

Thyroid Cancer 2017: New Advances in Diagnosis & Treatment

November 10, 2017

Learning Objectives

After participating in this CME activity, participants should be able to:

- Identify appropriate approaches to patient evaluation in patients with thyroid nodules or recurrent disease, including ultrasound, biopsy, and molecular markers, and properly apply current guidelines.
- Describe the indications for molecular markers in the diagnosis of thyroid cancer and apply the results to individualize patient care.
- Assess the risks and benefits of observation, conservative or aggressive treatment to determine which thyroid cancers warrant conservative versus more aggressive treatment
- Interpret a plethora of literature and guidelines to provide the most appropriate care to both their pediatric and adult patients.
- Apply evidence based practice algorithms to a thoughtful, personalized care program.
- Effectively communicate confusing or controversial information with patients to support informed patient care decision making. Specifically, discuss appropriate testing and monitoring strategies, and the pros and cons of observation vs conservative vs aggressive treatment for thyroid cancer.
- Assess the costs of testing versus benefit to patient care when determining the need for individual patient testing.
- Rationally and cost-effectively incorporate advances such as thyroglobulin measurement, thyrogen stimulated testing and ultrasonography into protocols which detect clinically significant recurrences of thyroid cancer while preserving health care resources.
- Describe the mechanism of action and indications of the current kinase inhibitor drugs and explain the benefits, side effects and contraindications of these new drugs.
- Identify opportunities where referral to an oncologist and enrollment in an appropriate clinical trial would benefit a patient's care.
- Assess their individual practices in light of the information and discussions during the course, and identify specific strategies to implement as part of a continuing improvement process for their practices.