

## An unusual enlargement of thyroid gland (struma class III) accidentally discovered in a woman suffering from cystitis

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A doctor was called to visit a 80-year old woman, because of symptoms of acute cystitis. The examination revealed a large neck mass, earlier diagnosed as non-toxic goiter, which dimensions correspond now to struma class III. There was no willingness of the patient to be treated.

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### Znaczne powiększenie tarczycy (wole III stopnia) przypadkowo wykryte u kobiety z zapaleniem pęcherza moczowego

80-letnia kobieta wezwała lekarza z powodu objawów ostrego zapalenia pęcherza moczowego. W badaniu ujawniono duży guz w obrębie szyi, wcześniej zdiagnozowany jako wole guzowate nietoksyczne, którego wymiary odpowiadały stopniowi III. Ze strony pacjentki nie było zgody na leczenie.

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**Key words:**

- goiter
- thyroid enlargement
- cystitis

**Słowa kluczowe:**

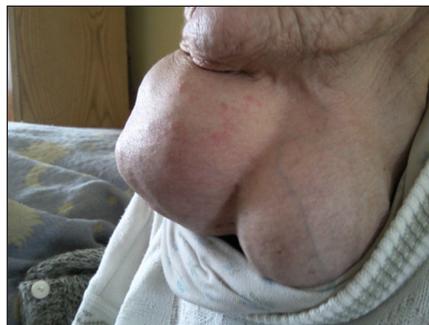
- wole
- powiększenie tarczycy
- zapalenie pęcherza

A general practitioner was called to visit a 80-year old white woman, living in a small village in the Central Poland, because of the symptoms of acute cystitis (burning, urgency, increased frequency of urination and pain in the lower part of the abdomen). However, the urinary tract infection was not the only one patient's medical problem that was found during the visit. The physical examination did not reveal any relevant abnormalities apart from a large neck mass. The tumor was firm and painless. Fifteen years ago, when the slight

contact with the family doctor was also pure. The long distance between the patient's home and the doctor's office (about 20 km) and no willingness of the patient to be treated might have had influenced on that phenomenon. The woman got used to a huge neck tumor and suffered no symptoms because of it (no problems with breathing or swallowing). Actually, she presented no symptoms and signs of hyper- or hypothyroidism and no general symptoms of the malignant process (for example loss of weight). She has taken no



Fig. 1.  
The thyroid tumor  
Guz tarczycy



increase in the neck diameter was visible, the patients underwent physical and laboratory examinations and a non-toxic thyroid goiter was diagnosed. The treatment with the Lugol's solution was applied, however the neck mass did not stop growing until it had reached the size of baby head (Fig. 1). The dimensions correspond to struma class III, which is a large goiter, easily visible and it may interfere with breathing and swallowing and cause a choking feeling [1]. Contemporary it is a very rare finding in developed countries. However, the patient refused an invasive diagnosis and treatment, and stopped visiting an endocrinologist. The

drugs. Despite the information that there was still a risk of the thyroid cancer [2], she has been refusing further diagnosis and treatment. She agreed only for the antibiotic therapy to cure the urinary tract infection.

We hope that such a great thyroid goiter is one of the last ever seen.

**References:**

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2. Babademez M. A., Tuncay K. S., Zaim M. et al.: Hashimoto Thyroiditis and Thyroid Gland Anomalies. J. Craniofac. Surg. 2010, 21, 1807.

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