STRIVING FOR A NEW AND IMPROVED NATIONAL THYROID CANCER DATABASE

Mehra, Saral1; Tuttle, Robert M.2; Bergman, Donald3; Bernet, Victor4; Cobin, Rhoda5; Doherty, Gerard6; Klopper, Joshua7; Lee, Stephanie8; Machac, Josef9; Milas, Mira10; Mandel, Susan11; Mechanick, Jeffrey I.1; Orloff, Lisa12; Randolph, Gregory13; Ross, Douglas S.14; Smallridge, Robert1; Terris, David15; Tufano, Ralph16; Alon, Eran17; Clain, Jason18; Scherl, Sophie18; Dos Reis, Laura18; Urken, Mark L.18

1Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY, USA; 2Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Endocrinology Service, New York, NY, USA; 3Mount Sinai Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease, New York, NY, USA; 4Mayo Clinic Department of Endocrinology, Jacksonville, FL, USA; 5North Jersey Endocrine & Diabetes Associates, Ridgewood, NJ, USA; 6Department of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA; 7University of Colorado Denver, Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes, Aurora, CO, USA; 8Boston Medical Center Section of Endocrinology, Nutrition and Diabetes, Boston, MA, USA; 9Mount Sinai Hospital, Department of Radiology, New York, NY, USA; 10Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR, USA; 11Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA; 12UCSF Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, San Francisco, CA, USA; 13Massachusetts General Hospital Department of Otolaryngology, Boston, MA, USA; 14Massachusetts General Hospital Department of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA; 15Georgia Regents University Department of Otolaryngology, Augusta, GA, USA; 16John Hopkins Hospital Department of Otolaryngology, Baltimore, MD, USA; 17Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University Israel, Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Tel Hashomer, Israel, Israel; 18Thyroid, Head & Neck Cancer Foundation, New York, NY, USA

Background/Purpose: There is a significant need to collect and analyze data to help improve management of thyroid cancer. National and multi-institutional cancer databases are powerful tools for cancer surveillance and for analysis of treatment outcomes, benchmarking results, and creating quality-improvement initiatives. However, there are a number of unique aspects of thyroid cancer that limit the utility of current databases to study disease outcomes and influence clinical practice guidelines. The purpose of this review is to present advantages of a novel web-based disease management program called the Thyroid Cancer Care Collaborative (TCCC) as a new comprehensive National database specific to thyroid cancer.

Methods: Review article in which parameters relevant to thyroid cancer from four major cancer databases (Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results, National Cancer Database, National Thyroid Cancer Treatment Cooperative, and Thyroid Tumor & Cancer Collaborative Registry) are analyzed. Advantages of the TCCC as a new National database for thyroid cancer are elucidated.

Results: The advantages of the TCCC are: 1) Seamless integration of data entry into physician work-flow; 2) Improved accuracy of data-input; 3) Data-fields to include unique aspects of comprehensive thyroid cancer care; 4) Dynamic field changes as new information becomes available (e.g. molecular markers and genetic alterations); 5) Life-time follow-up on disease status and treatment-related complications even if patients move locations or change providers; 6) Representation across the entire spectrum of disease presentation and sites of care; 7) Private analysis of outcomes in physician’s patients against larger-scale regional or National benchmarks.

Discussion & Conclusion: The TCCC can become a new and improved National database specific to thyroid cancer with a number of advantages over current registries.