



The Pezcoller  
Foundation



34<sup>th</sup> Pezcoller Seminar

Surgical Pathology of the Thyroid and Salivary Glands:

Hot topics and slide seminars

October 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> 2023, Trento - Italy

# Papillary carcinoma and indolent follicular patterned tumors

Giovanni Tallini, MD

Anatomic Pathology, University of Bologna School of Medicine

[giovanni.tallini@unibo.it](mailto:giovanni.tallini@unibo.it)

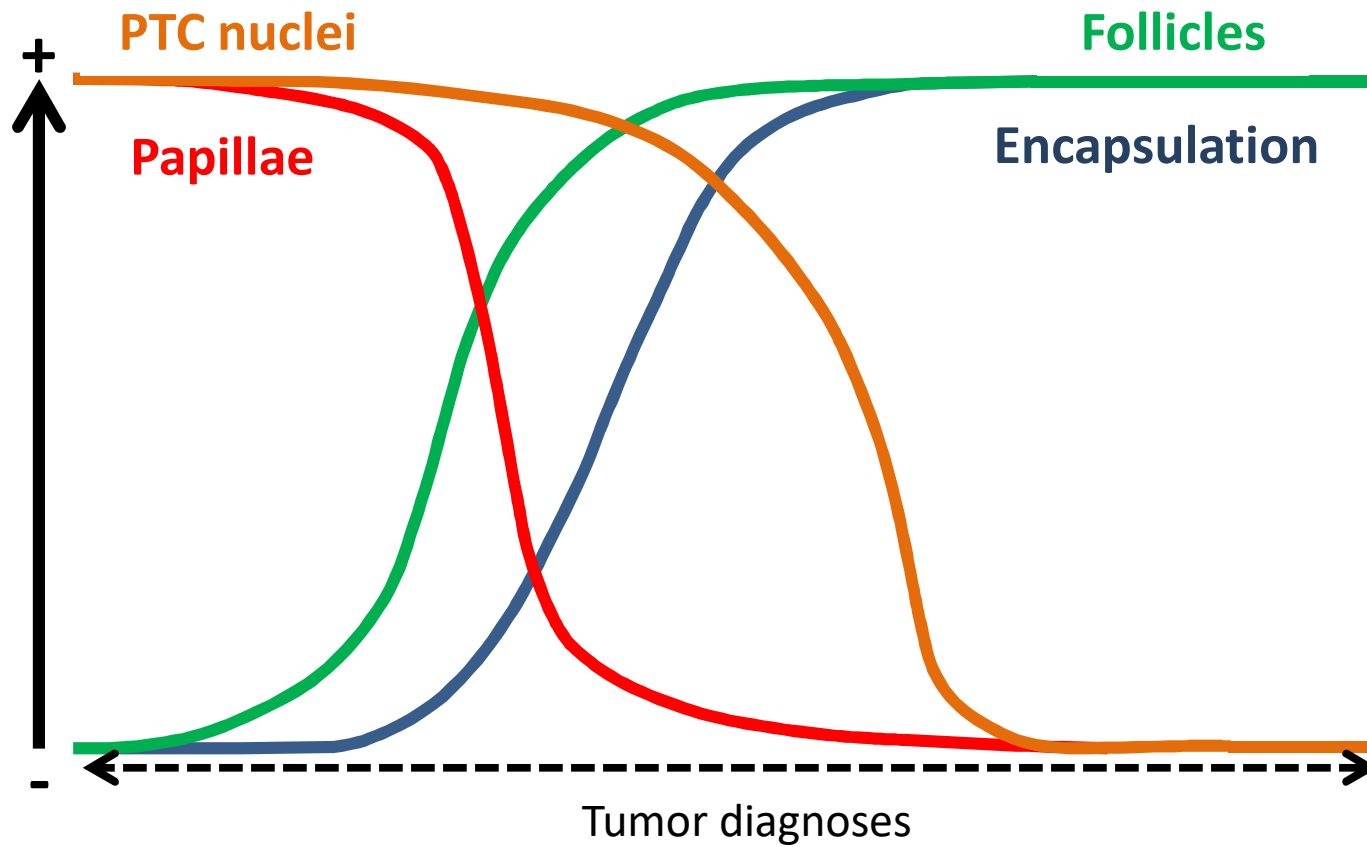
# Topics

- Overview of current classification and lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: Follicular variant papillary carcinoma, Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP), Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)
- Papillary carcinoma: subtypes and “Farewell to microcarcinoma”
- Thyroid follicular nodular disease
- Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture
- Subtypes of invasion in encapsulated carcinomas (Follicular carcinoma, encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma, oncocytic carcinoma): Minimally invasive (capsular invasion only); encapsulated angioinvasive; widely invasive

# Topics

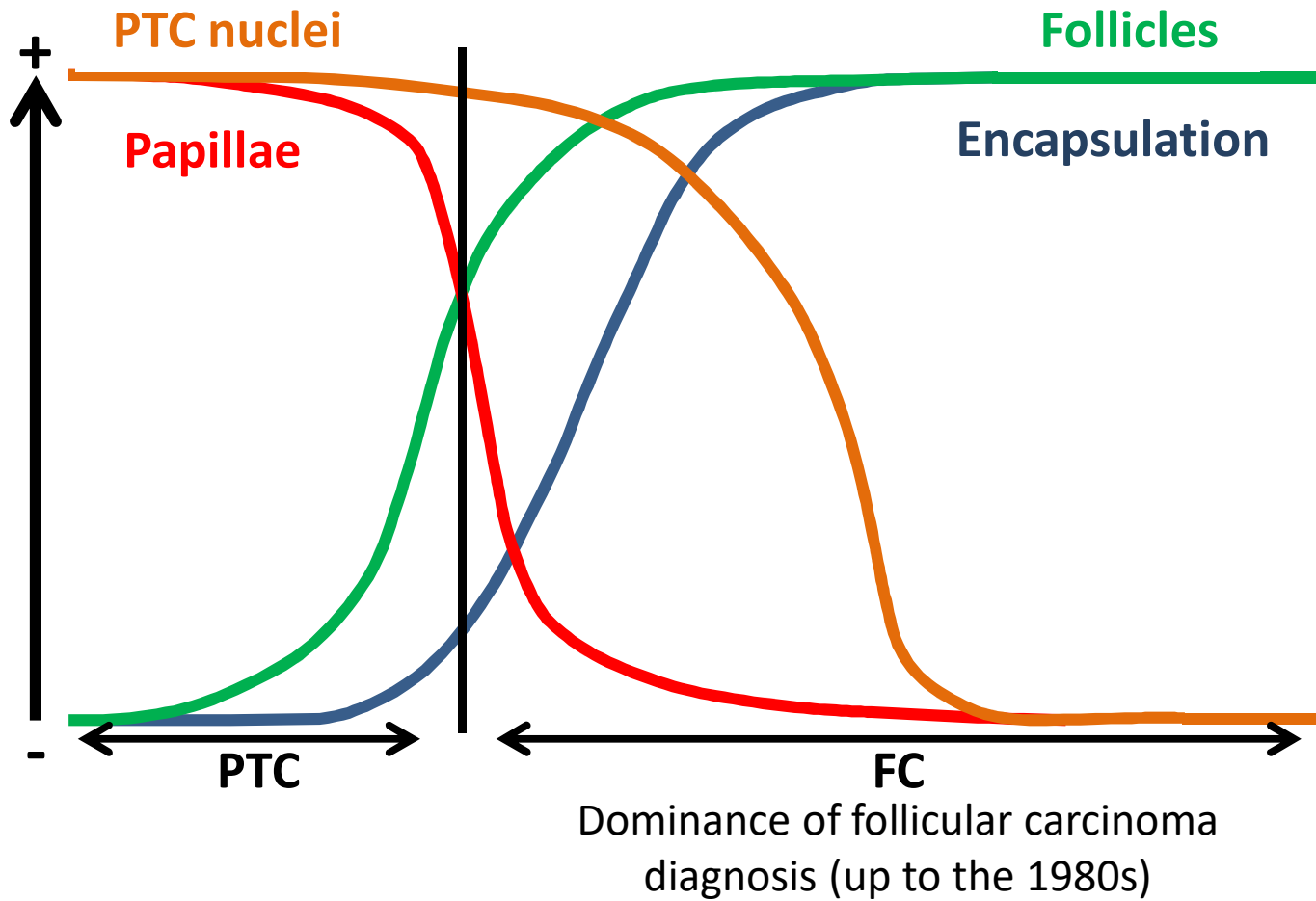
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# Differentiated Thyroid Carcinoma

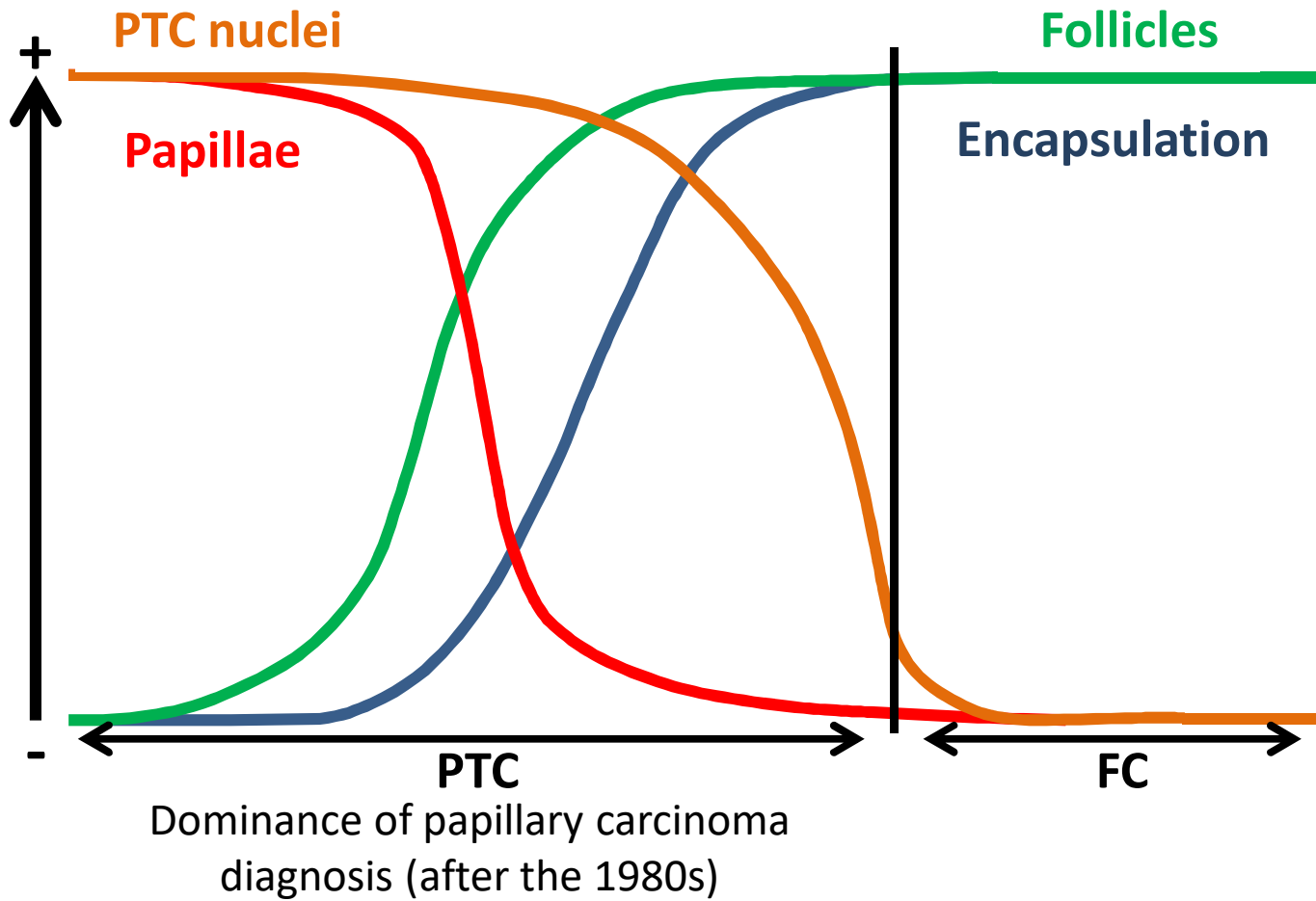


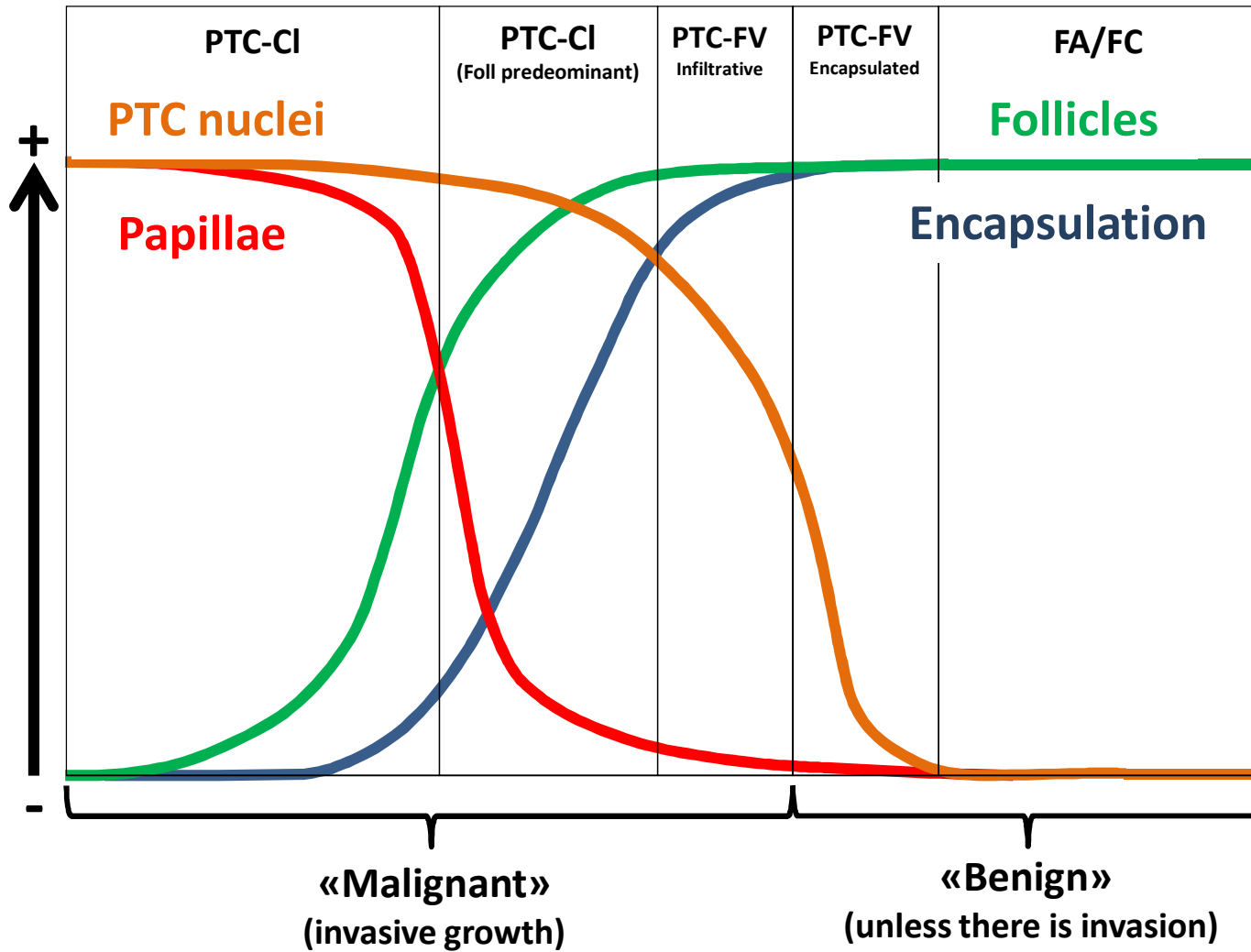
Tallini G, Tuttle RM, Ghossein RA. The History of the Follicular Variant of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma. JCEM 2017. doi: 10.1210/jc.2016-2976

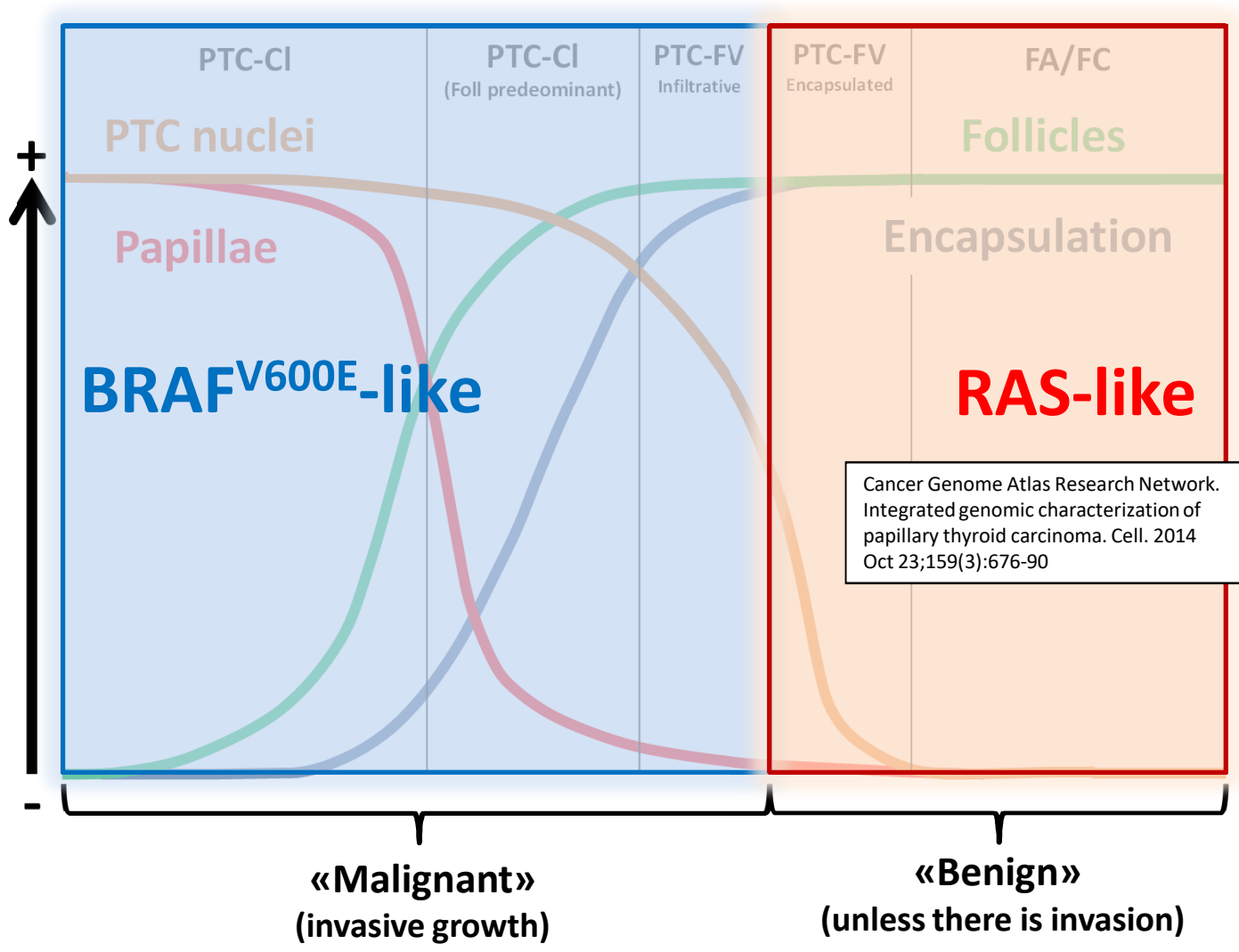
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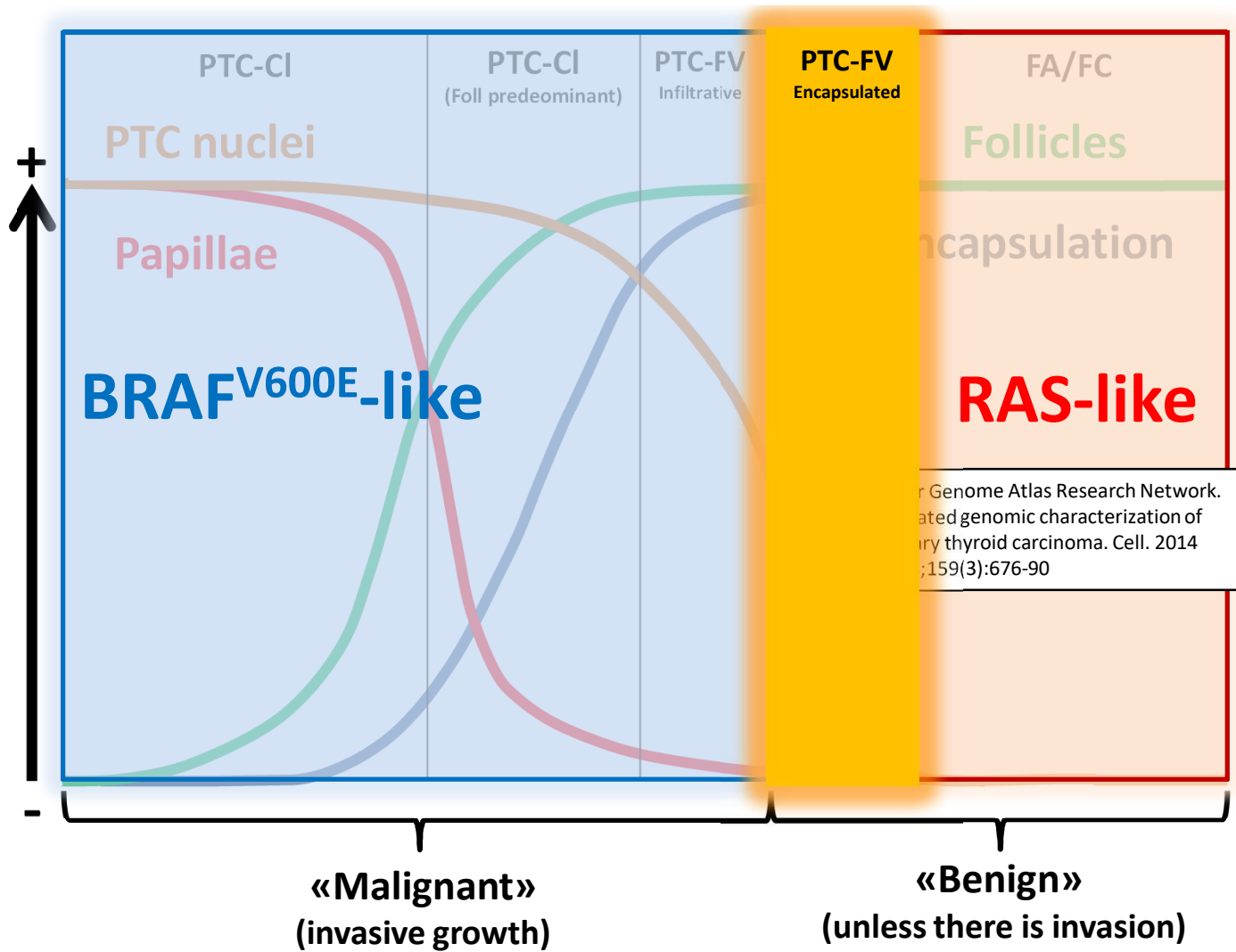
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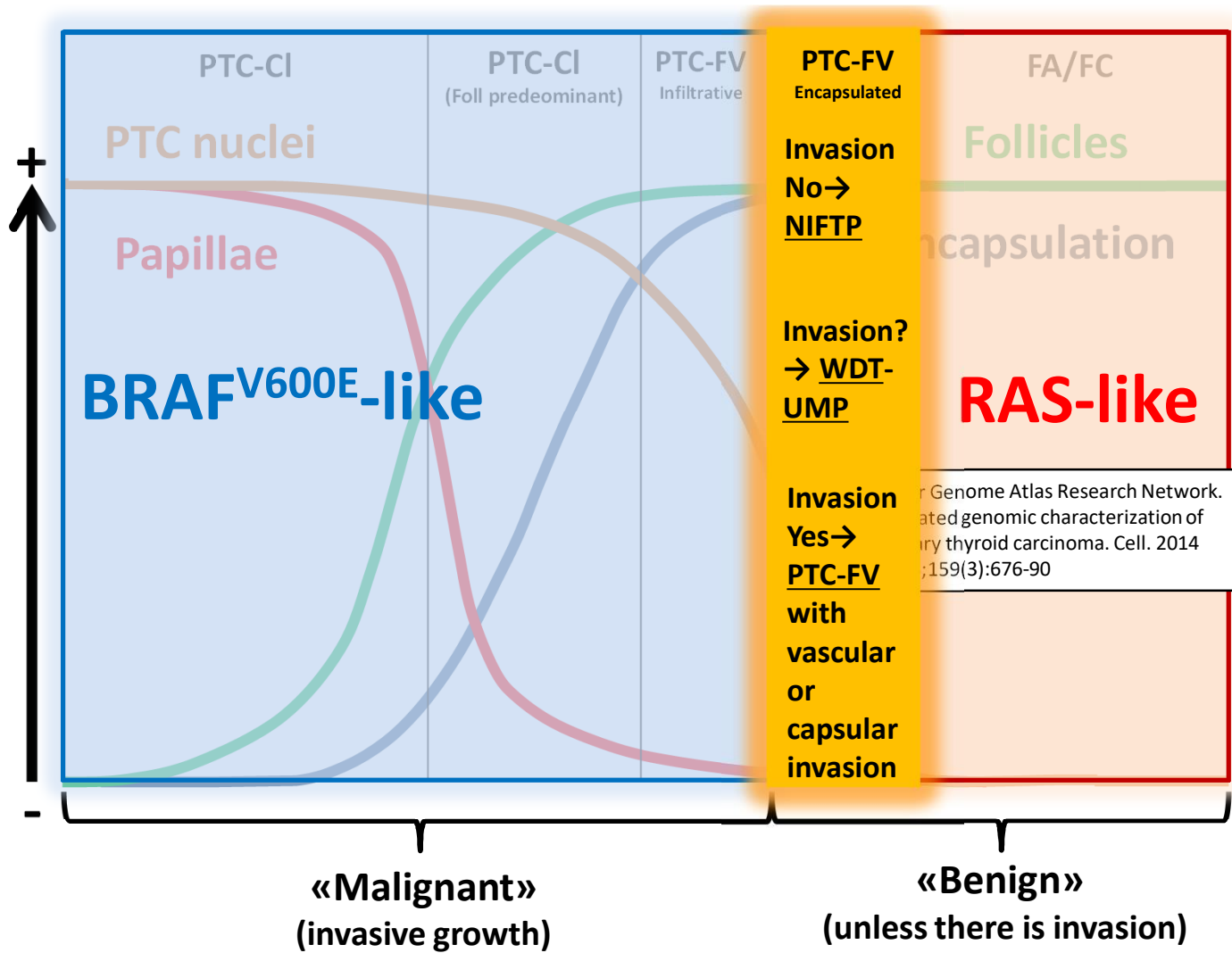


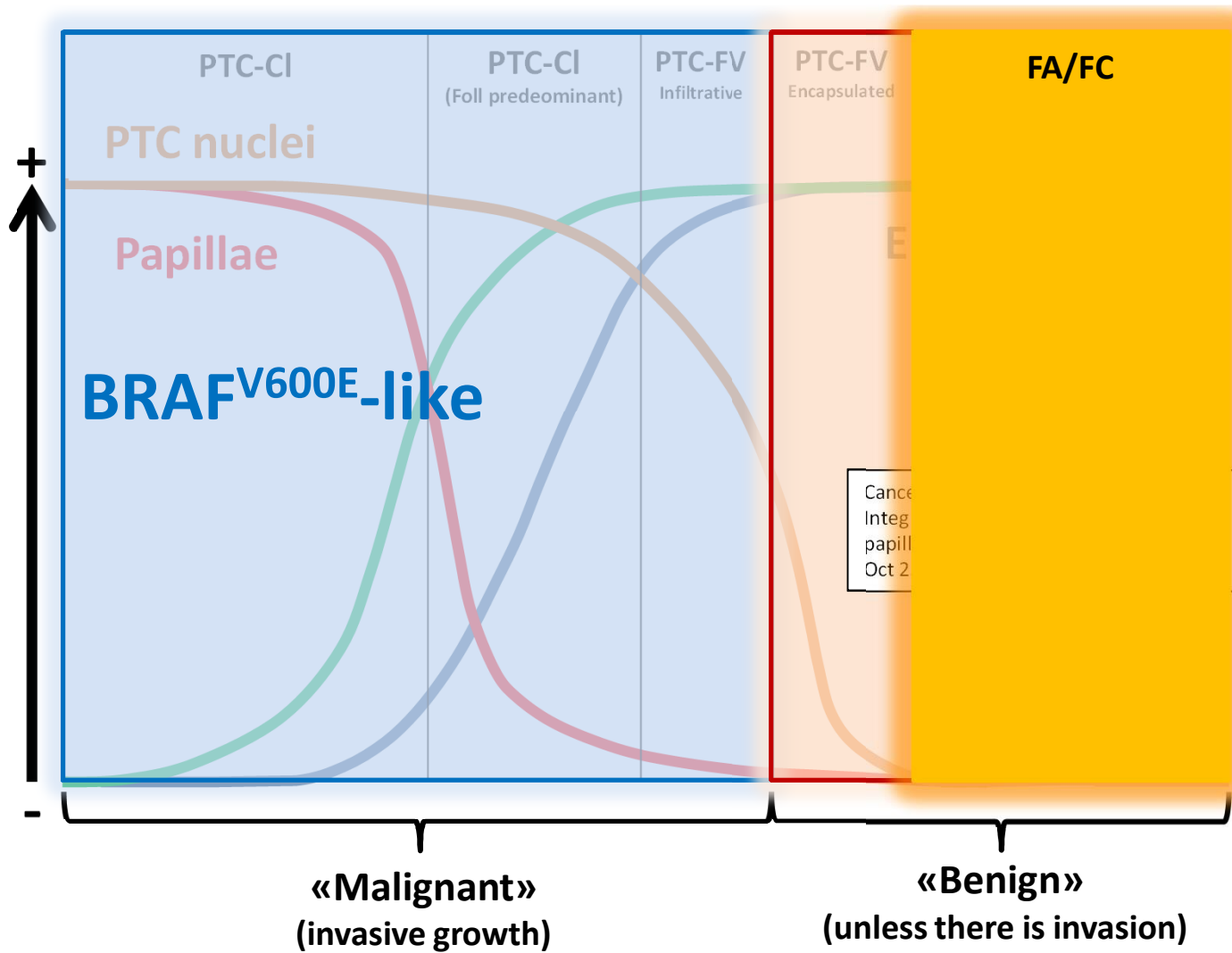


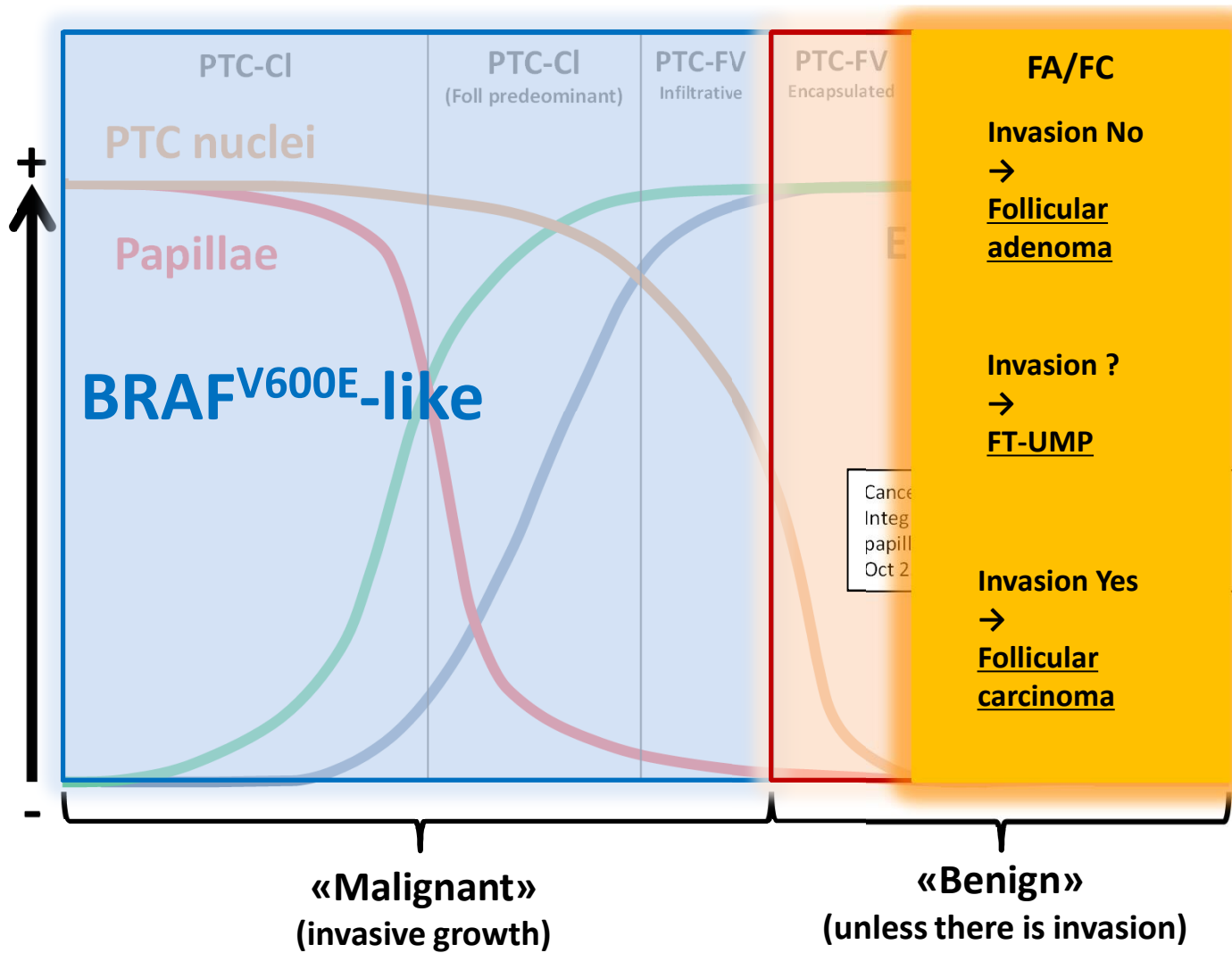




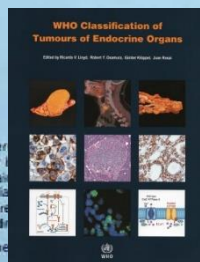








Follicular adenoma	8330/0	Ectopic thymoma	8580/3
Hyalinizing trabecular tumour	8336/1*	Spindle epithelial tumour with thymus-like differentiation	8588/3
<b>Other encapsulated follicular-patterned thyroid tumours</b>		<b>Intrathyroid thymic carcinoma</b>	8589/3
Follicular tumour of uncertain malignant potential	8335/1*	<b>Paraganglioma and mesenchymal/stromal tumours</b>	
Well-differentiated tumour of uncertain malignant potential	8348/1*	Paraganglioma	8693/3
Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features	8349/1*	Peripheral nerve sheath tumours (PNSTs)	
<b>Papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC)</b>		Schwannoma	9560/0
Papillary carcinoma	8260/3	Malignant PNST	9540/3
Follicular variant of PTC	8340/3	Benign vascular tumours	
Encapsulated variant of PTC	8343/3	Haemangioma	9120/0
Papillary microcarcinoma	8341/3	Cavernous haemangioma	9121/0
Columnar cell variant of PTC	8344/3	Lymphangioma	9170/0
Oncocytic variant of PTC	8342/3	Angiosarcoma	9120/3
<b>Follicular thyroid carcinoma (FTC), NOS</b>	8330/3	Smooth muscle tumours	
FTC, minimally invasive	8335/3	Leiomyoma	8890/0
FTC, encapsulated angioinvasive	8339/3*	Leiomyosarcoma	8890/3
FTC, widely invasive	8330/3	Solitary fibrous tumour	8815/1
<b>Hürthle (oncocytic) cell tumours</b>		<b>Haematolymphoid tumours</b>	
Hürthle cell adenoma	8290/0	Langerhans cell histiocytosis	9751/3
Hürthle cell carcinoma	8290/3	Rosai-Dorfman disease	
<b>Poorly differentiated thyroid carcinoma</b>	8337/3	Follicular dendritic cell sarcoma	9758/3
<b>Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma</b>	8020/3	Primary thyroid lymphoma	
<b>Squamous cell carcinoma</b>	8070/3	<b>Germ cell tumours</b>	
<b>Medullary thyroid carcinoma</b>	8345/3	Benign teratoma (grade 0 or 1)	9080/0
<b>Mixed medullary and follicular thyroid carcinoma</b>	8346/3	Immature teratoma (grade 2)	9080/1
<b>Mucoepidermoid carcinoma</b>	8430/3	Malignant teratoma (grade 3)	9080/3
<b>Sclerosing mucoepidermoid carcinoma with eosinophilia</b>	8430/3	<b>Secondary tumours</b>	
<b>Mucinous carcinoma</b>	8480/3		

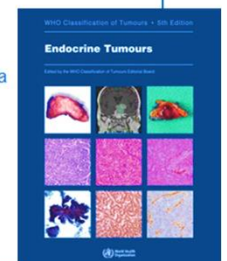


The morphology codes are from the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-O) (898A). Behaviour /1 for unspecified, borderline, or uncertain, and grade III for intraepithelial neoplasia. The classification is modified from the previous edition to take into account changes in our understanding of these tumours. \*These new codes were approved by the WHO Classification of Tumours Working Group.

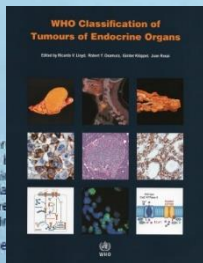
tumourclassification.iarc.who.int/chapters/53

### 3. Thyroid gland

- Introduction
- Developmental abnormalities
  - Thyroglossal duct cyst
  - Other congenital thyroid abnormalities
- Follicular cell-derived neoplasms
  - Benign tumours
    - Thyroid follicular nodular disease
    - Follicular thyroid adenoma
    - Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture
    - Oncocytic adenoma of the thyroid
  - Low risk neoplasms
    - Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features
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    - Hyalinizing trabecular tumour of thyroid
  - Malignant neoplasms
    - Follicular thyroid carcinoma
      - Invasive encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma
      - Papillary thyroid carcinoma
      - Oncocytic carcinoma of the thyroid
      - Follicular-derived carcinomas, high-grade
      - Anaplastic follicular cell derived thyroid carcinoma
- Thyroid C-cell derived carcinoma
  - Medullary thyroid carcinoma
- Mixed medullary and follicular-cell derived carcinomas
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- Salivary gland-type carcinomas of the thyroid
  - Mucoepidermoid carcinoma of the thyroid
  - Secretory carcinoma of salivary gland type
- Thyroid tumours of uncertain histogenesis
  - Sclerosing mucoepidermoid carcinoma with eosinophilia
  - Cribiform morular thyroid carcinoma
- Thymic tumours within the thyroid
  - Thymoma family
  - Spindle epithelial tumour with thymus-like elements
  - Thymic carcinoma family
- Embryonal thyroid neoplasms
  - Thyroblastoma



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tumourclassification.iarc.who.int/chapters/53

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## Nomenclature Revision for Encapsulated Follicular Variant of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma: A Paradigm Shift to Reduce Overtreatment of Indolent Tumors

Nikiforov YE, Seethala RR, Tallini G, Baloch ZW, Basolo F, Thompson LD, Barletta JA, Wenig BM, Al Ghuzlan A, Kakudo K, Giordano TJ, Alves VA, Khanafshar E, Asa SL, El-Naggar AK, Gooding WE, Hodak SP, Lloyd RV, Maytal G, Mete O, Nikiforova MN, Nosé V, Papotti M, Poller DN, Sadow PM, Tischler AS, Tuttle RM, Wall KB, LiVolsi VA, Randolph GW, Ghossein RA

JAMA Oncol. 2016 Aug 1;2(8):1023-9. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2016.0386

### Follicular patterned tumor with PTC nuclear features is ~benign when not invasive

1. Encapsulation or clear demarcation<sup>a</sup>
2. Follicular growth pattern<sup>b</sup> with
  - <1% Papillae
  - No psammoma bodies
  - <30% Solid/trabecular/insular growth pattern
3. Nuclear score 2-3
4. No vascular or capsular invasion<sup>c</sup>
5. No tumor necrosis
6. No high mitotic activity<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Thick, thin, or partial capsule or well circumscribed with a clear demarcation from adjacent thyroid tissue.

<sup>b</sup> Including microfollicular, normofollicular, or macrofollicular architecture with abundant colloid.

<sup>c</sup> Requires adequate microscopic examination of the tumor capsule interface.

<sup>d</sup> High mitotic activity defined as at least 3 mitoses per 10 high-power fields (400×).

1. Consensus on the minimal criteria for the definition of follicular variant papillary carcinoma.
2. Analyzed follow up (median, 13 years) in a considerable number of cases: 109 non-invasive E-PTCFV → no recurrence/metastases/deaths
3. Correlated morphology with molecular alterations
4. Consensus terminology: “Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasms with papillary-like nuclear features” (NIFTP)

## Change in Diagnostic Criteria for Noninvasive Follicular Thyroid Neoplasm With Papillarylike Nuclear Features

Nikiforov YE, Baloch ZW, Hodak SP, Giordano TJ, Lloyd RV, Seethala RR, Wenig BM

JAMA Oncol. 2018 Aug 1;4(8):1125-1126. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2018.1446

### Follicular patterned tumor with PTC nuclear features is ~benign when not invasive

#### Box. Revised Diagnostic Criteria for NIFTP

##### Primary

- Encapsulation or clear demarcation<sup>a</sup>
- Follicular growth pattern with:
  - No well-formed papillae
  - No psammoma bodies
  - <30% solid/trabecular/insular growth pattern
- Nuclear score 2-3<sup>b</sup>
- No vascular or capsular invasion<sup>c</sup>
- No tumor necrosis or high mitotic activity<sup>d</sup>

##### Secondary<sup>e</sup>

- Lack of *BRAF* V600E mutation detected by molecular assays or immunohistochemistry
- Lack of *BRAF* V600E-like mutations or other high-risk mutations (TERT, TP53)

Abbreviation: NIFTP, noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillarylike nuclear features.

<sup>a</sup> Thick, thin, or partial capsule or well circumscribed with a clear demarcation from adjacent thyroid parenchyma.

<sup>b</sup> Typically nuclear score 2 (moderately expressed nuclear features of papillary thyroid carcinoma). In tumors with florid nuclear features of papillary thyroid carcinoma (nuclear score 3), the entire tumor should be examined to exclude the presence of papillae. Molecular testing for *BRAF* V600E and other mutations or immunohistochemistry for *BRAF* V600E is advisable but not required for tumors with nuclear score 3.

<sup>c</sup> Requires microscopic examination of the entire tumor capsule interface.

<sup>d</sup> High mitotic activity, defined as 3 or more mitoses per 10 high-power fields (×400).

<sup>e</sup> Secondary criteria are helpful but not required for NIFTP diagnosis.



## Lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: follicular variant papillary carcinoma and NIFTP in WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition

**Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP)** is a non-invasive encapsulated/well demarcated follicular cell derived tumour with a follicular growth pattern and nuclei resembling papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) that has an extremely low malignant potential (previously: non invasive encapsulated follicular variant papillary thyroid carcinoma)

- RAS-like molecular alterations (mostly NRAS, but also EIF1AX, BRAF p.K601E and other BRAF non-V600E mutations, PPARG and THADA rearrangements)
- Prevalence much lower in Asia (0.5-5%) compared to Western countries (up to 15-20%, especially North America), but also significant variation between different institutions within the same geographical location due to variable use of the term

### ➤ Essential and desirable diagnostic criteria

#### *Essential:*

1. Encapsulation or clear demarcation
2. Follicular growth pattern with all of the following: <1% true papillae; No psammoma bodies; <30% solid/trabecular/insular growth pattern
3. Nuclear features of papillary carcinoma (nuclear score of 2-3)
4. No vascular or capsular invasion
5. No tumour necrosis
6. Low mitotic count (<3 mitosis / 2mm<sup>2</sup>)
7. Lack of cytoarchitectural features of papillary carcinoma variants other than follicular variant (tall cell features, cribriform-morular variant, solid variant, etc)

#### *Desirable:*

Immunohistochemistry or molecular testing for *BRAF* and *NRAS* mutation: *BRAF* p.V600E excludes the diagnosis

- NIFTP terminology can be applied to subcentimeter (<10 mm NIFTP) and oncocytic tumors (Oncocytic NIFTP)

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## How many papillae in conventional papillary carcinoma? A clinical evidence-based pathology study of 235 unifocal encapsulated papillary thyroid carcinomas, with emphasis on the diagnosis of noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP)

Xu B, Serrette R, Tuttle RM MD, Alzumaili B, Ganly I, Katabi N, Tallini G, Ghossein R MD

Thyroid. 2019 Aug 27. doi: 10.1089/thy.2019.0328. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 31452453

235 cases previously diagnosed as unifocal encapsulated PTC (U-EPTC)...27 patients (12%) had lymph node metastasis (N1)...**Nodal metastases were only present in tumors with  $\geq 1\%$  papillae. In noninvasive U-EPTC (n=161), N1 disease was seen only in tumors with  $\geq 10\%$  papillae...** Among 216 patients with follow-up (median: 5.2 years), 3 patients (1.5%) had distant metastases, all detected at the initial presentation. All three tumors displayed 100% follicular growth, and capsular or vascular invasion... **U-EPTC, there is a strong correlation between high percentage of papillary growth, presence of nodal metastasis, and BRAF+/RAS- genotype** regardless of invasive status

Non-invasive cases (capsular and/or vascular)					Cases with Invasion (capsular and/or vascular)						
		All patients (n=156)	N0/Nx (n=144)	N1 (n=12)	P values			All patients (n=79)	N0/Nx (n=64)	N1 (n=15)	P values
Percentage of papillae	0%	100 (64%)	100 (69%)	0 (0%)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	Percentage of papillae	0%	27 (34%)	27 (42%)	0 (0%)	<b>0.001</b>
	0.1-0.9%	20 (13%)	20 (14%)	0 (0%)			0.1-0.9%	11 (14%)	11 (17%)	0 (0%)	
	1-9%	9 (6%)	9 (6%)	0 (0%)			<u>1-9%</u>	5 (6%)	4 (6%)	<b>1 (7%)</b>	
	<u>10-24%</u>	3 (2%)	2 (1%)	<b>1 (8%)</b>			10-24%	3 (4%)	2 (3%)	1 (7%)	
	25-49%	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)			25-49%	3 (4%)	3 (5%)	0 (0%)	
	50%	22 (14%)	11 (8%)	11 (92%)			$\geq 50\%$	30 (38%)	17 (27%)	13 (87%)	

### **Noninvasive encapsulated PTC with LN metastases**

N1 tumor with the lowest proportion of papillae: **10% papillae**

### **Encapsulated PTC with invasion and LN metastases**

N1 tumor with the lowest proportion of papillae: **5% papillae** (the tumor has capsular invasion only, no angioinvasion, and is BRAF V600E and NRAS Q61R negative by IHC )

Lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: follicular variant papillary carcinoma and NIFTP in WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition

**Papillary carcinoma of the thyroid. A clinicopathologic study of 241 cases treated at the University of Florence, Italy**

Carcangiu ML, Zampi G, Pupi A, Castagnoli A, Rosai J

Cancer. 1985 Feb 15;55(4):805-28

“The features of greatest prognostic value were patient's age at presentation, small tumor size, **total encapsulation**, extrathyroid extension, multicentricity, and presence of distant metastases”

**The encapsulated papillary carcinoma of the thyroid. A morphologic subtype of the papillary thyroid carcinoma**

Schröder S, Böcker W, Dralle H, Kortmann KB, Stern C

Cancer. 1984 Jul 1;54(1):90-3

“The **excellent prognosis for the encapsulated variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma was confirmed by a long follow-up period in which no evidence of recurrences or further metastasis** was registered as compared with the time of initial diagnosis, whatever the mode of therapy”

**Encapsulated papillary neoplasms of the thyroid. A study of 14 cases followed for a minimum of 10 years**

Evans HL

Am J Surg Pathol. 1987 Aug;11(8):592-7

“The **only evidence of malignant behavior in the entire series was a cervical lymph node metastasis in one case of encapsulated papillary carcinoma**”

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**TABLE 2. Tumor Encapsulation and Its Influence on Prognosis and Metastatic Behavior**

	Absent Capsule	Partial Capsule	Total Capsule	
	92 (42.0%)	106 (48.4%)	21 (9.6%)	
Alive & well	67 (72.8%)	86 (81.1%)	19 (90.5%)	<i>P</i> < 0.05*
Alive with tumor	19 (20.6%)	9 (8.5%)	2 (9.5%)	
Dead of tumor	3 (3.3%)	6 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	
Node metastases	52 (56.5%)	49 (46.2%)	8 (38%)	
Lung metastases	13 (14.1%)	16 (15.1%)	0 (0%)	<i>P</i> < 0.25*

\* The chi-square calculations were made between tumors with absent capsule and tumors with total capsule.

Patients who died of causes other than papillary carcinoma have been excluded.

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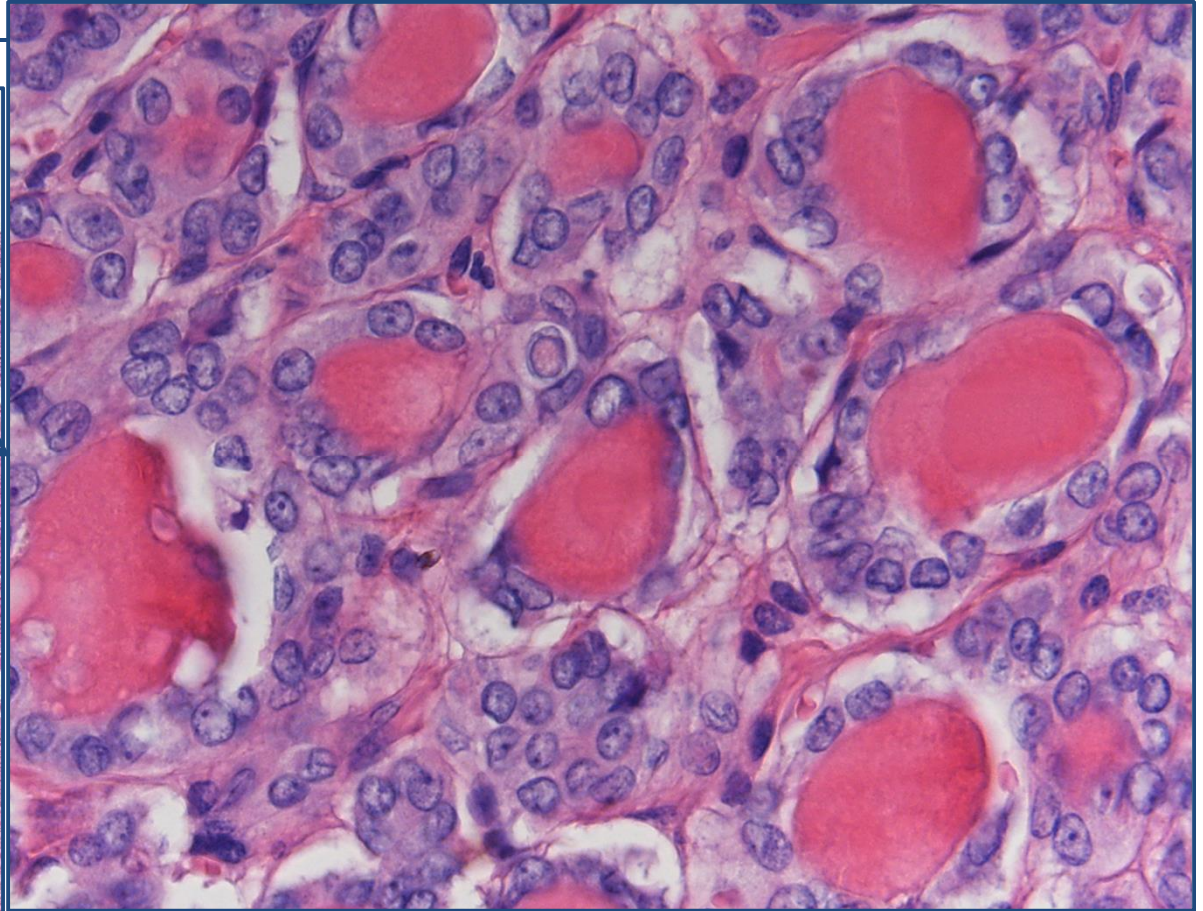
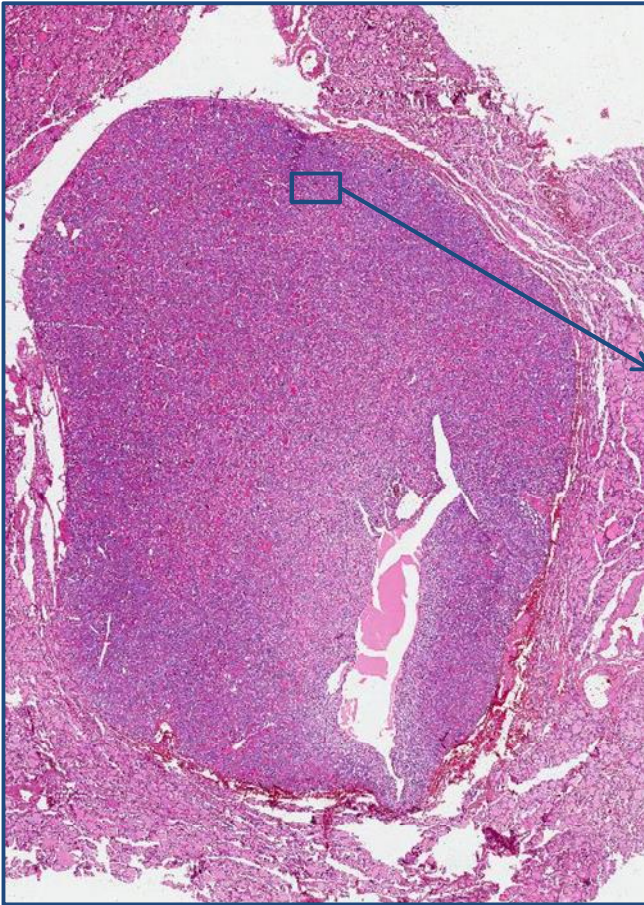
#### *Desirable:*

**Immunohistochemistry or molecular testing for BRAF and NRAS mutation: BRAF p.V600E excludes the diagnosis**

- NIFTP terminology can be applied to subcentimeter (<10 mm NIFTP) and oncocytic tumors (Oncocytic NIFTP)

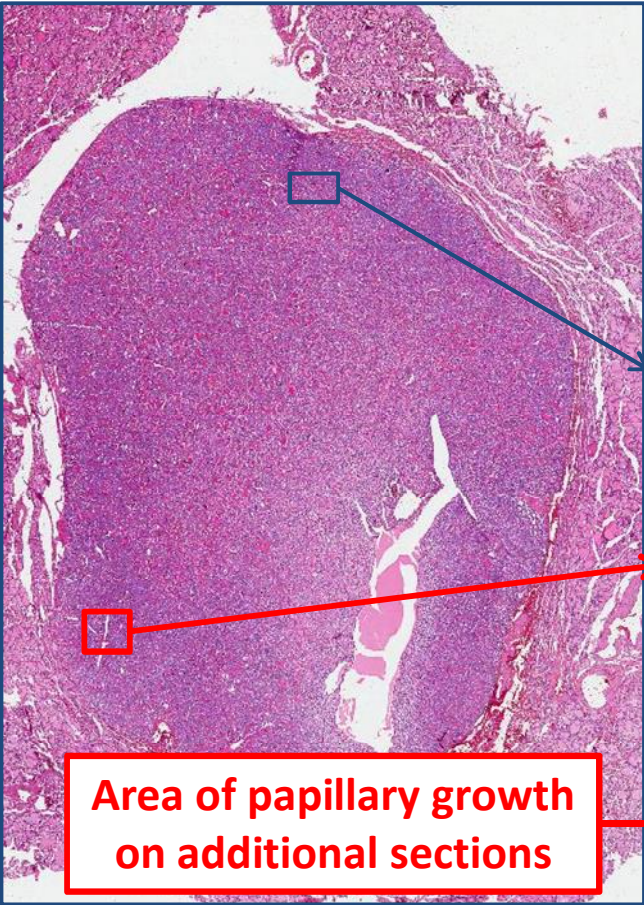
**NIFTP exclusion criteria: nuclear alterations as a marker for classic PTC**

**PTC nuclei score 3**

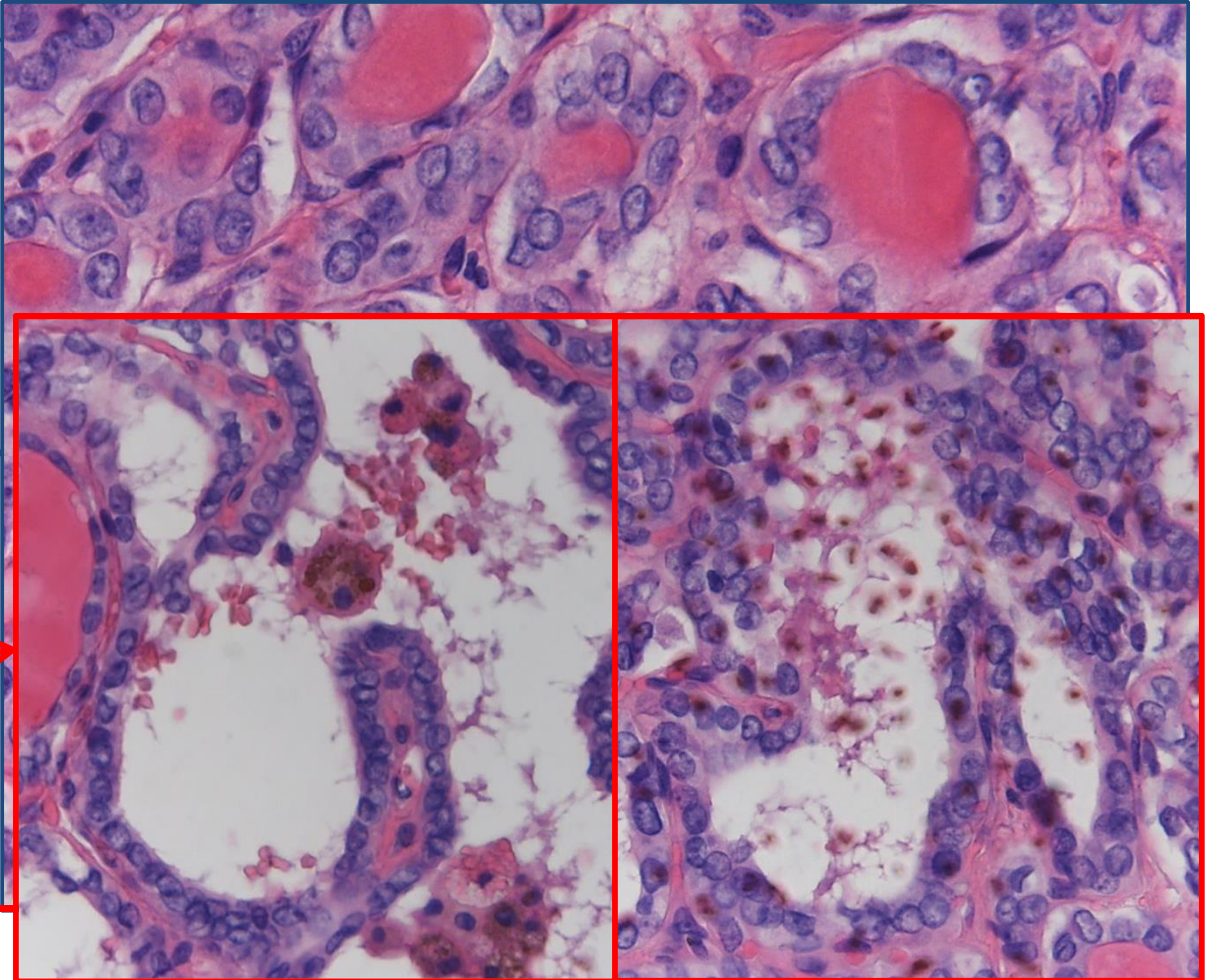


**NIFTP exclusion criteria: nuclear alterations as a marker for classic PTC**

**PTC nuclei score 3**



**Area of papillary growth on additional sections**





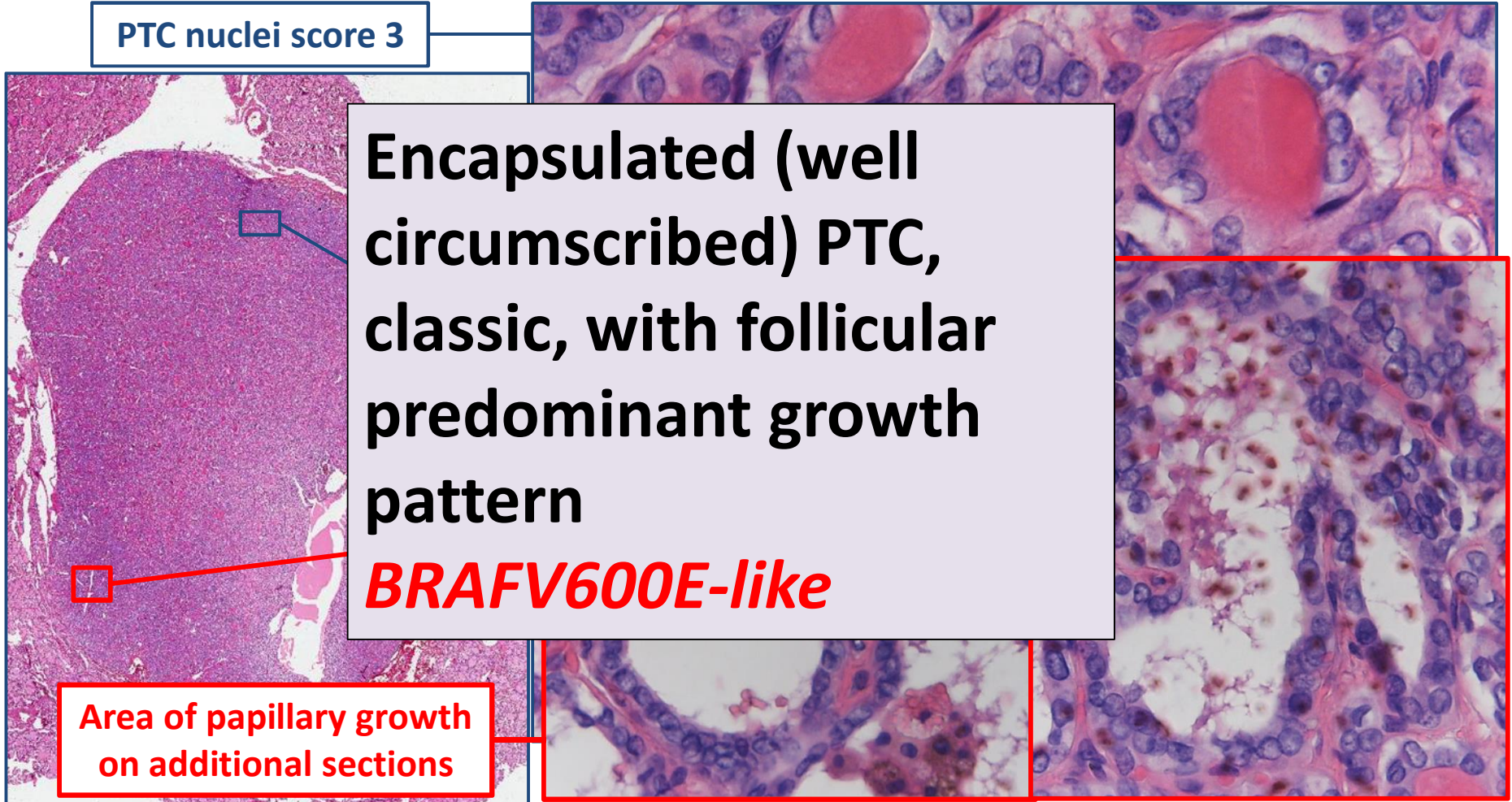
**NIFTP exclusion criteria: nuclear alterations as a marker for classic PTC**

**PTC nuclei score 3**

**Encapsulated (well circumscribed) PTC, classic, with follicular predominant growth pattern**

***BRAFV600E-like***

**Area of papillary growth on additional sections**



## Lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: follicular variant papillary carcinoma and NIFTP in WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition

**Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP)** is a non-invasive encapsulated/well demarcated follicular cell derived tumour with a follicular growth pattern and nuclei resembling papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) that has an extremely low malignant potential (previously: non invasive encapsulated follicular variant papillary thyroid carcinoma)

- RAS-like molecular alterations (mostly NRAS, but also EIF1AX, BRAF p.K601E and other BRAF non-V600E mutations, PPARG and THADA rearrangements)
- Prevalence much lower in Asia (0.5-5%) compared to Western countries (up to 15-20%, especially North America), but also significant variation between different institutions within the same geographical location due to variable use of the term

# NIFTP is still a histopathologic diagnosis!

4. No vascular or capsular invasion
5. No tumour necrosis
6. Low mitotic count (<3 mitosis / 2mm<sup>2</sup>)
7. Lack of cytoarchitectural features of papillary carcinoma variants other than follicular variant (tall cell features, cribriform-morular variant, solid variant, etc)

### ***Desirable:***

**Immunohistochemistry or molecular testing for BRAF and NRAS mutation: BRAF p.V600E excludes the diagnosis**

- NIFTP terminology can be applied to subcentimeter (<10 mm NIFTP) and oncocytic tumors (Oncocytic NIFTP)

## Lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: follicular variant papillary carcinoma and NIFTP in WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition

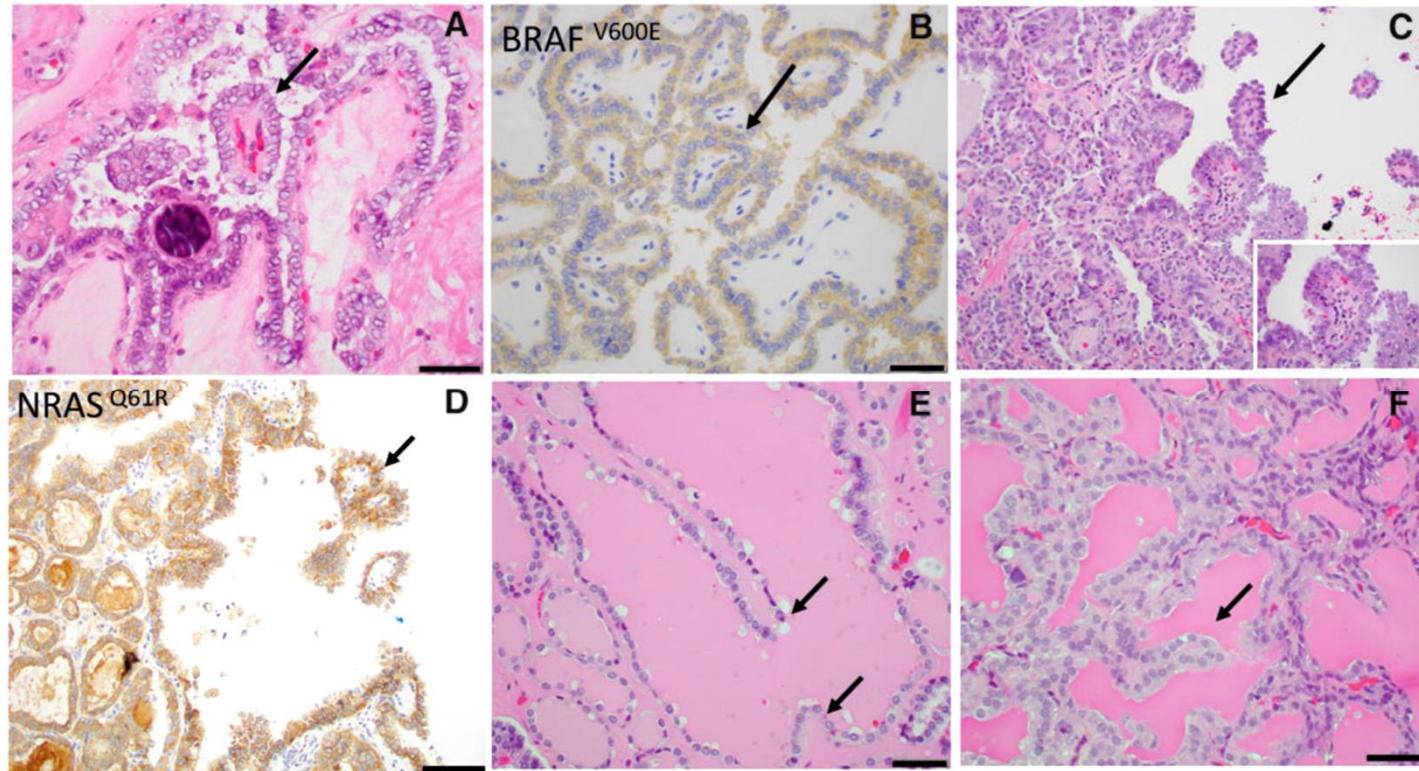


FIG. 1. Papillae in U-EPTC. (A, B) True papillae with fibrovascular cores (arrows) (A, H&E) in a classical PTC almost completely composed of papillae BRAFV600E-positive by immunohistochemistry (B). (C, D) An encapsulated PTC with follicular predominant growth pattern containing occasional (<1%) papillary structures (arrows). Inset shows typical PTC nuclei (C, H&E); neoplastic cells are positive for NRASQ61R by immunohistochemistry (D). (E) Pseudopapillae not fulfilling the definition of true papillae since they lack fibrovascular core and appears to represent an artefactually ruptured septa. (F) Pseudopapilla not fulfilling the definition of true papillae since it lacks fibrovascular core and appears to represent an artefactually ruptured septa. H&E, hematoxylin and eosin; PTC, papillary thyroid carcinoma; U-EPTC, unifocal encapsulated PTC [Xu B et al. How Many Papillae in Conventional Papillary Carcinoma? A Clinical Evidence-Based Pathology Study of 235 Unifocal Encapsulated Papillary Thyroid Carcinomas, with Emphasis on the Diagnosis of Noninvasive Follicular Thyroid Neoplasm with Papillary-Like Nuclear Features. *Thyroid*. 2019 Dec;29(12):1792-1803. doi: 10.1089/thy.2019.0328]

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- Prevalence much lower in Asia (0.5-5%) compared to Western countries (up to 15-20%, especially North America), but also significant variation between different institutions within the same geographical location due to variable use of the term

### ➤ Essential and desirable diagnostic criteria

#### *Essential:*

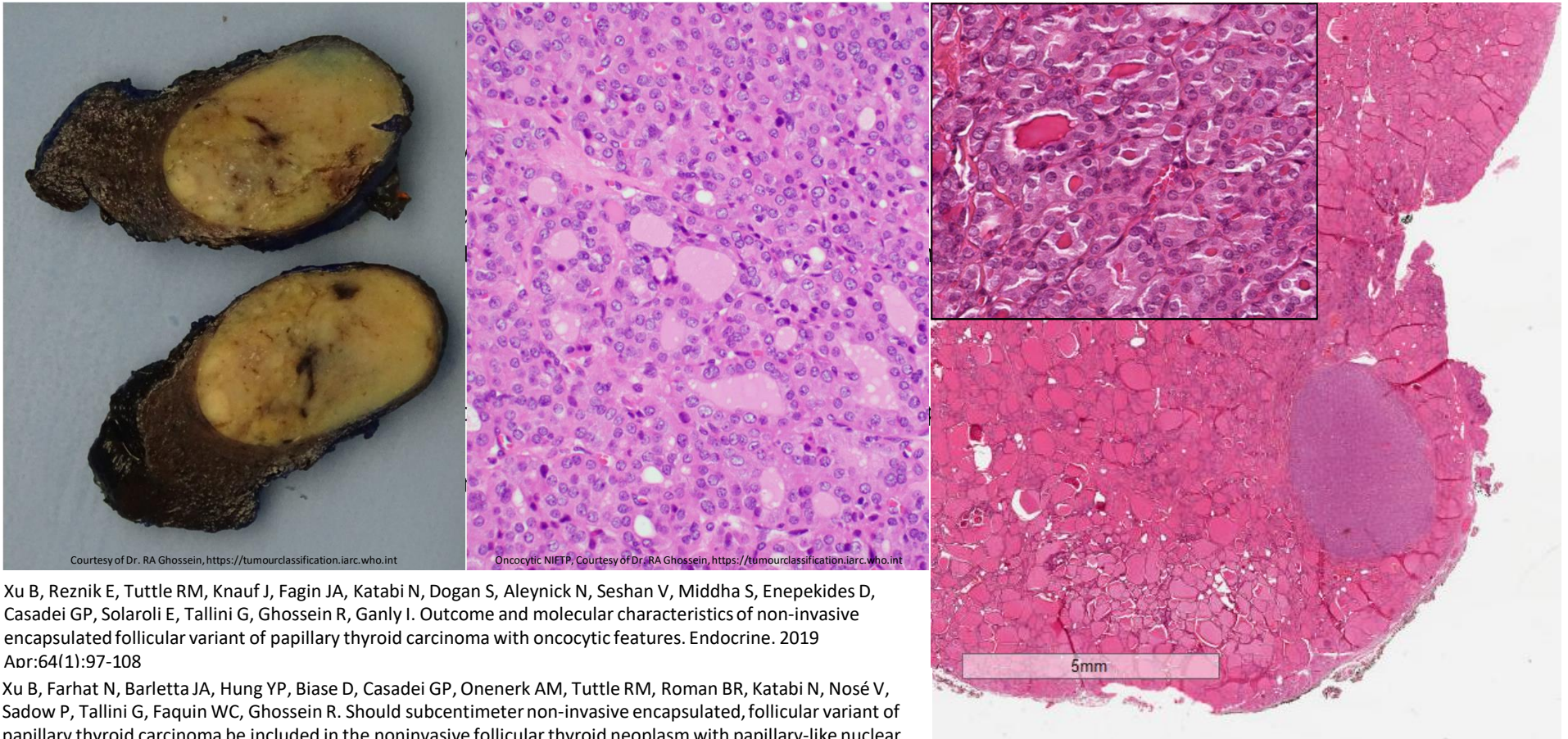
1. Encapsulation or clear demarcation
2. Follicular growth pattern with all of the following: <1% true papillae; No psammoma bodies; <30% solid/trabecular/insular growth pattern
3. Nuclear features of papillary carcinoma (nuclear score of 2-3)
4. No vascular or capsular invasion
5. No tumour necrosis
6. Low mitotic count (<3 mitosis / 2mm<sup>2</sup>)
7. Lack of cytoarchitectural features of papillary carcinoma variants other than follicular variant (tall cell features, cribriform-morular variant, solid variant, etc)

#### *Desirable:*

Immunohistochemistry or molecular testing for *BRAF* and *NRAS* mutation: *BRAF* p.V600E excludes the diagnosis

- **NIFTP terminology can be applied to subcentimeter (<10 mm NIFTP) and oncocytic tumors (Oncocytic NIFTP)**

## Lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: follicular variant papillary carcinoma and NIFTP



Courtesy of Dr. RA Ghossein, <https://tumourclassification.iarc.who.int>

Oncocytic NIFTP, Courtesy of Dr. RA Ghossein, <https://tumourclassification.iarc.who.int>

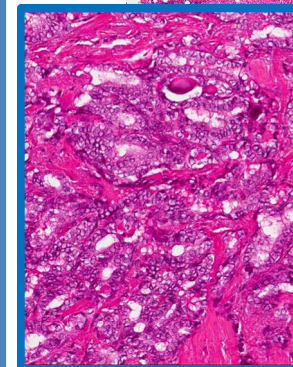
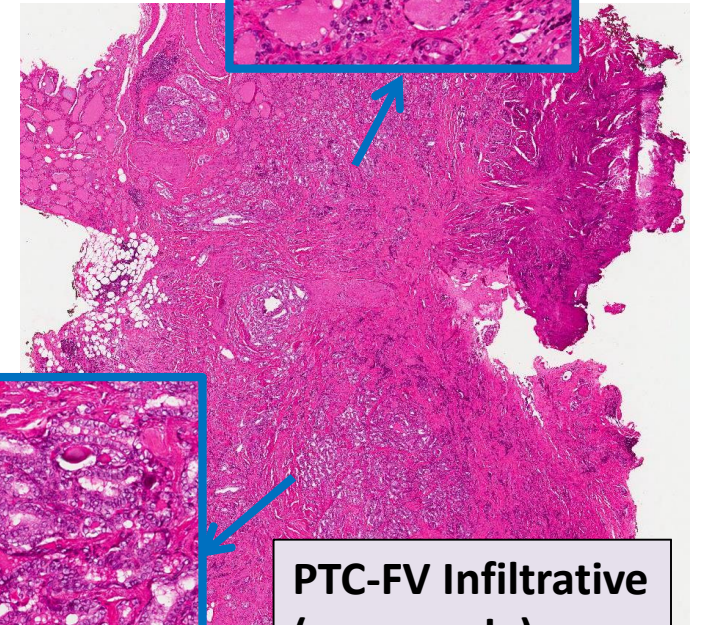
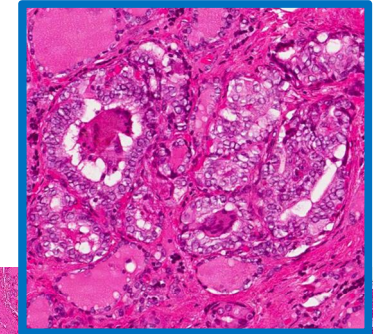
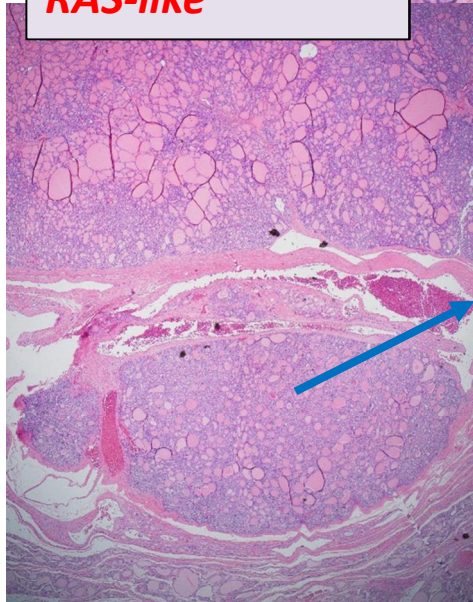
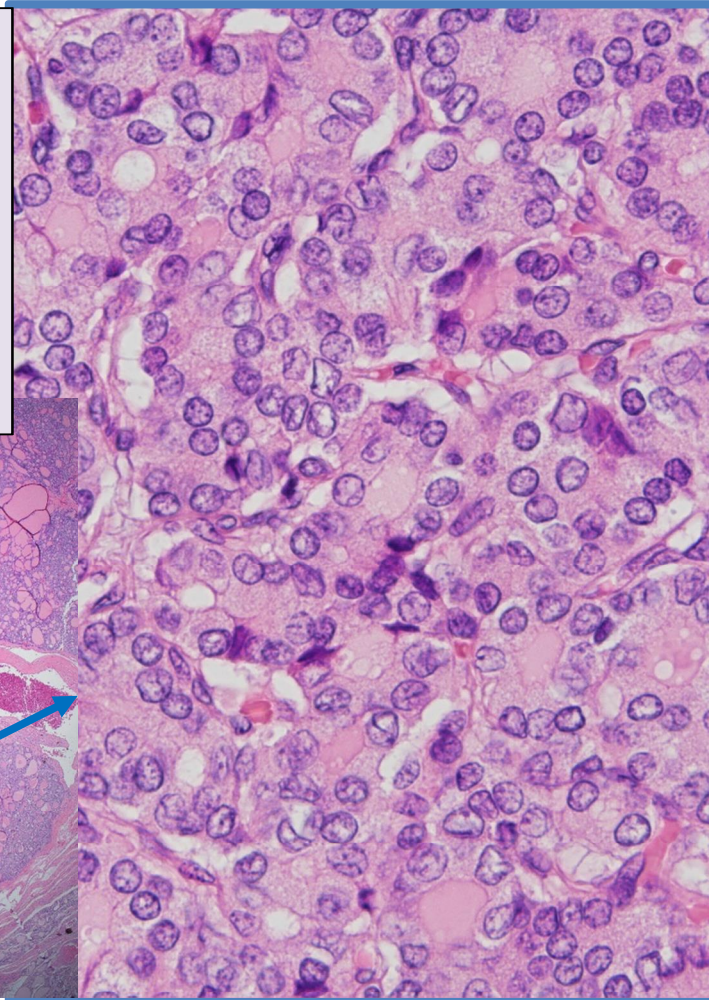
Xu B, Reznik E, Tuttle RM, Knauf J, Fagin JA, Katabi N, Dogan S, Aleynick N, Seshan V, Middha S, Enepekides D, Casadei GP, Solaroli E, Tallini G, Ghossein R, Ganly I. Outcome and molecular characteristics of non-invasive encapsulated follicular variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma with oncocytic features. *Endocrine*. 2019 Apr;64(1):97-108

Xu B, Farhat N, Barletta JA, Hung YP, Biase D, Casadei GP, Onenerk AM, Tuttle RM, Roman BR, Katabi N, Nosé V, Sadow P, Tallini G, Faquin WC, Ghossein R. Should subcentimeter non-invasive encapsulated, follicular variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma be included in the noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features category? *Endocrine*. 2018 Jan;59(1):143-150

▪ **NIFTP terminology can be applied to subcentimeter (<10 mm NIFTP) and oncocytic tumors (Oncocytic NIFTP)**

Lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: follicular variant papillary carcinoma and NIFTP

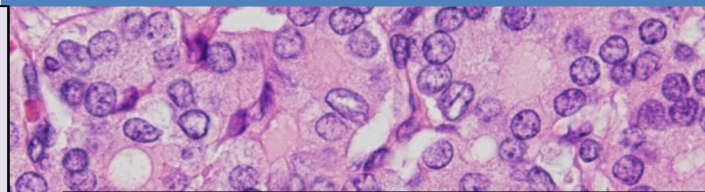
Encapsulated  
PTC, follicular  
variant, with  
capsular and/or  
vascular  
invasion:  
*RAS-like*



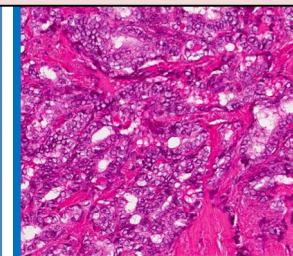
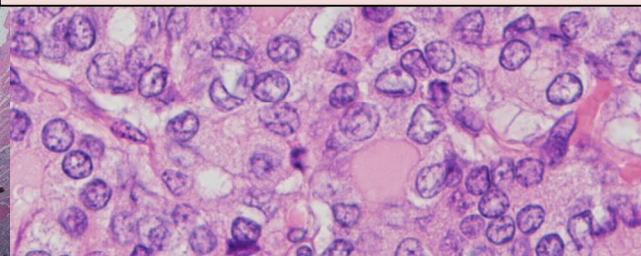
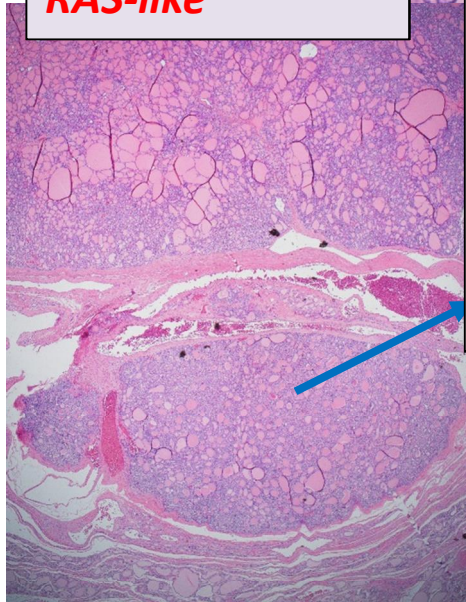
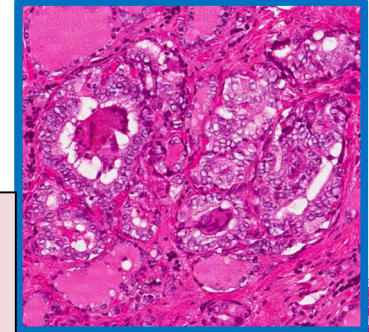
PTC-FV Infiltrative  
(no capsule):  
*BRAF V600E-like*

Lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: follicular variant papillary carcinoma and NIFTP

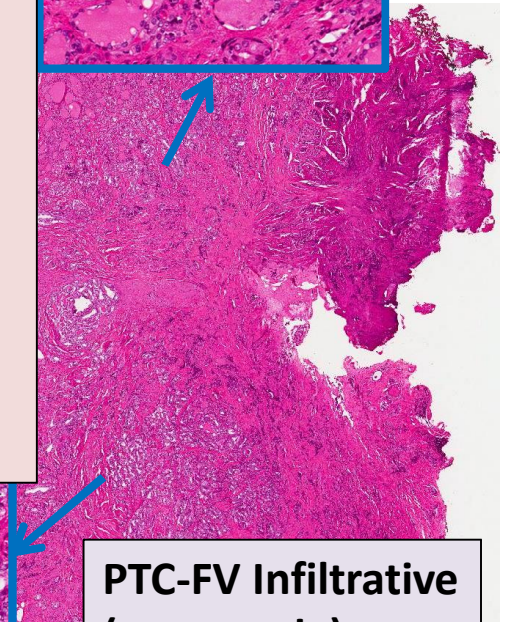
Encapsulated  
PTC, follicular  
variant, with  
capsular and/or  
vascular  
invasion:  
*RAS-like*



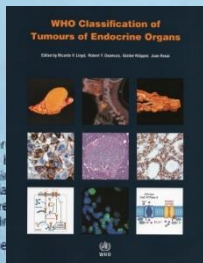
Encapsulated invasive  
follicular variant PTC is  
not one and the same as  
infiltrative follicular  
variant PTC



PTC-FV Infiltrative  
(no capsule):  
*BRAF V600E-like*



Follicular adenoma	8330/0	Ectopic thymoma	8580/3
Hyalinizing trabecular tumour	8336/1*	Spindle epithelial tumour with thymus-like differentiation	8588/3
<b>Other encapsulated follicular-patterned thyroid tumours</b>		<b>Intrathyroid thymic carcinoma</b>	8589/3
Follicular tumour of uncertain malignant potential	8335/1*	<b>Paraganglioma and mesenchymal/stromal tumours</b>	
Well-differentiated tumour of uncertain malignant potential	8348/1*	Paraganglioma	8693/3
Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features	8349/1*	Peripheral nerve sheath tumours (PNSTs)	
<b>Papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC)</b>		Schwannoma	9560/0
Papillary carcinoma	8260/3	Malignant PNST	9540/3
Follicular variant of PTC	8340/3	Benign vascular tumours	
Encapsulated variant of PTC	8343/3	Haemangioma	9120/0
Papillary microcarcinoma	8341/3	Cavernous haemangioma	9121/0
Columnar cell variant of PTC	8344/3	Lymphangioma	9170/0
Oncocytic variant of PTC	8342/3	Angiosarcoma	9120/3
<b>Follicular thyroid carcinoma (FTC), NOS</b>	8330/3	Smooth muscle tumours	
FTC, minimally invasive	8335/3	Leiomyoma	8890/0
FTC, encapsulated angioinvasive	8339/3*	Leiomyosarcoma	8890/3
FTC, widely invasive	8330/3	Solitary fibrous tumour	8815/1
<b>Hürthle (oncocytic) cell tumours</b>		<b>Haematolymphoid tumours</b>	
Hürthle cell adenoma	8290/0	Langerhans cell histiocytosis	9751/3
Hürthle cell carcinoma	8290/3	Rosai-Dorfman disease	
<b>Poorly differentiated thyroid carcinoma</b>	8337/3	Follicular dendritic cell sarcoma	9758/3
<b>Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma</b>	8020/3	Primary thyroid lymphoma	
<b>Squamous cell carcinoma</b>	8070/3	<b>Germ cell tumours</b>	
<b>Medullary thyroid carcinoma</b>	8345/3	Benign teratoma (grade 0 or 1)	9080/0
<b>Mixed medullary and follicular thyroid carcinoma</b>	8346/3	Immature teratoma (grade 2)	9080/1
<b>Mucoepidermoid carcinoma</b>	8430/3	Malignant teratoma (grade 3)	9080/3
<b>Sclerosing mucoepidermoid carcinoma with eosinophilia</b>	8430/3	<b>Secondary tumours</b>	
<b>Mucinous carcinoma</b>	8480/3		



The morphology codes are from the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-O) (898A). Behaviour /1 for unspecified, borderline, or uncertain; /2 for in situ; and /3 for grade III intraepithelial neoplasia. The classification is modified from the previous edition to take into account changes in our understanding of the biology of these tumours. \*These new codes were approved by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in 2018.

tumourclassification.iarc.who.int/chapters/53

### 3. Thyroid gland

- Introduction
- Developmental abnormalities
  - Thyroglossal duct cyst
  - Other congenital thyroid abnormalities
- Follicular cell-derived neoplasms
  - Benign tumours
    - Thyroid follicular nodular disease
    - Follicular thyroid adenoma
    - Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture
    - Oncocytic adenoma of the thyroid
  - Low risk neoplasms
    - Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features
    - Thyroid tumours of uncertain malignant potential
    - Hyalinizing trabecular tumour of thyroid
  - Malignant neoplasms
    - Follicular thyroid carcinoma
      - Invasive encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma
      - Papillary thyroid carcinoma
      - Oncocytic carcinoma of the thyroid
      - Follicular-derived carcinomas, high-grade
      - Anaplastic follicular cell derived thyroid carcinoma
    - Thyroid C-cell derived carcinoma
      - Medullary thyroid carcinoma
    - Mixed medullary and follicular-cell derived carcinomas
      - Mixed medullary and follicular cell-derived thyroid carcinoma
    - Salivary gland-type carcinomas of the thyroid
      - Mucoepidermoid carcinoma of the thyroid
      - Secretory carcinoma of salivary gland type
    - Thyroid tumours of uncertain histogenesis
      - Sclerosing mucoepidermoid carcinoma with eosinophilia
      - Cribiform morular thyroid carcinoma
    - Thymic tumours within the thyroid
      - Thymoma family
      - Spindle epithelial tumour with thymus-like elements
      - Thymic carcinoma family
    - Embryonal thyroid neoplasms
      - Thyroblastoma





## Lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: follicular variant papillary carcinoma and NIFTP in WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition

**Tumours of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)** are well-differentiated thyroid tumours with follicular architecture that are encapsulated or unencapsulated but well circumscribed, in which invasion remains questionable after thorough sampling and exhaustive examination.

### Subtype(s)

- Follicular tumour of uncertain malignant potential (FT-UMP);
- Well-differentiated tumour of uncertain malignant potential (WDT-UMP)

#### ➤ Essential and desirable diagnostic criteria

##### *Essential:*

Questionable invasion; **the feature of concern, i.e. invasion of vessels and/or of the tumour capsule must be specified.** No pseudo invasive artifacts. No high grade morphology.

##### *Desirable:*

Molecular investigation for HRAS, KRAS, or NRAS mutations; BRAF p.V600E, TP53 or TERT promoter mutation

Lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: follicular variant papillary carcinoma and NIFTP in WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition

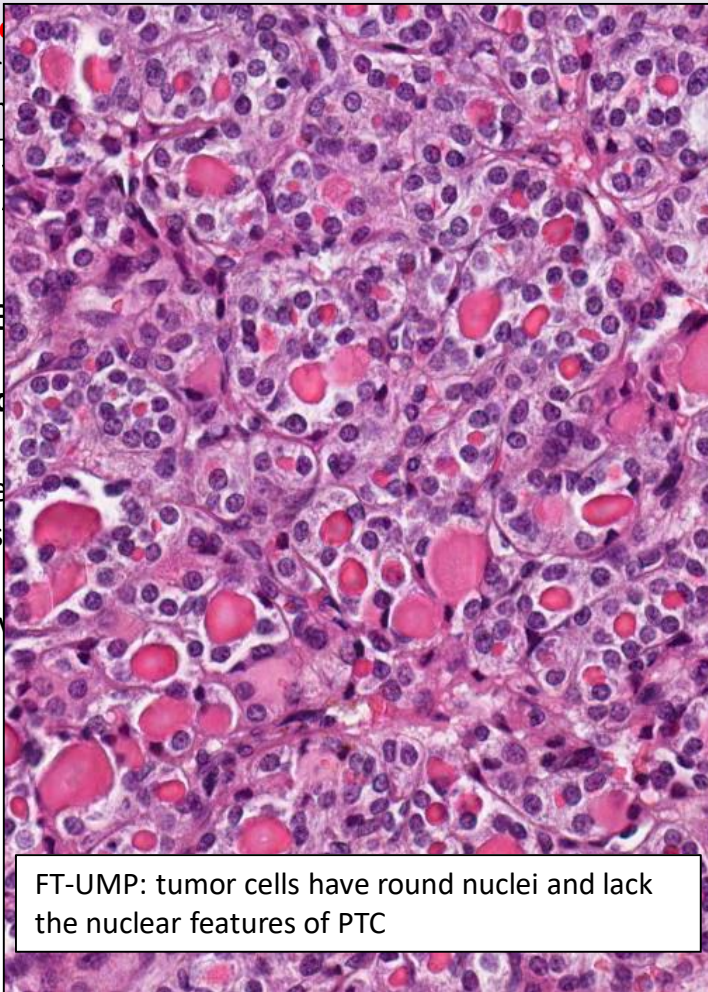
**Tumours of uncertain malignant potential** are encapsulated or partially encapsulated and require exhaustive examination

**Subtype(s)**

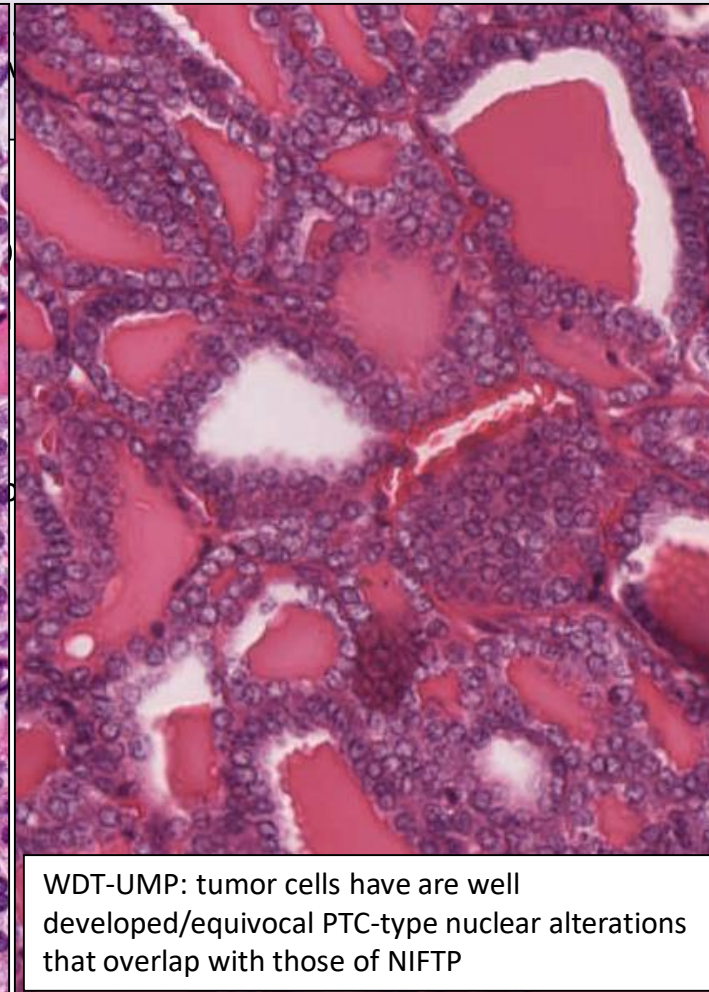
- Follicular variant
- Well-differentiated

➤ **Essential and desirable features**

- Essential:*
  - Questionable capsular invasion
  - pseudo invasion
- Desirable:*
  - Molecular in



FT-UMP: tumor cells have round nuclei and lack the nuclear features of PTC

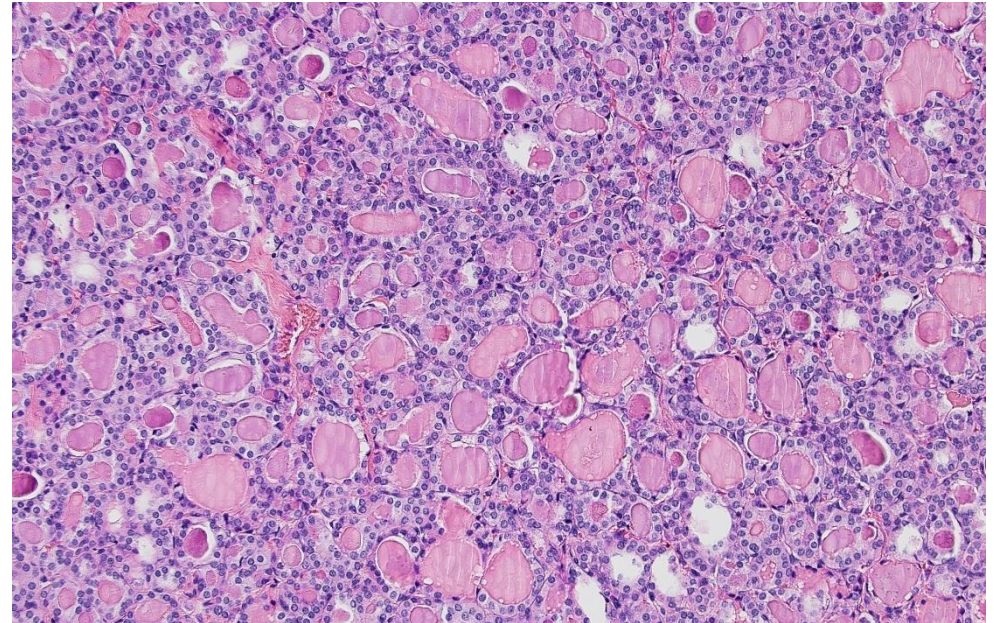
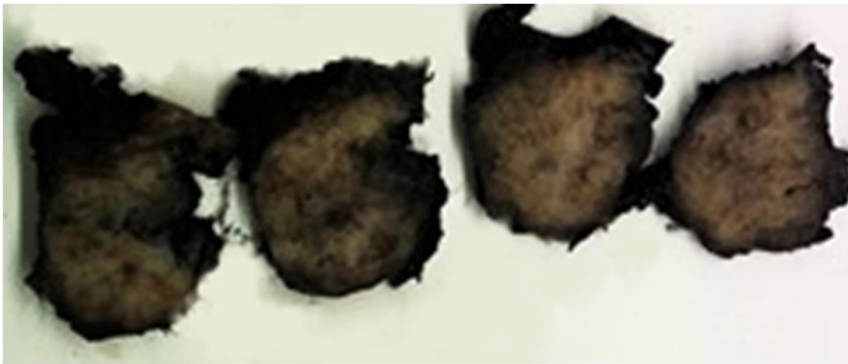


WDT-UMP: tumor cells have well developed/equivocal PTC-type nuclear alterations that overlap with those of NIFTP

t are g and

specified. No n

## Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)



**Iatrogenic laceration artifacts: not a tumor uncertain malignant potential**, but report as:  
*Follicular tumor/well differentiated tumor Not otherwise specified (FT-UMP/WDT-UMP NAS), extensive discontinuation of tumor to non-neoplastic interface precludes adequate assessment of invasion*

## Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)

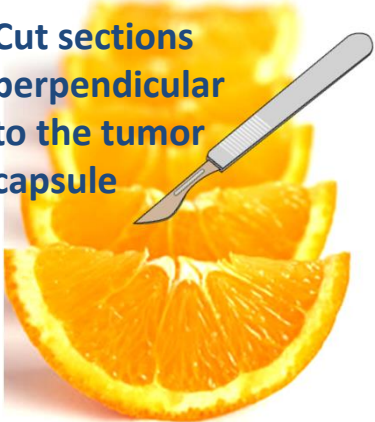
- Tumor capsule or vascular invasion is questionable/equivocal after **thorough sampling and careful examination**
- *For a diagnosis of carcinoma the burden of proof is on the pathologist who makes the diagnosis (Avoid overdiagnosis: Primum non nocere, Innocent unless proven guilty...)*



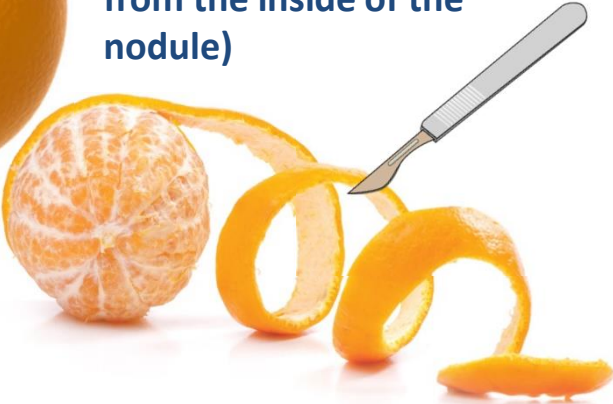
La Giustizia in trono (Trittico della Giustizia),  
Jacobello del Fiore (1370 – 1439),  
Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia.

**Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): proper sampling to rule out invasion**

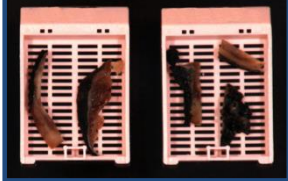
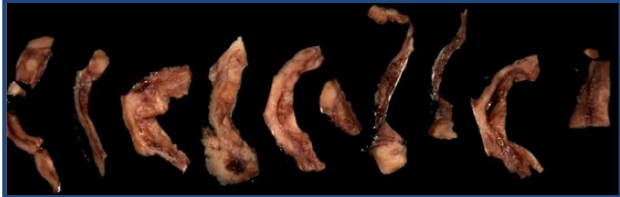
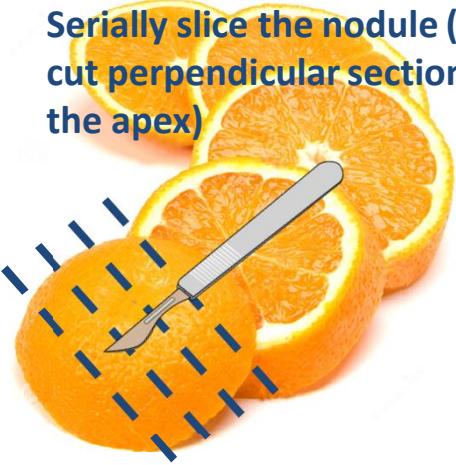
**Cut sections perpendicular to the tumor capsule**



**"peel" the capsule (and submit additional sections from the inside of the nodule)**



**Serially slice the nodule (and cut perpendicular sections at the apex)**



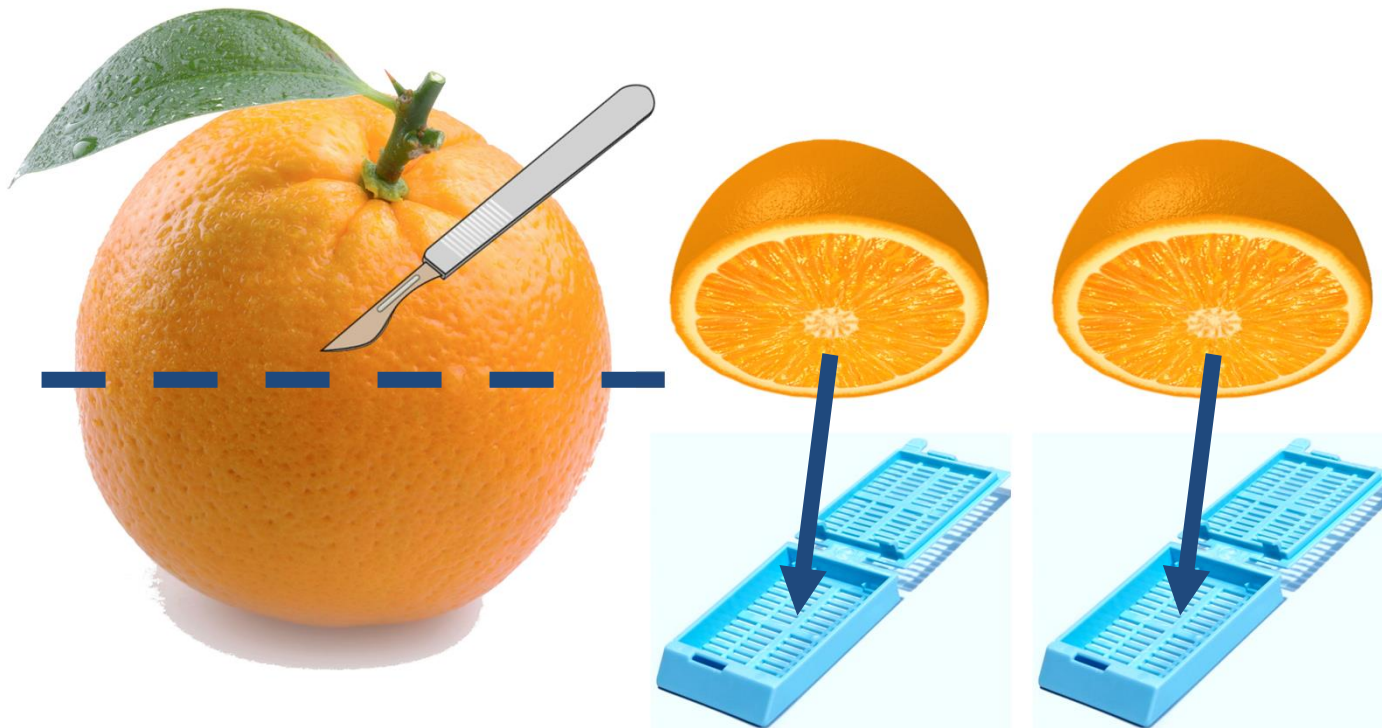
**Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): proper sampling to rule out invasion**

**Alternative «Mango recepy» (Courtesy of Dr. O. Tsybrovskyy): formalin fixation flattens the tumor capsule...**



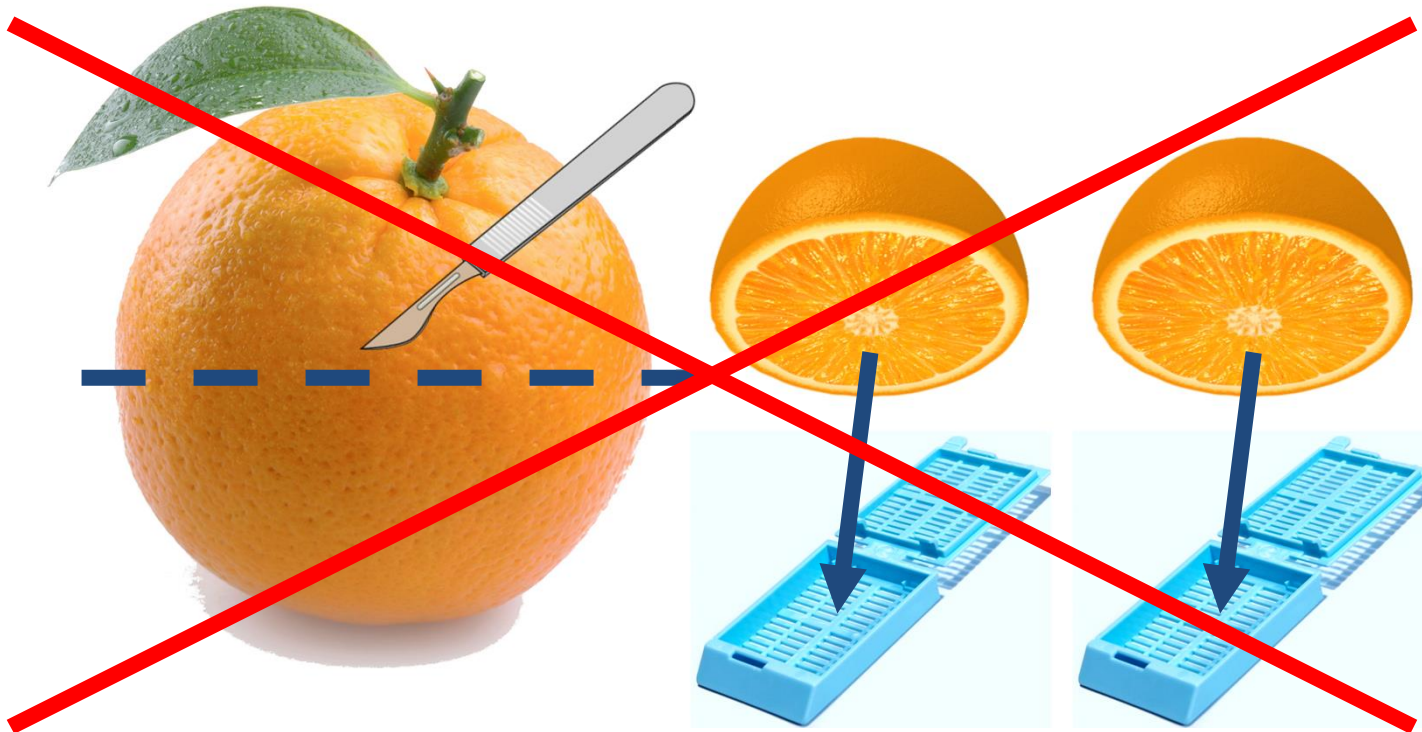
**Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): proper sampling to rule out invasion**

**Never cut a thyroid nodule in large sections and squeeze them in a few cassettes: the nodule is embedded in toto, but the tumor interface with the surrounding parenchyma can never be properly examined microscopically, unless the paraffin is melted, the sections are properly recut and reprocessed....**



**Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): proper sampling to rule out invasion**

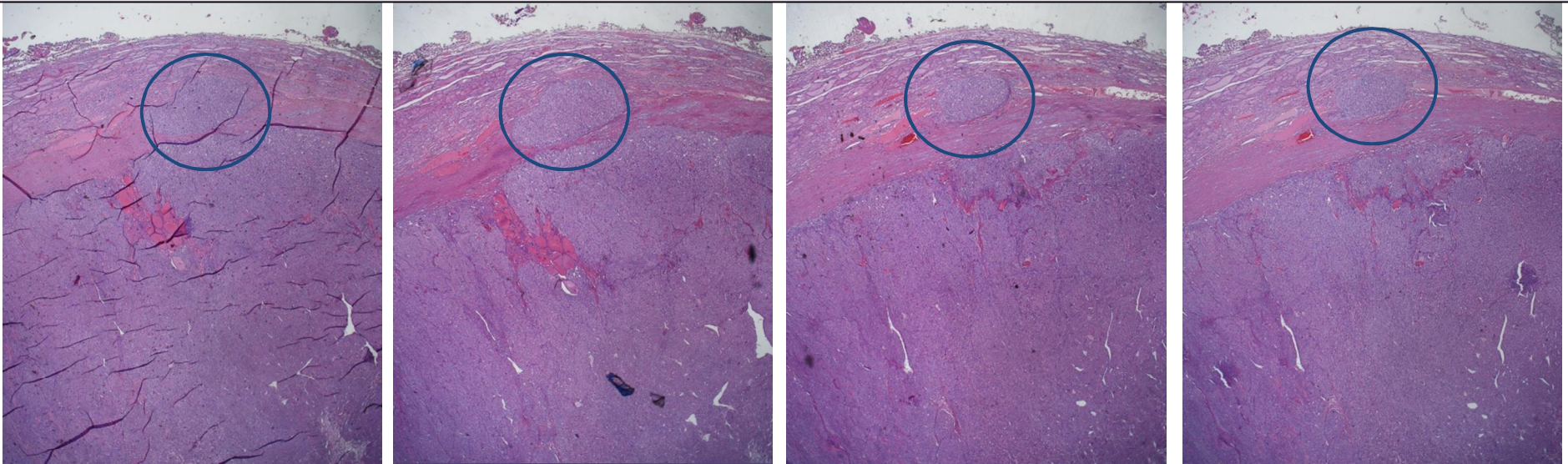
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Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): rule out capsular invasion

➤ Tumor capsule or vascular invasion is questionable/equivocal after **thorough sampling and careful examination**



FT-UMP (Capsular invasion)

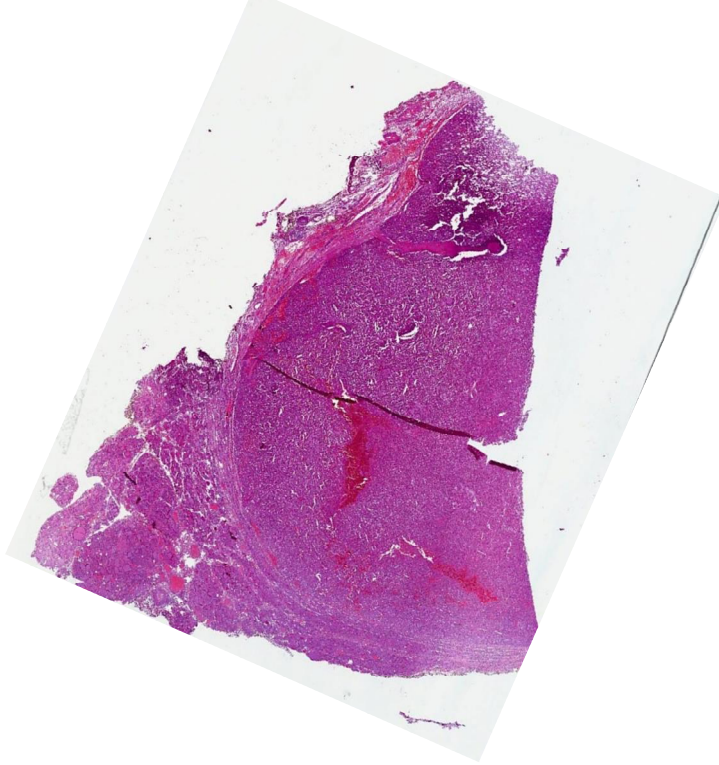


Follicular carcinoma with capsular invasion

**Additional sections are important: three serial sections per block with foci suspicious for invasion**

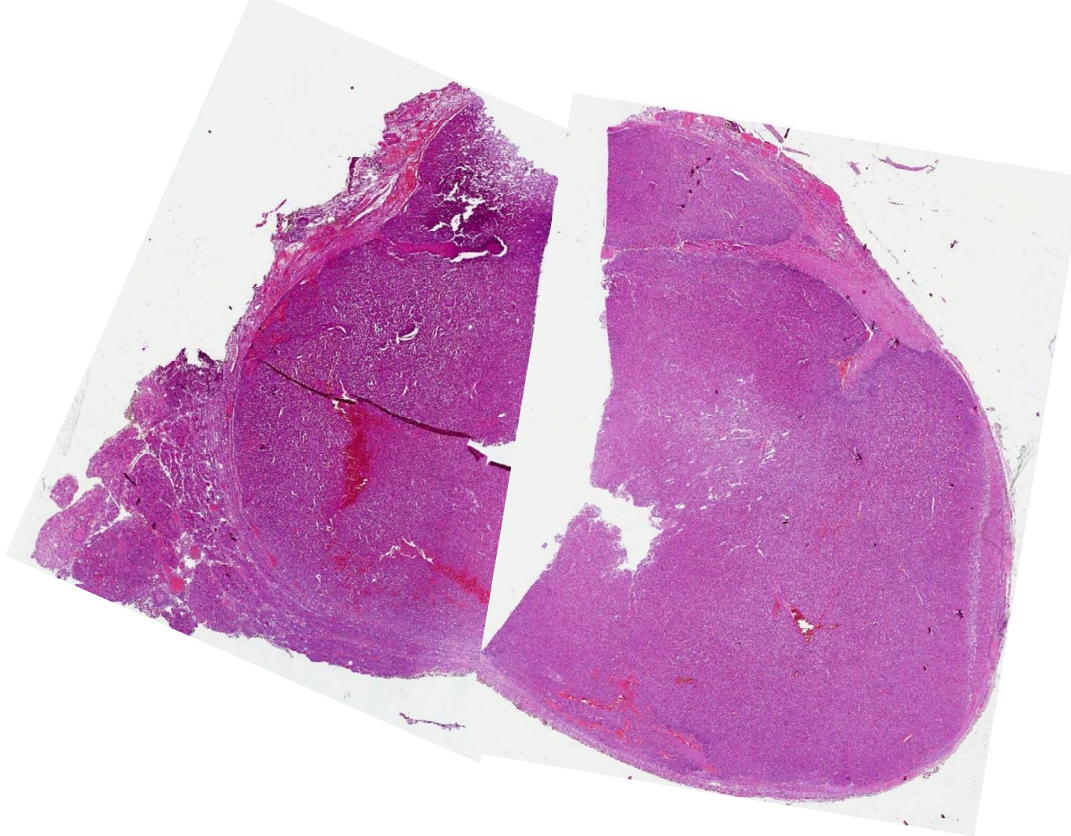
Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): rule out capsular invasion

➤ Tumor capsule or vascular invasion is questionable/equivocal after **thorough sampling and careful examination**



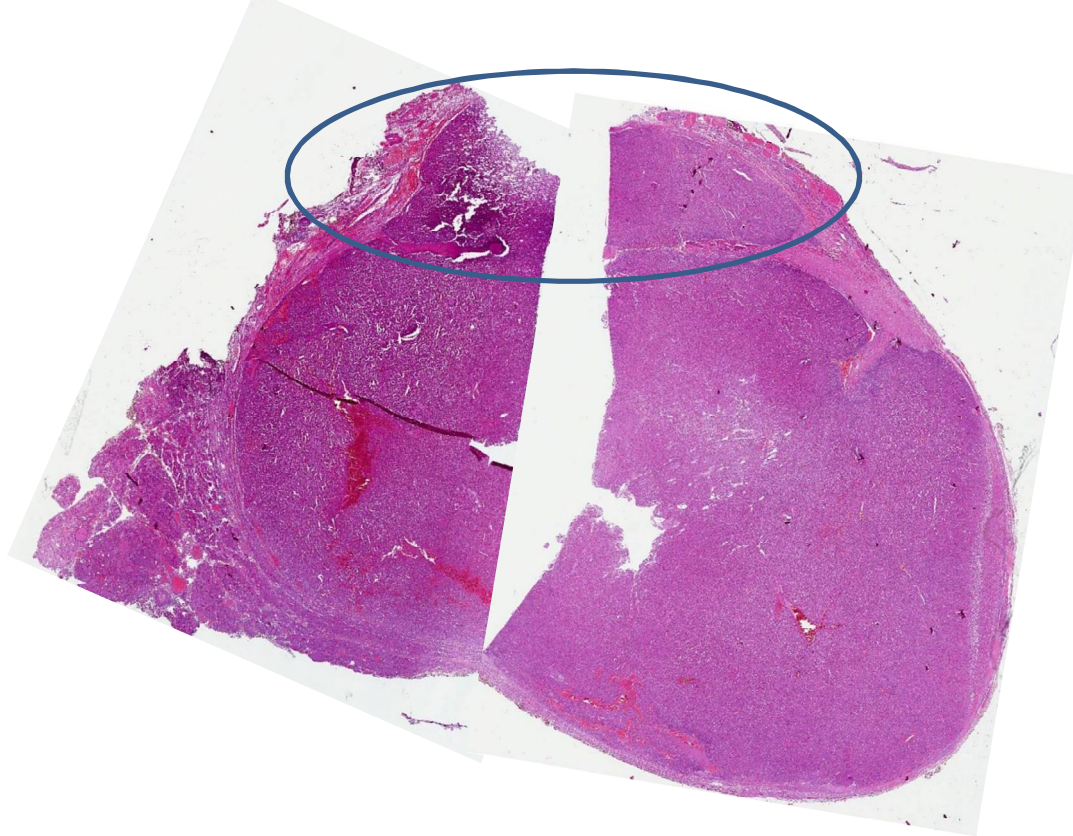
Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): rule out capsular invasion

➤ Tumor capsule or vascular invasion is questionable/equivocal after **thorough sampling and careful examination**



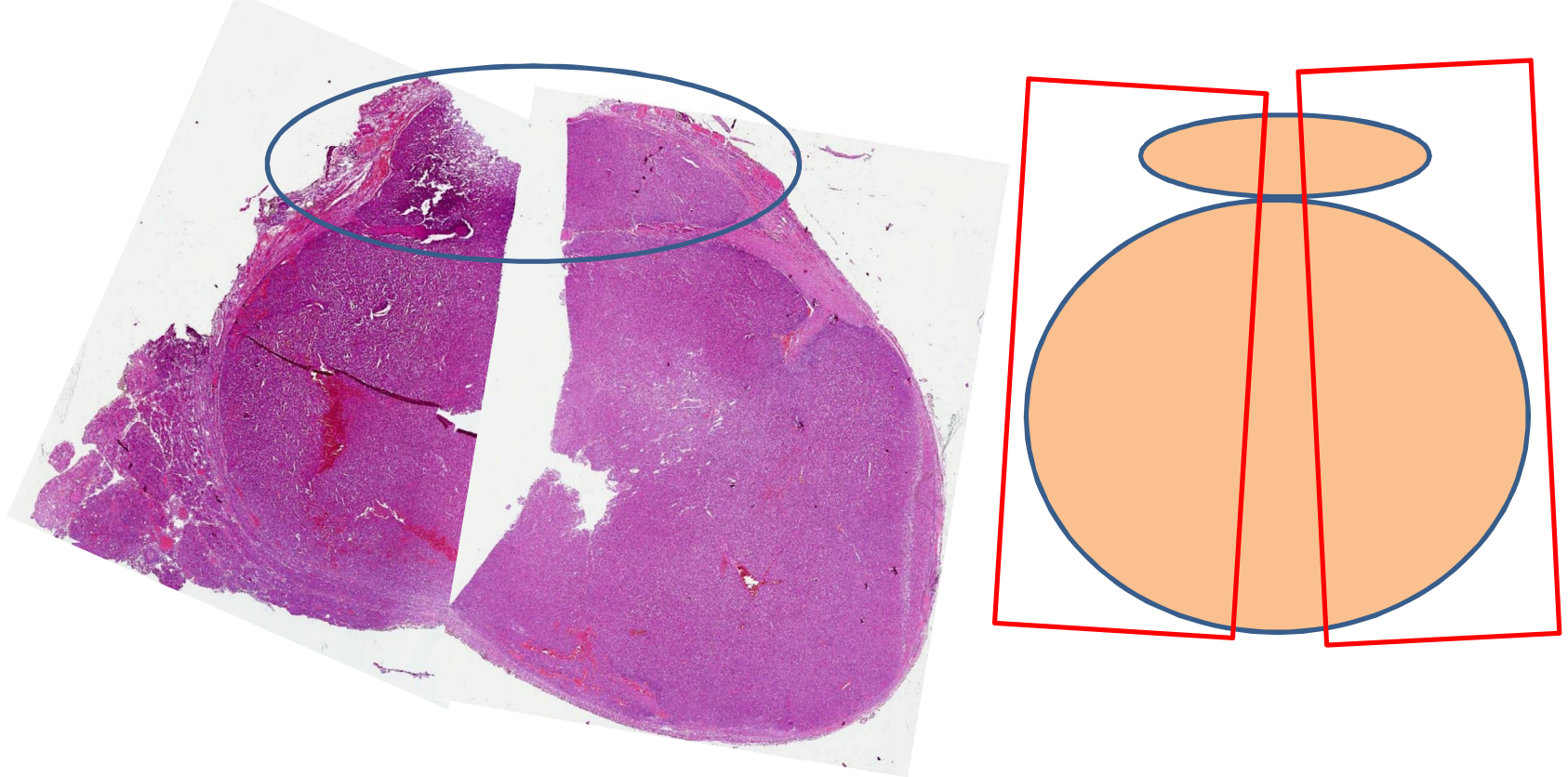
Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): rule out capsular invasion

➤ Tumor capsule or vascular invasion is questionable/equivocal after **thorough sampling and careful examination**



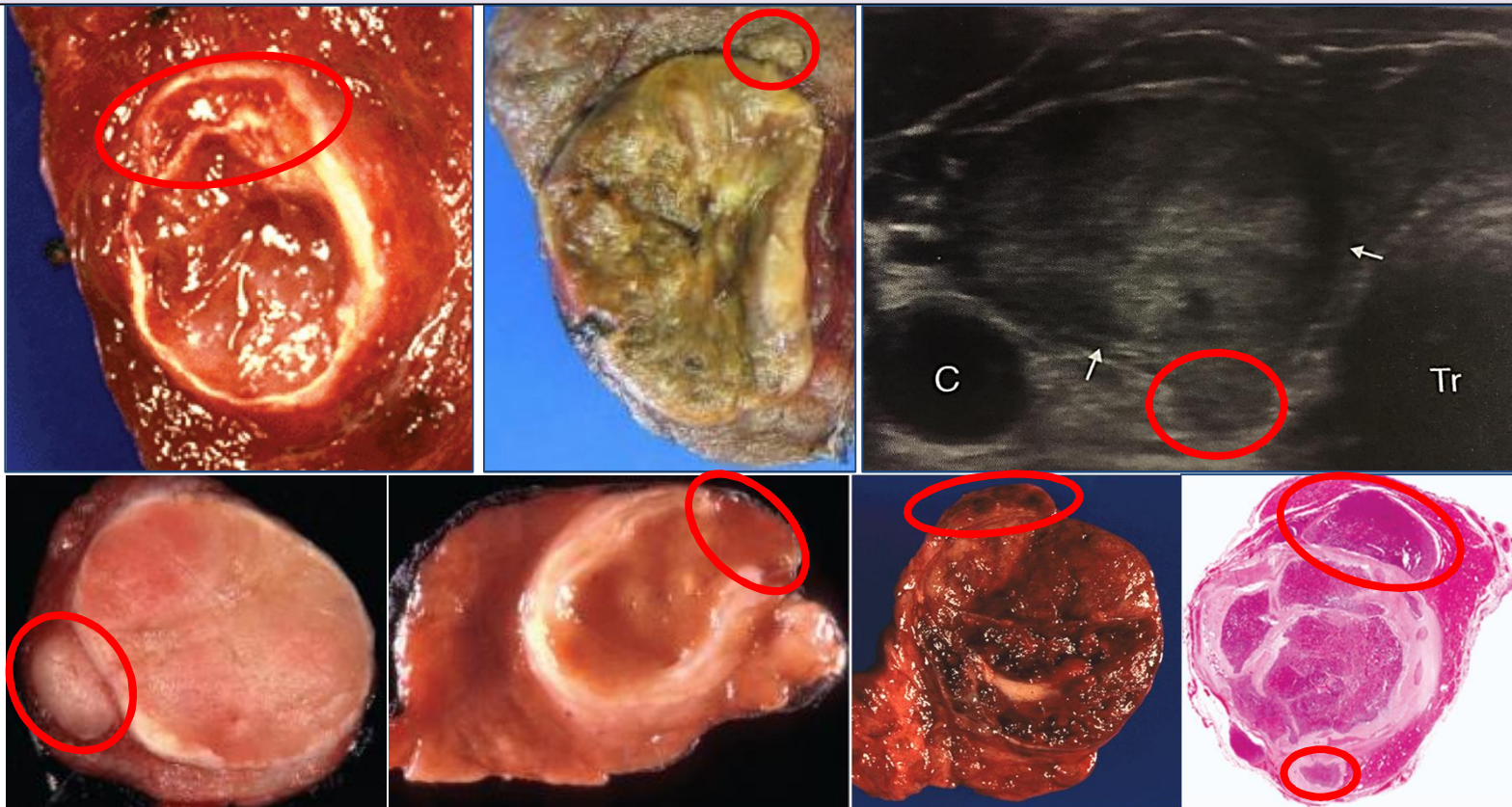
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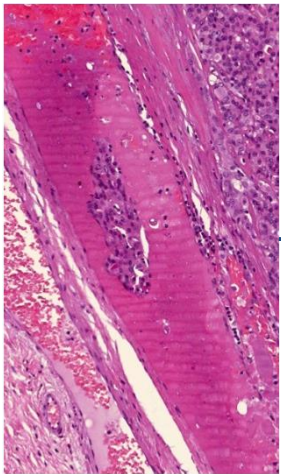


Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): rule out capsular invasion

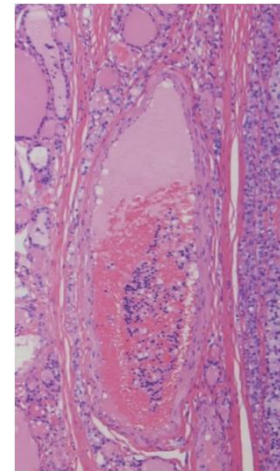
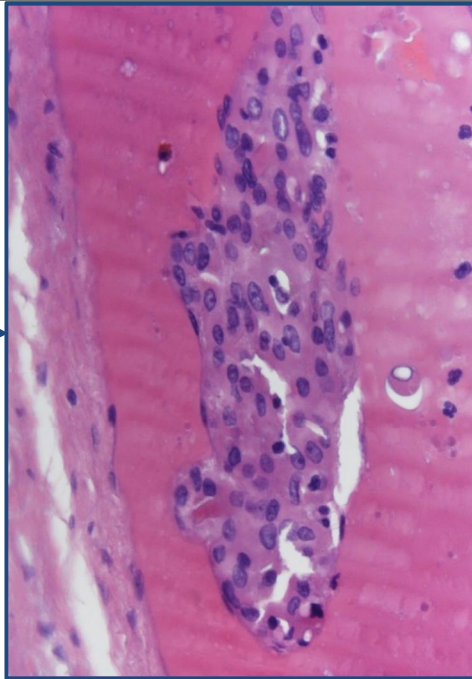
➤ Tumor capsule or vascular invasion is questionable/equivocal after **thorough sampling and careful examination**



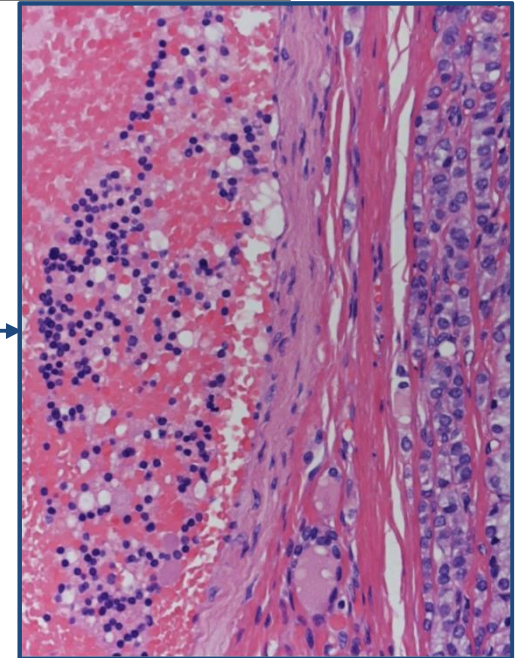
Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP): rule out vascular invasion



**Vascular  
invasion: YES**



**Vascular  
invasion: NO**



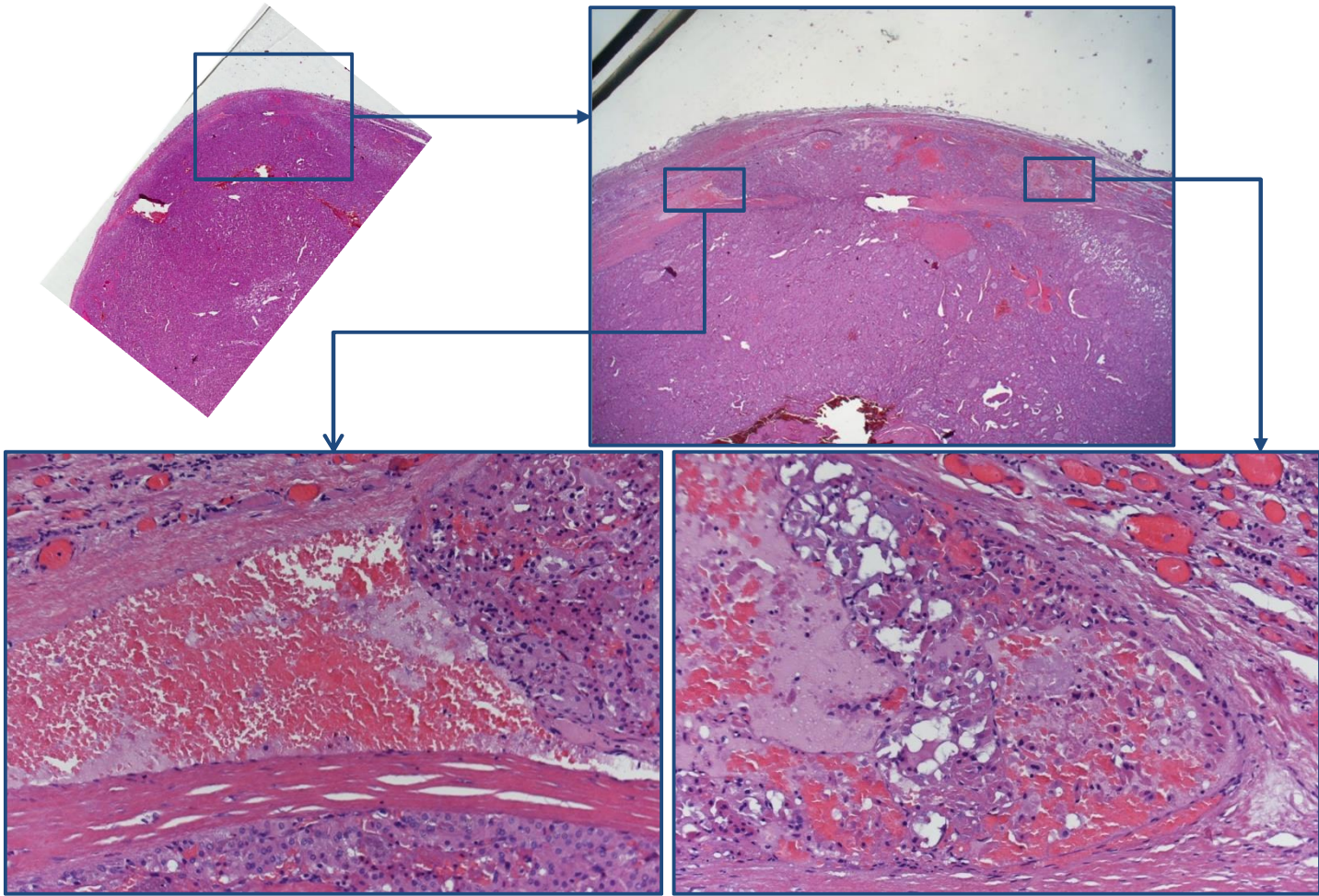
**Requirements for a diagnosis of vascular invasion:**

“Space lined by **endothelium** (i.e. a blood or lymphatic vessel)

“Cells in the vessel **must look like the cells inside the tumor**

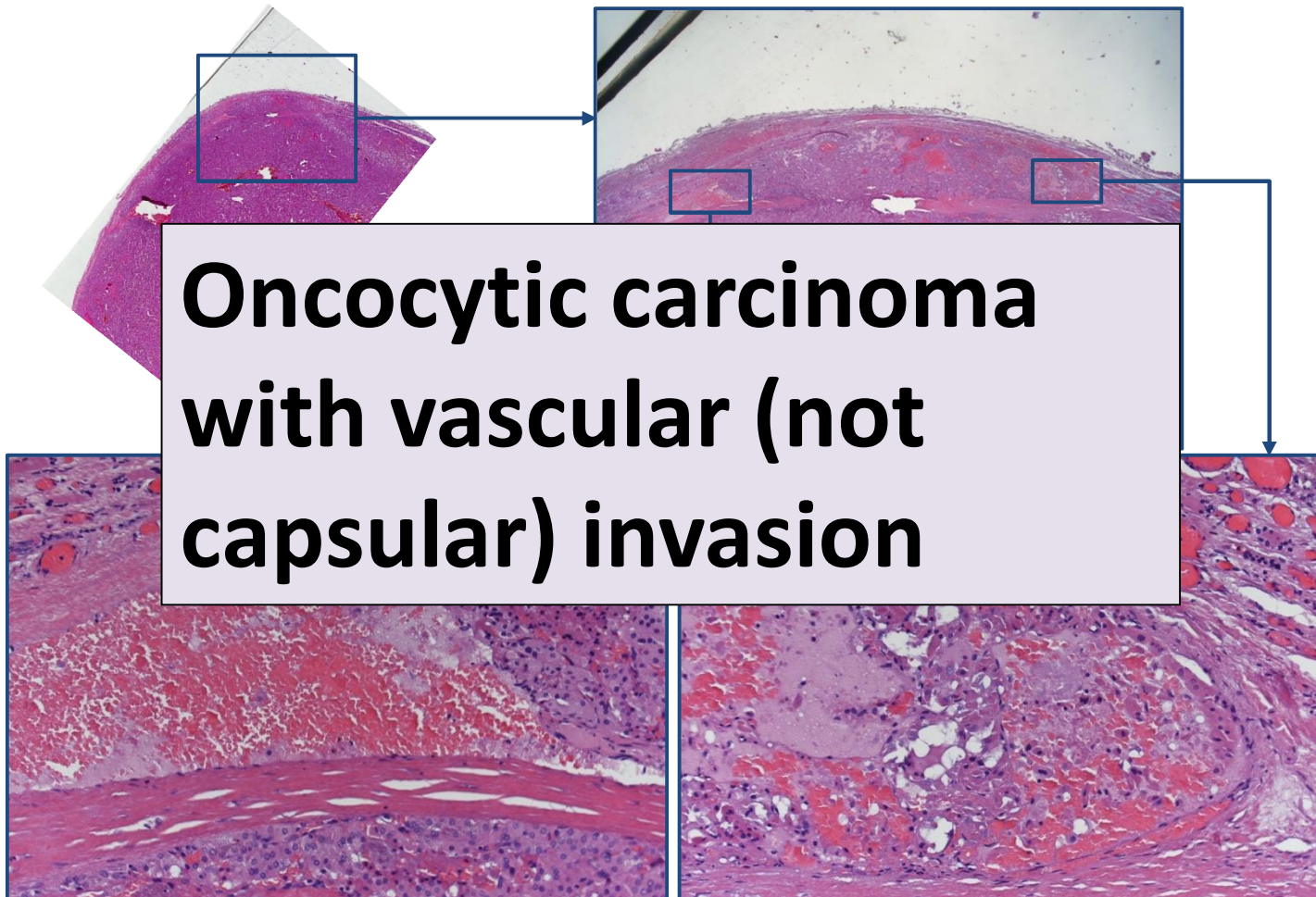
“Cells in the vessel need to show **evidence that they have been “residing” in the vessel**: cell clusters projecting (in a “polypoid” fashion) or floating in the lumen must be covered by endothelium and/or show associated thrombus

**Capsular vs. vascular invasion: it is important**





Capsular vs. vascular invasion: it is important



➤ Tumor capsule or vascular invasion is questionable/equivocal after **thorough sampling and careful examination**

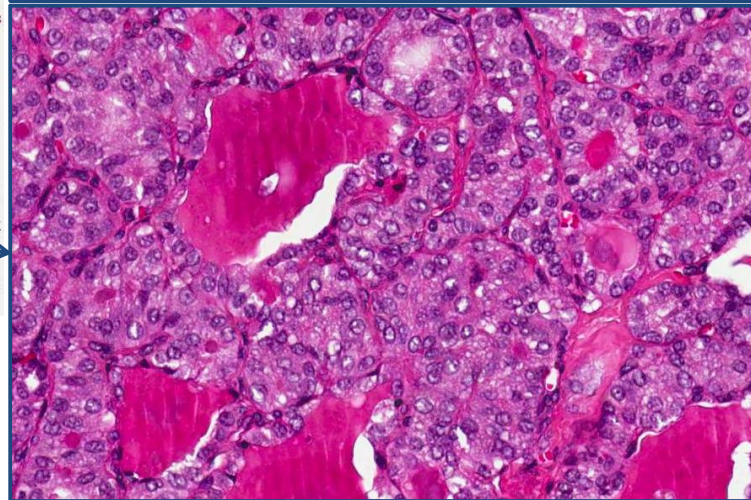
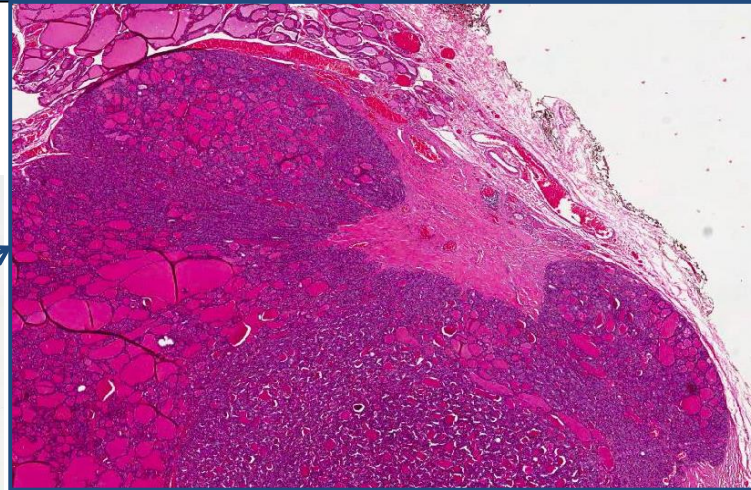
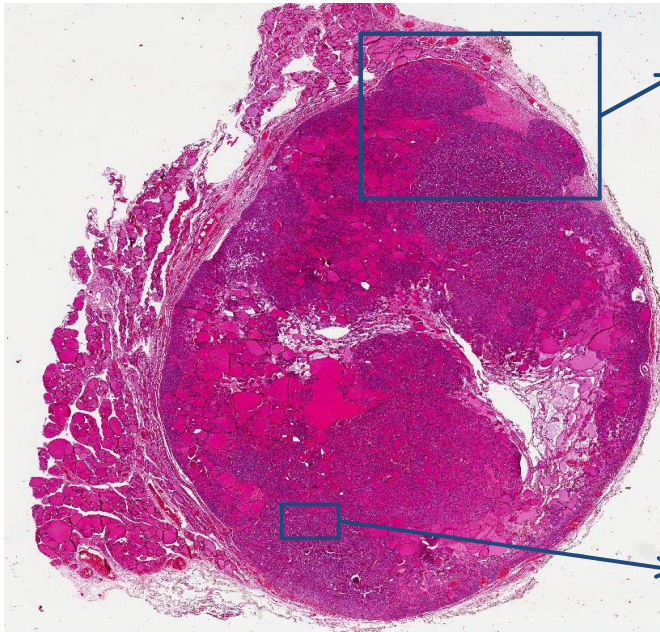
## **Questionable capsular invasion:**

“Invasion into but not completely through the capsule, as nests or as mushroom growths embedded in the fibrous capsular tissue

✓ **Particular concern: nodules with a thick capsule**

**Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)**

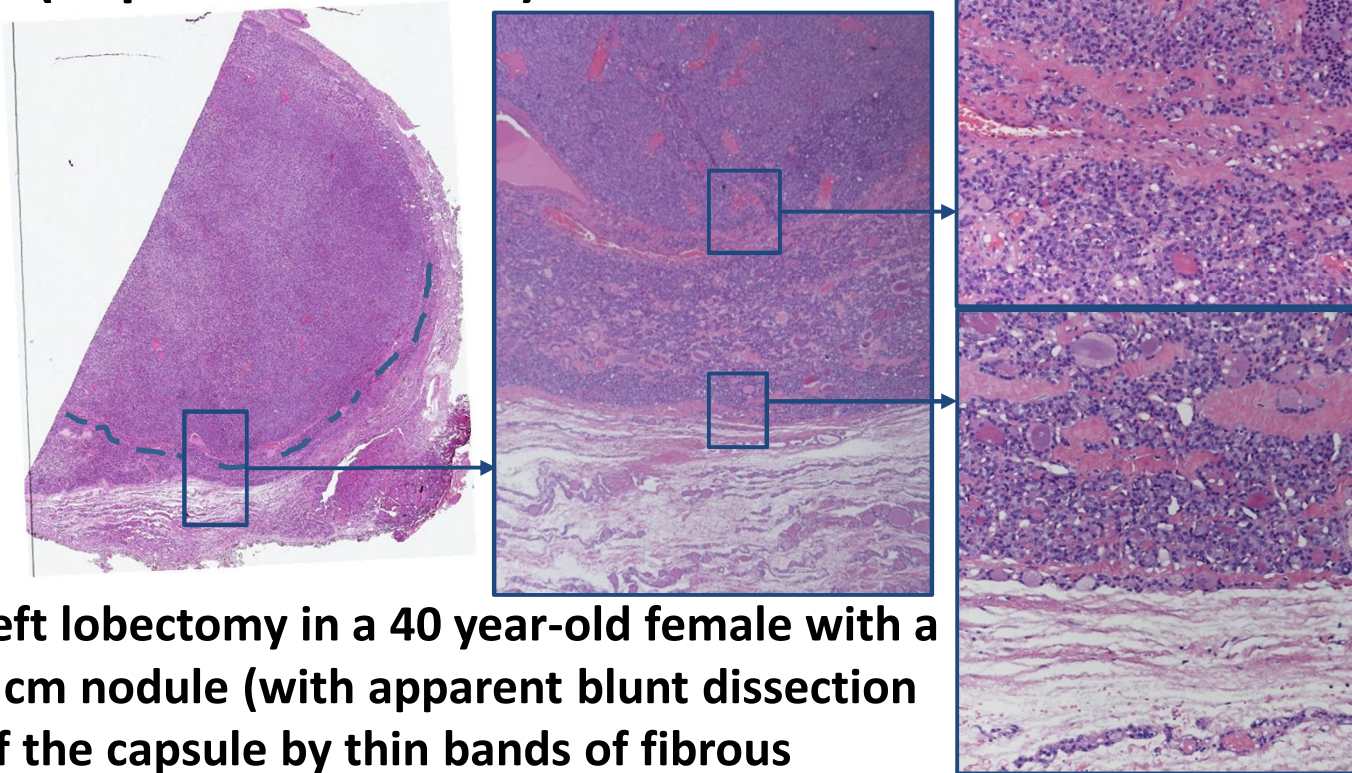
**WDT-UMP  
(Capsular invasion)**



**Thyroidectomy in a 44 year-old male with a 2.3 cm nodule in the left lobe**

Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)

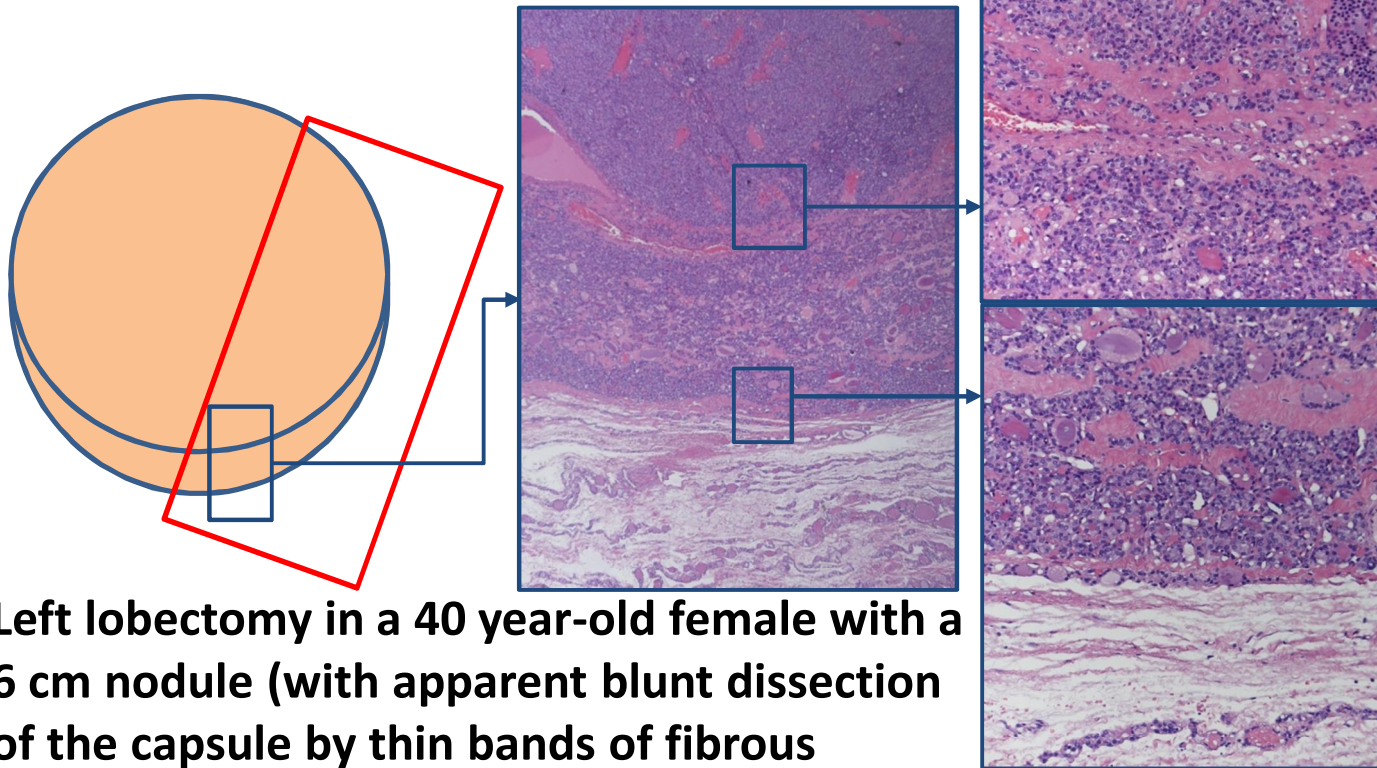
**FT-UMP  
(Capsular invasion)**



**Left lobectomy in a 40 year-old female with a 6 cm nodule (with apparent blunt dissection of the capsule by thin bands of fibrous tissue)**

Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)

**FT-UMP  
(Capsular invasion)**



**Left lobectomy in a 40 year-old female with a 6 cm nodule (with apparent blunt dissection of the capsule by thin bands of fibrous tissue)**

➤ Tumor capsule or vascular invasion is questionable/equivocal after **thorough sampling and careful examination**

## Questionable vascular invasion:

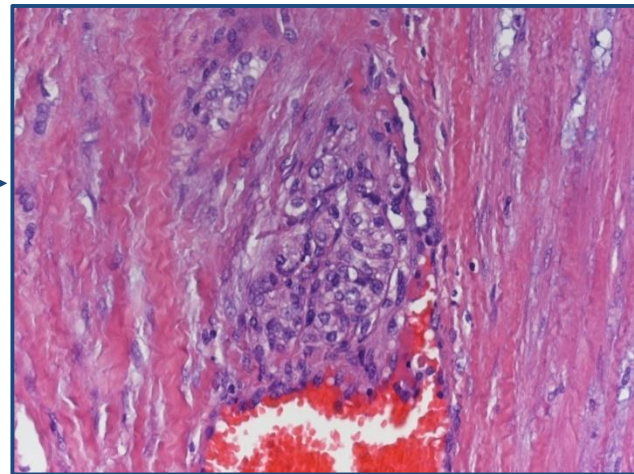
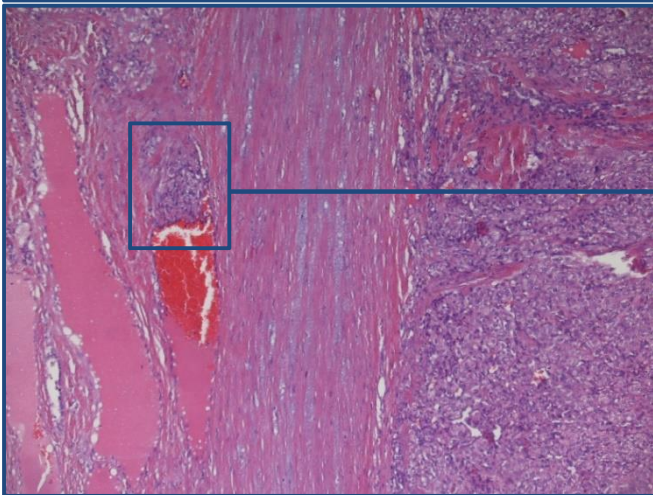
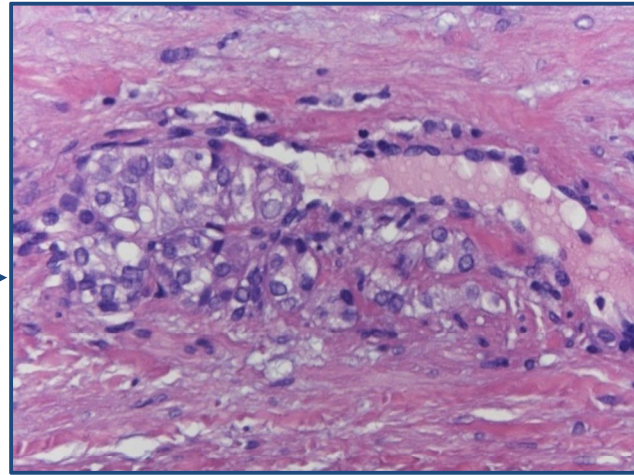
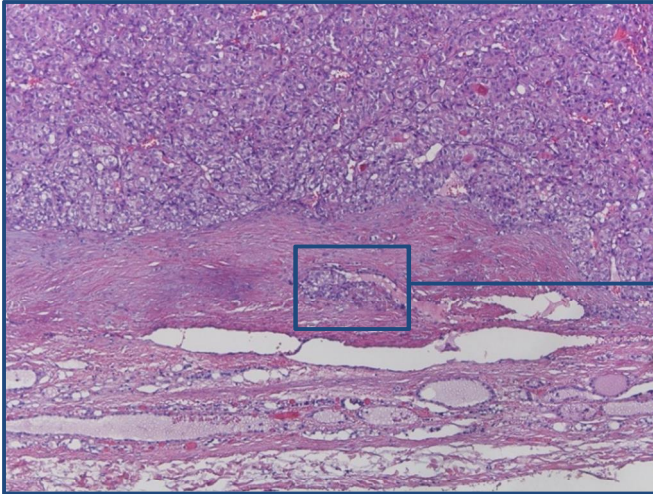
“Tumor cell nests in the fibrous capsule are intermixed with vascular endothelium

“Tumor cell nests incompletely abut on a blood vessel with small flat protrusions (Typical of vascular invasion: polypoid protrusion, three sides of the tumor cell nest project into the lumen)

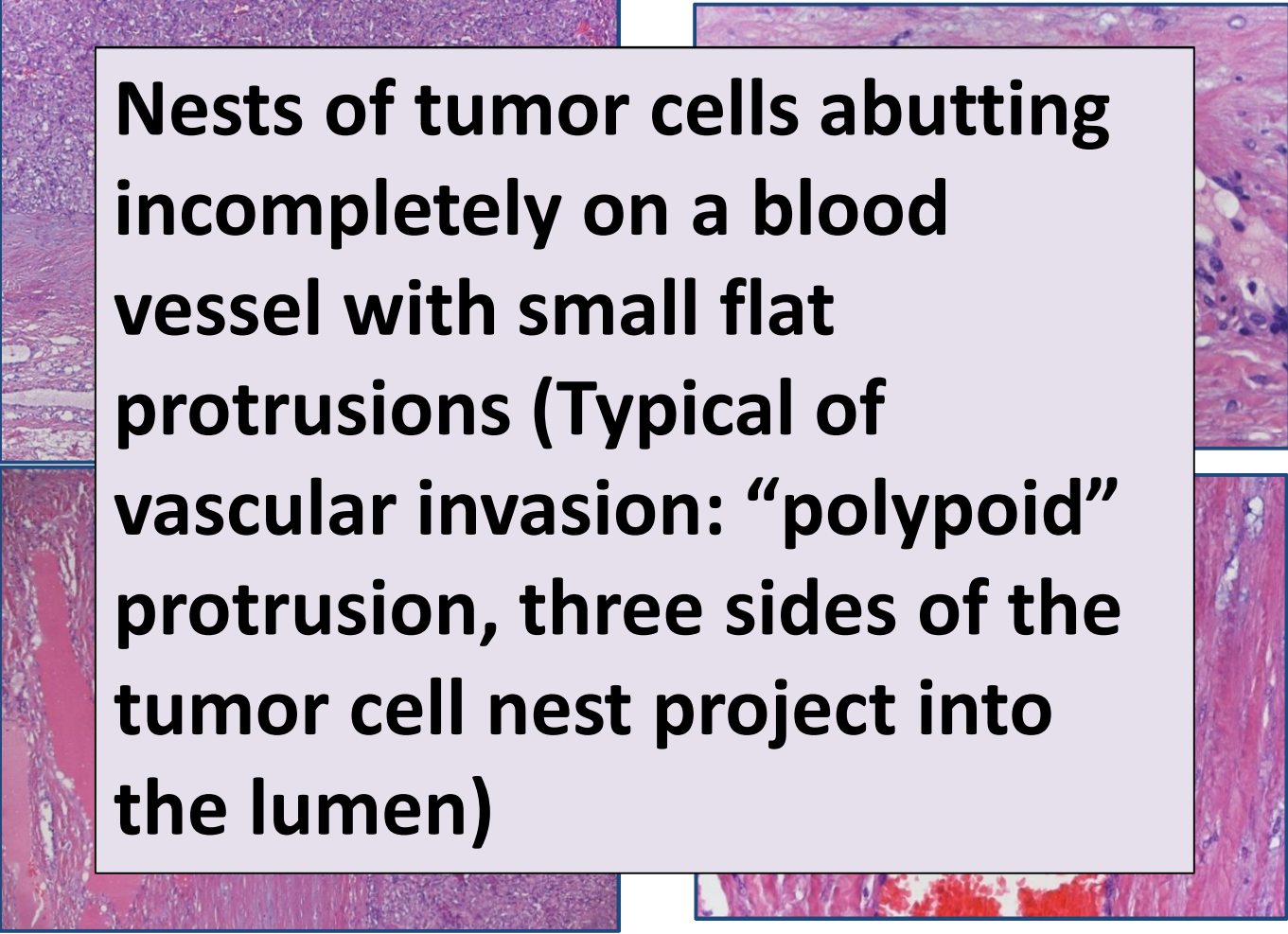
“Smooth-contoured tumor cell nests located inside a vascular space lacking evident endothelial covering and thrombus

✓ Particular concern: early vascular invasion versus co-localization of the tumor nest and the blood vessel (Follicular-patterned nodules are highly vascularized and there can be vascular hyperplasia in/around the tumor capsule)

## Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)



## Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)

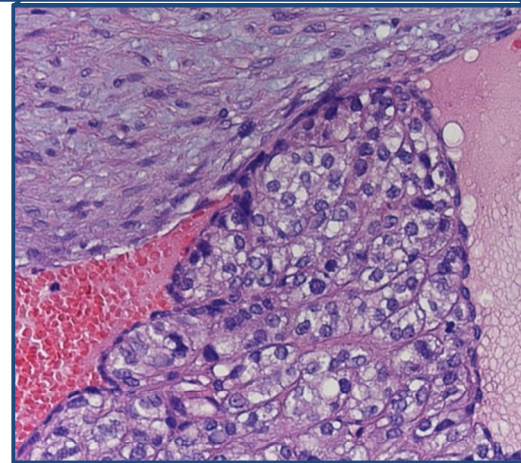
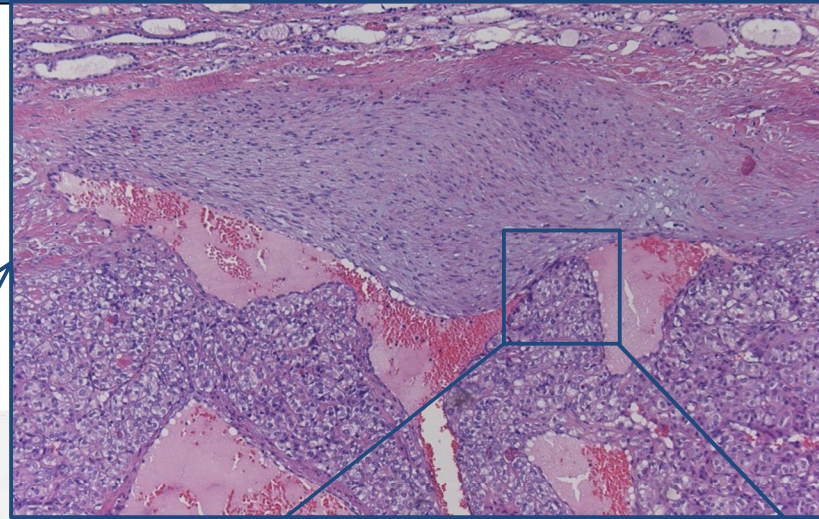
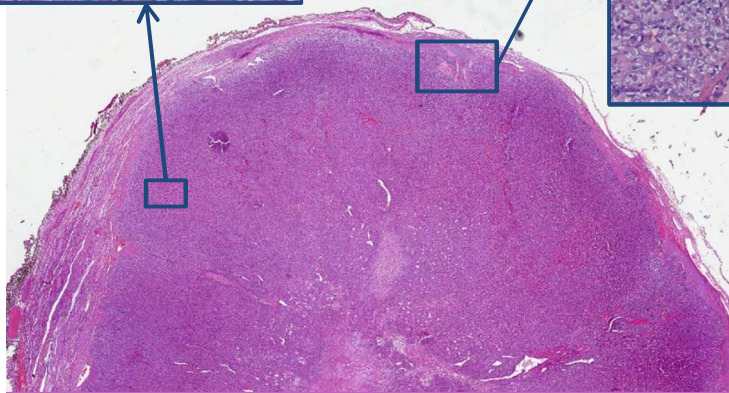
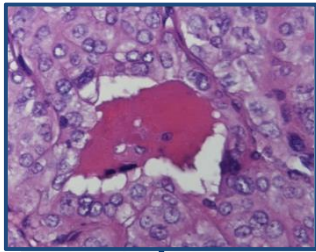


**Nests of tumor cells abutting incompletely on a blood vessel with small flat protrusions (Typical of vascular invasion: “polypoid” protrusion, three sides of the tumor cell nest project into the lumen)**



**Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)**

**WDT-UMP  
(Vascular invasion)**



**Right lobectomy in a 26 year-old female with a 3 cm nodule**

## Prognosis of Tumors of Uncertain Malignant Potential (FT-UMP and WDT-UMP)

➤ **Specific data on the long term outcome of tumors of uncertain malignant potential (FT-UMP and WDT-UMP) are limited but the risk for the patient is very low**

***Tumor of uncertain malignant potential, does not mean a malignant tumor of uncertain potential***

### Identification of borderline thyroid tumors by gene expression array analysis

Arora N, Scognamiglio T, Lubitz CC, Moo TA, Kato MA, Zhu B, Zarnegar R, Chen YT, Fahey TJ 3rd  
Cancer. 2009 Dec 1;115(23):5421-31. doi: 10.1002/cncr.24616. PubMed PMID: 19658182

### Encapsulated well-differentiated follicular-patterned thyroid carcinomas do not play a significant role in the fatality rates from thyroid carcinoma

Piana S, Frasoldati A, Di Felice E, Gardini G, Tallini G, Rosai J  
Am J Surg Pathol. 2010 Jun;34(6):868-72. doi: 10.1097/PAS.0b013e3181dbee07. PubMed PMID: 20463572

### Follicular thyroid carcinoma

Sobrinho-Simões M, Eloy C, Magalhães J, Lobo C, Amaro T  
Mod Pathol. 2011 Apr;24 Suppl 2:S10-8. doi: 10.1038/modpathol.2010.133

### Encapsulated follicular thyroid tumor with equivocal nuclear changes, so-called well-differentiated tumor of uncertain malignant potential: a morphological, immunohistochemical, and molecular appraisal

Liu Z, Zhou G, Nakamura M, Koike E, Li Y, Ozaki T, Mori I, Taniguchi E, Kakudo K  
Cancer Sci. 2011 Jan;102(1):288-94. doi: 10.1111/j.1349-7006.2010.01769.x

Several studies have not reported nodal or distant metastases, tumor recurrence, or tumor related deaths

### Prognosis of Tumors of Uncertain Malignant Potential (FT-UMP and WDT-UMP)

➤ **Overall risk for the patient (recurrence after complete excision, nodal or distant metastases, death): estimated < 1%**

Classification of thyroid follicular cell tumors: with special reference to borderline lesions

Kakudo K, Bai Y, Liu Z, Li Y, Ito Y, Ozaki T

Endocr J. 2012;59(1):1-12.

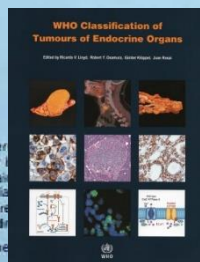
In one retrospective study of **2978 cases originally diagnosed as benign** thyroid nodule/tumor, **five cases** were found to later develop distant metastases: among these, **two would qualify for FT-UMP** - one with questionable vascular invasion, and one with questionable invasion of the thyroid parenchyma (< 0.1% metastatic potential)

Recommendation: follow up (similar to NIFTP). After simple lobectomy patients can now be reliably followed for potential recurrence by high resolution neck ultrasound and ultrasensitive thyroglobulin serum assays

# Topics

- Overview of current classification and lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: Follicular variant papillary carcinoma, Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP), Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)
- **Papillary carcinoma: subtypes and “Farewell to microcarcinoma”**
- Thyroid follicular nodular disease
- Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture
- Subtypes of invasion in encapsulated carcinomas (Follicular carcinoma, encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma, oncocytic carcinoma): Minimally invasive (capsular invasion only); encapsulated angioinvasive; widely invasive

Follicular adenoma	8330/0	Ectopic thymoma	8580/3
Hyalinizing trabecular tumour	8336/1*	Spindle epithelial tumour with thymus-like differentiation	8588/3
<b>Other encapsulated follicular-patterned thyroid tumours</b>		<b>Intrathyroid thymic carcinoma</b>	8589/3
Follicular tumour of uncertain malignant potential	8335/1*	<b>Paraganglioma and mesenchymal/stromal tumours</b>	
Well-differentiated tumour of uncertain malignant potential	8348/1*	Paraganglioma	8693/3
Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features	8349/1*	Peripheral nerve sheath tumours (PNSTs)	
<b>Papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC)</b>		Schwannoma	9560/0
Papillary carcinoma	8260/3	Malignant PNST	9540/3
Follicular variant of PTC	8340/3	Benign vascular tumours	
Encapsulated variant of PTC	8343/3	Haemangioma	9120/0
Papillary microcarcinoma	8341/3	Cavernous haemangioma	9121/0
Columnar cell variant of PTC	8344/3	Lymphangioma	9170/0
Oncocytic variant of PTC	8342/3	Angiosarcoma	9120/3
<b>Follicular thyroid carcinoma (FTC), NOS</b>	8330/3	Smooth muscle tumours	
FTC, minimally invasive	8335/3	Leiomyoma	8890/0
FTC, encapsulated angioinvasive	8339/3*	Leiomyosarcoma	8890/3
FTC, widely invasive	8330/3	Solitary fibrous tumour	8815/1
<b>Hürthle (oncocytic) cell tumours</b>		<b>Haematolymphoid tumours</b>	
Hürthle cell adenoma	8290/0	Langerhans cell histiocytosis	9751/3
Hürthle cell carcinoma	8290/3	Rosai-Dorfman disease	
<b>Poorly differentiated thyroid carcinoma</b>	8337/3	Follicular dendritic cell sarcoma	9758/3
<b>Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma</b>	8020/3	Primary thyroid lymphoma	
<b>Squamous cell carcinoma</b>	8070/3	<b>Germ cell tumours</b>	
<b>Medullary thyroid carcinoma</b>	8345/3	Benign teratoma (grade 0 or 1)	9080/0
<b>Mixed medullary and follicular thyroid carcinoma</b>	8346/3	Immature teratoma (grade 2)	9080/1
<b>Mucoepidermoid carcinoma</b>	8430/3	Malignant teratoma (grade 3)	9080/3
<b>Sclerosing mucoepidermoid carcinoma with eosinophilia</b>	8430/3	<b>Secondary tumours</b>	
<b>Mucinous carcinoma</b>	8480/3		

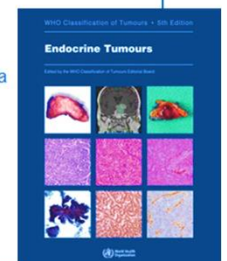


The morphology codes are from the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-O) (898A). Behaviour /1 for unspecified, borderline, or uncertain, and grade III for intraepithelial neoplasia. The classification is modified from the previous edition to take into account changes in our understanding of these tumours. \*These new codes were approved by the WHO Classification of Tumours Committee.

tumourclassification.iarc.who.int/chapters/53

### 3. Thyroid gland

- Introduction
- Developmental abnormalities
  - Thyroglossal duct cyst
  - Other congenital thyroid abnormalities
- Follicular cell-derived neoplasms
  - Benign tumours
    - Thyroid follicular nodular disease
    - Follicular thyroid adenoma
    - Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture
    - Oncocytic adenoma of the thyroid
  - Low risk neoplasms
    - Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features
    - Thyroid tumours of uncertain malignant potential
    - Hyalinizing trabecular tumour of thyroid
  - Malignant neoplasms
    - Follicular thyroid carcinoma
      - Invasive encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma
      - Papillary thyroid carcinoma
      - Oncocytic carcinoma of the thyroid
      - Follicular-derived carcinomas, high-grade
      - Anaplastic follicular cell derived thyroid carcinoma
- Thyroid C-cell derived carcinoma
  - Medullary thyroid carcinoma
- Mixed medullary and follicular-cell derived carcinomas
  - Mixed medullary and follicular cell-derived thyroid carcinoma
- Salivary gland-type carcinomas of the thyroid
  - Mucoepidermoid carcinoma of the thyroid
  - Secretory carcinoma of salivary gland type
- Thyroid tumours of uncertain histogenesis
  - Sclerosing mucoepidermoid carcinoma with eosinophilia
  - Cribiform morular thyroid carcinoma
- Thymic tumours within the thyroid
  - Thymoma family
  - Spindle epithelial tumour with thymus-like elements
  - Thymic carcinoma family
- Embryonal thyroid neoplasms
  - Thyroblastoma

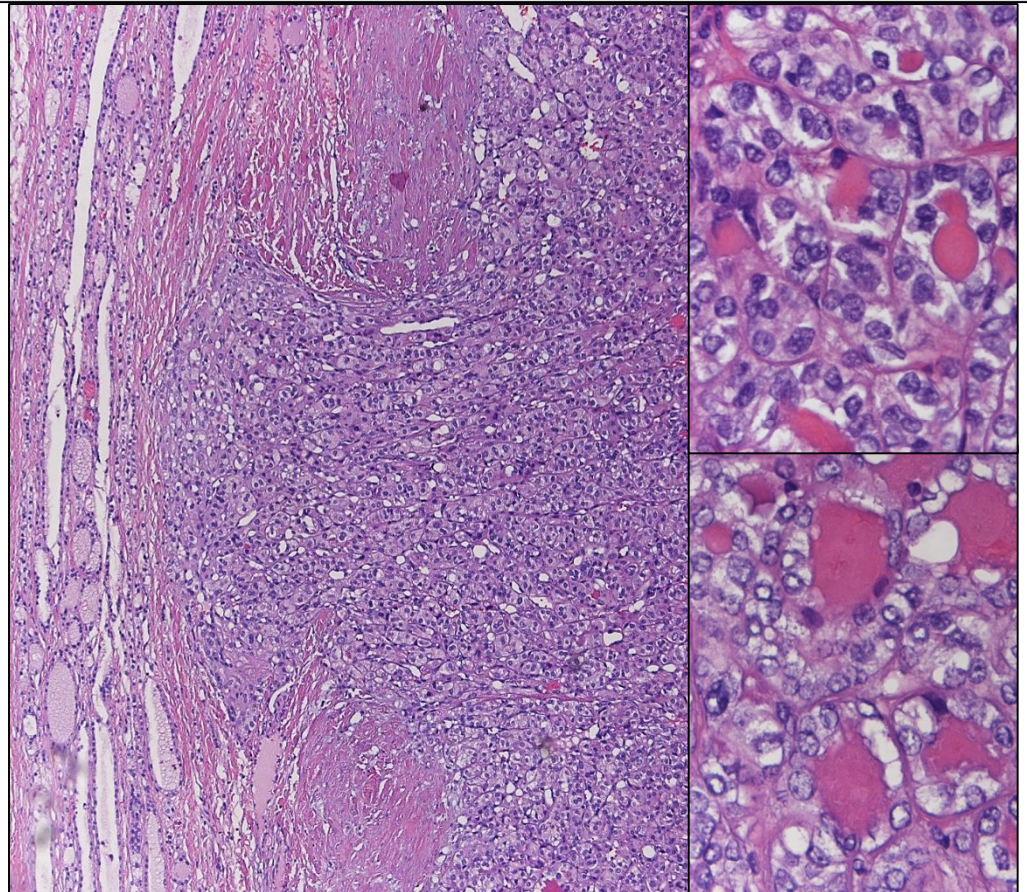


## Papillary carcinoma: subtypes and “Farewell to microcarcinoma” (WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition)

Papillary thyroid carcinoma: malignant tumor of follicular cell derivation characterized by distinct nuclear features. PTC diagnosis requires either papillary or solid/trabecular architecture, or invasive growth in follicular-patterned tumors

### Papillary carcinoma Subtypes (n=13)

- Classic
  - Infiltrative follicular variant
  - Tall cell
  - Columnar cell
  - Hobnail cell
  - Solid/trabecular
  - Diffuse sclerosing
  - Warthin-like
  - Oncocytic
  - Encapsulated classic
  - Clear cell
  - Spindle cell
  - With fibromatosis/fasciitis-like/desmoid-type stroma
- ✓ **Invasive encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma as a distinct tumor type (not a papillary carcinoma subtype anymore)**



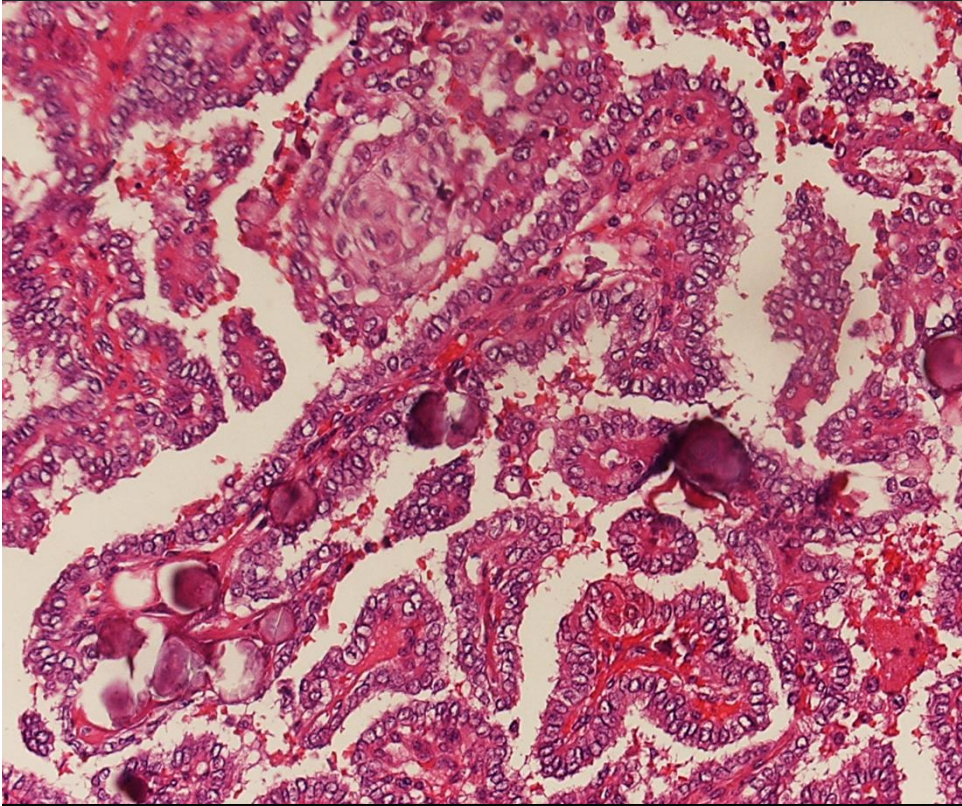
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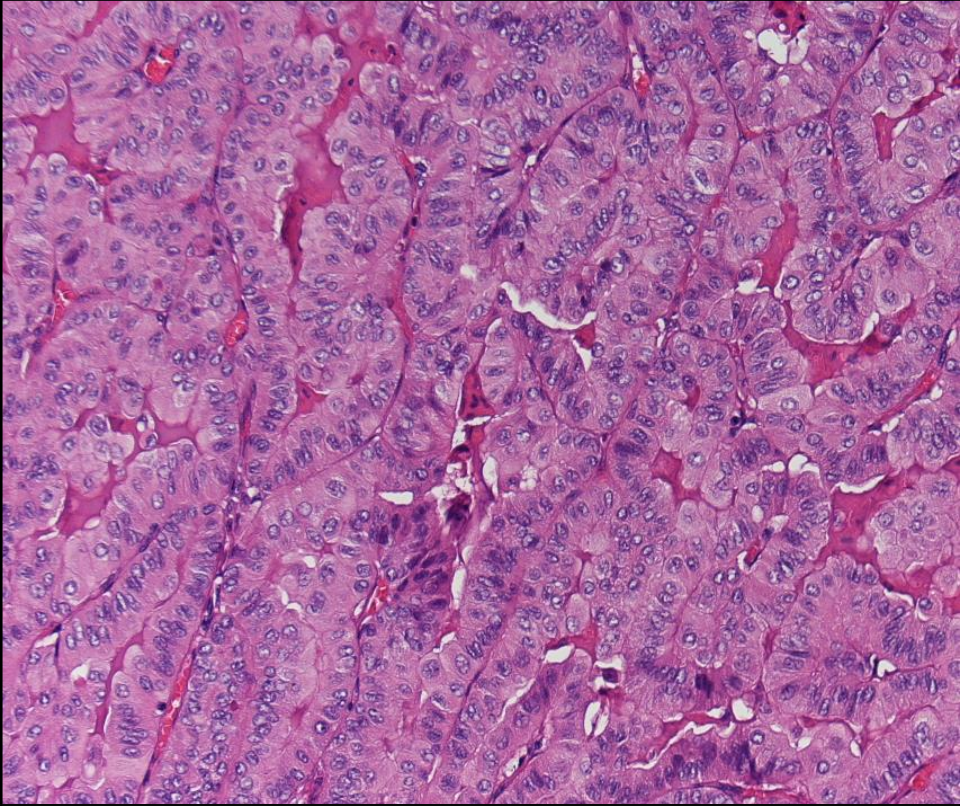
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«conventional papillary carcinomas»

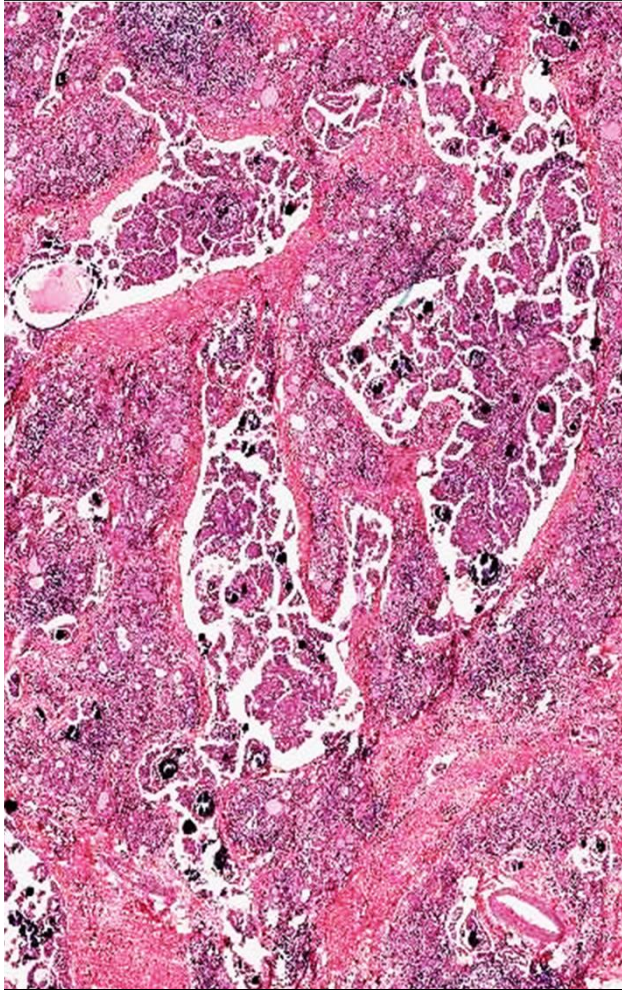


**Classic papillary  
carcinoma**

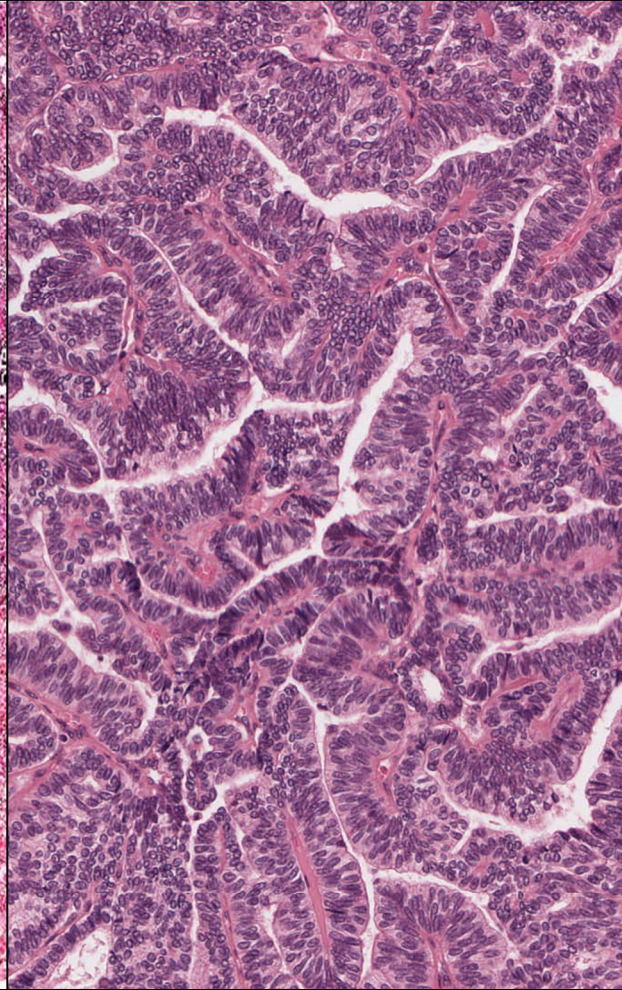


**Tall cell variant  
papillary carcinoma**

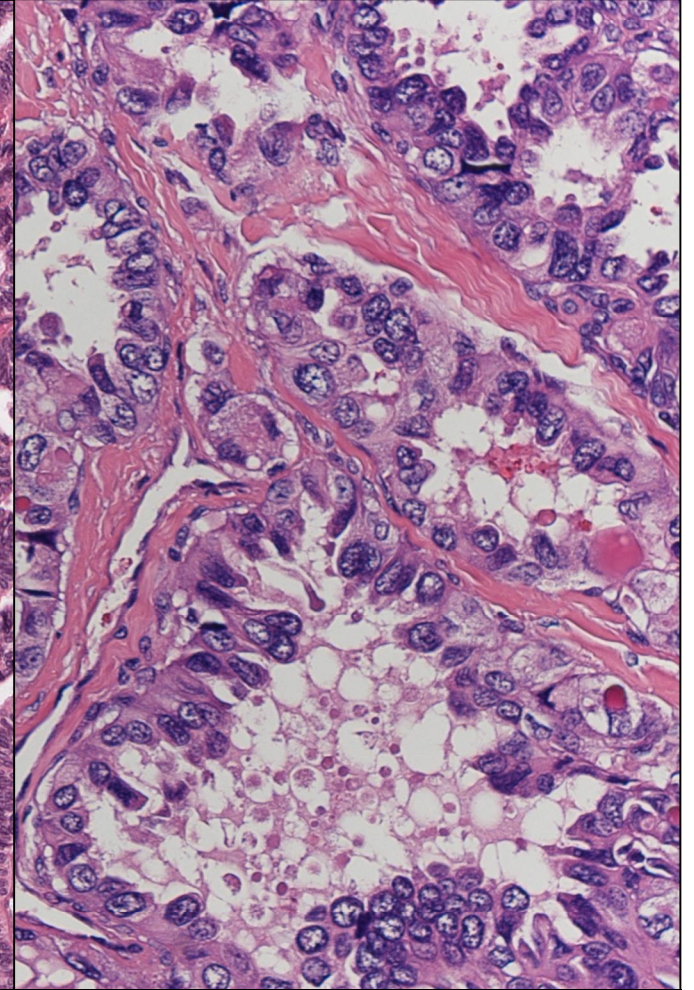




Diffuse sclerosing PTC



Columnar cell PTC



Hobnail PTC

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PTC subtype	Proportion of subtype features	Key histopathologic features
Infiltrative follicular	≥90% neoplastic follicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infiltrative growth</li> <li>• Sclerosis</li> <li>• Multicentric tumor foci</li> </ul>
Tall cell	≥30% tall cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tightly packed follicles and papillae — AKA “tram track appearance.”</li> <li>• Tumor cell height at least 3× the width</li> <li>• Eosinophilic cytoplasm with distinct cytoplasmic border</li> <li>• Easily identifiable nuclear features of PTC</li> </ul>
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Hobnail	≥30% hobnail cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complex papillary or micropapillary growth pattern, rare presence of follicular architecture</li> <li>• Tumor cells with enlarged nuclei, bulging from the apical surface</li> </ul>
Solid	>50% solid trabecular growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid, trabecular or nested growth pattern with intervening thin and delicate fibrovascular bands, rarely foci of dense sclerosis</li> <li>• Lack of tumor necrosis (including single cell necrosis) and high mitotic rate</li> </ul>
Diffuse sclerosing	100% diffuse unilateral or bilateral involvement, without dominant tumor mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dense sclerosis, extensive lymphatic permeation, numerous psammoma bodies and associated chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis</li> <li>• Tumor cells arranged in solid nests and papillary formations with squamous metaplasia</li> </ul>
Warthin-like	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circumscribed or infiltrative tumor in a background of chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis</li> <li>• Papillae lined by oncocytic cells with papillary core containing lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate</li> </ul>
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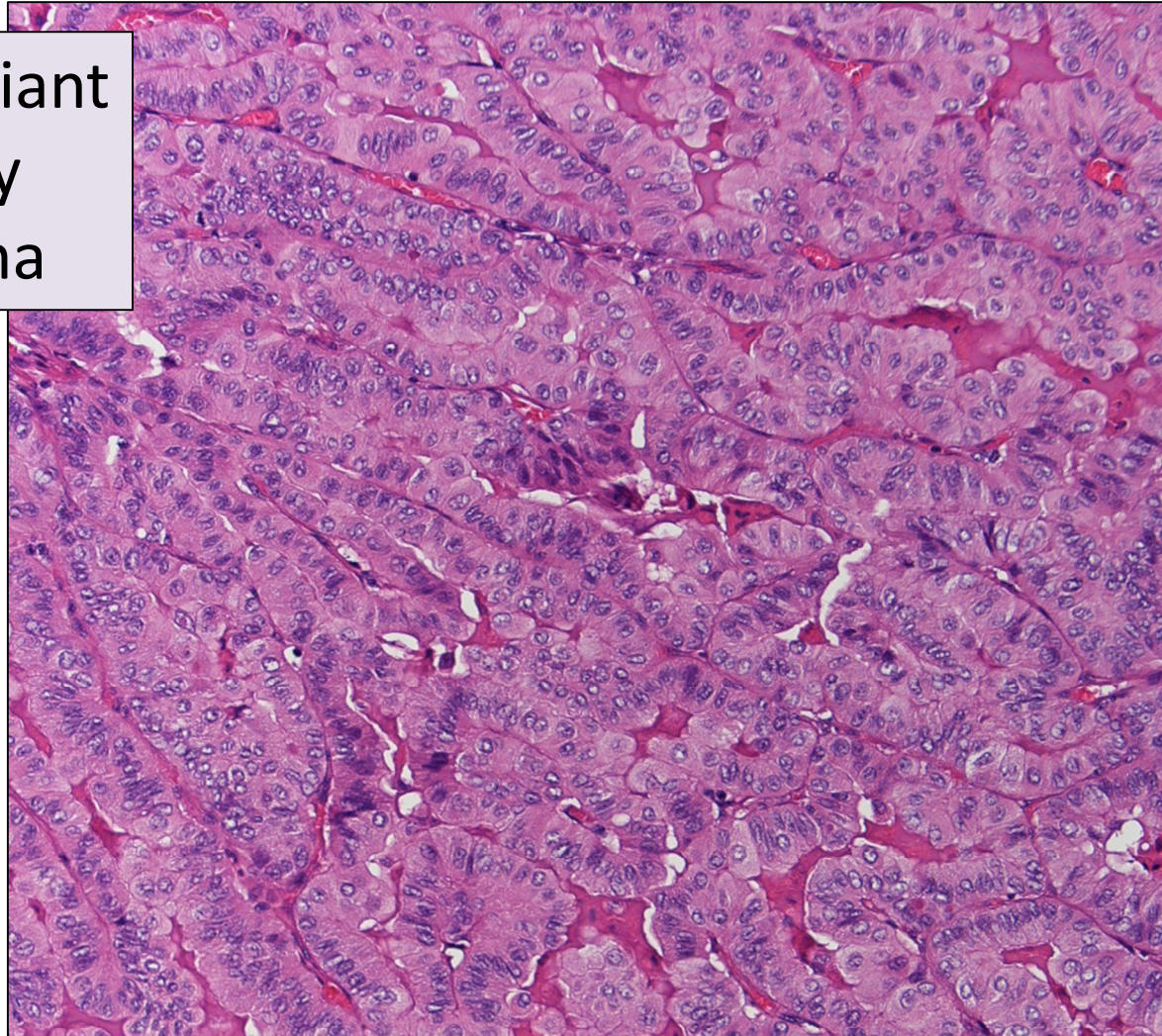
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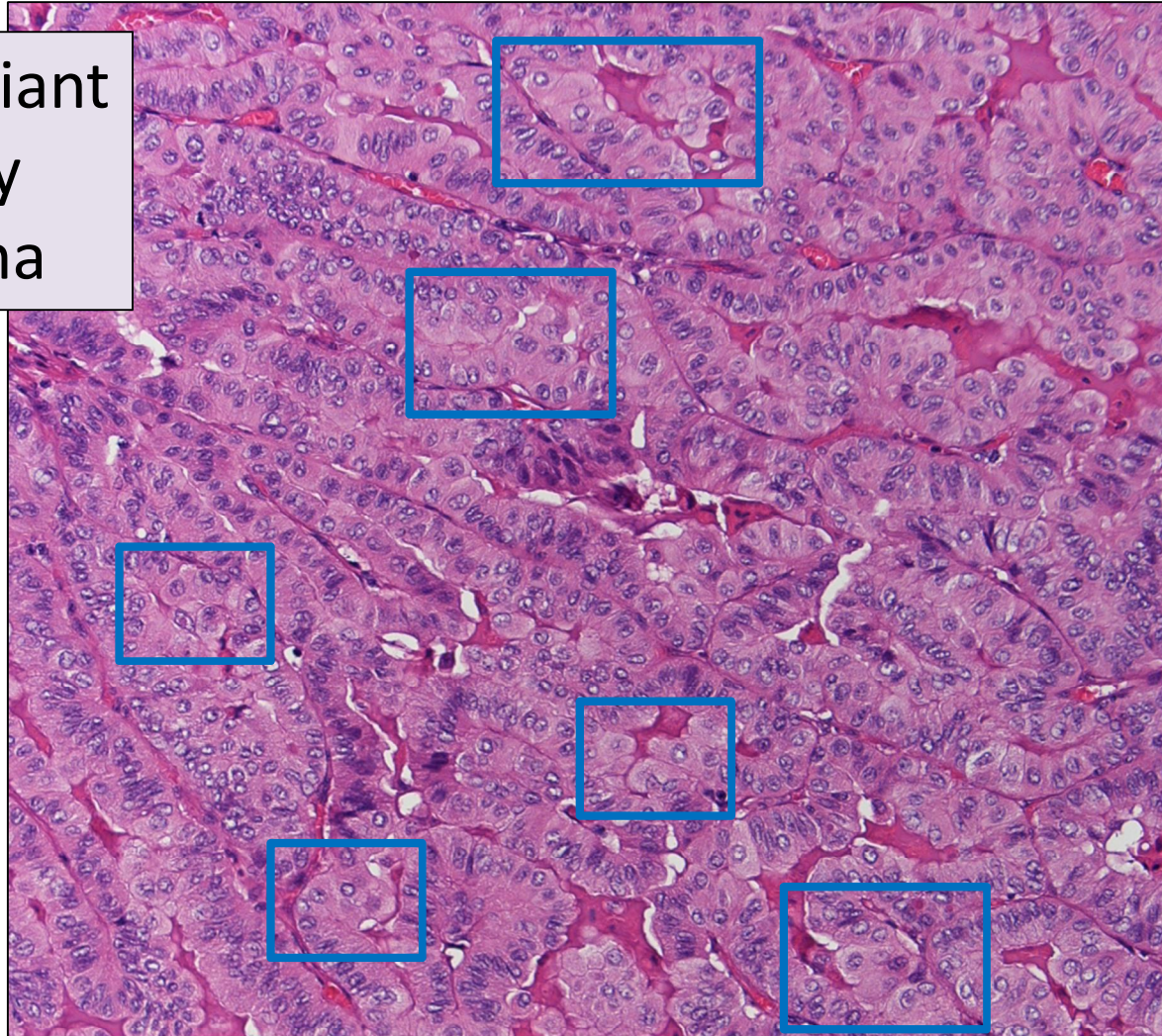
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Tall cell variant  
papillary  
carcinoma



Tall cell variant  
papillary  
carcinoma



Many cells  
are  
«Plump»  
rather than  
tall, and  
look  
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**Papillary thyroid carcinoma tall cell variant shares accumulation of mitochondria, mitochondrial DNA mutations, and loss of oxidative phosphorylation complex I integrity with oncocytic tumors**

Tsybrovskyy O, De Luise M, de Biase D, Caporali L, Fiorini C, Gasparre G, Carelli V, Hackl D, Imamovic L, Haim S, Sobrinho-Simões M, Tallini G

J Pathol Clin Res. 2022 Mar;8(2):155-168

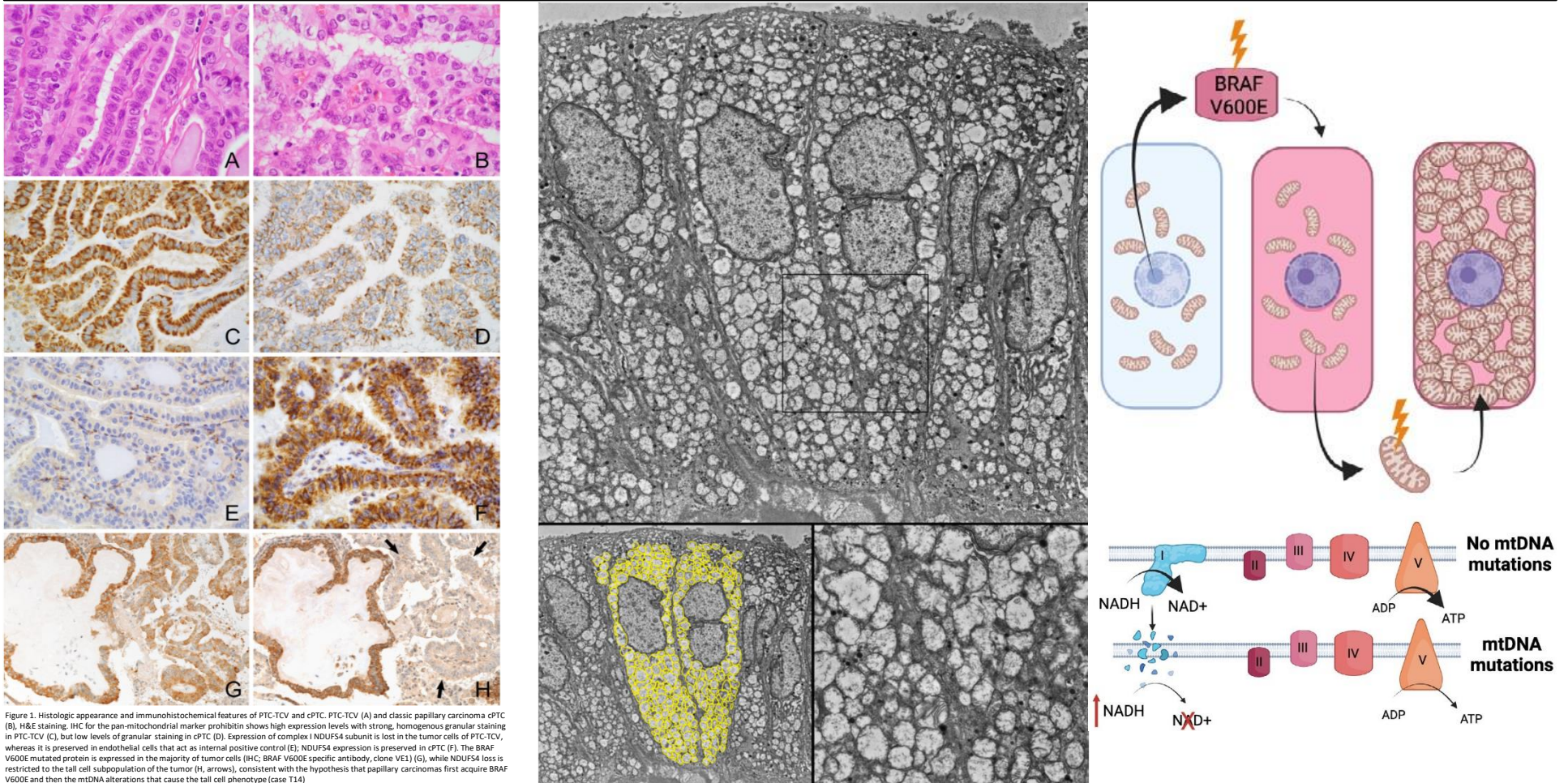


Figure 1. Histologic appearance and immunohistochemical features of PTC-TCV and cPTC. PTC-TCV (A) and classic papillary carcinoma cPTC (B). H&E staining. IHC for the pan-mitochondrial marker prohibitin shows high expression levels with strong, homogenous granular staining in PTC-TCV (C), but low levels of granular staining in cPTC (D). Expression of complex I NDUFS4 subunit is lost in the tumor cells of PTC-TCV, whereas it is preserved in endothelial cells that act as internal positive control (E). NDUFS4 expression is preserved in cPTC (F). The BRAF V600E mutated protein is expressed in the majority of tumor cells (IHC, BRAF V600E specific antibody, clone VE1) (G), while NDUFS4 loss is restricted to the tall cell subpopulation of the tumor (H, arrows), consistent with the hypothesis that papillary carcinomas first acquire BRAF V600E and then the mtDNA alterations that cause the tall cell phenotype (case T14)

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## A potential diagnostic pitfall for hobnail variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma

Wong KS, Chen TY, Higgins SE, Howitt BE, Lorch JH, Alexander EK, Marqusee E, Cho NL, Nehs MA, Doherty GM, Barletta JA

Histopathology. 2020 Apr;76(5):707-713. doi: 10.1111/his.14042. Epub 2020 Apr 13. PMID: 31811787

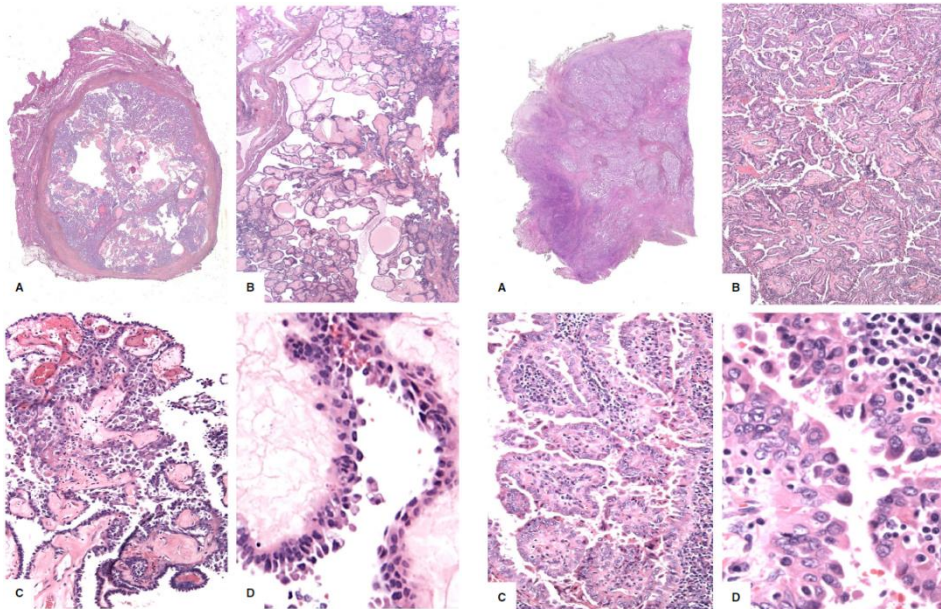


Figure 1. A–D, Examples of classic papillary thyroid carcinoma with ‘hobnail-like’ morphology. Many tumours were at least partially encapsulated and showed cystic change, and all tumours in this group were grossly confined to the thyroid. The papillae were thick, hyalinised and variably oedematous. Hobnailing and nuclear pseudo-stratification warranting characterisation as ‘hobnail-like’ can be appreciated at higher power

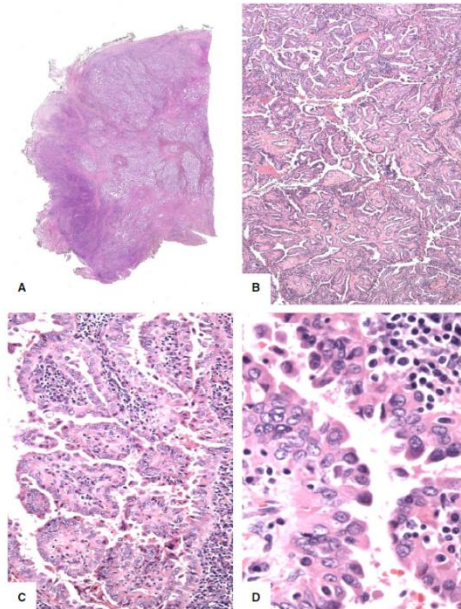


Figure 2. A–D, Examples of true hobnail variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma. These were large, invasive tumours with a complex papillary architecture and loss of cell polarity with nuclei jutting out from the apical surface, nuclear pseudostratification, cellular discohesion, increased nuclear atypia and increased mitotic activity

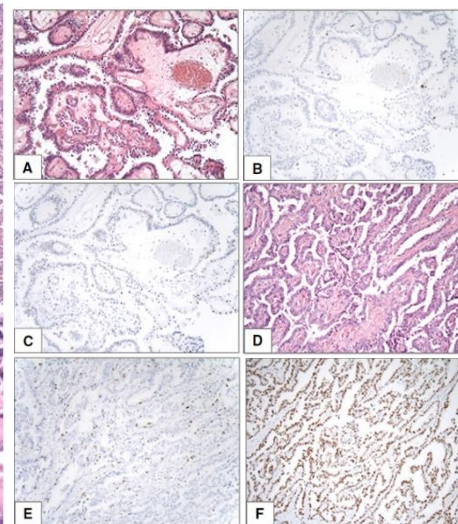


Figure 3. Examples of Ki67 (B, E) and p53 staining (C, F) in ‘hobnail-like’ classic papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) (A–C) and true hobnail variant of PTC (D–F). All ‘hobnail-like’ tumours demonstrated a Ki67 proliferative index of <5% and wild-type p53 expression. In contrast, the Ki67 was elevated ( $\geq 5\%$ ) in the majority of true hobnail variant. One hobnail variant demonstrated p53 overexpression

	‘Hobnail-like’ PTC* (n = 20)	True hobnail PTC (n = 7)	P-value
NED at last follow-up, n (%)	20 (100)	3 (43)	0.0020
Mean follow-up (years)	10.6	1.9	
Median follow-up (years)	11.3	1.9	
Residual/recurrent disease, n (%)	1 (5)†	4 (57)	0.0089
Local	1 (5)†	4 (57)	
Distant	0 (0)	3 (43)	
Died of disease, n (%)	0 (0)	3 (43)	0.012
Mean survival (years)	NA	1.3	
Median survival (years)	NA	1.4	

PTC, Papillary thyroid carcinoma; NED, No evidence of disease; NA, Not available.

\*From cohort 2.

†This patient had a local recurrence 2 years after thyroidectomy (disease-free survival of 6 years).



## A potential diagnostic pitfall for hobnail variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma

Wong KS, Chen TY, Higgins SE, Howitt BE, Lorch JH, Alexander EK, Marqusee E, Cho NL, Nehs MA, Doherty GM, Barletta JA

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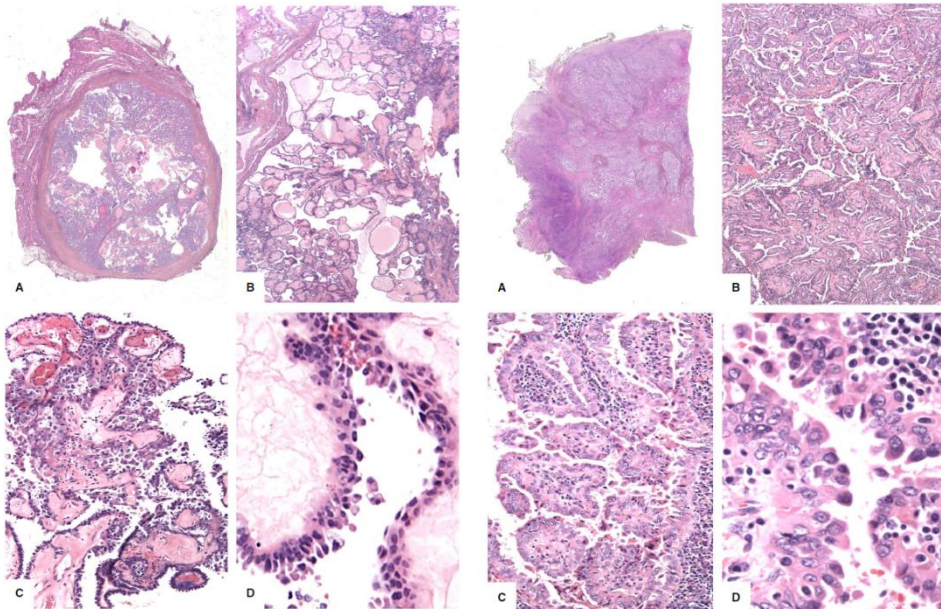


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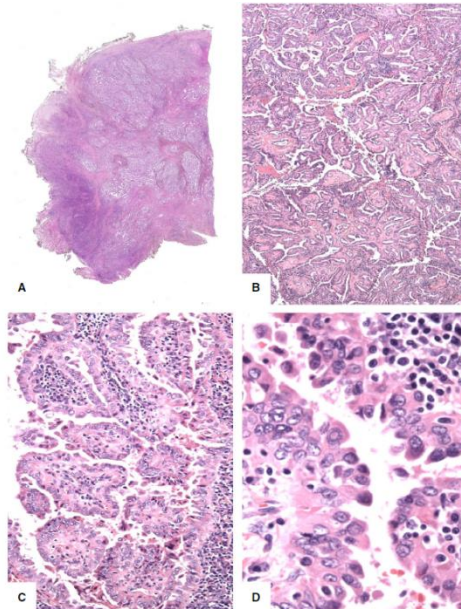


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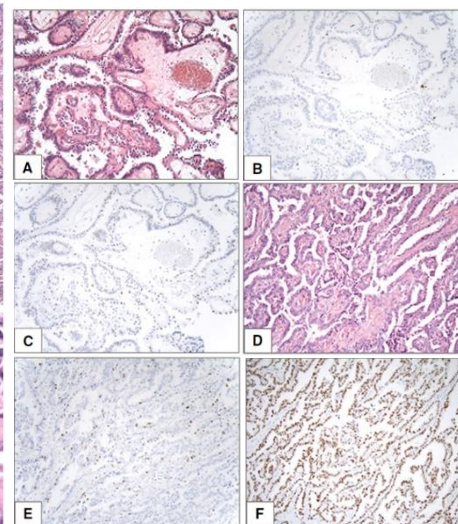


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## Papillary carcinoma: subtypes and “Farewell to microcarcinoma” (WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition)

Papillary thyroid carcinoma: malignant tumor of follicular cell derivation characterized by distinct nuclear features. PTC diagnosis requires either papillary or solid/trabecular architecture, or invasive growth in follicular-patterned tumors

### Papillary carcinoma Subtypes (n=13)

- Classic
- Infiltrative follicular
- Tall cell
- Columnar cell
- Hobnail cell
- **Solid/trabecular**
- Diffuse sclerosing
- Warthin-like
- Oncocytic
- Encapsulated classic
- Clear cell
- Spindle cell
- With fibromatosis/fasciitis-like/desmoid-type stroma

PTC subtype	Proportion of subtype features	Key histopathologic features
Infiltrative follicular	≥90% neoplastic follicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infiltrative growth</li> <li>• Sclerosis</li> <li>• Multicentric tumor foci</li> </ul>
Tall cell	≥30% tall cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tightly packed follicles and papillae — AKA “tram track appearance.”</li> <li>• Tumor cell height at least 3× the width</li> <li>• Eosinophilic cytoplasm with distinct cytoplasmic border</li> <li>• Easily identifiable nuclear features of PTC</li> </ul>
Columnar cell	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Papillary growth admixed with follicles</li> <li>• Columnar cells with pale to eosinophilic cytoplasm and prominent pseudostratification</li> <li>• Subnuclear vacuoles</li> </ul>
Hobnail	≥30% hobnail cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complex papillary or micropapillary growth pattern, rare presence of follicular architecture</li> <li>• Tumor cells with enlarged nuclei, bulging from the apical surface</li> </ul>
Solid	>50% solid trabecular growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid, trabecular or nested growth pattern with intervening thin and delicate fibrovascular bands, rarely foci of dense sclerosis</li> <li>• Lack of tumor necrosis (including single cell necrosis) and high mitotic rate</li> </ul>
Diffuse sclerosing	100% diffuse unilateral or bilateral involvement, without dominant tumor mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dense sclerosis, extensive lymphatic permeation, numerous psammoma bodies and associated chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis</li> <li>• Tumor cells arranged in solid nests and papillary formations with squamous metaplasia</li> </ul>
Warthin-like	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circumscribed or infiltrative tumor in a background of chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis</li> <li>• Papillae lined by oncocytic cells with papillary core containing lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate</li> </ul>
Oncocytic	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well-developed papillae lined by oncocytic cells</li> </ul>

## Solid trabecular papillary carcinoma and tyrosine kinase gene fusion papillary carcinomas

### Pattern of radiation-induced RET and NTRK1 rearrangements in 191 post-chernobyl papillary thyroid carcinomas: biological, phenotypic, and clinical implications

Rabes HM, Demidchik EP, Sidorow JD, Lengfelder E, Beimfohr C, Hoelzel D, Klugbauer S  
Clin Cancer Res. 2000 Mar;6(3):1093-103

Table 7 Histologic variants of 191 PTCs of children as a function of the type of gene rearrangement

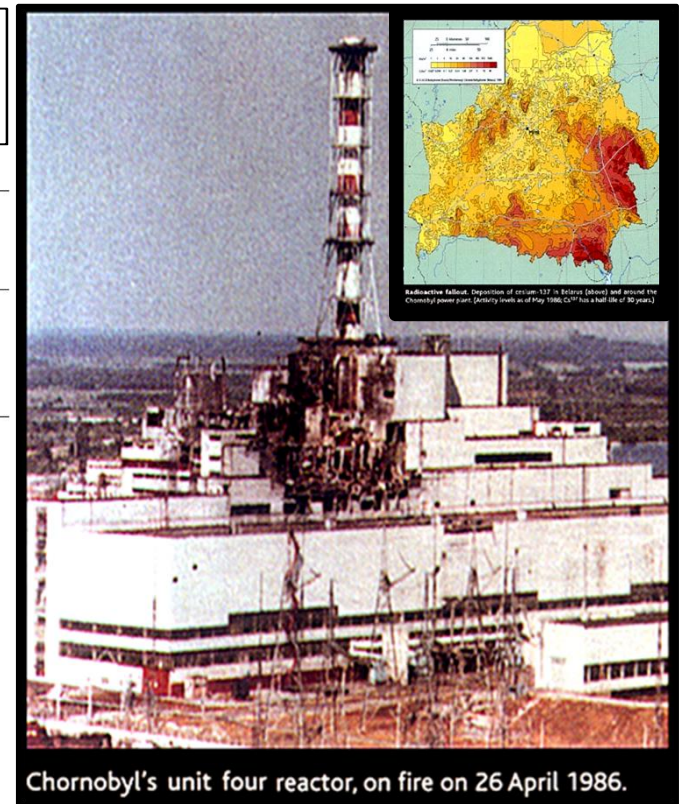
Variant	Total number	Rearrangement positive		Rearrangement negative		PTC1		PTC3		PTC5, 6,7,X		NTRK1	
		<i>n</i> <sup>a</sup>	%	<i>n</i> <sup>a</sup>	%	<i>n</i> <sup>b</sup>	% <sup>c</sup>	<i>n</i> <sup>b</sup>	% <sup>c</sup>	<i>n</i> <sup>b</sup>	% <sup>c</sup>	<i>n</i> <sup>b</sup>	% <sup>c</sup>
Typical papillary	59	30	50.0	29	49.9	22	73.3	3	10.0	2	6.7	2	6.7
Follicular	71	29	40.9	42	59.1	16	55.2	7	24.1	3	10.3	3	10.3
<b>Solid</b>	42	30	71.4	12	28.6	2	6.7	25	<b>83.3</b>	2	6.7	1	3.3
Mixed	12	6	50.0	6	50.0	4	66.7	2	33.3	0	0	0	0
Diffuse sclerosing	6	4	66.7	2	32.3	4	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup>  $P < 0.05$ .

<sup>b</sup>  $P < 0.001$ .

<sup>c</sup> Percentages from total number of rearrangement-positive PTCs in each histological variant group.

Historically, solid/trabecular papillary carcinoma has been the first subtype to be specifically associated with tyrosine kinase gene fusion: NCOA4-RET (RET/PTC3) fusion solid/trabecular aggressive papillary carcinomas represented the majority of cases that developed with short latency, in children, in areas of greatest radioactive contamination after the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident of 26 April 1986



Goldman M. Chernobyl radiation dose. Science. 1987 Aug 7;237(4815):575. PubMed PMID: 3603040

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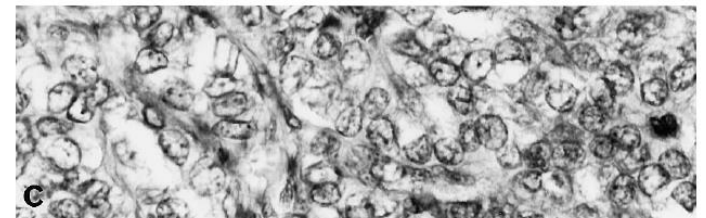
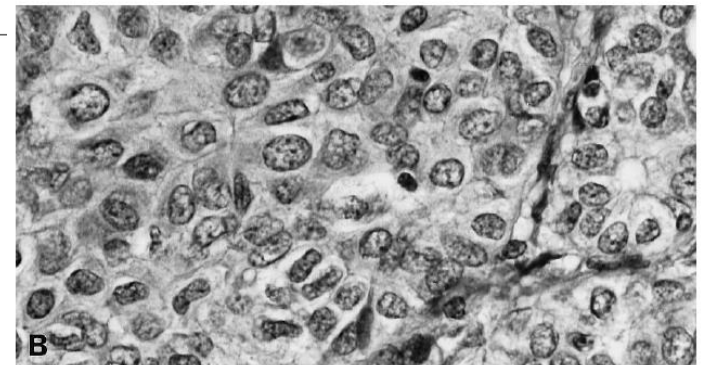
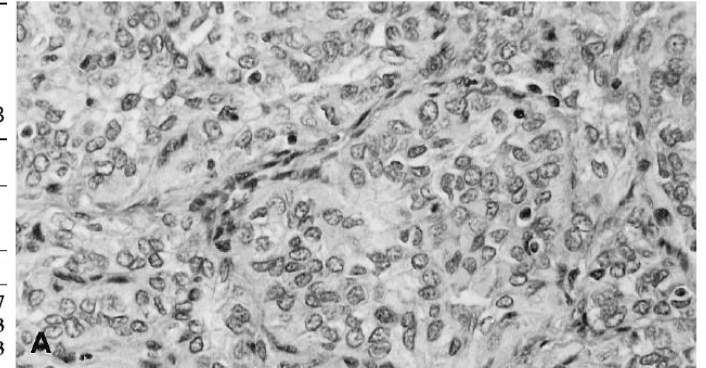
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## Solid trabecular papillary carcinoma and tyrosine kinase gene fusion papillary carcinomas

### **NTRK fusion oncogenes in pediatric papillary thyroid carcinoma in northeast United States**

Prasad ML, Vyas M, Horne MJ, Virk RK, Morotti R, Liu Z, Tallini G, Nikiforova MN, Christison-Lagay ER, Udelsman R, Dinauer CA, Nikiforov YE

Cancer. 2016 Apr 1;122(7):1097-107. doi: 10.1002/cncr.29887

### **RET, NTRK, ALK, BRAF, and MET Fusions in a Large Cohort of Pediatric Papillary Thyroid Carcinomas**

Pekova B, Sykorova V, Dvorakova S, Vaclavikova E, Moravcova J, Katra R, Astl J, Vlcek P, Kodetova D, Vcelak J, Bendlova B

Thyroid. 2020 Dec;30(12):1771-1780

### **Clinicopathologic features of kinase fusion-related thyroid carcinomas: an integrative analysis with molecular characterization**

Chu YH, Wirth LJ, Farahani AA, Nosé V, Faquin WC, Dias-Santagata D, Sadow PM

Mod Pathol. 2020 Dec;33(12):2458-2472

We now know that many papillary carcinoma subtypes carry tyrosine kinase gene fusions in addition to solid/trabecular PTC : classical (the most common among non radiation-associated tumors), diffuse sclerosing, infiltrative follicular, tall cell PTC

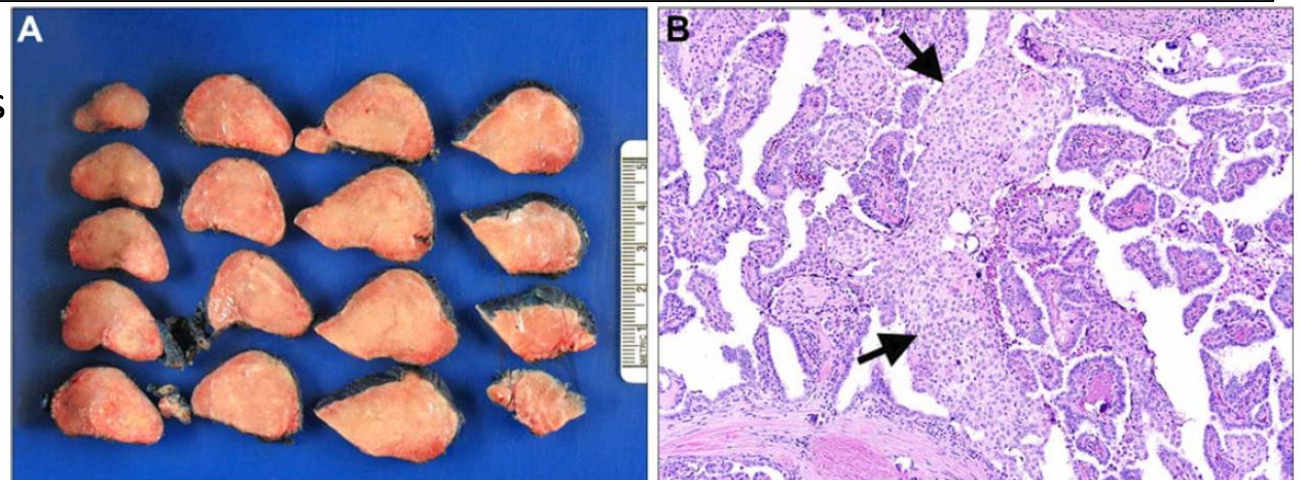
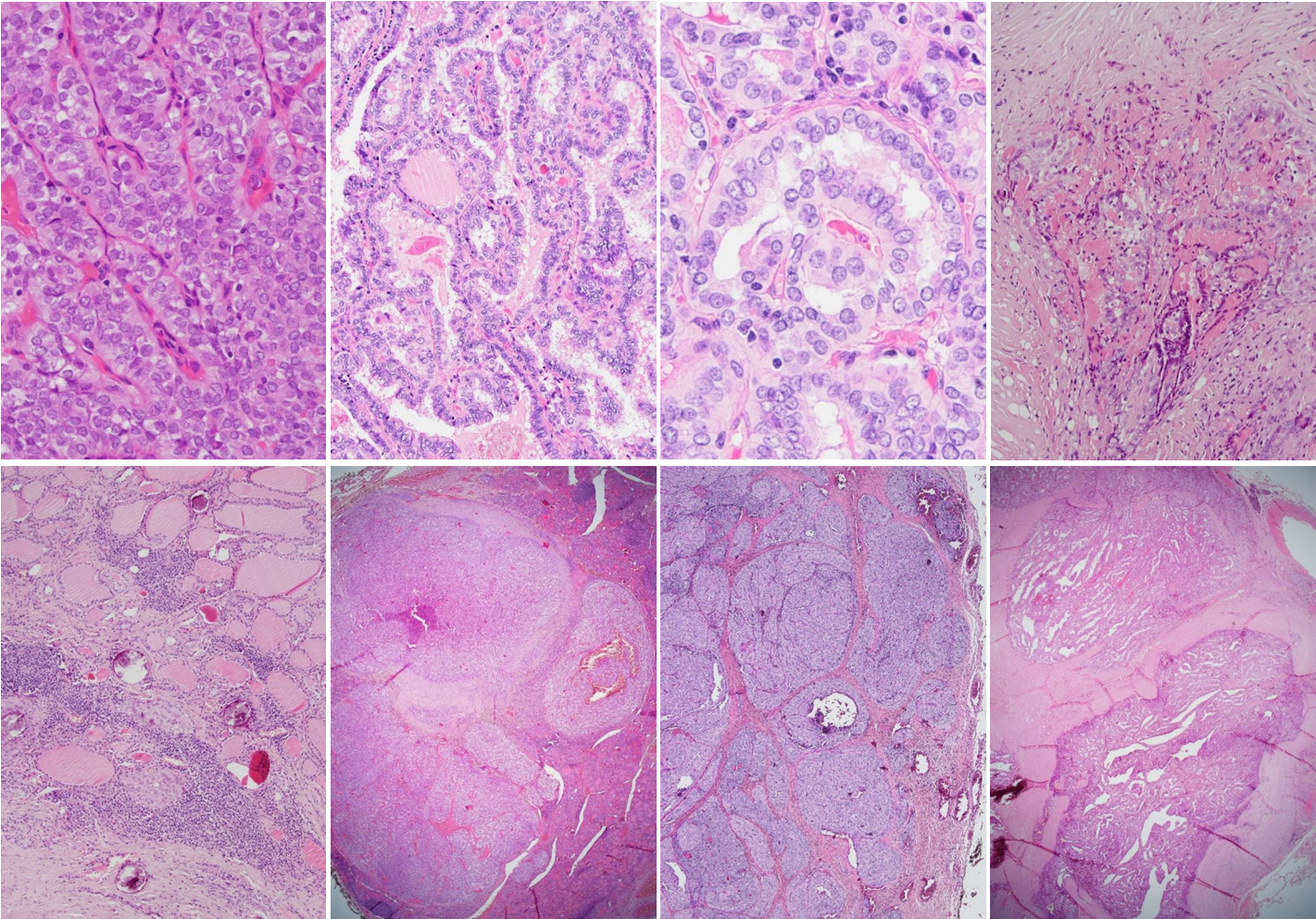
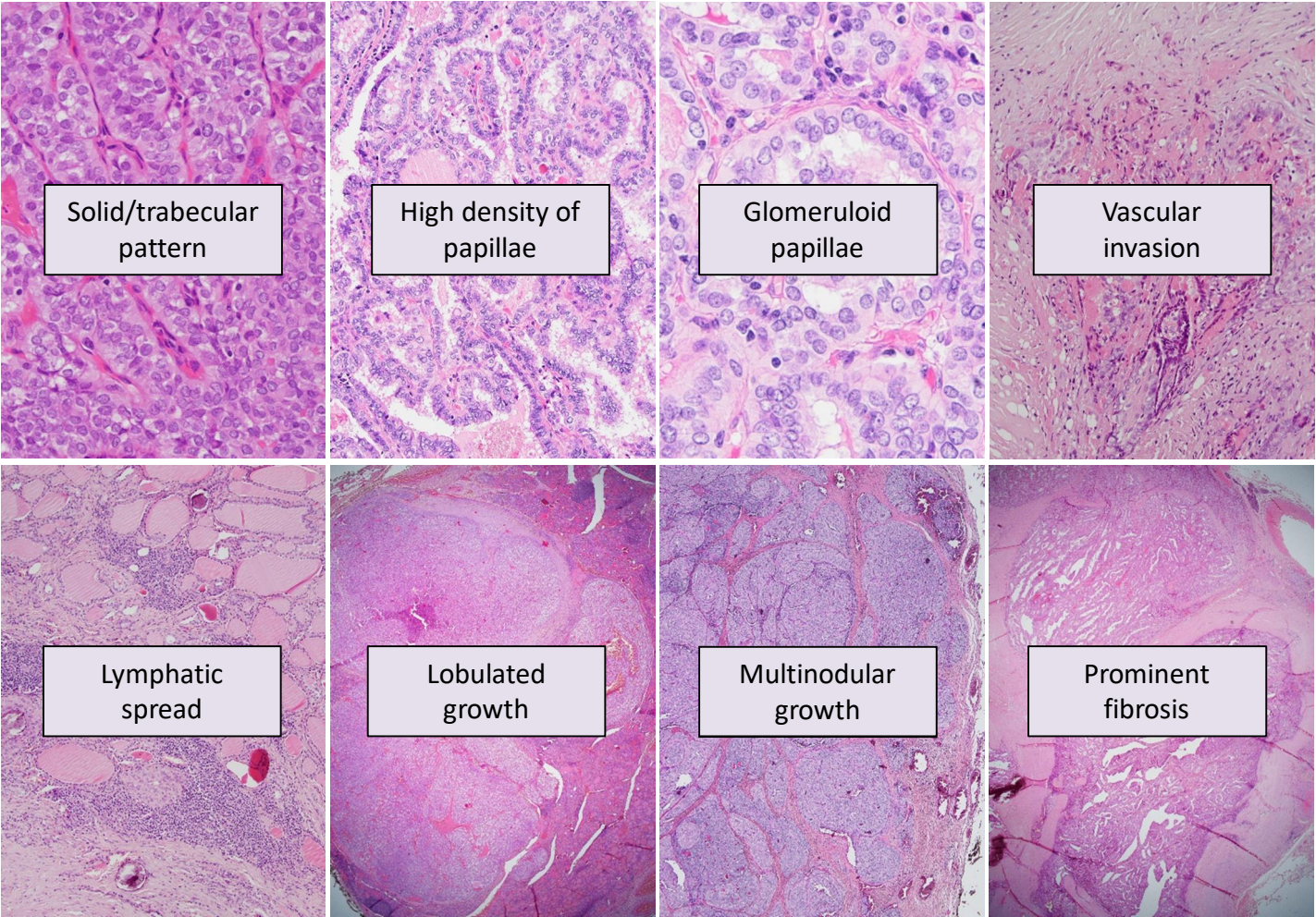


Figure 2. Photomicrographs reveal papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) with the ret proto-oncogene (RET)/PTC1 fusion oncogene and the B-Raf proto-oncogene, serine/threonine kinase (BRAF) valine-to-glutamic acid mutation at position 600 (BRAFFV600E). (A,B) In a diffuse sclerosing variant of PTC with the RET/PTC1 fusion oncogene (patient 8), the tumor (A) diffusely infiltrates the entire lobe of the thyroid without forming a distinct nodule and (B) has papillary architecture with squamoid areas (arrows; original magnification X100)[Prasad ML, et al. NTRK fusion oncogenes in pediatric papillary thyroid carcinoma in northeast United States. Cancer. 2016 Apr 1;122(7):1097-107]

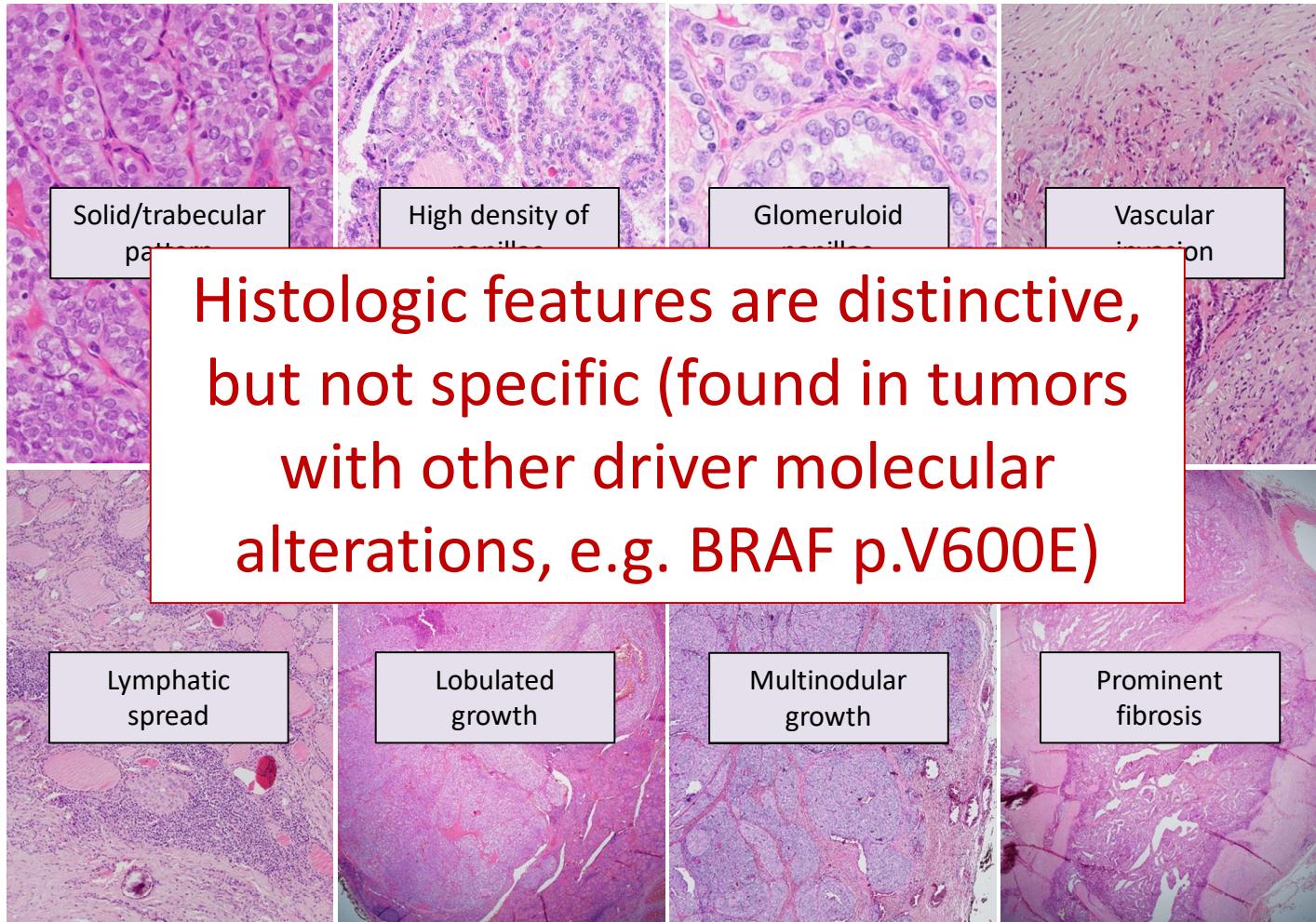
Solid trabecular papillary carcinoma and tyrosine kinase gene fusion papillary carcinomas



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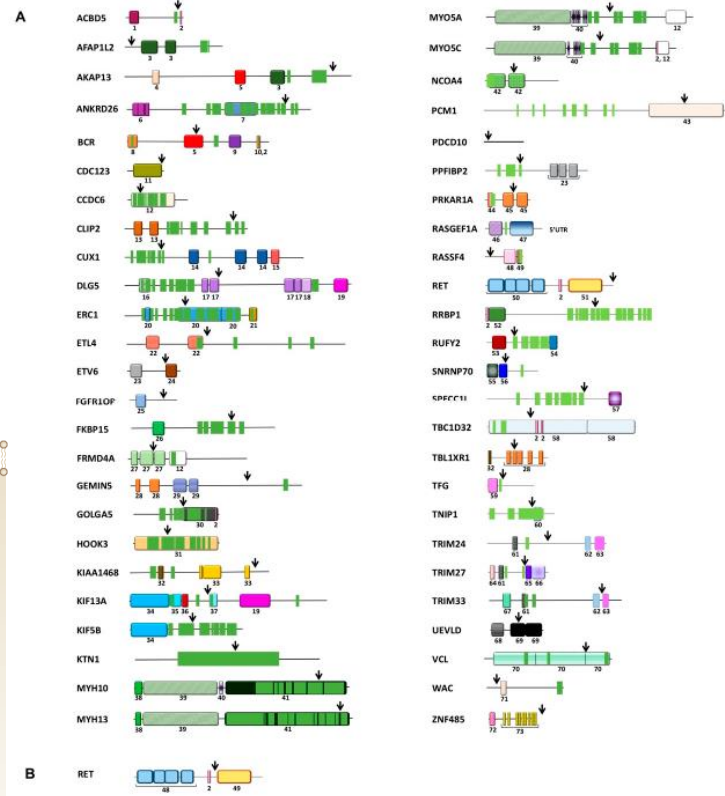
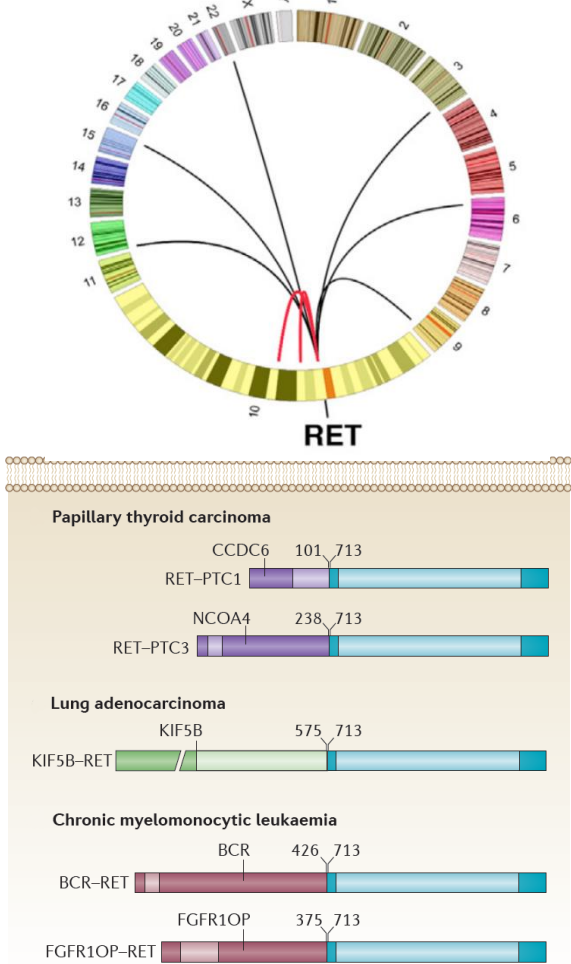


## Solid trabecular papillary carcinoma and fusion gene papillary carcinomas





# Gene fusion in thyroid tumors of follicular cells: RET (previously RET/PTC rearrangements)



**Figure 1.** Representative scheme of RET and its fusion partners. (A) Representation of RET fusion protein partners. Arrows indicate the most frequent breakpoint sites in partner proteins. The number under each protein domain refers to the protein domain legend (Table 1). Coiled-coil domains are very numerous and, therefore, are represented as light green boxes without number. (B) Representation of the RET protein. Arrow indicates the most frequent breakpoint site in RET.

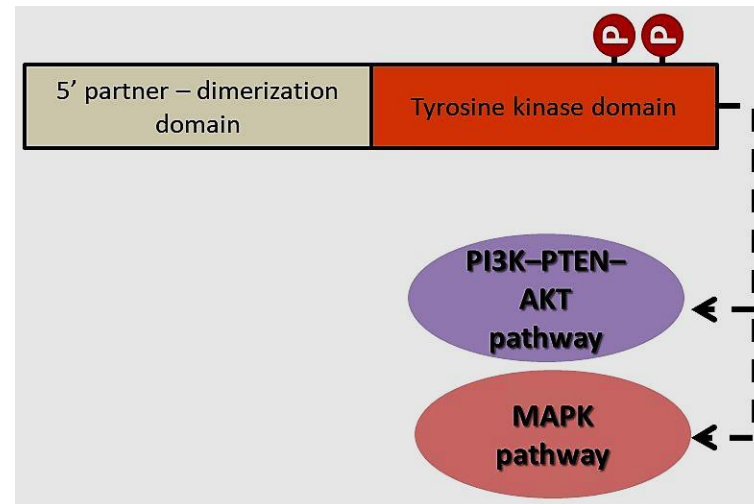
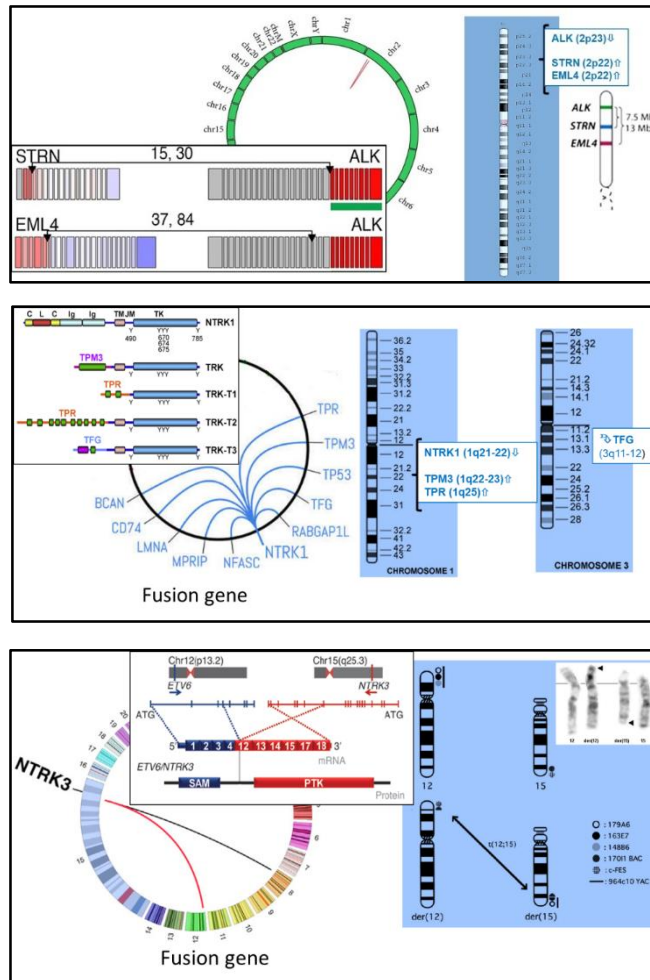
Santoro M et al. 2020 Apr 15;11(4):424

Chimeric gene with a chimeric protein that contains the RET kinase at the carboxyl terminus

~ balanced translocations involving the 3.0kb intron 11 of RET, before the RET-TK domain

- fusion of RET-TK with the 5'-end of activating heterologous genes that are ubiquitously expressed and therefore drive RET-TK expression in thyroid follicular cells that normally express little or no RET
- RET fused genes have dimerization domains (e.g. coiled-coil domains) that allow constitutive RET activation
- RET transmembrane domain is lost and RET-TK is redistributed from the membrane to the cytoplasm
- aberrant fusion proteins can phosphorylate substrates previously not accessible to RET-TK
- RET rearrangements in thyroid tumors involve at least 17 different genes: CCDC6-RET (RET/PTC1), NCOA4-RET (RET/PTC3), PRKAR1A-RET (RET/PTC2) etc.

Gene fusion in thyroid tumors of follicular cells: NTRK1 (previously TRK rearrangements), NTRK3, ALK



- ALK/EML4; ALK/STRN
- NTRK1/TPM3; NTRK1/TPR; NTRK1/TFG
- NTRK3/ETV6

# Tyrosine kinase gene fusion papillary carcinomas

Clinicopathologic features of kinase fusion-related thyroid carcinomas: an integrative analysis with molecular characterization

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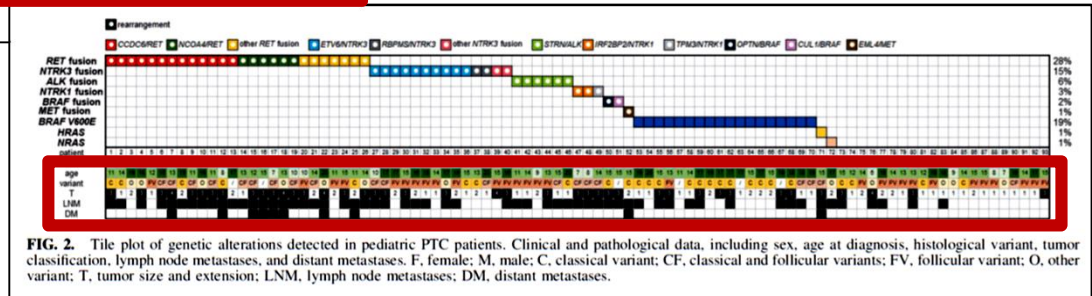
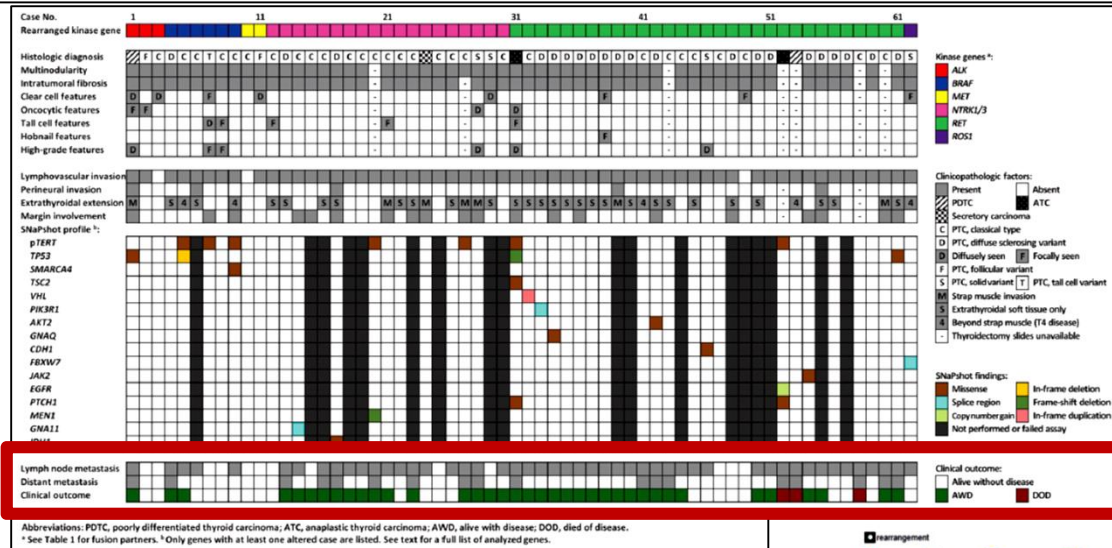


FIG. 2. Tile plot of genetic alterations detected in pediatric PTC patients. Clinical and pathological data, including sex, age at diagnosis, histological variant, tumor classification, lymph node metastases, and distant metastases. F, female; M, male; C, classical variant; CF, classical and follicular variants; FV, follicular variant; O, other variant; T, tumor size and extension; LNM, lymph node metastases; DM, distant metastases.

## Tyrosine kinase gene fusion papillary carcinomas

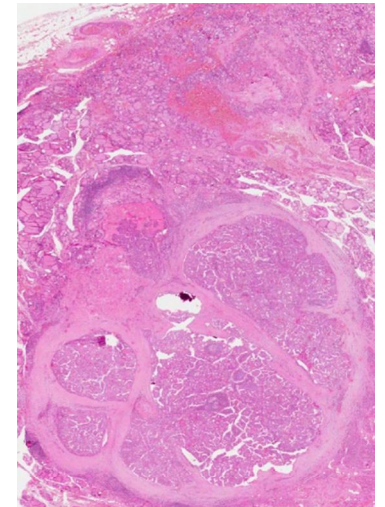
- Pediatric patients
- Radiation exposure
  - ✓ Uncommon in non radiation-exposed adult patients
- Frequent: TNM stage T3 to T4 disease, extrathyroidal extension, lymph node involvement; distant metastases at presentation: ~15% (pediatric patients), ~5% (non radiation-exposed adult patients)
  - ✓ Advanced disease at presentation with early metastasis
- Diverse papillary carcinoma histology with: **multinodular/lobulated growth, prominent intratumoral fibrosis (confluent or arborizing), lymphovascular invasion evident histologically, common solid/trabecular or papillary patterns (papillae are highly dense and glomeruloid)**
- Thyroid carcinomas harbor actionable kinase fusions in up to 10–15% of cases (including aggressive high grade histotypes, e.g. poorly- and undifferentiated carcinomas)

## Papillary carcinoma: subtypes and “Farewell to microcarcinoma” (WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition)

- Papillary carcinomas measuring  $\leq 1.0$  cm have been called with various names (non encapsulated sclerosing tumors of the thyroid, occult sclerosing carcinoma) and since 1960 papillary microcarcinoma [Hazard, J.B. Small papillary carcinoma of the thyroid. A study with special reference to so-called nonencapsulated sclerosing tumor. *Lab. Investig.* 1960, 9, 86–97].
- Most papillary carcinomas are currently 1-2 cm and these small tumors are the main culprits of the so-called thyroid cancer “epidemic” (widespread use of ultrasound and thyroid FNA)
- **“Not all microcarcinomas are created equal”**

“Very indolent tumors (10-15% of thyroid glands surgically removed for various reasons, in up to 35.6% of autopsy thyroids) [Harach HR, Franssila KO, Wasenius VM. Occult papillary carcinoma of the thyroid. A “normal” finding in Finland. A systematic autopsy study. *Cancer.* 1985 Aug 1;56(3):531-8]

“Small papillary carcinomas on their way to become  $> 1$  cm, with the potential to progress with the potential to progress; as they are low stage, the large majority have an excellent prognosis, but ~25% of cases are at risk of persistent/recurrent disease, rare cases have even been fatal (progression to high grade carcinoma in metastatic lymph nodes)



## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: “Farewell to microcarcinoma”

**Does the Site of Origin of the Microcarcinoma with Respect to the Thyroid Surface Matter? A Multicenter Pathologic and Clinical Study for Risk Stratification**

Tallini G...Durante C

Cancers (Basel). 2020 Jan 19;12(1):246. doi: 10.3390/cancers12010246

Papillary carcinomas measuring  $\leq 1.0$  cm arise at a median distance of **3.5 mm below the surface of the thyroid gland** with four distinct clusters

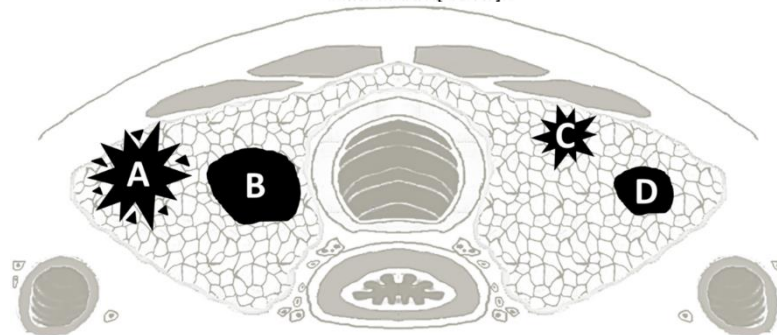
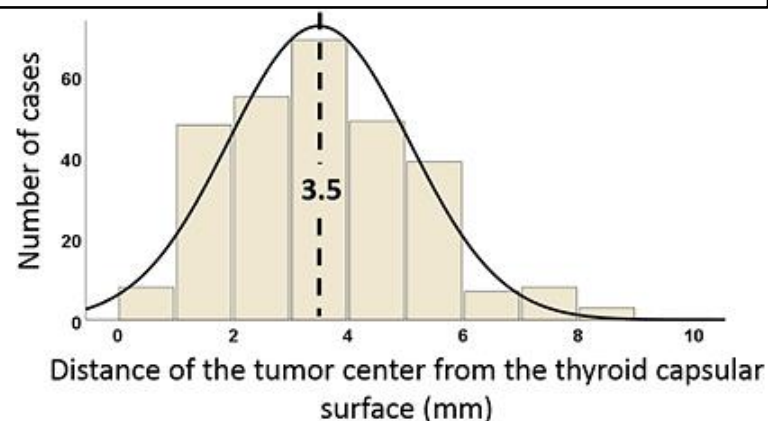
**Group A**, mPTC: size  $\geq 5$  mm and distance of the edge of the tumor from the thyroid capsule = 0 mm

**Group B**, mPTC: size  $\geq 5$  mm and distance of the edge of the tumor from the thyroid capsule  $> 0$  mm

**Group C**, mPTC: size  $< 5$  mm and distance of the edge of the tumor from the thyroid capsule = 0 mm

**Group D**, mPTC: size  $< 5$  mm and distance of the edge of the tumor from the thyroid capsule  $> 0$  mm.

**Group A: most threatening features**, group D: most indolent ones  
Group A tumors are characterized by **tall cell histotype, BRAF V600E mutation, tumor fibrosis, aggressive growth with invasive features, vascular invasion, lymph node metastases, intermediate (as opposed to low) ATA risk** (Multivariate analysis)



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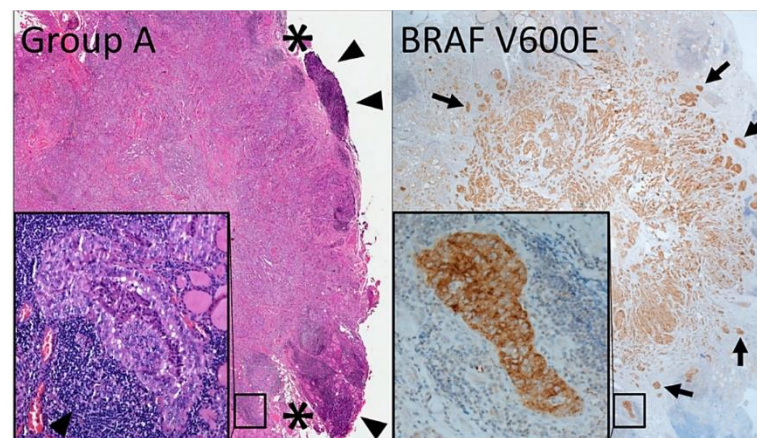
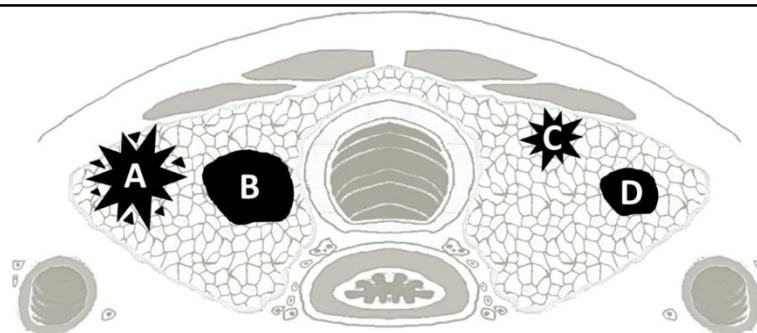
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**Group C**, mPTC: size  $<$  5 mm and distance of the edge of the tumor from the thyroid capsule = 0 mm

**Group D**, mPTC: size  $<$  5 mm and distance of the edge of the tumor from the thyroid capsule  $>$  0 mm.

**Group A: most threatening features**, group D: most indolent ones  
Group A tumors are characterized by **tall cell histotype**, **BRAF V600E mutation**, **tumor fibrosis**, **aggressive growth with invasive features**, **vascular invasion**, **lymph node metastases**, **intermediate (as opposed to low) ATA risk** (Multivariate analysis)



## Papillary carcinoma: subtypes and “Farewell to microcarcinoma” (WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition)

Differentiated thyroid carcinoma 2013-2022				
Tumor size			Millimeter	Standard deviation
	Average		25.36	8.972
	<b>Median</b>		<b>12.00</b>	
	25° percentile		7.000	
	75° percentile		20.000	

Tumor size of differentiated thyroid carcinoma 2013-2022 per year (mm)				
Year	Average	Median	25° percentile	75° percentile
2013	15.14	11.00	6.00	20.00
2014	14.90	10.00	6.00	18.00
2015	15.28	11.00	7.00	20.00
2016	16.77	11.00	7.00	20.00
2017	17.22	11.00	7.00	20.00
2018	16.00	12.00	7.00	21.00
2019	15.94	12.00	7.00	20.00
2020	20.74	12.00	8.00	21.00
2021	17.45	12.00	8.00	22.75
2022	14.80	11.00	7.00	19.00



ITCO includes 51 thyroid cancer centers in Italy with data on nearly 12000 patients diagnosed with thyroid carcinoma. Each case record contains information on patient demographics and biometrics, circumstances of the diagnosis, surgical and radioactive iodine treatment, as well as the results of periodic follow-up examination. Sensitive data are encrypted and the database is managed anonymously. The Observatory provides no guidance or restrictions in terms of patient management to the participating centers, since the database is designed to provide a picture of real-world practices.



## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: “Farewell to microcarcinoma”

### Renaming papillary microcarcinoma of the thyroid gland: the Porto proposal

Rosai J, LiVolsi VA, Sobrinho-Simoes M, Williams ED

Int J Surg Pathol. 2003 Oct;11(4):249-51. doi: 10.1177/106689690301100401

- Patient age > 19 aa
- Single focus, or sum of all foci  $\leq 1$  cm
- No aggressive features: thyroid capsule infiltration, vascular invasion, tall cell features
- Incidental finding
- Whole thyroid resected and examined microscopically
- No lymph node metastases present or suspected

### Thyroid Papillary Microtumor: Validation of the (Updated) Porto Proposal Assessing Sex Hormone Receptor Expression and Mutational BRAF Gene Status

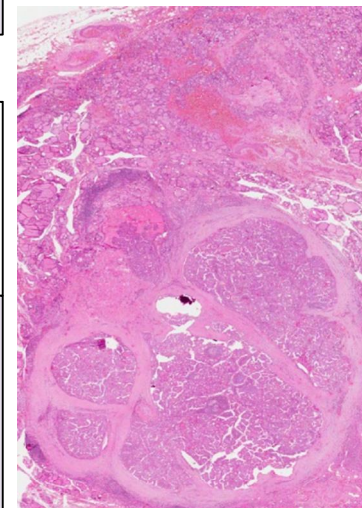
Aliyev E...Cameselle-Teijeiro JM

Am J Surg Pathol. 2020 Sep;44(9):1161-1172. doi: 10.1097/PAS.0000000000001522

- Patient age > 19 aa
- Single focus, or sum of all foci  $\leq 1$  cm
- No aggressive features: extrathyroidal extension, vascular invasion, tall cell/hobnail cell features



Rosai J et al. Tumors of the thyroid and parathyroid glands. AFIP Atlas of Tumor Pathology. ARP Press; 2014



## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: “Farewell to microcarcinoma”

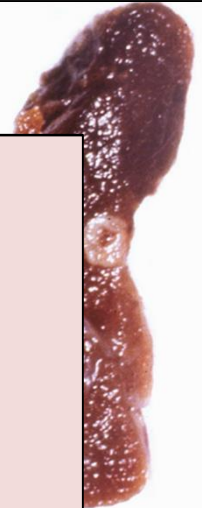
### Renaming papillary microcarcinoma of the thyroid gland: the Porto proposal

- Patient a
  - Single fo
  - No aggre
  - features
  - Incident
  - Whole t
  - No lymph
- “Microcarcinoma” should not be considered a distinct papillary carcinoma subtype
  - Tumors can not be subtyped based on size
  - Papillary carcinomas measuring  $< \text{or} = 1.0 \text{ cm}$  should be subtyped like those  $> 1 \text{ cm}$
  - Not enough evidence for the «Papillary microtumor» proposal

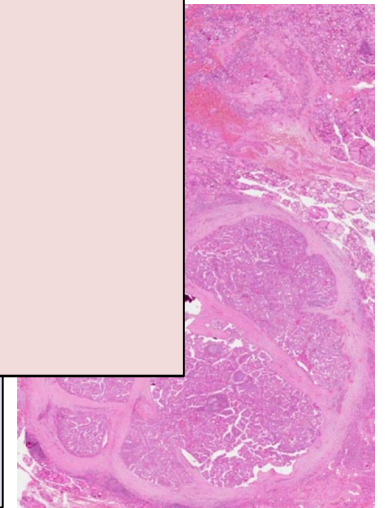
✓ If the tumor is very small ( $< \text{or} = 2\text{-}3 \text{ mm}$ ) can be difficult to apply subtype criteria used for larger tumors

### Thyroid Papillary Carcinoma with Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Gene Alterations

- Patient a
- Single focus, or sum of all foci  $\leq 1 \text{ cm}$
- No aggressive features: extrathyroidal extension, vascular invasion, tall cell/hobnail cell features



of the thyroid and parathyroid  
or Pathology. ARP Press; 2014



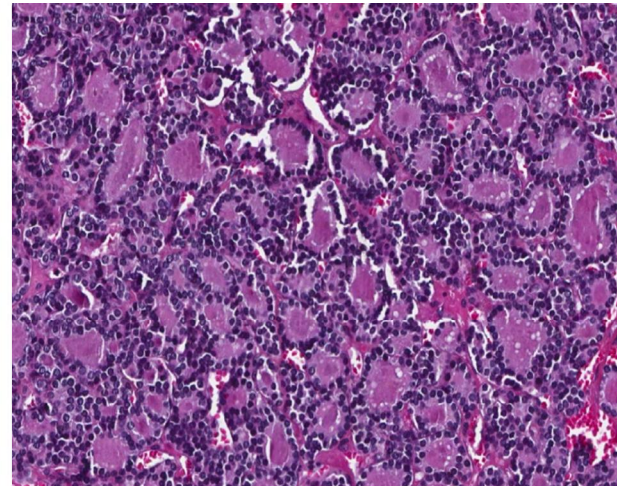
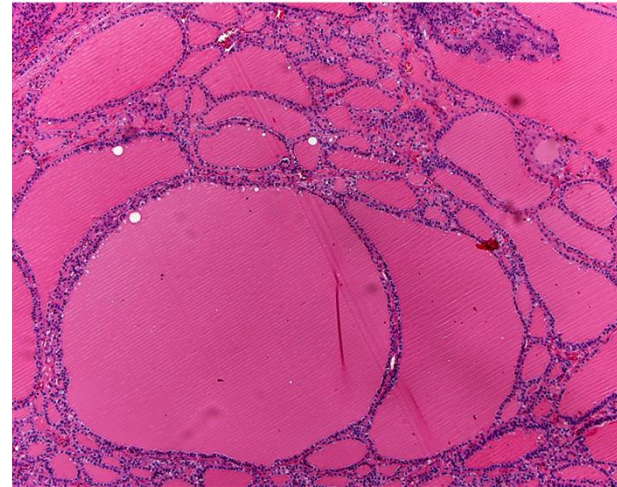
# Topics

- Overview of current classification and lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: Follicular variant papillary carcinoma, Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP), Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)
- Papillary carcinoma: subtypes and “Farewell to microcarcinoma”
- **Thyroid follicular nodular disease**
- Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture
- Subtypes of invasion in encapsulated carcinomas (Follicular carcinoma, encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma, oncocytic carcinoma): Minimally invasive (capsular invasion only); encapsulated angioinvasive; widely invasive

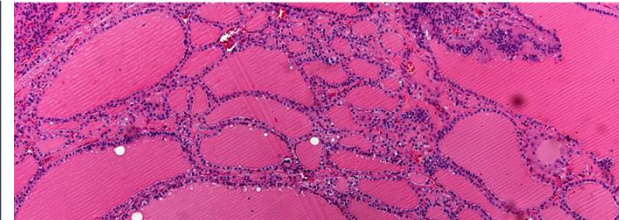
## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: Thyroid follicular nodular disease (FND)

- “Multinodular goiter” or “Multinodular hyperplasia” have traditionally been used for pathology diagnosis
    - ✓ Terms are inappropriate: many lesions (thyroiditis, hyperplasia, neoplasms) can give rise to clinically enlarged multinodular thyroid gland
    - ✓ Sometimes impossible to tell apart follicular adenoma from hyperplastic nodule
  - Studies have shown that nodules in goiter can be clonal (True neoplasms?)
    - “Somatic alterations in SPOP, ZNF148 and EZH1 in around 25% of goiter nodules  
[Ye L et al. The genetic landscape of benign thyroid nodules revealed by whole exome and transcriptome sequencing. Nat Commun. 2017 Jun 5;8:15533. doi: 10.1038/ncomms15533]
    - “Familial and early-onset FND can be associated with DICER1 syndrome
    - “Alterations of thyroid hormone pathway genes e.g. TG, TPO, sodium-iodide symporter NIS, dual oxidase (DUOX2), XB130, TSHR are likely candidates in the pathogenesis of FND
- **Since we can not tell hyperplasia from neoplasia “FND” is a better non-committal term**

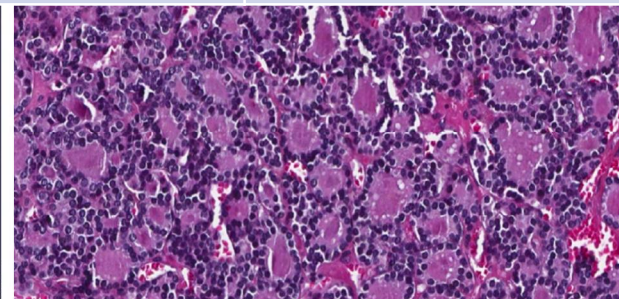
## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: Thyroid follicular nodular disease (FND)



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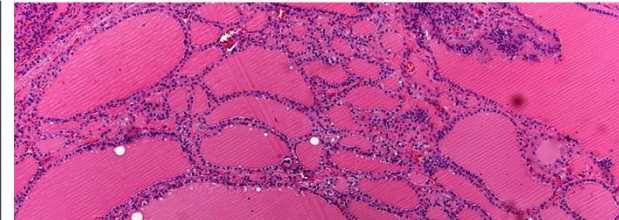


	<b>Multinodular hyperplasia</b>	<b>Encapsulated well-differentiated neoplasm</b>
Number of nodules	Multiple	Single
Lesional capsule	No (or poorly defined)	Yes (well defined)
Histology	Heterogeneous (No «clonal appearance»)	Homogeneous («Clonal» appearance)



Rosai J et al. Tumors of the thyroid and parathyroid glands. AFIP Atlas of Tumor Pathology. ARP Press; 2014

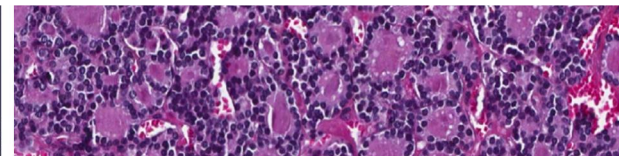
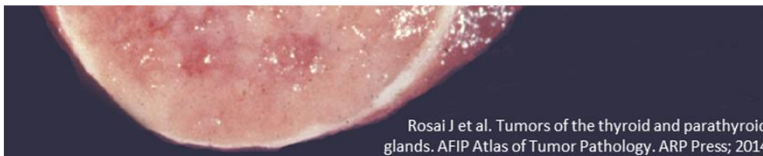
## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: Thyroid follicular nodular disease (FND)



	<b>Multinodular goiter</b>	<b>Encapsulated well-differentiated neoplasm*</b>
Number of nodules	Multiple	Single
Lesional capsule	No (or poorly defined)	Yes (well defined)
Histology	Heterogeneous (No «clonal appearance»)	Homogeneous («Clonal appearance»)



\*«Encapsulated well-differentiated neoplasms»: must meet at least two of the criteria in the table



# Topics

- Overview of current classification and lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: Follicular variant papillary carcinoma, Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP), Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)
- Papillary carcinoma: subtypes and “Farewell to microcarcinoma”
- Thyroid follicular nodular disease
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- Subtypes of invasion in encapsulated carcinomas (Follicular carcinoma, encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma, oncocytic carcinoma): Minimally invasive (capsular invasion only); encapsulated angioinvasive; widely invasive

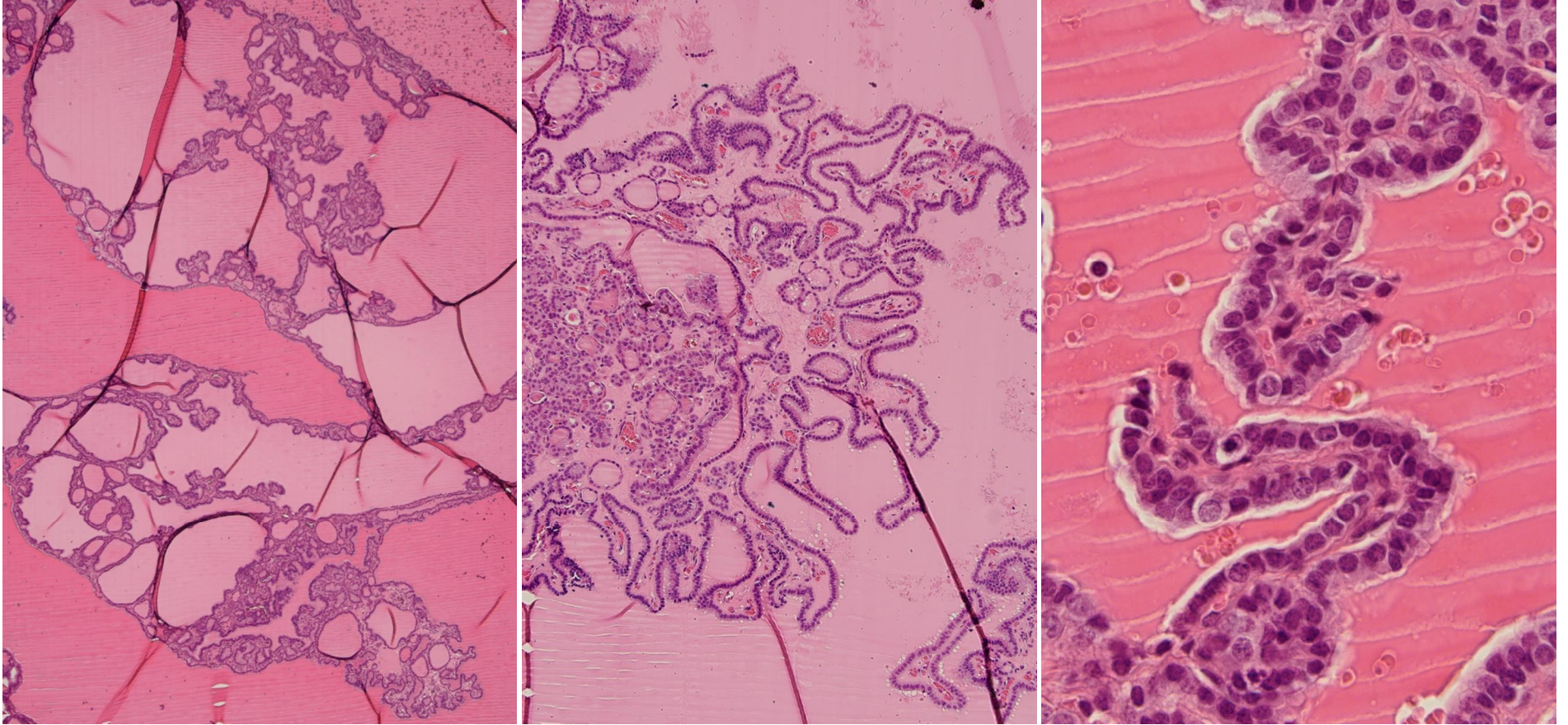


## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture

Benign non-invasive encapsulated follicular-cell-derived neoplasm characterized by distinctive papillary architecture, without nuclear features of papillary carcinoma

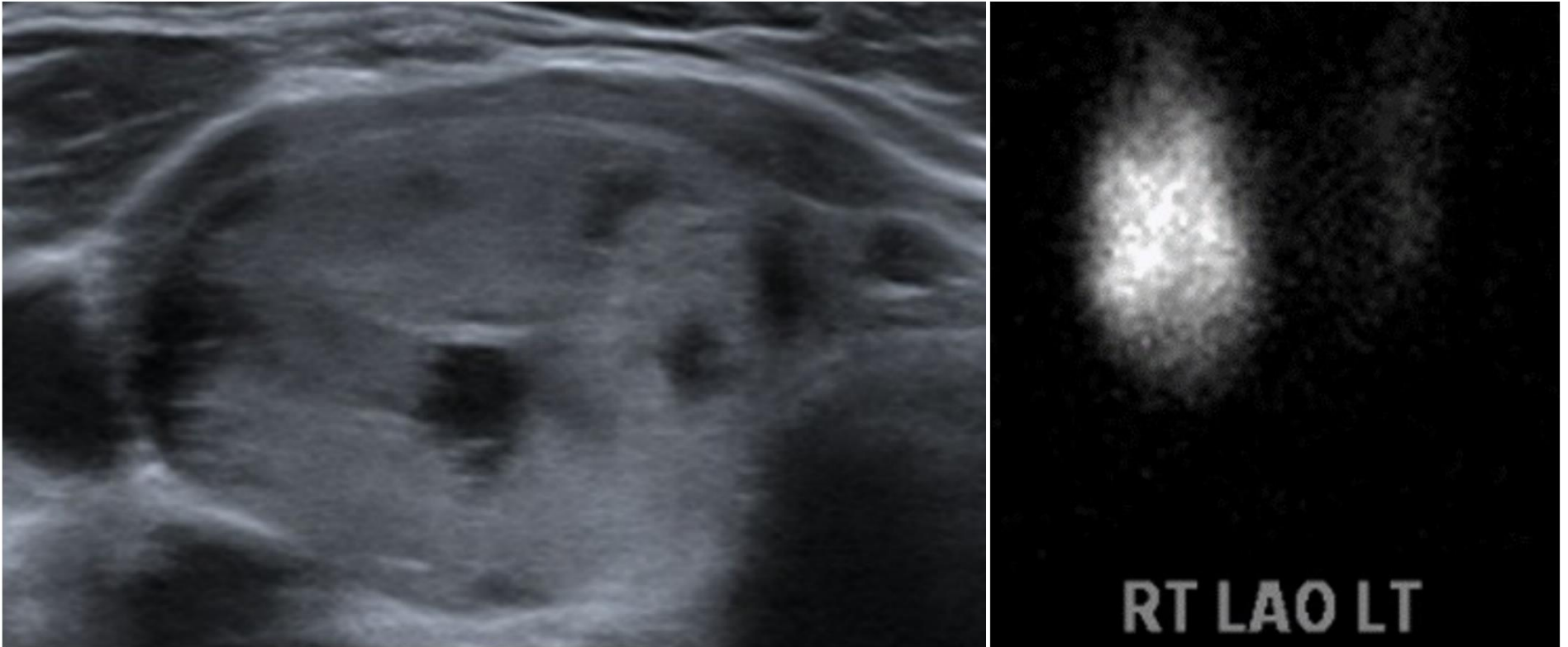
- Genetic alterations that stimulate thyroid hormone synthesis and secretion as well as follicular cell proliferation due to increased cyclic AMP signaling [Trülsch B et al. Detection of thyroid-stimulating hormone receptor and Gs-alpha mutations: in 75 toxic thyroid nodules by denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis. J Mol Med (Berl). 2001;78(12):684-91] [Calebiro D et al. Recurrent EZH1 mutations are a second hit in autonomous thyroid adenomas. J Clin Invest. 2016 Sep 1;126(9):3383-8]
  - “Activating *TSHR* mutations (up to 70%)
  - “*GNAS* mutations (<5%)
  - “*EZH1* mutation in combination with a *TSHR* or a *GNAS* mutation (up to 30%)
- Association with genetic syndromes: McCune-Albright (germline mosaic *GNAS* mutation), Carney complex (germline loss-of-function mutation in *PRKAR1A*), DICER1 syndrome (*DICER1* germline loss-of-function mutation)

## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture



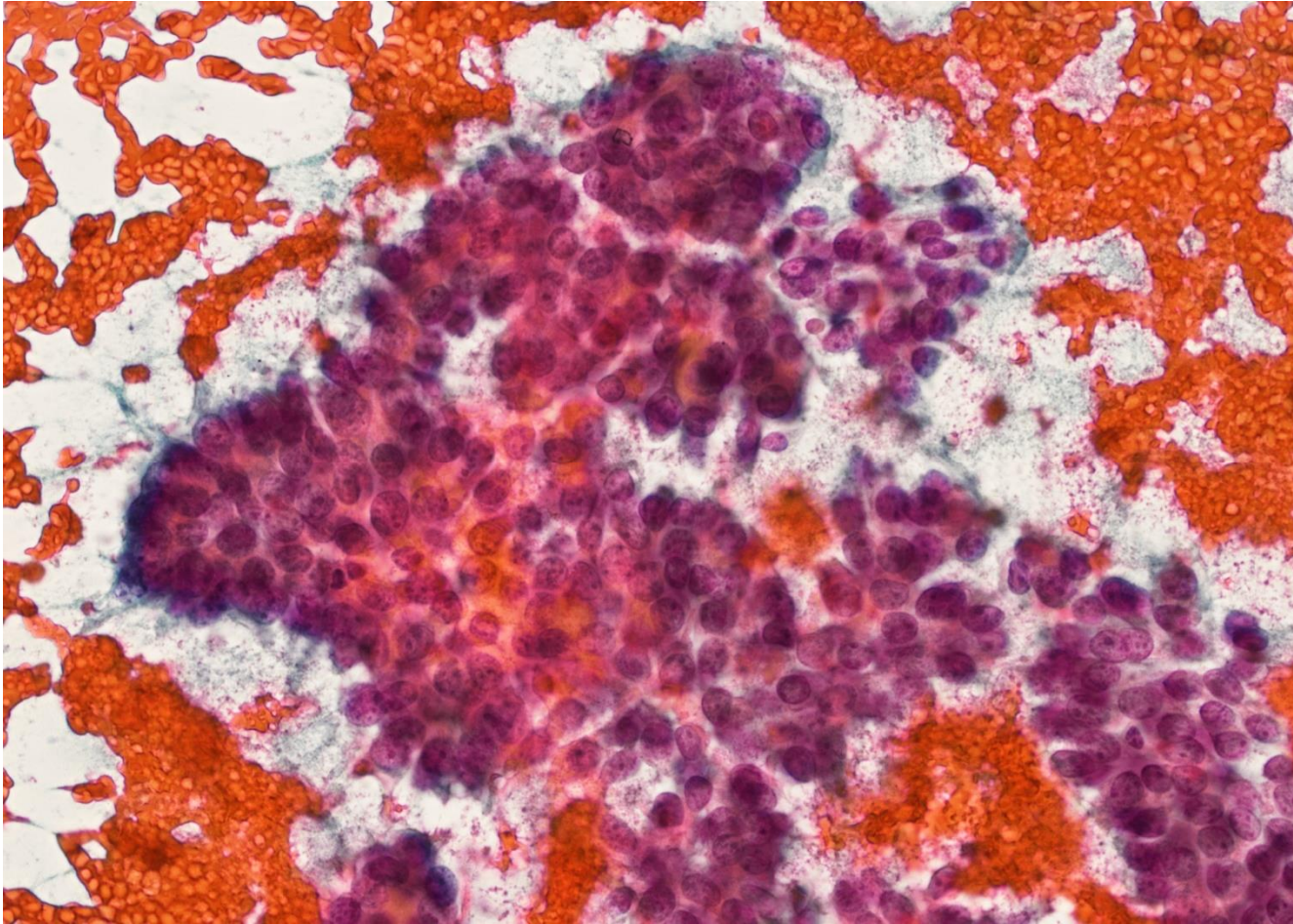
Mixture of follicular and papillary architecture: large follicles with intrafollicular papillary architecture (complex papillary infoldings of the lining epithelium, with broad papillae showing an organized “centripetal” orientation and edematous cores with embedded follicles)

## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture



Cystic component is common, frequent clinical or subclinical hyperthyroidism, hyperfunction on radionuclide scan

WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture



Challenging fine-needle aspiration specimens: previous slide preoperative FNA was diagnosed as Bethesda V

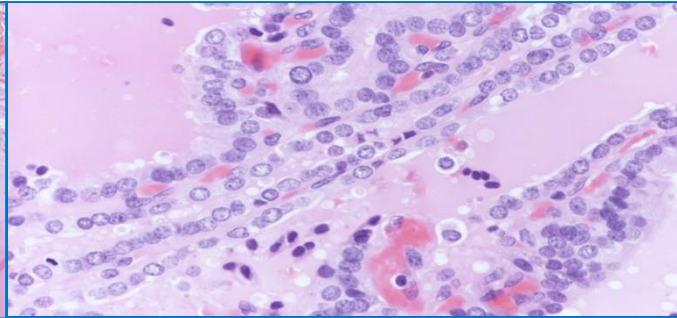
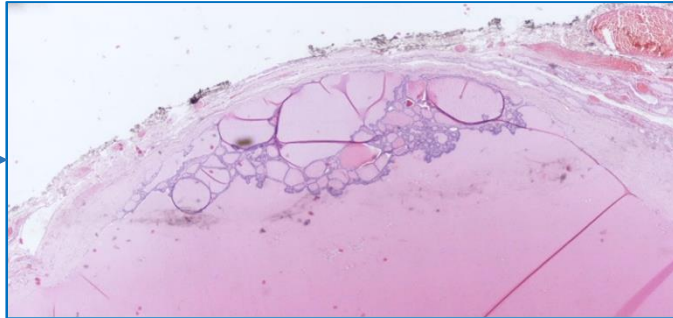
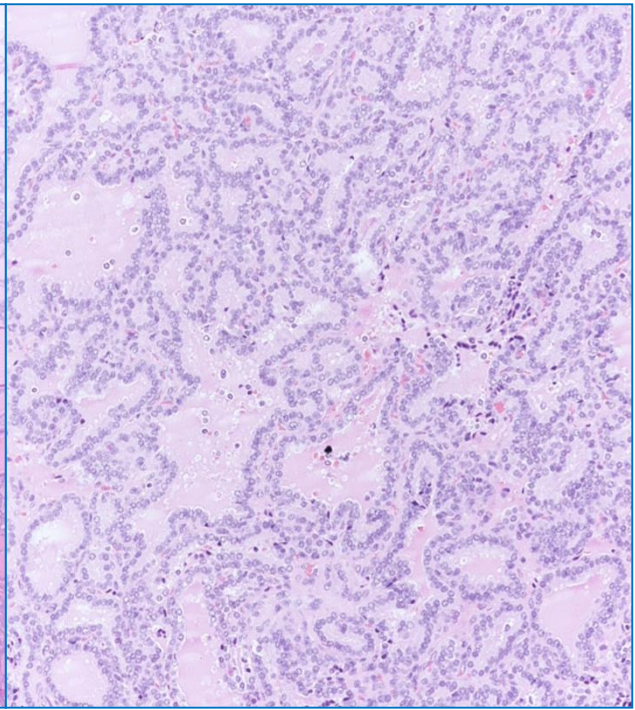
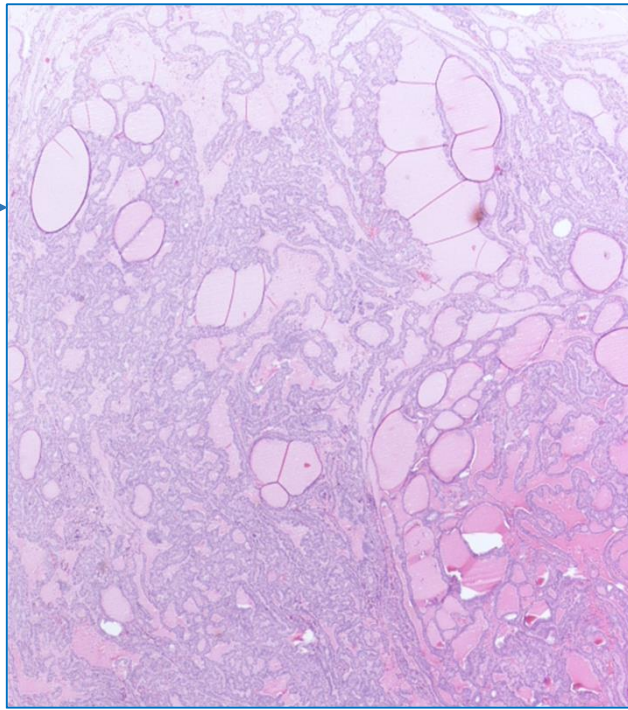
Thyroid follicular nodular disease and follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture may be the first manifestation of genetic cancer syndromes...

➤ *Two clinical examples from routine practice*

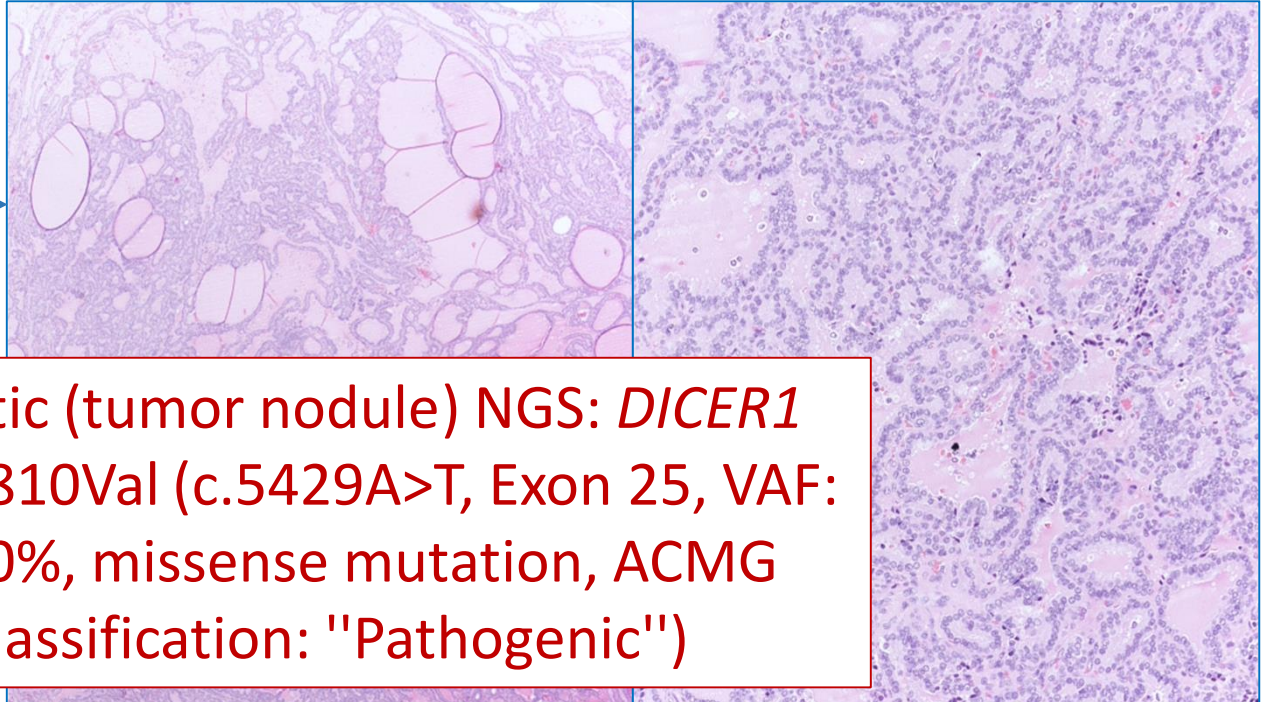
➤ *Case 1:*

*15 year old young male with  
symptomatic multinodular goiter*

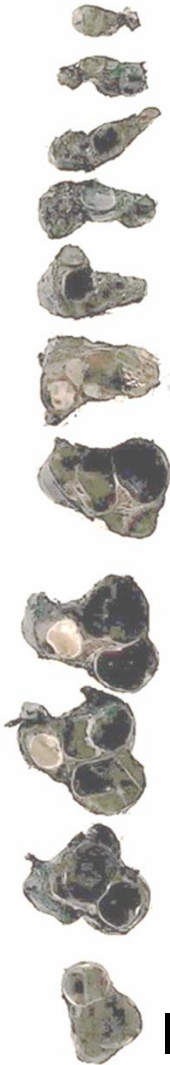
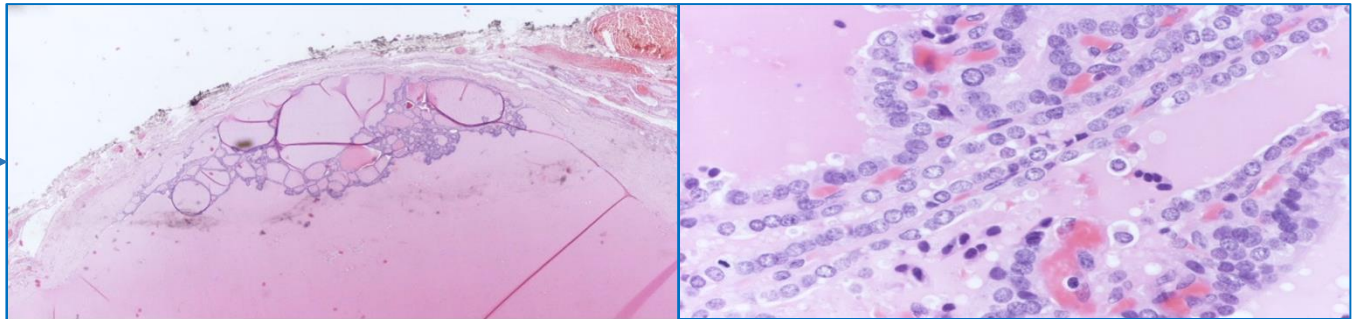
**Thyroidectomy: multiple adenomas with papillary architecture**



Thyroidectomy: multiple adenomas with papillary architecture



Somatic (tumor nodule) NGS: *DICER1*  
p.Asp1810Val (c.5429A>T, Exon 25, VAF:  
30-40%, missense mutation, ACMG  
Classification: "Pathogenic")



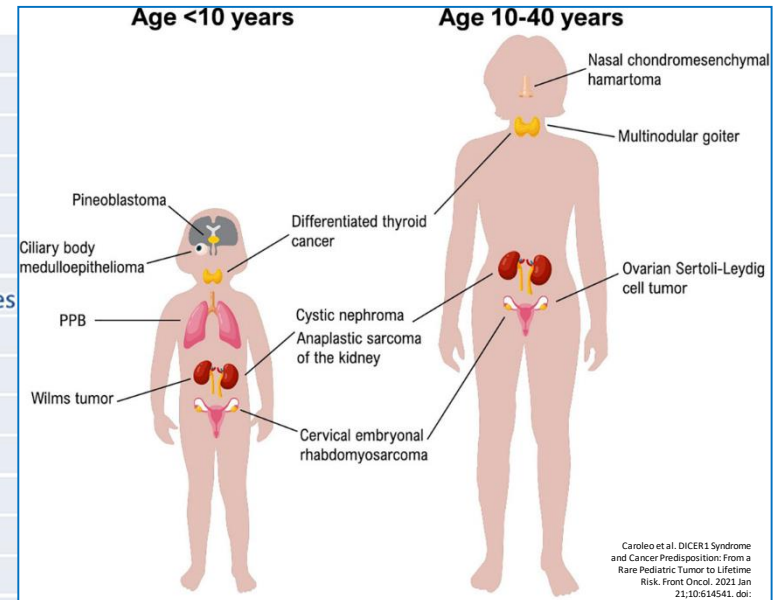
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# DICER1 Syndrome

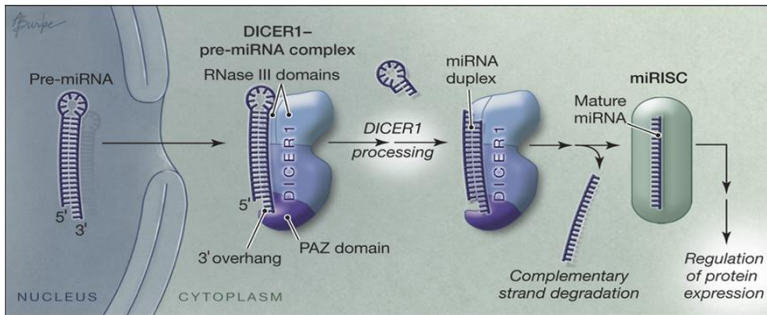
Table 1. *DICER1*-associated neoplasms.

Pleuropulmonary blastoma (PPB) and PPB-like neoplasms
Pleuropulmonary blastoma, type I, IR, II, III
PPB-like Sertoli-Leydig cell tumor of lung
Pediatric cystic neoplasms and <i>DICER1</i> -sarcoma (anaplastic sarcoma of kidney)
Nasal chondromesenchymal hamartoma
Central nervous system sarcoma with rhabdomyosarcoma/PPB III-like features
Sertoli-Leydig cell tumor with and without heterologous features and type I PPB-like features
Peritoneal, ovarian and fallopian tube sarcoma with PPB-like features
<i>DICER1</i> -associated cystic hepatic neoplasm with type I PPB-like features
Cervical embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma
Teratoid and primitive neuroepithelial neoplasms
Cervical-thyroid teratoma
Malignant teratoid neoplasm of sacrococcygeal region
Ciliary body medulloepithelioma
Pituitary blastoma
Pineoblastoma
Embryonal tumor with multilayered rosettes
Thyroid
Multinodular hyperplasia (goiter)
Papillary thyroid carcinoma, invasive follicular variant
Follicular carcinoma, pediatric type
Poorly differentiated thyroid carcinoma, pediatric type
Intestine
Hamartomatous polyp with juvenile polyp-like features



- *DICER1* syndrome (OMIM 606241, 601200) is an autosomal dominant familial tumor predisposition disorder with heterozygous *DICER1* germline mutation
- *DICER1* on chromosome 14q32.13 encodes an RNA endonuclease (Dicer) involved in the post-transcriptional gene expression of over 30% of protein-coding genes by modulating microRNAs
- Reduced penetrance, which likely decreases the rate of familial cases; in cases with pleuropulmonary blastoma, ~80% of *DICER1* germline pathogenic variants are inherited by a parent, ~20% are *de novo*

# DICER1 Syndrome



Schematic Diagram of the Role of DICER1 in MicroRNA Processing. The PAZ domain of DICER1 plays an important role in microRNA (miRNA) processing by functioning as a molecular ruler to ensure pre-miRNAs are cut to the correct length. Other proteins, such as PASHA and DROSHA, and cofactors involved in miRNA processing are not shown. miRISC indicates miRNA-induced silencing complex [Rio Frio T et al. DICER1 mutations in familial multinodular goiter with and without ovarian Sertoli-Leydig cell tumors. JAMA. 2011 Jan 5;305(1):68-77]

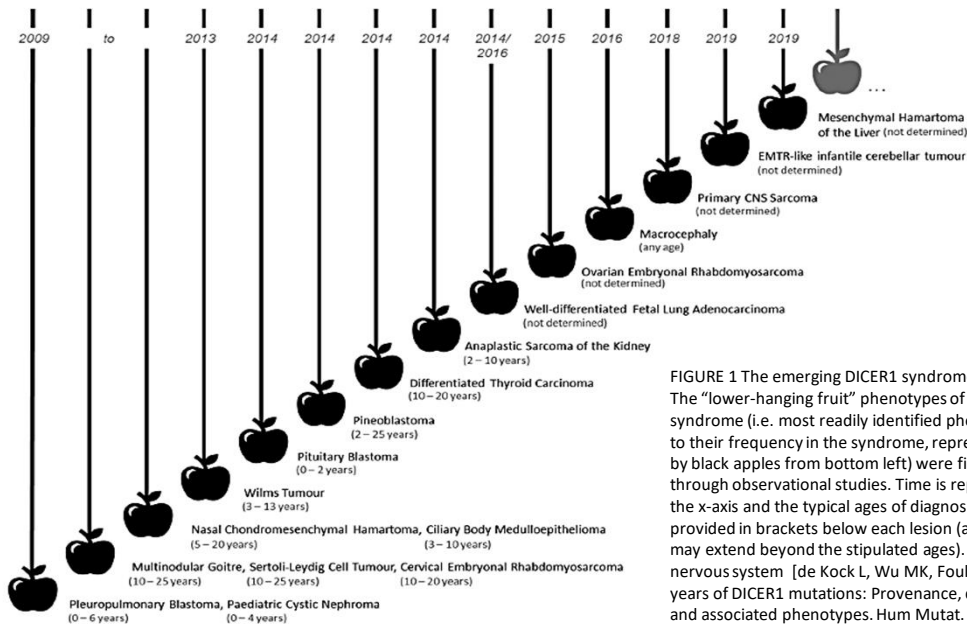
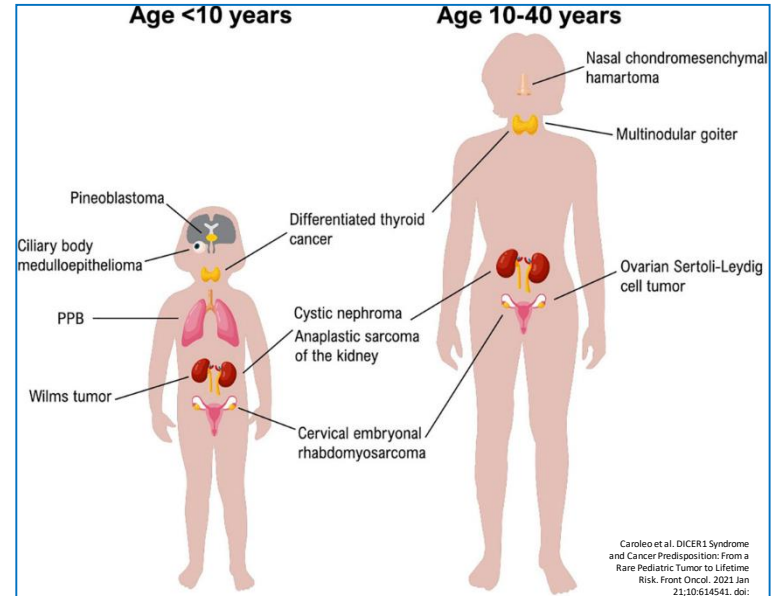


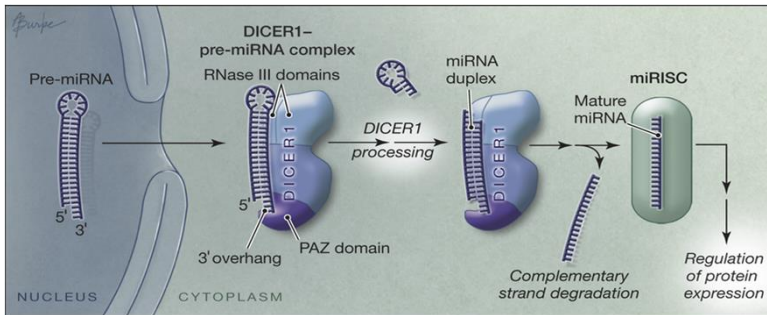
FIGURE 1 The emerging DICER1 syndrome phenotype. The “lower-hanging fruit” phenotypes of DICER1 syndrome (i.e. most readily identified phenotypes due to their frequency in the syndrome, represented here by black apples from bottom left) were first noted through observational studies. Time is represented on the x-axis and the typical ages of diagnosis are provided in brackets below each lesion (although risk may extend beyond the stipulated ages). CNS, central nervous system [de Kock L, Wu MK, Foulkes WD. Ten years of DICER1 mutations: Provenance, distribution, and associated phenotypes. Hum Mutat. 2019 Nov;40(11):1939-1953]



Caroleo et al. DICER1 Syndrome and Cancer Predisposition: From a Rare Pediatric Tumor to Lifetime Risk. Front Oncol. 2021 Jan 21;10:614561. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2020.614561

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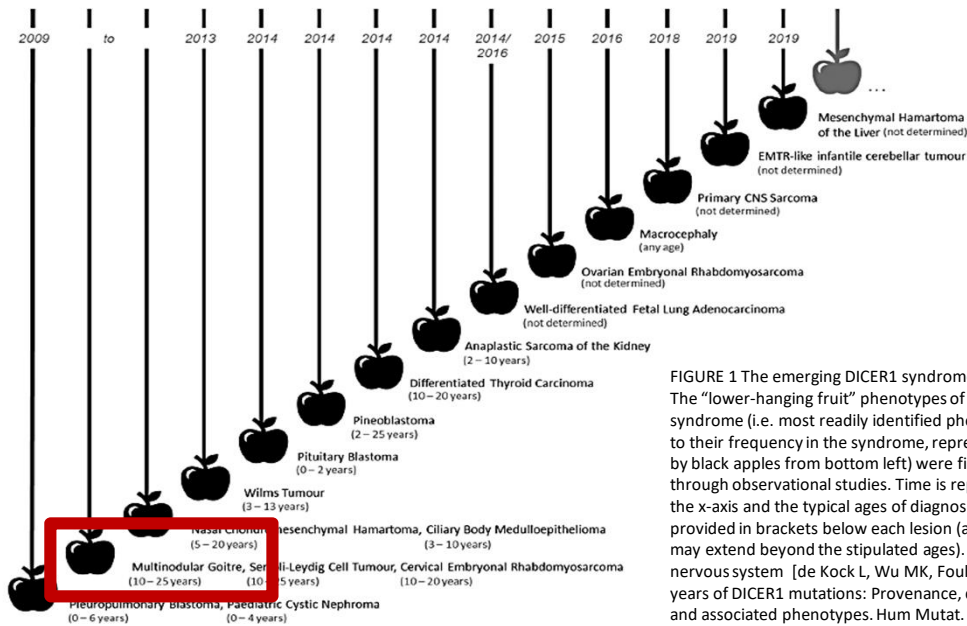
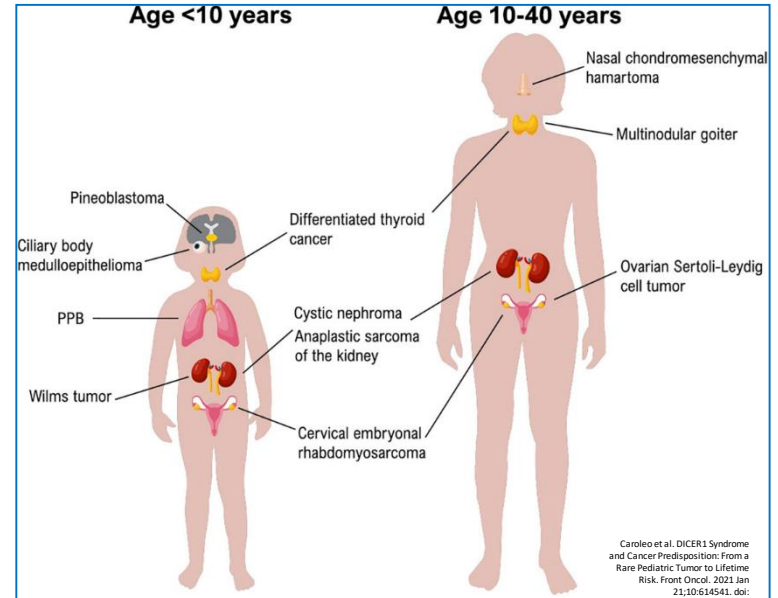


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# DICER1 Syndrome

## PATHOGENIC & LIKELY-PATHOGENIC (Confirmed Somatic)

KEY

Variant Types:	Germline	Somatic	Mosaic
<b>Non-Hotspot Alterations:</b>	284	65	5
Silent	0	0	0
Missense (non-hotspot)	15	7	1
Nonsense	97	18	1
Frameshift	135	14	3
Splicing	21	4	0
In-frame deletion	6	2	0
Large out-of-frame deletion	2	0	0
Full gene deletion	8	NA	0
Somatic LOH	NA	21	NA
<b>Hotspot Missense Mutations:</b>	1	356	10
p.E1705	0	44	1
p.D1709	1	86	4
p.D1713	0	3	1
p.G1809	0	51	1
p.D1810	0	43	1
p.E1813	0	129	2
<b>Other:</b>	285	422	15

M Mosaic

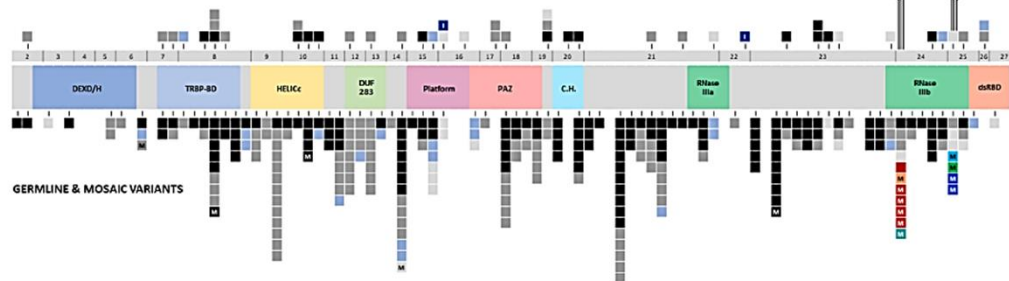
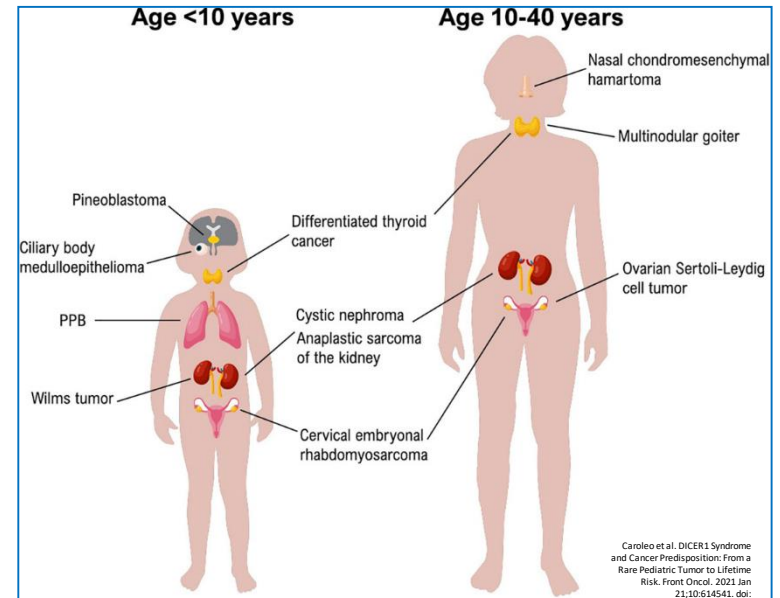


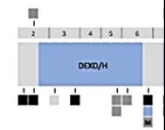
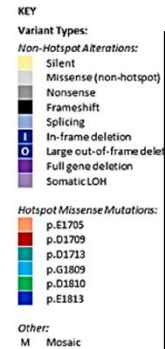
FIGURE 4 Pathogenic and likely pathogenic *DICER1* alterations published before January 31st, 2019. Only unique-per-family (UPF) germline variants and confirmed-somatic mutations considered pathogenic or likely pathogenic have been plotted along the length of the unfolded *DICER1* protein ( $n = 722$ ). The 422 confirmed somatic events are plotted above the protein, except for the 21 confirmed-somatic LOH events that are shown at the bottom of the figure. LOH, loss of heterozygosity; NA, not applicable [de Kock L, Wu MK, Foulkes WD. Ten years of *DICER1* mutations: Provenance, distribution, and associated phenotypes. Hum Mutat. 2019 Nov;40(11):1939-1953]



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# DICER1 Syndrome

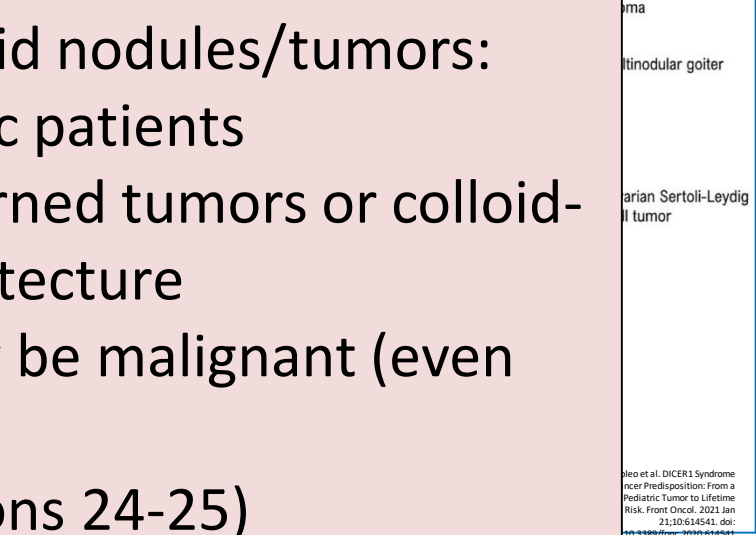
PATHOGENIC & LIKELY-PATHOGENIC (Confirmed Somatic)



GERMLINE & MOSAIC VARIANTS

FIGURE 4 Pat...  
31st, 2019. O...  
mutations co...  
of the unfold...  
above the pro...  
bottom of the figure. LOH, loss of heterozygosity; NA, not applicable [de Kock L, Wu MK, Foulkes WD. Ten years of DICER1 mutations: Provenance, distribution, and associated phenotypes. Hum Mutat. 2019 Nov;40(11):1939-1953]

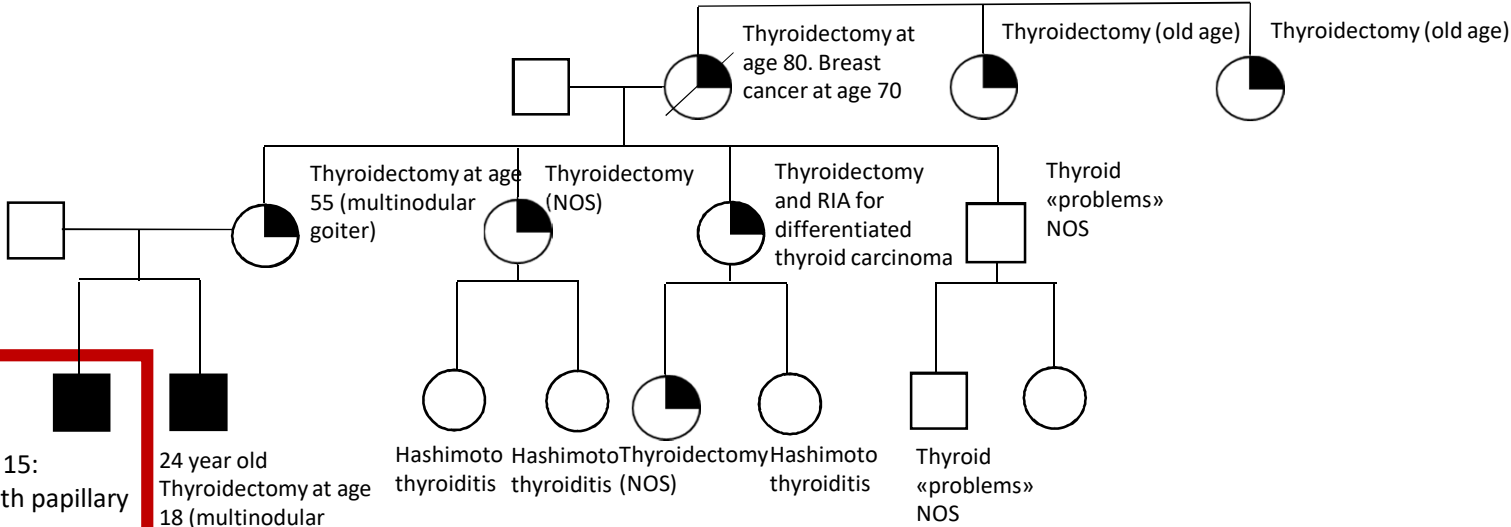
- Somatic *DICER1* mutations in thyroid nodules/tumors:
- Common in nodules of pediatric patients
  - Associated with follicular patterned tumors or colloid-rich tumors with papillary architecture
  - Tumors mostly benign, but may be malignant (even poorly differentiated)
  - Hot spot mutations (usually exons 24-25)
  - Hot spot mutations may represent second hit in patients with germline *DICER1* mutations, need to evaluate *DICER1* germline (no hot spots)



Heo et al. DICER1 Syndrome  
Predisposition: From a  
Pediatric Tumor to Lifetime  
Risk. Front Oncol. 2021 Jan  
21;10:614541. doi:  
10.3389/fonc.2020.014541

mitochondrial  
endonuclease  
expression of  
microRNAs  
of familial  
cases; in cases with pleuropulmonary blastoma, ~80% of  
*DICER1* germline pathogenic variants are inherited by a parent, ~  
20% are *de novo*

# Family tree of **index case**



**INDEX CASE**  
 16 year old  
 Thyroidectomy at age 15:  
 multiple adenomas with papillary  
 architecture  
 ~Somatic (tumor nodule) NGS:  
 p.Asp1810Val (c.5429A>T, Exon  
 25, VAF: 37%, missense  
 mutation, ACMG Classification:  
 "Pathogenic")  
 ~Germline DICER1 variant:  
 p.Gly823Val (c.2468G>T, Exon  
 16, missense mutation)

24 year old  
 Thyroidectomy at age  
 18 (multinodular  
 goiter)  
 Germline DICER1  
 variant: p.Gly823Val  
 (c.2468G>T, Exon 16,  
 missense mutation)

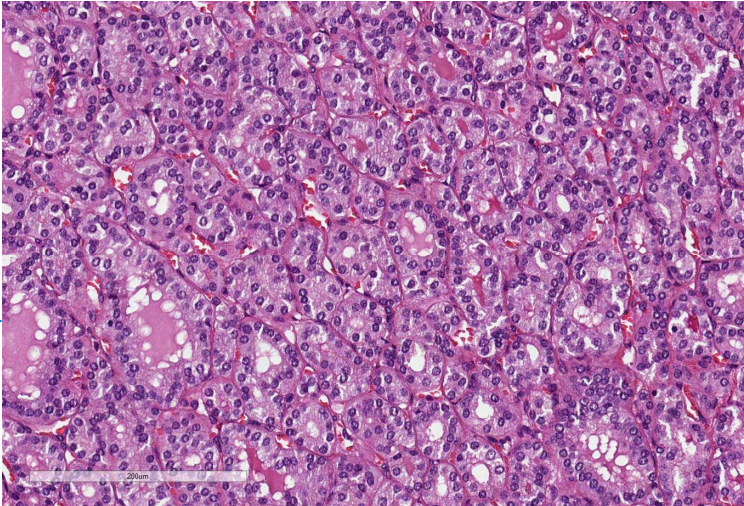
Hashimoto thyroiditis Hashimoto thyroiditis (NOS) Thyroidectomy Hashimoto thyroiditis

Thyroid «problems» NOS

➤ *Case 2:*

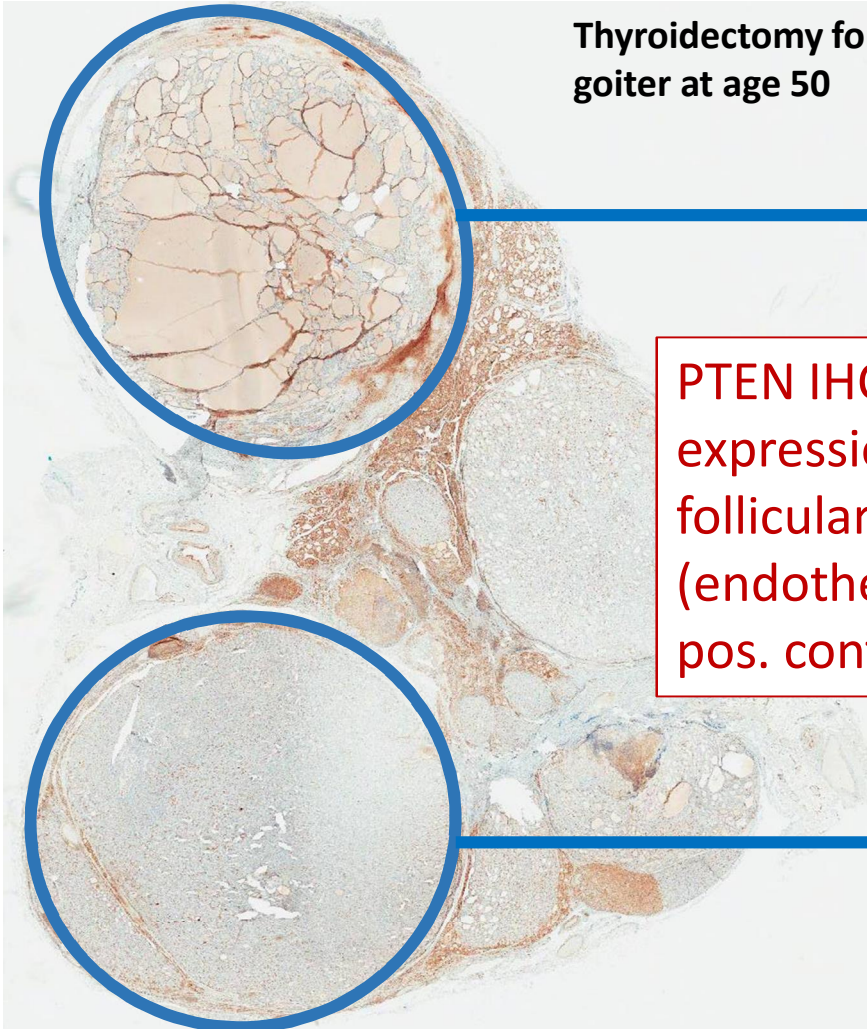
*50 year old woman with  
longstanding multinodular  
goiter*

**Thyroidectomy for multinodular goiter at age 50**

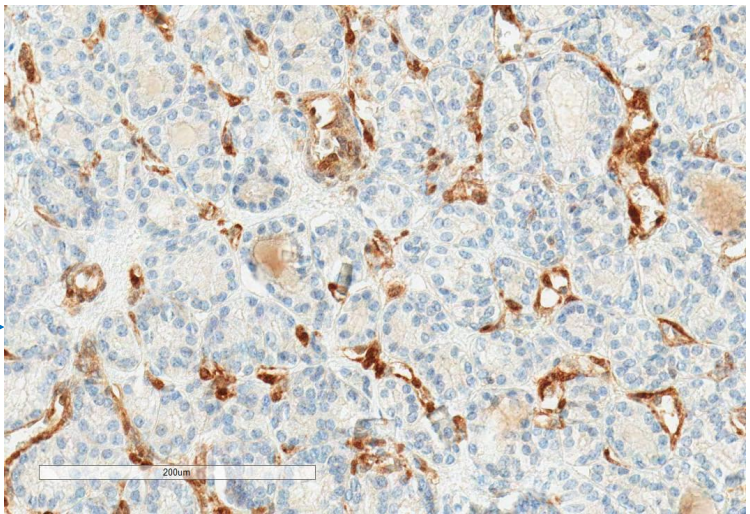
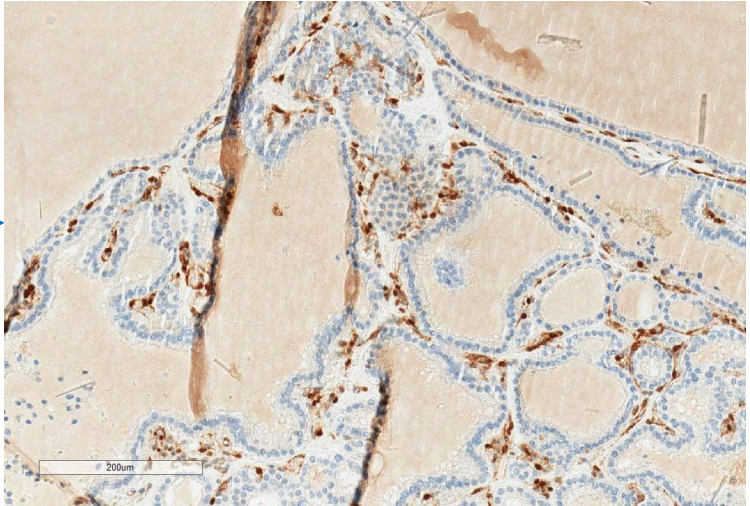




**Thyroidectomy for multinodular goiter at age 50**



**PTEN IHC: loss of expression in follicular cells (endothelial cells: pos. control)**



## Cowden syndrome/PTEN hamartoma tumor syndrome (PHTS)

“Germline pathogenic PTEN mutations cause PHTS: benign and malignant tumors, neurodevelopmental disorders (autism spectrum disorder), the prototypical form of which is **Cowden syndrome** (so named after the Cowden family, in which it was initially discovered)

“Cowden syndrome (a.k.a Cowden disease, multiple hamartoma syndrome; OMIM 158350); autosomal dominant condition characterized by hamartomas as well as increased lifetime risk of breast, thyroid, uterine, and other cancers; incidence ~1:200,000 - often underdiagnosed due to variability in disease presentation; PTEN mutations in up to 85% of Cowden's patients

✓ Major criteria include: breast cancer, endometrial cancer, **thyroid cancer (follicular)**, mucocutaneous lesions (trichilemmomas, acral keratoses, neuromas, oral papillomas) gastrointestinal hamartomas

✓ Minor criteria include: colon cancer, renal cell carcinoma, **multinodular goiter**, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability (i.e.,  $iq \leq 75$ )

“Surveillance focused on early detection of breast, endometrial, thyroid, colorectal, renal, and skin cancer

## Cowden syndrome/PHTS

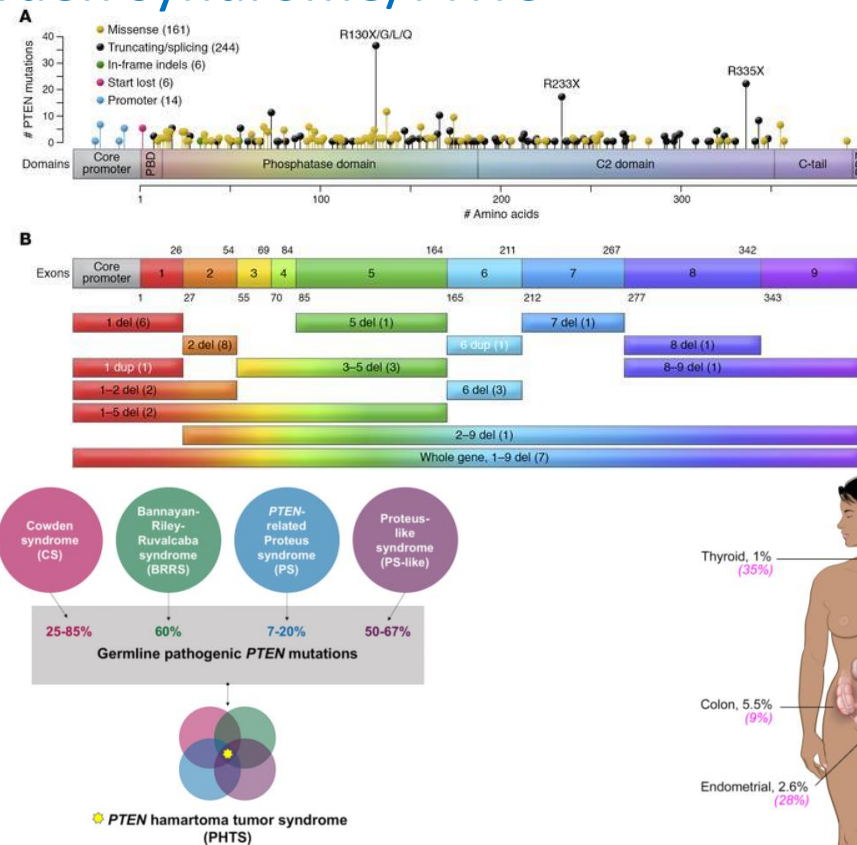
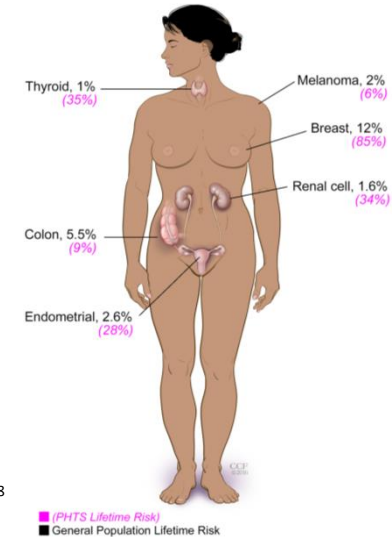


Figure 1. PTEN hamartoma tumor syndrome clinical spectrum. Subsets of patients with Cowden syndrome, Bannayan–Riley–Ruvalcaba syndrome, and Proteus and Proteus-like syndrome represent a spectrum of heritable conditions associated with germline mutations in the PTEN tumor suppressor gene. Regardless of clinical phenotype, such individuals with germline PTEN mutations have PTEN hamartoma tumor syndrome [Yehia L, Eng C. 65 YEARS OF THE DOUBLE HELIX: One gene, many endocrine and metabolic syndromes: PTEN-opathies and precision medicine. *Endocr Relat Cancer*. 2018 Aug;25(8):T121-T140]

Figure 3. PTEN structure and germline mutation spectrum in PHTS. (A) PTEN germline mutation spectrum from 431 PHTS patients. PTEN is canonically 403-amino acid protein. Different types of mutations are depicted in the lollipop plot overlaying the PTEN protein structure. The frequency of mutations correlates with the heights of the vertical lines representing each lollipop. PTEN comprises a PIP2-binding domain (PBD), a phosphatase domain, a C2 domain, and a C-terminal tail including a PDZ-binding domain. The active site is included within amino acid residues 123 and 130. (B) PTEN consists of 9 exons that encode the 403-amino acid protein. The exons are overlaid to match the protein domains in A. Intronic regions are not represented. The colored bars represent large deletions (abbreviated as del) and duplications (abbreviated as dup) annotated by affected exon numbers and the number of affected patients in parentheses [Yehia L, Ngeow J, Eng C. PTEN-opathies: from biological insights to evidence-based precision medicine. *J Clin Invest*. 2019 Feb 1;129(2):452-464]



**Cowden syndrome/PTEN hamartoma tumor syndrome (PHTS)**

“Germline pathogenic PTEN mutations cause PHTS: benign and malignant tumors, neurodevelopmental disorders (autism spectrum disorder), the prototypical form of which is **Cowden syndrome** (so named after the Cowden family, in which it was initially described)”

“Cowden syndrome is a hereditary cancer predisposition syndrome characterized by the presence of hamartomas in multiple organs, including the skin, mucous membranes, and internal organs. The most common clinical features include trichilemmomas, oral papillomas, and thyroid nodules. The syndrome is caused by germline mutations in the PTEN gene. Major clinical features include: thyroid cancer, uterine cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, and endometrial cancer. Minor clinical features include: skin lesions (trichilemmomas, oral papillomas, and acrochordons), neuromas, and hamartomas. Genetic counseling is recommended for individuals with a family history of Cowden syndrome or a pathogenic PTEN mutation. Surveillance for thyroid cancer, uterine cancer, breast cancer, and endometrial cancer is recommended for individuals with a pathogenic PTEN mutation.”

**Cowden syndrome/PHTS**

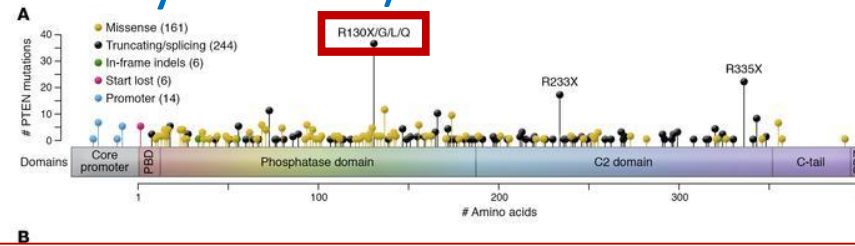


Figure 3. PTEN structure and germline mutation spectrum in PHTS. (A) PTEN germline mutation spectrum from 431 PHTS patients. PTEN is canonically a 403-amino acid protein. Different types of mutations are depicted in the lollipop plot overlaying the PTEN protein structure. The frequency of mutations correlates with the heights of the vertical lines

- Germline PTEN R130\*, loss of function mutation, ACMG Classification: "Pathogenic"
- PTEN IHC loss, likely epigenetic inactivation (sensitive and specific for Cowden/PHTS)
- “Right mastectomy at age 35: 2.4 cm Ductal carcinoma G2, ER/PR+, Ki67 30%, HER2-, sLN-; DCIS, LCIS
- “Left mastectomy at age 45: 1.4 cm Ductal carcinoma, G3, ER/PR+, Ki67 20%, HER2-, sLN-; DCIS
- Genetic counseling: Cowden syndrome

PTEN comprises a PIP2-phosphatase domain, a C2 domain including a PDZ-binding site, and a C-tail. PTEN consists of 9 exons that are numbered 1-9. The exons are shown in A. Intronic regions are indicated by colored bars (del and ins dup) annotated by affected patients. PTENopathies: evidence-based precision medicine. Feb 1, 2019; 129(2):452-464

ma, 2% (6%)  
st, 12% (65%)  
all, 1.6% (34%)

# Thyroid nodules in young patients with clinically evident multinodular goiter

“Numerous adenomatous nodules (millimetric-centimetric) +/- papillary architecture, bilaterally  
 “Young age

...The findings of multiple thyroid nodules is not unusual, particularly in older people, but these nodules are usually heterogeneous hyperplastic nodules combining different patterns of growth with colloids nodules, regressive changes and focal lymphocytic infiltration... [Cameselle-Teijeiro J. The pathologist's role in familial nonmedullary thyroid tumors. *Int J Surg Pathol.* 2010 Jun;18(3 Suppl):194S-200S]



Figure 8 Gross pathologic features of multiple adenomatous nodules in a young patient with *PTEN*-hamartoma tumor syndrome.

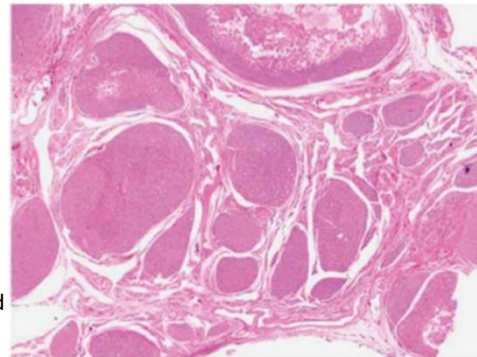


Figure 9 Histopathology of a thyroid with multiple adenomatous nodules in a young patient with *PTEN*-hamartoma tumor syndrome.

...The istologic findings of a multiple adenomatous goiter and/or multiple follicular adenomas, particularly in children and young adults, should alert to the possibility if an inherited trait ... [Harach HR, Soubeyran I, Brown A, Bonneau D, Longy M. Thyroid pathologic findings in patients with Cowden disease. *Ann Diagn Pathol.* 1999 Dec;3(6):331-40]

Hereditary condition likely  
 “Cowden syndrome  
 → do IHC  
 “DICER1 syndrome  
 → need to sequence hot spots in the nodules

Table 2. Histologic Findings in Thyroid Glands From 11 Patients With Cowden Disease

Case No.	Sex/ Age (yr)	No. of Blocks	Follicular Adenoma and Adenomatous Nodule		Cellular Foci	Other Findings
			Clinically Significant	Size (cm)		
1	F/40	6	Follicular adenoma	2.3	29 NOS (5)	12 Focal thyroiditis Bone marrow
			Follicular adenoma	1.6		
2	F/20	3	Adenomatous nodule	1.4	9 NOS (1)	8
			Adenomatous nodule	2.2		
3	F/20	5	Adenomatous nodule	1.5	10 NOS	8 Focal thyroiditis
			Follicular adenoma	2.2		
4	M/37	4	Hyalinising trabecular adenoma-like	2.5	1 Clear cell (1)* 1 Oxyphi cell 4 NOS (2)	4 Focal thyroiditis
			Oxyphi cell adenoma	1.7		
5	M/20	17	Follicular adenoma*	3.0	NA	NA
			Follicular carcinoma	1.4		
6	F/13	14	Adenomatous nodule	1.5	24 NOS (3)	18 Colloid nodule
			Follicular adenoma*	1.8		
7	F/32	20	Adenomatous nodule	1.5	1 NOS*	13 Focal thyroiditis Papillary microcarcinoma Thymic tissue
			Follicular adenoma	1.4		
8	M/28	1	Follicular adenoma*	1.3	1 Clear cell (1)	NA
			Adenomatous nodule	1.2		
9	M/9	8	Follicular adenoma*	3.1	9 NOS (6)	4 NA
			Follicular carcinoma*	3.0		
10	F/43	4	Follicular neoplasm*	1.6	4 NOS	1 Colloid cyst Thyroglossal cyst?†
			Follicular adenoma	2.2		
11	M/29	5	Adenomatous nodule	1.3	20 NOS (3)	3 Focal thyroiditis
			Follicular adenoma*	1.5		
			Follicular adenoma*	3.0	12 NOS (5)	16 Focal thyroiditis C-cell hyperplasia
			Follicular adenoma*	1.2		

Abbreviations: NOS, not otherwise specified; NA, not applicable.  
 \*Features of tumor progression.  
 †Histology not available.

Harach HR et al. Thyroid pathologic findings in patients with Cowden disease. *Ann Diagn Pathol.* 1999 Dec;3(6):331-40

Nosé V. Familial thyroid cancer: a review. *Mod Pathol.* 2011 Apr;24 Suppl 2:S19-33

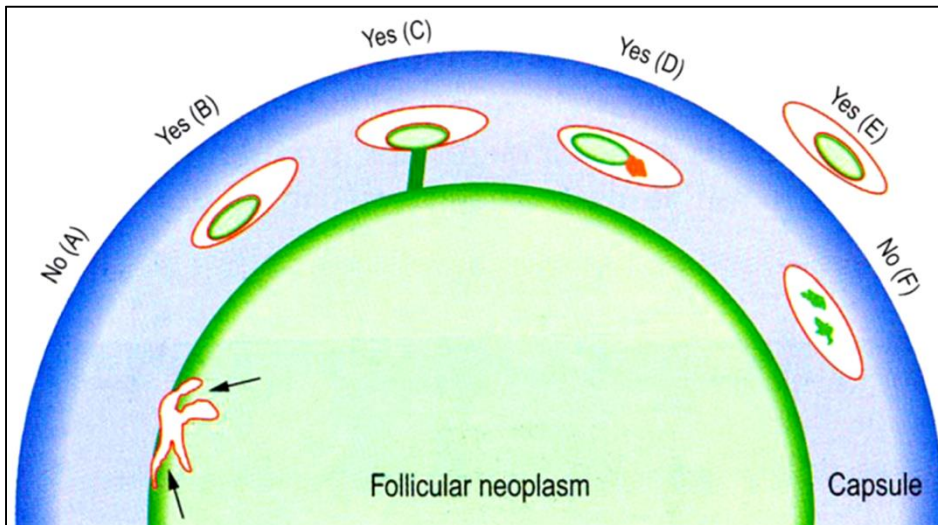
# Topics

- Overview of current classification and lessons learnt from follicular-patterned lesions: Follicular variant papillary carcinoma, Non-invasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP), Tumors of uncertain malignant potential (UMP)
- Papillary carcinoma: subtypes and “Farewell to microcarcinoma”
- Thyroid follicular nodular disease
- Follicular thyroid adenoma with papillary architecture
- Subtypes of invasion in encapsulated carcinomas (Follicular carcinoma, encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma, oncocytic carcinoma): Minimally invasive (capsular invasion only); encapsulated angioinvasive; widely invasive

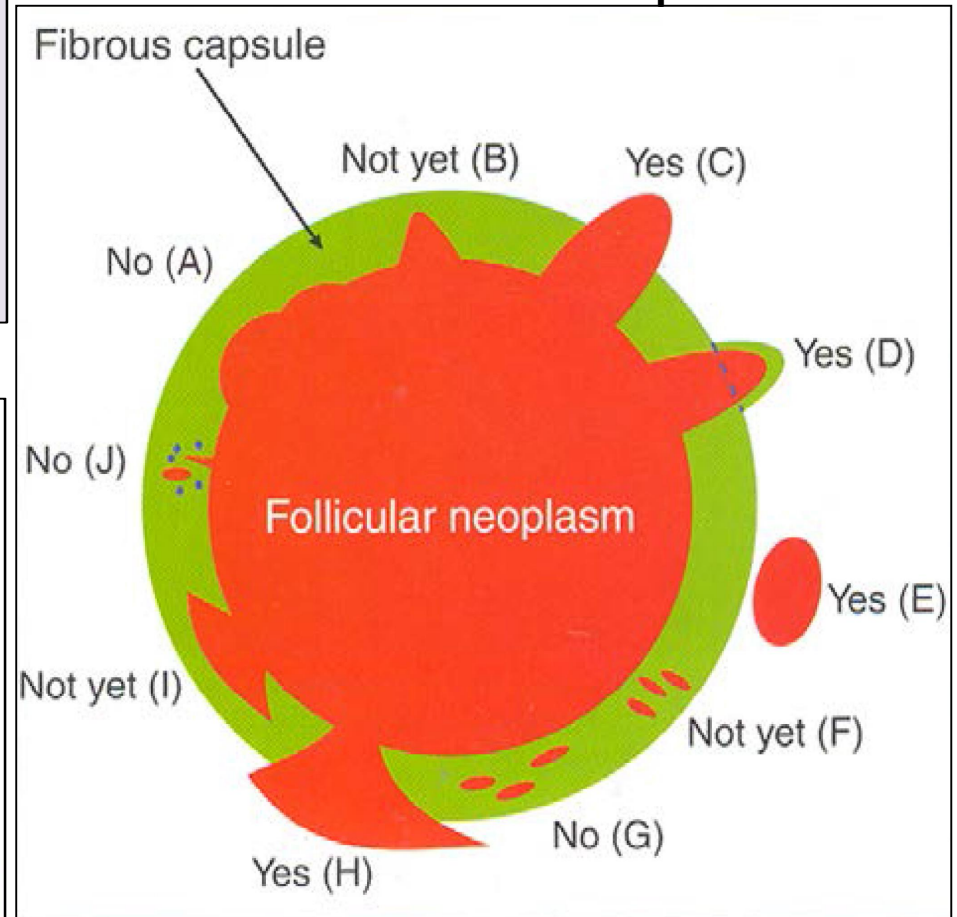
## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: subtypes of invasion in encapsulated carcinomas

- Subtypes of invasion in encapsulated carcinomas (Follicular carcinoma, encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma, oncoytic carcinoma):
  - Minimally invasive (capsular invasion only)
  - Encapsulated angioinvasive
    - ~ Limited angioinvasion, into 1-3 vessels
    - ~ Extensive angioinvasion, into 4 or more vessels
  - Widely invasive (simulate multinodular goiter)

### Vascular invasion



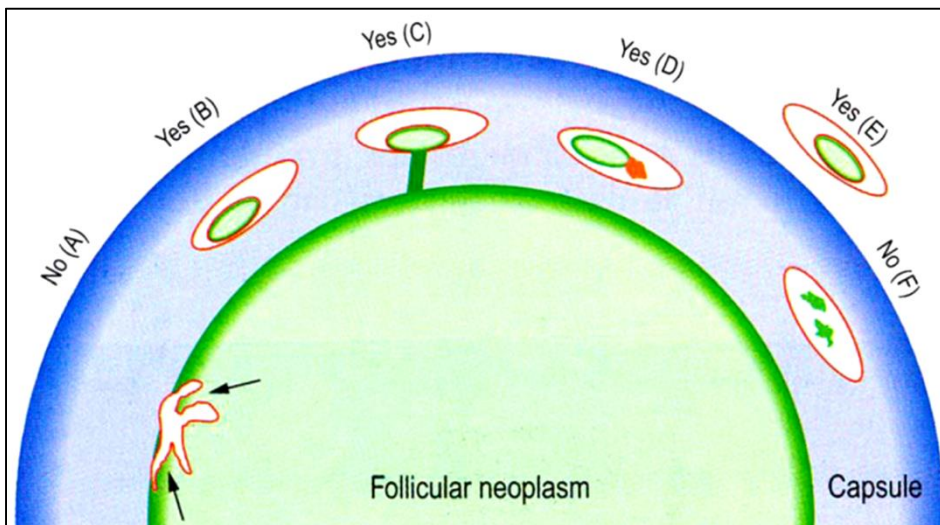
### Invasion of the tumor capsule



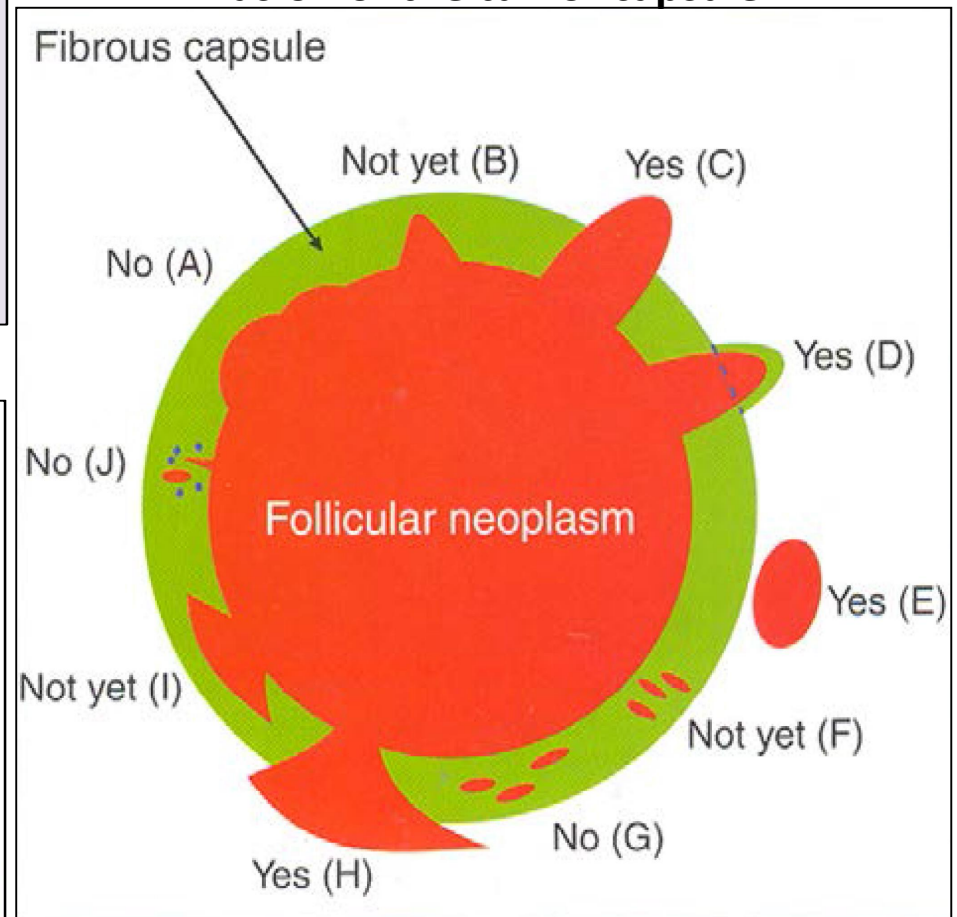
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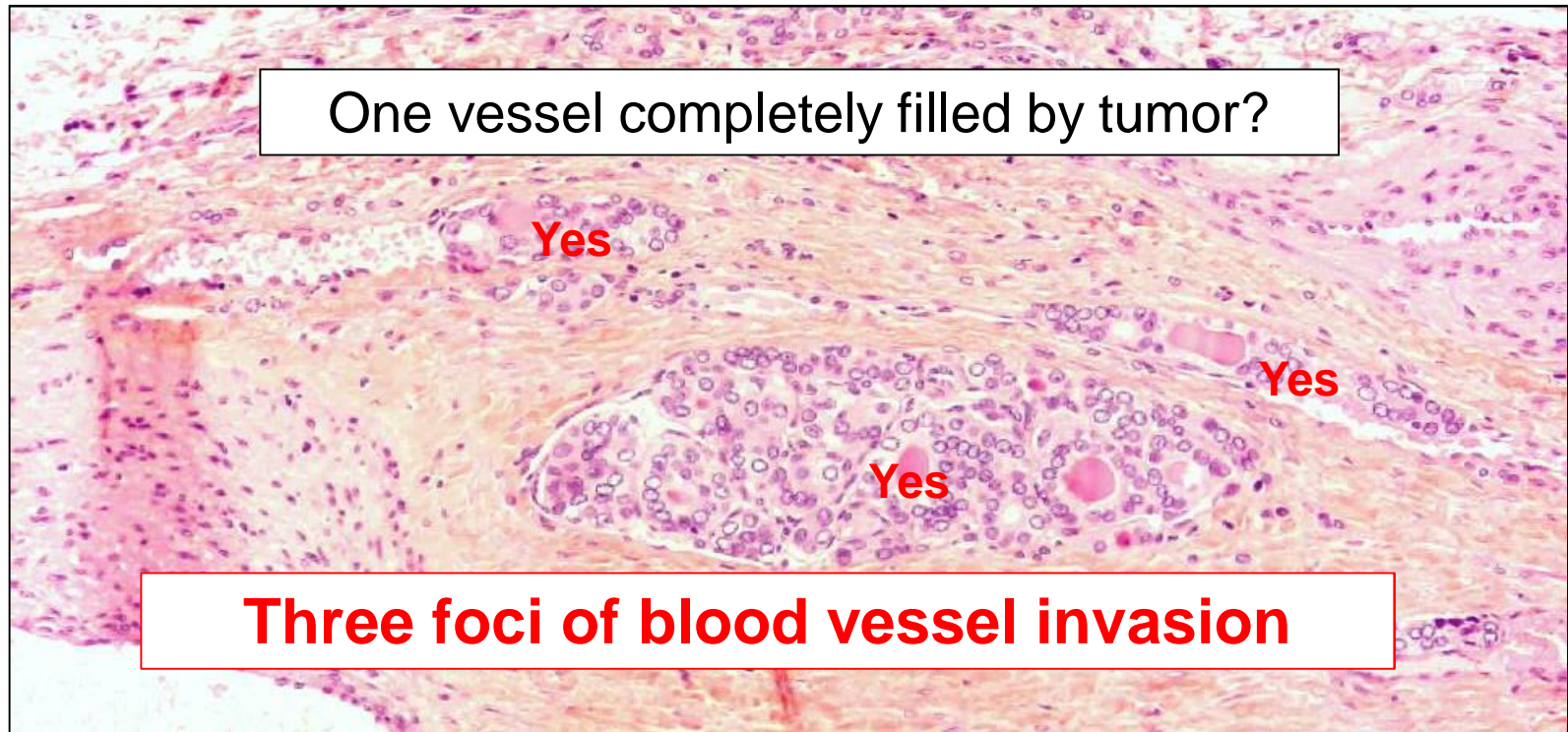
### Vascular invasion



### Invasion of the tumor capsule



## Angioinvasion: blood vessel invasion

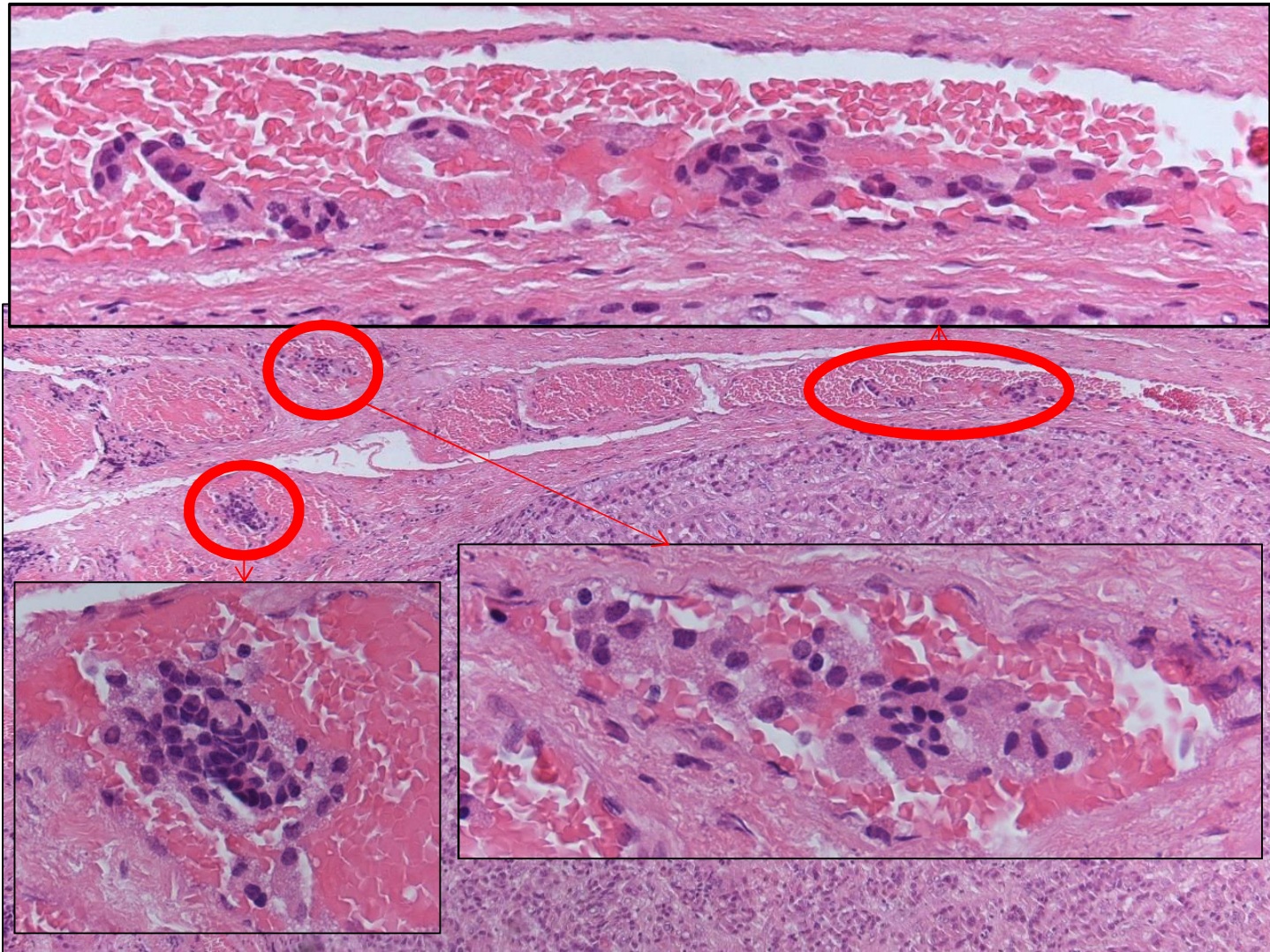


May seem strange, but it is the rule\*:

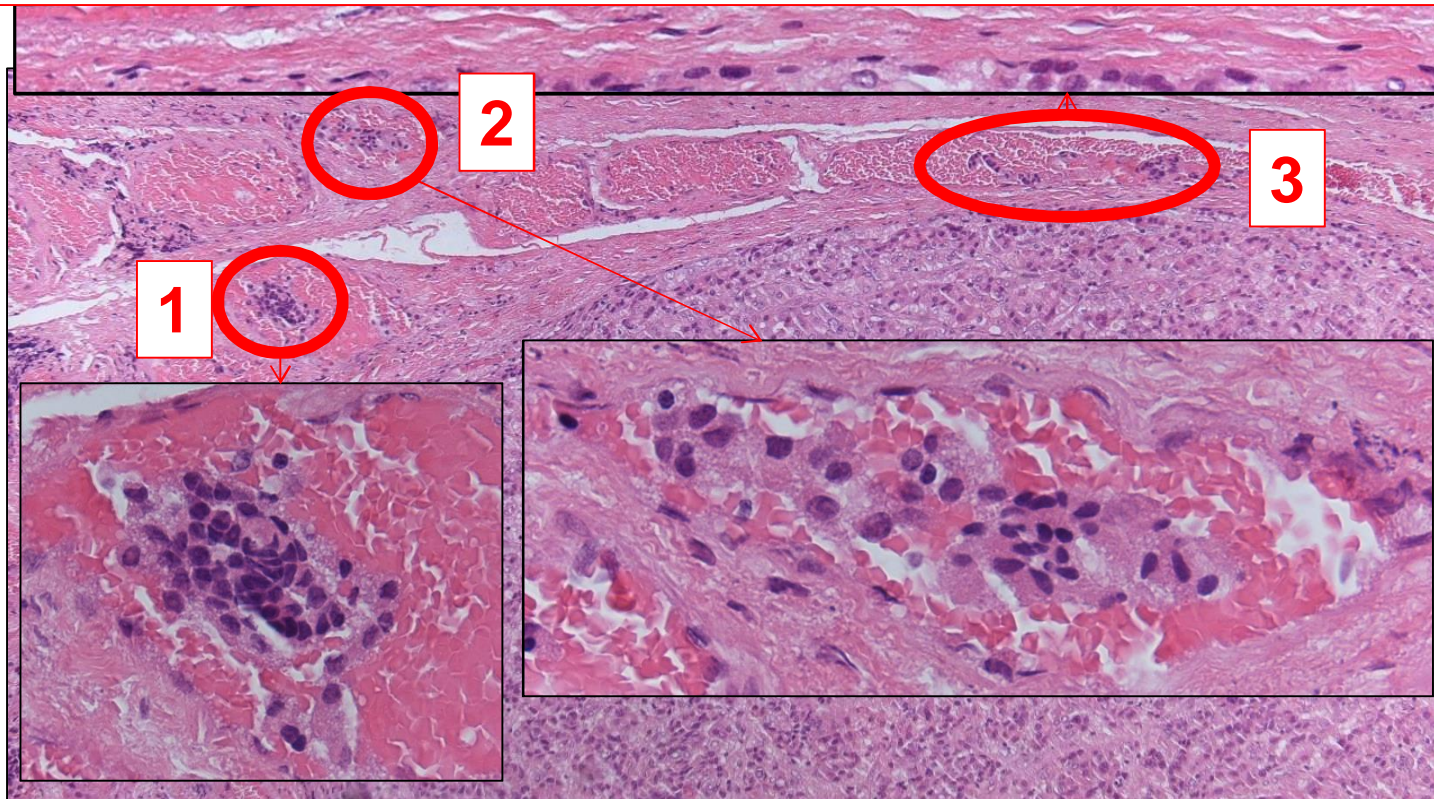
Each cross-sectional focus of BVI counts as 1 focus, even if the vessel is actually the same and runs a "serpentine" course around or within the tumor capsule

*\*Studies that validated prognostic value of blood vessel invasion followed this rule*





**Each cross-sectional focus of BVI counts as 1 focus, even if the vessel is actually the same and runs a "serpentine" course around or within the tumor capsule**



## Molecular classification of follicular thyroid carcinoma based on TERT promoter mutations

Park H, Shin HC, Yang H, Heo J, Ki CS, Kim HS, Kim JH, Hahn SY, Chung YJ, Kim SW, Chung JH, Oh YL, Kim TH

Mod Pathol. 2021 Sep 8. doi: 10.1038/s41379-021-00907-6. PMID: 34497362

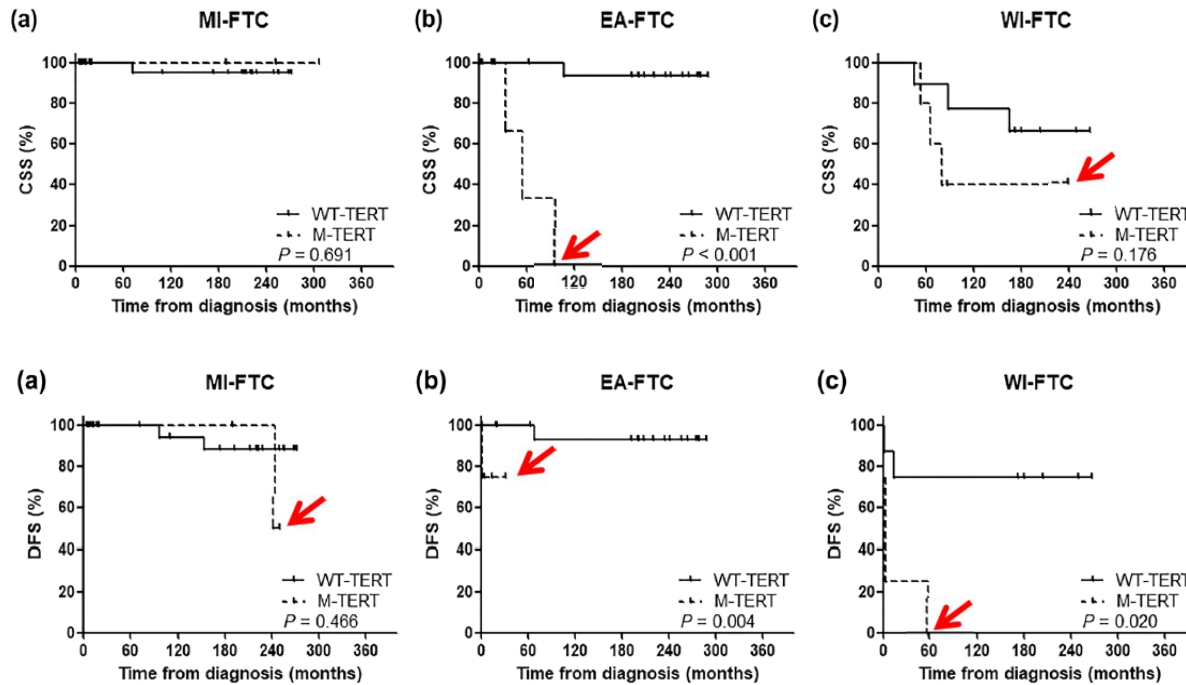


Fig. 1 **Cancer-specific survival** according to the presence of **TERT promoter mutations** in each WHO 2017 group. a Minimally invasive (i.e. capsular invasion-only) follicular thyroid carcinoma (MI-FTC), b Encapsulated angioinvasive follicular thyroid carcinoma (EA-FTC), and c Widely invasive follicular thyroid carcinoma (WI-FTC).

Fig. 2 **Disease-free survival** according to the presence of **TERT promoter mutations** in each WHO 2017 group. a Minimally invasive (i.e. capsular invasion-only) follicular thyroid carcinoma (MI-FTC), b Encapsulated angioinvasive follicular thyroid carcinoma (EA-FTC), and c Widely invasive follicular thyroid carcinoma (WI-FTC).

**Molecular identification of TERT promoter mutation is better predictor of survival than the histologic identification of vascular invasion**

## WHO 5<sup>TH</sup> edition: subtypes of invasion in encapsulated carcinomas

- Subtypes of invasion in encapsulated carcinomas (Follicular carcinoma, encapsulated follicular variant papillary carcinoma, oncoytic carcinoma):
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  - **Widely invasive (simulate multinodular goiter)**

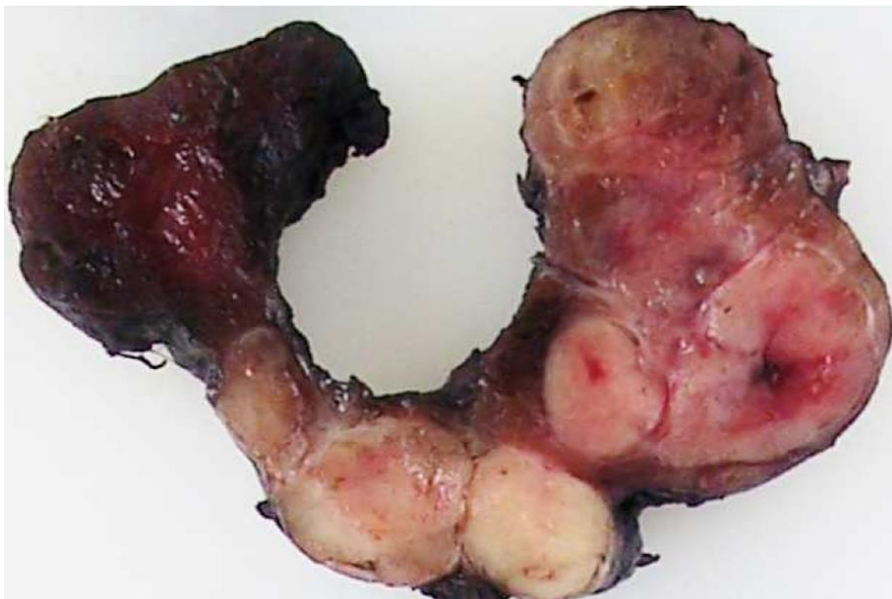
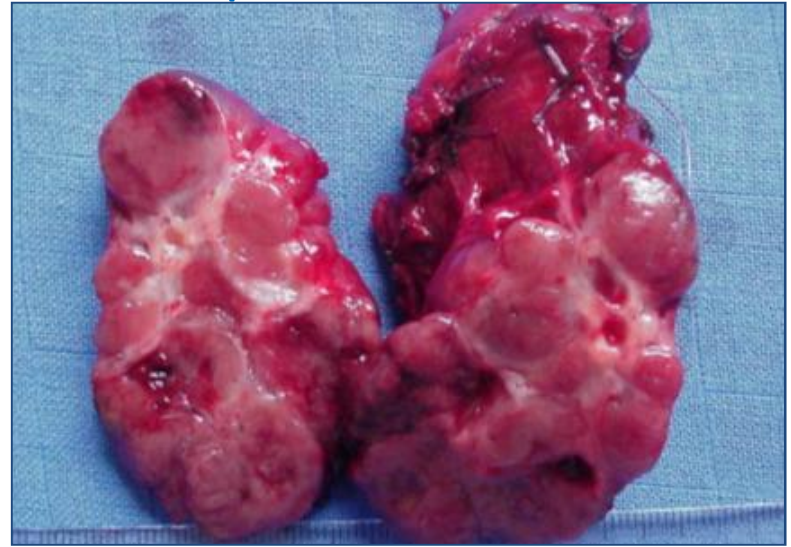


Fig. 2.50. World health organization (WHO) classification of tumours of endocrine organs WHO 5TH edition, 2017



Courtesy of Dr. G. Belleanne, University of Bordeaux Medical Center

