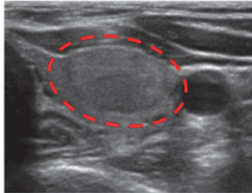
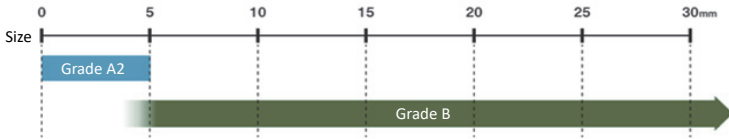


# Thyroid Examination: Nodules

A nodule, which might also be called a lump, is an irregular growth of thyroid cells.



- Nodules may be malignant (cancerous), but most are benign.

< Thyroid cancer >

- In many cases, latent thyroid cancer has no symptoms or health effects over a lifetime.
- Latent thyroid cancer is usually small. It may be disadvantageous to force patients to receive treatment if such a cancer is found incidentally.
- Therefore, a detailed examination is not generally conducted for small nodules.

< Thyroid Examination conducted in the Fukushima Health Management Survey >

- The Confirmatory Examination is not conducted for nodules of 5 mm or smaller and follow-ups are to be made at the time of the next examination.
- However, when a detailed examination is found to be necessary, a case with nodules of 5 mm or smaller is diagnosed as Grade B and the Confirmatory Examination is recommended.

Prepared based on the website of the Radiation Medical Science Center for the Fukushima Health Management Survey, Fukushima Medical University, "Q&A on the Thyroid Examination"

A nodule, which might also be called a lump, is an irregular growth of thyroid cells. Some nodules are malignant, but most are benign.

Thyroid cancer has been known as a type of cancer that is latent, that is, having no symptoms or health effects over a lifetime. Thus, detecting all cancers and forcing patients to receive treatment may be sometimes rather disadvantageous, so a detailed examination, such as cytological diagnosis, is not generally conducted for small nodules. In the Thyroid Examination conducted through the Fukushima Health Management Survey, the Confirmatory Examination is not generally performed for nodules of 5 mm or smaller; instead, follow-ups are to be made at the time of the next regularly scheduled ultrasound examination (Primary Examination).

In some cases, a person once diagnosed as Grade A1 is diagnosed as Grade A2 or Grade B in the next examination, or conversely, a person once diagnosed as Grade A2 is subsequently diagnosed as Grade A1.

Included in this reference material on March 31, 2013

Updated on March 31, 2017