

Hypothyroidism

- Hypothyroidism is an **inherited** (passed from parent to child) disorder that occurs when the body is **unable to make thyroid hormone**. Thyroid hormone is necessary for proper growth, metabolism, and brain development.
- Babies with hypothyroidism can be small and have other health problems, including mental retardation. Medication can help the body grow properly and prevent other health problems.
- The form of hypothyroidism seen in newborns is also called **congenital** (present at birth) **hypothyroidism** or **neonatal hypothyroidism**.
- For more information about hypothyroidism, please click on one of the following links.
 - [Medline Plus Medical Encyclopedia](#)
 - [National Library of Medicine Genetics Home Reference](#)