



# Association of Diabetes Mellitus and Thyroid Disorders: An Adipocytokines Prospective



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## Abstract

The world health organization (WHO) reported the prevalence of diabetes is 8.5% and The Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III) reported the prevalence of thyroid disorders; hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism to be 4.6% and 1.3% respectively. These two endocrinopathies often coincide and commonly affect each other due to shared atypical biochemical pathways, abnormal hormonal action and aberrant expression of several genes. The various adipocytokines may control the metabolic pathways, feeding, neuro-endocrine secretion, thermogenesis and even immunity. The dysfunctional adipocytokine pathways have been noted to be key etiological cause for different metabolic syndromes and obesity-related disorders. Thyroid disorders and diabetes mellitus, both of them known for variation in body weight, insulin sensitivity, adipocyte metabolism and altered secretion of adipocytokines. The variance in adipocytokines in both aforesaid endocrinopathies may be the causative agents for respective idiosyncrasy. In this review article we emphasized the role of adipocytokines on diabetes and thyroid disorders.

**Keywords:** Diabetes mellitus; Hyperthyroidism; Hypothyroidism; Adiponectin; Leptin; Ghrelin; Resistin; Visfantin; Vaspin; Obestatin

## Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) and thyroid disorders (TD) are the two foremost common endocrinopathies, which often co-exist and mutually influence each other. Numerous research studies have reported the alliance among DM and TD [1-6], and confirmed diverse multifaceted associations involving abnormal biochemical pathways, aberrant genetic expressions and hormonal malfunctions, explaining their pathophysiological association [6-8].

The role of autoimmunity in the progression of TD has been observed amongst the type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) and autoimmune thyroid disease [9]. An association between thyroid dysfunction and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) has also been recommended, but the potential causative mechanisms are intricate [10].

The most plausible mechanism for advancement of T2DM in patients with thyroid dysfunction could be due to disturbed genetic expression of several genes in conjunction with physiological aberrations leading to impaired glucose consumption by the muscles, augmented hepatic glucose output, and higher glucose absorption from intestine [6]. These endocrine disorders impact each other in a variety of ways. Thyroid hormones (TH)

contribute to the regulation of carbohydrate metabolism and pancreatic function, and on the contrary, diabetes affects thyroid function tests to variable extents [1,5].

Altered plasma triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4) levels have been noted in poorly controlled diabetic patients [11]. To clarify the link between DM and TD, the association of Hashimoto's thyroiditis (Hypothyroidism) and Graves' disease (thyroid over activity) has been explored in reference to DM. The consequence of hyperinsulinemia/insulin resistance, in thyroid cell proliferation, which manifested as increased thyroid volume and nodule have been also observed [12-14].

## Prevalence

A predicted 422 million adult population had diabetes in 2014 worldwide, as compared to 108 million in 1980. If compared to 1980's the prevalence of diabetes has nearly doubled, growing from 4.7% to 8.5%. It increased more rapidly in low and middle-income countries than developed countries [15,16]. As per National Diabetes Statistics Report 2017, 30.3 million Americans (9.4% of the population), were living with diabetes in 2015 [17,18].

Thyroid disorder is another common endocrinopathy with variable prevalence [1,2]. Wang and Crapo in 1997 reported that as many as 50% of the community have microscopic nodules, 3.5% have occult papillary carcinoma, 15% have palpable goiters, 10% exhibit an abnormal thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) level and 5% of women have overt hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism [19]. Wickham survey reported the thyroid dysfunction in 6.6% of adult males in UK [20] while Colorado prevalence study reported that the 9.5% of population had elevated TSH and 2.2% had low TSH [3]. As per the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III Study), hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism were reported in 4.6% and 1.3% respectively in the total participants [21]. According to Framingham study thyroid deficiency in 4.4% of elderly men and women (overt 60 years of age) had been reported [22]. Perros et al. reported that the occurrence of thyroid dysfunction increases with age all over the world, and the frequency of occurrence was higher in women than men [23]. In Germany, thyroid nodules or goiter were reported in 33% out of 96,278 working adults (aged 18-65 years), screened by an ultrasonography [24].

As per NHANES III survey observed the higher occurrence of thyroid disease in diabetic subjects as compared to non-diabetics [21]. The incidences of thyroid disease in diabetic subjects were reported to be 13.4%, and were maximum in T1DM females (31.4%) and minimum in T2DM males (6.9%) [23]. The Greek study reported 12.3% prevalence of thyroid dysfunction among T2DM, with higher extent in females than males [25]. The Jordan study also observed approximately same prevalence (12.5%) in T2DM patients [26]. As per Chaker et al. the higher TSH levels were linked with a higher diabetes risk. The non-diabetics have 1.09 times while pre-diabetes have 1.13 times higher risk for developing diabetes with every doubling of TSH levels [2]. The prevalence of subclinical hypothyroidism (SCH) was reported to be approximately 2% [27] and in T2DM patients about 10.2% [27-29]. Han et al. observed that the T2DM was linked with a 1.93 fold increase in risk of SCH. Among T2DM patients, the women had 1.7 times higher occurrence of SCH than men while elderly T2DM (over 60 years of age) were reported to experience SCH associated risks more frequently [27].

### Adipocytokines

Adipose tissue acts as an endocrine organ by secreting multiple immune-modulatory proteins recognized as adipocytokine. Obesity causes increased expression of pro-inflammatory adipocytokine and reduced expression of anti-inflammatory adipocytokine, resulting in the development of a chronic, low-grade inflammatory state [30]. Atypical adipocytokine pathways have been recognized as a main etiological factor for obesity-induced disorders. In last two decades, several adipocytokines were identified as critical regulators of systemic lipid and glucose homeostasis, and the list continues to grow. Adipocytokines mediate the crosstalk between adipose tissue and other key metabolic organs, especially the

liver, muscle, and pancreas, as well as the central nerve system. This adipocytokines imbalance is thought to be a key event in promoting different metabolic dysfunctions [31]. Patients with thyroid dysfunction and diabetes mellitus exhibit changes in body weight, insulin sensitivity, adipose tissue metabolism and production of adipocytokines [32-33].

### Adiponectin

The adipocytokine, adiponectin is the most abundant gene (apM1) product and acknowledged for insulin-sensitizing, anti-atherogenic, anti-diabetic and anti-inflammatory properties [5,34]. Binding of adiponectin hormone to the AdipoR1 receptor which is widely expressed in heart, skeletal muscles and moderately expressed in various tissues, activates the AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) signaling cascade that ultimately increases fatty acid oxidation, glucose uptake and decreases gluconeogenesis in liver. Binding of adiponectin hormone to the AdipoR2 which is ubiquitous in expression but avidly expressed in the liver, skeletal muscles and placenta, regulates peroxisome proliferator activated receptors - alpha (PPAR- $\alpha$ ) signaling cascade which ultimately increases fatty acid oxidation and glucose uptake [34-37]. The expression of adiponectin have reversible correlation with adiposity and insulin resistance [38-40]. Adiponectin mediates insulin-sensitizing effect through binding to its receptors AdipoR1 and AdipoR2 [38]. Obese people reported to have lower level of adiponectin than lean subjects and weight loss significantly elevates plasma adiponectin levels [38,41]. The decreased levels of adiponectin are associated with insulin resistance, T2DM, dyslipidemia, atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, hypertension and metabolic syndromes in humans [42].

Adiponectin increases FT4 synthesis, due to interaction of C-terminal globular structure of adiponectin with gC1q receptor present on mitochondrial membrane of thyroid cells [43]. Adiponectin and TH have similar physiological effects on metabolism like, reduction of body fat by increased thermogenesis and lipid oxidation [44], so it's believed that these hormones are associated with each other [45].

The inconsistent results were reported concerning the association between adiponectin levels and TH in experimental studies on hypothyroid/hyperthyroid animals. The serum adiponectins levels were reported to increased or unchanged in hypothyroid or hyperthyroid rats [46-48]. The levels of adiponectin mRNA in the adipose tissue were decreased in hypothyroid rats compared with controls, while in hyperthyroid rats, adipose adiponectin expression was increased in parallel with an increase in TH, the opposite was observed in hypothyroid rats [49]. In contrast, Kokkinos et al. demonstrated increased adiponectin levels in hypothyroid rats, whereas no significant change was observed in the adiponectin levels after the administration of TH [46]. Cabanelas et al. observed that T3 administration in rats had no significant effect on adiponectin secretion in visceral (epididymal) and subcutaneous (inguinal)

adipose tissues, while adiponectin mRNA expression was down regulated by T3 in the subcutaneous adipose tissue, but not in the visceral adipose tissue (VAT) [50]. In contrast, T3 administration was shown to increase adiponectin mRNA expression and release in a culture of mouse brown adipocytes [51].

In hypothyroid patients, reduced levels of adiponectin have been shown by Dimitriadis et al. [52], and comparable levels of adiponectin were observed in hypothyroid patients and controls in a study by Nagasaki et al. [53]. It was reported that adiponectin levels were higher in hyperthyroidism compared to hypothyroidism or euthyroidism, respectively [54,55]. Conversely Santini et al. and Iglesias et al. reported that adiponectin levels were not significantly different in hyperthyroidism when compared to control groups [56,57]. Altinova et al. could not be able to exhibit a relationship between thyroid status and adiponectin levels [58].

Seifi et al. demonstrated the decreased mRNA levels of adiponectin receptors, AdipoR1 and AdipoR2 in white adipose tissue (WAT) of hypothyroid rats, whereas mRNA levels of these receptors are increased in the hyperthyroid rats [59]. Adiponectin receptor gene expression levels in WAT showed positive correlations with TH concentrations, suggesting that AdipoR1 and AdipoR2 gene expression are regulated by TH in hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism. Adiponectin gene expression was negatively correlated with low density lipoprotein and triglyceride levels in hypothyroid rats and positively correlated with glucose and high density lipoprotein levels in hyperthyroid rats. Taken together, TH may modulate lipid and carbohydrate metabolism via changes in adiponectin receptor expression in the adipose tissue [60]. The biological reason for increased plasma adiponectin levels in the adipose tissue in hyperthyroidism is unclear. Therefore, increased adiponectin levels might represent a compensatory mechanism against the insulin resistance observed in the hyperthyroid state [34].

### Leptin

The other major adipocytokine is leptin, which increases in obesity and subcutaneous fat has been a major determinant of circulating leptin levels, as its level is positively correlated with body mass index (BMI), percentage of body fat, and insulin resistance (IR) indices such as homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) [38,61]. The leptin signal is transmitted by the Janus kinase, signal transducer and activator of transcription (JAK-STAT) pathway. The net action of leptin is to inhibit appetite, improve peripheral insulin sensitivity and modulate pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell function, stimulate thermogenesis, enhance fatty acid oxidation, and reduce body weight and fat [38,62]. A population based study in China by Zuo et al. suggested that there was a significant association between HOMA-IR and serum leptin concentrations independent to adiposity levels. Further they suggested that serum leptin concentration may be

an important predictor for insulin resistance and other metabolic risks irrespective of obesity levels [63].

TH and leptin affect each other reciprocally, and may regulate body composition and metabolism through complex mechanisms [32, 64]. Many studies demonstrated the correlation between leptin and TH but the results are conflicting. An increased serum leptin and insulin have been described in hypothyroidism [65-67], while some studies reported decreased or unchanged leptin levels in hypothyroidism [57,68-70]. Similarly, inconsistent results have been reported in hyperthyroidism for increased, unchanged, and even decreased values of leptins [67,70]. Leptin, by enhancing the activity of type I iodothyronine 5-deiodinase enzyme, could result in an increase in circulating T3 level [71]. TSH stimulates leptin secretion by a direct effect on adipocytes, probably via TSH-receptors on the surface of adipocytes [72]. Serum TH also seems to affect leptin levels. However, in a study by Braclik et al. on serum leptin concentrations among premenopausal women with hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, or no thyroid dysfunction, leptin levels were similar before and after treatment of their abnormal thyroid status [73]. The changes in fat mass associated with thyroid diseases make it difficult to interpret the results of studies on leptin and thyroid dysfunction.

### Ghrelin

Ghrelin, an orexigen, secreted from the fundus of the stomach, has been observed to exert its effects on appetite stimulation, energy homeostasis [5,74], and diabetes ameliorating effects including decreased secretion of the insulin sensitizing hormone adiponectin [75,76]. Ghrelin circulates in two different forms acylated and majorly circulating desacylated ghrelin. Ghrelin levels were reported to be decreased in obese, T2DM and hyperinsulinemia [77].

Hyperthyroidism generally causes weight loss despite increased caloric intake and induces negative energy balance [64]. Being a state of negative energy balance, hyperthyroidism should increase in ghrelin levels, but studies reported lower serum ghrelin levels in subjects with hyperthyroidism than euthyroids and its level increased to normal with treatment [78,79]. There are several suggested hypothesis for lower ghrelin levels observed in hyperthyroidism. In a hyperthyroid state, IR and compensatory hyperinsulinemia is induced [80]. Studies have shown that insulin may inhibit ghrelin secretion [80,81]. On the other hand, Broglio et al. and Tong et al. showed that acute administration of ghrelin caused an inhibitory effect on insulin secretion [82,83]. Although there has been a contradictory report by Amini et al. they investigated the association between circulating ghrelin and IR in a large population and observed the high circulating ghrelin is linked with lower IR in the general population, except in postmenopausal women [84]. Another possible explanation is that hyperthyroidism is associated with increased activity of the sympathetic nervous system and with

abnormalities in the growth hormone/insulin like growth factor 1 axis, may affect glucose homeostasis, insulin sensitivity and ghrelin levels [64].

Increased levels of ghrelin have been observed in hypothyroid patients, and these levels returned to normal upon L-thyroxine treatment [73,85]. In hypothyroid rat models, increased circulating ghrelin and gastric ghrelin mRNA levels were demonstrated by Caminos et al. [86]. However, in some studies, hypothyroid patients were reported to have comparable ghrelin levels to that of healthy subjects and those levels were not significantly altered after TH replacement [87,88].

### Resistin

Resistin, which is synthesized in adipose tissue, bone marrow, lungs, muscle, pancreas, and macrophages, is believed to have a role in insulin resistance and obesity [89,90]. Several studies reported the augmented circulating resistin levels in obese diabetics and obese non-diabetics as compared to healthy non-obese subjects [91-93]. On the other hand some studies conferred with aforesaid observations and reported no correlation of serum resistin levels with blood glucose levels or obesity [94,95]. The serum resistin levels were also positively correlated with insulin levels and IR [91,92].

The association between thyroid diseases and resistin levels is controversial. Ziora et al. described a positive relationship between serum resistin levels and FT4 in anorexia nervosa patients [96]. Yaturu et al. measured the resistin levels in patients with Graves' disease before and after the treatment for hyperthyroidism. They reported that the concentrations of serum resistin were higher in hyperthyroid state than in hypothyroid state; and resistin levels correlate positively with free T4, free T3 levels and negatively with TSH [54]. Same way, El gawad et al. also reported higher serum resistin levels in hyperthyroid patients than control subjects and it's normalized after the treatment [79]. But, Iglesias et al. reported that serum resistin levels were similar in hypothyroid and euthyroid subjects [57]. Kaplan et al. demonstrated that no short-term significant changes in resistin, leptin, and adiponectin levels occurred in thyroidectomy-induced hypothyroidism when compared to the euthyroid state [68]. Another study showed a positive association between resistin levels and TH [54]. Alterations in resistin levels by other adipocytokines can be the reason for this conflicting data on resistin levels and thyroid status. It is suggested that changes in resistin levels can act as an adaptive mechanism in thyroid dysfunction [45].

### Visfatin

Visfatin, a 52-kDa cytokine produced predominantly from macrophages and also from visceral adipocytes, leukocytes, hepatocytes and muscles [97,98]. Visfatin is expressed by the macrophages infiltrating adipose tissue in response to inflammatory signals [99,100]. This adipokine is identical to pre-B cell colony-enhancing factor (PBEF) and the enzyme

nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase (Nampt) [101]. Increased circulating visfatin/Nampt levels have been reported in metabolic diseases, such as obesity, T2DM and the metabolic syndrome [102,103]. Nevertheless, there are conflicting results of visfatin/Nampt levels in these diseases being reported unmodified or lower compared to controls [104,105]. There is strong evidence that visfatin increases with obesity as demonstrated in a prospective cohort study, in which visfatin levels were augmented in morbidly obese subjects compared to normal-weight individuals. Visfatin normalized after 6 months of bariatric surgery and consequent weight loss [106]. Visfatin may play an important role in regulating insulin sensitivity in the liver [107]. Visfatin binds to the insulin receptor at a site distinct from insulin and exerts hypoglycemic effect by reducing glucose release from hepatocytes and stimulating glucose utilization in the peripheral tissues [108].

Mice heterozygous for mutations in the visfatin gene have glucose intolerance due to insulin secretion deficiency [109]. A negative correlation of visfatin levels with beta cell function was demonstrated [110]. Furthermore, continuous glucose infusion in humans acutely increases visfatin levels. This effect is suppressed by insulin or somatostatin infusion [111]. Brown et al. demonstrated that incubation with visfatin into mouse pancreatic beta-cells caused significant changes in the mRNA expression of key diabetes-related genes, including up-regulation of hepatocyte nuclear factor 1 homeobox B (HNF1B). Visfatin also caused a significant increased secretion of insulin, activation of insulin receptor by phosphorylation by up-regulated extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK)1/2 compared to control and these functions were blocked by co-incubation with the specific visfatin inhibitor FK866 [112]. Chen et al. found a positive association between visfatin and the presence of T2DM in Chinese population [113]. Dogru et al. observed that visfatin levels were higher in the diabetic patients as compared to controls, but no significant difference were observed between pre-diabetics with controls [114]. Patients with long term T1DM and T2DM had higher visfatin levels compared to non-diabetic controls or recently diagnosed diabetic individuals [110].

The association of visfatin and TH were evaluated by some research groups. In clinical studies, Chu et al. observed that the hyperthyroid group had significantly higher plasma visfatin levels than controls, and visfatin levels significantly decreased after treatment of hyperthyroidism [115]. This higher concentration of visfatin may be related to visfatin resistance in hyperthyroidism. Experimental studies revealed controversial results indicating that T3 could accelerate adipocyte differentiation with increased visfatin levels [116], whereas MacLaren et al. have reported down regulation of visfatin mRNA expression by T3 in adipocytes [117]. Han et al. studied the regulation of visfatin by TH *in-vivo* (human and animal) and *in-vitro* models. Clinical subjects and animal models had elevated plasma visfatin concentrations in both hypo and hyperthyroid groups compared with controls. T3 induced a remarkable increase in visfatin mRNA expression

in 3T3-L1 cells at low concentrations followed by a sharp decrease at higher concentrations [118]. Controversial results might be explained by differences in ethnic or methodological factors or heterogeneity of thyroid dysfunction [119]. The pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-6 has the ability to induce the expression of visfatin *in vitro* which is increased in patients with thyroid dysfunction [120-122]. Therefore, it is likely that visfatin release from adipose tissue may be affected directly or indirectly via proinflammatory cytokines implicating them in thyroid dysfunction [34].

### Vaspin

VAT-derived serine protease inhibitor (Vaspin) is an insulin-sensitizing adipocytokine [123,124]. Vaspin's single-nucleotide polymorphic (SNP) form rs2236242 has been reported to have increased risk of diabetes independent of obesity, suggesting a link between vaspin and glucose metabolism [125]. Youn et al. reported increased vaspin levels in obese and insulin resistant subjects [126]. El-Mesallamy et al. found higher vaspin concentrations in both obese and non-obese T2DM patients than in controls, whereas Gulcelik et al. reported that diabetic women with good glycemic control had lower vaspin levels than those with poor glycemic control [127,128]. Some studies suggested that vaspin gene expression in human adipose tissue and circulating vaspin levels were positively associated with obesity-associated diseases and T2DM [129-132]. Furthermore, it is indicated that vaspin plays an important function in adipoinular axis, and may be associated with insulin resistance in obese subjects, including patients with T2DM [129]. On the basis of research studies it was hypothesized that vaspin may be involved in the glucose metabolism and the development of T2DM in human. Vaspin has been reported to improve glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity in murine one side on the contrary other side the conflicting results was reported to be positively associated with metabolic syndromes in human [130]. Hida et al. demonstrated that vaspin was barely detectable in OLETF (Otsuka Long-Evans Tokushima Fatty) rat at 6 weeks and was highly expressed in adipocytes of visceral white adipose tissues at 30 weeks, the age when obesity, body weight, and insulin levels peak in OLETF rats. The tissue expression of vaspin and its serum levels decreased with worsening of diabetes and body weight loss at 50 weeks [123]. Aforesaid observations were suggestive of increased serum vaspin with the progression of diabetes. Vaspin may increase at the beginning and decrease with worsening of diabetes in human [133]. Vaspin may have a compensatory role in insulin resistance in human obesity associated diseases. Hypothetically, just like adiponectin, low vaspin level might be concomitant with poor glycemic control in diabetic patients because of its impact on insulin sensitivity and glucose metabolism [124].

Only few research available which correlates the regulation of vaspin by TH. Gonzalez et al. observed that vaspin mRNA levels are significantly decreased in hyperthyroid rats and significantly increased in hypothyroid rats compared with

the euthyroids without any changes in glucose and insulin levels, suggesting that thyroid dysfunction may affect vaspin expression [134]. Handisurya et al. examined the relationship between TSH, vaspin, and leptin levels before and after weight loss by bariatric surgery. A significant decrease in TSH levels in positive correlation with changes in serum vaspin levels were observed but were no definite conclusion stated, if vaspin causes the weight-loss-associated decrease of TSH levels, or changes in thyroid function or gastrointestinal peptides influenced serum vaspin levels [135]. Cinar et al. reported that vaspin levels were similar in euthyroid and hypothyroid subjects (subclinical and clinical hypothyroid), and no significant difference was observed in vaspin levels after normalization of TH. Moreover, vaspin levels were not correlated with TSH. Aforesaid data indicate that TH status has no influence on serum vaspin levels in humans [34,136].

### Obestatin

Obestatin, derived from preproghrelin which adopted an  $\alpha$ -helical secondary structure and seems to be required for binding of obestatin to its receptor [137,138]. Agnew et al. suggested that obestatin may signal via an adenylate cyclase-linked G protein-coupled receptors in the cardiovascular system, although the precise identity of the cognate receptor(s) for obestatin remains to be determined [139,140]. Obestatin has a short biological half-life but it is proposed to exert wide-ranging functions including, food intake, body weight, adiposity and fasting glucose/insulin. Whilst the precise nature of many of its effects is unclear but accumulating evidence supports positive actions on both metabolism and cardiovascular function [141,142]. Obestatin was first reported to inhibit jejunal contraction, food intake and body weight gain in rats, in addition to antagonizing ghrelin-induced contraction of isolated jejunum muscle, which is relevant to T2DM [137]. Some studies reported that the obestatin reduced antral and duodenal motility in the fed state while increased restoration of normal fasted-state duodenal activity [143,144]. Further, Saliakelis et al. observed the increased pre-prandial obestatin levels in children with unexplained delayed gastric emptying [145].

Obestatin and ghrelin both were reported to be secreted by human pancreatic islets and pancreatic beta cell lines, suggesting a synergistic relationship that may be connected with pancreatic beta cell function, enhance their viability and inhibit apoptosis [146-148]. Survival of beta cells was compromised upon incubation with an anti-obestatin antibody, whilst genes associated with insulin production, beta cell survival, growth and differentiation were up-regulated by obestatin, together with activation of Phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K)/Protein kinase-B (PKB), ERK1/2 and cAMP [146].

Several groups have also demonstrated obestatin secretion from rat WAT and adipocytes from both mice and humans [149,150]. Decreased circulating obestatin has been documented in overweight/obese patients and those with impaired glucose

control, metabolic syndrome, T2DM and insulin resistance [151-155]. Inverse correlations between circulating obestatin and body mass index, insulin, glucose, leptin, HOMA-IR and glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) have been reported [153-155]. Obestatin levels increased with body weight reduction following gastric banding and sleeve gastrectomy surgery in obese and T2DM patients, respectively, and with standard weight loss in obese children [156,157]. Although the majority of studies appear to support an inverse relationship between circulating obestatin and obesity/diabetes, increased obestatin levels have also been reported in patients with obesity, metabolic syndrome, impaired glucose control, T1DM [157-160]. Other studies have found obestatin levels to be unaltered following gastric surgery-induced weight loss in both obese and T2DM patients [156,161,162].

Only few studies available which correlate the TD with obestatin levels and the results are inconsistent. Emami et al. reported decreased levels of obestatin in hypothyroidism and increased in hyperthyroidism [163]. Whilst, Kosowicz et al. demonstrated that hypothyroidism was associated with increased levels of obestatin and hyperthyroidism was associated with decreased levels of obestatin [164]. Gurgul et al. found a positive association between TSH levels, ghrelin, and obestatin in hypothyroidism and suggested that obestatin may be a modulatory molecule [165].

### Conclusion

TD and DM are closely linked with each other and characterized by a complex interaction. IR states may increase thyroid gland nodularity. Changes in adipokine secretion due to thyroid dysfunction or DM may represent adaptive mechanisms to decrease or increase in basal energy expenditure and energy substrate requirements. Cytokine network imbalances may be involved in the interactions between TH, Insulin secretion and IR. Additional studies, particularly studying the interactions among the novel genes in the adipose tissue, adipocytokines, TH, Insulin and IR will generate further insights into the endocrine function of adipose tissue towards the progression of TD and DM.

### Disclosure Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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