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**CLINICAL AND LABORATORY EVALUATION SOLITARY THYROID NODULES**

**A b s t r a c t :** Solitary thyroid nodules are a common and important clinical problem. The estimated lifetime risk for developing a nodule in nonendemic population is between 4% and 7%. Although thyroid nodules are common, relatively few are carcinomas. As a general rule, between 5% and 15% of clinically detectable solitary hypofunctioning thyroid nodules prove to be thyroid carcinomas after appropriate evaluation and follow-up. Some information that can be obtained by history and physical examination is useful in determining the likelihood that a thyroid nodule is malignant. The laboratory evaluation of a patient with a solitary thyroid nodule is expensive, and includes several serum functional measurements, thyroid ultrasonography, radionuclide scan and FNA biopsy. Herewith we suggest a scheme for rational evaluation of thyroid nodule patients.

**Key words:** solitary thyroid nodule, evaluation, clinical evaluation, laboratory evaluation, ultrasonography, thyroid scan, FNA.