Radiology Pathology Correlation Case Presentation: A Thyroid Nodule with Suspicious Features

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Case

- Mr. E is a 39 yo M with a PMH of migraines w/o aura, essential HTN and obesity who presented to his PCP for a routine health maintenance exam.
- Prior to the visit the patient had noticed a small right-sided neck mass w/o complaint of compressive symptoms.
- ROS was negative including symptoms of hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism.
- Pertinent Positive(s): Family history of papillary thyroid CA in father.
- Pertinent Negative(s): No prior head/neck irradiation.
- Patient was referred to UVA for an U/S of the thyroid.

U/S Findings



U/S Report

Nodule #: 1

Maximum size: 4.2 cm; Other 2 dimensions 3.6 x 2.2 cm Location: right; mid

Composition: mixed cystic and solid (1)

Echogenicity: isoechoic (1) Shape: taller-than-wide (3) Margins: lobulated/irregular (2)

Echogenic foci: punctate echogenic foci (3)

ACR TI-RADS total points: 10

ACR TI-RADS risk category: TR5 (?7 points)

ACR TI-RADS recommendation: Ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration

Nodule #: 2

Maximum size: 1.0 cm; Other 2 dimensions: 1.0 x 0.7 x 0.7 cm Location: left; mid

Composition: solid or almost completely solid (2)

Echogenicity: hypoechoic (2) Shape: not taller-than-wide (0)

Margins: smooth (0) Echogenic foci: none (0) ACR TI-RADS total points: 4

ACR TI-RADS risk category: TR4 (4-6 points)

ACR TI-RADS recommendation: Follow-up ultrasound in 1 year

ACR TI-RADS

COMPOSITION

(Choose 1)

0 points

1 point

Cystic or almost completely cystic

Spongiform 0 points

Mixed cystic and solid

Solid or almost 2 points completely solid

ECHOGENICITY

(Choose 1)

Anechoic 0 points Hyperechoic or 1 point isoechoic

Hypoechoic 2 points Very hypoechoic 3 points SHAPE

(Choose 1)

Wider-than-tall 0 points Taller-than-wide 3 points MARGIN

(Choose 1)

Smooth 0 points III-defined 0 points

Lobulated or 2 points irregular

Extra-thyroidal 3 points extension

ECHOGENIC FOCI

(Choose All That Apply)

0 points

None or large comet-tail artifacts

Macrocalcifications 1 point

Peripheral (rim) 2 points calcifications

Punctate echogenic 3 points foci

Add Points From All Categories to Determine TI-RADS Level

0 Points

TR1

Benign No FNA 2 Points

TR2 **Not Suspicious** No FNA

3 Points

TR3 Mildly Suspicious FNA if ≥ 2.5 cm Follow if ≥ 1.5 cm

4 to 6 Points

TR4 **Moderately Suspicious** FNA if ≥ 1.5 cm Follow if ≥ 1 cm

7 Points or More

TR5

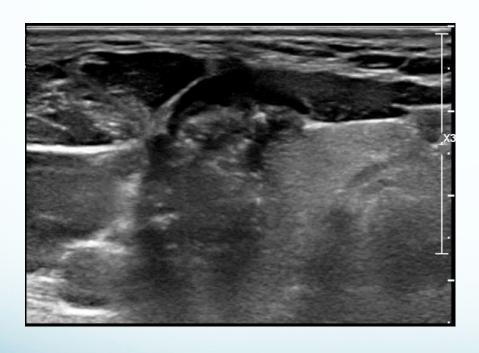
Highly Suspicious FNA if ≥ 1 cm

Follow if ≥ 0.5 cm*

COMPOSITION	ECHOGENICITY	SHAPE	MARGIN	ECHOGENIC FOCI
Spongiform: Composed predominantly (>50%) of small cystic spaces. Do not add further points for other categories. Mixed cystic and solid: Assign points for predominant solid component. Assign 2 points if composition cannot be determined because of calcification.	Anechoic: Applies to cystic or almost completely cystic nodules. Hyperechoic/isoechoic/hypoechoic: Compared to adjacent parenchyma. Very hypoechoic: More hypoechoic than strap muscles. Assign 1 point if echogenicity cannot be determined.	Taller-than-wide: Should be assessed on a transverse image with measurements parallel to sound beam for height and perpendicular to sound beam for width. This can usually be assessed by visual inspection.	Lobulated: Protrusions into adjacent tissue. Irregular: Jagged, spiculated, or sharp angles. Extrathyroidal extension: Obvious invasion = malignancy. Assign 0 points if margin cannot be determined.	Large comet-tail artifacts: V-shaped, >1 mm, in cystic components. Macrocalcifications: Cause acoustic shadowing. Peripheral: Complete or incomplete along margin. Punctate echogenic foci: May have small comet-tail artifacts.

*Refer to discussion of papillary microcarcinomas for 5-9 mm TR5 nodules.

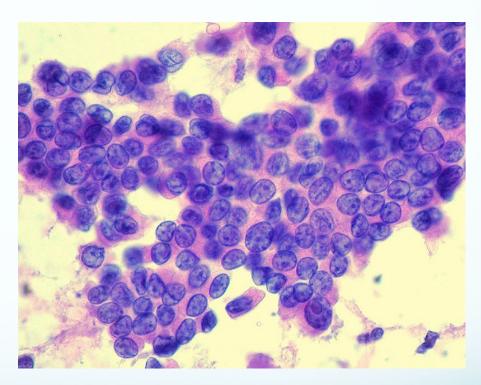
FNA of Thyroid Nodule



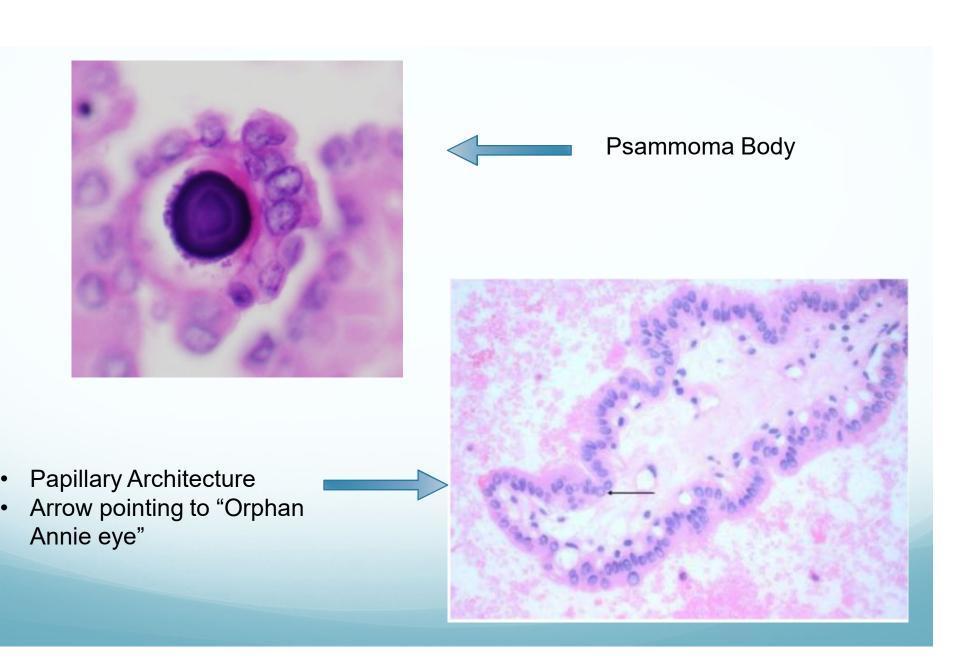
- Patient was consented and brought back to the procedure suite.
- Pre-procedure U/S confirmed previous findings and was used to determine appropriate location for biopsy.
- Patient was then prepped and draped in normal sterile fashion.
- Adequate analgesia was attained with subcutaneous infiltration of 1% lidocaine (w/o epi).
- Under U/S guidance, two separate passes using 25 gauge needles were made. An additional pass with a 22 gauge needle was also made.
- Specimens were then deemed adequate by the cytopathologist after alcohol fixation.

FNA Results

- Bethesda Class VI (Malignant)
 - Papillary thyroid carcinoma
- Features of PTC:
 - Major Features → Nuclear
 - "Orphan Annie eye" cytoplasmic nuclear inclusions
 - Cell elongation
 - Peripheral nucleoli
 - Nuclear membrane irregularities
 - Nuclear clefts/grooves
 - +/- Psammoma bodies
 - Sheets of cells
 - Papillary architecture (less common)



Representative Cytopathology



Bethesda Class	Diagnostic Category	Cancer Risk	Usual Management
I	Non-diagnostic or unsatisfactory	5 – 10%	Repeat FNA
11	Benign	0 – 3%	Clinical and sonographic F/U
III	AUS or FLUS	10 – 30%	Repeat FNA, molecular testing or lobectomy
IV	Follicular neoplasm	25 – 40%	Molecular testing, lobectomy
V	Suspicious for malignancy	50 – 75%	Near total thyroidectomy or lobectomy
VI	Malignant	97 – 99%	Near total thyroidectomy or lobectomy

Back to Mr. E...

 He has been notified of the results of his FNA and is scheduled for an appointment with Dr. Shonka in otolaryngology today (9/21/18) to discuss surgical interventions.

References

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