

Exploring Variations in Thyroid Surgery: A Survey of Hospital Practices

SICE Research Group on Endocrine and Metabolic Surgery

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Introduction

Dear Colleague,

on behalf of the Italian Society for Endoscopic Surgery (SICE) we are conducting a survey to understand how different hospitals manage thyroid surgery. The resulting data will inform a future multicenter study aimed at improving patient care and recovery outcomes.

By participating in this survey (estimated time: 5-7 minutes), you will share your expertise on the different approaches used for thyroid surgery, including the setting (ambulatory, one-day, or standard care) and performance outcomes.

All responses will be kept confidential. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

The Research Group on Endocrine and Metabolic Surgery of the Italian Society of Endoscopic Surgery (SICE)

<https://siceitalia.com/comitati-di-ricerca/>

Demographics

2. What is your gender? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Non binary

☐ Prefer not to say

3. What is your age? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ 25 – 34

☐ 35 – 44

☐ 45 – 54

☐ >54

4. Have you completed your formal surgical training? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. In which country are you primarily practicing surgery? *

⌵ Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Afghanistan
- ☐ Akrotiri
- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Algeria
- ☐ American Samoa
- ☐ Andorra
- ☐ Angola
- ☐ Anguilla
- ☐ Antarctica
- ☐ Antigua and Barbuda
- ☐ Argentina
- ☐ Armenia
- ☐ Aruba
- ☐ Ashmore and Cartier Islands
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Azerbaijan
- ☐ Bahamas, The
- ☐ Bahrain
- ☐ Bangladesh
- ☐ Barbados
- ☐ Bassas da India
- ☐ Belarus
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Belize
- ☐ Benin
- ☐ Bermuda
- ☐ Bhutan
- ☐ Bolivia
- ☐ Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ☐ Botswana
- ☐ Bouvet Island
- ☐ Brazil
- ☐ British Indian Ocean Territory
- ☐ British Virgin Islands
- ☐ Brunei
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Burkina Faso
- ☐ Burma
- ☐ Burundi
- ☐ Cambodia
- ☐ Cameroon
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ Cape Verde
- ☐ Cayman Islands
- ☐ Central African Republic
- ☐ Chad
- ☐ Chile
- ☐ China
- ☐ Christmas Island
- ☐ Clipperton Island
- ☐ Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- ☐ Colombia
- ☐ Comoros
- ☐ Congo, Democratic Republic of the
- ☐ Congo, Republic of the
- ☐ Cook Islands
- ☐ Coral Sea Islands
- ☐ Costa Rica
- ☐ Cote d'Ivoire
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cuba
- ☐ Cyprus

- ☐ Czech Republic
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Dhekelia
- ☐ Djibouti
- ☐ Dominica
- ☐ Dominican Republic
- ☐ Ecuador
- ☐ Egypt
- ☐ El Salvador
- ☐ Equatorial Guinea
- ☐ Eritrea
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Ethiopia
- ☐ Europa Island
- ☐ Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)
- ☐ Faroe Islands
- ☐ Fiji
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France
- ☐ French Guiana
- ☐ French Polynesia
- ☐ French Southern and Antarctic Lands
- ☐ Gabon
- ☐ Gambia, The
- ☐ Gaza Strip
- ☐ Georgia
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Ghana
- ☐ Gibraltar
- ☐ Glorioso Islands
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Greenland
- ☐ Grenada

- ☐ Guadeloupe
- ☐ Guam
- ☐ Guatemala
- ☐ Guernsey
- ☐ Guinea
- ☐ Guinea-Bissau
- ☐ Guyana
- ☐ Haiti
- ☐ Heard Island and McDonald Islands
- ☐ Holy See (Vatican City)
- ☐ Honduras
- ☐ Hong Kong
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Iceland
- ☐ India
- ☐ Indonesia
- ☐ Iran
- ☐ Iraq
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Isle of Man
- ☐ Israel
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Jamaica
- ☐ Jan Mayen
- ☐ Japan
- ☐ Jersey
- ☐ Jordan
- ☐ Juan de Nova Island
- ☐ Kazakhstan
- ☐ Kenya
- ☐ Kiribati
- ☐ Korea, North
- ☐ Korea, South

- ☐ Kuwait
- ☐ Kyrgyzstan
- ☐ Laos
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lebanon
- ☐ Lesotho
- ☐ Liberia
- ☐ Libya
- ☐ Liechtenstein
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Macau
- ☐ Macedonia
- ☐ Madagascar
- ☐ Malawi
- ☐ Malaysia
- ☐ Maldives
- ☐ Mali
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Marshall Islands
- ☐ Martinique
- ☐ Mauritania
- ☐ Mauritius
- ☐ Mayotte
- ☐ Mexico
- ☐ Micronesia, Federated States of
- ☐ Moldova
- ☐ Monaco
- ☐ Mongolia
- ☐ Montenegro
- ☐ Montserrat
- ☐ Morocco
- ☐ Mozambique

- ☐ Namibia
- ☐ Nauru
- ☐ Navassa Island
- ☐ Nepal
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ Netherlands Antilles
- ☐ New Caledonia
- ☐ New Zealand
- ☐ Nicaragua
- ☐ Niger
- ☐ Nigeria
- ☐ Niue
- ☐ Norfolk Island
- ☐ Northern Mariana Islands
- ☐ Norway
- ☐ Oman
- ☐ Pakistan
- ☐ Palau
- ☐ Panama
- ☐ Papua New Guinea
- ☐ Paracel Islands
- ☐ Paraguay
- ☐ Peru
- ☐ Philippines
- ☐ Pitcairn Islands
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Puerto Rico
- ☐ Qatar
- ☐ Reunion
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Russia
- ☐ Rwanda

- ☐ Saint Helena
- ☐ Saint Kitts and Nevis
- ☐ Saint Lucia
- ☐ Saint Pierre and Miquelon
- ☐ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- ☐ Samoa
- ☐ San Marino
- ☐ Sao Tome and Principe
- ☐ Saudi Arabia
- ☐ Senegal
- ☐ Serbia
- ☐ Seychelles
- ☐ Sierra Leone
- ☐ Singapore
- ☐ Slovakia
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Solomon Islands
- ☐ Somalia
- ☐ South Africa
- ☐ South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Spratly Islands
- ☐ Sri Lanka
- ☐ Sudan
- ☐ Suriname
- ☐ Svalbard
- ☐ Swaziland
- ☐ Sweden
- ☐ Switzerland
- ☐ Syria
- ☐ Taiwan
- ☐ Tajikistan
- ☐ Tanzania

- ☐ Thailand
- ☐ Timor-Leste
- ☐ Togo
- ☐ Tokelau
- ☐ Tonga
- ☐ Trinidad and Tobago
- ☐ Tromelin Island
- ☐ Tunisia
- ☐ Turkey
- ☐ Turkmenistan
- ☐ Turks and Caicos Islands
- ☐ Tuvalu
- ☐ Uganda
- ☐ Ukraine
- ☐ United Arab Emirates
- ☐ United Kingdom
- ☐ United States
- ☐ Uruguay
- ☐ Uzbekistan
- ☐ Vanuatu
- ☐ Venezuela
- ☐ Vietnam
- ☐ Virgin Islands
- ☐ Wake Island
- ☐ Wallis and Futuna
- ☐ West Bank
- ☐ Western Sahara
- ☐ Yemen
- ☐ Zambia
- ☐ Zimbabwe

6. Which of the following defines your working place? (multiple choices allowed) *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ University/Academic hospital
- ☐ Endocrine surgery referral center
- ☐ District hospital
- ☐ Community hospital
- ☐ Private practice

7. How many thyroid surgeries do you annually perform? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Less than 25
- ☐ Between 26 and 50
- ☐ Between 51 and 100
- ☐ More than 100

8. Do you routinely perform only thyroid or endocrine surgery? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

9. Which of the following types of thyroid surgery do you typically offer in your practice? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Day surgery (patient discharged within 24 hours)
- ☐ Overnight stay (patient admitted and discharged within 1-2 days)
- ☐ Traditional inpatient stay (patient admitted and discharged after several days)

10. Is ultrasound routinely used in your hospital to assess patients before thyroid surgery? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, I personally perform ultrasounds on my patients before surgery
- ☐ Yes, they are usually performed by a trained Radiologist/Ultrasound technician
- ☐ No, only in selected cases

11. Do you always perform a preoperative assessment of vocal cord function in your thyroid surgery patients? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, mirror laryngoscopy
- ☐ Yes, Flexible Fiberoptic Laryngoscopy
- ☐ Yes, Rigid Transoral Laryngoscopy
- ☐ Yes, Stroboscopy
- ☐ No, only in selected cases

Intraoperative management

12. Do you routinely perform intraoperative nerve monitoring (IONM) during thyroid surgery? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes *Skip to question 13*
- ☐ No *Skip to question 14*

Intraoperative management (with IONM)

13. Which method(s) do you typically use for nerve monitoring during thyroid surgery? (Select all that apply): *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Intermittent intraoperative neural monitoring (I-IONM)
- ☐ Continuous intraoperative neuromonitoring (C-IONM) with Automatic Periodic Stimulation (APS) electrode
- ☐ Other: _____

Intraoperative management (without IONM)

14. What factors influence your decision not to routinely use intraoperative nerve monitoring (IONM) during thyroid surgery? (Select all that apply): *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Concerns about increased operative time: IONM can add time to the surgery.
- ☐ Cost considerations: IONM equipment and consumables may contribute to higher surgical costs.
- ☐ Uncertainties about its effectiveness: The evidence supporting IONM's impact on safety in all thyroid surgery cases remains inconclusive.
- ☐ Limited access to equipment: My institution or practice lacks the necessary equipment for IONM.
- ☐ Institutional or personal preference: My colleagues or I have reservations about its routine use in all cases.
- ☐ Other: _____

Surgery

15. What is your preferred hemostasis method for the thyroid blood vessels? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Suture-ligations
- ☐ Hemostatic Clips
- ☐ Electrocautery (monopolar or bipolar)
- ☐ Focus Harmonic Scalpel
- ☐ Ligasure Small Jaw
- ☐ Ligasure Exact
- ☐ Thunderbeat

16. In your practice, which of the following methods do you typically use for additional hemostasis or prior to closing the surgical site in thyroid surgery? (Select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Hemostatic absorbable gauze (e.g., Surgicel, Spongostan, Fibrillar)
- ☐ Hydroxylated polyvinyl acetal tampons (e.g., Meroceel)
- ☐ Fibrin glue
- ☐ Absorbable collagen
- ☐ Collagen and thrombin gelatine granules
- ☐ None of the above: I do not use any additional methods beyond standard surgical techniques for hemostasis in most cases.
- ☐ Other: _____

17. Which minimally invasive approaches do you utilize for thyroid surgery? (Select all that apply): *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Minimally invasive video-assisted thyroidectomy (MIVAT)
- ☐ Distant access techniques (e.g., axillary approach, periareolar, sublcavicular)
- ☐ Robotic thyroid surgery
- ☐ Transoral endoscopic thyroidectomy vestibular approach (TOETVA)
- ☐ None of the above

18. Do you routinely place a drain when performing a thyroid lobectomy? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Occasionally

19. Do you place a drain when performing a total thyroidectomy *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Occasionally

Length of Hospital Stay after Thyroid Surgery

20. Please select the typical length of hospital stay for your patients after **Hemi-thyroidectomy** *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Day surgery
☐ One-day surgery (Overnight stay)
☐ More than one day

21. Please select the typical length of hospital stay for your patients after **total thyroidectomy** *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Day surgery
☐ One-day surgery (Overnight stay)
☐ 2 days
☐ 3 days or more

22. If you selected more than one day for either procedure, please select all reasons why you might keep a patient overnight: *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Monitor for hematoma formation
- ☐ Monitor for bleeding risks
- ☐ Observe for signs of hypocalcemia
- ☐ Lack of social support at home
- ☐ Concerned about potential risks that might outweigh the benefits of early discharge
- ☐ Appreciate the desire for shorter hospital stays, but prioritize patient safety and recovery above all else
- ☐ Value the opinion of others who believe in early discharge, but currently have different perspectives based on my experience and understanding.

23. As part of your standard post-operative care for thyroid surgery patients, do you perform a flexible laryngoscopy? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, routinely before discharge
- ☐ Yes, routinely at the first postoperative clinic visit
- ☐ Yes but only after total thyroidectomy
- ☐ Yes but only occasionally
- ☐ No, I do not perform routine flexible laryngoscopy after thyroid surgery

Ambulatory & One-day surgery (overnight stay)

24. What proportion of thyroid surgeries are performed as day surgery in your practice each year? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ We do not offer day-surgery for thyroid operations
- ☐ Less than 10%
- ☐ 10-20%
- ☐ 21-60%
- ☐ More than 70%

25. What proportion of thyroid surgeries are performed as one-day surgery in your practice each year? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ We do not offer one-day surgery for thyroid operations
- ☐ Less than 10%
- ☐ 10-20%
- ☐ 21-60%
- ☐ More than 70%

26. Do you offer same-day discharge or overnight stay (One-day surgery) for any specific types of thyroid surgery for benign indications? (Check all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Thyroid lobectomy
- ☐ Total thyroidectomy
- ☐ Parathyroidectomy
- ☐ No, I do not offer same-day discharge or overnight stay (One-day surgery)

27. Do you offer same-day discharge or overnight stay (One-day surgery) for any specific types of thyroid surgery for oncologic indications? (Check all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Thyroid lobectomy
- ☐ Total thyroidectomy
- ☐ Parathyroidectomy
- ☐ No, I do not offer same-day discharge or overnight stay (One-day surgery)

28. In case of same-day discharge or overnight stay cases, do you routinely use drains? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Only in selected cases

Thank you for participating in our survey!

We appreciate you taking the time to share your insights. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our research, please visit our website at <https://siceitalia.com/>

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