

Mayo Clinic Minute

Historic holiday discovery

Video	Audio
	The thyroid. It's a butterfly-shaped gland that resides just below the Adam's apple. Its main purpose is making essential hormones.
TITLE: John Morris III, M.D. Endocrinology Mayo Clinic	"A thyroid hormone is important in the metabolism of basically every – every cell, every tissue, every organ in the body."
	Endocrinologist Dr. John Morris says treating thyroid complications kept the famous Mayo brothers quite busy. It's the reason they recruited Edward Kendall, a young chemist obsessed with isolating thyroid compounds.
Dr. Morris	"And actually, as the story goes, he came in on Christmas Eve in 1914 to do one additional round of purification and to try to crystallize this newest preparation. The first time the hormone from the thyroid, that we now call thyroxin, had been purified."
	The discovery means millions of people now have this potentially life-saving medication. Kendall also went on to help identify cortisone, earning him a Nobel Prize in 1950.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Dennis Douda.