Natural History of Asymptomatic Papillary Thyroid Microcarcinoma: Time-Dependent Changes in Calcification and Vascularity During Active Surveillance

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To the Editor,

We read with interest the article, “Natural History of Asymptomatic Papillary Thyroid Microcarcinoma: Time-Dependent Changes in Calcification and Vascularity during Active Surveillance” [1]. We congratulate the authors on their valiant attempt to track the natural course of papillary microcarcinoma and there by trying to ease the difficult decision making of observe or operate. However, we have few comments which would be of interest to future readers.

How many of the patients had multifocal tumors and was there any relationship between multifocality and rich vascularity? How many of the patients with multifocal lesions developed progression in tumor size? As multifocality is associated with more aggressive disease, with higher risk of lymph node metastasis, it would be more informative if subgroup analysis had been performed for multifocal tumors [2]. Was there any relationship between tumor location and size progression and development of lymph node metastasis? Papillary thyroid carcinoma in patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis is generally less

aggressive; in this study, were there any patients with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis [3]?

Thank you for your comments on these issues.

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