

# SUMMARY

Surgery  
*Endocrine*



**By:**  
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# Surgical management of thyroid nodules

Etiology of thyroid nodules: Benign or malignant

Approach to thyroid nodules :

**1** take hx (patient profile, CC ask about the duration,

HPI :

1-ask about the nodule itself onset , progression, etc

2-ask about risk factors ( radiation, family hx of thyroid cancer, drugs )

3-ask about mass effects compression or obstruction like dysphasia for example

Some of these nodules are non palpable and detected incidentally on U/S or other imaging = incidentalomas

**2** Do PE (physical exam)

The mass itself (SPACESPIT) , vocal cord paralysis and cervical lymphadenopathy.

**3** investigations

Firstly U/S & TSH should be done for all patients with thyroid nodules

Serum thyrotropin (TSH)

a) Subnormal TSH  radionuclide thyroid scan should be performed

b) Normal or elevated  Don't start radionuclide scan as initial imaging evaluation

US

Indications of FNA from US : (additional)

Solid hypoechoic nodules  $\geq 1$  cm with/without additional sonographic signs of thyroid cancer

- ❓ Consider for solid hypoechoic nodules < 1 cm if any of the following are present:
  - ❓ Extrathyroidal growth
  - ❓ Cervical lymphadenopathy
  - ❓ Symptoms suggestive of distant metastases
  - ❓ Patient preference for FNAC over observation
    - ❓ Partly cystic, isoechoic, and hyperechoic nodules  $\geq 1.5$  cm
    - ❓ Consider in spongiform or partly cystic nodule  $\geq 2$  cm

- ❓ FNA
  - Used for nodules evaluation when clinically indicated (size or US features)

## BETHESDA SYSTEM

It is a classification system based on the results of thyroid FNA

Bethesda Category	Characteristics
<b>Bethesda I</b> Nondiagnostic or unsatisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtually acellular specimen;</li> <li>• Cyst fluid only;</li> <li>• Other (obscuring blood, clotting artifact, etc.).</li> </ul>
<b>Bethesda II</b> Benign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with a benign follicular nodule (includes adenomatoid nodule, colloid nodule, etc.)</li> <li>• Consistent with lymphocytic (Hashimoto) thyroiditis in the proper clinical context</li> <li>• Consistent with granulomatous (subacute) thyroiditis</li> </ul>
<b>Bethesda III</b> Undetermined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atypia of undetermined significance or Follicular lesion of undetermined significance</li> </ul>
<b>Bethesda IV</b> Undetermined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follicular neoplasm/suspicious for a follicular neoplasm</li> <li>• Specify if Hürthle cell (oncocyctic) type</li> </ul>
<b>Bethesda V</b> Suspicious for malignancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspicious for papillary carcinoma</li> <li>• Suspicious for medullary carcinoma</li> <li>• Suspicious for metastatic carcinoma</li> <li>• Suspicious for lymphoma</li> </ul>
<b>Bethesda VI</b> Malignant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Papillary thyroid carcinoma</li> <li>• Poorly differentiated carcinoma</li> <li>• Medullary thyroid carcinoma</li> <li>• Undifferentiated (anaplastic) carcinoma</li> <li>• Squamous-cell carcinoma</li> <li>• Carcinoma with mixed features (specify)</li> <li>• Metastatic carcinoma</li> <li>• Non-Hodakin lymphoma</li> </ul>

Bethesda class	Diagnostic category	Cancer risk (%)
I	Nondiagnostic	1-4
II	Benign	0-3
III	AUS or FLUS	5-15
IV	FN/SN	15-30
V	SUSP	60-75
VI	Malignant	97-99

AUS: Atypia of undetermined significance, FLUS: Follicular lesion of undetermined significance, FN: Follicular neoplasm, SN: Secondary neoplasm, SUSP: Suspicious for malignancy. Adapted and modified from reference [ ]

## Management:

According to Bethesda system

I:nondiagnostic : repeat FNA with US guidance

II:benign:

- ☐ Completely asymptomatic:clinical and sonographic follow up
- ☐ Symptomatic: surgery/RAI/PEI/PLA

III: AUS/FLUS: repeat FNA , molecular testing or lobectomy

IV:FN/SFN:molecular testing and lobectomy

V:suspicious for malignancy : near total thyroidectomy or lobectomy

VI:malignant: near total thyroidectomy or lobectomy

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## Thyroid surgery:

total thyroidectomy ( removal of all grossly visible thyroid tissue) , near total (leaving only small amount of thyroid tissue <1g adjacent to the RLN) , subtotal thyroidectomy ( leaving >1g with the posterior capsule )

## Risk of recurrence after initial therapy

- 1) High risk = surgery, TSH suppression & RAI
- 2) Intermediate risk :surgery, TSH suppression,RAI(in some cases)
- 3) Low risk : surgery (RAI isn't indicated)

# **if** a thyroid cancer <1cm , no extrathyroidal extension and no lymph nodes involvement cN0 , then the initial surgical procedure is **thyroid lobectomy**

Complications of thyroid surgery (important) :

Immediate complications :

Haemorrhage , infection, RLN palsy, thyroid crises, respiratory obstruction, parathyroid insufficiency

Late complications:

Thyroid insufficiency, recurrent thyrotoxicosis, keloid or hypertrophic scars, progressive exophthalmos .

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