roiditis (HT), or family history of thyroid diseases or associated extra-thyroidal autoimmune diseases in the 2 groups of HT children, with (group A) or without Down's syndrome (group B) Female Age <10 vrs Prepubertal onset Family history Associated Age

**Table 1.** Female predominance, average initial age (±SD), number and rates of children with either prepubertal onset of Hashimoto's thy-

	predominance n (%)	yrs	n (%)	n (%)	of thyroid disease n (%)	autoimmune diseases n (%)
Group A	66 (45.2)	$6.5 \pm 4.8$	107 (73.3)	91 (62.3)	10 (6.9)	85 (58.2)
(146 patients)						

190 (34.4)

< 0.001\*

174 (31.5)

< 0.001\*

180 (32.5)

< 0.001\*

104 (18.8)

< 0.001\*

 $11.1 \pm 3.0$ 

< 0.001 §

449 (81.2)

< 0.001\*

\*Chi-square test; \$Unpaired Student's t test.

Group B

(553 patients) p-value