

# Incidence of thyroid cancer, is it worrying? Bangladesh perspective

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## Objective:

The incidence of thyroid cancer has rapidly increased in the United States (US) and other developed countries over the past 30 years but there was no study to find out the true incidence of thyroid cancer in Bangladesh. The aim of this study is to compare FNAC with histopathology reports, to find out the true incidence of thyroid malignancy in thyroidectomy patients presenting with thyroid swelling and to know if it is increasing and if so what is the reason for it?

## Methods:

This is a retrospective study of 140, 200, and 300 thyroidectomy patients who underwent thyroid surgery done at Matin Specialised Hospital, Bogura, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, a tertiary Care Hospital in Dhaka and Bangladesh ENT Hospital Dhaka from January 2016 to April 2022. FNAC and histopathology reports were studied to find out the incidence of benign and thyroid malignancy among the thyroid swelling.

## Results:

The age of the patients ranged from 6 to 75 years. The mean age was 37.2 -38.85 years. All these 3 studies showed more females with a female to male ratio of 3.54:1 to 3.76:1. Histopathology of the first 140 thyroidectomy patients (Jan 2016 to July 2019 done at Matin Hospital) showed 67% benign and 33% malignant lesions. The second study of 200 thyroidectomy patients (July 2017 to December 2020 at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital) also showed similar results with a benign to malignant ratio of 2:1. The third study of 300 thyroidectomy patients (from Jan 2021 to April 2022 at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Bangladesh ENT Hospital) showed an increased number of cancer patients with a benign to malignant ratio of 1.5:1. Benign lesions are mostly colloid goiter in all these studies and malignant lesions are mostly papillary carcinoma (>90%).

## Conclusion:

Why there is a drastic increase of thyroid cancer in most recent years we still do not know but our study population are mostly from endemic zones, patients are more conscious, easy availability of diagnostic facilities may be the reason. We recommend surgery for any thyroid swelling even if it is benign on FNAC.