### University of the Third Age Nillumbik Branch



1<sup>st</sup> September, 2020

# What do your blood test results mean?





Associate Professor Louis Roller



When you visit a GP for regular visit, it may required that you have blood tests to set parameters.



#### Normal physiological values

The results of laboratory tests performed on body fluids such as blood and urine are commonly used to screen for and diagnose disease, assess disease severity

#### Laboratory tests are performed to:

- confirm a diagnosis
- investigate symptoms
- investigate a lack of response to therapy
- investigate a toxic effect of therapy
- confirm "nothing is wrong"
- Check doses if decreased renal & liver function
- Electrolytes? hydration status?

#### **Examples of common monitoring tests**

- 1. Cholesterol
- 2. Blood glucose
- 3. Thyroid
- 4. Fluid and electrolytes 'U & Es' or 'EUCs'
- 5. Renal function tests
- 6. Liver function tests
- 7. FBE (full blood examination)
- 8. Specialised tests

#### Older people:

Is there really a need?

Will this help decision making?

Will this improve QOL?



#### Interpreting data

Individual results should be interpreted using the reference ranges of the laboratory performing.

- clinical signs and symptoms
- baseline pathology results
- timing of sample collection (e.g. in relation to food, medication, exercise, season)
- characteristics that differ from those of the reference population
- current medications
- diet
- tobacco and alcohol use
- levels of physical activity.

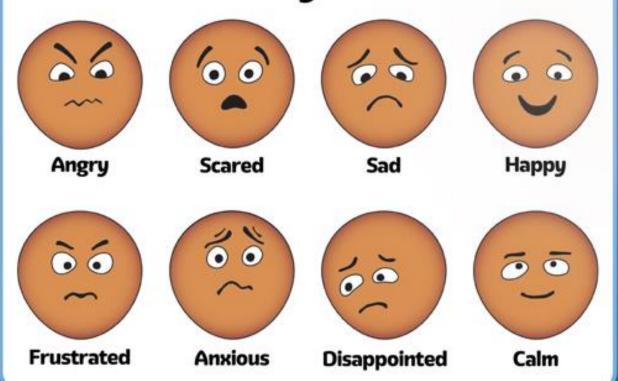
#### **Monitoring allows**

- evaluation of the disease process
- detection of adverse effects
- therapeutic efficacy of drugs eg Anti CCP, CRP, ESR in rheumatoid arthritis & other inflammatory diseases
- iron studies in anaemia
- uric acid in gout
- FEV<sub>1</sub> in asthma or COPD
- adverse effects eg increased CK, decreased wcc, increased LFTs.
- suboptimal levels

# Treat the person not the numbers!



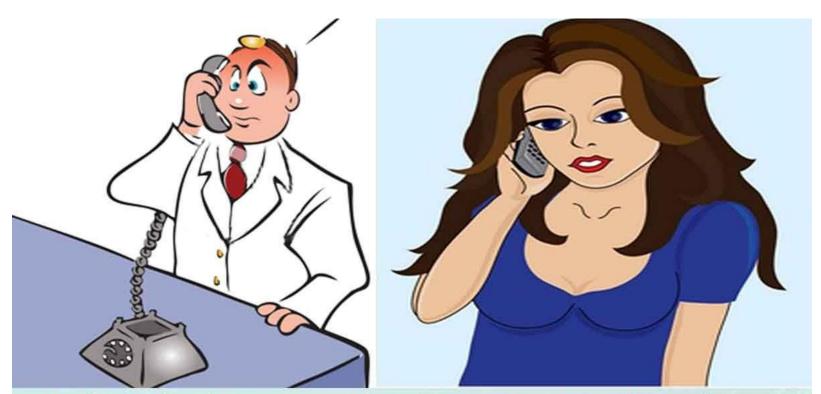
#### How do you feel?



ConsciousDiscipline.com



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Lady to the doctor over the phone, "Doctor, I beg of you, please prescribes me something immediately to reduce my weight. My husband has given me a wonderful birthday present, and I can't get into it."

Doctor: "Just comes over here tomorrow, and I shall give you a prescription. Then you will soon be able to wear your wonderful new dress."

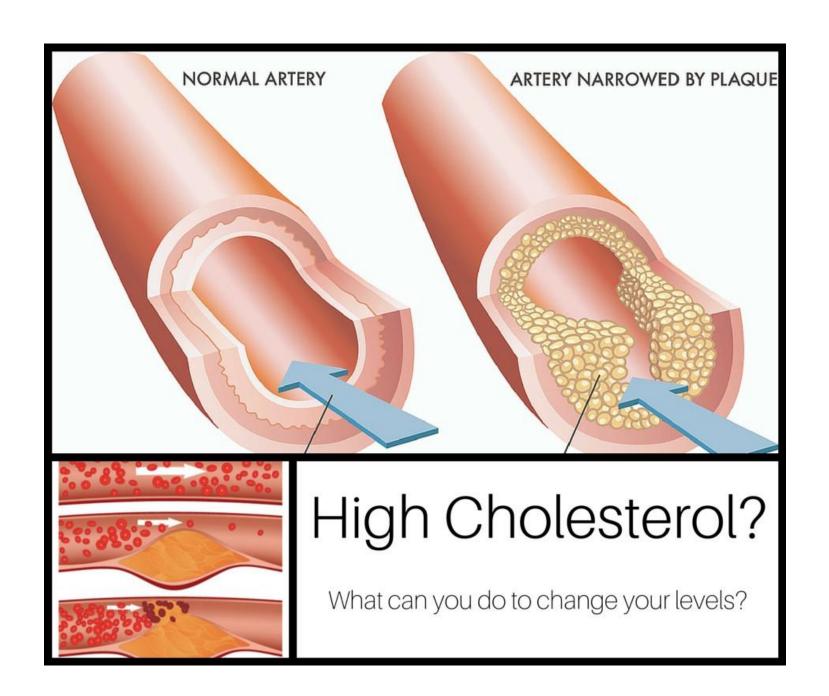
Lady: "Who said anything about a dress? I am talking of Car."

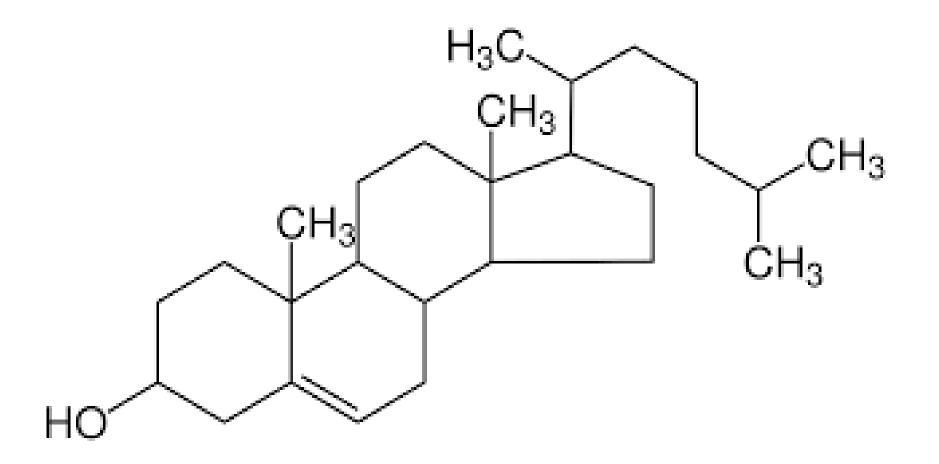


#### Interpreting laboratory data

Individual results should be interpreted using the reference ranges of the laboratory performing the test. They should also be interpreted in the context of patient factors, including:

- clinical signs and symptoms
- baseline pathology results
- timing of sample collection (e.g. in relation to food, medication, exercise, season)
- characteristics that differ from those of the reference population
- current medications
- diet

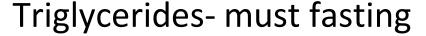




#### 1. Cholesterol

#### Total cholesterol- initial screening, fasting not

**required** (<5.5mmol/L): lower if CV concerns ie diabetes <4mmol/L. Stents <3mmol/L



(0.3-2mmol/L)

#### Lipoproteins- must fast

LDH (<3.7mmol/L)

HDL (> 1.56mmol/L)

Ratio (Total chol: HDL<3.5)



# Should older people be on statins? Risk vs benefit?

Lee JW, Choi EA, Kim YS. et al. Statin exposure and the risk of dementia in individuals with hypercholesterolaemia. Journal of Internal Medicine, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

This study aimed to examine the association between statin exposure

This study aimed to examine the association between statin exposure and dementia risk in individuals with hypercholesterolaemia between 2002 and 2015.

During the follow-up period (median follow-up 11.7 years), 711 cases of dementia occurred, accounting for 11.5% of the total study population (N = 6,200) (statin exposure group, 8.2%; statin nonexposure group, 12.9%).

Compared to the statin nonexposure group HR ratios for overall dementia in the statin exposure group were 0.63 (0.43–0.91) and 0.62 (0.50–0.78) in men and women, respectively. Compared to the statin nonexposure group, the HRs for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, vascular dementia and other types of dementia in the statin exposure group were 0.54 (0.32–0.91), 2.45 (0.69–8.68) and 0.59 (0.32–1.07), respectively, in men and 0.53 (0.38–0.73), 1.29 (0.42–3.96) and 0.70 (0.51–0.96), respectively, in women.

Conclusions: Hypercholesterolaemic individuals exposed to statin had a lower risk of overall dementia and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia in both sexes, and a lower risk of other types of dementia in women, than subjects who were not exposed to statins.

#### 2. Glucose

# Urine testing- screeningPlasma glucose



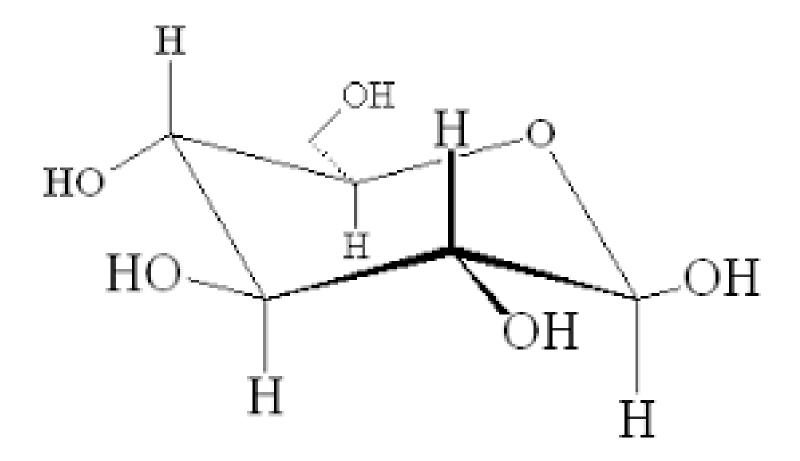
- Random testing (diabetes = >11.1mmol/L)
- Fasting (3.8-5.8 mmol/L)
- 2 hour postprandial (<7.8mmol/L)</li>

Glucose tolerance test (>7.8mmol/L = IGT; >11.1mmol/L = diabetes)

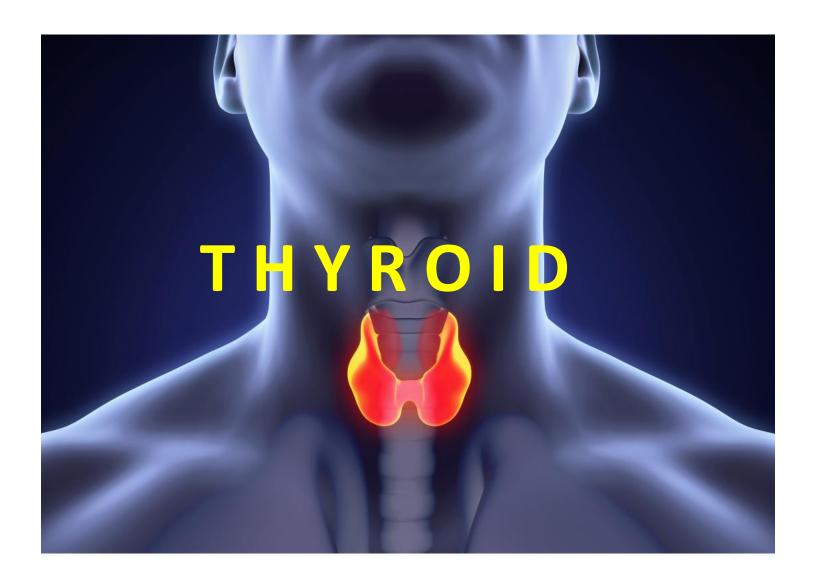
#### 2. Glucose

- Main test now is Glycosylated haemoglobin:
   HbA1c
- Also called glycated haemoglobin (4.7-6.1%;
   <7%)</li>
- Listed as mmol HbA1c/mmmol haemoglobin <53mmol/mmol</li>
- Shows last 2-3 months average

 Albumin- microalbuminuria- (UMA) measure of early reversible diabetic nephropathy







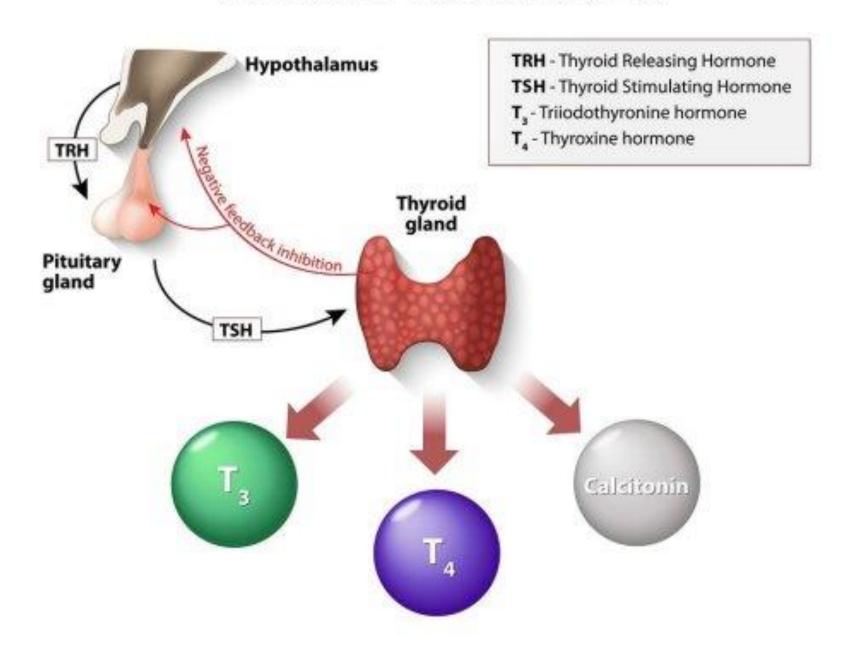
#### 3. Thyroid function tests (TFT)

- Measure concentration of products secreted by the thyroid gland
- Free thyroxine (T4)
- Total serum thyroxine
- Total serum triiodothyronine (T3)

Evaluate the hypothalamic-pituitary thyroid axis

- Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)
- Thyrotropin releasing hormone
- NB: Care: amiodarone, lithium, iodine
- Test TSH first then full TFTs if abnormal
- NB: If TSH is low then indicates hyperthyroidism

#### **THYROID HORMONES**



#### Signs and symptoms of thyroid disease

	Hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid)	Hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid)
High suspicion	•Goitre •Delayed reflexes	•Goitre •Thyroid bruit •Lid lag •Bulging eye (Proptosis)
Intermediate suspicion	<ul> <li>Fatigue</li> <li>Weight gain/difficulty losing weight</li> <li>Cold intolerance</li> <li>Dry, rough, pale skin</li> <li>Constipation</li> <li>Family history</li> <li>Hoarseness</li> </ul>	•Fatigue •Weight loss despite increased appetite •Heat intolerance/sweating •Fine tremor •Family history •Increased bowel movements •Fast heart rate/palpitations •Staring gaze
Low suspicion (non specific symptoms)	<ul> <li>Coarse, dry hair</li> <li>Hair loss</li> <li>Muscle cramps/muscle aches</li> <li>Depression</li> <li>Irritability</li> <li>Memory loss</li> <li>Abnormal menstrual cycles</li> <li>Decreased libido</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Nervousness</li> <li>Insomnia</li> <li>Breathlessness</li> <li>Light or absent menstrual periods</li> <li>Weight loss</li> <li>Muscle weakness</li> <li>Warm moist skin</li> <li>Hair loss</li> </ul>

#### CHEMISTRY STRUCTURE OF THYROID HORMONES:

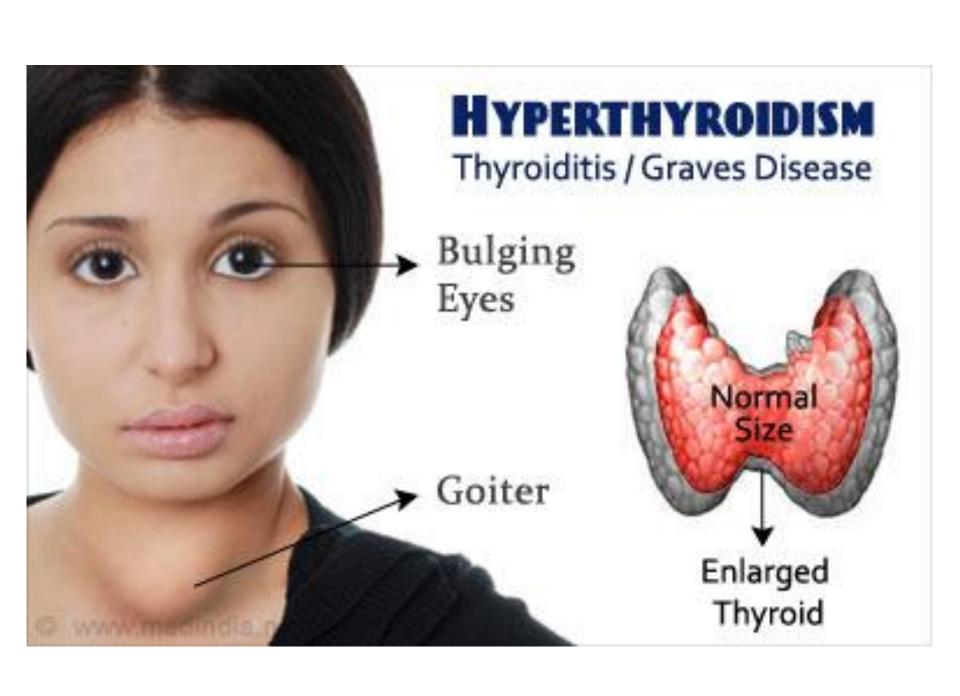
$$HO$$
 $CH_2$ 
 $CHNH_2$ 
 $COOH$ 

Monoiodotyrosine

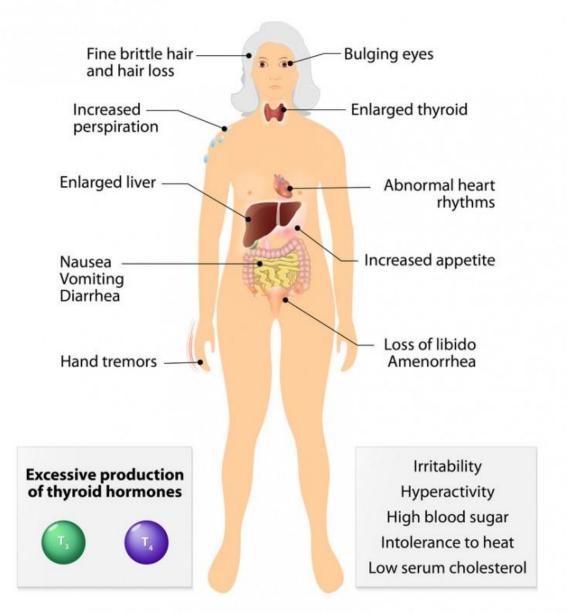
 $CH_2$ 
 $CHNH_2$ 
 $COOH$ 

Diiodotyrosine

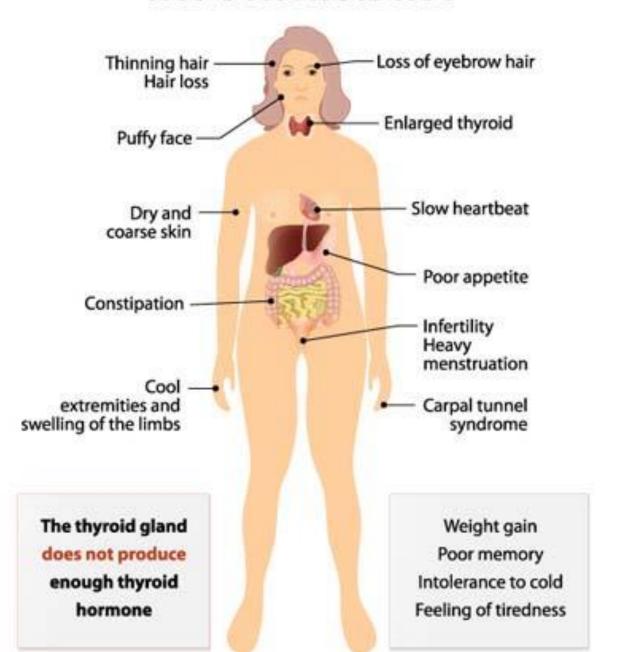
 $CH_2$ 
 $CHNH_2$ 
 $COOH$ 
 $CH_2$ 
 $CHNH_2$ 
 $COOH$ 



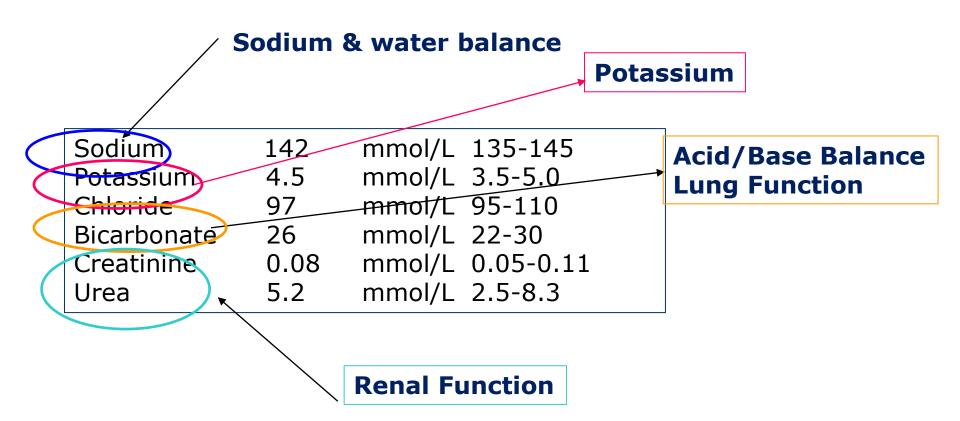
### Symptoms of HYPERTHYROIDISM



#### Symptoms of HYPOTHYROIDISM



#### 4. Urea & Electrolytes U & Es



#### Sodium (Na): 135-145mmol/L

- Dilutional changes reflect the hydration status of the patient
- An acute change in serum Na may cause seizures

#### Hyponatraemia (<125mmol/L)

**Symptoms:** nausea, vomiting, dizziness, muscle weakness, lethargy, confusion, delirium, high mortality in older persons

**Causes**: many eg CCF; Drugs eg diuretics, SSRIs, carbamazepine

#### **HypOnatremia**

Sodium	127*	(135 - 145)	mmol/L
Potassium	3.3*	(3.7 - 5.3)	mmol/L
Chloride	90*	(95 - 110)	mmol/L
Bicarb	22	(20 - 32)	mmol/L
Urea	5.1	(3.0 - 9.0)	mmol/L
Creat.	0.08	(0.05 - 0.11	)mmol/L

**Hyponatraemia due to diuretics + CCF** 

#### HypErnatraemia

(> 150mmol/L: symptoms at >160mmol/L)

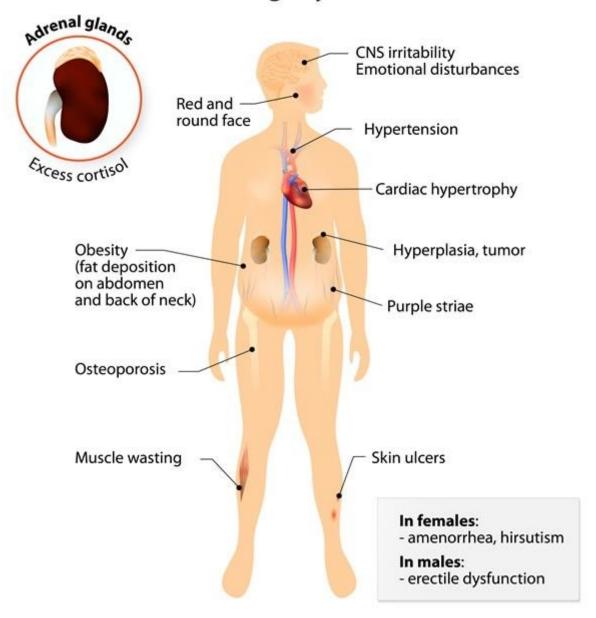
#### Symptoms:

3% loss – thirst, lethargy, muscle weakness
6% loss - poor skin turgor, dry mucous membranes
10% loss- CNS signs, altered mental state, muscle twitching, convulsions, coma, death

# Causes: Increased sodium intake Drug eg diuretics, lithium, corticosteroids, NSAIDs Decreased output eg increased aldosterone activity eg. Cushing's syndrome

**Water depletion**: Dehydration, excess sweating, drugs, febrile illness, diabetes mellitus, gastrointestinal bleed, burns, diarrhoea, vomiting, parenteral nutrition, diabetes insipidus from pure water loss> *Water loss* > *sodium loss* & *low water intake* 

### SYMPTOMS of Cushing's syndrome



#### POTASSIUM

Potassium is a chemical element with symbol K and atomic number 19. It was first isolated from potash, the ashes of plants, from which its name derives. In the periodic table, potassium is one of the alkali metals.

Symbol: K

**Atomic mass: 39.0983 u** 

**Atomic number: 19** 

**Electron configuration:** [Ar] 4s<sup>1</sup>

Melting point 63.5 °C



#### Potassium (3.5-5.0 mmol/L)

#### Hypokalaemia Symptoms:

- Muscle weakness, cramps to paralysis
- Fatigue & apathy
- Cardiac arrhythmia & arrest
- Hypotension
- Polyuria
- ECG changes
- Increased sensitivity to digitalis.

## Causes: GIT loss eg diarrhoea, chronic laxative use/abuse; renal loss, alkalosis

**Drugs** eg diuretics, nebulised salbutamol, insulin, laxatives

# Hyperkalaemia > 5.5mmol/L

#### **Symptoms:**

- Listless, mental confusion
- muscle weakness- myalgia, paraesthesia
- Nausea & vomiting
- Paralytic ileus
- cardiac arrhythmia & arrest, ECG changes,

#### Causes:

 renal failure, hyperparathyroidism, tissue damage, acidosis, drug-induced eg spironolactone, eplerenone. ACEI ARB, amiloride,

## Hyperkalemia

Sodium	140	(135 - 145) mmol/L
Potassium	6.5*	(3.7 - 5.3) mmol/L
Chloride	99	(95 - 110) mmol/L
Bicarb	21	(20 - 32) mmol/L
Urea	2.7	(3.0 - 9.0) mmol/L
Creat.	0.08	(0.05 - 0.11)mmol/L

<sup>\*</sup>Hyperkalemia due to spironolactone + K supplements

#### **Bicarbonate**

$$CO_2 + H_2O \leftarrow H_2CO_3 \leftarrow H^+ + HCO_3$$

#### **Decreased**

Metabolic Acidosis eg renal failure, diabetes

#### **Increased**

Respiratory acidosis eg COPD (as compensation) Metabolic alkalosis eg prolonged vomiting

# Magnesium (Mg) 0.7-0.95mmol/L

#### Hypomagnesaemia

**Symptoms:** Muscle weakness, confusion, cardiac arrhythmias - prolongation of QT, risk of ventricular arrhythmias

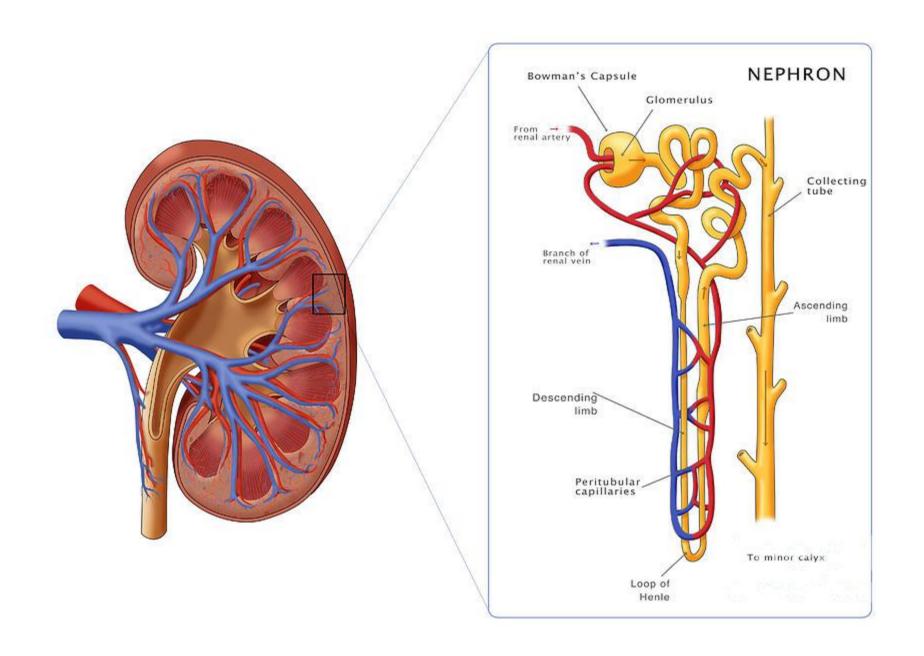
Implicated in causing: ischaemic heart disease, hypertension, glucose intolerance, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, osteoporosis, stroke?,

#### Hypermagnesia

Causes: Drug-induced eg laxatives, mineral supplements, antacids
NB As phosphate levels fall Mg levels fall

# Calcium (Ca) 2.2-2.6 mmol/L

- Only about 0.0005% of body calcium is found in the serum
- Calcium is present in the serum bound mainly to the albumin component of protein (46%), complexed with citrate and phosphate (7%), and as free ions (47%).
- Only the free ions of calcium Ca++) are physiologically active.
- Hypocalcaemia: Vit D deficiency, chronic renal disease, denosumab(Prolia®)
- **Hypercalcaemia:** malignancy, lithium tamoxifen, oestrogen, progesterone
- Check phosphate and parathyroid hormone at same time



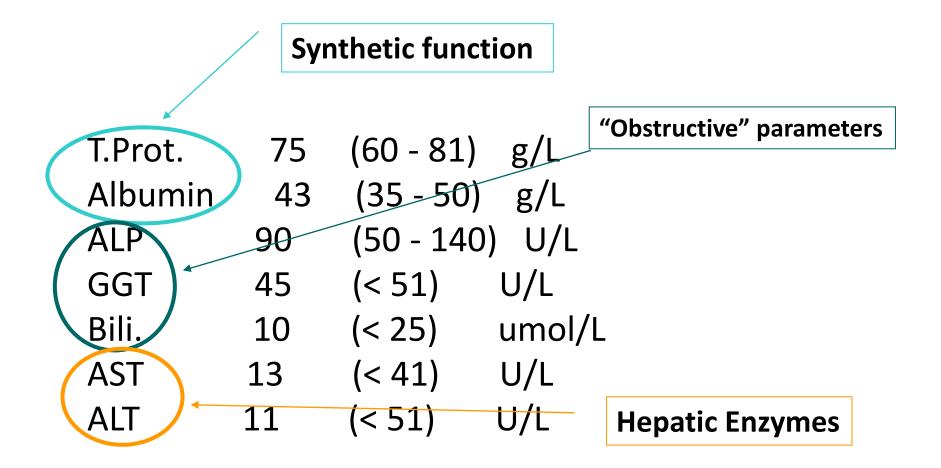
#### 5. Renal function tests

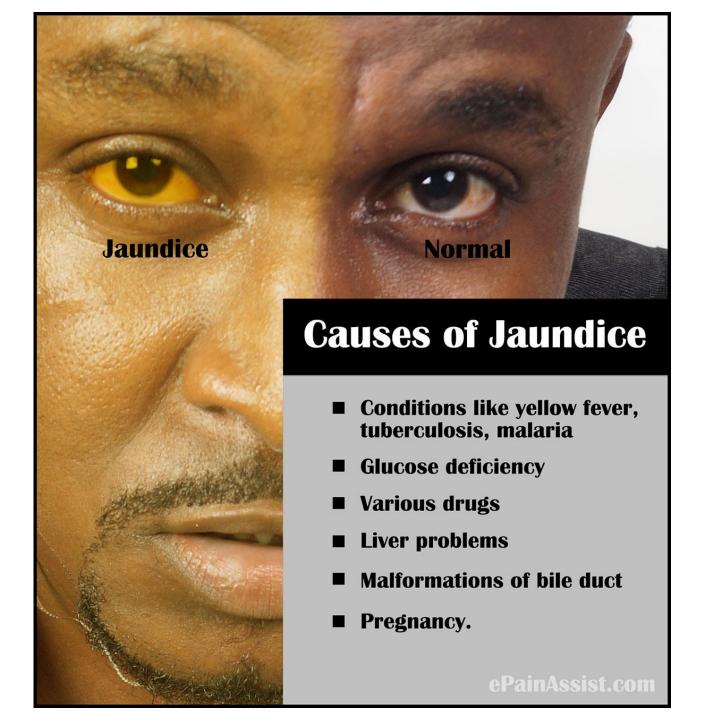
- Estimates of glomerular filtration rate (eGFR): rate (volume/unit of time) at which ultrafiltrate is formed by the glomerulus)
- Pharmacists calculate CrCl taking age, sex and weight into account - reduced dosing

#### **Check for**

- renally cleared drugs eg eg digoxin, cyclosporin, methotrexate, lithium, gentimicin, theophylline, vancomycin
- b) drugs with renal toxicity eg cyclosporin, gentimicin, methotrexate, vancomycin
- c) Others eg allopurinol, bisphosphonates, calcium, H2RA, flozins, gliptins, furosemide, metformin, colecalciferol, NSAIDs

#### 6. Liver Function Tests





#### Drugs commonly implicated in jaundice-

#### Damage to hepatocytes

- alcohol
- Amiodarone
- methyldopa
- paracetamol-OD
- phenytoin

#### Cholestasis\*

 antimicrobialserythromycin, flucloxacillin

tricyclics, benzodiazepines

- oestrogens, androgens
- carbimazole, propylthiouracil

\*Cholestasis: Interference with metabolism or secretion of bilirubin

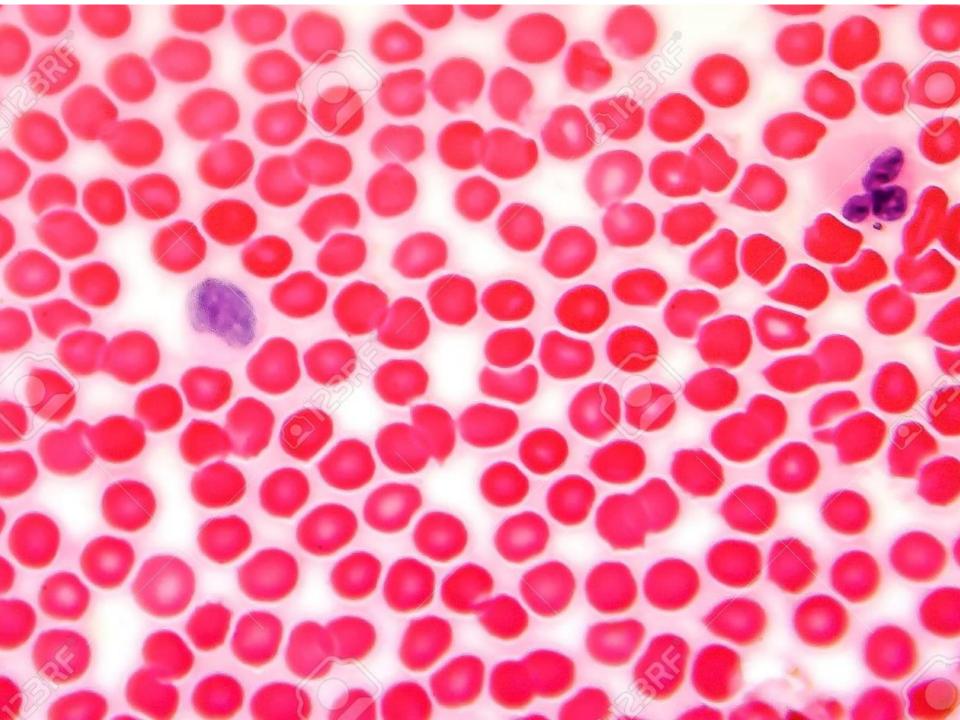
#### 7. Full blood examination (FBE)

```
130 g/L (115 - 165)
HAEMOGLOBIN
                      4.36 x 10 ^12 /L (3.80 - 5.50)
   RBC
   PCV
                      0.40
                                      (0.35 - 0.47)
                      92 fL
   MCV
                                     (78 - 99)
   MCH
                      30 pg
                                      (27 - 32)
                    7.4 x 10 ^9 /L (4.0 - 11.0)
WHITE CELL COUNT
                       57 % 4.2 x 10 ^9 /L (2.0 - 8.0)
   Neutrophils
   Lymphocytes
                      32 % 2.4 x 10 ^9 /L (1.0 - 4.0)
                      5 % 0.4 x 10 ^9 /L (< 1.0)
   Monocytes
                       6 % 0.4 x 10 ^9 /L (< 0.6)
   Eosinophils
PLATELETS
                   201 x 10 ^9 /L (150 - 450)
ESR
                    20 mm/h (< 21)
```

**COMMENT:** 

Red cells are normocytic and normochromic. Leucocytes are mature and normal in distribution. Platelets adequate.

WITHIN NORMAL LIMITS.



## **Haematology monitoring**

(a) Red cells, white cells, platelets

## Drugs which may cause anaemias

eg anti-TB drugs, cefalosporins, cytotoxics, methyldopa, nitrofurantoin

# Drugs which may cause neutropenia/agranulocytosis

eg antithyroid drugs, azathioprine, clozapine, cotrimoxazole, indometacin

## b) Coagulation tests

Prothrombin time (PT) expressed as International Normalised Ratio (INR) is the internationally recognised standard for monitoring warfarin therapy.

ISI = international sensitivity index

Low intensity therapy: INR 2.0-3.0 prevention and treatment of thromboembolic

disease.

High intensity therapy INR of 2.5-3.5. valve replacement etc

INR of 3-4 for thrombosis assoc with antiphosholipid antibodies

#### **Assessment of anaemia:**

Decrease in rbc or haemoglobin concentration Changes in red blood cell indices

#### **Iron studies**

- serum iron
- total iron binding capacity (TIBC)
- transferrin saturation
- ferritin

#### Vitamin B12 & folic acid levels

- Care: anaemia may be due to iron deficiency, chronic disease, or vitB12 or folic acid deficiency
- B12: Consider PPIs, metformin, vegetarian diet
- Folate: Phenytoin, methotrexate

## **Specialised investigations**

- Blood gases, arterial
- BMD
- Cardiac enzymes
- CRP, ESR
- CK
- PSA
- Immunoglobulin
- Malabsorption
- Uric acid

- Spirometry
- Tumour markers- PSA, CEA, AFP etc,
- Vit D: 25-OH D
- Urine- leucocytes, erythrocytes, etc
- Swabs/Cultures
- Sensitivities
- S = sensitive; R = resistant

And many more!!

# Clinical aspects of laboratory data

View data with clinical context of

- patient
- disease state
- therapy

Check when monitoring required

Consider all laboratory data together instead of isolated results

Get the whole picture



# Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM)



#### TDM: Introduction

- Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) is the clinical practice of measuring <u>specific drugs</u> at <u>designated intervals</u> to maintain a <u>constant</u> <u>concentration</u> in a patient's bloodstream, thereby optimizing individual dosage regimens.
- In other words, TDM refers to the individualization of drug dosage by maintaining plasma or blood drug concentrations within a targeted therapeutic range or window.

# Purpose of TDM

- To confirm/establish 'effective' concentrations
  - Maximizing efficacy
- To avoid or anticipate toxic concentrations
  - Consider also function of excretory organs and drug interactions
- To investigate unexpected lack of efficacy
  - To check compliance
  - Before increasing to unusually large doses
- Limited role in toxicology drug screen

# Clinical significance of TDM

- Maximizes efficacy
- Avoids toxicity
- 3. Identifies therapeutic failure
  - Non compliance, subtherapeutic dose
- Facilitates adjustment of dosage
   New dose = Old dose X Desired C<sub>ss</sub>/Old C<sub>ss</sub>
- Facilitates the therapeutic effect of drug by achieving target drug concentration
- 6. Identify poisoning, drug toxicity and drug abuse

## Therapeutic range

- The therapeutic range is a drug concentration range associated with a high likelihood of treatment success and an acceptable risk of drug-related harm in the majority of patients.
- For most drugs, concentrations above the upper limit of the range are likely to be associated with an increased risk of toxicity.
- Concentrations below the range will be associated with inadequate benefits or treatment failure.

# The **optimal therapeutic range** can vary depending on several factors, including:

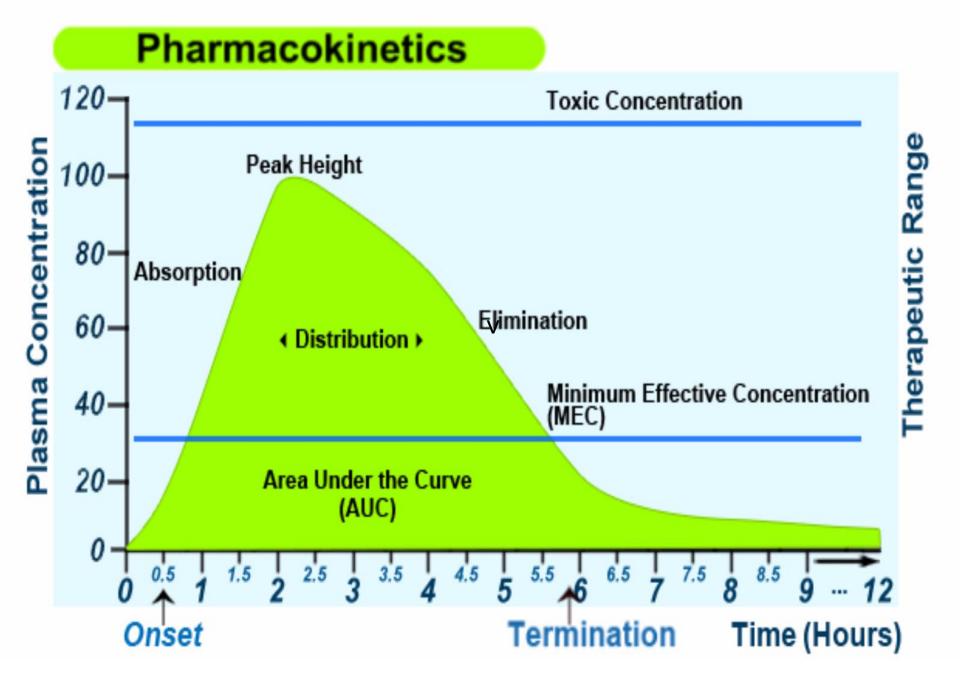
- the stage or severity of the condition being treated
- alterations in tissue or receptor responsiveness (pharmacodynamic changes)
- the extent of plasma protein binding and the amount of unbound (free) drug
- electrolyte concentrations.

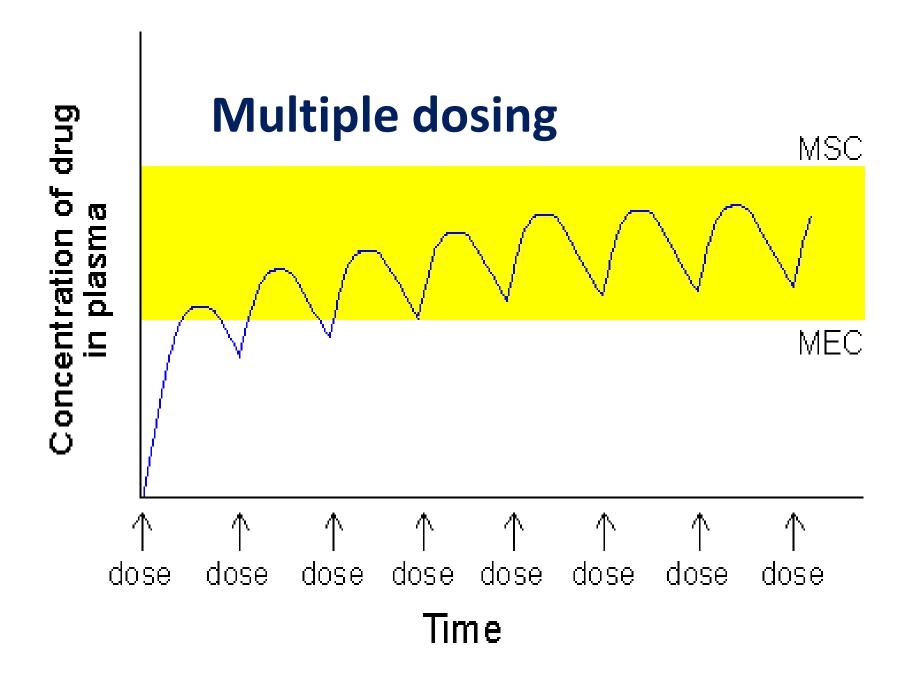
# Common medicines which need therapeutic drug monitoring

- Carbamazepine
- Cyclosporin
- Digoxin
- Gentamicin
- Lignocaine
- Lithium
- Mexiletine

- Perhexiline
- Phenytoin
- Tacrolimus
- Theophylline
- O Valproate?
- Vancomycin and more!!!

**Toxic or sub-therapeutic?** 





# Common medicines requiring monitoring protocols Drug therapy/monitoring Standard review time

- Antiarrhythmics 6/12
   eg amiodarone
- Anticonvulsants 6/12
   eg carbamazepine, phenytoin
- Antidiabetic therapy

Type 1 (& type 2 insulin) BG prior to inj

Type 2 if no insulin Weekly/monthly

(change times of day)

Hypertension 6/12 BP & Pulse,

# Common medicines requiring monitoring protocols cont

# Drug therapy/monitoring Standard review time

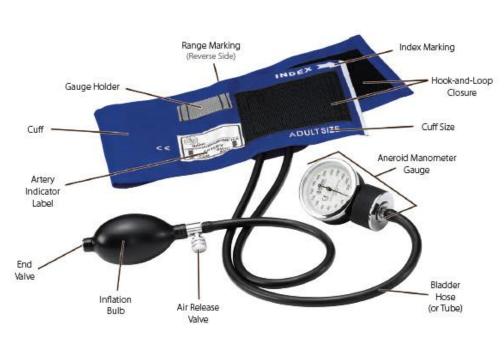
<ul> <li>Biologicals</li> </ul>	3-6/12
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# Monitoring- what needs to be checked

- Alendronate?
- Amiodarone?
- Apixaban?
- Denosumab
- Furosemide
- Gliclazide?
- Hydroxychloroquine?
- Insulin
- Methotrexate? (Also Hep B prior to starting)
- Metformin?
- Phenytoin?
- Ramipril?
- Spironolactone

# **Blood pressure monitoring**





**Blood pressure** is expressed as a measurement with two numbers, with one number on top (*systolic*) and one on the bottom (*diastolic*), like a fraction.

For example, 120/80.

The top number (*systolic pressure*) refers to the amount of pressure in the arteries during contraction of the heart muscle.

The bottom number (*diastolic*) refers to the blood pressure when the heart muscle is between beats.

Both numbers are important in determining the state of heart health.

Numbers greater than the ideal range indicate that the heart is working too hard to pump blood to the rest of the body.

# Definitions and classification of blood pressure levels

Category	Systolic (mmHg)	Diastolic (mmHg)
Optimal	<120	<80
Normal	<130	<86
High-normal	130-139	85-89
Mild hypertension	140-159	90-99
Moderate hypertension	160-170	100-109
Severe hypertension	180+	110+
Isolated systolic hypertens	<90	

Heart Foundation, 2020

# **Temperature**

- The average body temperatures based on age are estimated as:
- **Babies and children**, the average body temperature ranges from 36.6°C to 37.2°C.
- **Adults**, the average body temperature ranges from 36.1°C 9°to 37.2°C.
- Adults over age 65, the average body temperature is lower than 37.0°C).
- Normal body temperature varies from person to person.
- Body temperature might be up to 0.6°C higher or lower than the guidelines above.
- Identifying ones' own normal range can make it easier to know if there is a fever.

# **Thermometers**











