

## **RELATION BETWEEN THE MCGILL THYROID NODULE SCORE AND LYMPH NODE METASTASIS AND EXTRATHYROIDAL EXTENSION OF THE TUMOR**

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**Background/Purpose:** The McGill Thyroid Nodule Score (MTNS) can be used to assess the risk that a thyroid nodule is malignant, with a score of 9 or more being significant. Two of the most important prognostic factors associated with thyroid cancer are lymph node metastasis (LNM) and extrathyroidal extension (ETE) of the tumor. The purpose of this study was to determine if the MTNS can predict the presence of LNM and ETE.

**Methods:** Chart review of patients who underwent total or subtotal thyroidectomy between January 2009 and April 2013, with pathology being micropapillary, papillary or follicular carcinoma. Data was analyzed using chi-square tests with a p-value < 0.05.

**Results:** 543 charts were reviewed. 112 (21%) patients had LNM and 99 (18%) had ETE for all pathologies confounded. Nearly 80% who had LNM or ETE had a MTNS of 9 or more. The likelihood ratio for the presence of LNM and a MTNS higher than 9 was 5.58 (p=0.018). The likelihood ratio for the presence of ETE and a MTNS higher than 9 was 13.61 (p=0.001).

**Discussion & Conclusion:** In our study, the majority of patients with thyroid cancer did not have LNM or ETE. Patients with a preoperative MTNS of 9 or greater however were significantly more likely to have LNM and/or a tumour with ETE. The MTNS can thus be valuable to counsel the patient and tailor the management according to the patient characteristics'.