

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

This is a thorough and well targeted review of different approaches to perform remote thyroidectomy and lateral neck dissection. Maybe a graphic demonstration of these different options would be helpful to summarize the topic.

But nevertheless, I think it helps to answer a relevant question and the presented data is well structured.

Reply: Thank you for your kind comments. We have already presented diagrams of the skin incisions for each surgical procedure and the details of each surgical procedure in tables.

Reviewer B

This paper is a review article focusing on remote-access endoscopic and robotic techniques for lateral neck dissection (LND) in thyroid cancer. The methodology is rigorous, utilizing multiple databases to systematically assess studies and provide comprehensive insights into the methods, outcomes, complications, and technical nuances of various remote-access techniques.

Nevertheless, there are several drawbacks that should be addressed to enhance the quality and impact of the review:

While the qualitative analysis is thorough, the absence of meta-analytical techniques introduces ambiguity. Incorporating a meta-analysis of key metrics (e.g., lymph node yield, complications) would strengthen the conclusions and provide more robust evidence.

Adding a section on the economic feasibility of these techniques, particularly in low-resource settings, would broaden the scope of the review and increase its practical value.

Reply: Thank you for the kind comments. Unfortunately, few comparative studies have been conducted on remote-access lateral neck dissection. So, it is impossible

to extract comparative data, and thus, meta-analysis is not possible. Therefore, we wrote a scoping review paper instead of a meta-analysis. Additionally, there was no research on the cost of the procedure, so cost-effectiveness could not be analyzed. We want to perform a meta-analysis later if sufficient comparative data are available.