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Usage of Classification and Regression Tree (CART) in Cancer Thyroid Nodule Prediction

N. Abitha[1], P. Babysha[1], S. Devisri[1], Dr. S. Arunmozhi Selvi[2]

[1]*Department of Computer Science and Engineering,*
IFET College of Engineering, Villupuram, Tamilnadu, India.
[2]*Department of CS and IT, DMI - St. John the Bapist University, Malawi.*

Abstract

The thyroid gland develops solid or fluid-filled lumps. At the base of the neck, somewhere above the breastbone, is a small gland. Nodules on the thyroid gland may be solid or fluid-filled. According to most current estimates, about 99% of thyroid nodules are benign, causing no symptoms. Only a tiny percentage of cases display cancerous thyroid nodules. This chapter is intended to build a Classification and Regression Tree model that will identify the most concerning thyroid nodules as well as recommend treatment. It has a high predictive value, is repeatable, and has superior clinical utility when compared to alternative methods. Thyroid fine-needle aspiration cytology procedures were investigated while under the supervision of an ultrasound machine. The Bethesda score ranges from 1 to 6 classes based on the diagnostic category. The objective of the work was to develop a figurative value for good prognosis cancer prediction. The Bethesda score has been created by combining qualitative and quantitative indicators like gender, shape, echogenicity, margins, composition, and the nodule for echogenic foci. According to the proposed CART model, the series that leads to the majority of Bethesda 4 and 5 nodules is larger than large, extreme hypoechoic nodule. In addition, strong or predominantly robust nodules, hypoechoic or extremely hypoechoic nodules, and hypoechoic or hypoechoic nodules are all present in all Fine needle aspiration candidate countries.

Introduction

Thyroid ultrasonography is a key tool for controlling thyroid nodules since it is very sensitive, specific, and widely available. Ultrasound was first utilized to diagnose thyroid disorders in the early 1960s, with scanning in mode B and low-resolution images [1] becoming prevalent. A new technique now allows for highly detailed imaging as well as the use of fine-needle aspiration cytology if necessary (FNACs).Simultaneously, machine-based data mining enables for the more widespread extraction of decision trees and clinical algorithms[2-3]. We

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used statistical analysis to determine the most comprehensive classification and regression tree model for detecting and efficiently directing nodule treatment in that study[5].

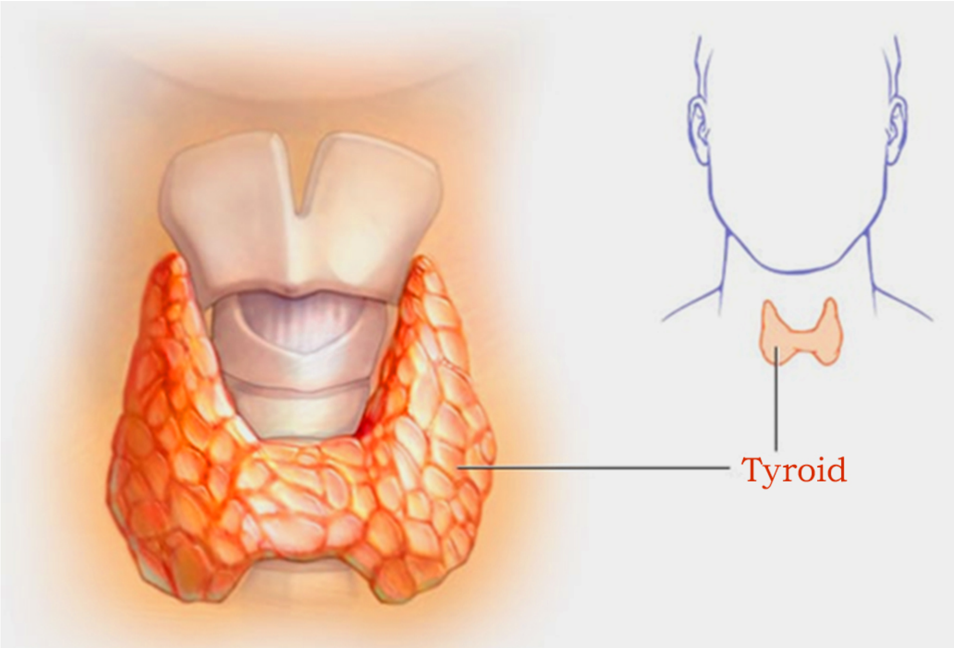

Figure 1.A schematic view of the thyroid

Materials and Method

Thyroid Nodules Maliganancy Patient Selection:

This retrospective report, which was undertaken with informed consent in a single center, was approved by the institutional review board. During this clinical examination[4] and previous ultrasound, many of our patients are referred to as ultrasound regulated thyroid nodules FNAC. FNAC targets are chosen on a routine basis premised on consensus suggestions[5] after a prominent, systematic ultrasound is conducted. This preferred approach avoids vascular structures and leads directly to the nodule, optimally via a transverse path. In accordance with our institutional rules, the patient is told about the FNAC process[6][7] and it is potential hazards, as well as given the choice to agree. An experienced thyroid ultrasound and FNAC test was carried out by a professional radiologist with more than 15 years[8][9].

Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology(FNAC)

The patient's head is somewhat hyperextended on the examination table. Depending on availability, ultrasound examinations will be performed on one of two units[10]. Two examples are the ACUSON Antares ultrasound system and the LOGIQ E9 [11] (Siemens Healthcare, Erlangen, Germany).

A high frequency, high resolution linear array sensor is used in both circumstances. First, two thyroid lobes are routinely measured for length, width and thickness, and the isthmus is made

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as big as possible. All abnormalities discovered are documented, including aberrant echo structure, nodules, and calcifications[12][13].

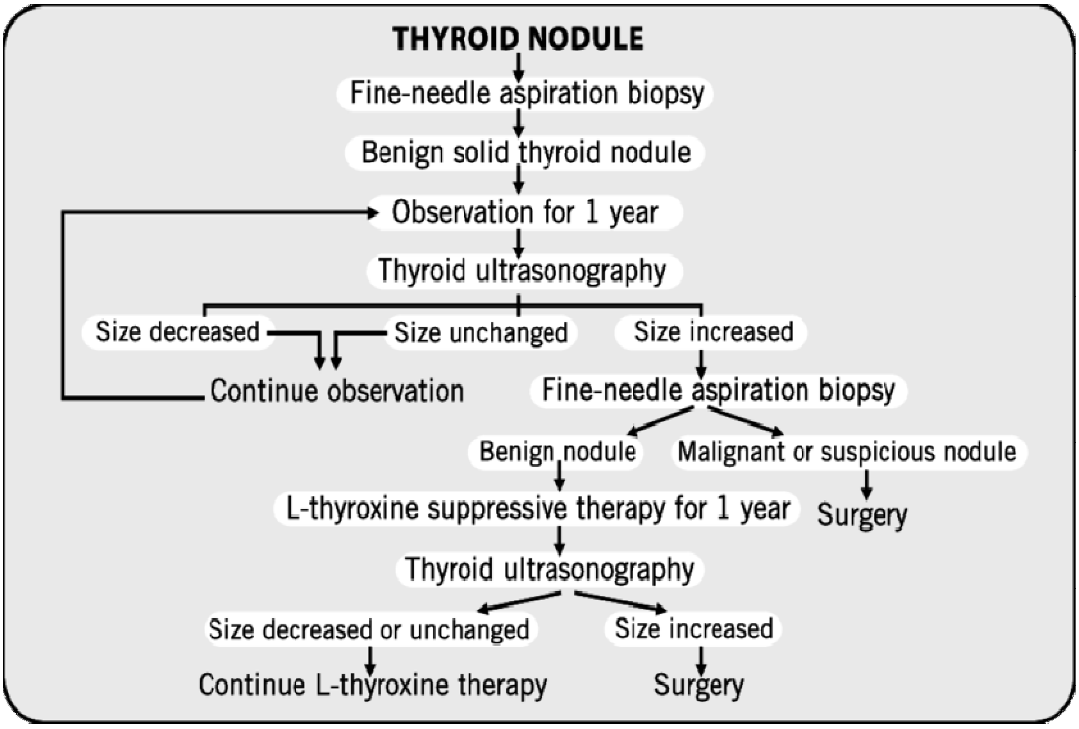

Figure 2.Stages of Thyroid nodule

The acoustic characteristics of each nodule are divided into six groups: composition, echogenicity, form, scale, margins, and echogenic focuses: Grant and his associates Separately for each nodule. The hunt for aberrant lymph nodes in the cervical lymph node regions is over[14-16]. The in-plan technique is used to visualize and monitor needle progression as well as the precision of the sampling region in real time during FNAC under ultrasound guidance. In the absence of a syringe, a simple 22 G needle keeps the Lure tip open. A little back and forward motion is performed in the nodule so that the needle can be filled with cytological material, which leads to a capillary response. Each nodule contains the material from two to three passages, half of which are made of pure alcohol in Papanicolaou and another half of which is spread over several glass slide. It is noted that pain or the formation of a hematoma may have side effects and the patient is packed with a puncture inside the place[17].

The Bethesda scoring system

A system to report and calculate the number of thyroid lesions found with fine-needle aspiration is the Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytology (TBSRTC) (FNA)[18]. The TBSRTC was established in 2007 to standardize thyroid cytology reporting terminology [19]. Thyroid cytology is a particular type of cytology in which the thyroid gland is examined. Six categories were established for the Bethesda system, each with its own set of requirements, and each category also contained a comprehensive list of criteria[20]. All benign conditions are classified as benign. Benign conditions are those that do not require testing for a diagnosis. Malignancy risk is reported for each diagnostic category in the following message.

Category I-Nondiagnostic or Unsatisfactory (ND/UNS)

Nondiagnostic specimens are also referred to as "unspecified" specimens when they are not being tested. The following characteristics can be observed in them: Their nonspecific characteristics, such as an abnormally high or low number of white blood cells (WBCs)[21], may be observed. Foamy macrophages are found in a large number of cases [22]. There is 11-20 percent of cases where TFTs reveal thyroid nodules or undecayed thyroid nodules, but the percentage should not be higher than 10 percent of TFTs. In this study, the proportion of subjects with ND/UNS was 96 percent. The repeat aspiration and ultrasound guidance recommended by the TBSRTC were carried out in these instances (Table 1).

Table 1.TBSRTC: Malignancy is a potential risk factor, with clinical management recommendations

Diagnostic category	Risk of malignancy (%)	Usual management
Nondiagnostic or unsatisfactory	1 to 4	Repeat FNA with ultrasound guidance
Benign	0 to 3	Clinical follow-up
Undetermined significance, atypia	5 to 15	Repeat FNA
Follicular neoplasm or suspicious for follicular neoplasm	15 to 30	Surgical lobectomy
Suspicious for malignancy	60 to 75	Near-total thyroidectomy or surgical lobectomy
Malignant	97 to 99	Near-total thyroidectomy

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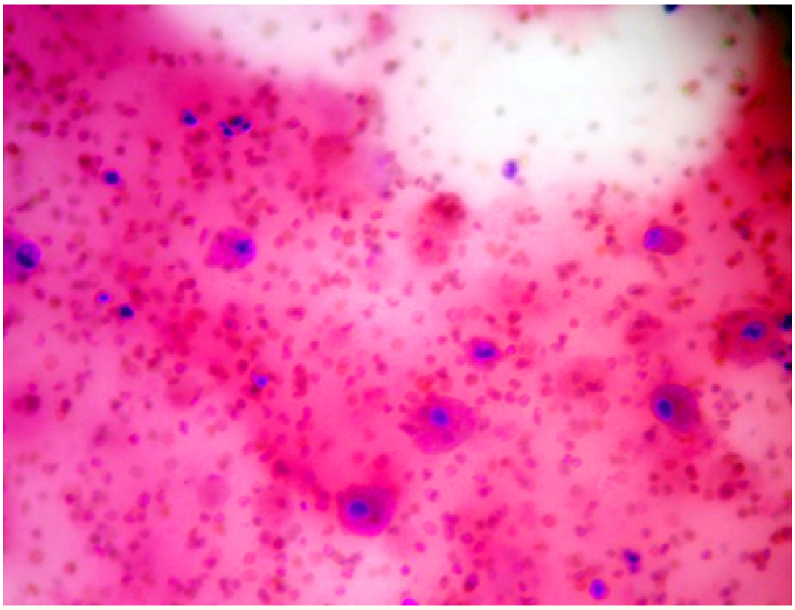

Figure 1.Cyst fluid with immune cells in TBSRTC category I (ND/UNS)

Category II-Benign

The following types of benign thyroid nodules: adenomatoid nodules, colloid nodules, and lymphocytic thyroiditis are in this category II. In this study, which appeared in the scientific journal Science, revealed that false-negative rates were minimal (2 percent)[23]. In the presence of a proper clinical context, it is "consistent with granulomatous (subacute) thyroiditis,[24]" and in the absence of a proper clinical context, it is "consistent with lymphocytic (Hashimoto's) thyroiditis" (Figure: 2).This was the category where we had the most cases, totaling 398. (70.56 percent).

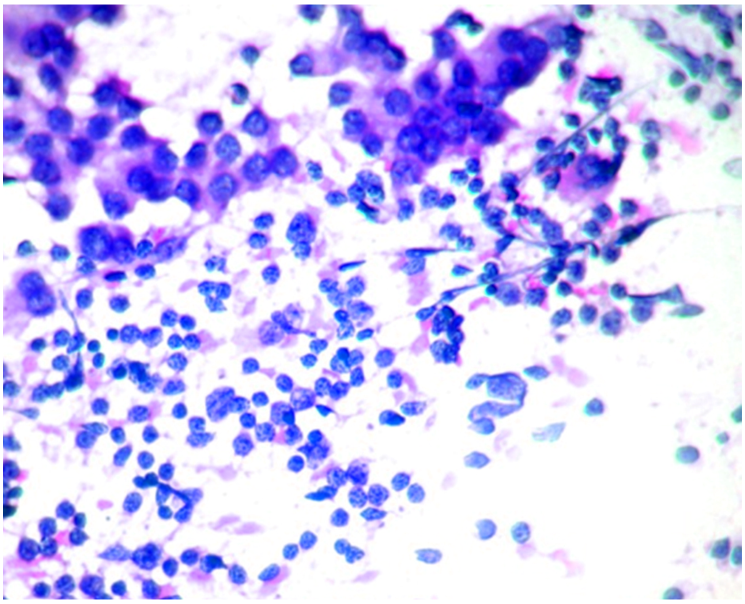

Figure 2.TBSRTC Hurthle cells with abundant pink cytoplapping and lymphocytes

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Category III-Atypia of Undetermined Significance or Follicular Lesion of Undetermined Significance (AUS/FLUS)

Oncology and virulent factor units derived from hypothyroidism are included in this category even if they do not fall into the benign, suspicious, or malignant classification categories[25]. Just as with FN and malignancy, specimens should show significant architectural atypia, but they should also show a significant difference in atypia compared to a benign change in the same region (Figure: 3). In this study, papillary carcinoma was found in 11 of the 32 patients[26], and FA was found in four more. It is estimated that this group has a 5–15 percent risk of developing cancer, and the management protocol includes performing additional FNA at least 12 months after the initial FNA in order to reduce the risk of recurrence[27].

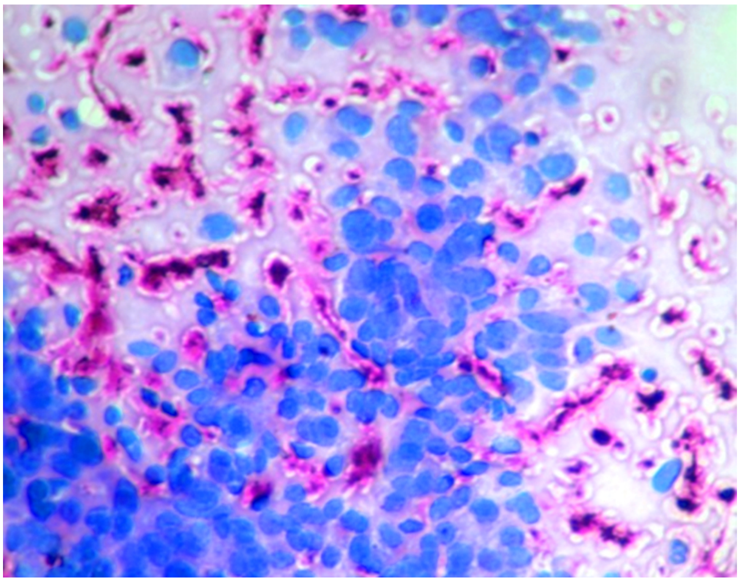

Figure 3.TBSRTC Follicular thyroid cells that have architectural and cytological atypia

Category IV-FN or Suspicious for A FN (FN/SFN)

This nodule has the potential to be a follicular carcinoma. The cytomorphology of follicular carcinomas and benign follicular nodules can distinguish them from folliculitis or FA[28]. It is possible to report them as FN or SFN. However, approximately 15–30 percent of these cases have malignant characteristics [29], with the remaining cases consisting primarily of FAs or MNG adenomatoid nodules [30]. Category IV of the TBSRTC is reserved for cases in which the follicular cell architecture has changed significantly, such as increased cell crowding, small micro follicles, disseminated isolated cells, the absence or presence of follicular fluid, or a combination of these factors (Figure 4).

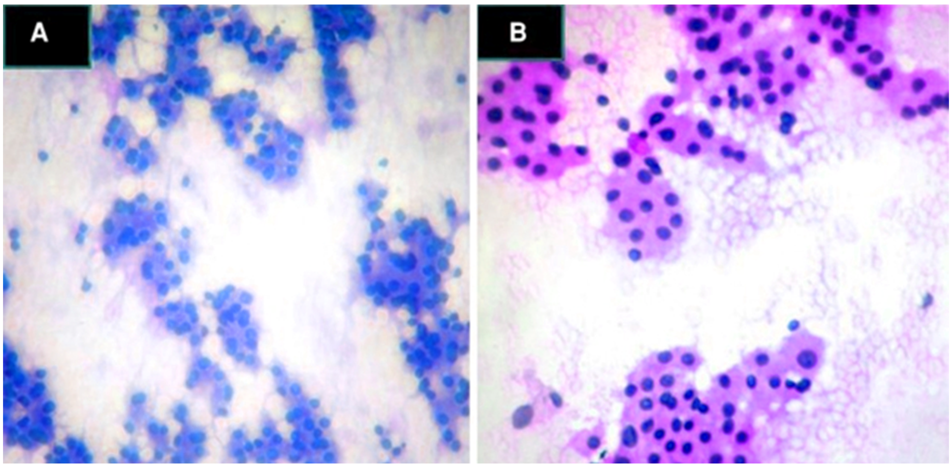

Figure 4.a. FN/SFN follicular cells in micro follicles with abundant colloid (H&E ×400), b. Hurthle cell neoplasm (H&E, ×400)

Category V-Suspicious for Malignancy

FNA is a highly effective method for diagnosing thyroid cancers, particularly PTC. However, subtle and targeted architectural and nuclear changes are prominent in some PTCs[31]. Distinguishing between a benign follicular nodule and the follicular variant is especially difficult in PTC One or two unique characteristics or a small number of cells does not suffice to establish a malignant diagnosis[32] (Figure 5) definitively. The Cases of suspected malignancy are best described as dubious. On the other hand, most of these cases (between 60% and 75%) are papillary carcinomas, while the remainder is FAs.

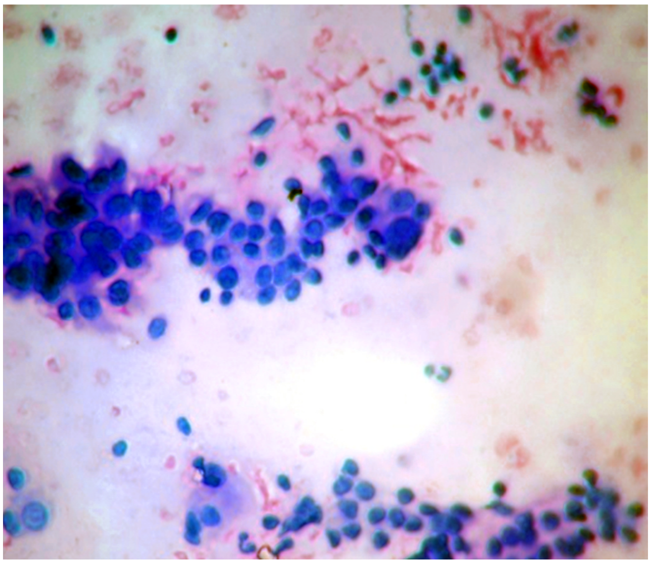

Figure 5.TBSRTC category V papillary carcinoma with focal nuclear grooving (H&E 400)

Only these sixteen individuals are affected by this condition, and they are the only ones in this category (2.6 percent). Upon histological examination, ten of these were malignant, with the remaining being a nodular goiter [33].

Category VI-Malignant

It is necessary to use the term malignant when conclusive cytomorphologic features indicate the presence of malignancy[34]. Follicular cell monolayers with distinct nuclear characteristics are described, such as larger and irregularly shaped nuclei, elongated nuclear grooves, pale nuclear membranes with powdery chromatin, and psammoma bodies (Figure. 6). A total of 16 cases (eighty percent of all papillary carcinomas) were reported in which histology was clearly associated with the development of papillary carcinomas[35].

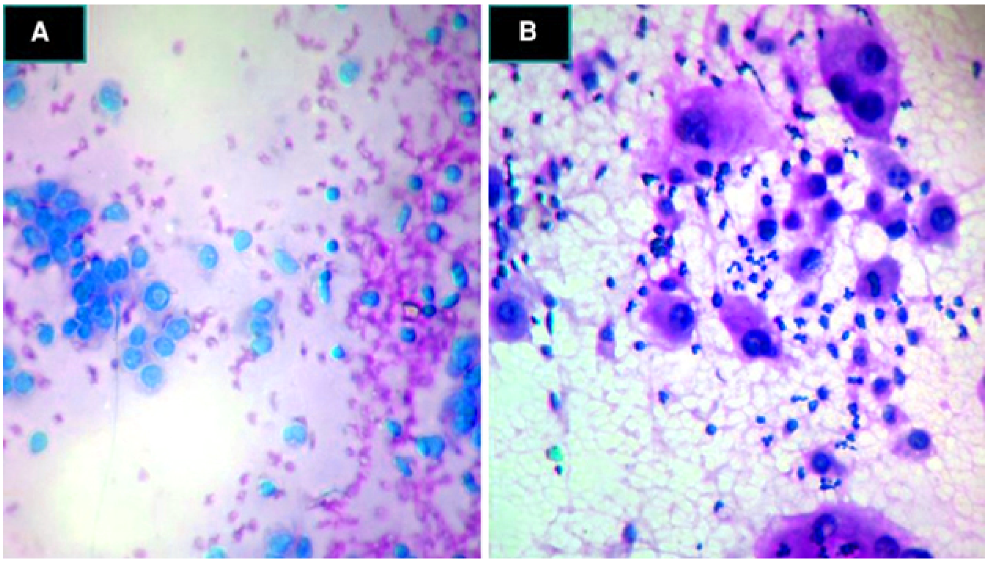

Figure 6.(a)TBSRTC-class VI located in papillae with nuclear grooves and intra-nuclear inclusions (H&E 400), (b)Anaplastic carcinoma with multiple nuclei, neutrophiliccytop lBITs, and mitotic activity (H&E ×400)

Non-Hodgkins lymphoma and squamous cell carcinoma metastases were reported in one case (5 percent) and one case of squamous cell carcinoma metastases in our study. In these cases of malignancy, the TBSRTC[36] recommends a near-total thyroidectomy.

Qualitative Variables

It was estimated that 791 FNACs were performed under the supervision of ultrasound between 2015 and 2017[37-39]. Case studies were compared retrospectively, and all information about each patient and information about the tumor nodules was reviewed. Several quantitative variables influence the qualitative characteristics of a nodule. These variables include gender, shape, echogenicity, boundary, and echogenic focus. The age of the patient as well as the maximum nodule diameter are examples of quantitative variables[40-42]. A nodule could also be examined using the Bethesda classification system, which involved examining the reports for pathology and assigning a Bethesda score to each nodule according to its location.

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Statistical Analysis

To calculate departure from normalcy, the Kolmogorov Smirnov and ShapiroWilk tests[43], as well as Quartile-Quartile maps, were utilized. If the continuous variables were not different from the assumptions of normality, they were reported as mean std dev. A median with interquartile ranges described variables that differed considerably from normalness (for example, nodule size). In this specific situation, the Box-Cox [44]power transformation was used to maximize the multivariate analysis variables. Multiple statistical tests, including the Mann-Whitney, the Kruskal-Wallis, the Jonckheere-Terpstra, and the Chi-square test, have been applied in regression analysis with standard and categorical variables. To compare continuous variables among Bethesda groups, an ANOVA[45] with linear contrasts was utilized. Bootstrapping was performed to calculate 95 percent confidence intervals based on 1000 samples. The factors were categorized in decreasing order of their predictive capacity before moving on to multivariable analysis: shape, echogenicity, margins, structure, height, and age.

Growing Method: CART

Dependent variable: Bethesda class

The independent variables were then optimised, but the variable "shape," which has a high predictive capacity, was left alone. The independent variables were then optimised, but the variable "shape," which has a high predictive capacity, was left alone. As hyperechoic and isoechoic nodules were recoded, hypoechoic and hypoechoic nodules were recoded as hypoecoic and very hypoechoic nodules. There were three groups with the variable margins. We kept the original beautiful edges. The second contained the lobbied and irregular edges, while the second contained the remaining un-defined, halo and extra-thyroid extensions. The three classifications had been identified as being mainly solid, with a significant amount of cystic content and cystic and spongiform, all with the final identification mainly being solid, with a significant amount of cystic content. As the nodule scale and age variables had already been adjusted, there was no need to recalculate the Box-Cox variables. They were then divided into two groups based on their age (less than 48 years old) and the size of the nodules. CART was utilized in multivariate analysis (Classification and Regression Trees). The Bethesda Groups 3, 4, and 5 were chosen as the target categories. For iterative segregation, the towering pattern was used and 16 groups performed cross-validation. The scales were set to 40 and 20, respectively, for parent and child nodes. To determine the maximum tree depth, three phases were used. The pattern wasn't cut at all.

Discussion

A distinct group with a high Bethesda score includes halos, irregular margins, and lobulated margins, whereas other margins have a lower Bethesda score. Echogenic focus types did not correlate with the different Bethesda classes. According to ANOVA with a specified linear comparison, the age distribution among the Bethesda groups was significantly different, indicating a negatively linear fall in the average age as the Bethesda class was increased. As indicated in the whole decision tree Figure, nodes were derived. Node 1 contains fewer groupings than Nodes 0 and 2 than Bethesda 4 and 5. In node 3, the groups Bethesda 3, 4, and 5, which have been inherited from node 1. When the nodule is larger than the total, the probabilities are greatly increased: 8.1 percent, 19.4 percent and 17.7 percent, with the exception of two cases, for all groups 3, 4, and 5 Bethesda to Node 5. Node 6 has two examples and is a non-solid composition. The third level of the decision tree aids in classification refinement. Echogenicity, which allows for the insertion of lower frequencies for the Bethesda 3, 4, as well as 5 classes, is the third condition for Node 5, which comprises a high fraction of the Bethesda 3, 4, as well as 5 classes. Comprehensive sonographic decision tree outcomes for a concentration of Bethesda groups 3, 4, and 5 nodules in the event of hypoechoic and extreme hypoechoic nodules, as shown in the Classifications and Regression Trees (CART) flow chart. According to two techniques, this decision tree has a cumulative error rate of around 30%. The chances of Bethesda class 5 for a given nodule are 2.3 percent before any criteria are applied. According to this CART study, the chances of Bethesda class five are 27.5 percent higher if the nodule is broader and has a solid and hypoechoic structure to extreme hypozoic.

Conclusion

Even with modern technology, thyroid ultrasound is the best method for finding, examining, and treating thyroid nodules. The classification and regression tree that we developed used these characteristics to evaluate Bethesda's three, four, and five-star rankings. It was found that the Bethesda game ratings of 3, 4, and 5 had a higher correlation with their overall shape than the other rating system. A robust nodule is then connected to Bethesda scores 3, 4, and 5 to make it complete. Finally, while there is no link between echo structure and Bethesda ratings. Finally, the size of the nodule has a linear negative association with Bethesda. When compared to Bethesda 4 and 5 nodules, the CART model has a larger than wide shape, a solid structure, and hypoechoic or severely hypoechoic characteristics in many cases. If the shape is wider and the solid or largely solid Nodule is stronger, people under the age of 48 are more likely to have a high Bethesda score. No other CART model research has shown the importance of an important feature, which is a more general marker for the assessment of thyroid nodule. However, our study is skewed because our patients have been chosen rather than randomly by their doctor of prescription. However, we agree that further research on the far wider characteristic can increase the specificity of thyroid cancer ultrasound.

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