

## FAQ about thyroid biopsy

### 1.: Why do I need to have a biopsy?

Biopsy is done mainly to find out why you have the nodule within the thyroid. Mainly to rule out the possibility of cancer. The risk of cancer in the thyroid nodule is usually small however some nodules carry higher risk than others.

### #2 how long will the results take to come back?

It usually takes anything from 2 to 4 weeks. You will be given an appointment to follow-up in 3 to 4 weeks to discuss the results. Please do not leave until you have confirmed appointment to come back and discuss the results.

### #3 Will the biopsy hurt?

We use local and topical anesthesia. This minimizes the discomfort during the biopsy. Most of our patients describe very little discomfort with it if any.

### #4 how long will the procedure take?

The procedure takes about 10 minutes on average.

### #5 can I drive after the procedure?

Yes, you can go back to your normal life including driving and eating etc. Right after the procedure.

### #6 what are the possible results of the biopsy?

The biopsy result can come back as follows:

Benign which means no cancer. This is great. Most of the nodules are benign and they can be just observed.

Cancer/malignant/ suspicious: Those needs to be removed surgically.

Inconclusive: It means the biopsy may need to be repeated again in some of the cases. This will depend on the physician decision.

Please notice, inconclusive samples **do not mean** that something went wrong with the biopsy or that the team did not do the biopsy properly. It simply means that some nodules do not contain enough cells. Some nodules have more fluid than cells etc.

#7 what do you take out from the nodule?

We take out cells from the nodule. The material looks like a drop of blood.

#8 what is a nodule?

A nodule is a lump or a mass within the thyroid tissue itself.

#9 what is a goiter?

Goiter means enlarged thyroid. Any nodule results in a goiter by definition especially if it is large size nodule.

#10 is the nodule responsible for weight gain or fatigue or other symptoms?

Nodule itself is a structural problem and it does not necessarily affect the function of the thyroid. Thyroid functions in the blood are the tests needed to be checked to find out if the thyroid can be responsible for any symptoms such as weight gain and fatigue etc. Nodules however can cause symptoms of pressure such as difficulty swallowing. We usually check thyroid functions in the blood to assess the function of the thyroid.

Thank you