

Research paper 3

Audit on reporting of thyroid cancers at a tertiary centre

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Introduction and objectives: The Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) guideline for reporting thyroid cancers was updated in August 2023 following revisions to the World Health Organization (WHO) classification of thyroid tumours in 2022. The objectives of this audit were to assess the adequacy of histology reports of excision specimens of thyroid cancers according to the updated RCPATH dataset and to assess the usage of new terminologies for final diagnosis according to the latest WHO classification of tumours.

Methodology: Thyroid excision specimens reported at the centre from 01.09.2023-30.04.2024 were included in the audit. The standards for the assessment were (1) a structured template should be used in 95% of reports, (2) all core data items should be included in 95% of the reports and (3) final histopathological diagnoses must be given according to the WHO classification of thyroid diseases 2022 in 100%.

Results: A structured dataset was used in all thyroid cancers (n=33, 100%). None of the reports contained a full set of core data items. The tumour grade was not mentioned in any of the reports. Tumour encapsulation, capsular invasion, mitotic count and presence of necrosis were documented in 45.4%, 39.3%, 75.7% and 72.7% respectively. The documentation of these items improved with time. All tumours were categorised correctly according to the latest WHO classification of tumours.

Discussion and conclusions: The reporting of new core items introduced in the 2023 RCPATH dataset for thyroid cancer was suboptimal. This may be due to the time taken to adapt to the latest RCPATH dataset and WHO Classification of Tumours. An updated structured reporting template was developed according to the RCPATH dataset for the histopathological reporting of thyroid cancer, August 2023 to overcome these deficiencies.

Keywords: thyroid malignancies, core data items, dataset, audit

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