

THYROIDITIS Chronic lymphocytic (autoimmune) thyroiditis (Hashimoto's disease)

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This common condition is usually associated with raised titres of thyroid antibodies. It commonly presents as a goitre, which may be diffuse or nodular with a characteristic 'bosselated' feel or with established or subclinical thyroid failure. The diagnosis often follows investigation of a discrete swelling. Features of chronic lymphocytic (focal) thyroiditis are commonly with other present on histological examination in association thyroid disease, notably toxic goitre (Figure 55.28). Primary myxoedema without detectable thyroid enlargement represents the end stage of the pathological process.

Figure 55.28 Autoimmune thyroiditis (Hashimoto's disease; struma lymphomatosa). Intense lymphocytic-plasma cell infiltration, acinar destruction and fibrosis.

Revision #1

Created 2025-12-31 15:20:55 UTC by Omar Ayman

Updated 2025-12-31 15:20:55 UTC by Omar Ayman