

Table S1 pathological characteristics of patients

Variables	Total (n=192)	5th edition of WHO classification			P value
		Benign (n=87)	Low-risk (n=19)	Malignant (n=86)	
Contralateral nodule					<0.001*
Benign	47 (24.48)	25 (28.74)	2 (10.53)	20 (23.26)	
Low risk	2 (1.04)	1 (1.15)	0 (0)	1 (1.16)	
Malignant	34 (17.71)	10 (11.49)	3 (15.79)	21 (24.42)	
Unknown	29 (15.10)	11 (12.64)	5 (26.32)	13 (15.12)	
None	80 (41.67)	40 (45.98)	9 (47.37)	31 (36.05)	
Repeat FNAB					NA
Bethesda I	1 (0.52)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1.16)	
Bethesda II	3 (1.56)	2 (2.3)	1 (5.26)	0 (0)	
Bethesda III	11 (5.73)	5 (5.75)	0 (0)	6 (6.98)	
Bethesda IV	31 (16.14)	16 (18.39)	4 (21.05)	11 (12.79)	
Bethesda V	10 (5.21)	2 (2.3)	2 (10.53)	6 (6.98)	
Bethesda VI	10 (5.21)	2 (2.3)	1 (5.26)	7 (8.14)	
NA	126 (65.63)	60 (68.97)	11 (57.89)	55 (63.95)	
Pathology					NA
Thyroid follicular nodular disease	51 (26.56)	51 (58.62)	–	–	
Follicular adenoma	26 (13.54)	26 (29.89)	–	–	
Oncocytic adenoma	10 (5.21)	10 (11.49)	–	–	
NIFTP	3 (1.56)	–	3 (15.79)	–	
WDT-UMP	3 (1.56)	–	3 (15.79)	–	
FT-UMP	13 (6.77)	–	13 (68.42)	–	
PTC (classic)	38 (19.79)	–	–	38 (44.19)	
PTC (follicular)	35 (18.23)	–	–	35 (40.70)	
PTC (oncocytic)	2 (1.04)	–	–	2 (2.33)	
FTC	9 (4.69)	–	–	9 (10.47)	
DHGTC	1 (0.52)	–	–	1 (1.16)	
PDTC	1 (0.52)	–	–	1 (1.16)	

*, P<0.05. Data are presented as n (%) unless otherwise stated.

Table S2 Clinicopathological characteristics of patients with incidentally discovered papillary thyroid microcarcinoma

Case no.	Age (year)	Gender	Location	Size (cm)	Operation	Frozen section	Lymph node (positive)	Lymph node (total)	Nodule components	Sonographic feature
1	70	Female	Right	1.3	HT + LD	Thyroid follicular lesions and papillary thyroid microcarcinoma	0	3	Solid	d, f, g
2	43	Female	Right	2.0	TT	Thyroid follicular lesions	0	0	Solid	e, f, g
3	51	Female	Right	1.3	TT + LD	Papillary thyroid microcarcinoma	4	13	Cystic-solid	d, e
4	32	Female	Right	0.9	HT	Thyroid follicular lesions	0	0	Solid	b, e, g
5	55	Male	Right	1.0	TT + LD	Thyroid follicular lesions	3	49	Solid	e, f, g
6	53	Female	Right	1.0	HT	Thyroid follicular lesions	0	11	Solid	a, b, c, e, f, g
7	63	Female	Right	1.4	HT + LD	Thyroid follicular lesions	0	3	Solid	b, c, d, e, f, g
8	48	Female	Left	5.3	HT + LD	Thyroid follicular lesions	0	5	Solid	d, e, g

Sonographic features: a, taller than wide; b, irregular shape; c, irregular margins; d, heterogenous echostructure; e, hypoechogenicity; f, calcifications; g, vascularization.

Table S3 Clinicopathological characteristics of patients with follicular thyroid microcarcinoma

Case no.	Age (year)	Gender	Location	Size (cm)	Operation	Second operation	Frozen section	Lymph node (positive)	Lymph node (total)	Nodule components	Sonographic features
1	30	Female	Left	4.4	HT + LD	Yes	Thyroid follicular lesions	0	6	Solid	d, e, g
2	35	Male	Right	3.4	HT + LD	Yes	Thyroid follicular lesions	0	4	Solid	d, e, f, g
3	69	Female	Left	3.8	TT + LD	–	Papillary thyroid carcinoma	0	4	Solid	b, c, d, e, f, g
4	46	Female	Left	0.9	TT + LD	–	Thyroid follicular lesions, at least tumor of uncertain malignant potential	0	5	Solid	a, e, f, g
5	33	Female	Left	2.0	TT + LD	–	Thyroid follicular lesions	5	29	Solid	d, e, f, g
6	34	Female	Left	1.8	TT + LD	–	Thyroid follicular lesions, suspicious invasive growth	13	32	Solid	c, d, e, f
7	32	Female	Right	1.4	TT + LD	–	Thyroid follicular lesions	0	5	Solid	b, c, d, e, f
8	43	Male	Right	2.3	TT + LD	–	Thyroid carcinoma, not excluding medullary cancer	0	16	Solid	b, e, g
9	27	Male	Right	3.6	HT + LD	Yes	Thyroid follicular lesions	0	8	Solid	d, e, g

Sonographic features: a, taller than wide; b, irregular shape; c, irregular margins; d, heterogenous echostructure; e, hypoechogenicity; f, calcifications; g, vascularization.