

Table 2. TSH values during critical illness and clinical outcome

	Serum TSH values (mU/L)	Diagnosis, outcome
Undetectable	<0.01	Hyperthyroidism or non- thyroidal illness (a)
Low but detectable	>0.05 and < 0.3	Euthyroidism when reassessed after recovery from their illness
High but	<20	Transient (recovery phase) or permanent hypothyroidism(uncommon)
High but	>20	Permanent hypothyroidism ^x (b)

a: Only 75% of patients with nonthyroidal illness and a TSH <0.01 will have hyperthyroidism when recovered from their illness.⁴⁰

b: In patients with a TSH >20, only 50% will have true (permanent) hypothyroidism when recovered from their illness.⁵²

Table 3. Alterations in thyroid hormones during critical illness and their clinical correlation

Critical illness	T3	T4	TSH	Clinical correlation
Acute phase	Decreased	Increased	Normal	Severity of illness
Chronic phase	Decreased	Decreased	No change/decreased	May indicate recovery