



# TIP SHEET Thyroid Cancer

## What You Should Know

Your **thyroid** is a small butterfly-shaped gland in the front of your neck, slightly larger than a quarter. The thyroid produces hormones that regulate your heart rate, blood pressure, weight, body temperature, and calcium levels.

Thyroid cancer is the most rapidly increasing cancer diagnosis in the U.S., and the 5th most common cancer in women. Fortunately, survival rates are high.

## Symptoms to Tell Your Doctor

- A lump in the neck
- Trouble breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Hoarseness
- Unexplained cough

In most cases thyroid cancer can be treated effectively and patients can look forward to a normal lifespan.

**3x**  
more women than men get thyroid cancer

## ARE YOU AT RISK?

The following factors may increase your risk:

- **Age.** Between 25 and 65 years old.
- **Female gender.** Three times more women than men get thyroid cancer.
- **Radiation exposure** to the head or neck as a child, or exposure from a nuclear accident.
- **History of goiter**, an enlarged thyroid.
- **Family history**, of thyroid disease or thyroid cancer.
- **Genetic condition**, such as familial medullary thyroid cancer (FMTTC), multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2A or type 2B syndromes.
- **Asian** ethnicity.



**97.9%**  
survive  
**5 years**  
after diagnosis



## Why Roswell Park Cancer Institute?

**Leaders in the field.** The BlueCross BlueShield Association has named RPCI a Blue Distinction Center for Complex and Rare Cancers® for providing superior care for medullary and anaplastic thyroid cancer.

**High-volume center** for thyroid surgeries. Studies show patients have better outcomes at centers that perform a high number of procedures.

**Expert care for nonmalignant thyroid conditions** such as hyperthyroidism, goiter and benign thyroid nodules.

## Meet the Doctors

(above from left to right)

### Head & Neck Surgery

- 1) Hassan Arshad, MD
- 2) David Cohan, MD, FACS
- 3) Vishal Gupta, MD
- 4) Wesley Hicks Jr., MD, FACS
- 5) Moni Abraham Kuriakose, MD

### Surgical Oncology

- 6) William Cance, MD, FACS
- 7) Shicha Kumar, MD, FACS
- 8) Moshim Kukar, MD

### Radiation Oncology

- 9) Anurag Singh, MD

### Nuclear Medicine

- 10) Dominick Lamonica, MD

### Pathology

- 11) Mihai Merzianu, MD
- 12) Lourdes Ylagan, MD, FIAC

### Clinical Genetics

- 13) Nicoleta Voian, MD, MPH

## Treatment the RPCI Way

We approach cancer treatment on an individual and personal basis, treating the whole person, not just the cancer. We offer the highest level of cancer care, including:

**Multidisciplinary treatment approach** by a team of surgical, medical and radiation oncologists who specialize in thyroid cancers.

**Radioactive iodine therapy** for detection and treatment of any remaining cancer cells after thyroid surgery.

**Clinical genetics counseling.** Some rare types of thyroid cancer are due to an inherited gene mutation. Our clinical genetics team can evaluate whether you and/or your family should undergo genetic testing.

Thyroid cancer is most frequently diagnosed among women aged **45-54**

### GET A SECOND OPINION

Second opinions are important in cancer care. We can arrange for RPCI's thyroid experts to review your pathology and meet with you for a consultation. *If you seek a second opinion at RPCI, you are under no obligation to receive your care here.*