



A Case Report of Micropapillary Thyroid Carcinoma-Diagnostic Challenge and Management Protocol

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I. INTRODUCTION-

Papillary thyroid microcarcinoma (PTMC) is a thyroid cancer with small tumors that are 1.0 cm maximum in diameter. The majority of PTMCs are not commonly found on clinical examination and preoperative investigations like FNAC and mostly found from histopathological examinations post thyroidectomy performed for the benign thyroid diseases. Rise in incidence of PTMC may be explained by better presurgical and post-surgical diagnostic modalities. PTMC commonly seen in long standing multinodular goiter. The treatment of PTMC has a higher cure of more than 90% with early diagnosis and surgery.

II. CASE SUMMARY

A 38-year-old male with a swelling in front of the neck for 1 year, progressively increasing in size, with no symptoms of hypo/hyperthyroidism and no compression symptoms.

O/E- swelling of size 6x4 cm in the right lobe of the thyroid, moves with deglutition on palpation it is not tender or warm, cystic in consistency with multiple small nodules. **USG NECK:** was done and it is suggestive of MNG - Tirades 3 following which FNAC was done.

FNAC: Class II Bethesda system - benign adenomatoid nodule with secondary degenerative changes; however, in view of the presence of nuclear grooves and pleomorphism, advanced histopathological correlation is needed. The patient underwent Total Thyroidectomy.

INTRA OPERATIVE FINDINGS: The gland was grossly enlarged, right more than left, specimen measuring 7x7x4.5 cm, nodular. Right lobe measures 7x6x4 cm, isthmus measures 2.7x1x0.5 cm. Left lobe measures 4.5x3x2 cm. The gland shows multiple nodules, the largest nodule measures 3 cm across and the smallest nodule measures 1 cm

across.

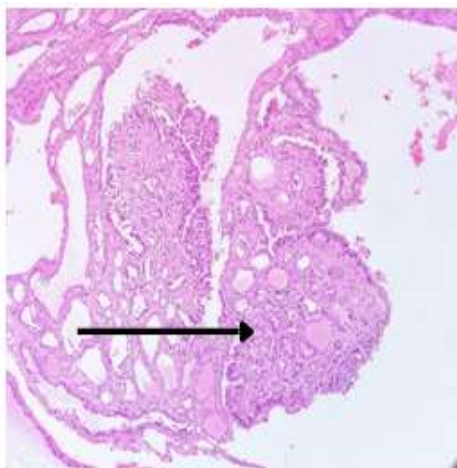
BIOPSY: sections from both lobes show varying sized multiple nodules of thyroid, separated by fibrous septa. The varying sized follicles are lined by flattened cuboidal epithelium and are filled with colloid areas of cystic change and hemorrhage (fig. 2). Calcification, cholesterol clefts and focal papillary hyperplasia are also seen. One focus in the right lobe shows an encapsulated lesion measuring 0.4 cm showing features of micropapillary carcinoma (fig. 1). Rest of the thyroid parenchyma shows extensive infiltration by lymphoid follicles



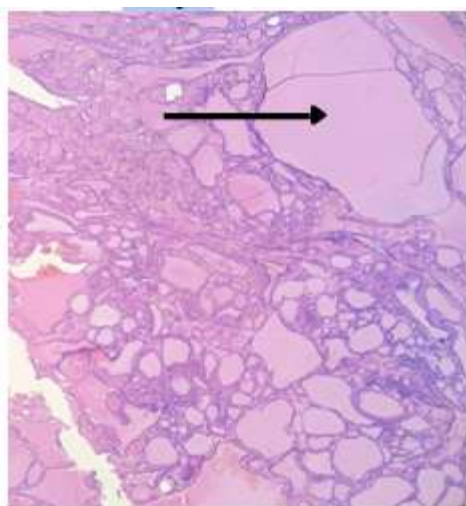
Clinical picture



specimen



HPE fig:1



HPE fig:2

III. DISCUSSION –

Differentiated thyroid cancer, is the most frequent endocrine cancer, with a rising global incidence. Papillary thyroid micro carcinomas (PTMCs) account for up to 43% of all thyroid malignancies, and they account for approximately half of all new occurrences of papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC). PTC with a maximum diameter of less than 1.0 cm is referred to as PTMC(1). PTMCs are commonly thought as benign tumors that have no clinical importance and have little effect on patient's survival. PTMCs, on the other hand, demonstrate wide range of disease severity and reported frequency of aggressive characteristics. These tumors are most commonly found following a histopathologic evaluation of thyroid glands removed during surgery for non-thyroidal or non-malignant thyroid illness (2).

A papillary micro carcinoma may be the initial lesion of lymph node metastasis is that

manifests clinically as a neck tumor on rare occasions. PTMC's clinical significance is currently unknown. Although most PTMC's have a slow progression and a good prognosis, others are suspected to be linked to recurrence, distant metastasis, or death. Papillary microcarcinomas have a good prognosis and can even act like benign lesions, thus they can be treated conservatively. Microcarcinomas, on the other hand, are "real" tumors that, in some situations, require rigorous therapy. PTMC has a high risk of lymph node metastasis to the central compartment despite the absence of palpable neck nodes.

Identification of individuals with aggressive PTMC is critical because they require a more radical treatment approach, such as total thyroidectomy, lymphadenectomy, central compartment surgery, and radioiodine therapy. (3) Despite the fact that there is a body of literature advocating the use of I-131 therapy for patients with PTMC, few studies have been able to show that I-131 therapy has a therapeutic advantage for patients with PTMC.

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