The Prognostic Relevance of Psammoma Bodies and Ultrasonographic Intratumoral Calcifications in Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma

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Published online: 28 August 2013
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To the Editor

We read with interest the article The Prognostic Relevance of Psammoma Bodies and Ultrasonographic Intratumoral Calcifications in Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma, by Pyo et al. [1]. We congratulate the authors on using pathological adjuncts in the form of psammoma bodies and radiological feature of calcification to augment the existing management of papillary carcinomas. Treating clinicians have used these entities for many years, but these authors have given a new dimension to their use [2, 3].

We have a few queries relating to the present study, and we think this supplementary information would be of great assistance to readers.

First, the authors state that papillary carcinoma was found in 258 surgically resected specimens. Were all these classical variants of papillary thyroid cancer (PTC)? Did the authors exclude other variants of PTC? Was the presence of psammoma bodies correlated with aggressive variants like the tall cell variant?

Next, of the 258 patients, in how many did the fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) reveal the presence of psammoma bodies? Was the FNAC done under ultrasound guidance, and if it was done with guidance, was the

intratumoral calcification targeted? Did the same radiologist perform all the ultrasound scans, like dedicated pathologists?

Finally, was the central node dissection performed according to American Thyroid Association guidelines [4], and did the surgeons clear the ipsilateral central neck when performing hemithyroidectomy?

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