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2025年 福島県立医科大学「県民健康調査」国際シンポジウム

2025 Fukushima Medical University International Symposium on the Fukushima Health Management Survey

The current status and future of the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination

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COI disclosures

Satoshi SUZUKI

Nothing to disclose

Topics

- 1. Current status of the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination (TUE) in the Fukushima Health Management Survey
- 2. Past findings of TUE
- 3. Future of the TUE

Topics

1. Current status of the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination (TUE) in the Fukushima Health Management Survey

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Flow chart of the TUE program



Steps to take the primary examination



Diagnostic criteria for thyroid nodules and cysts

Grade		Interpretation	Recommendation			
	А	Within normal				
	(A1)	No nodules or cysts*	Next primary examination			
	(A2)	Nodules ≤5.0mm** and/or cysts ≤20.0mm	Next primary examination			
	В	Nodules ≥5.1mm and/or cysts ≥20.1mm	Confirmatory examination			
	С	Required immediately examination	Urgent confirmatory examination			

*Mixed cystic-solid nodule is included in the category of "nodules."

**Nodules within the A2 category, which have ultrasonographic findings suggesting thyroid cancer with aggressive clinical features, may be classified as B.

Nodules



Cysts



Frequency by age group of latent thyroid carcinoma*



*Thyroid cancer with no lifetime clinical signs of thyroid cancer, first confirmed at postmortem examination

Takahashi S.: Folia Endocrinologica Japonica 45: 65-79, 1969

Size distribution of latent thyroid carcinoma



Harach RH et al. Cancer 56: 531-538, 1985

Flow chart for the management of solid thyroid nodules^{*1}



*1 Nodule without cystic characteristics *2 FNAC: fine-needle aspiration cytology

Created based upon data from Thyroid Ultrasound – A guidebook for diagnosis and management, 3rd Edition ©Japan Association of Breast and Thyroid Sonology.

Support for primary examinations by medical institutions outside Fukushima Prefecture



Fukushima Joint Committee for Supporting Thyroid Ultrasound Examination

Main tasks

- Comprehensive review of primary examiner certification
- Instructor at workshops (lectures and hands-on training)
- Creating test questions for primary examiner certification
- Implementation of certification tests, pass/fail judgments, and certification renewal assessments

Participants

- Members of Fukushima Prefectural Medical Association
- Physicians and medical technologists who work in medical institutions in Fukushima Prefecture (clinical and radiological technologists)

Change in the number of cooperating medical institutions commissioning the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination in Fukushima Prefecture



Locations of cooperating medical institutions commissioning the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination in Fukushima Prefecture





Progress of the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination program

➔ Primary exam

Confirmatory exam

_	Fiscal year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1
Preliminary Baselin	e Primary	_		\rightarrow	>											1
Survey (first round)	Confirmatory		_			→										1
Full-scale Survey	Primary		•	•		\rightarrow										1
(second round)	Confirmatory			•	_			→								1
Full-scale Survey	Primary	• • •	•	•		•		\rightarrow								1
(third round)	Confirmatory		•	•		•	_			→						1
Full-scale Survey	Primary			•		•				\rightarrow	>					1
(fourth round)	Confirmatory		-			•		-	_				\rightarrow			1
Full-scale Survey	Primary		-	-		-							\rightarrow			1
(fifth round)	Confirmatory		•	•							_				→	1
Full-scale Survey	Primary		8	•		-									\rightarrow	
(sixth round)	Confirmatory		•	•		•								_		
Survev at	Primary			•											\rightarrow	
Age 25	Confirmatory		•					-							\rightarrow	1
Survey at	Primary														\rightarrow	
Age 30	Confirmatory		-			•		•					_		\rightarrow	

Topics

1. Current status of the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination (TUE) in the Fukushima Health Management Survey

2. Past findings of TUE

3. Future of the TUE

Summary of TUE results

										counted as of .	June 30, 2024
		Preliminary baseline survey 1st round*	Full-scale survey 2nd round*	Full-scale Brd round ** *	Full-scale 4th round **** *	Full-scale survey 5th round	Full-scale survey 6th round		Survey for 25	Survey for 30	Total
Fiscal years		2011-2013	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2019	2020-2022	2023-2024		2017-	2022-	
Persons eligible for primary exam		367,637	381,237	336,667	294,228	252,938	211,901		149,843	44,489	
Primary exam participation(%)		81.7%	71.0%	64.7%	62.3%	45.1%	21.4%		8.4%	5.0%	
Persons eligible for confirmatory exam		2,293	2,230	1,502	1,394	1,346	630		651	139	
Confirmatory exam participation(%)		92.9%	84.2%	73.5%	74.3%	82.5%	55.9%		85.1%	84.9%	
Malignant or suspected for malignancy		116	71	31	39	48	11		23	6	345
Persons who underwent surgery		102	56 ***	29	34	42	-		18	4	285
	Papillary carcinoma	100	55 ***	29	34	41	-		17	4	280
Dath als sized	Poorly differentiated carcinoma	1	0	0	0	0	-		0	0	1
diagnosis	Other variant	0	1	0	0	1	-		1	0	3
	Benign	1	0	0	0	0	-		0	0	1
			* counted as of March 31, 2018 * counted as of March 31, 2021 * counted as of March 31, 2022 * counted as of June 30, 2027								

Association of UNSCEAR* 2020/2021 estimated absorbed thyroid doses and malignant or suspected malignancy detection rates in the Full-scale Survey (cumulative total of the 2nd - 4th round surveys)

	Group 1 0.5-2.6 mGy	Group 2 2.7-4.3 mGy	Group 3 4.5-7.0 mGy	Group 4 7.0-15 mGy	
Female (%)	50.4	50.1	49.1	49.6	
Age at the time of the earthquake (average)	8.3	9.3	6.7	7.8	
Survey interval(%)					
<4 years	36.4	28.7	19.6	19.0	
≥4, <5 years	7.8	16.4	10.8	14.4	
≥5, <6 years	48.9	13.8	25.3	14.0	
≥6, <7 years	5.8	39.1	40.3	48.4	
≥7 years	1.0	1.9	4.0	4.2	
malignant or suspected malignancy	22	43	37	40	
detection rate (/100,000)	46.4	66.2	52.2	55.1	

The 21st meeting of Prefectural Subcommittee for the TUE program





interval



*UNSCEAR: United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

Assessment of the Preliminary Baseline Survey to the 4th round Full-scale Survey

No association between the detection rate of thyroid cancer and radiation exposure dose was found from the Preliminary Baseline Survey to the 4th round Full-scale Survey.

Document 3-2 in the 49th Prefectural Oversight Committee Meeting

Cumulative detection rate of malignant or suspected malignancy

(Kaplan-Meier method: estimated exposure doses in coastal Hamadori and evacuation areas by 3 districts)

Participants undergoing Thyroid Ultrasound Examination (excluding cases registered only in cancer registries) Participants undergoing Thyroid Ultrasound Examination and cases registered only in cancer registries.



Document 7-3 from the 23th meeting of Prefectural Subcommittee for the TUE program

Other findings

Age- and sex-dependent detection rates and sizes of thyroid cysts (Preliminary Baseline Survey)



Shimura H et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 103(3):861-869, 2018

Topics

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Future focus (1)

1. Improvement of the examination environment

More than half of the participants are already adults. Promoting convenience for those who wish to receive examinations:

- Online application system to apply for the examination
- Increase in the number of medical institutions in and out of the prefecture
- Additional public examination venues open in evenings or holidays
- 2. Awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination

Results of Fukushima Prefecture's questionnaire survey

Degree of awareness of the advantages and disadvantages

Participants (16-17) Participants (\geq 18) Guardians (≤ 15) Guardians (16-17) 0% 50% 100% □ Already known ■ Unknown ■ No reponse

Ease of understanding the advantages (Similar data was obtained for the disadvantages)



■ No response

The 50th Prefectural Oversight Committee Meeting

Future focus (2)

3. Supporting activities

Psychosocial support

- ✓ Detailed explanations at public facilities of primary examination provided by medical doctors
- Psychosocial support to participants of the confirmatory examination to ease their worries and anxiety offered by the support team

Medical consultation line

- $\checkmark\,$ Telephone consultations available by medical doctors
- On-site lectures and session
 - $\checkmark\,$ 318 sites in total between 2013 and 2024 (as of December 31, 2024)
- Medical expense support by Fukushima Prefecture
 - ✓ Support for the financial burden of medical expenses following the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination

Thyroid CAFE

 $\checkmark\,$ Peer support for patients diagnosed with thyroid cancer



We would like to thank everyone who has been

cooperating with the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination



Radiation Medical Science Center

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