

About Armour™ Thyroid

Armour™ Thyroid—A natural replacement for thyroid hormone

When a thyroid is either underactive, nonfunctioning, or has been all or partly surgically removed, you may be hypothyroid. The diagnosis is made by your physician. The traditional treatment for hypothyroidism is thyroid hormone replacement, which involves taking a prescription drug (T₄, T₃, or a combination product containing both T₄ and T₃) that acts similarly in the body to the human hormone thyroxine that the thyroid would normally produce.

Armour™ Thyroid, one of several drugs available for the treatment of hypothyroidism, is a naturally derived thyroid replacement containing both T₄ and T₃¹. Other products are available which contain synthetic T₄ and/or synthetic T₃.

What is the function of thyroid hormones?

ANSWER

Thyroid hormones affect the function of virtually every organ system. There are two major thyroid hormones secreted from the thyroid gland: [thyroxine](#) (T₄) and [L-triiodothyronine](#) (T₃). T₄ is secreted solely from the body's thyroid gland, and the majority of T₃ is converted outside of the thyroid gland from the inactive T₄ to the more potent T₃.

Thyroid hormones affect the body's use of vitamins, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, electrolytes, and water, and regulate the body's immune response. They can also alter the actions of other hormones and drugs.

Treatment

How Armour™ Thyroid Differs From Synthetic Thyroid Hormone Replacements

The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland that is located on your neck, in front of your windpipe.

The role of the thyroid gland is to produce thyroid hormones, including the two key hormones [levothyroxine](#) (T₄) and [L-triiodothyronine](#) (T₃). Each thyroid hormone contains iodine; the "3" and the "4" refer to the number of iodine molecules in each thyroid hormone molecule. These two hormones influence the body's metabolism as well as the function of many organs.

T₃ is the more biologically active hormone, and it is thought to be the hormone that functions at the cellular level. Levothyroxine (T₄) is converted to L-triiodothyronine (T₃) in the body.

Levothyroxine products such as Synthroid® contain a synthetic version of only the T₄ hormone; levothyroxine tablets directly replenish the T₄ that the thyroid gland fails to sufficiently produce and rely on the ability of the blood to convert it to T₃.

Armour™ Thyroid is a natural, porcine-derived thyroid replacement containing both T₄ and T₃.¹ In this way, it supplements both the T₄ and the T₃.

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Possible Side Effects

Since Armour™ Thyroid is made to replace thyroid hormones, the most common side effects generally mimic an underactive or overactive thyroid (hypothyroidism or [hyperthyroidism](#), respectively). Adverse reactions other than those indicative of hyperthyroidism, either initially or during the maintenance phase, are rare.

If you **experience chest pain, increased pulse rate, palpitations, excessive sweating, heat intolerance, or nervousness**, please consult your doctor immediately; your dose may need to be adjusted.

Converting to Armour Thyroid

The basic "rule of thumb" in converting thyroid doses is that 100 mcg of T₄ is roughly equivalent to 25 mcg of T₃, or 1 grain (60 mg) of desiccated thyroid (Armour™ Thyroid), or liotrix-1 (Thyrolar™ – 1)^a.

Please refer to the table below for approximate equivalent strengths of various thyroid preparations, based on clinical responses as taken from the USP-DI.1,2 ^{1,2}

Drug →	Thyroid Tablets, USP (Armour™ Thyroid)	Liotrix Tablets, USP (Thyrolar™^a)	Liothronine Tablets, USP (Cytomel™^b)	Levothyroxine Tablets, USP (Unithroid™^c, Levoxyol™^d, Levothroid™^e, Synthroid™^f)
Approx. Dose Equivalent	1/4 grain (15 mg)	1/4		25 mcg (.025 mg)
Approx. Dose Equivalent	1/2 grain (30 mg)	1/2	12.5 mcg	50 mcg (.05 mg)
Approx. Dose Equivalent	1 grain (60 mg)	1	25 mcg	100 mcg (.1 mg)
Approx. Dose Equivalent	1 1/2 grains (90 mg)	1 1/2	37.5 mcg	150 mcg (.15 mg)
Approx. Dose Equivalent	2 grains (120 mg)	2	50 mcg	200 mcg (.2 mg)
Approx. Dose Equivalent	3grains (180 mg)	3	75 mcg	300 mcg (.3 mg)

Note: Please keep in mind that dose adjustments may be required. **Thyroid dosing is highly specific** and will need to be individualized by your doctor or other healthcare professional to achieve maximum benefit and optimal patient health.

How and when should I take my Armour™ Thyroid?

ANSWER

Armour Thyroid should be taken as your doctor or other healthcare professional prescribes. Typically, treatment consists of a specific dose taken daily, usually once in the morning.

If you forget to take a dose of your thyroid hormone medication, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the one you forgot and continue with your regular schedule; do not take a double dose. Call your doctor or other healthcare professional if you miss two or more consecutive doses.

Again, for best results, it's very important to follow your doctor or other healthcare professional's guidance regarding how and when to take your thyroid medication.

This information was taken from the www.armourthyroid.com website.

If you have any further questions, please ask your naturopathic doctor.