

# PATHOLOGY OF THE THYROID

## WHAT IS THE THYROID?

The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland located in the frontal area of the neck and over the trachea. It consists of two lobes joined by a narrow tissue called the isthmus.

This thyroid gland is part of the endocrine system, which comprises a complex network of glands around the body that help with hormone production. This system also includes the pituitary gland, hypothalamus, testes, ovaries, and pancreas, among others.



Among the functions of the thyroid is to release hormones important for mental development, which also help regulate body temperature and the way the body breaks down food and uses it for energy - part of metabolism. When problems develop, these functions can be affected and have harmful consequences on the body.

**Some conditions that affect the thyroid are:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hypothyroidism:**  
an underactive thyroid.

**Hyperthyroidism:**  
an overactive thyroid

**Benign nodules**

**Thyroid cancer**

