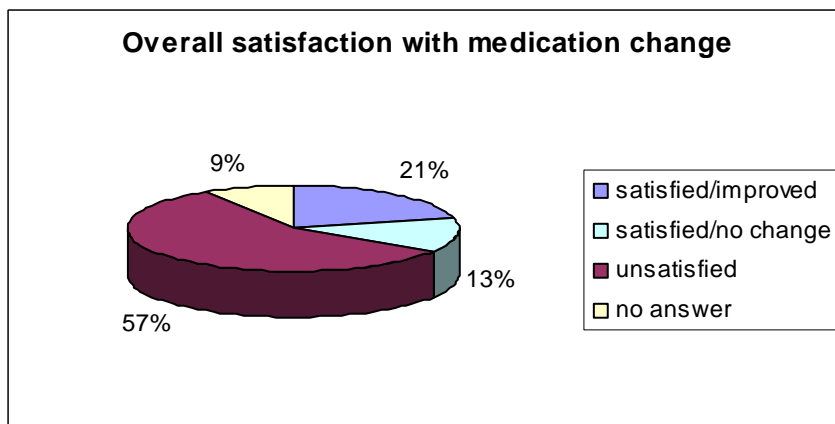
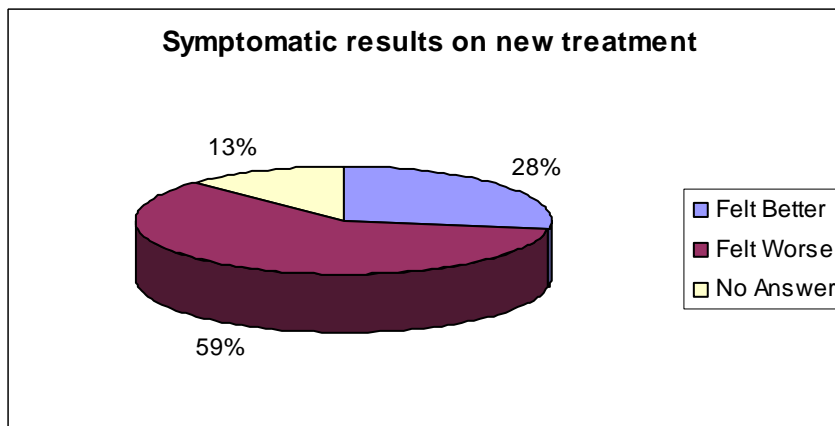
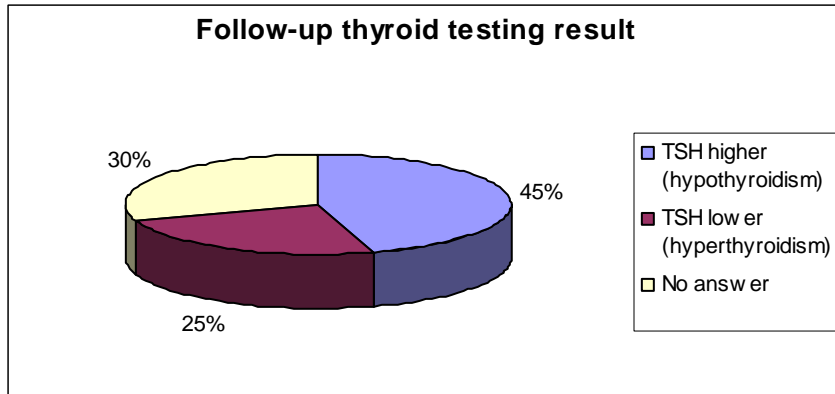


## Patient RX Questionnaire Summary – Allthyroid.org 9/21/04 -04/30/05

<b>Number of Submissions</b>		<b>159</b>
<b>I was asked to change my prescription by (check all that apply)</b>		
Doctor		74
Nurse		3
Pharmacist		35
Other		41
<b>Reason for changing prescription (check all that apply)</b>		
Cost		20
Insurance company requirement		33
Other		102
<b>Follow-up thyroid testing result (please check one):</b>		
TSH higher (hypothyroidism)	72	45.28%
TSH lower (hyperthyroidism)	39	24.53%
No Answer	48	30.19%
Total	159	
<b>Symptomatic results on new treatment (please check one)</b>		
Felt Better	44	27.67%
Felt Worse	95	59.75%
No Answer	20	12.58%
Total	159	
<b>Overall satisfaction with medication change (please check one)</b>		
satisfied/improved	33	20.75%
satisfied/no change in how I feel	21	13.21%
unsatisfied	91	57.23%
No Answer	14	8.81%
Total	159	

## Charts



## **Patient RX Questionnaire Results**

### **Question # 7 - Symptomatic results on new treatment - Felt Better (Explain)**

#### **September 2004**

- STILL TIRED
- Physically felt better, hair no longer falling out and was able to lose weight, muscle cramping got better as well as carpal tunnel.

#### **October 2004**

- More cheerful, significantly lower gastric acid, less reflux symptoms, gained weight by 5 pounds. Couldn't answer #6 as no test done yet

#### **November 2004**

- More alert, clearer thinking, less fatigue
- Although it's a little early, I feel a little better. Less tired.
- I have not had a follow up test yet.
- Not as tired, joint pain decreased somewhat but not completely. Heart palpitations lessened.
- Actually, I did not notice any change.
- INFINITELY better -I requested the change because I read a great deal and felt that other thyroid hormones were active and missing for me (unlike what you all have bought into). I KNOW that Armour is the best medication for me. I know that many environmental toxins prevent conversion of T4 to T3 and these toxins are becoming increasingly prevalent in our typical environment. The European Thyroid Convention has been looking into the activity level of T2 and are finding interesting results. You should rethink all that you have assumed to be fact because the facts that you think you know are wrong. Some may feel better with T4, but I absolutely HAD to include other thyroid hormones to even live.
- not sure

**December 2004**

- Better energy, clear mind, no more aches
- Skin,nails,hair,digestive etc seem to be improved.
- less tired, weight gain
- joint pain muscle cramps fatigue went away
- It is soon to tell, but I have seen a slight improvement in my symptoms so far.

**January 2005**

- Had normal labs as had for years, increased all the way from 50 or 75 to 150...I noticed it...nobody told me.
- Had way more energy, and was not puffy!!
- Still had side effects: hot flashes, bowel probs.

**February 2005**

- same
- more energy, better memory
- no change
- for a while
- No change
- started to feel some energy

**March 2005**

- the natural thyroid seemed to work better with my body, I felt better and had less side effects
- less depressed, skin not as dry, better sleep

**April 2005**

- Had reached a stage of complete fatigue and so weak I couldn't walk. Muscular pain in left hip, across shoulders, under both heels. When I started Armour, I felt wonderful, pains went away completely, energy back and my health became normal again
- more energy lost all the weight that had piled on with Eltroxin Lost the joint aches and pains lost the sinus blockages
- many hypo symptoms resolved
- Palpitations ceased, energy levels far improved, happier, stronger, just great!!
- All hypo symptoms went almost immediately felt the best I have felt for years, did not have this on T4
- less forgetful
- After I started taking T3 and later desiccated thyroid along with levothyroid, I got my life back. I no longer was tired or had brain fog, or muscle aches.
- same after about a week, having difficulty swallowing the pills
- Went in complaining of hypothyroidism symptoms. Have been taking the one dose for a lot of years. The increased dose.
- See Below
- better than armour
- body temperature rose, constipation better

**Question #7 - Symptomatic results on new treatment -Felt worse (explain)****September 2004**

- Rapid heart beat, dizziness, feeling of being severely over-caffeinated, shaking hands, couldn't concentrate
- starting gaining weight and feeling tired all the time

**October 2004**

- Gained 40 lbs.
- I went into depression, became extremely tired and forgetful and gained 10 pounds in 2 months. My doctor thought I needed to keep a food log and be on anti-depressants, but I knew that I wasn't over eating.
- reduced dosage made me feel more tired
- Acute anxiety, I've not been able to sleep or eat, I've been really hot, I've had diarrhea, and had erratic and powerful mood swings. I've been so low at times that it's felt hopeless, and yet at other times, I've felt close to normal.
- fatigue, depression, joint pain, hair loss
- Dry hair & skin, fatigue, weakness, muscle pain.
- I never felt like either medicine ever helped. I was disappointed when they said the 50 mcg was too much. The dr. said I should be able to take 300mcg but I have an auto immune disease with my thyroid. I was disappointed and confused. He wants me to take HCTZ and something for my high calcium levels in urine. (is this from thyroid ?) I have low blood pressure and used to be in shape. Started getting tired a couple of years ago. Cold, sluggish feeling depressed and gained 20 pounds. I was never this fat. I thought it was all menopause until a dr. found I had hypothyroid.
- The feeling of a lump in my throat returned. My Fibromyalgia is in a constant flare up.
- Felt dramatically worse. symptoms exaggerated into real disability
- The symptoms may have worsened, I feel so crappy it is hard to tell.

**November 2004**

- Heart "thumping", sore neck and shoulders, light headed, headaches, loss of voice, swollen feeling in throat.
- anxiety headaches nervous

- Became very moody, irritable, less able to handle stress, less able to exercise at high intensity; had muscle aches and "full feeling in throat"
- tired, muscle aches, constipation, depression
- After starting medication originally in 06-2004. have difficulty sleeping, am tired all the time and have more trouble breathing
- Was overheated with the least amount of physical activity
- Excessive hives all over body; developed urticarial ascutitis; tired; irritable; hair loss
- gained 7 lb in first 6 weeks on new med
- Cold, constipation, slow heart rate, thinning hair, weight loss stall.
- having a terrible time adjusting was doing grand on other but it is out of production and I have spent 5 years getting balanced on the first and now it is no longer available - very sad - I have a mal functioning pituitary
- still have all symptoms of low thyroid

### **December 2005**

- Lethargic, and depressed
- will start synthroid .75 tomorrow was originally on Synthroid .88 and the last two month I was change to levothyre .88 - don't know if this might have changed everything.
- Developed rapid heartbeat, sweating, itching, shortness of breath, etc.
- Indigestion problems and heart palpitations
- pounding heart, difficult sleep
- At first I felt sluggish.

### **January 2005**

- Was afraid...couldn't sleep, nervous, severe muscle spasms involuntary, malaise, achy all over, heart palpitations, felt really strange...didn't know labs were normal...so stopped and took sometimes, had 11 refills, no monitoring or appt for 3 or 4 months...scared and confused..52...138lbs...had been on 75mcg for long time.

- I keep experiencing pain on the right side of my neck with swelling on both sides.
- Haven't had follow up yet. Still have pressure in chest. dr. doesn't have an opening until Feb. 15
- Symptoms returned.
- WENT HYPO BADLY
- Haven't been on this new meds long enough to tell how i will feel
- Now worried, went from 2gr to 5gr over years, Armour had a production difficulty and I could not get any so I went to qualitest and was happy about the generic aspects of the price. My tsh has gone yr./amt, 01/.056,03/.047,04/.152,05/.02. Also started scabbing on head
- gained weight, started losing hair, flaky scalp

### **February 2005**

- didn't notice any changes on .100, but after .88, I gained close to 25 #, skin is dry, hair is lifeless, feel confused, get depressed , constipated at times
- very tired and seemed to develop eye twitches
- Weakness, Irritable, Lethargic
- tired and feeling depressed
- I was in a fog, depressed, extremely tired, upset all of the time.
- more fatigued and slightly depressed
- did not work near as good
- By January I was fatigued, my skin was dryer, and I was having other symptoms.
- anxiety issues
- Felt like I ran a race, out of breath. Face tingling.
- I've never had fatigue as a symptom until now. Doctor now suggests higher dose.
- low energy, difficulty losing weight in spite of training for a marathon- while the change was made, dumb, dumb, me to let this happen



**March 2005**

- Exhausted. Unable to focus.
- Feel tired and weak
- sleepy, concentration, severe constipation, weight gain ,sluggish
- most recent test 03/01/05 was 5.25 I still feel bad and did before the medication was switched by the pharmacy because label wasn't checked
- Many throat problems.
- Felt over all better on synthroid but md agreed that generic was ok.
- After 2 weeks of being on the switch I felt very light headed sick to my stomach, tired and almost to the point of passing out. A blood test was not done because my Doctor said I was probably going into shock from having no replacement in me.
- Tired, Fatigue, uncontrollable weight gain despite diet and exercise
- serious hypo problems
- palpitations fatigue, decreased mental alertness high blood pressure

**April 2005**

- Lethargic, weight loss. Also on Adderol
- Swollen hands, not as much energy ,dryer skin.
- Having muscle cramping,migranes,no periods,fatuge,aching bones in legs, back,spine,dry throat,weight gain.
- I am experiencing dry skin, hair, brittle nails, always cold, leg cramps
- TIRED,SLUGGISH,DRUGGING,COPLD AT TIMES
- extremely low heart rate and irregular heart beat
- See Below
- I felt like I was going die - my blood pressure went up I started getting migraines I just felt like crap

- weight gain, mental foginess
- more hair loss, more tired, weight gain, dry mouth, dry nose
- Bad skin breakout on back ,top of arms
- Shortened menstrual cycle, heavier periods. Muscle aches ALL THE TIME, especially legs, back, neck. Tired.
- More fatigue.
- Still extremely tired, gaining weight (but eating healthier, cut portions)
- Weight gain
- Developed severe joint and muscular pain. Hair is extremely brittle and constantly falling out.
- depression, dry skin, constipation, water retention
- This was 2nd time a dr.had suggested switching from Armour Thyroid to Synthroid. Even though done gradually, results were disastrous: depression, heart palpitations.
- Began to have heart palpitations, at first I was unaware of the cause. My MD had me wear a heart monitor x 24 hrs and had a blood test done. TSH was low indicating too high a level of hormone in my system ~ 20% higher than normal per MD report.

**Questions #9- If unsatisfied with the medication change please give reasons**

**September 2004**

- Have Hashimotos >10 yrs. Have terrible joint & muscle pains, low body temperature, fatigue & problems concentrating. Did great on Synthroid for many years. Had to fight with doctor for over a year to get my medicine increased even though my TSH was 6.2. He increased it but changed to generic. 3 months later changed to another generic. At first TSH was 8 and I felt really good. Six months later 1.2. Two weeks ago 1.9, but took another test 3 days later and it was 3.3. Kaiser doctors very uncooperative. Won't do anything until TSH is over 5.5.
- STILL DON'T FEEL GOOD & THE LEVEL IS STILL WRONG

- I requested to be changed after reading several books in the library.
- I am very upset. I have taken levothyroid .125 for 17 years, without a problem. Recently, the drug manufacturer changed the formulation and my doctor believes that I absorbed more of the active hormone from the current formulation than from the old formulation. I essentially had an overdose of thyroid hormone and for several days didn't understand what was wrong with me. I was given no warnings of the possibility of this problem from either my pharmacist or the drug manufacturer. When I called the drug manufacturer the second time, they finally admitted that they have seen patients who were having problems with the new formulation due to both under-absorption and over-absorption. As well as immense pain and suffering, this is going to cost me several hundred dollars in new blood tests, doctors visits, and 92 tablets of a prescription I can't take. My doctor is upset because it's initially going to be very difficult to regulate my dose. I couldn't keep taking the high dose - my heart was pounding so much I thought I could have had a heart attack or stroke. Yesterday I took no thyroid medicine, today, on his advice, I'll take 1/2 pill. I'm supposed to get a blood test next week and then he'll try to figure out the appropriate first dose of a new medication. Then, I'll have to have several months of experimentation to get the correct dose. I am very angry that I wasn't warned of the possibility of this problem.
- started gaining weight and feeling tired again...right back to square one

#### **October 2004**

- Thyrolar was removed from the market temporarily, since January 2004
- Now, 6 months later I feel fine and have lost 6 of the 10 pounds I gained. By the time I got to the doctor in May and then in late September, my thyroid levels were okay. Walgreens has informed me that my pill has had 5 reformulations this year. I guess they are improving it, but it really caused chaos for me early this year.
- I was taking 50 mcg of Synthroid for 3 months because my levels were low. After 3 months a lab test showed that my levels were still too low: 0.04. I don't understand why my medication dosage was reduced to 25 mcg. Why the doctor recommended lower dosage? I asked the pharmacist but he didn't know. I'll be calling my doctor Monday, but God only knows when I'll get any answer. Thank you very much
- Tablet literally dissolved in my mouth before I could swallow. Began to feel tired, skin became much drier, brittle hair & generally not caring about anything.
- Side effects have been disabling. I spent over a week on the couch, not being able to control my emotions, not being able to eat, sleep or work. And my doctor doesn't seem to believe it.

- The change to Leithroid came unexpectedly. There was no discussion. I had had a history of digestive problems, gaul bladder pain, kidney stones, acid reflux, etc. When I refilled my prescription Kaiser substituted Levothroid. I definitely prefer it to L-thyroxin. I did gain 5 pounds during the change but then I noticed I felt better all around. I hope this balances some of the depression...
- Return of symptoms
- I have been taking Levothroid made by Forest Laboratories since 1983 (.125mg) with good results. Since I have been taking the new formula of the same drug, I feel terrible and requested a TSH test. Last test it was 4.2uIU/ml. Now it is 8.7 with the new formula. The doctor increased my dosage of this same new formula to .150. I've been taking it for three weeks and will be retested in a couple of weeks. I still feel tired all the time.
- I had been doing good. Then all my symptoms started reappearing. My rheumatologist thought it was from my Fibromyalgia. When the blood work came back it showed my numbers were all off again. That's when I realized the Walgreens pharmacy had changed my medication and never told me. I called my endocrinologist and found he did not authorize it and had not been told of the change. There is definitely a difference. Please make the government realize this so this type of thing will stop happening.
- I was lowered in dosage from 125mcg to 100mcg in Synthroid and felt horrible and was the reason I went to the Dr. Then I went to an Endo..and she upped it because my TSH was high again, and I requested the natural hormone Armour, 120 mg. It is now over two weeks later, and I feel horrible still. Frustrated, and confused.
- I was displaying many symptoms before the change, but this med seemed to magnify all of them. I have not recovered my balance, or muscle strength, my neoropathy spread to my hands. I was very happy to be transferred to synthroid at the end of six weeks.
- My doctor changed my medication about a year ago, lowered the dose, and I immediately put on 20 lbs and all my pre diagnosis symptoms came back. I read that generic forms of synthroid are not always accurate, so my pharmacist and I decided to use the Synthroid brand from now on. I have seen no improvement in my symptoms. I will not go back to generic forms of the medication as my health insurance pays for the medication.

#### **November 2004**

- My doctor has since switched me back to synthroid but all my symptoms are still present (less frequent) with the exception of the headaches.

- I was told that their was a new formula made by the manufacturer
- With Hashimoto's, it's been difficult to stabilize. The difficulties I had may have been coincidental or consequential with regard to the med change. However, once I switched back about 6 weeks later (I had been changed because levothyroid was unavailable - I am US military overseas), I returned to normal and have been fine ever since.
- It has been only 7 days since the change so I am not sure if I am feeling tired lately because of the change of medication or not. I would like to know what the difference in the medications are and what the difference in these two medications and Thyrar is. Can you help
- I was sent to a specialist because I was not reacting very well to Synthroid. I was put on Thyrolar but because of availability issues I was placed on Armour. I hate it! My hair started falling out and I started gaining weight. I am now back to square one and back on Synthroid- I'll be good for three weeks until my body adjusts and then it will be back to feeling poorly. I was a different person on Thyrolar. My blood work always shows up normal but I don't feel very normal. My Doctor pretty much says I am out of options and that something should be working. I'm looking for a new doctor!
- Did not have any symptoms originally. My cholesterol was 190, LDL113 and doctor decided to test thyroid fuction and then decided that I was hypothyroid and need to take the medication. He thought that cholesterol would improve hopefully.
- I went back on my synthroid because the generic which was supposed to be equivalent was causing me to overheat.
- Pharmacist did not tell me about the medication change until I went home and discovered it was not the same as I had taken for years. When called, he said they did not have my regular medicine and this was just made by a different manufacturer. While resolving the medical problems that developed, a different pharmacist in same store said they had my regular medicine but their policy is to distribute new brands as they come in. After 6 weeks of being back on my regular medication, hives are just starting to disappear. I will need to be retested for vaculitis and tsh levels periodically until I'm back to normal.
- The new medication appears to act like a sugar pill. The switch occurred because the original rx was written so as to allow generic substitution (levoxyl used to be considered generic), and the pharmacist substituted without asking me. The generic substitution mess is the result of not only the FDA acting hastily but also the health insurance companies trying to cash in on the situation even though it means putting people's health in jeopardy.

- I feel worse!
- I started having pain in my hip, then lower back and abdomen/pelvic area after 6 days I could hardly walk, discontinued it went back on the regular one and started feeling better after a couple of days. I now have about 3 weeks left of my regular prescription and then will be discontinuing do to not being able to afford medical attention.
- I switched to synthroid from the generic brand because I was told the generic brands may not be as good. I have been on the generic brands for over 20 yrs and no problems. I switched to synthroid in Sept 2004. On Nov 11, 2004; I had a simple partial seizure. Was this seizure maybe a side effect of taking synthroid. And can a low thyroid cause a person to have a seizure?
- Not responding to it - having reactions - wish I could still get other medication that I was on - felt great for the first time in years! Now back to square one.
- So folks, You seem to be in bed with the FDA, the corrupt bunch of people who are eating a lot of crap these days for their lack of integrity. I hope there are some honest members among you, as I am sure there are among the majority of those in the FDA, as thyroid health is a direct target of endocrine disrupters. Read up, expand your tiny horizons, and think outside the box.
- I am still having all symptoms of low thyroid and the doc says that I was taking to much so he lowered my dose

## December 2004

- Hypothyroid symptoms returned
- I will be going for Blood Work and I will keep you advised!
- The heart beat, sweating and itching got so bad I went to a cardiologist because I thought something was wrong with my heart. The doctor took one look at me and told me to quit taking levoxyl immediately. I was off all thyroid meds for 6 weeks. All my horrible symptoms gradually disappeared. Then the doctor put me on half the dose of levoxyl 50mcg. I had another thyroid test six weeks later and everything is fine now!!!
- Having tests now because after years on synthroid I have had no change at all. Now that I have been on Levoxyl for about a year I have a lot of indigestion and tests and meds with no results. They have reduced my mcg to 88. I\'m having heart palpitations now. Had another test still a little bit high and have now gone back to Synthroid for a week so far, indigestion is better already. Not happy with levoxyl.. any other stories?

- I felt fine with my medication for the last 15 years and after repeated testing my doctor recommended a lower dose. I have had a pounding heart beat and difficulty in sleeping. Both of these have caused scattered thinking as well.
- I'm still having problems with my medicine but I feel 150% better on a t3 t4 combo
- Sluggishness associated with hypothyroidism returned when I began the new brand. Previous to this change I had been well with 100 mcg of Synthroid. After changing to the generic levothyroxine my dosage had to be increased to 125 mcg.

### January 2005

- I don't understand why my dosage was changed. When I verified with pharmacist...he assumed my labs must have been really bad...and said that was still a drastic increase, and should have been told of change and to look for side effects and monitored within a month or so...he was shocked when he heard after months of my confusion and symptoms that my labs were already normal...I was very scared...Why would this be done? and if changed...shouldn't it be done gradually and me told...and why would it be changed when my labs were still normal..I already have osteomalacia, osteopenia..had 6 fractured bones at 52 in 1999 and 2000..but can't too much even weaken bones more? Or cause this muscle and pain in my tissues? I'm scared...tried to call nurse...told her I was real sick...she said my medicine was the same and keep taking it even tho I've known pharmacist for years and KNEW he told her it was increased...Nobody would see me when I called nurse for months..
- I feel that none of this medication is not helping my large thyroid causing pain in one spot on the right side of my neck.
- I was given thyroid radioiodine reuptake and tested 8 months later. My thyroid level is high and symptoms have returned. WBC is low too. See new endocrinologist tomorrow, hope relief is in sight.
- Makes me feel bad all the time. Tired and makes me want to be withdrawn from people. My mood swings are way worse and sleep habits are insomnia phases twice a month. Depressed and pissed off a lot of the time.
- It seems as if I have traded one set of symptoms for another. I am beginning to feel that I will never feel good again. I am not as tired but I still do take naps and can no longer work due to exhaustion. I do not know what my recent TSH is due to the fact that my Endo will not tell me the exact numbers, he only states that it is "within normal range". I guess this means that I will never feel "normal" and "good" about myself or my energy level."

- Ambivalent, but am concerned. Went for nuclear stress test just because I was not doing well during exercise and 3 mos later through heart catheterization and found minor difficulties, so I am thinking that its back to the tsh. Also I just discovered you today. Half is my fault and half the doctors.
- given above

## February 2005

- I am unsatisfied that it keeps getting changed each time I go to the doctor. it can't seem to get regulated
- only problem is that I have large fluctuations in body temps -- one minute I'm cold, next minute I'm sweating, seems to be worse at night
- Recent test result of 12.9 is given, should medication raise from 1.75 to 2.0 or should medication be reduced. Thyroid glad completely removed 35 years ago.
- Just feel horrible, haven't changed my eating habits much to have gained all of this weight. I do cry more easily, and feel depressed at times. I often forget things or misplace things. I noticed I am getting constipated again. My skin is drier, and I have noticed cracks on my fingers, and had one under my right pinky toe. I have an apt with my endocrinologist for next week & have to have my bloodwork done on Monday.
- Loss of hair
- I did not feel that my doctor wanted to be involved in the change but just went along with insurance. No it seems that no really cares any more how I feel
- Although my medication had been changed, after several years dealing with this, I was changed back to my original brand. It has made a big difference in my life. I have most of my energy back and am doing much better.
- Medication now being increased 25mcg due to hypothyroidism with the change to Sandoz Levothyroxine. I was testing and feeling fine with the Forrest Levothyroid for the past 4-5 years. Now I am once again dragging. I can't stand the ups and downs.
- When I switched back to the Synthroid at the same dose I had been on for 7 years, my TSH was still too low. It has been reduced twice and I feel awful. I was fine before switching to the generic. I have a co-worker who experienced an identical switch (also at her pharmacist's urging) and messed up levels post-generic.
- Ineffective



- Felt worse
- Felt worse. Switched back to name brand and feel better but still not at the proper strength. Due to cancer radiation treatments. No strength and still very cold all the time. 2 years now. any suggestions ?
- My symptoms were much worse on Levothyroxin than they had ever been while I was taking Synthroid.
- Am currently on a reduced dosage of original medication. Anxiety has increased. I think being on the generic brand for 2 months has created adjustment problems. The current dosage is probably too low.
- I do not feel any better (or worse ). I expected to see a big change (improvement) in my energy level, right now it is very low.
- I take levo-thyroxine and have for years. It's the cheapest, therefore that's what is prescribed to me. I don't know if it's the best choice for me. It only addresses the T3 levels. If never taken any meds for T4 imbalances. Every family practitioner I have seen knows very little about hypothyroidism. One doctor every left me in tears with her instance that my weight issue was a self discipline issue, not a thyroid issue.
- Breathing is shallow, voice is quivering, face is tinkling.
- Thus far I'm very fatigued but I'll wait to see what the higher dosage does for me.
- The only reason I felt better was because I was allergic to the Propansil (sp) and had to take Tapazole. I bounce all over the place. Some days I feel enery then others nothing. I'm certainly not normal at all.
- Had follow up labs which showed hypothyroidism, had to double the dose of levothyroxine. Now need more blood tests. Just very frustrating, my insurance company decided it would not cover synthroid any further, so my option was to switch or pay for the synthroid myself. This is absurd! Isn't that why we have insurance?

### **March 2005**

- Tired more and skin is getting drier.
- R3 was miscalculated- Huge change with worst results- More expensive

- I think the doctor should have kept me on synthroid I felt better. My recent tsh test results was 0.17. I have half of my thyroid removed because I had a nodule on it not cancerous. I am 66 years old.
- For the first time in years I was feeling great. The sleepiness and sluggishness was gone, I was going to the bathroom regularly, I dropped 30 lbs. and I was able to get to work on time. Then I was told that my medication looked different now but it was equivalent to what I was taking. It is not equivalent. I've gained back 15 lbs, I'm late to work every morning, because I'm so sleepy, I'm miserable again. I was told that they no longer make what I was taking. It's not fair, I want to feel good again.
- My prescription was paid for by the clinic I go to because I have no insurance. I got a prescription from a doctor took it to wal-mart and because the label box was not checked they gave me the generic brand because I wasn't paying for it. My thyroid was removed in 1998 I had been on 200mcg Synthroid since the removal which pathology found papillary carcinoma. I am extremely tired and my joints ache horribly. I need help.
- Levels were not checked after change...changed doctors & still waiting for appointment. Also discontinued psych meds in Dec. 2004 without tsh being checked. Weakness, muscle pain, stiffness in throat...
- Felt tired, had what I felt were skin changes, hair loss off and on, ... on synthroid I felt better over all, mood, health etc...
- I have been dealing with thyroid storms, hypo, hyper and hashimoto's for about 20+ years. Six years ago, the nodules were getting bigger and it was time for surgery. When they did it, my thyroid could not be saved because of the nodules and cancer surrounding the gland. My thyroid was completely removed and now I am dependent on medication. So far, month after month my tsh level is either extremely too high or too low. Doctors have indicated it is because when I had the surgery I was in a thyroid storm or possibly the medicine I take for mental issues is creating havoc. I do know that being on synthroid, is better for me than levothyroid. I don't feel, like I am dying like I did with the levothyroid. Thank you for all the information that you are providing. What does happen if in my case with no thyroid I don't take any medicine?
- I haven't felt good since the change. I can't lose any weight. I know the medicine is a generic of my old one, but I can see a huge difference in how I feel. The problem is that my blood work comes back normal!
- I have been taking thyroid meds since I was 19, I am 48 now. I had a thyroidectomy and radio active iodine. I have found many Drs. still have no idea on how to treat this disease. When I find a med I like, I try to stay with it. Some Drs. seem to want to use me as a learning tool and change my meds. Even when I tell

them I feel fine. They change things. I had one Dr to drop my level of hormone from 200MG to .05MG and start all over, even tho I had been doing good on the 200MG. I since have switched Drs. I know how I feel and when I tell the Drs they seam to think I need to be in a "normal" range. I have told them my "normal" may not be the same as their chart.

- Felt very sick on new meds had to return to synthroid
- I overall generally don't feel well at all.
- I had thyroid cancer in 1993 and thyroid was removed. I have been perfectly fine, with the exception of one incident, until a switch from US Synthroid to Canadian Synthroid. What I received, at later determined, was Synthroid that was at least 4 years old. As a result, I had at least two spells of near fainting, shortness of breath, head rush, dizziness, etc. I have had a hard time getting back to feeling as good as I once did prior to all of this.

#### **April 2005**

- I am 43 I have goiter\'s iodine tests show no cancer. 03/05 Thyroid test was, .02. I have lost my appetite, I love food, no desire for chocolate, I usually weight 125-150. I am 134. I have NO energy. I have a total hysterectomy. I have lost my passion. I take 10 mg Adderol ER, estrace .5 mgand 2mg Micronized testosterone, .10mg Synthroid I don't know what to do. Is there a HIGH energy diet???
- My doctor prescribed synthroid. I was given the generic, and doing good. The next refill, I was given the generic of the generic. I had lost 12 pounds, but have gained that back. I just plain do not feel as good. It does not seem to be working the same.
- Having muscle cramping,migranes,no menstrual periods, fatuge,bones in spine, back,and legs ache constantly, weight gain. Hair falling out.
- I am unsatisfied because I am not feeling better. I was doing great on the Levoxyl. I discussed this with my doctor and we are going to give it a month and then do another blood test and hopefully I will go back on the Levoxyl.
- NB >>>>>>WOULD NEVER EVER GO BACK TO TAKING SYNTHETIC THYROID MEDICATIONS
- I feel different...mainly with regard to my bowel movements. They are sticky and slow. I'm not regular anymore and I constantly feel "full"...not a good feeling all day long. It has to be due to this medication
- I REALLY DON'T FELL BETTER. I FELL BLOATED.

- I have been on it for a week and a half and have been in bed for that time. I cannot drive because I feel like I'm going to pass out all the time. Am not able to be out of bed for long at a time. Feel so bad, and I am getting very scared that I might have a heart or go into cardiac arrest.
- I seem to be having some other symptoms lately. Not sure if it is related to the thyroid dose. Had a blood test done and now results are low tsh (3rd Gen) and H Free T4. Prior 2 6 month tests were good levels. So went from too low, to good, to high It think.
- 1939 - (8 years of age) Diagnosed as hypothyroid. Rx - 1gr natural thyroid 1965 - Rx increased to 2gr natural thyroid after thyroidectomy due to development of nodule on l. lobe while pregnant 1985 - M.D. insisted on change to 'Synthroid'. Felt miserable; weight gain. 1998 - Convinced M.D. to switch me back to natural thyroid. Felt better but no weight loss. 2004 (and previously) dosage increased gradually to 3gr. Body felt under pressure; mind very active. 2005 - Finally referred to endocrinologist. Overmedicated. Presently adjusting dosage. Soon to be reevaluated.
- No change in hypothyroid symptoms (carpel tunnel, weakness, fatigue, weak skin and nails, cold even though hot flashing with menopause, low body temp.- ave 95.6, charlie horses in calves, thigh and even occasionally abdomen, hair loss, very sig. weight gain)
- My pharmacist changed my prescription in Sept 2004 without informing me. I knew something was wrong because I know my body. Also I was taking Armor that I got in England over the Christmas holidays and I felt great. When I got back to the states and they continued to give me the qualityest thyroid I started feeling like crap and had many problems including constant fibromyalgia and migraines flairups. I never thought to check the meds because I just assumed they were armor. I was informed by my doctor that I should not take Bextra for my fibromyalgia so I started looking into what other alternatives I had. That is when I found an article that said there could be a connection between fibromyalgia and thyroid problems. Research of the thyroid pages showed that all thyroid meds are not the same. That's when I looked at my meds and found that the thyroid I was taking was qualityest and not armor. After making my pharmacist feel like crap I made him give me armor like the prescription said. So far I feel much better with the armor.
- Dryer skin, mental problems with cognitive function, slower with mental problems, weight gain, loss of libido.
- After 8 weeks, I am beginning to have similar symptoms again. I think I need to raise my medication again

- I don't believe I should have been put on this medication in the first place. My TSH level was 3.4 initially and then went to 16.25 after being on the Synthroid (50 mcgs) for 3 months. I did not have any symptoms when the doctor started me on the medication. How do I get off the medicine? Thank you.
- my test came back 6.41 tsh (0.35-4.94) free t4 0.73 (0.71-1.85 nb/dl) I would like to get to my feeling good range before I can give a rating on the meds the first test after starting in 2/23/05 was taken on 4/3/05 somehow I feel better but room for improvement with the skin breakout (hives) I wear down about 3 in the afternoon which could be improve with additional meds.
- Because I feel so much worse. Ugh. I'm going to switch back to the Synthroid and just have to pay for it myself since insurance no longer will. But this new stuff is not working at all.
- More fatigue. Don't like feeling bad again. Was informed by pharmacist that generic is the same as the brand I was taking, and that was what the insurance company would pay for.
- I don't know if it is doing what it should be doing.....
- I am going through menopause at the same time, am taking over the counter hormone supplement, plus the change in prescription. The TSH result was low, at .26. I am really struggling with my weight and am not sure what is causing this. I have been a life member of Weight Watchers so I know what I can and cannot eat. I am considering getting off the over the counter hormone supplement because that fits the time frame of when I really started to struggle with this.
- No one ever explained that a change in medication might require a different dosage. I have been taking thyroid medication for over 15 years and the dosage never varied. In the beginning blood testing was done regularly, but not anymore; not even when the medication brand was changed. Only after I went in to the doctor's complaining of excessive weight gain and muscle cramps was a series of tests ordered and came back showing my TSH level at 50.28 (0.35-5.50 is normal). My T3 and Free T4 levels were in the normal range. I truly believe the pain I am suffering now is a result of the medication change. It did take almost a year for my condition to deteriorate, but further deterioration rapidly increased (8-10 weeks) from when I first suspected that something was very wrong.
- Lowered dosage from .75 to .68.
- I have now been on Armour Thyroid for 50 years. I will never again allow a physician to change me to a T-4 only drug.
- This change by the insurance company without my or my MD consent caused me a great deal of discomfort, expense and anxiety. I have switched back to

synthroid and am still trying to regulate the proper dosage by way of continued follow - up blood testing and MD monitoring.