**Parathyroid gland**

Parathyroid glands are small glands of the endocrine system that are located behind the thyroid. There are four parathyroid glands which are normally about the size and shape of a grain of rice. The parathyroid glands produce parathyroid hormone, which helps maintain an appropriate balance of calcium in the bloodstream and in tissues that depend on calcium for proper functioning.

**Parathyroid gland disease**

**Hyperparathyroidism**

Hyperparathyroidism is the principle disease of parathyroid glands. Its occurs when one (or more) of the parathyroids develops a tumor which makes too much hormone leading to high calcium and other bad symptoms.

Hyperparathyroidism is an excess of parathyroid hormone in the bloodstream due to overactivity of one or more of the body's four parathyroid glands.

The parathyroid glands produce parathyroid hormone, which helps maintain an appropriate balance of calcium in the bloodstream and in tissues that depend on calcium for proper functioning.

**Hyperparathyroidism types**

1. primary hyperparathyroidism:

An enlargement of one or more of the parathyroid glands causes overproduction of the hormone, resulting in high levels of calcium in the blood (hypercalcemia), which can cause a variety of health problems. Surgery is the most common treatment for primary hyperparathyroidism.

1. Secondary hyperparathyroidism:

The excessive secretion of parathyroid hormone (PTH) by the parathyroid glands in response to hypocalcemia (low blood calcium levels) and associated hyperplasia of the glands. This disorder is especially seen in patients with chronic kidney failure.

**Clinical features:**

1. Fragile bones that easily fracture (osteoporosis).
2. Kidney stones and excessive urination.
3. Abdominal pain.
4. Weakness.
5. Depression or forgetfulness.
6. Bone and joint pain.
7. Nausea, vomiting or loss of appetite.

**Treatment:**

1. Calcimimetics: A calcimimetic is a drug that mimics calcium circulating in the blood
2. Surgery is the most common treatment for primary hyperparathyroidism and provides a cure in about 95 percent of all cases.