



Does color Doppler ultrasound has high value in the diagnosis of thyroid nodules?

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We read the recent published paper in this journal of *Gland Surgery* by Zhao and colleagues entitled “*The value of color Doppler ultrasound in the diagnosis of thyroid nodules: a systematic review and meta-analysis*” (1). They performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to analyze the value of color Doppler ultrasound in the diagnosis of thyroid nodules. We appreciate Zhao *et al.* (1) for the valuable study, however, after a careful learning of the literature, several limitations should be noticed.

First, in the methods section of the abstract, the authors depicted that the Jadad tool was utilized to assess the quality of the included articles. However, the risk of bias and methodological quality of the included studies were actually evaluated by using the Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies tool (2) that was revealed in *Tab. 1*.

Second, in the statistical analysis section of this article, Zhao *et al.* (1) stated the weighted mean difference (WMD), standard mean difference (SMD), and relative risk (RR) were the effect sizes. Whereas, in this meta-analysis, the effect sizes actually were sensitivity and specificity showed in *Fig. 4* and the WMD, SMD, and RR were not reported in the results. Therefore, we believe the irrelevant effect sizes depicted would lead to misunderstanding.

Finally, in the methods section of the abstract, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) regarding adopting color Doppler ultrasound were screened, whereas, the study

was a meta-analysis of diagnostic study; then, diagnostic studies analyzing the diagnostic value of color Doppler ultrasound for thyroid nodules should be included not RCTs.

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Footnote

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