Graves' Ophthalmopathy

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Graves' Ophthalmopathy

Developments in Diagnostic Methods and Therapeutical Procedures

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Preface

The development of diagnostic procedures in the field of orbital echography, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging as well as in the antibody measurement provided new methods to detect the characteristic features of Graves' ophthalmopathy. Apart from the unknown etiology of this disease of the intraorbital extraocular structures little is known about the natural course of the disease. Nearly all studies concerning the grading and the results of treatment have the drawback of little objective follow-up criteria.

Now, the diagnostic tools for the investigation of some of the open questions are available and time has come to use these possibilities in a critical and cooperative manner. Therefore, the most engaged workers in the above mentioned fields were called together for a workshop preceding the Henning symposium 'Schilddrüse 87' to discuss their methods with thyroidologists, ophthalmologists and specialized surgeons with the aim to stimulate a closer interdisciplinary cooperation between all those who are concerned with diagnosis and treatment of patients with Graves' ophthalmopathy.

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