Sensitivity and specificity of thyroid cytology in the diagnosis of malignancy. Results of a series of 1567 thyroidectomies.

Hospitals of Cuenca, Guadalajara, Toledo, Ciudad Real, Talavera de la Reina y Ciudad Real respectively. Spain.

Objectives: Sensitivity and specificity of thyroid cytology in our series of thyroidectomies were evaluated.

Methods: A retrospective, multicentered study of 1567 thyroidectomies performed in the 8 hospitals of Castilla La Mancha (Spain) during the years 2010-2013.

Results: The cytologic results were benign in 37.6% of cases, malignant or suspicious of malignancy in 17.3% (10% and 7.3% respectively). In 4.1% of cases the cytology was atypical or indeterminate and in 12.5% follicular proliferation / follicular lesion. There were 8% non-diagnostic cytologies. In patients whose prequirurgical FNA was nondiagnostic, 20.6% had a carcinoma. Overall, 25.6% of patients had thyroid carcinoma. The sensitivity and specificity of suspicion of malignancy or malignant thyroid cytology for the diagnosis of malignancy was 75.8% and 90.3% respectively. There were 3.5% false positive and 4.5% false negative results.

Conclusions: Thyroid Cytology is the diagnostic technique of choice for the study of thyroid nodule. The results in terms of sensitivity, specificity and nondiagnostic cytology in our series are acceptable.

References: