Supplementary Table 1: Diagnostic criteria for the various thyroid disorders

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| Thyroid disorders |  Diagnostic criteria |
| Mild subclinical hyperthyroidism | TSH 0.1–0.27 mIU/L, fT3 and fT4 within the normal range |
| Severe subclinical hyperthyroidism | TSH <0.1 mIU/L, fT3 and fT4 within the normal range |
| Overt hyperthyroidism | TSH <0.27 mIU/L, fT4>22 pmol/L or fT3>6.8 pmol/L |
| Graves’ disease | Overt hyperthyroidism or subclinical hyperthyroidism; TRAb>1.75IU/L or a diffuse goiter on B-mode ultrasonography |

fT3, Free triiodothyronine; fT4, free thyroxine; TRAb, TSH receptor antibody; TSH, thyroid-stimulating hormone.