

## **SCAR ASSESSMENT IN PATIENTS WITH THYROID SURGERY VIA SELF-ADMINISTRATED QUESTIONNAIRE**

Kim, Seok-Mo; Lee, Yong Sang; Chang, Hang-Seok.

Gangnam Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Gangnam, Republic of Korea.

**Background/Purpose:** The operative scar is one of the most important aspects endocrine surgeons consider when performing thyroid surgery because the neck is always an exposed area. This study aims to investigate and quantify the relationship between thyroidectomy scar and patient satisfaction in patients who had thyroid surgery with conventional approach.

**Methods:** The anonymous scar assessment questionnaire was given to patients who had conventional thyroid surgery. The 2102 patients were asked to rate their satisfaction with their scars on a 10 point Likert scale (with 1 being very unsatisfied and 10 being very satisfied).

**Results:** The mean age of the survey responders was  $47.9 \pm 11.3$ , and the mean satisfaction score was  $7.29 \pm 2.55$ . The mean satisfaction score was lower in the group who had surgery before 1 year than after 5 years (6.77 versus 7.86). The satisfaction score in younger patients increased more with time after surgery: 30s, from 6.35 to 7.06, 40s, from 6.45 to 8.01, and 50s, from 6.81 to 7.82.

**Discussion & Conclusion:** The patient satisfaction about thyroidectomy scar increased, as time passed, especially in younger patients. Therefore, scar formation in neck area is not the major concern for thyroid cancer surgery.