IS AGE ASSOCIATED WITH RISK OF MALIGNANCY IN THYROID CANCER?
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Background/Purpose: Many predictive and prognostic(AMES, AGES, or MACIS) models for thyroid cancer have been proposed. Age is considered in all of them.
Objective: To establish whether patients’ age correlates with the rate of malignancy, size, and aggressiveness of the thyroid cancer.
Methods: A retrospective analysis of 1022 patients undergoing consecutive thyroidectomy. The patients were divided based on age at the time of surgery(<45 years old(yo) and ≥45yo). Data regarding size of thyroid nodules, presence of lymph node(LN) metastasis, and final thyroid pathology including the presence of extrathyroidal extension(ETE) were retrieved.
Results: There were 396 patients <45yo and 626 patients ≥45yo. The rates of malignancy were 67.2% and 68.7% respectively (p=0.111). Patient’s >45yo show a trend toward increased presence of LN mets(19.4% vs. 14.9%; p=0.067). In addition, male patient’s were more often associated with LN metastasis(18.9% vs. 15.8%; p=0.0517). When patient’s were stratified for age patient’s >80yo demonstrate increased incidence of LN metastasis compared to the rest of patient population (40.0% vs. 16.2%; p=0.048). There was no significant difference in regards to size of thyroid nodules(p=0.263) and the rate of ETE(16.2% vs. 16.5%; p=0.971).
Discussion & Conclusion: In this study, rate of malignancy and ETE were independent of the age of the patient. While patients<45 demonstrate a trend towards increased LN metastasis. Furthermore, LN metastasis is more often associated with males and patient’s >80yo.