

Thyroglobulin levels in needle lymph node cytology for the detection of papillary thyroid cancer recurrence Utilidad de la detección de tiroglobulina en el aspirado de punción ganglionar cervical en el seguimiento de pacientes con cáncer papilar de tiroid

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Background: During the detection of neck recurrence in patients with Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma (PTC), sometimes it is difficult to distinguish metastatic from inflammatory neck lymph nodes. The measurement of serum thyroglobulin (sTg) under thyroid hormone suppression therapy, the presence of serum thyroglobulin antibodies (sAbTg), the diagnostic whole body scan and cytology can give false negative results. Measurement of thyroglobulin in the washout fluid from fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) of suspicious neck lymph nodes could improve the diagnostic accuracy.

Aim: To evaluate the usefulness of detecting Tg in lymph nodes (LTg) suspicious by ultrasonography (LE) and compare it to cytology. **Patients and Methods:** Between the years 2004 and 2007 we prospectively studied 30 patients with PTC and cervical I/E findings of suspicious recurrence. LTg was assayed in I/B guided FNAB used for cytology. **Results:** Sixteen out of 30 patients underwent surgery using as selective criteria an LTg high