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The NCDs are proposed to be listed on BSE Limited. Investors should note that participation in the issue involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to the same, see the section entitled "Risk Factors" in the Prospectus.

Rise in thyroid cases in state related to pesticides, finds study

Sudha Nambudiri, TNN Aug 20, 2013, 06.30AM IST

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KOCHI: Thyroid cases in men and women are on the rise and the cause is not iodine deficiency but apparently environmental pesticides -- if a study on the subject is any indication to go by.

Thyroid diabetes combined with diabetes and obesity are common problems in Kerala and majority of these problems remain undetected, says a recently published data as part of a community study conducted by Dr Usha Menon, department of endocrinology, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS).

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The study, which was done over a period of seven years, found that both diabetic and non-diabetic persons (men and women) had similar prevalence of thyroid problems.

Dr Usha said while the study showed that the population is iodine-sufficient and the current iodine levels appear to have no significant association with goitre, thyroid structural abnormalities and thyroid dysfunction.

"We found that the rise in thyroid dysfunction could be associated with environmental pesticides as the iodised salt has ensured that people do not have any deficiency in their diet. Ironically, no major studies have been done in the country on those lines. The national iodine deficiency study by the ministry of health also showed similar signs," said Dr Usha.

She said the work has caught the attention of experts as in almost 60% of the thyroid problems no apparent etiological factors are present -- pointing to the possible role of other etiological factors such as environmental chemicals and pollutants. Goitre prevalence is higher than that is normally seen in iodine-sufficient population.

These findings provided insight into the prevalence of thyroid disorders and diabetes in adult population in India.

Dr Usha said while there was a general assumption that thyroid disorders and diabetes were inter-related, it also points to the need for screening high-risk group for undetected thyroid problems.

"It is a regional study and has the inherent limitation of not representing the entire Indian population. However, these observations highlight the need for nationwide surveys to recognise the magnitude of these two common endocrinal problems in our country and also to look at

the possible etiological factors for their increasing prevalence," she added.

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