

Audit Template

Audit Title

Quality Initiative Project assessing the impact of TIRADS on net number of thyroid biopsies and adherence of TIRADS-reporting by radiologists

Descriptor (that clarifies the title)

Does implementation of TIRADS affect the number of net biopsies done per month at our institution. As well, the adherence to TIRADS by radiologists was assessed.

Background

Incidence of thyroid nodules is high but only 5-15% are malignant. Fine-needle aspiration (FNA) is done for suspicious nodules; however, determining which nodules require FNA is challenging.

The aim of this quality assurance project was to implement a standardized thyroid imaging system (a modified version of TIRADS = Thyroid image reporting and data system). We hypothesize that consistent application of evidence-based guidelines to stratify risk of malignancy in thyroid nodules may reduce the number of FNA's.

Audit Target

100% adherence to TIRADS. A significant reduction in the number of thyroid FNA's per month.

Method (what data is collected and how it is collected)

Radiologists were encouraged to use TIRADS template reporting in early 2016 during divisional meetings, grand rounds and intrahospital conferences. A short audit was performed 3 months after starting TIRADS and feedback provided to each radiologist about adherence and discrepant interpretations. Their reports were reviewed before and after this intervention. An educational atlas was created and distributed for educational purposes.

The radiological and pathological data for each thyroid biopsy was collected.

Intervention / Action Plan / Suggestions for Change

Creating an educational atlas outlining how to use TIRADS and give examples of each characteristic. Further encourage TIRADS use through emails and through meetings and grand rounds.

Resources Required

Individual to gather the pathological and radiological data for thyroid biopsies. Individual to present at grand rounds or meetings to educate about TIRADS.

Time Required to Perform the Audit

350 hours, though this varies on the length of time chosen.

References

Haugen, B.R., Alexander, E.K., Bible, K.C., Doherty, G.M., Mandel, S.J., Nikiforov, Y.E., Pacini, F., Randolph, G.W., Sawka, A.M., Schlumberger, M., et al. (2016). 2015 American Thyroid Association Management Guidelines for Adult Patients with Thyroid Nodules and Differentiated Thyroid Cancer: The American Thyroid Association Guidelines Task Force on Thyroid Nodules and Differentiated Thyroid Cancer. *Thyroid Off. J. Am. Thyroid Assoc.* 26, 1–133.

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