

# SPECIALTY SPOTLIGHT: THYROID CARE

## SF Thyroid Center Brings Diagnostics and Treatment Together



Jacob Johnson, M.D. and Andrea Yeung, M.D., of the new Thyroid Center of San Francisco.

When a group of Brown & Toland physicians started the Thyroid Center of San Francisco in October, their goal was to make the clinic a convenient one-stop shop for patients seeking coordinated care for thyroid cancer.

Today, the clinic houses all the services needed to help identify and treat thyroid cancers: endocrinology, imaging, aspiration, pathology and surgery.

"Our clinic is the hub where all that comes together," said Jacob Johnson, M.D., one of the clinic's partners.

Patients can head to one central location to receive care, often with a quick turnaround. As a side benefit, patients can build a relationship with a small cadre of healthcare providers who work in concert with their primary care doctors.

"You definitely have more continuity of care," said head and neck surgeon Andrea Yeung, M.D., who performs biopsies and thyroidectomies at the center with Dr. Johnson.

Having a dedicated cytopathologist on hand during aspiration means a better chance of taking viable samples the first time around. This optimizes sample prep for evaluation, in turn minimizing the number of aspiration samples needed, said clinic pathologist Ian Jaffee, M.D.

"I can prepare the slides and provide sample feedback right away," Dr. Jaffee said.

Many of the physicians involved maintain a private practice or work in other capacities but assemble twice a month for the clinic. For instance, Dr. Jaffee is the director of Cytopathology at California Pacific Medical Center. Drs. Johnson and Yeung practice at San Francisco Otolaryngology Medical Group.

They rely on the Allscripts TouchWorks electronic healthcare record system and other technology to confer on cases and communicate. Referring physicians on the system have access to their data and vice versa in real-time.

"We think it's the future," Dr. Johnson said.

### THYROID CENTER PHYSICIANS AND STAFF

*Endocrinologist* Diana Antonucci, M.D.  
*Nuclear medicine physician* Stephen Bunker, M.D.  
*Endocrinologist* Karen Earle, M.D.  
*Ultrasonographer* Elaine Hale, RDMS  
*Radiologist* William Harvey II, M.D.  
*Cytopathologist* Ian Jaffee, M.D.  
*Otolaryngologist* Jacob Johnson, M.D.  
*Endocrinologist* Kjersti Kirkeby, M.D.  
*Endocrinologist* Melissa Weinberg, M.D.  
*Otolaryngologist* Andrea Yeung, M.D.

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For a full listing of Brown & Toland specialists, visit [www.browncandtoland.com](http://www.browncandtoland.com).

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