GRAVES DISEASE
TREATMENT CHOICE
Anti-thyroid Drugs
Radioactive Iodine Treatment
Thyroid Removal Surgery
Graves Disease symptoms disappeared for...

1-3 pills per day for 18 months

Radioactive treatment given once

Surgery to remove thyroid

1x

Results after ATD treatment stops

8 out of 10

9 out of 10

4 out of 10

GRAVES DISEASE IS CURED

8 out of 10

10 out of 10

THYROID IS PERMANENTLY INACTIVE

10 out of 10

10 out of 10

THYROID IS REMOVED

Continue to RAI or SURGERY options
If ATD is effective, no thyroid replacement will be needed.

It is very likely that thyroid replacement therapy will be needed.

Everyone will need thyroid replacement therapy.
COST
$10 for 3 months of treatment

DAILY ROUTINE
• Taken daily before breakfast
• Taken at the same time each day

SIDES EFFECTS
if not well controlled...

IF THYROID LEVELS ARE HIGH
• Headache
• Chest pain
• Trembling
• Sweating
• Diarrhea
• Weight loss
• Increased sex drive
• Rapid or irregular heartbeat
• Shortness of breath

IF THYROID LEVELS ARE LOW
• Fatigue
• Muscle aches
• Constipation
• Dry skin
• Weight gain
• Slow heart rate
• Sensitivity to cold
• Dry, brittle hair that tends to fall out easily
• Decreased sex drive

TIME
Average of 3 months to achieve NORMAL thyroid levels.
ATD
Anti-thyroid Drugs

RAI
Radioactive Iodine Treatment

SURGERY
Thyroid Removal Surgery
POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

Rash
Itchy skin
Food may taste differently
Nausea

CONSIDERATIONS

Avoid contact with children and pregnant people after treatment
MEN: Impaired fertility (4-6 month)
WOMEN: Must avoid pregnancy (6 month)

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

4 out of 100 people will have Temporary Hoarseness
1 out of 100 people will have Permanent Hoarseness
1 out of 100 people will need calcium pills for lifetime
ATD
Anti-thyroid Drugs

RAI
Radioactive Iodine Treatment

SURGERY
Thyroid Removal Surgery
**EXPENSE**

**MEDICAL COST**

- $300–$400

**HEALTHCARE PROVIDER VISITS OR LAB TESTS**

- over 18 months...
  - as many as 9 – 12

- $3500–$4000

  - as many as 7

- $30K–$40K

  - as many as 3 – 4
  - (more if there are side effects)

(Hyperthyroidism treatment typically is covered by health insurance)
IF YOU HAVE MILD EYE DISEASE

ATD
YOUR EYE DISEASE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED

RAI
YOUR EYE DISEASE MAY WORSEN

SURGERY
YOUR EYE DISEASE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED
NOTES

RESOURCES

MAYO CLINIC
www.mayoclinic.com/health/hyperthyroidism/DS00344

UPTODATE
www.uptodate.com/contents/
hyperthyroidism-overactive-thyroid-the-basics?source=see_link

AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION
www.thyroid.org/patient-thyroid-information/ata-patient-education-web-brochures/