

## **SOME DESCRIPTIVE AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MALIGNANT TUMOURS OF THE THYROID GLAND**

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### **A b s t r a c t:**

Malignant tumors of thyroid gland are most frequent primary site, after ovary cancer, of all cancers of endocrine system. International Agency for Cancer Research estimated that yearly in the world has been diagnosed approximately 123 000 of new cases of thyroid cancer and died 26 000, 2/3 from non developed countries. Thyroid cancer can occur in any age group, although it is most common after age 30, frequently between age 40-65. Females are more likely to have thyroid cancer at a ratio of 3:1. High incidence rate of thyroid cancer in Europe has been registered on Island, inspite of low incidence rate in Spain, Great Britain and in Balkan countries. During the year 2000, in the Republic of Serbia, the highest rates were in Belgrade and Severnbacki region, and the lowest in Toplicki region. In the past decade incidence rates of thyroid cancer arise for almost 60%. Since year 1985 untill 2000 in Serbia mortality rates of thyroid cancer arise in females approximately 70%, but in males it has not been registered arise in mortality rates. The most common age group in which we have noticed high mortality rates of thyroid cancer were 50-79. Almost 90% of all thyroid cancers were pathohistologically verify, 1.8% as carcinoma in situ, half of all as localised, but 37% patients were diagnosed with lymphnode or distant metastasis. Metastasis, regional and distant, frequently occur in medullary and/or anaplastic cancer of thyroid gland.

**Key words:** epidemiology, cancer, thyroid gland