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Role of oncologists in management of thyroid malignancies

Thyroid cancer is managed by various specialists, especially surgeons, oncologists, nuclear medicine specialists, endocrinologists in different parts of the world. The primary treatment is usually by surgery, which is curative and also gives information on the histology, pathological details such as margins, lymph node metastases, extrathyroidal extensions, multi-focal disease. These all help to guide subsequent treatments.

An oncologist is a specialist working on cancers. Oncologists in Hong Kong are trained to treat all solid cancers. They are knowledgeable on cancer etiology, prognosis, treatment modalities and even palliative care.

Thyroid cancer is a rare endocrine cancer. The prognosis is excellent. But poor management can lead to disastrous outcome, even in early staged cancer. An oncologist should be equipped with full scale knowledge on different stages of disease. As there is very great advances on molecular medicine and targeted treatment, patients with advanced thyroid cancer can have very good outcome and palliation. Oncologists give sensible advice in a specialists' team. As an oncologist working on this specialty for over 35 years, I will talk on how oncologist can contribute to the best outcome on these patients.

周倩明

临床肿瘤学专家

肿瘤科医生在甲状腺恶性肿瘤管理中发挥的作用

世界上的不同区域，甲状腺癌由不同的专科医师治疗，尤其是外科医生、肿瘤科医生、核医学医生以及内分泌医生。手术通常是主要治疗手段，手术可以治愈，还可以提供有关组织学和病理学详细的信息，例如边缘、淋巴结转移、甲状腺外扩散、多病灶疾病。这些都有助于指导后续的治疗。肿瘤学家是研究癌症的专家。香港的肿瘤科医生接受过全面的癌症治疗的培训。他们对癌症的病因、预后、治疗方式甚至姑息治疗都很了解。

甲状腺癌是一种罕见的内分泌癌。它的预后很好。但处理不当会导致灾难性的结果，即使是在早期癌症中也是如此。肿瘤学家应该具备关于疾病不同阶段的全面知识。由于分子医学和靶向治疗的巨大进步，晚期甲状腺癌患者可以有很好的预后和姑息治疗。

肿瘤科医生在专家团队中提供合理的建议。作为一名从事该专业工作超过35年的肿瘤专家，我将讨论肿瘤科医生如何帮助患者达到最佳预后。