

### Some thyroid cancer is occult (latent) and presents no symptoms over a lifetime.

**\* Occult (latent) cancer**

A cancer that is slow-growing with no symptoms and is found only through postmortem autopsy

#### Occult (latent) thyroid cancer

- Thyroid cancer is mostly a differentiated cancer and no symptoms appear over a lifetime in some cases as cancerous cell growth is slow.
- An autopsy study conducted in Japan reported that occult differentiated thyroid cancer was found in approximately 28% of 102 cases of postmortem autopsy.

[Reference] Probabilities of developing thyroid cancer during lifetime for Japanese people\* Female: 0.78%; Male: 0.23%

\* Probabilities that the Japanese people develop thyroid cancer at least once during their lifetime, which were calculated based on data on the number of cancer patients from 1975 to 1999 in Japan (Kamo, et al., Journal of Health and Welfare Statistics, Vol. 52, No. 6, June 2005)

Source: Prepared based on Kamo K et al., (2008) Jpn. J. Clin. Oncol. 38(8) 571-576; Fukunaga et al., (1975) Cancer 36:1095-1099, etc.

Some types of cancer present no symptoms and exert no effects on people's health throughout their lifetime and are not clinically detected but are later found through histopathology diagnosis (including postmortem autopsy). Such cancer is called occult (latent) cancer.

Thyroid cancer is mostly a differentiated cancer in which cancer cells are mature and grow slowly. No symptoms appear over a lifetime in some cases. Such differentiated thyroid cancer is sometimes found as an occult (latent) cancer only through an autopsy conducted after a person's death due to other causes.

Based on an analysis using the cancer registry, probabilities that a Japanese person will develop thyroid cancer during his/her lifetime are 0.78% for female and 0.23% for male.\*<sup>1</sup> For example, there was a report that as a result of postmortem autopsies for 102 cases conducted in Sendai in 1975, occult differentiated thyroid cancer was found in 29 cases (prevalence rate: 28.43%).\*<sup>2</sup> These results also show that in many cases, thyroid cancer is an occult (latent) cancer without symptoms over a lifetime.

\*1: Kamo K et al., "Lifetime and Age-Conditional Probabilities of Developing or Dying of Cancer in Japan" Jpn. J. Clin. Oncol. 38(8) 571-576, 2008.

\*2: Fukunaga FH, Yatani R., "Geographic pathology of occult thyroid carcinomas" Cancer 36:1095-1099, 1975.

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