

Radical neck dissection in advanced thyroid cancer

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Abstract

We try to ascertain whether total thyroidectomy with radical neck dissection offers a survival and recurrence advantage for thyroid cancer. Between January 2000 and September 2009 in the 3rd Surgical Unit of the "Sf. Spiridon" Hospital of Iași 189 operations were performed for malign thyroid disorders, 164 (86,77%) of which were performed for the papillary or follicular cancer. The diagnosis was confirmed by histopathological examination. The patients had a medium age of 51,48 (extremes 19 – 81 years). Women had a greater proportion, as expected (sex ratio F:M = 2,85:1). 59 total thyroidectomy with radical or modified radical neck dissection were performed. There were immediate (6 bleedings which needed reoperation for haemostasis, 7 unilateral recurrent laryngeal nerve injury) and late complications (8 cases of recurrence in the first 2 years). Total thyroidectomy with radical neck dissection became the effective method for advanced thyroid cancer (the best results were for papillary cancer, female and age over 55).

Key words: thyroid cancer, radical neck dissection, total thyroidectomy

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