

An ultrasound score to predict the presence of papillary thyroid carcinoma.

Preliminary report Diseño de una escala ecográfica predictora de malignidad en nódulos tiroideos: Comunicación preliminar

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Background: Thyroid nodules are common and associated to a low risk of malignancy. Their clinical assessment usually includes a fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB). **Aim:** To identify ultrasonographic characteristics associated to papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) and generate a score that predicts the risk of PTC. **Material and methods:** Retrospective review of all fine needle aspiration biopsies of the thyroid performed in a lapse of two years. Biopsies that were conclusive for PTC were selected and compared with an equal amount of randomly selected biopsies that disclosed a benign diagnosis. **Results:** One hundred twenty two biopsies of a total of 1,498 were conclusive for PTC. Univariate analysis showed associations with PTC for the presence of micro-calcifications (Odds ratio (OR) 49.2: 95% confidence intervals (CI) 18.7-140.9), solid

predominance (OR 25.1; 95% CI 6-220), hypoechogenicity (OR 23.5, 95% CI 6.5-122.6), irregular borders (OR 17, 95% CI 7.2-42.9), lymph node involvement (O