



Spring CME Event  
May 25, 2022

Nicole Zern MD, FACS  
Endocrine Surgery  
General & Surgical Specialists



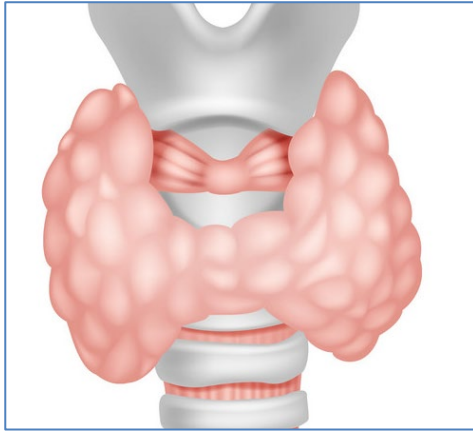
# Introduction

- Undergraduate: University of Kansas
- Emory University Medical School
- University of Washington General Surgery Residency
- University of Sydney Endocrine Surgery Fellowship
- Faculty- University of Washington
- Valley Medical Center 2022

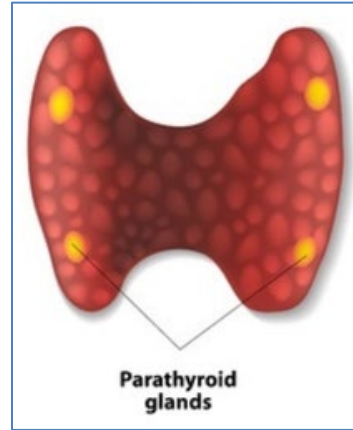


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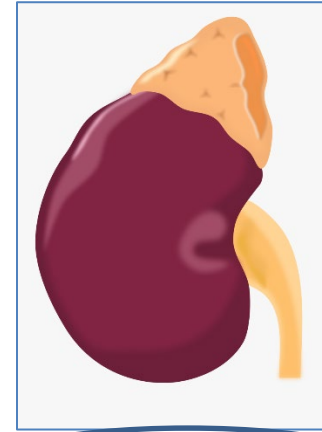
# *The Role of the Endocrine Surgeon*



- Thyroid Nodules
- Multinodular Goiter
- Graves Disease/Toxic MNG/Toxic adenoma
- Thyroid cancer
- Locally metastatic thyroid cancer



- Primary Hyperparathyroidism
- Secondary Hyperparathyroidism
- Tertiary Hyperparathyroidism
- Parathyroid cancer
- MEN1, MEN2



- Adrenal nodules/tumors
- Cushing's syndrome
- Pheochromocytoma
- Primary aldosteronism
- Incidentalomas

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# Thyroid Nodules



- Lab evaluation: TSH, Free T4
- Thyroid Ultrasound (CT rarely needed)
  - Features to prompt FNA:
    - Size
    - Hypoechoic
    - Microcalcifications
    - Irregular borders
    - Taller than wide



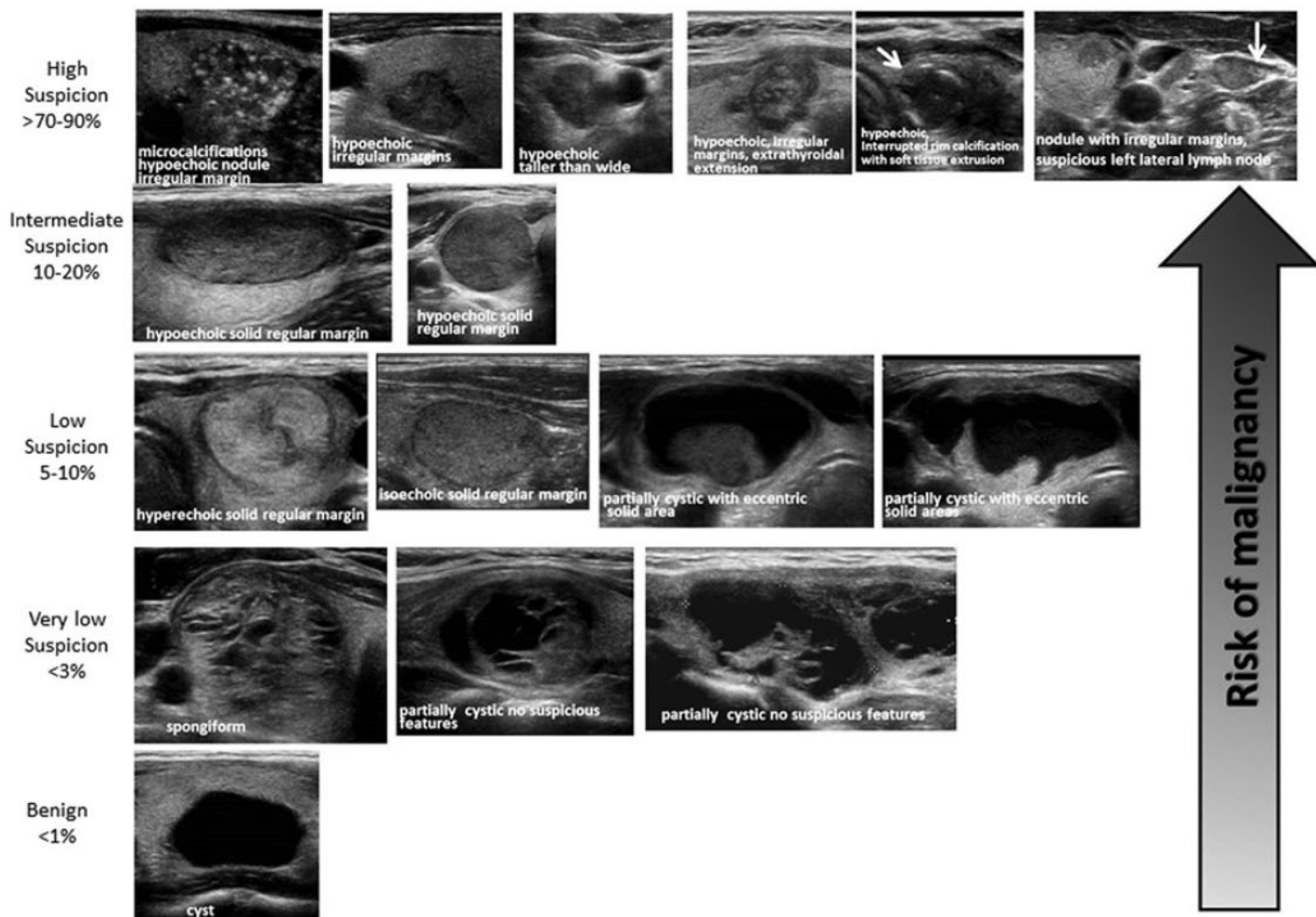
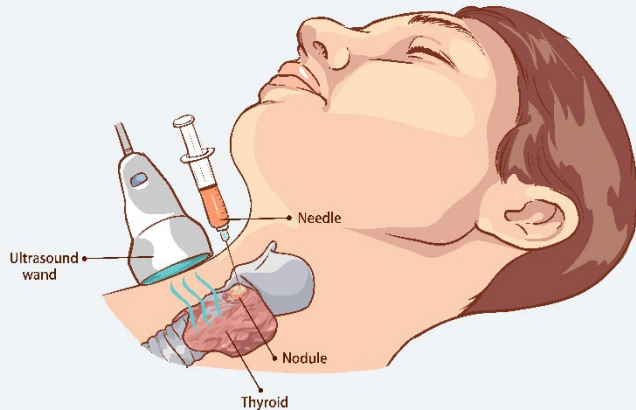


FIG. 2. ATA nodule sonographic patterns and risk of malignancy.

# Thyroid FNA

## Thyroid Fine Needle Aspiration



## *The Endocrine Surgeon...*

- Evaluation of thyroid nodules
- Performance of FNA
- Interpretation of results
- Counseling for or against surgery

# Thyroid Nodule Cytology

Bethesda Class	Diagnostic Category	Risk of Malignancy	
I	Nondiagnostic/Unsatisfactory	1-4%	
II	Benign	0-3%	→ Observation
III	Atypia of undetermined significance/ Follicular lesion of undetermined significance (AUS/FLUS)	AUS 5-15% FLUS 15-30%	} → ???
IV	Suspicious for follicular neoplasm	15-50%	
V	Suspicious for malignancy	60-75%	
VI	Malignant	97-99%	→ Surgery



# Molecular Testing

## 2015 American Thyroid Association Management Guidelines for Adult Patients with Thyroid Nodules and Differentiated Thyroid Cancer

The American Thyroid Association Guidelines Task Force  
on Thyroid Nodules and Differentiated Thyroid Cancer

Bryan R. Haugen,<sup>1,\*</sup> Erik K. Alexander,<sup>2</sup> Keith C. Bible,<sup>3</sup> Gerard M. Doherty,<sup>4</sup> Susan J. Mandel,<sup>5</sup>  
Yuri E. Nikiforov,<sup>6</sup> Furio Pacini,<sup>7</sup> Gregory W. Randolph,<sup>8</sup> Anna M. Sawka,<sup>9</sup> Martin Schlumberger,<sup>10</sup>  
Kathryn G. Schuff,<sup>11</sup> Steven I. Sherman,<sup>12</sup> Julie Ann Sosa,<sup>13</sup> David L. Steward,<sup>14</sup>  
R. Michael Tuttle,<sup>15</sup> and Leonard Wartofsky<sup>16</sup>

### ■ RECOMMENDATION 15

(A) For nodules with AUS/FLUS cytology, after consideration of worrisome clinical and sonographic features, investigations such as repeat FNA or molecular testing may be used to supplement malignancy risk assessment in lieu of proceeding directly with a strategy of either surveillance or diagnostic surgery. Informed patient preference and feasibility should be considered in clinical decision-making.

Afirma  
GENOMIC SEQUENCING CLASSIFIER

ThyroSeq®  
Thyroid Genomic Classifier

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**PATIENT INFORMATION**

PATIENT: John Doe		DOB: 01 Jan 1973	GENDER: M	LAB ID: L123	MRN: M123
COLLECTION DATE	18 Sep 2019	FACILITY NAME	University Hospital of Anytown		
RECEIVED DATE	20 Sep 2019	SUBMITTING PHYSICIAN	Jane Demo	PHONE	(555) 555-5555
REPORT DATE	26 Sep 2019	TREATING PHYSICIAN/CC	---	PHONE	---
CLINICAL HISTORY: History of Cancer: Family History of Thyroid Cancer: No, History of I(131) radiation or external radiation therapy: No, Suspicious Ultrasound Characteristics: Nodule A: Hypoechoic, Solid: >95% solid					

**RESULTS**

**Nodule:** 1.45 cm, Lower Right

**CYTOPATHOLOGY**

I Non Diagnostic	II Benign	III Atypia of Undetermined Significance	IV Suspicious for Follicular Neoplasm	V Suspicious for Malignancy	VI Malignant
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**Cytopathology Diagnosis:** Indeterminate - Atypia of Undetermined Significance

**Diagnostic Comments:** These features are best categorized as atypia of undetermined significance.

**Microscopic Description:** The cytologic and cell block preparations are sparsely cellular and contain only microfollicles and scant colloid.

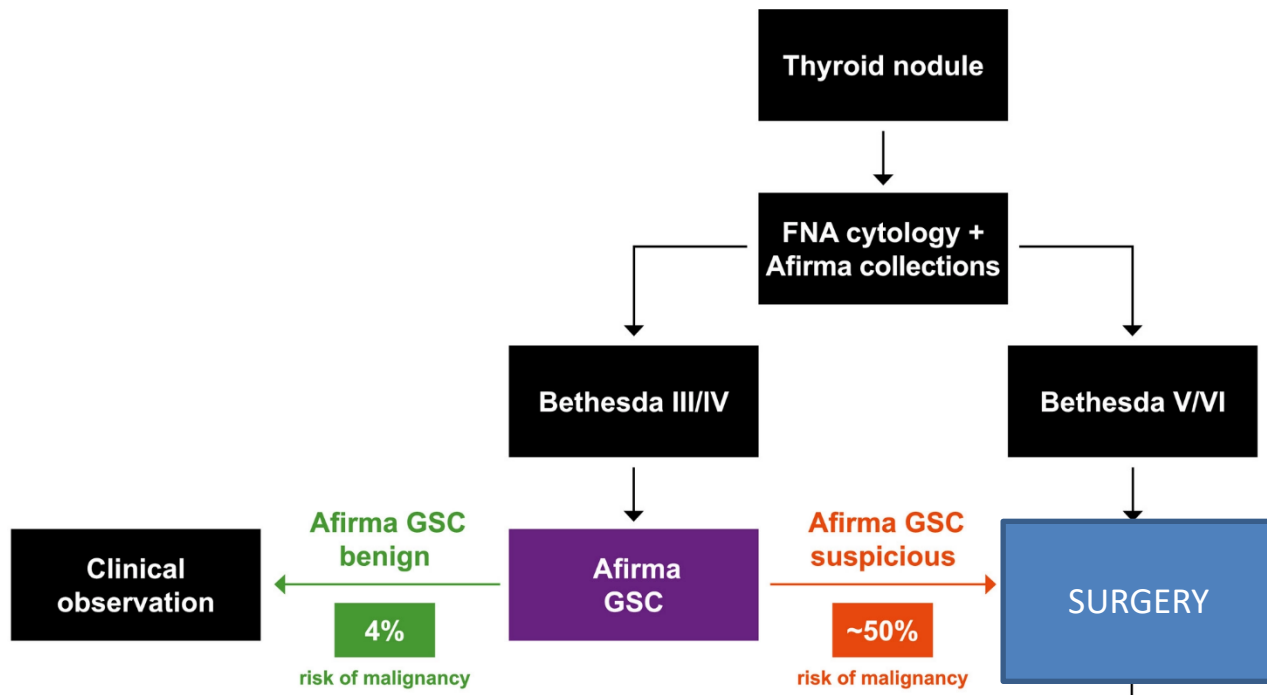
**AFIRMA GENOMIC SEQUENCING CLASSIFIER**

**AFIRMA XPRESSION ATLAS**

Suspicious (Risk of Malignancy ~50%)	<b>BRAF:p.K601E c.1801A&gt;G</b>	<b>BRAF:p.V600E c.1799T&gt;A:</b> Negative <b>RET/PTC1, RET/PTC3:</b> Not Detected		
<b>MTC:</b> Negative <b>Parathyroid:</b> Negative	<b>Clinical Relevance</b>	<b>Risk of Malignancy</b>	<b>Associated Neoplasm Type</b>	<b>FDA Approved Therapy<sup>1</sup></b>
	Potential clinical significance in thyroid cancer	~50% <sup>11</sup>	Follicular neoplasms (FA, NIFTP, FVPTC, FTC)	No alteration-specific therapy currently approved

**RESULTS INTERPRETATION**

The result of this 1.45cm Bethesda III nodule A is Afirma GSC Suspicious and **BRAF:p.K601E c.1801A>G** positive which suggests a risk of cancer of ~50%.<sup>11</sup> This genomic alteration is associated with follicular neoplasms (FA, NIFTP, FVPTC, FTC) and a *RAS*-like profile, which includes rates of lymph node metastases and extrathyroidal extension that are lower than **BRAF V600E**-like neoplasms, but higher than Non-**BRAF**-Non-*RAS*-like neoplasms.<sup>9,10</sup> Clinical correlation and surgical resection should be considered.



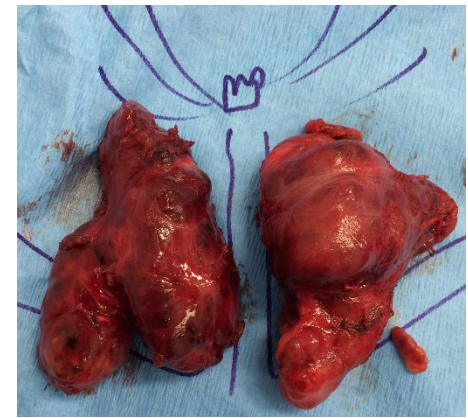


AMERICAN  
THYROID  
ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDED 1923

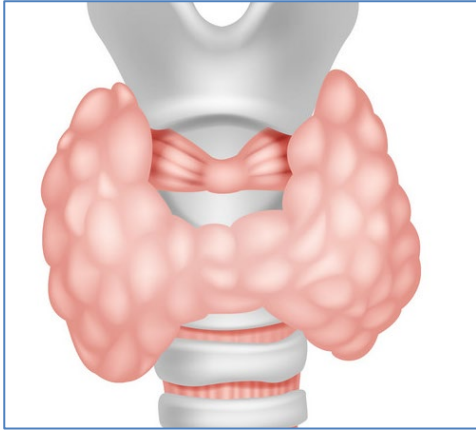
# Thyroid Surgery

(B) For patients with thyroid cancer  $>1$  cm and  $<4$  cm without extrathyroidal extension, and without clinical evidence of any lymph node metastases (cN0), the initial surgical procedure can be either a bilateral procedure (near-total or total thyroidectomy) or a unilateral procedure (lobectomy). Thyroid lobectomy alone may be sufficient initial treatment for low-risk papillary and follicular carcinomas; however, the treatment team may choose total thyroidectomy to enable RAI therapy or to enhance follow-up based upon disease features and/or patient preferences.

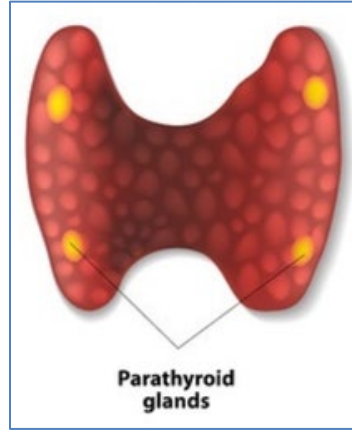
- Hemithyroidectomy (Lobectomy)
- Total Thyroidectomy
- Lateral/Central Neck Dissection



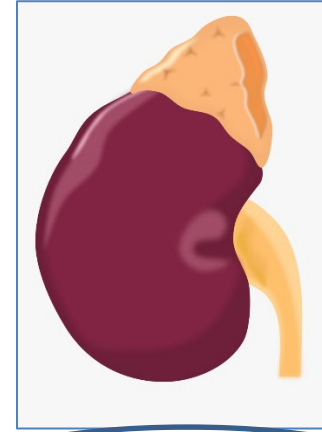
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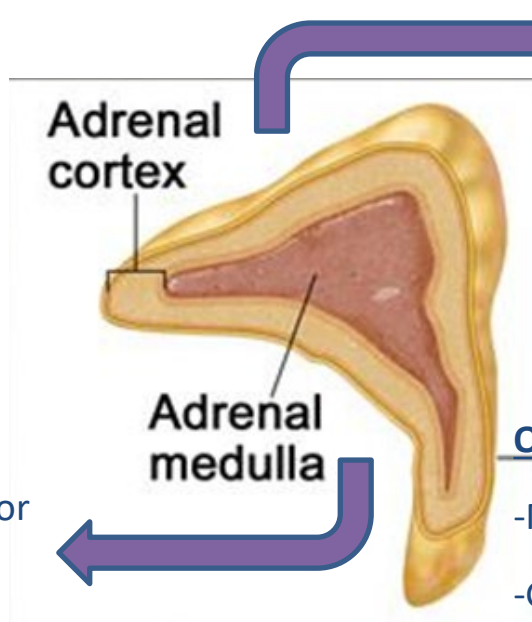
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# Adrenal Gland Tumors



## Medulla Tumors:

- Excess adrenaline = Pheochromocytoma (benign or malignant)
- Children = Neuroblastoma (malignant)

## Cortex Tumors: Benign or Malignant

- Non-functional
- Excess Aldosterone = Conn's Syndrome
- Excess Cortisol = Cushings Tumor

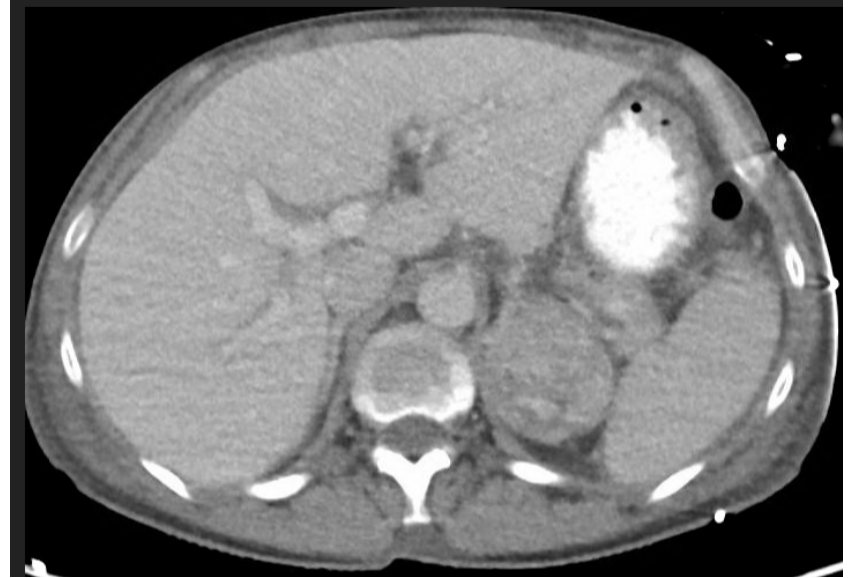
## Other Tumors:

- Myelolipoma
- Ganglioneuroma
- Cyst
- Metastatic cancer



# Adrenal “Incidentaloma”

- ~2% of CT imaging
- ~10% functional
- Risk of cancer:
  - <4 cm = 2%
  - 4-6 cm = 6%
  - >6 cm = 25%



*Endocr Rev.* 2020 Dec; 41(6): 775–820.

Published online 2020 Apr 8. doi: [10.1210/edrv/bnaa008](https://doi.org/10.1210/edrv/bnaa008)

PMCID: PMC7431180

PMID: [32266384](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32266384/)

## Adrenal Incidentaloma

Mark Sherlock,<sup>1,2</sup> Andrew Scarsbrook,<sup>3</sup> Afroze Abbas,<sup>4</sup> Sheila Fraser,<sup>5</sup> Padiporn Limumpornetch,<sup>6</sup>  
Rosemary Dineen,<sup>1,2</sup> and Paul M. Stewart<sup>6</sup>



**SUMMARY OF TESTS FOR EVALUATION OF INCIDENTAL ADRENAL MASS**

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>BEST TEST</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE TEST</b>	<b>DIAGNOSIS</b>
Is it functioning?	Plasma fractionated metanephrines	24-h urine for catecholamines, metanephrines, VMA	Pheochromocytoma
	-mg dexamethasone suppression test	24-h urine for cortisol or Midnight salivary cortisol	Hypercortisolism
	Serum potassium		Hyperaldosteronism
	Plasma renin/plasma aldosterone ratio		

# Indications for Adrenal Surgery

- Adrenal tumor
  - Functional
  - Size: >4 cm or significant growth
  - Symptomatic
  - Metastasis

## *The Endocrine Surgeon...*

- Alpha/beta blockade for pheochromocytoma resection
- Coordination of adrenal venous sampling
- Postoperative steroid taper
- Coordination of genetic testing
- Patient Education

# Surgical Approach to the Adrenal Gland

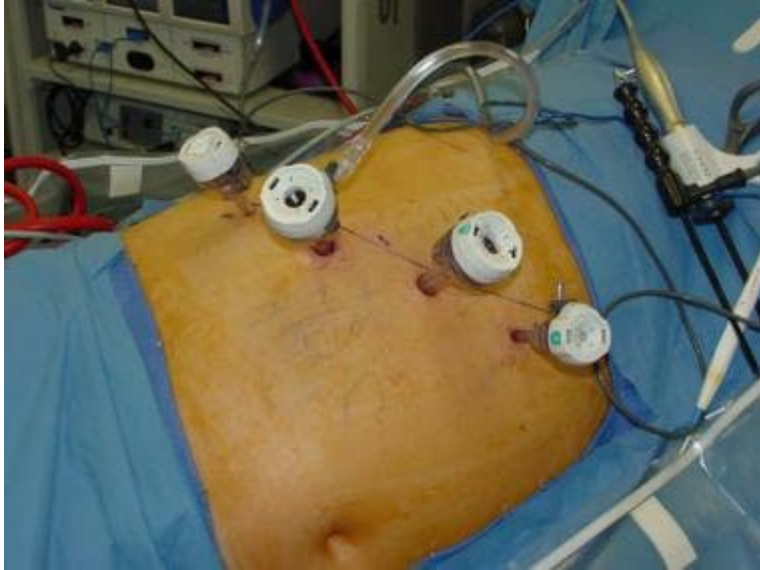


ANTERIOR

POSTERIOR

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## ANTERIOR



Medscape.

## POSTERIOR

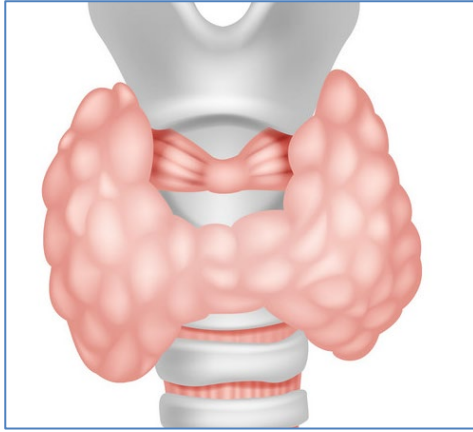


Image © David King 2011

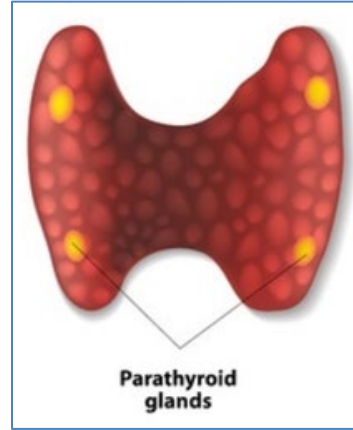
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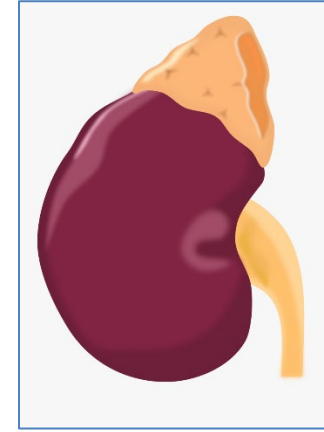
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# Referrals and Consults

- EPIC-> General Surgery Referral

General and Surgical Specialists  
Medical Arts Center Suite 530  
Phone: 425-690-3433  
Fax: 425-690-9433



Patients can find me on:  
AAES Surgeon Finder  
[Find an Endocrine Surgeon  
\(endocrinesurgery.org\)](https://endocrinesurgery.org)



Nicole Zern MD, FACS

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