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| Title | Follicular Variant of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma |
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| Aim | We aim to show that the follicular variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma represents a true clinicopathological entity distinct from the classical form. |
| Materials & Methods | A descriptive and comparative retrospective study of 64 cases of papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) including 31 follicular variant of PTC (FVPTC) and 33 of the conventional form (CPTC). The threshold of significance for statistical tests was set at 5%. |
| Result | There was no statistically significant differences in age, sex or tumor size. The frozen section examination was less effective in the diagnosis of the follicular variant (16% versus 90% for the conventional PTC). The nuclei are enlarged in both forms. The grooves were focally observed in 32% of FVPTC and 6% of CPTC. Nuclear overlapping was absent in one third of cases of FVPTC while present in all CPTC. Nuclear pseudo-inclusions were rarely noted in the FVPTC (55% versus 79% in the CPTC). The ground glass appearance was observed in both forms. Psammoma bodies in FVPTC unlike CPTC (45%). The study of histoprognostic factors showed that multifocality was less frequently observed in the FVPTC (10%) than in the CPTC (42%). Vascular invasion was rarely observed in the FVPTC (3% versus 33% in the CPTC). The extra-thyroid extension was rarely observed in the FVPTC (6% versus 48% in the CPTC). Lymphatic dissemination was noted in 13% of FVPTC versus 58% in CPTC. Regarding the stage, there was no differences. |
| Conclusion | The follicular variant of papillary thyroid carcinoma is a clinicopathological entity that would have a better prognosis but posing diagnostic problems. |