

Incidental Thyroid Cancer in Patients with Graves' Disease: Not as Rare as We Previously Believed

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Introduction

- The incidence of thyroid cancer in patients with Graves' disease remains unclear.
- Previous studies only included small patient cohorts from single institutions.

Objective

- Our objective was to determine the rate of incidental thyroid cancer among patients treated surgically for Graves' disease using a national database

Methods

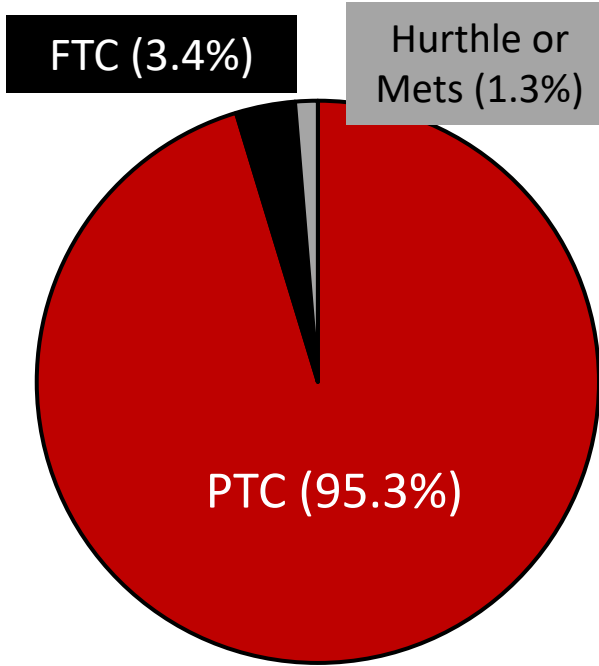
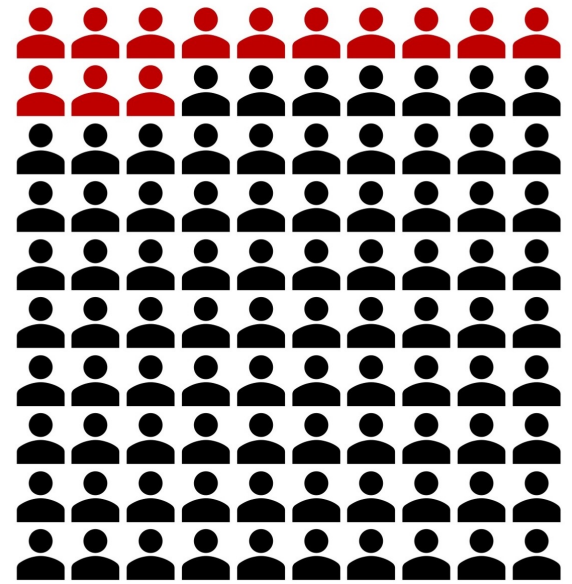
- National Surgical Quality Improvement Program's Procedure Targeted Thyroidectomy from 2013-2021
- Patients who underwent total thyroidectomy for Graves' disease were included
- Coexisting thyroid cancer was determined based on pathology results
- Occult or micro-confined thyroid cancer was excluded
- Demographics and postoperative outcomes were compared in patients with and without incidental thyroid cancer.

Conclusion

- Thyroid cancer was incidentally found in 12.7% of patients undergoing surgery for Graves' Disease in a national database
- Incidental thyroid cancer should be considered when counseling patients on management for Graves' disease

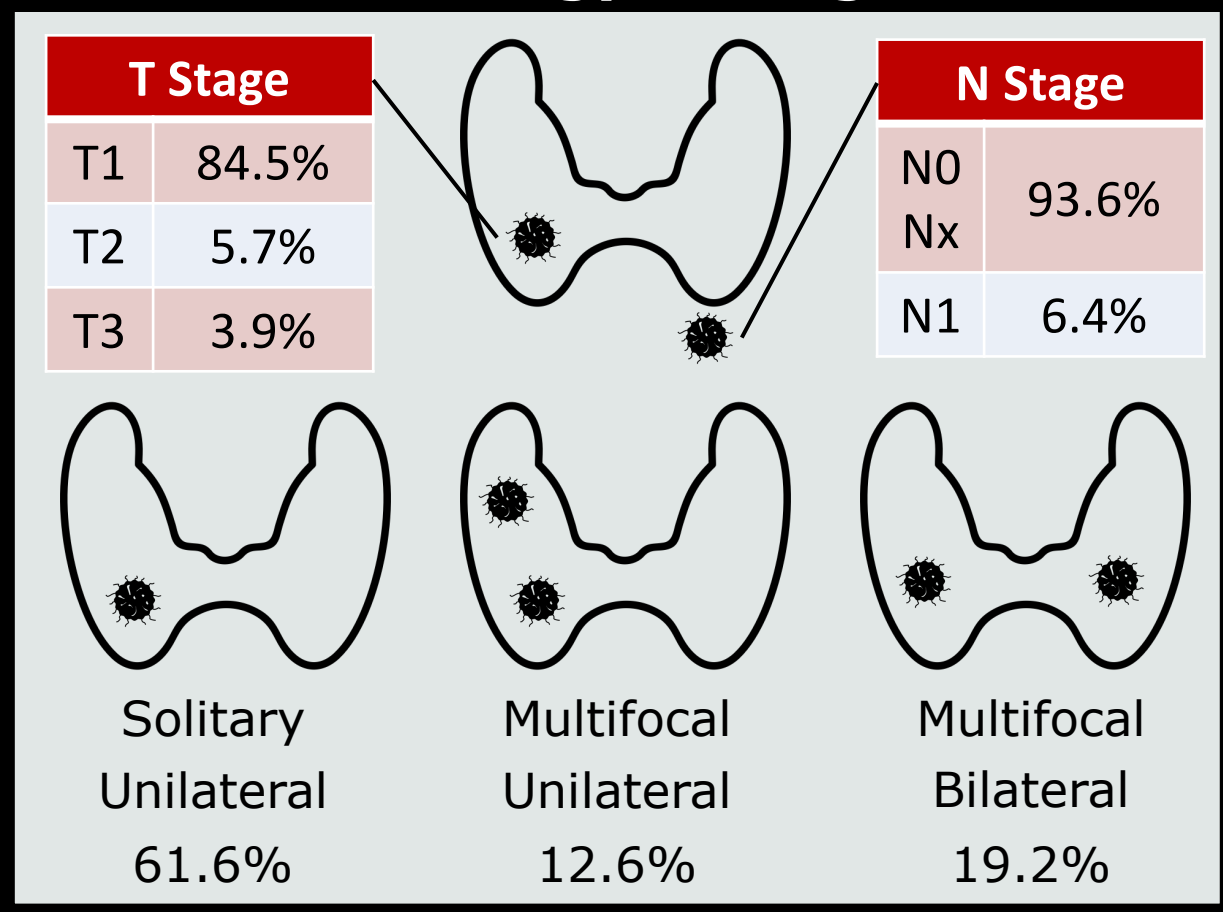
Results

- Out of 3193 included patients with Graves' disease, 406 (12.7%) had incidental thyroid cancer on final pathology



- 387 (95.3%) had Papillary Thyroid Cancer (PTC), 14 (3.4%) had Follicular Thyroid Cancer (FTC), and the remaining 1.3% were Hurthle Cell Cancer or Metastasis

Pathology Findings



- Graves' patients with cancer were older and had a higher body mass index (BMI) than those without

