

POST-THYROIDECTOMY NECK ULTRASOUND

Evaluate central (zone VI) and lateral (zones II - V) neck.

List all 3 dimensions of any lesions detected.

Be wary of hypoechoic muscles, normal parathyroid glands, benign lymph nodes, suture granulomas – comparison to earlier studies essential.

Nodes suspicious for tumor involvement:

- nodes > 1cm.
- ratio of AP to longitudinal diameter of > 0.6.
- absent or truncated fatty hilum.
- hypoechoic to strap muscle.
- microcalcifications or cystic areas (up to 50% of lymph node mets from papillary thyroid cancer are cystic).
- increased vascularity.
- size doesn't matter if any of these characteristics seen.

Nodules in thyroidectomy bed suspicious if they:

- are hypoechoic.
- increase in size.
- have microcalcifications.
- have irregular intranodular blood flow on color Doppler.
- are larger AP than other dimensions.