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Turkish Division of the International Academy of Pathology (CIAPAT)  
Turkish Society of Cytopathology  
Department of Pathology, Clinical Institute of the University of Sarajevo,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

**BETHESDA REPORTING SYSTEM**

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ipatimup

FMUP FACULDADE DE MEDICINA  
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### The Benefits of a Uniform Reporting System for Thyroid Cytopathology

- Improve communication
- Facilitate cytological-histological correlation
- Facilitate research into the epidemiology, molecular biology, pathology, and diagnosis of thyroid diseases
- Allow easy and reliable sharing of data from different laboratories for collaborative studies

### TBSRTC – DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORIES

- NONDIAGNOSTIC or UNSATISFACTORY
- BENIGN
- ATYPIA OF UNDETERMINED SIGNIFICANCE (AUS) or FOLLICULAR LESION OF UNDETERMINED SIGNIFICANCE (FLUS)
- FOLLICULAR NEOPLASM or SUSPICIOUS FOR A FOLLICULAR NEOPLASM (SFN)
  - specify if Hurthle cell (oncocyctic) type
- SUSPICIOUS FOR MALIGNANCY (SM)
- MALIGNANT

### TBSRTC 1- Probabilistic approach and Relationship to Clinical Algorithms

Category	Risk of Malignancy (%)	Usual Management
Nondiagnostic	1-4	Repeat FNA w/ US
Benign	0-3	Follow
AUS or FLUS	10-15	Repeat FNA
SFN	15-30	Lobectomy
SM (usually papillary CA)	60-75	Lobectomy or total thyroidectomy
Malignant	97-99	Total thyroidectomy

### TBSRTC 2- Probabilistic approach and Relationship to Clinical Algorithms

Category	Risk of Malignancy (%)	Usual Management
Nondiagnostic	(1-4) 0-5	Repeat FNA w/ US
Benign	0-3	Follow
AUS or FLUS	(10-15) 10-30	Repeat FNA, <b>molecular testing or lobectomy</b>
SFN	(15-30) 25-50	Lobectomy or <b>molecular testing</b>
Suspicious for Malignancy (usually papillary CA)	(60-75) 50-75	Lobectomy or total thyroidectomy
Malignant	97-99	Total thyroidectomy ( <b>lobectomy</b> )*

### TBSRTC 2- Probabilistic approach and Relationship to Clinical Algorithms

#### ATA 2015, Recommendation 35B

For patients with thyroid cancer >1 cm and <4 cm without extrathyroidal extension, and without clinical evidence of any lymph node metastases (cN0), the initial surgical procedure can be either a bilateral procedure (near- total or total thyroidectomy) or a unilateral procedure (lobectomy). Thyroid lobectomy alone may be sufficient initial treatment for low-risk papillary and follicular carcinomas; however, the treatment team may choose total thyroidectomy to enable RAI therapy or to enhance follow-up based upon disease features and/or patient preferences

**TBSRTC – NON DIAGNOSTIC**

PPV 0-5%

- **INCIDENCE: 2-20% (<10%)**
- **SPECIMEN PROCESSED AND EXAMINED**
- **ADEQUACY CRITERION**
  - ✓ **At least 6 groups, each with at least 10 benign-appearing, well-visualized follicular cells. (LBC? –same criteria?)**
- **EXCEPTIONS**
  - ✓ **Chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis**
  - ✓ **Abundant colloid**
  - ✓ **Any atypia**
- **REASPIRATE 3 mo (with US)**

**TBSRTC – NON DIAGNOSTIC Recommendations**

- Pure acellular heavy colloid
  - ✓ *Aspirates composed only of pure heavy colloid may be followed without reaspiration*
- Cystic aspirates with watery colloid, blood and histiocytes require correlation with ultrasound findings.
- If US has “concerning features”, a repeat FNA under US guidance should be performed at least 3 months later.
- If repeat FNA is “Non-diagnostic”, correlation with family history and close clinical and US follow-up is appropriate.

**Analysis of Nondiagnostic Results in a Large Series of Thyroid Fine-Needle Aspiration Cytology Performed over 9 Years in a Single Center**

Acta Cytologica  
DOI: 10.1159/000360066

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**Table 2.** Comparison of nondiagnostic results between the first and second repeated FNAC

	Nondiagnostic	Diagnostic	Total	p
1st repeat	98 (43.6%)	127 (56.4%)	225 (100.0%)	0.653
2nd repeat	8 (36.4%)	14 (63.6%)	22 (100.0%)	
Total	106 (42.9%)	141 (57.1%)	247 (100.0%)	

**Putting an Eye on Cytological Specimens: An Audit of the Clinical Impact of Thyroid Fine-Needle Aspiration in Different Health Care Settings**

Bernardo Dias Pereira, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> René Gerhardt, M.D., Ph.D.,<sup>2,3,4</sup> and Fernando Schmitt, M.D., Ph.D., F.I.A.C.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

**Table II.** Bethesda Categories of 2005 Thyroid FNA Samples, Distributed by Type of Care

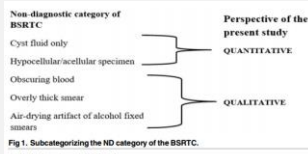
Bethesda Category (n/%)	Type of Care		Total
	GP <sup>a</sup>	E <sup>a</sup>	
Non diagnostic <sup>b</sup>	115/11.6	76/7.5	191/9.5
Benign <sup>b</sup>	743/75	830/81.8	1573/78.5
Atypia of undetermined significance	49/4.9	36/3.6	85/4.2
Follicular tumour	69/7	57/5.6	126/6.3
Suspicious for malignancy	6/0.6	8/0.8	14/0.7
Malignant	9/0.9	7/0.7	16/0.8
Total	991/100	1014/100	2005/100

<sup>a</sup>General Practitioners (GP) and Endocrinologists (E).  
<sup>b</sup>“Non diagnostic” ( $\chi^2 = 0.002$ ) and “Benign” categories ( $\chi^2 < 0.001$ ).

**A Different Perspective on Evaluating the Malignancy Rate of the Non-Diagnostic Category of the Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology: A Single Institute Experience and Review of the Literature**

Pantelaz Gurus<sup>1</sup>, Sule Cankaya<sup>2</sup>, Mine Ozmen<sup>3</sup>, Murat Erkan<sup>4</sup>, Mubir Gurses<sup>5</sup>, Emine Kilitci<sup>6</sup>, Gema Zeynep Kilicoglu<sup>7</sup>

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**Fig 1.** Subcategorizing the ND category of the BSRTC.  
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0162746.g001

**Table 1.** Distribution of histopathologic diagnoses.

<b>Benign 95.3% (n = 183)</b>	
Follicular nodular disease	65.3% (n = 122)
Adenomatous nodule	14.8% (n = 27)
Diffuse hyperplasia	9.9% (n = 18)
Chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis	5.2% (n = 7)
Follicular adenoma	13.1% (n = 24)
Oncocytic adenomas	7.6% (n = 14)
Encapsulated follicular variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma (noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasms with papillary-like nuclear features) (NFPT)	7.1% (n = 13)
<b>Malignant 4.7% (n = 9)</b>	
Papillary thyroid carcinoma	33.3% (n = 6)
Papillary thyroid microcarcinoma	55.5% (n = 5)
Medullary carcinoma	11.1% (n = 2)

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0162746.t001

**A Different Perspective on Evaluating the Malignancy Rate of the Non-Diagnostic Category of the Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology: A Single Institute Experience and Review of the Literature**

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**Table 5.** Non-diagnostic and malignancy rates for thyroid FNA in the literature.

Author	Year	Total FNA (n)	Total ND FNAs (n)	ND FNA/Total FNA (%)	Surgical follow-up (n)	Malignancy rate in the ND category (%)
MacDonald and Yazdi et al. [22]	1996	NA	NA	91	NA	2%
Al Magbali et al. [23]	2014	1657	264	16%	68	(12/68) 18%
Yoon et al. [24]	2010	22754	3701	16.3%	230	(101/230) 43.9%
Schmidt et al. [25]	1997	345	59	17.1%	21	(4/21) 5.1%
Baloch et al. [6]	2003	3007	227	7%	53	(7/53) 9.5%
Woo et al. [19]	2015	1203	84	6.98%	51	(36/51) 70.6%
Yang et al. [19]	2007	4703	488	10.4%	46	(5/46) 10.8%
Renshaw et al. [13]	2010	7089	1671	23.5%	235	(47/235) 20%
Andre PL et al. [15]	2015	-	197	25%	49	(6/49) 12.2%
Dandrea et al. [26]	2010	927	-	-	51	(3/51) 5.8%
Piana et al. [27]	2011	18359	2230	12%	96	(23/96) 24%
M.L.Richards et al. [28]	2008	241	51	21%	51	(7/51) 14%
Srinivasan JL et al. [9]	2010	1945	189	9.3%	180	(25/180) 14%
This study	2015	9020	192	6.8%	1390	(8/1390) 4.7%

FNA: Fine-needle aspiration; ND: Non-diagnostic

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0162746.t005

A Different Perspective on Evaluating the Malignancy Rate of the Non-Diagnostic Category of the Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology: A Single Institute Experience and Review of the Literature

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 DOI: 10.1002/jcb.23456  
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Table 3. Comparison of nodule and patient characteristics in benign and malignant cases.

	Benign (n = 183)	Malignant (n = 9)
Age, years, mean (range)	50.74 (20-87)	47.22 (24-82)
Gender		
Female	81.4% (n = 149)	77.8% (n = 7)
Male	18.6% (n = 34)	22.2% (n = 2)
Consistency		
Solid	76.0% (n = 139)	77.8% (n = 7)
Cystic	24.0% (n = 44)	22.2% (n = 2)
Nodule size, mm, mean (range)	34.0 (3-95 mm)	14.0 (5-40 mm)
Number of nodules		
Solitary	35.0% (n = 64)	22.2% (n = 2)
Multiple	65.0% (n = 119)	77.8% (n = 7)

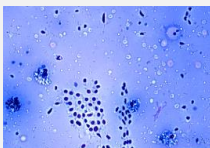
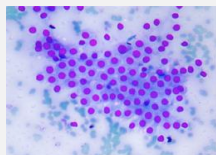
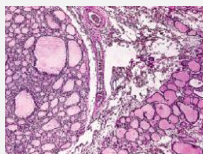
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0162745.t003

**TBSRTC – BENIGN**  
 PPV 0-3%

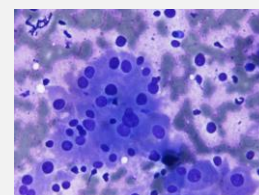
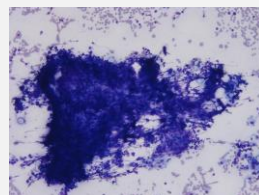
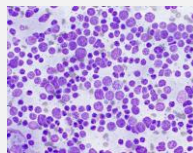
- INCIDENCE: 60-65%
- THIS CATEGORY INCLUDES
  - ✓ Hyperplastic/adenomatoid nodule.
  - ✓ Colloid nodule
  - ✓ Chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis
  - ✓ Graves' disease
- F/U BY CLINICAL AND POSSIBLY US EXAMINATION

**COLLOID NODULE**

- Sparsely to moderately cellular
- Abundant colloid
- Benign follicular cells (nuclear features of papillary CA absent)
- Predominantly macrofollicles

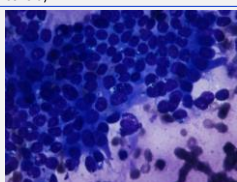
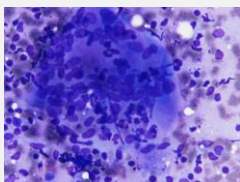


**Hashimoto thyroiditis**



**Subacute thyroiditis (de Quervain)**

- viral etiology, heredity (antigen HLA-B35)
- follows acute respiratory infection
- may be unilateral (single lobe)
- solitary nodule!
- moderate cellularity
- cellular debris, small amounts of colloid, regressive changes of follicular cells
- lymphocytes, PMNs and macrophages
- multinucleated giant cells (reaction to colloid)



**TBSRTC – AUS/FLUS**  
 PPV 10-30%

- DO NOT FIT EASILY INTO BENIGN OR SUSPICIOUS CATEGORIES
- RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: REPEAT FNA
- AVOID OVERUSE OF THIS CATEGORY (10% USEFUL BENCHMARK OR RELATION AUS:M: 1-3)
- A SINGLE DIAGNOSIS CARRIES A LOW RISK
- IMPACT OF NEW MOLECULAR TESTS
- POST-AUS DIAGNOSIS: 50% - BENIGN AND 50% - MORE SIGNIFICANT LESION (FOLLICULAR NEOPLASM OR ABOVE) OR REPEAT AUS

## Why some specimens are classified as AUS/FLUS ?

- Something is wrong with the specimen-poor preservation, drying, etc.
- There are disturbing features in the cells (nuclear enlargement, irregularity, clearing, rare grooves) but the amount of material is insufficient for diagnosis.
- Diffuse but mild nuclear clearing with incipient irregularities of the nuclear membrane, some crowding and pseudostratification.

## TBSRTC – SUSPICIOUS FOR A FOLLICULAR NEOPLASM OR FOLLICULAR NEOPLASM

PPV 25-50%

- INCIDENCE: 7-18%
- SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL ATYPIA
  - ✓ A predominance of microfollicles and/or trabecula
- RAISING THE POSSIBILITY OF FOLLICULAR CARCINOMA
- DISTINCTION BETWEEN FOLLICULAR ADENOMA AND CARCINOMA
- SURGERY (usually lobectomy) IS NEEDED FOR DEFINITIVE DIAGNOSIS

## TBSRTC – SUSPICIOUS FOR A HURTHLE CELL NEOPLASM

- COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF HURTHLE CELLS
- DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS IS DIFFERENT (MEDULLARY CA)
- DISTINCTION BETWEEN HCA AND HCC
- SURGERY (usually lobectomy) IS NEEDED FOR DEFINITIVE DIAGNOSIS
- FOLLICULAR NEOPLASM, HURTHLE CELL TYPE (ONCOCYTIC VARIANT)

WHO Blue Book, Endocrine Pathology, May 2017

## TBSRTC – SUSPICIOUS FOR MALIGNANCY

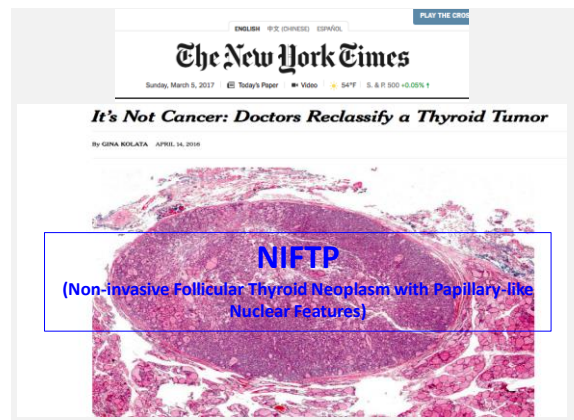
PPV 65-75%

- SUSPICIOUS FOR PTC
- SUSPICIOUS FOR MEDULLARY CARCINOMA
  - ✓ Serum calcitonin level
- SUSPICIOUS FOR MALIGNANT LYMPHOMA
  - ✓ Recommendation to repeat FNA with flow cytometry
- SUSPICIOUS FOR METASTATIC CANCER

## TBSRTC – MALIGNANT

PPV 97-99%

- PAPILLARY CARCINOMA (including variants)
- MEDULLARY CARCINOMA
- POORLY DIFFERENTIATED CARCINOMA
- ANAPLASTIC CARCINOMA
- LYMPHOMA
- METASTATIC CANCERS
- OTHERS





Fine Needle Aspiration

New Concept of the Encapsulated Follicular Variant of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma and its Impact on the Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology: A Single-Institute Experience

Canberk S., Güneş K., Önenek M., Erkan M., Kılınc E., Kocak Gursun N., Kılıçoğlu G.Z.\*

\* Author affiliations:

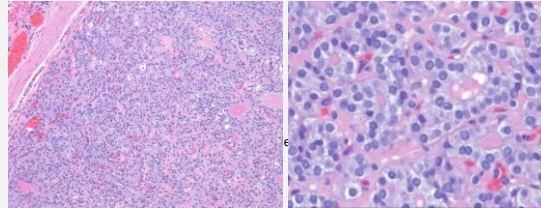
Keywords: The Bethesda System - Malignancy ratio - Fine-needle aspiration cytology - Encapsulated follicular variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma

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https://doi.org/10.1155/000447906

If EFV-PTC were considered as a non-malignant entity, what would be the alterations in malignancy ratios of each TBSRTC categories?

	TBSRTC	Malignancy ratio with EFV-PTC in our institute	Malignancy ratio without EFV-PTC in our institute	% of relative decrease in Strickland et al	% of relative decrease in Faquin et al	% of relative decrease in Canberk et al
ND	1-4%	13%	6.3%	10%	5.3%	50%
B	0-3%	7%	6%	59%	37.6%	14%
AUS/FLUS	5-15%	45%	30%	45%	43.6%	33%
SFN/SFN	15-30%	30%	10%	18%	45.5%	66%
SFM	60-75%	72%	48%	48%	28.3%	33%
M	97-99%	98%	87%	5%	3.3%	11.2%

## NIFTP



### Histopathologic Diagnostic Criteria for NIFTP

1. Encapsulation or clear demarcation\*
2. Follicular growth pattern<sup>†</sup> with <1% papillae, no psammoma bodies & 30% solid/abecular/insular growth pattern
3. Nuclear score of 2 or 3
4. No vascular or capsular invasion<sup>‡</sup>
5. No tumour necrosis
6. No high mitotic activity<sup>§</sup>

\*Thick, thin, or partial capsule or well circumscribed with a clear demarcation from adjacent thyroid tissue  
<sup>†</sup>Including microfollicular, non-follicular, or macrofollicular architecture with abundant colloid  
<sup>‡</sup>Requires adequate microscopic examination of the tumour capsule surface → **COMPETE MAPLEMO**  
<sup>§</sup>High mitotic activity defined as at least 3 mitoses per 10 high powered fields (400x)

[http://www.nfip.org/Criteria\\_for\\_NIFTP.html](http://www.nfip.org/Criteria_for_NIFTP.html)

Journal of Basic & Clinical Oncology

<http://www.scopus.com/scopus/journalDisplay.do?URL=10.1016/j.jbo.2016.03.001>

Diagnosis of Non-invasive Follicular Tumor with Papillary-like Nuclear Features (NIFTP): A Practice Change for Thyroid Fine-needle Aspiration Interpretation

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Journal of Basic & Clinical Oncology 2017; 3(1): 101-107

Canberk et al. Diagnosis of NIFTP. JBO 3(1):101-107

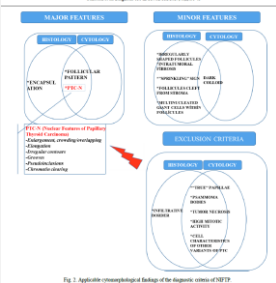


Fig. 2. Application of histopathologic findings of the diagnostic criteria of NIFTP.

## TBSRTC – Risk of Malignancy (Anticipated changes due to NIFTP)

	ROM with NIFTP (%)	Optional Note
• Nondiagnostic	0-5* *No significant change	None
• Benign	0-3*	None
• AUS	10-30 (6-18)	None
• SFN	25-50 (10-40)	Yes
• SFM	50-75 (45-60)	Yes
• Malignant	97-99 (94-96)	Yes