

Thyroid cytopathology: Its significance in surgical management of thyroid nodule/malignancies

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Introduction: Thyroid nodules are commonly encountered in clinical practice. More than 50% of the world's population harbors at least one thyroid nodule and the frequency of nodular thyroid disease increases with age.

Fine needle aspiration of the thyroid is one of the most commonly practiced areas in non-gynaecologic cytopathology. It was originated in Scandinavia in 1950's and 1960's.

However now it is being used worldwide for its accuracy and advantage in differentiating benign (95%) cases from malignant (5%) cases. The entire current management approach for patients with thyroid disease hinges upon a cytopathologic diagnosis.

Even though malignant thyroid disease make up only 5% of lesions, the incidence of encountering cancer after thyroid surgery has risen from 14% to more than 50% in a period of just over 2 decades, which is credited to optimum use of proper FNA technique and better knowledge of the cytomorphological characteristics of thyroid disease.

Diagnosis of thyroid nodule requires a multidisciplinary approach which requires a friendly interaction amongst the pathologist, radiologist and medical endocrinologist/head and neck surgeon.

As cytomorphological diagnostic expertise is important in proper surgical management of thyroid nodule/thyroid malignancies, a untiring effort of over 40 well known experts from various disciplines from around the globe, the Bethesda system for reporting thyroid cytopathology (TBSRTC) was done in 2010.

This system has an probabilistic approach which is well defined, morphologically distinct has a better cytohistologic correlation and inter observed reproducibility for better patient care and surgical management.

Keywords: Thyroid, cytology, Bethesda system, ancillary techniques, surgical management.

Biography

Nandini Manoli is a distinguished professor in Jss medical college, India; she has 17 national and International publications. Her Name included in database of genetic registry in university of London, u.k and area of interest is pathology. She is the Member of British Clinical Cytology Society-2010 and Chair person of Jwalamukhi Devi Award at Cytocon 2010.

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