

Thyroid acropachy

- 1-2 years after thyroidectomy or radioablation
- Incidence is 5%
- Thick periosteal reaction in phalanges and metacarpals
- Soft tissue swelling
- It can occur in hyperthyroid, euthyroid, hypothyroid or even post-treatment patients.
- It is almost always associated with thyroid ophthalmopathy.

Imaging

- Radiographs: periosteal new bone formation
 - Spiculated, fuzzy, irregular appearance
 - Metacarpals, metatarsals most common
 - Radial aspect 1st-4th metacarpals
 - Ulnar aspect 5th metacarpal
 - Middle and distal phalanges less common
 - Favors upper extremity
 - Asymmetric distribution
 - Soft tissue swelling
 - Forearm, leg involvement uncommon, limited



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PA radiograph of a 74-year-old woman with Graves disease shows lacy periosteal reaction → along metacarpals and proximal phalanges that is typical of **thyroid acropathy**.

