



# Current guidelines for integrated evaluation and treatment of thyroid nodules

CME Grand Rounds  
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# Thank you...

Dr. William Harvey II, Radiology  
Dr. James Klein, Head and Neck Surgery  
Dr. Kirk Moon, Radiology  
Dr. John Moretto, Pathology  
Dr. Allan Pont, Endocrinology  
Dr. Mark Singer, Head and Neck Surgery

Dianna Kane

Kevin Goon, Zonare Medical Systems

The physicians participating in this CME have no relevant financial relationships.



# Thyroid Center Team

## Head and Neck Surgery

- Jacob Johnson, MD
- Andrea Yeung, MD

## Endocrinology

- Diana Antonucci, MD
- Karen Earle, MD
- Kjersti Kirkeby, MD
- Melissa Weinberg, MD

## Pathology

- Ian Jaffee, MD

## Nuclear Medicine

- Stephen Bunker, MD



2100 Webster, Suite 202  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Tel: 415.362.2615  
Fax: 415.684.7777  
[www.thyroidsfsf.com](http://www.thyroidsfsf.com)

## Today's Presentation

Streamlined Approach to evaluating patients with thyroid nodules based on current national guidelines

Dr. Diana Antonucci

Use of Office Ultrasound in Thyroid Surgery Practice

Dr. Andrea Yeung

Indications, Clarifications, and Therapeutic Implications in FNA of the Thyroid

Dr. Ian Jaffee

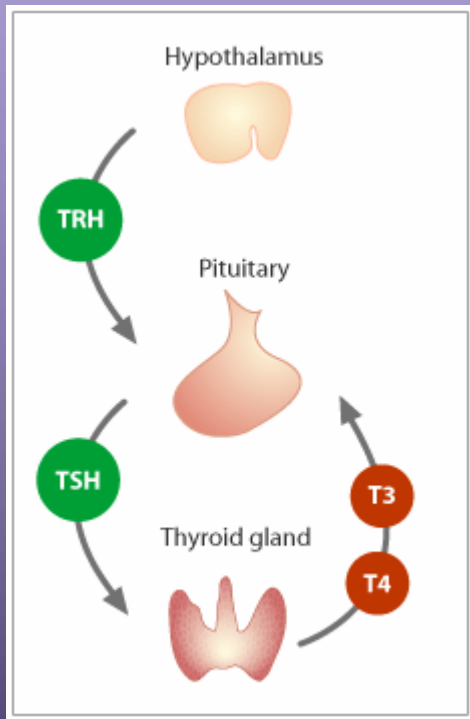
Advances in Thyroid Surgery

Dr. Andrea Yeung

Show the value of integrated care for patients with thyroid nodules

Dr. Jacob Johnson

# Streamlined approach to evaluating patients with thyroid nodules based on current national guidelines



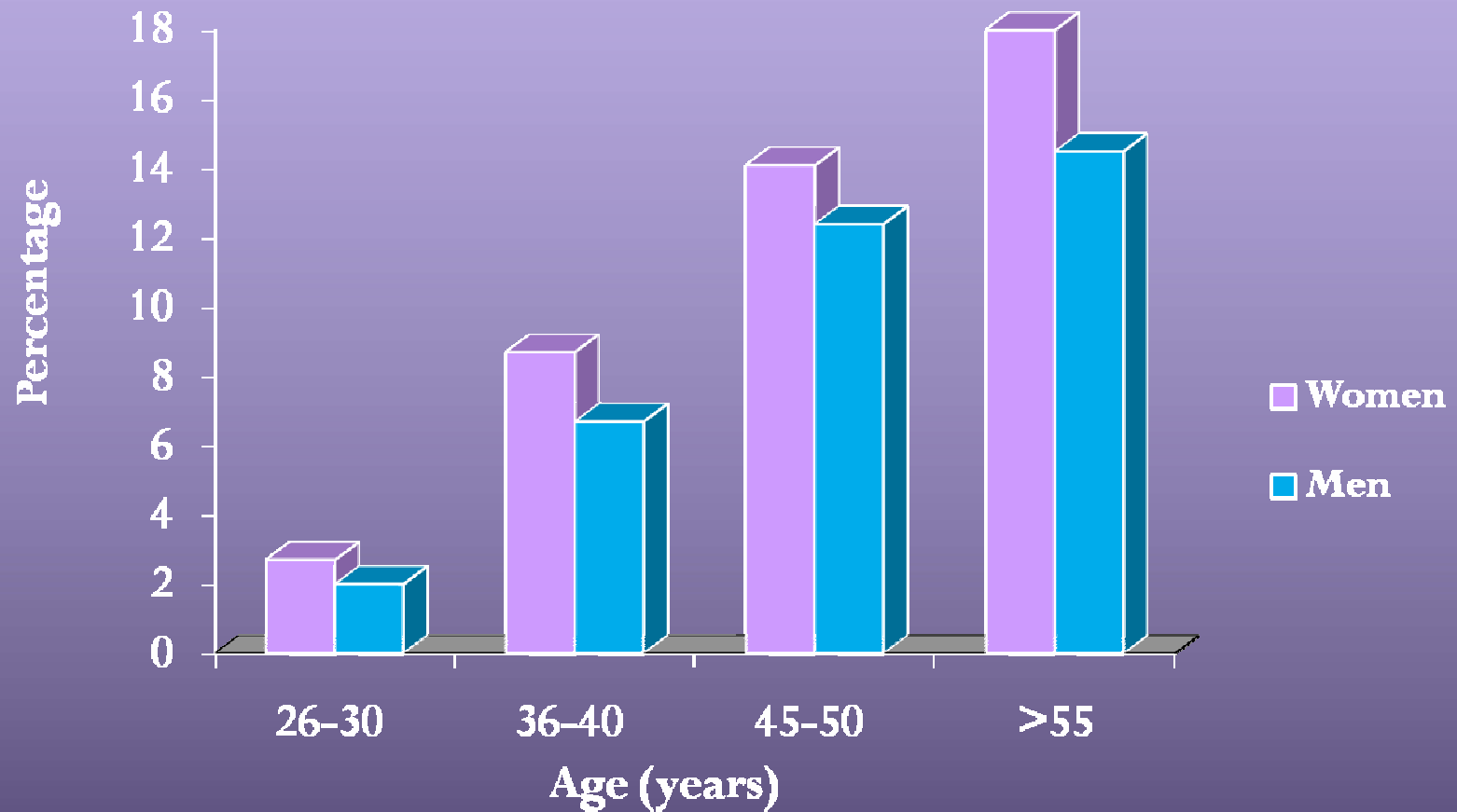
Diana Antonucci, MD  
Endocrinology

# Epidemiology

- Thyroid Nodules are common
  - Clinically palpable nodules<sup>1</sup>:
    - 6.4% women, 1.5% men
  - Unselected subjects using ultrasound<sup>2,3</sup>:
    - 20-76% of women: at least 1 thyroid nodule
- Nodular goiter prevalence increases with age

1. Vander et al Ann Int Med 1968
2. Ezzat S et al. Arch Int Med 1994
3. Brander A et al Radiology 1991

# Prevalence of Nodular Goiter



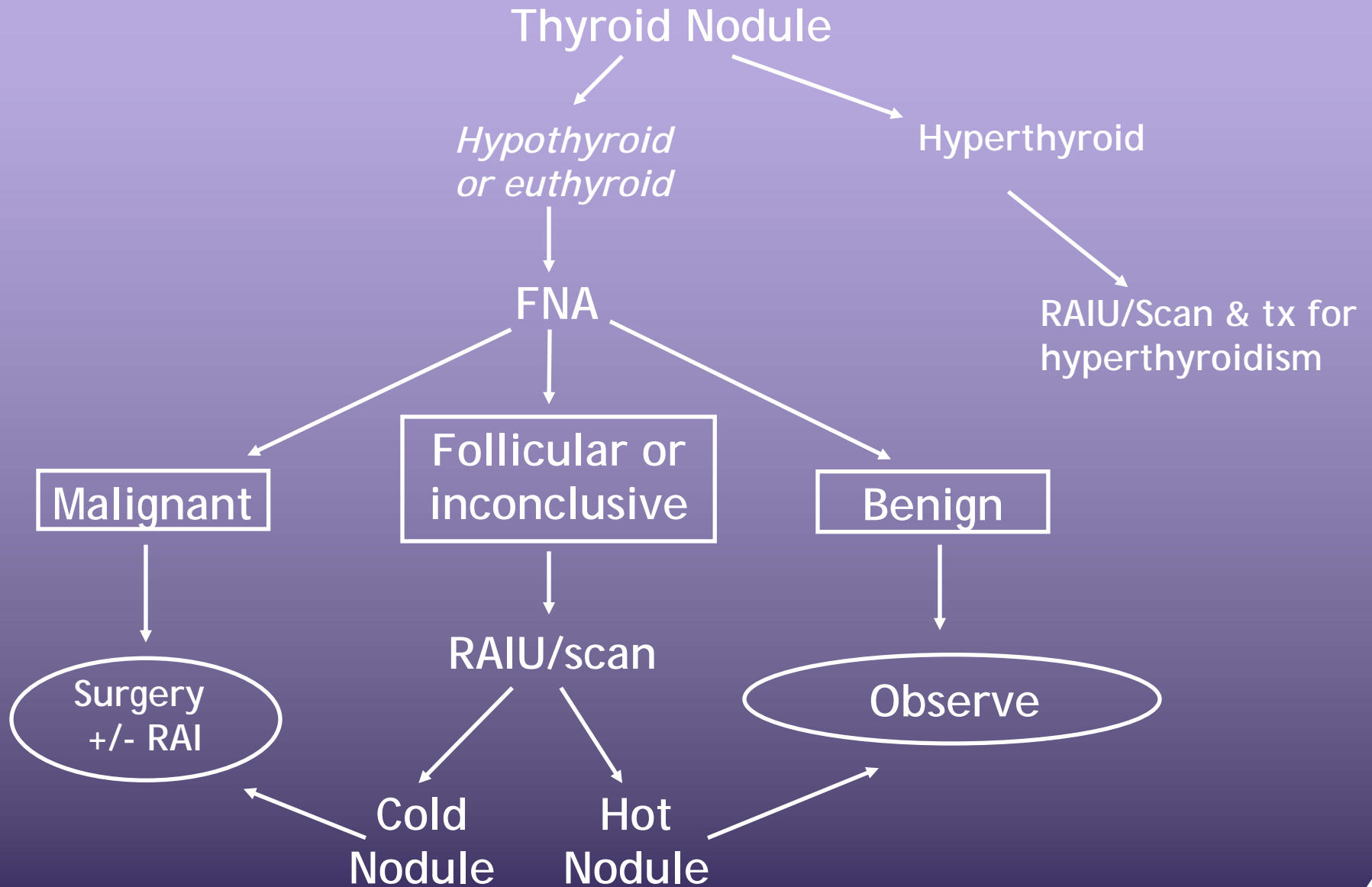
# Risk Factors for Malignancy

- Most thyroid nodules are benign
  - Rates of cancer vary depending on study and referral bias
    - As high as 28% in surgical series
  - Best estimates: ~5% are thyroid cancer
- Higher risk of malignancy if:
  - Children
  - Men
  - Adults < 30 yo or >60 yo
  - History of radiation to head or neck
  - FHx of thyroid cancer
  - Voice changes, suggestive of vocal cord paralysis

# Nodule Evaluation

- Thyroid function
  - Check TSH
  - Hot nodules much less likely cancer
- Look for obstructive symptoms
  - Dysphagia, dyspnea, snoring, Pemberton's sign
- Rule out thyroid cancer with FNA

# Thyroid Nodule Evaluation & Treatment



# Multinodular Goiters

- Rate of cancer in nodules > 1 cm
  - Single nodule: 14.8%
  - Multiple nodules: 14.9%
- Diagnostic yield (%) of sequential aspiration strategies in 120 pts with multiple nodules and cancer

FNA on	No. Nodules > 10 mm.		
	2 (n 73)	3 (n 27)	4 (n 20)
Largest nodule	86.3	51.8	55
Largest 2 nodules	100	81.5	85
Largest 3 nodules		100	95
Largest 4 nodules			100

# Nodule Evaluation Cont'd

- Rule out thyroid cancer
  - FNA any non-hot nodule over 1 cm
  - FNA if worrisome U/S characteristics
    - Hypoechogenic
    - Solid
    - Microcalcifications
    - Irregular borders
    - Central blood flow

# Use of Office Ultrasound in the Thyroid Surgery Practice



Andrea H. Yeung MD  
Head and Neck Surgery

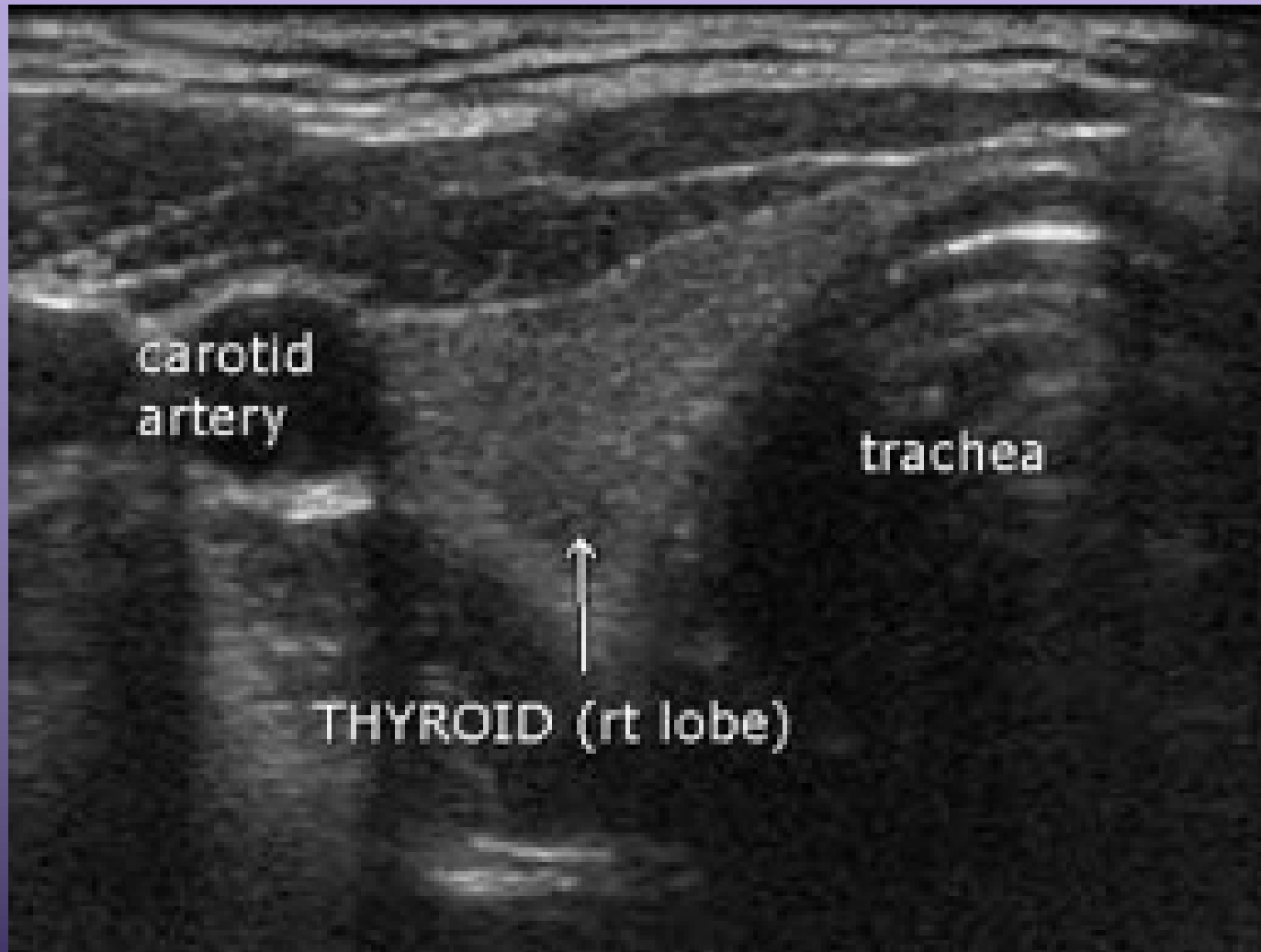
# Thyroid Ultrasound

- Diagnosis of thyroid nodules
- Measure and characterize nodules (cystic vs solid, size, echogenicity, vascularity, calcifications, ..)
- Objective monitoring over time
- Characterize thyroid disease (thyroiditis, Graves)
- Guide biopsy (and procedures)
- Assess extrathyroidal neck disease
- Follow thyroid cancer
- Dynamic assessment of function

## *Office-based* Head and Neck US

- Knowledge of patient history and physical exam
- Familiarity with anatomy
- Correlate studies (\*I scan, CT, MRI, etc.)
- USGFNA possible during the same appt
- Simultaneous patient education
- Facilitate surgical planning and use intraoperative US

# Normal Thyroid/Neck US Anatomy



# Ultrasound Characteristics

## Benign vs. Malignant Thyroid Nodules

### Benign

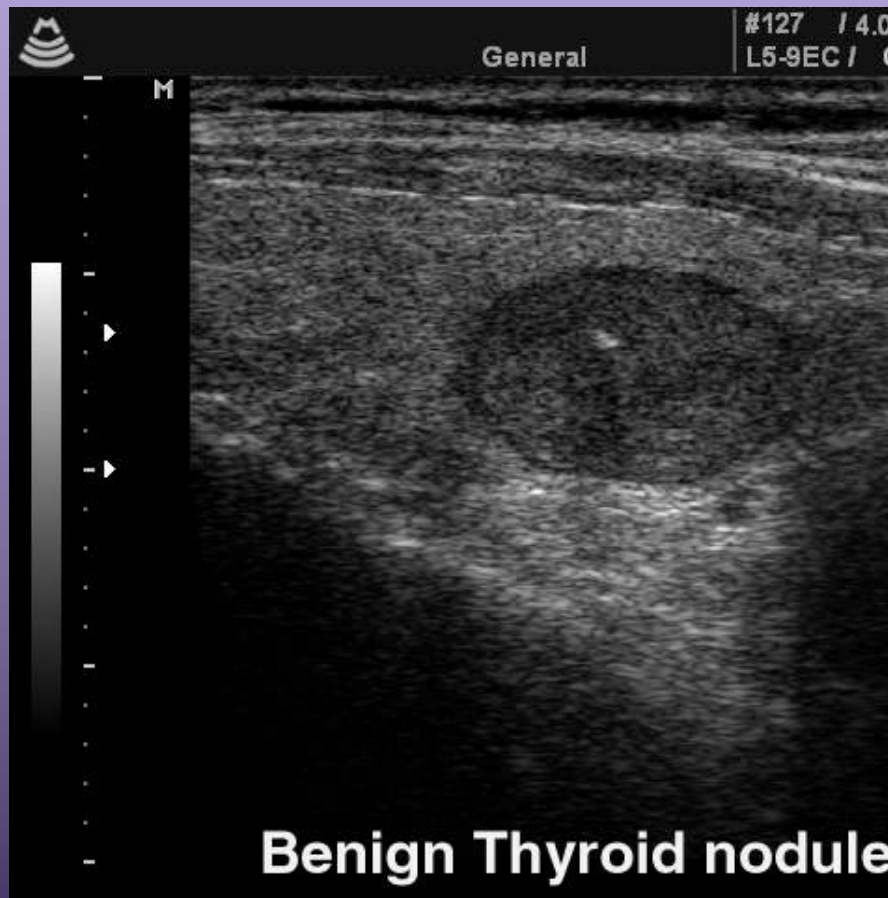
- Isoechoic/hyperechoic
- Coarse calcifications
- Thin, well defined halo
- Regular margin
- Hypovascular
- No lymphadenopathy

### Malignant

- Hyperechoic
- Microcalcifications
- Thick or absent halo
- Irregular margin
- Increased vascularity
- Lymphadenopathy

# Thyroid Nodule

BENIGN



MALIGNANT



# Ultrasound Characteristics

## Benign vs Malignant Lymph Nodes

### Benign

- Oval and Small
- Hilum visible- vascular pattern
- Isoechoic/hyperechoic
- No calcifications
- Regular margin
- Single
- Distinct from surrounding tissues

### Malignant

- Round and Large
- Hilum not visible
- Hypoechoic/heterogeneous
- Microcalcifications
- Irregular margins
- Multiple
- Invasion of surrounding tissues

# Benign Lymph Node

- Oval (L:W ratio >2:1)
- Visible hilum
- Solitary
- Well-defined



# Thyroid Cancer Lymph Node Metastasis



- Hyperechoic
- Heterogeneous
- Irregular, extranodal spread
- Microcalcifications

# Value of Preoperative Ultrasonography in the Surgical Management of Initial and Reoperative Papillary Thyroid Cancer

- Preop US detected nonpalpable LN mets in 33% of pts with PTC, thereby altering the procedure performed
- Even in pts with palpable LN's, US helps to guide the extend of lymphadenopathy

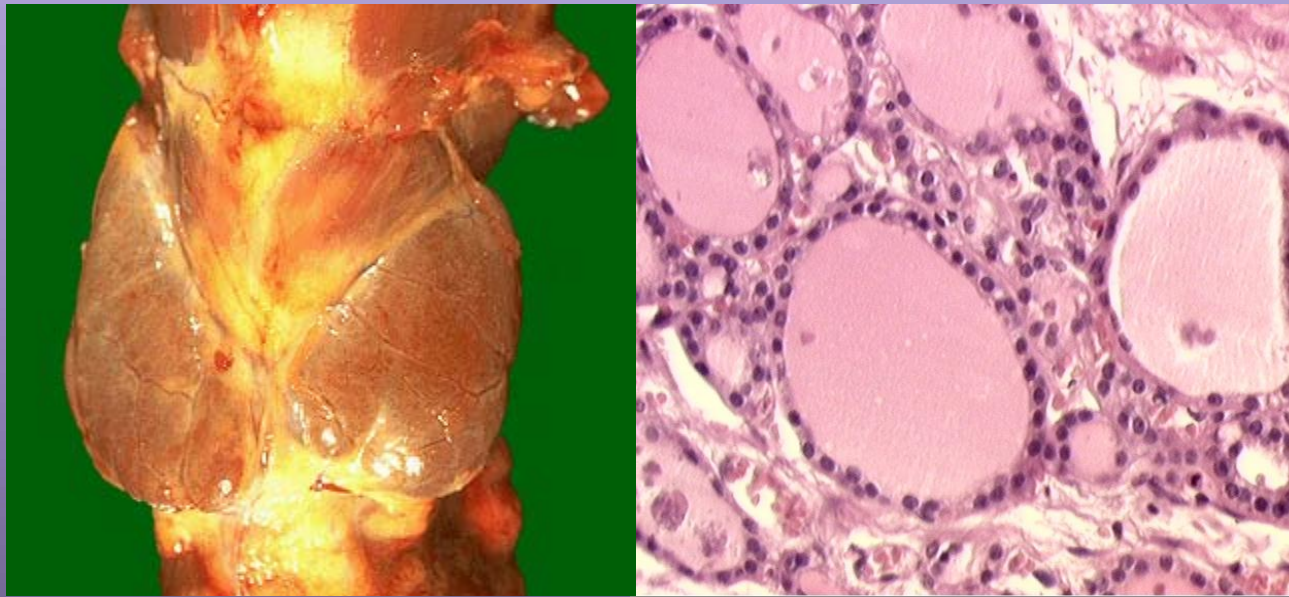
*Stalak JM et al. Value of Preoperative Ultrasonography in the Surgical Management of Initial and Reoperative Papillary Thyroid Cancer. Arch Surg. 2006;141:489-496*

# Comparison of Imaging Modalities for Papillary Thyroid Cancer Lymph Nodes

	Sensitivity	Specificity	Accuracy
PET/CT	30%	96%	87%
US	41%	97%	89%
CECT	35%	96%	87%

*Jeong HS et al. Integrated 18F-FDG PET/CT for the initial evaluation of cervical node level of patients with papillary thyroid carcinoma: comparison with ultrasound and contrast enhanced CT. Clin Endocrinol 2006.Sep;65(3):402-7.*

# Indications, Clarifications, and Therapeutic Implications in FNA of the Thyroid



Ian M. Jaffee, M.D.  
Director of Cytopathology  
CPMC, Department of Pathology

## *General* indications for FNA

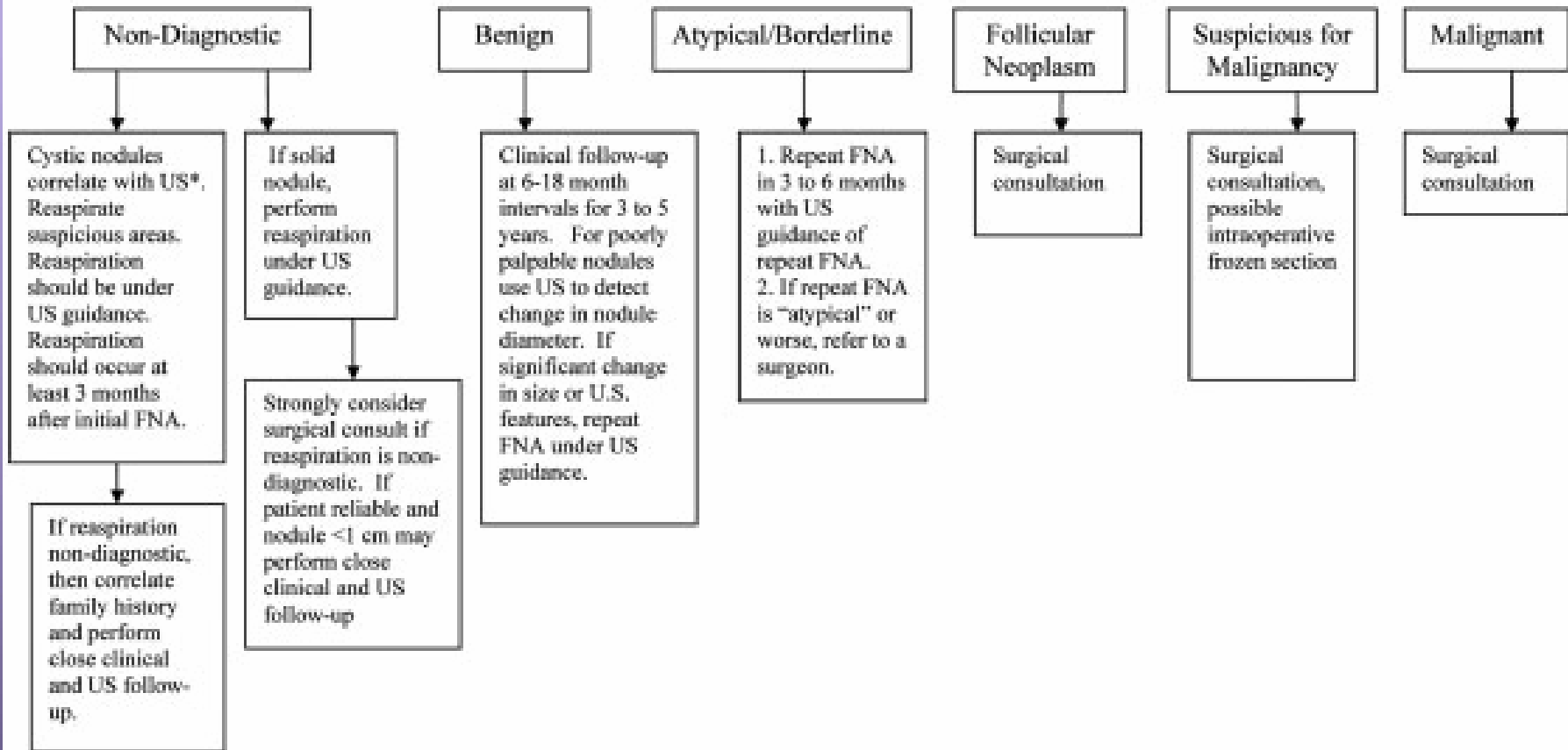
- No universally accepted guidelines
- 1.0 cm or greater by palpation
- Nodules 1.0 cm or greater by imaging- incidentalomas
- Sonographically suspicious (regardless of size)
  - Microcalcifications
  - Hypoechoogenic and solid
  - Irregular or lobulated margins
  - Intranodular vascularity
  - Extracapsular spread
- Simple cysts?

# Diagnostic Terminology, Risk\*, and Follow-Up

- Benign (<1%-ish)
- Indeterminate (5-10%)
  - Indeterminate follicular lesion
  - Atypical follicular lesion
  - Cellular follicular lesion
- Neoplasm (20-30%)
  - Suspicious for follicular neoplasm
- Suspicious for malignancy (50-75%)
- Malignant (~100%)
- Non-diagnostic

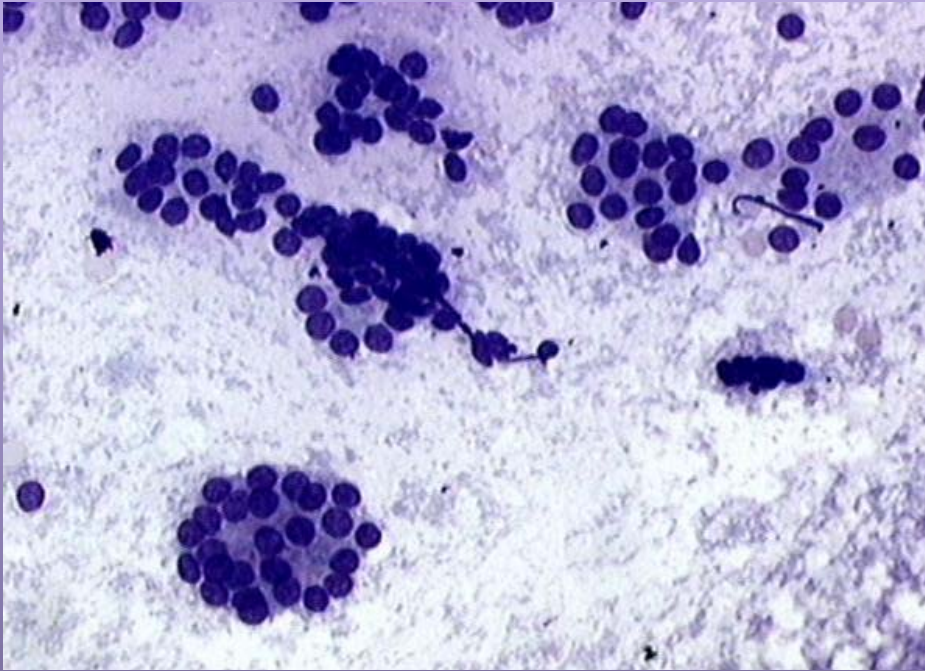
\*Baloch, et al. The NCI Thyroid FNA state of the science conference: A summation. *CytoJournal*. 2008.

## Post FNA Management for Diagnostic Categories

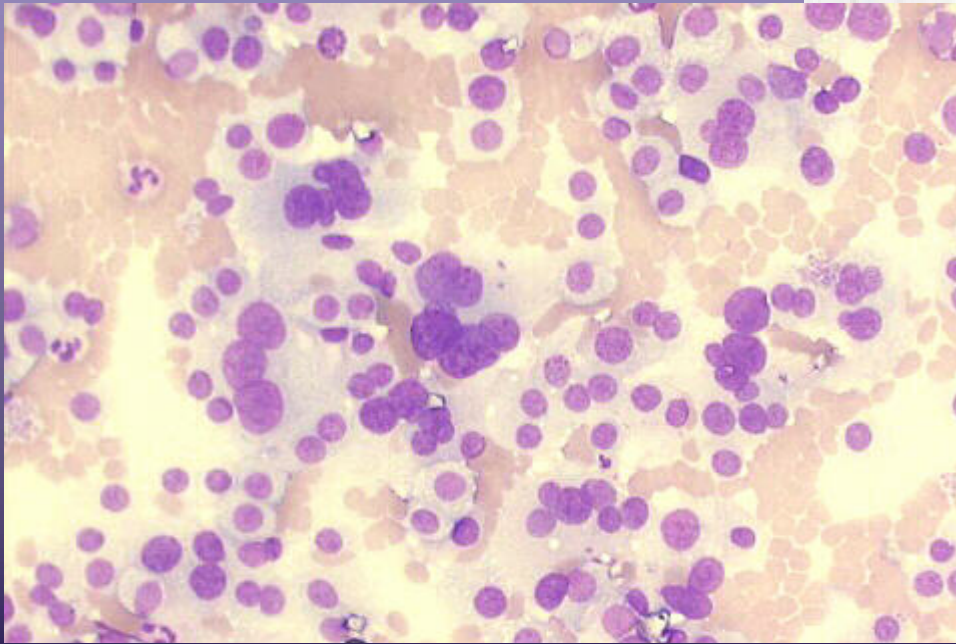
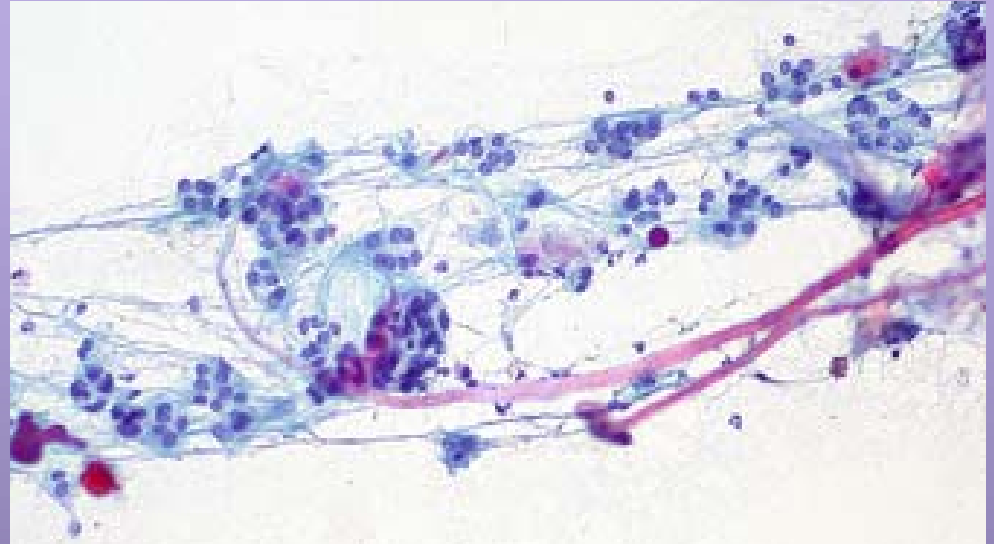


\*US=ultrasound

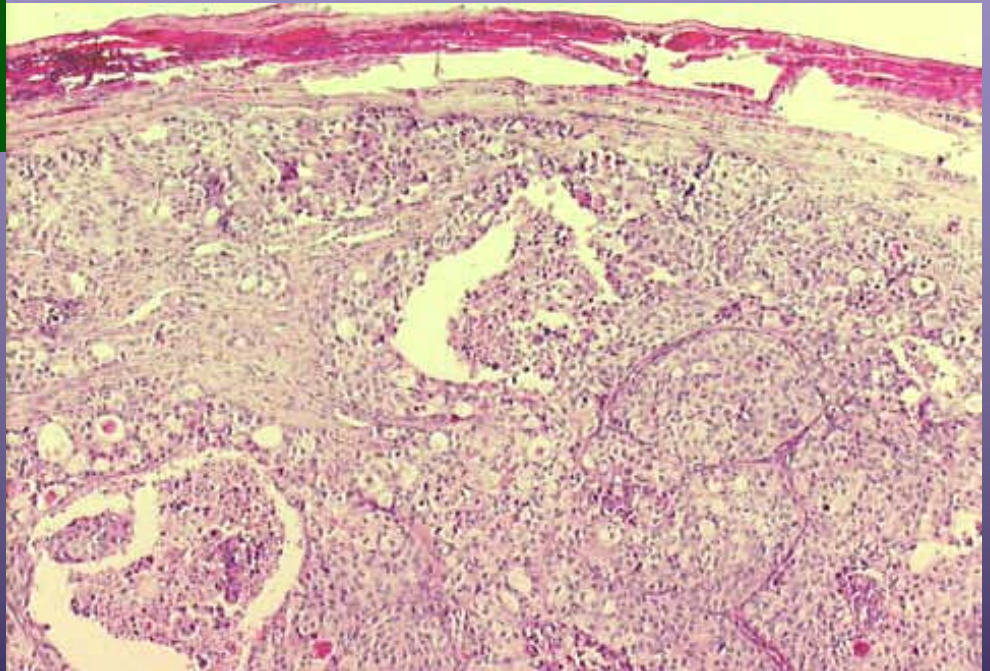
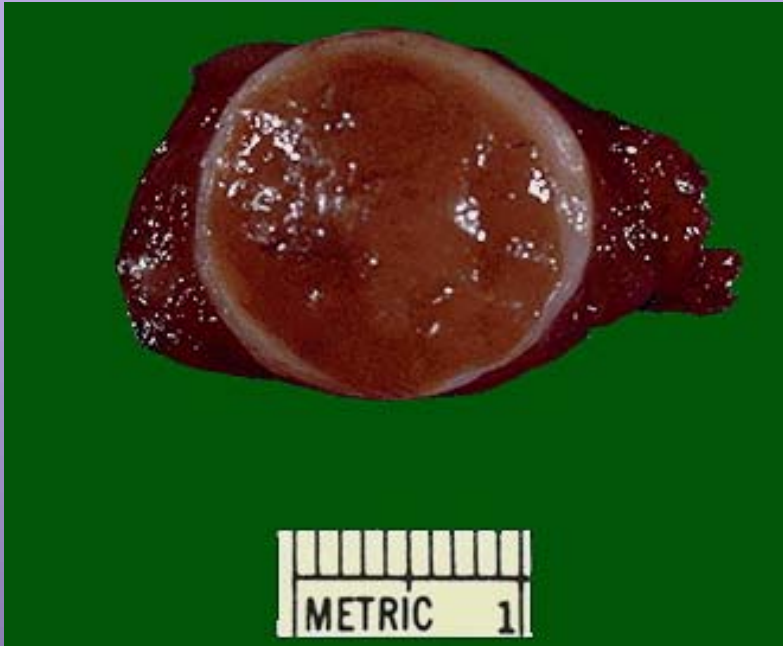
# Benign



# Follicular Lesions



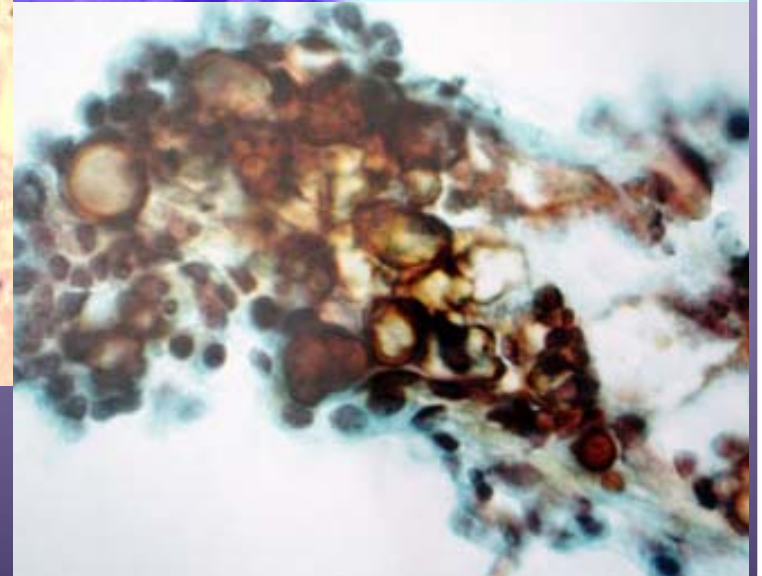
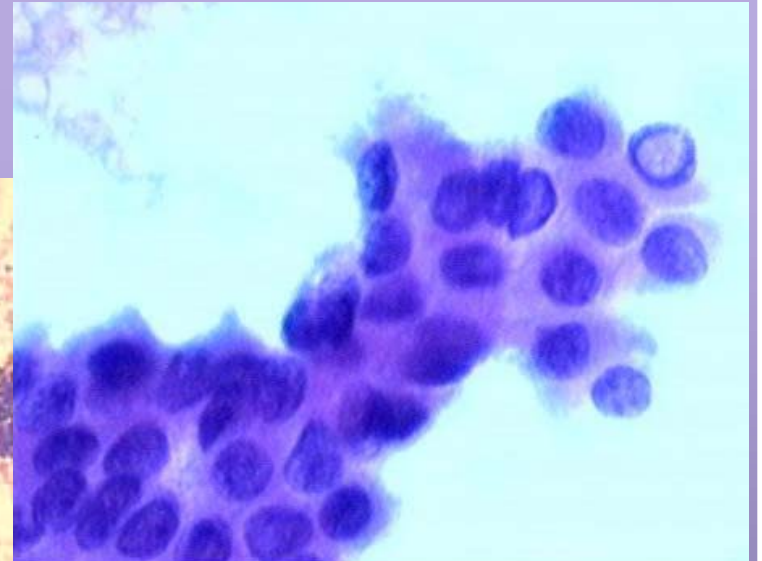
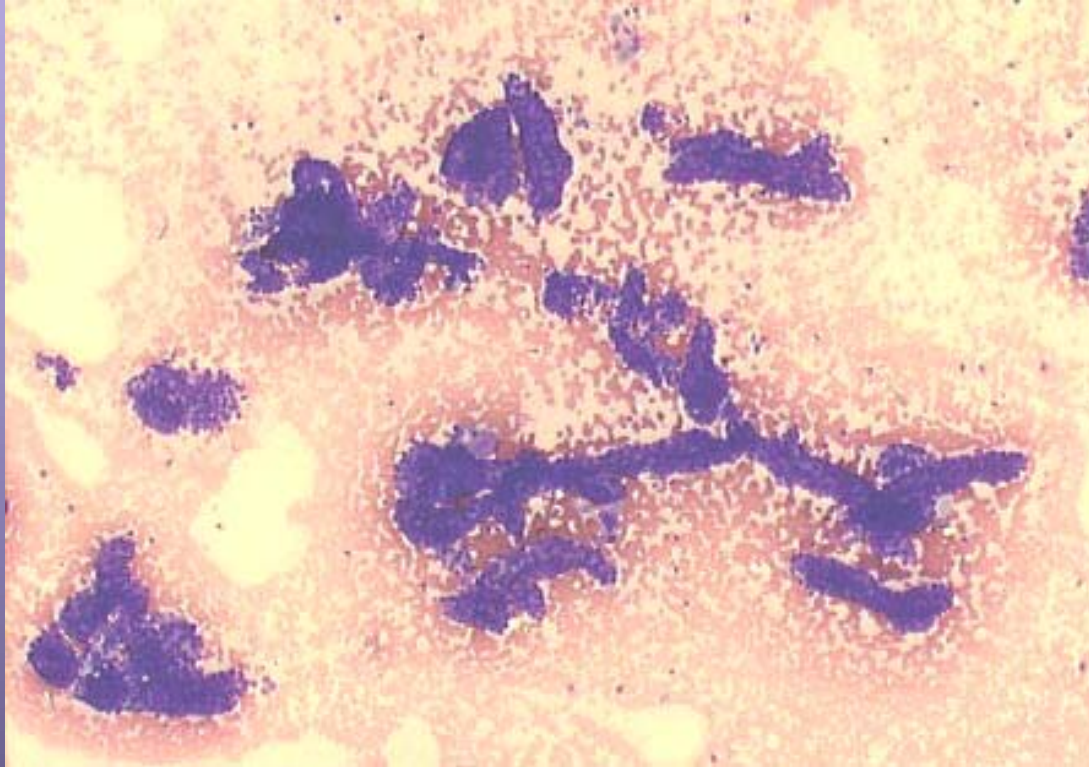
# Follicular Lesions



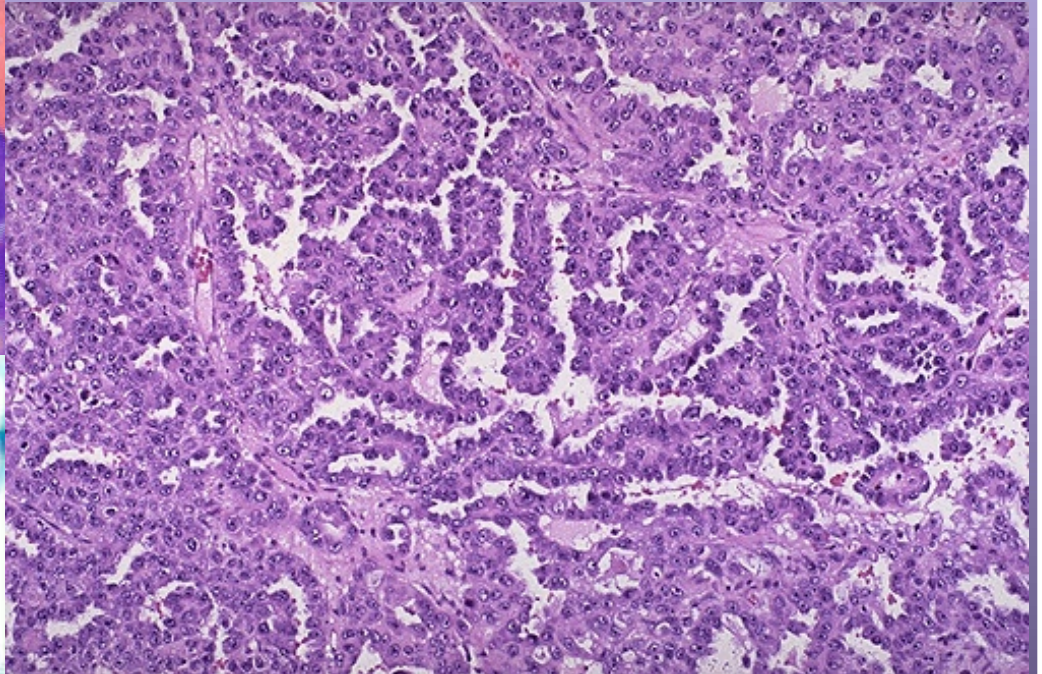
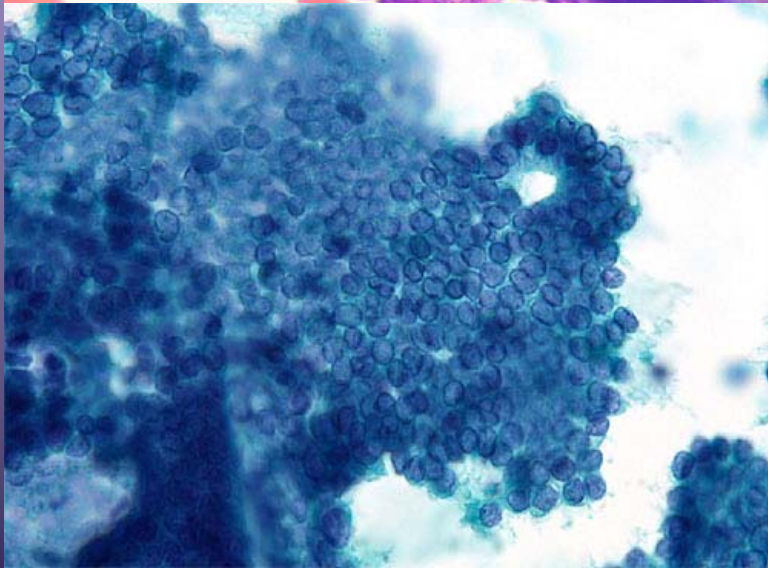
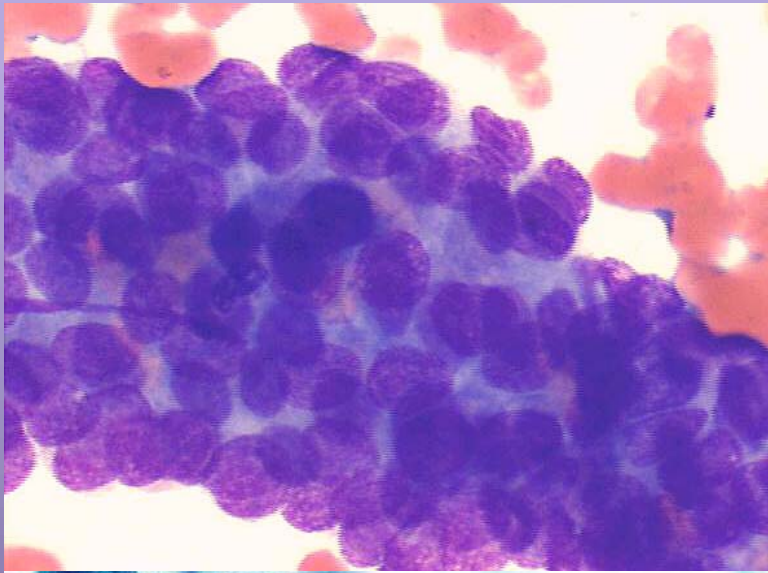
# Malignant

- Papillary carcinoma
- Follicular carcinoma
- Medullary carcinoma
- Undifferentiated carcinoma (anaplastic)
- Lymphoma
- Sarcoma
- Metastasis

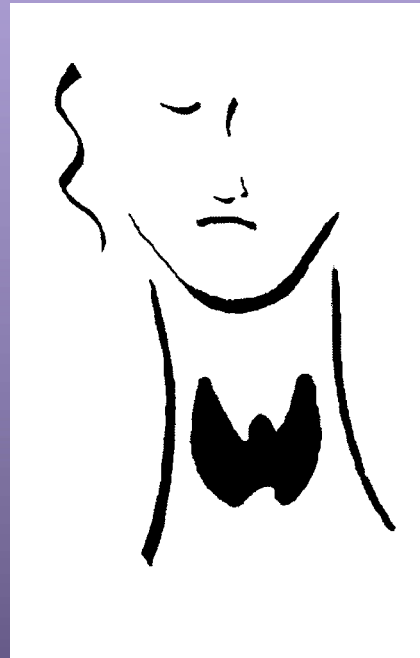
# Papillary carcinoma



# Papillary carcinoma

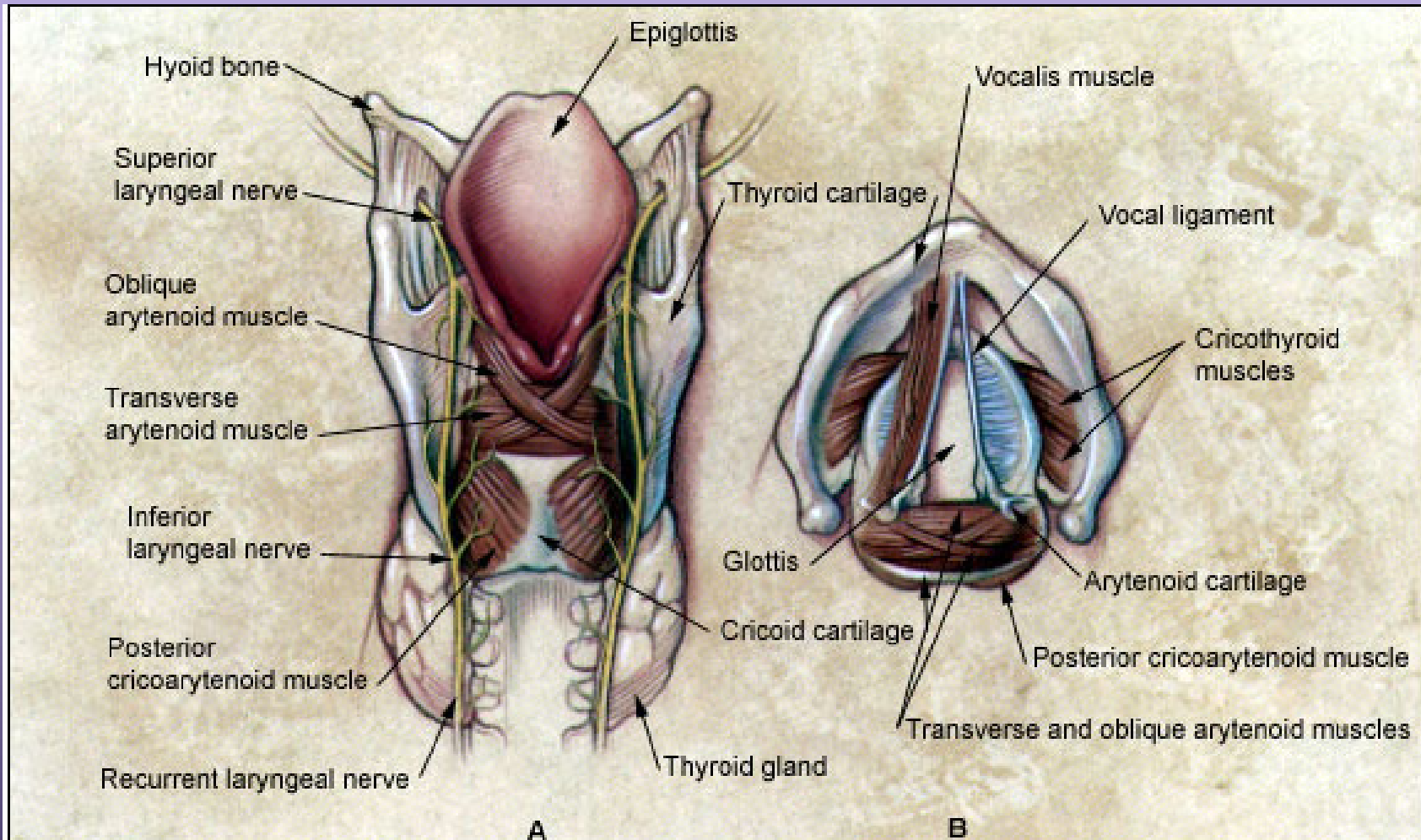


# Advances in Thyroid Surgery

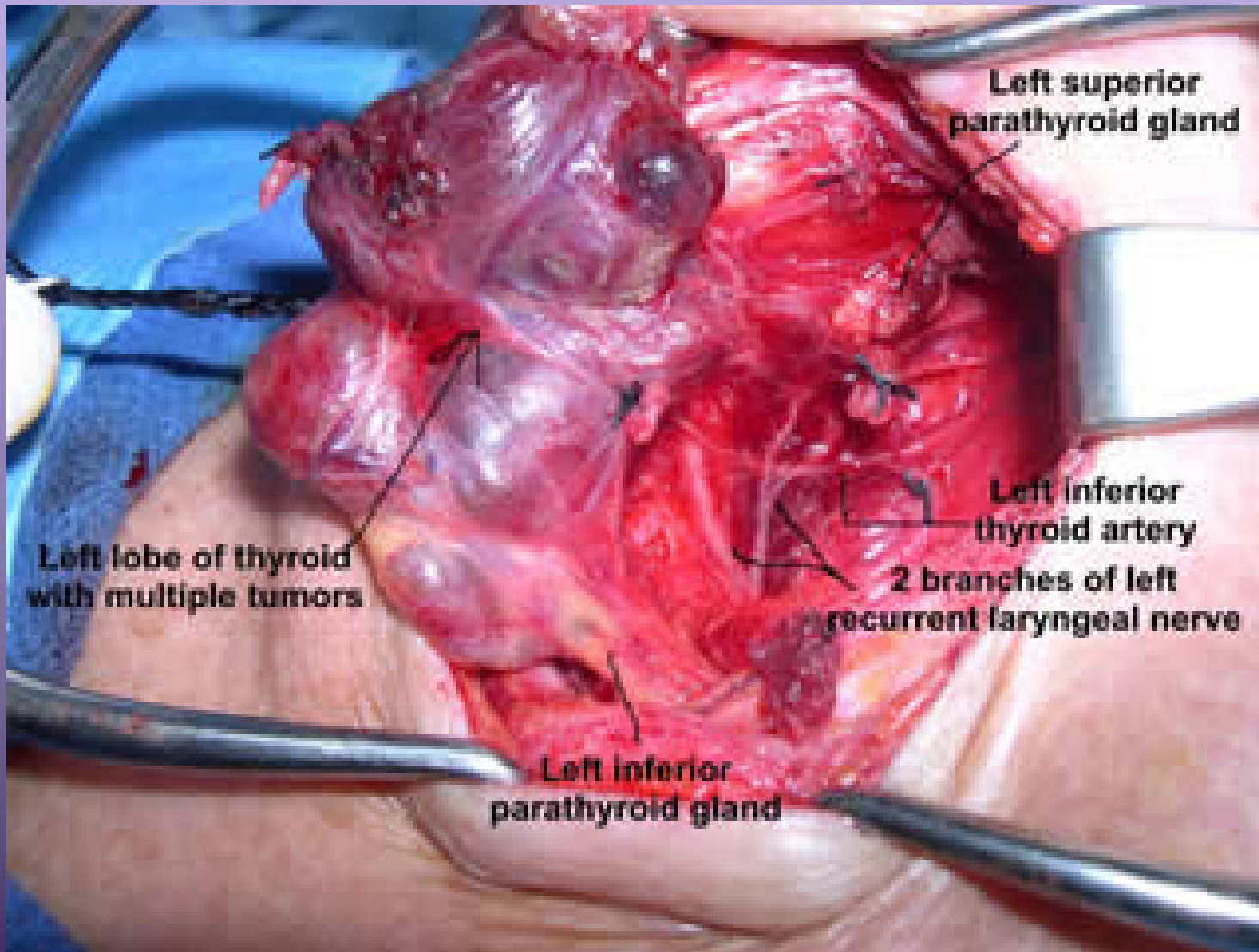


Andrea H. Yeung MD  
Head and Neck Surgery

# Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve (RLN)



# Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve (RLN)



# RLN injury during thyroidectomy causes vocal cord paralysis

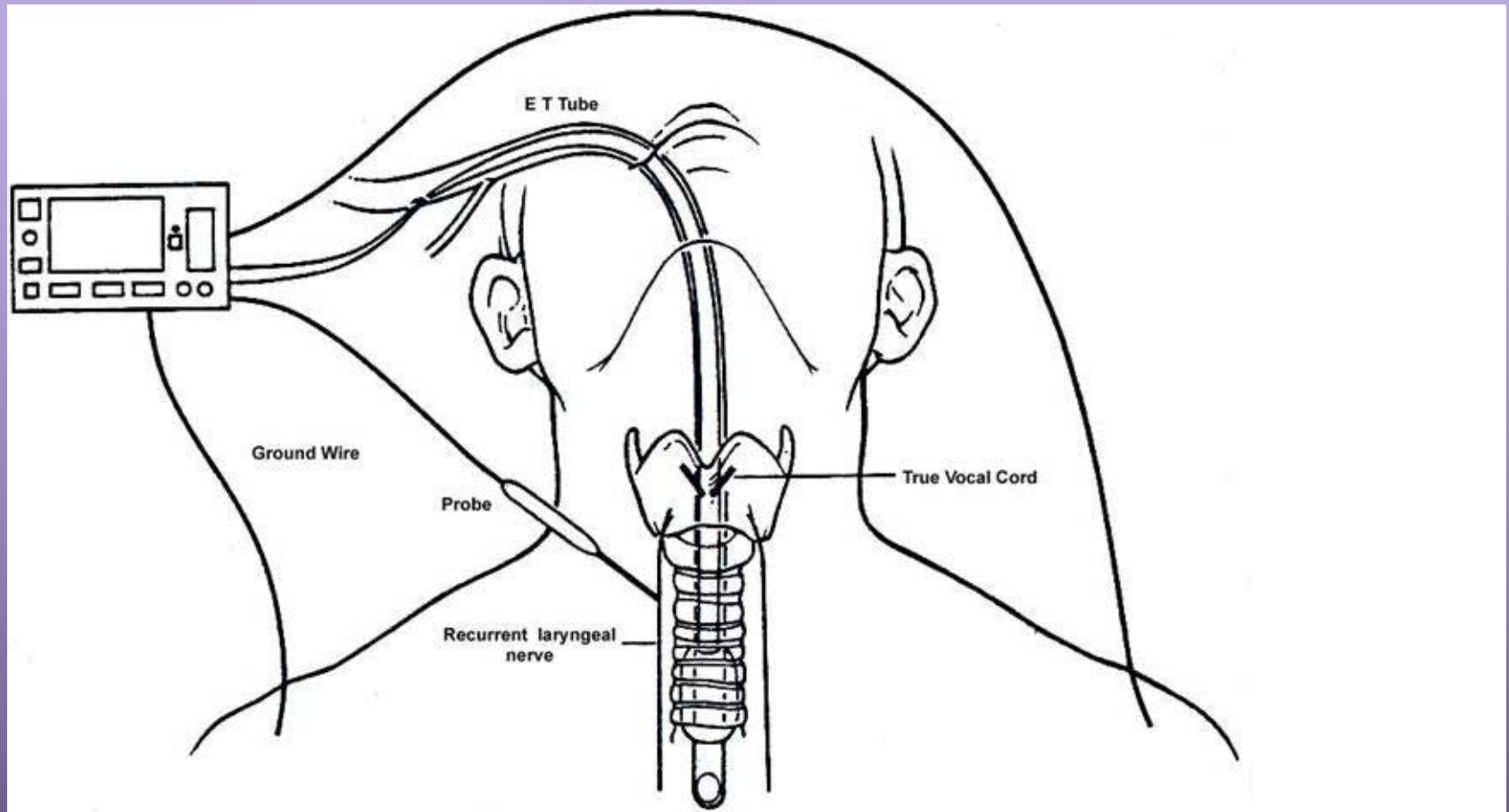
- Physical or electrical injury, ischemia - all without transection - all invisible to the surgeon
- Surgeons significantly underestimate RLN injury
- *Lo C-Y et al. Arch Surg 2000*: 6.6% VCP by postop exam laryngeal exam; only 1.1% of injured nerves were recognized visually during surgery
- *Dralle et al. World J Surg. 2008*: RLN monitoring vs. visual ID only: permanent RLN paralysis *tended* to be lower with RLN monitoring rates ranged from 0-11%

# Intra-operative RLN Monitoring

- Cranial nerve monitoring
  - Otologic, parotid surgery, neurosurgery: the norm
  - Thyroid/parathyroid surgery: growing awareness and use
- No prospective multicenter trial, as no one is willing to accept randomization to a non RLN monitored control group
- Introduced RLN monitoring at CPMC



# Endotracheal tube-based monitoring



Low pressure cuff ET with integrated wire electrodes, insulated except for 30mm at glottic level

Left and right electrode pairs skewed anterior for optimal VC contact

ETT cuff in lower subglottis/proximal trachea

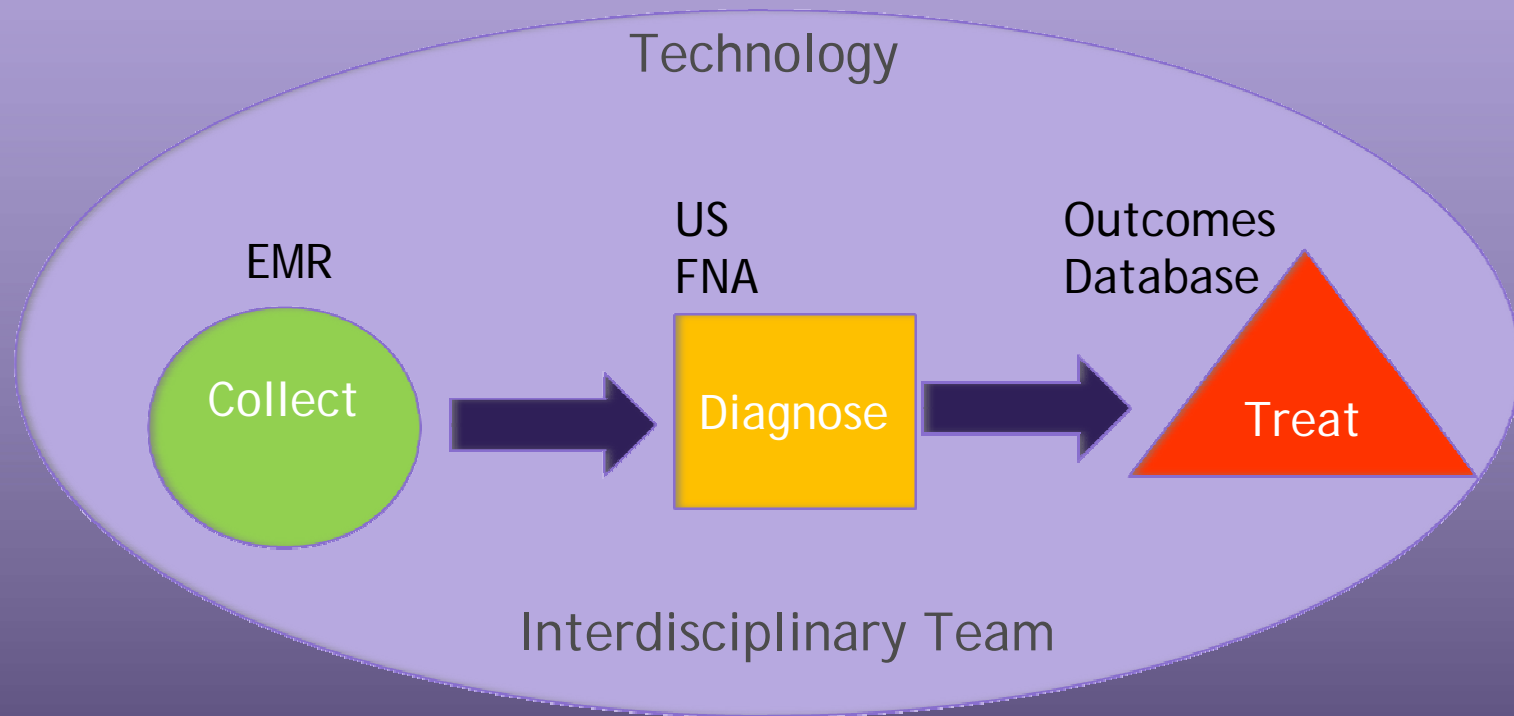
# Nerve Integrity Monitoring System

- EMG measures muscle activity
- NIM oscilloscope with audio supplement to visual EMG display on monitor
- Ground and stimulator anode surface electrodes
- Hand-held pulse generator
- Probe stimulates nerves; electrodes “listens” for a response

# Reasons to Monitor

- Electrical testing is better than visual inspection alone
- Aid in identification of RLN (speed, accuracy)
- Aid in dissection (or avoidance) of RLN
- Neural prognostic evaluation during and at the end of surgery (avoid bilateral VC paralysis)

# Show the value of integrated care for patients with thyroid nodules



Jacob Johnson, MD  
Head and Neck Surgery



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