甲状腺結節(腫瘤)超音波診断基準

日本超音波医学会用語·診断基準委員会 委員長 貴田岡正史

平成20·21年度結節性甲状腺腫診断基準検討小委員会

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甲状腺結節診断基準は平成3年に公示され、その後平成11年に改訂版が公示された.

今回の改訂では、診断基準における超音波所見を「主」と「副」とに2分した。超音波所見として客観的評価の中から有用性が高い(明らかなもの)を「主」とし、主所見に比べ有所見率の統計学的差違が低い所見を「副」している。「主」としては、形状、境界部の明瞭性・性状、及び内部エコー(エコーレベルと均質性)を、「副」としては微細高エコーと境界部低エコー帯をそれぞれ配置し、良悪性における特徴を記載した。また、8項目の付記を記載し、上記の診断基準を足した。特に、悪性所見を呈する結節の多くは「主」を呈し、乳頭癌、濾胞癌、髄様癌、悪性リンパ腫、未分化癌などで認められるのに対し、良性所見を呈しうる悪性疾患としては、微少浸潤型濾胞癌及び10mm以下の微小乳頭癌・髄様癌・悪性リンパ腫などがあることも付記することで、従来の診断基準が乳頭癌に的を絞ったものである点を回避した。

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	形状	境界の 明瞭性・性状	内部エコー		微細	境界部
			エコーレベル	均質性	高エコー	低エコー帯
良性所見	整	明瞭平滑	高~低	均質	(-)	整
悪性所見	不整	不明瞭粗雑	低	不均質	多発	不整/無し

甲状腺結節 (腫瘤) 超音波診断基準

<付記>

- 1. 超音波所見として客観的評価の中から有用性が高い(明らかなもの)を「主」とした。また、悪性腫瘍の90%を占める乳頭癌において特徴的であるが、主所見に比べ有所見率の統計学的差違が低い所見を「副」とした.
- 2. 内部エコーレベルが高~等は良性所見として有用である.
- 3. 粗大な高エコーは良性悪性いずれにも見られる.
- 4. 所属リンパ節腫大は悪性所見として有用である.
- 5. 良性所見を呈する結節の多くは、腺腫様甲状腺腫、濾胞腺腫である.
- 6. 悪性所見を呈する結節の多くは、乳頭癌、濾胞癌、髄様癌、悪性リンパ腫、未分化癌である.
- 7. 良性所見を呈しうる悪性疾患は、微少浸潤型濾胞癌および 10 mm 以下の微小乳頭癌・髄様癌・悪性リンパ腫である。
 - (1) 微少浸潤型濾胞癌は、良性所見を示すことが多い.

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- (2) 10 mm 以下の微小乳頭癌は、境界平滑で高エコーを伴わないことがある.
- (3) 髄様癌は、甲状腺上極 1/3 に多く、良性所見を呈することがある.
- (4) 悪性リンパ腫は、橋本病を基礎疾患とすることが多く、境界明瞭、内部エコー低、後方エコー増強が特徴的である.
- 8. 悪性所見を呈しうる良性疾患は、亜急性甲状腺炎、腺腫様甲状腺腫である.
 - (1) 亜急性甲状腺炎は、炎症部位である低エコー域が悪性所見を呈するとがある.
 - (2) 腺腫様甲状腺腫では、境界部エコー帯を認めない場合や境界不明瞭なことがある.

Ultrasound Diagnostic Criteria for Thyroid Nodule

Terminology and Diagnostic Criteria Committee, Japan Society of Ultrasonic in Medicine

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Thyroid nodule diagnostic criteria were first published in 1991, with a revised version subsequently being released in 1999.

In the present revision, ultrasound findings were divided into "primary" and "secondary" findings. Ultrasound findings that are highly (clearly) useful based on objective evaluation are treated as "primary" findings, while those with a low statistical difference in terms of the percentage of persons with the finding relative to "primary" findings are regarded as "secondary" findings. The characteristics of benign and malignant nodules were described, with "primary" findings being shape, boundary zone sharpness/properties, and internal echoes (echo intensity and homogeneity), and "secondary" findings being fine hyperechoic bands and boundary zone hypoechoic bands. Eight additional remarks were provided to supplement the above diagnostic criteria. In particular, the issue of conventional diagnostic criteria focusing on papillary carcinoma was avoided by adding that many nodules that present malignant findings present "primary" findings, and are seen in papillary carcinoma, follicular carcinoma, medullary carcinoma, malignant lymphoma, and undifferentiated carcinoma and micropapillary carcinoma/medullary carcinoma/malignant lymphoma that are ≤ 10 mm in size.

Ultrasound Diagnostic Criteria for Thyroid Nodule

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	Shape	Edge definition and character of the border	Internal echoes		Fine strong	Marginal
			Echo level	Homogeneity	echoes	hypoechoic zones
Benign findings	regular	well-defined smooth	high-low	homogeneous	(-)	regular
Malignant findings	irregular	ill-defined jagged	low	heterogeneous	multiple	irregular / none

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<Supplementary Note>

- Very useful (obvious) ultrasound findings in the objective assessment were considered "primary." The findings
 that are characteristic of papillary carcinoma, which accounts for 90% of malignant tumors, and have a lower
 statistical difference in positive-finding rate compared with primary findings were considered "secondary."
- 2. High-equal internal echo level is useful as benign findings.
- 3. Coarse strong echoes can be seen in both benign and malignant diseases.
- 4. Regional lymph node enlargement is useful for malignant findings.
- 5. Many of the nodules that were benign are adenomatous goiter and follicular adenoma.
- 6. Many of the malignant nodules were papillary carcinoma, follicular carcinoma, medullary carcinoma, malignant lymphoma, and undifferentiated carcinoma.
- 7. Malignant diseases that appear to be benign include minimally invasive follicular carcinoma and microcapillary carcinoma, medullary carcinoma, and malignant lymphoma that are 10 mm or less in diameter.
 - (1) Minimally invasive follicular carcinoma often presents with benign findings.
 - (2) Micropapillary carcinoma that are 10 mm or less in diameter may show a smooth border and may not be accompanied by strong echoes.
 - (3) Medullary carcinoma frequently occurs in one-third of the superior pole of the thyroid gland and may present with benign findings.
 - (4) Malignant lymphoma is often associated with Hashimoto's disease as the underlying disease, and has characteristics of well-defined border, low internal echoes, and posterior echo enhancement.
- 8. Benign diseases that can appear to be malignant are subacute thyroiditis and adenomatous goiter.
 - (1) In subacute thyroiditis, hypoechoic area of an inflammatory site may appear to be malignant.
 - (2) In adenomatous goiter, a boundary echoic zone may not be observed and an ill-defined border may be seen.