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Primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT), the most common cause of hypercalcemia, is most common in postmenopausal women. The clinical presentation of PHPT has evolved over the past 40 years to include three different clinical phenotypes, each of which has been studied in detail and has led to the evolution of concepts about the target involvement of the organ, natural history and management. In this review, I present an evidence-based summary of this disorder, as has been studied around the world, citing key concepts and data that helped shape our understanding of the disease. It is now recognized that PHPT includes three clinical phenotypes: direct organ target involvement, mild asymptomatic hypercalcemia and high levels of PTH with consistently normal serum calcium values corrected for albumin. Factors that determine which of these clinical presentations are more likely to prevail in a country include the degree of use of biochemical screening, vitamin D deficiency and whether parathyroid hormone levels are regularly measured when assessing low bone density or outright osteoporosis. The guidelines for parathyroidectomy apply to all three clinical forms of the disease. If surgical guidelines are not met, parathyroidectomy may also be a suitable option if no medical contraindications are present. If either calcium in serum or bone mineral density is of concern and surgery is not an option, pharmacological approaches are available and effective. Advances in our knowledge of PHPT have led to new concepts in diagnostics and management. During the lifetime of many of us, primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT), the most common cause of hypercalcemia, appears to change in its clinical presentation regarding the involvement of classical and non-classical target organs. Progress in understanding the disease has also been noted by the use of previously unavailable technologies, which have led to the recognition of a disease that can be widespread even if accidental detection. However, this destructive potential to be widespread, a feature that was realized by the famous aphorism coined by Fuller Albright, as bone disease, stones, moans and groans (1), has a variable natural history that can remain as asymptomatic as it was when it was first discovered or progressed to clinical symptoms. Decades have also given new insights into the surgical and medical management of PHPT, as well as guidelines that have been periodically updated since 1991 (2-5). The disease, which was worthy of reports of cases in the 1930s (6), has now seen a 6,000 published report in the last 20 years. It has generated interest in the PTH molecule itself and its pleiotropic cellular and molecular mechanisms of action (7, 8). The disease also catalyzed interest and new ideas into his colleague, but a much more rare disorder disorder parathyroid function, namely hypoparathyroidism (9). The disease gave us a great assessment of the bone as controlled by PTH and other molecular regulators that work according to each other to keep our skeleton and circulating elements under exquisite control under normal conditions. From this perspective, I provide an update on PHPT based on, in part, my experience investigating this disease, which has been spreading for over four decades. The diagnosis of PHPT is associated with abnormal, under-regulated PTH secretion from one or more of the four parathyroid glands (10, 11). In almost all cases, the disorder will be benign with either one adenoma (80%) or multiple glands, usually hyperplastic, disease (20%) Responsibility. PHPT is characterized by hypercalcemia and PTH levels, which are inappropriately high for the hypercalcemia state. Typically, the PTH level is frankly elevated, but it can also be within the normal range. In both situations, detectable or elevated levels of PTH are clearly inappropriate when serum calcium is elevated. The well-documented PHPT was recorded with PTH levels as low as 20 to 25 pg/mL, given the normal range of 10 to 65 pg/mL (12). In almost all other etiologies of hypercalcemia, PTH levels will be frankly suppressed (12). Intervention of substances such as biotin can lead to PTH read low with certain analyses (13). When biotin stops, a re-measurement level of PTH will be more compatible with a PHPT diagnosis if the patient has the disease. Differential diagnosis of pTH-dependent hypercalcemia includes the use of diuretic thiazide or lithium (14, 15). If possible, these medications should be discontinued. Although serum calcium will return to normal in some patients, most of them will demonstrate the preservation of PHPT biochemical traits, namely hypercalcemia and elevated PTH levels. More perplexing to some is the difference between familial hypocalcemia hypercalcemia (FHH), a rare disease CASR (calcium receptor gene) and PHPT (16). It is important to recognize that FHH is a rare disease. In addition, FHH has such a high level of foamtrans that virtually all patients will be shown to have hypercalcemia at a young age, at the age of 30. Family history is also usually present. A typical postmenopausal woman who develops phPT biochemical signs in the first decade after menopause is highly unlikely to statistically have FHH. In FHH, the 24-hour calcium secretion in the urine will be very low (lt; 100 mg) and the calcium clearance/creatinine clearance ratio will be zlt;0.01. Due to PTH



