



# Reply to the editor: should multifocality be an indication for prophylactic neck dissection for papillary thyroid cancer?

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1. In our study, we reanalyzed the relationship between gender-specific multifocality and central compartment lymph-node (CCLN) metastasis. We found that central compartment lymph-node metastasis was more common in female gender-specific multifocality than male gender, but no statistically significant difference was found.
2. On this important question, the pathology reports were re-examined. Aggressive subtype rates of PTC cases: Diffuse sclerosing variant was found in 5.4%, tall cell variant in 7.3%, and solid variants in 2.3%. Statistical analysis to associate these aggressive subtypes of papillary thyroid cancer with multifocality and central lymph-node metastasis did not find a significant association.
3. Eighteen of 52 patients with Papillary Thyroid Microcarcinoma (PTMC) underwent prophylactic CCLN dissection, and the proportion of PTMC patients with CCLN metastases was 25%.

**Data availability** The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

**Informed consent** Informed consent was obtained from all patients for inclusion in the study.

**Ethical approval** This study was approved by the Faculty of Medicine, Sakarya University Ethics Committee.

**Research involving human participants and/or animals** This study was performed in line with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki.

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