

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Some features of the National Thyroid Cancer Treatment Cooperative Study Group (NTCTCSG)^{1,2}

Design: Multi-centre prospective observational registry study conducted in the United States and Canada (Canadian site, Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto), with follow-up ongoing in this study. The central data repository has been maintained at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre.

Description of cohort: Patients with differentiated thyroid cancer have been enrolled. Enrollment began in January of 1987 and follow-up in this study is ongoing. Thyroid cancer treatments and relevant outcomes have been prospectively collected.

Staging systems utilized in the study: The investigators of this study have utilized the AJCC-TNM (3,4) system, as well as their own NTCTCSG staging system for papillary and follicular carcinomas (1). The NTCTCSG staging is different for papillary and follicular carcinomas, respectively, but a simplified description of this staging for papillary thyroid cancer is described herein. Low risk classification using the NTCTCSG system has been designated stages I and II, whereas high risk disease includes stages III and IV (1). In applying the NTCTCSG classification system to papillary thyroid cancer patients aged <45 years, only those with distant metastases would be classified as having NTCTCSG high risk disease (stage III), whereas all others would be classified as low risk (1). In applying the NTCTCSG classification system to papillary thyroid cancer patients aged 45 years or older, those with primary tumor >4cm in diameter, macroscopic invasion outside the thyroid, or any metastases (cervical or distant), would be classified as having NTCTCSG high risk disease, whereas those not meeting these criteria would be classified as low risk (1).

References

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