National Study of Providers’ Practices for Thyroid Cancer

For the purposes of this survey, *active surveillance* refers to performing serial physical exams, ultrasounds, and/or laboratory tests on a patient with biopsy-proven thyroid cancer, but who is not undergoing surgery at this time, also called “watchful waiting.”

1. Which of the following best describes your specialty?
   - Endocrinology
   - General surgery
   - Otolaryngology
   - Other → Please tell us: [ ]

2. Since December 2015, have you cared for any patients with thyroid nodules or thyroid cancer?
   - Yes
   - No → Go to question 11

3. In the last 12 months, about how many new or established patients with thyroid cancer have you cared for?
   - 5 or fewer
   - 6 to 10
   - 11 to 25
   - 26 to 50
   - More than 50

4. If you are a surgeon, in a 12 month period, about how many thyroid surgeries do you typically perform?
   [ ] thyroid surgeries

5. For this question, consider a healthy 45-year old female patient with a biopsy-proven, solitary papillary thyroid cancer. In addition, assume she has no contralateral nodules, no lymphadenopathy, no extrathyroidal extension, and no family history of thyroid cancer or history of head and neck radiation.

   For each of the following scenarios, please indicate which management option you would recommend if you could recommend only one approach.

   Would you recommend total thyroidectomy with central neck dissection, total thyroidectomy, thyroid lobectomy, or active surveillance for a cancer that is…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Total thyroidectomy with central neck dissection</th>
<th>Total thyroidectomy</th>
<th>Thyroid lobectomy</th>
<th>Active surveillance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. …0.8 cm?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. …0.8 cm and patient prefers active surveillance?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
6. The next few questions are about active surveillance.

Prior to taking this survey, were you aware that active surveillance is a management option for select patients with low-risk thyroid cancer?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

7. Do you ever discuss active surveillance as a management option with your patients with low-risk thyroid cancer?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

8. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements about active surveillance, also referred to as AS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>A little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>A great deal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. My patients are aware of AS prior to seeing me</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. I have reservations about AS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>c. I know how to determine if a patient is appropriate for AS</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. I have the appropriate resources to perform AS</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. I am concerned that patients undergoing AS may have a poor outcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. AS places a psychological burden on patients</td>
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<tr>
<td>g. AS makes me anxious</td>
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<tr>
<td>h. I want to increase my use of AS clinically</td>
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<tr>
<td>i. My colleagues routinely offer AS</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Now think about your practice for patients with low-risk thyroid cancer. Would you be more likely to offer active surveillance (AS) if …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. …you had more information about AS for yourself?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. …you had informational materials about AS for your patients?</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. …the patient signed a standardized consent form to enroll in AS?</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. In your opinion, is active surveillance for low-risk thyroid cancer overused, appropriately used, or underused in the United States?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Overused</th>
<th>Appropriately used</th>
<th>Underused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active surveillance is…</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Finally, we have a few questions about you and your practice.

How many years have you practiced, since you finished your training?  

[ ] years

12. What is your age?  

[ ] years
13. Which of the following describes how you think of yourself?
   - Female
   - Male
   - In another way: Please tell us: 

14. Which of the following best describe your race or ethnicity? (Please check all that apply)
   - American Indian or Alaskan Native
   - Asian
   - Black or African American
   - Hispanic or Latino
   - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
   - White
   - Other: Please tell us: 

15. Which one of the following best describes the setting in which you practice?
   - Academic tertiary hospital
   - Academic-affiliated hospital
   - Community hospital
   - Private practice
   - Other setting: Please tell us: 

16. Do you use the following clinical guidelines in your practice?

   a. American Thyroid Association 2015

   b. Other guidelines? Please tell us: 

17. The last question is about ultrasound.

   How would you rate the quality of ultrasound exams used for clinical decision making for your patients with thyroid cancer?
   - Excellent
   - Very good
   - Good
   - Fair
   - Poor

Thank you for participating in this survey! Please return the questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided.