



challenging as are the interpretation of thyroid function tests in infancy through childhood. Illness has a significant impact on thyroid function tests and assessment in this group is described by Drs. LoPresti and Patil in Chap. 10. A logical approach to these patients is provided as are ways to identify those patients with thyroid disease that need to be treated. Assessment of thyroid function in pregnancy is challenging and is being increasingly recognized as a crucial time to normalize maternal thyroid status. Adverse outcome for mother and her child can result from thyroid hormone deficiency or excess. In Chap.11, Drs. Lazarus, Soldin, and Evans fully describe the use and limitations of thyroid tests in pregnancy and provide an approach to testing and monitoring thyroid function. The incidence of autoimmune thyroid disease increases significantly with age and in Chap. 12 Dr. Samuels provides a clear approach to the assessment of thyroid status in the elderly and interpretation of thyroid studies. The influence of drugs on thyroid function testing remains a major clinical issue with recognition of an ever increasing list of medications that influence thyroid function and thyroid testing. In Chap. 13, Drs. Pearce and Ananthakrishnan comprehensively describe these medications with a special emphasis on their mechanism of action and on iodine-containing medications. I am most grateful to my colleagues for their enthusiasm and willingness to provide such outstanding contributions to this book. The editorial team at Springer is excellent and has been highly supportive and effective. My special thanks to Editor Laura Walsh, Associate Editor Dianne Wuori, Editorial Assistant Stacy Lazar, Senior Production Editor Jenny Wolkowicki and Crest Premedia Solutions for final production.

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