

NORMAL ANATOMY

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The normal thyroid gland [Figure 1a] consists of two lobes and a bridging isthmus. Thyroid size, shape and volume varies with age and sex. Normal thyroid lobe dimensions are: 18-20 mm longitudinal and 8-9 mm antero-posterior (AP) diameter in newborn; 25 mm longitudinal and 12-15 mm AP diameter at one year age; and 40-60 mm longitudinal and 13-18 mm AP diameter in adult population. The limits of normal thyroid volume (excluding isthmus, unless its thickness is >3 mm) are 10-15 ml for females and 12-18 ml for males. The relationships with surrounding structures are: sterno-cleido-mastoid and strap muscles anteriorly; trachea/esophagus and longus colli muscles posteriorly; and common carotid arteries and jugular veins bilaterally.[6]