

PAPILLARY THYROID CANCER AMONG DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS IN COLOMBIA

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Background/Purpose: Radiology has certainly brought a “light” into diagnostic and therapeutic medicine. However, radiation exposure may be deleterious for those handling it without the proper measures. Different occupations might have a higher risk than others who are not exposed.

Methods: Patients with post-operative diagnosis of papillary carcinoma of the thyroid were included in this eight yearlong retrospective study, all patients’ occupation/ profession was reviewed in order to identify groups at higher risk. Their occupational exposure to radiation sources was inquired. Patients with prior radiation therapy treatments to the neck area were excluded from the study (In example prior radiation therapy due to breast cancer or lymphoma etc.)

Results: Throughout the study period nearly six hundred patients were operated due to papillary carcinoma of the thyroid gland. Females were more affected than males. Females were more commonly affected than males. Dentists had the highest incidence. Indeed, out of eight dentists only one of them used protective measures to reduce the risk of radiation to their body while they were in training and also during their professional life. Lack of radiation shield was also observed in the case of one interventional cardiologist.

Discussion & Conclusion: Certainly there is a risk of developing thyroid cancer in the long term if individuals don’t take the necessary measurements to protect themselves at work like they should.