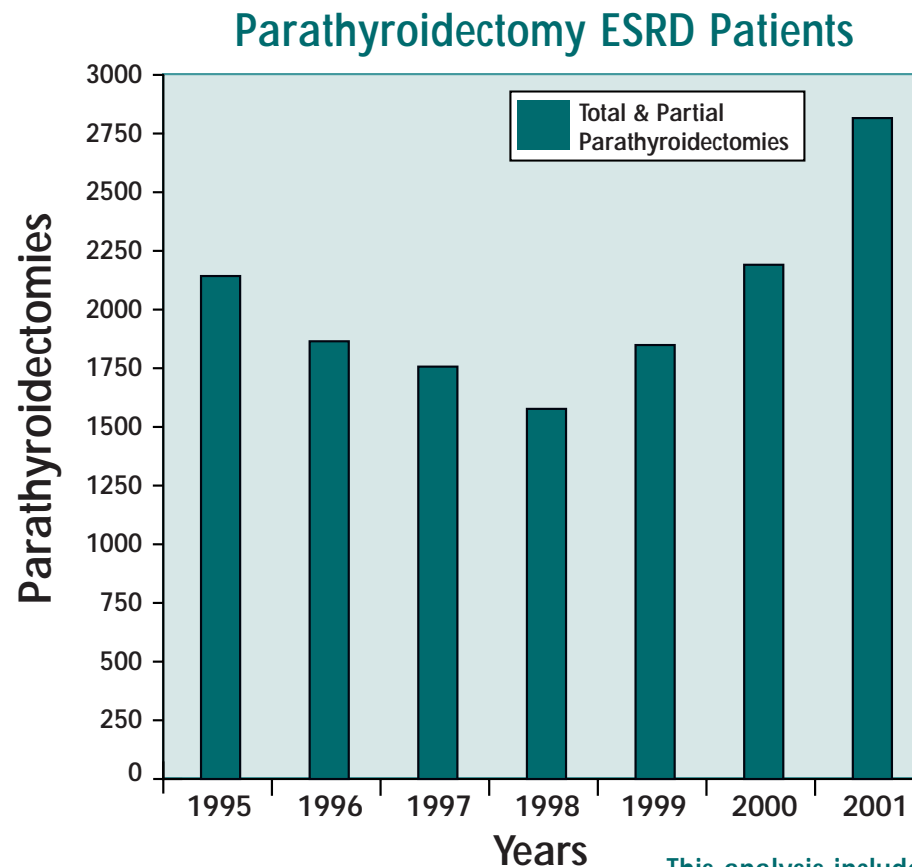


UNEXPLAINED INCREASE IN PARATHYROIDECTOMIES IN THE U.S. SINCE 1998

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With the increased use of vitamin D analogs for "medical parathyroidectomy," it was expected that the number of parathyroidectomies would decrease. Therefore, the USRDS database on parathyroidectomies was examined to see if this expectation was, indeed, realized. From 1995 through 1998 the number of parathyroidectomies declined steadily among the Medicare ESRD patients in the US. However, in 1999 the trend changed, with an increasing number of parathyroidectomies. This trend has persisted through 2001. From 1999 to 2000 there was a 17% increase in parathyroidectomies and from 2000 to 2001 there was a 29% increase in parathyroidectomies. K/DOQI guideline 14 states that "parathyroidectomy should be recommended in patients with severe hyperparathyroidism (serum levels of intact PTH >80 0 pgm/ml)." Therefore, the intact PTH assay should be examined for any changes that might explain this increase in parathyroidectomies.



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This analysis includes only Medicare patients.

Cantor T. Unexplained Increase in Parathyroidectomies in the U.S. since 1998 . *Am J Kidney Dis* 2004(April); 43(4):13, pp. A18.