



Should multifocality be an indication for prophylactic neck dissection in papillary thyroid cancer?

Sarrah Idrees¹ · Sabaretnam Mayilvaganan¹

Received: 8 May 2023 / Accepted: 3 June 2023 / Published online: 10 June 2023
© Italian Society of Surgery (SIC) 2023

We read the article ‘Should Multifocality be an indication for prophylactic neck dissection in papillary thyroid cancer’ by Ozdemir K et al. [1] with great interest.

We congratulate the authors for discussion on this very pertinent study on an issue of multifocality of Papillary thyroid cancer (PTC) which has been a matter of great debate even today.

Many previous studies and meta-analyses [2–4] have established that Multifocality as a known *risk factor* for lymph nodal metastasis and aggressive disease, however, the present study has made a commendable attempt to prove that multifocality can be used as a *prognosticator* to guide management in PTC by proving the correlation of bilateral multifocality and central lymph node metastasis and thereby if multifocality detected pre operatively shall help the surgeon plan prophylactic Central compartment lymph node dissection.

We have a few comments and queries to make which may interest future readers:

1. Since majority of the study population was female (78%), did the authors find any correlation between gender specific multifocality and central compartment lymph node (CCLN) metastasis?
2. Previous studies have also shown that some variants of PTC are associated with aggressive disease [5]. Was any attempt made to correlate the aggressive variants of PTC with multifocality and central lymph node metastasis?
3. Since patients with Papillary Thyroid Microcarcinoma (PTMC) formed a substantial proportion of the study population (48.4%), what was the proportion of PTMC

patients undergoing prophylactic CCLN dissection and thereby having CCLN metastasis?

Thanks for comment on these issues.

Sarrah Idrees.

Sabaretnam Mayilvaganan.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors have nothing to disclose.

Research involving human participants and/or animals Not applicable.

Informed consent Not applicable.

References

1. Ozdemir K, Harmantepe AT, Gonullu E, Kocer B, Bayhan Z (2023) Should multifocality be an indication for prophylactic central neck dissection in papillary thyroid cancer? *Updates Surg* 75(3):701–706. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13304-023-01479-7>. (Epub 2023 Mar 5 PMID: 36871277)
2. Cui L, Feng D, Zhu C, Li Q, Li W, Liu B (2022) Clinical outcomes of multifocal papillary thyroid cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Laryngoscope Investig Otolaryngol* 7(4):1224–1234
3. Mao J, Zhang Q, Zhang H, Zheng K, Wang R, Wang G (2020) Risk factors for lymph node metastasis in papillary thyroid carcinoma: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne)* 11:265
4. Woo J, Kim H, Kwon H (2021) Impact of multifocality on the recurrence of papillary thyroid carcinoma. *J Clin Med* 10(21):5144
5. Silver CE, Owen RP, Rodrigo JP, Rinaldo A, Devaney KO, Ferrito A (2011) Aggressive variants of papillary thyroid carcinoma. *Head Neck* 33(7):1052–1059

✉ Sabaretnam Mayilvaganan
drretnam@gmail.com

¹ Department of Endocrine and Breast Surgery, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, C-Block, Old Building, SGPGI, Rae Bareilly Road, Lucknow, UP 226014, India

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.