

SUMMARY

Palpable thyroid nodules are common, occurring in at least 4 to 7% of the population, but fewer than 5% of these are malignant.

Thyroid scintigraphy (TS), fine needle aspiration (FNA) biopsy, and ultrasonography are the techniques most often valuable for the investigation of palpable thyroid nodules.

Fine needle aspiration biopsy should be the first examination to be performed in each patient with thyroid nodules.

The main indication for surgery in thyroid nodules are fear of malignancy, compression symptoms, and cosmetic reasons.

Extent of thyroidectomy depends on the preoperative diagnostic work up and the intraoperative findings.