

Reply to letter to the Editor

Emerging cardiovascular risk factors in subclinical hypothyroidism: lack of change after restoration of euthyroidism

A reply to Milionis et al:

We appreciate the comments of Milionis et al [1] in their letter regarding our recent article [2]. They previously reported a favorable effect of LT4 substitution on total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, apolipoprotein B, and lipoprotein(a) levels [3,4] in patients with subclinical hypothyroidism, but only in those with elevated pretreatment lipid levels. Thus, they point out the importance of pretreatment levels, which suggest that the more adverse the lipid profile at baseline the higher the improvement derived from restoration of euthyroidism. However, the effect of LT4 replacement on lipoprotein(a) levels is still controversial. The results of our study are consistent with the results of other studies which have also reported that restoration of euthyroidism does not reduce plasma lipoprotein(a) levels in patients with subclinical hypothyroidism. These conflicting results may be a consequence of small study size, the higher biological variability and heterogeneity of lipoprotein(a), and that most of the studies did not include apolipoprotein(a) phenotypes. Therefore, the

findings and comments of Milionis et al extend our discussion and reinforce our conclusions.

References

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