

THYROID CANCER

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Thyroid cancer occurs in the cells of the thyroid, which is located at the base of the neck. This gland normally produces hormones that regulate heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, and weight. The incidence is three times more in females than in males. Thyroid cancer is the most common cancer among women aged 15-24.



Cause

Not clear what causes thyroid cancer

Risk Factor

History of neck radiation during childhood

Signs and Symptoms

- A hard mass in the anterior neck
- Nodules of the thyroid in men
- Rapid enlargement of a long-standing goiter in older patients
- Cervical lymph node enlargement
- Hoarseness
- Difficulty in swallowing
- Difficulty in breathing associated with goiter

Treatment

- Almost 95% of thyroid cancer cases in the Philippines are well differentiated carcinoma, and are highly curable by appropriate surgery alone.
- Radioactive iodine is the main mode of treatment for metastatic lesions.

Prevention/Early Detection

This is possible through fine needle aspiration biopsy of solitary nodules, or of unusually prominent, hard, or rapidly growing nodules in multinodular goiter.