



Preface to the series on “Improved Quality of Life after Thyroid Surgery”

The advancements that have been made in thyroid surgery within the past decade have created opportunity and demonstrated improvement in quality of endocrine surgical care for our patients. Thyroid surgery has become more than the operation itself; it has come to include a thoughtful and directed perioperative treatment planning, as well as transformed the operative management for our patients. In line with improved quality of surgical care, quality of life has become an important post-operative goal for many patients. Not only have new surgical techniques like minimally invasive and scarless thyroid surgery allowed for improvement in cosmesis, but non-operative approaches to thyroid nodules such as radiofrequency ablation has enabled patients to preserve their native thyroid function. The aim and scope of this special series is to discuss the importance of improved quality of life after surgical care for our patients. We explore improved quality of life with regards to laryngeal function which impact voice, swallow and everything in between. We discuss thyroid hormone supplementation, calcium supplementation and the impact it has on overall health of the patient after surgery. Finally, we also discuss what it means to be a thyroid surgical patient, from support groups to improved communication and education as well as considerations of preoperative decision-making aid. The role of molecular marker testing for indeterminate thyroid nodules and the impact it has on quality of life for patients is a novel topic of its own. This special series includes those excellent topics for discussion, all of which we hope to inform and educate the reader and the thyroid surgical enthusiast on the importance of quality life and how to achieve that after thyroid surgery.

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