

## **PAPILLARY THYROID CANCER AND AUTOIMMUNE THYROIDITIS**

Podoba, Jan<sup>1</sup>; Podobová, Maria<sup>2</sup>; Grigerová, Marianna<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dept. Endocrinology, Slovak Medical University and St. Elizabeth Cancer Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia, Slovakia; <sup>2</sup>Dept. Endocrinology, St. Elizabeth Cancer Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia, Slovakia

**Background/Purpose:** Association of autoimmune thyroiditis (AIT) and papillary thyroid cancer (PTC) has been recognized since 1955. Coexistence of these diseases has been well documented, but causality is still a matter of debate. Pathogenetic links between PTC and AIT try to explain two theories: 1/ PTC is induced or facilitated by AIT, 2/ AIT is a response to PTC. It is believed that PTC associated to AIT has a better prognosis and survival.

**Methods:** Histological and laboratory results of 574 differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC) patients were reviewed. Diagnosis of AIT was based on histological finding and/or high antiTPO levels ( $\geq 5$ -times over upper reference range limit).

**Results:** The incidence of AIT in DTC patients was 33,4%, 3- times higher compared to general population. DTC was diagnosed earlier (better TNM stage), with even higher PTC incidence (95%), classic subtype was the most frequent one. On the other hand in some patients PTC had an insidious course: lymph node metastases were detected without any ultrasonographically (USG) detectable nodule in thyroid gland. Histology revealed multifocal microcarcinoma or diffuse sclerosing variant.

**Discussion & Conclusion:** We detected a high incidence of AIT in DTC/PTC patients. In spite of better prognosis, in some of them an insidious course of PTC was found out. We recommend a close observation for neoplastic changes in patients with AIT.