyroiddisorders.html>] on *Parathyroid Disorders*

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