

THYROIDECTOMY-NECK ULTRASOUND

Patient Prep: There is not patient prep for this exam.

Survey:

Perform a real-time survey of the thyroid bed and neck to evaluate for the presence of lymph nodes and abnormality nodules.

Use Doppler or color flow to distinguish vessels and on any abnormalities.

Image Documentation:

Each image must be labeled with the patient's full name, medical record number, accession number, initials of the imaging technologist, organ/area identification, scanning plane and patient orientation if different from supine.

General Procedure description:

1. Evaluate the thyroid bed for remnant thyroid tissue or pathology.
2. Evaluate the neck bilaterally for the presence of abnormal lymph nodes and/or nodules.
3. Evaluate the neck bilaterally for the presence of normal lymph nodes.
4. A high frequency linear transducer needs to be utilized.
5. Patient in the supine position with the neck slightly hyper extended. A pillow may be utilized to help position the neck.
6. Obtain patient history (prior cancer, thyroid surgery, thyroid meds and etc.).
7. Obtain any prior studies with report for comparison.

ABNORMAL LYMPH NODES OR PATHOLOGY:

1. Provide images of abnormal lymph node in three planes: longitudinal, transverse and anterior-posterior (AP) with and without measurements.
2. Provide images of abnormal lymph nodes in three planes: longitudinal, transverse and anterior-posterior (AP) with and without color Doppler.
3. Number abnormal lymph nodes on the images and document this corresponding number by the abnormal lymph on the worksheet.
Example the first one evaluated is #1, second one evaluate is #2 and etc.
3. Document all abnormal lymph nodes on the worksheet where they correspond in the neck.
4. Features of abnormal lymph nodes are listed below and on the worksheet.

NORMAL LYMPH NODES:

1. Provide images of normal lymph node in three planes: longitudinal, transverse and anterior-posterior (AP) with and without color Doppler.
2. Measurements are not needed for normal lymph nodes.
 3. On the bottom of the worksheet provide the number of normal lymph nodes at each level bilaterally.

SUSPICIOUS FEATURES OF ABNORMAL LYMPH NODES:

1. Calcifications
2. Cystic areas
3. Absence of central fatty hilum
4. Round shape (>0.5 short/long ratio)
5. Abnormal blood flow pattern