

A report for
Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein/Campus Kiel
on shared decision making
for unifocal functional autonomy (UFA, hot node) of
the thyroid: surgery or radioiodine therapy
Overview of identified evidence



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November 2020

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1. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

A key aim of the research project “Making SDM a reality” is to inform patients as part of shared decision making (SDM).

To support this, Kleijnen Systematic Reviews (KSR) Ltd aimed to prepare a full evidence report with a synthesis of the evidence of the relevant treatment options (surgery or radioiodine therapy) for the topic “unifocal functional autonomy (UFA, hot node) of the thyroid”.

However, as decided in the phone conference on 29 October 2020, the project was stopped due to a lack of relevant, good quality evidence. This document provides an overview of the identified evidence.

2. METHODS

2.1 INCLUSION CRITERIA

The research question underpinning the literature searches for this topic was developed in conjunction with clinical departments at Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein/Campus Kiel. The question was framed in terms of participants, intervention, comparators, outcomes, and study design (PICOS), see Table 1.

Table 1: Inclusion and exclusion criteria

	Included	Excluded
Population	Adult Patients with unifocal functional autonomy (UFA) of the thyroid (hot node)	Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers; Patients with other contraindications to either treatment
Intervention	Surgery (total, subtotal or near-total thyroidectomy), extent depending on disease severity	
Comparator	Radioiodine therapy	
Outcomes	• Hyperthyroidism • Euthyroidism • Time to resolution • Length of hospital stay • Relapse of disease • Quality of life • Adverse events, including anaesthesia-related complications, risk of bleeding, risk of infections, and risk of wound healing problems	
Study design	Systematic reviews, health technology assessments (HTAs) and guidelines; non-systematic reviews*; primary research including randomised controlled trials (RCTs), CCTs, cohort studies*	
* to be considered if evidence from systematic reviews/CPGs is scarce		

2.2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Five FAQs were defined, as defined below.

FAQ 1: What does the treatment involve?

Include a description of the treatment options, including information about how radioactive iodine is administered and length of hospital stay if having surgery. FAQ1 will also include a description of how the treatment option choice might impact daily life (e.g., need to take lifelong thyroid replacement therapy for both the radioiodine therapy and surgery options). In addition, for radioiodine option, the description will include whether the intervention is radioactive and any associated precautions or contraindications. For surgery option, the description will include time to return to work and usual activities.

FAQ 2: Will my high thyroid state go away?

Outcome of interest is rate of resolution of hyperthyroidism and time to resolution.

FAQ 3: Will my high thyroid state come back?

Outcome of interest is relapse of disease, defined as recurrence of hyperthyroidism one dose of radioiodine or thyroidectomy surgery.

FAQ 4: Will my quality of life change?

Outcome of interest is quality of life.

FAQ 5: What are the risks?

Outcomes of interest differ depending on treatment option:

- For radioiodine therapy, risks that will be assessed include acute thyroiditis and secondary malignancy.
- For surgery, complications that will be assessed include hypocalcemia due to permanent hypoparathyroidism and laryngeal nerve injury.

2.3 LITERATURE SEARCHES

Literature searches were conducted to identify systematic reviews and guidelines on surgery and radioiodine therapy for UFA of the thyroid.

The search strategies were developed specifically for each database and the keywords adapted according to the configuration of each database. Searches were limited by date range for systematic reviews and guidelines to 2015-2020. Searches were not limited by language or publication status.

Search sources

Systematic reviews and guidelines

The following systematic review/health technology assessment (HTA) specific databases were searched on 19 August 2020 from 2015 to the most recent date available:

- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) (Wiley): Issue 8 of 12, August 2020
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) (CRD): 2015 to 31 Mar 2015
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA) database (CRD): 2015 to 31 Mar 2018
- INAHTA International HTA database (<https://database.inahta.org/>): 2015 to 19 August 2020
- KSR Evidence (Internet) (<https://ksrevidence.com/>): 2015 to 19 August 2020
- Epistemonikos (Internet) (<https://www.epistemonikos.org/>): 2015 to 19 August 2020

The following guidelines resources were searched on 19 August 2020 from 2015 to the most recent date available:

- NICE Guidance (Internet) (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>): to 19 August 2020
- ECRI Guidelines Trust (Internet) (<https://guidelines.ecri.org/>): to 19 August 2020
- NICE Evidence (Internet) (www.evidence.nhs.uk/): to 19 August 2020
- Guidelines International Network (GIN) (Internet) (<https://www.g-i-n.net/home>): to 19 August 2020

Full details of all search strategies are presented in Appendix 1.

Handling of citations

Identified references from the bibliographic database searches were downloaded into EndNote bibliographic management software for further assessment and handling.

Supplementary searches

In addition to the formal searches documented above, a targeted search was conducted to identify studies specifically about shared decision making in surgery or radioiodine therapy for UFA of the thyroid.

The following databases were searched on 19 August 2020 from 2015 to the most recent date available:

- Embase (Ovid): 2015 - 2020/8/18
- MEDLINE and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Daily Update (Ovid): 2015 - 2020/8/18
- Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Wiley): Issue 8 of 12, August 2020

Full details of the search strategies used for this targeted search are presented in Appendix 1.

A further set of searches was carried out in order to identify studies related to UFA of the thyroid which were conducted using any study design.

The following databases were searched on 1 September 2020 from 2015 to the most recent date available:

- Embase (Ovid): 2015 - 2020/8/31
- MEDLINE and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Daily Update (Ovid): 2015 - 2020/8/31

Full details of the search strategies used for this targeted search are presented in Appendix 1.

Reviewers also conducted internet searches to identify other potentially relevant references, e.g. guidance specific to Germany and websites of patient organisations. The bibliographies of included studies and review articles were also checked for additional relevant articles.

2.4 METHODS OF STUDY SELECTION, QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND DATA EXTRACTION

Study selection

A stepwise approach was used to identify the most recent and relevant evidence. Two reviewers independently screened the title and abstract of each record identified by the search and determined the potential relevance of each record. For potentially relevant records, the full paper was obtained, independently checked by two reviewers, and inclusion criteria applied. Any disagreements were resolved through discussion.

An evidence hierarchy was used to select the most appropriate study(ies) to populate the evidence tables. Where more than one study could provide evidence, the most relevant studies were selected using the following criteria: recency (most recent preferred), quality (highest quality preferred), representativeness (populations representative of the general target population preferred). Where there were gaps in the evidence (no systematic review or guideline available), it was agreed to include and extract evidence from non- systematic reviews and high-quality primary evidence (RCTs).

Data extraction

For studies which required data extraction, data were extracted by one reviewer and checked by another. Any disagreements were resolved by consensus.

3. RESULTS

Searches were conducted in August 2020 to identify systematic reviews, health technology assessments or evidence-based guidelines. A total of 677 records were retrieved from the literature searches and a web-site. After removal of duplicate records, 488 titles and abstracts were screened by two reviewers, see appendix 1.

After screening, 90 records were selected for further assessment from which 15 (reporting on 14 studies) were selected as potentially meeting the inclusion criteria.

As detailed in Table 2, the evidence of identified studies was not specific to the population of interest or the study design was not very robust. After a discussion whether to proceed based on the identified evidence, it was decided to stop the development of this evidence report.

Table 2: Overview of identified evidence

	Population	Intervention(s)	Study Design	Comment
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Thyroid disease: assessment and management. NICE guideline [NG145] [Internet]. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2019 [accessed 19.8.20] Available from: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng145	Thyroid disease	Various	CPG	NICE guideline, see recommendations 1.6.15 to 1.6.17
Gharib H, Papini E, Garber JR, Duick DS, Harrell RM, Hegedüs L, et al. American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, American College of Endocrinology, and Associazione Medici Endocrinologi medical guidelines for clinical practice for the diagnosis and management of thyroid nodules - 2016 update. <i>Endocr Pract</i> 2016;22(5):1-60.	Thyroid nodules	Various	CPG	US American guideline, see recommendation 7.2.6
Wong R, Farrell SG, Grossmann M. Thyroid nodules: diagnosis and management. <i>Med J Aust</i> 2018;209(2):92-98.	Thyroid nodules	Various	Narrative review	First paragraph of "Management of thyroid nodules" with recommendation on radioactive iodine
Ahmad T, Khoja A, Rashid NH, Ashfaq MA. Outcome of radioactive iodine therapy in Toxic Nodular Goiter in Pakistan. <i>Pak J Med Sci</i> 2018;34(5):1146-1151.	Toxic nodular goitre	Radioactive iodine	Single-centre cohort	89 participants in Pakistan
Saki H, Cengiz A, Yurekli Y. Effectiveness of Radioiodine Treatment for Toxic Nodular Goiter. <i>Molecular Imaging and Radionuclide Therapy</i> 2015;24(3):100-4.	Toxic nodular goitre	Radioactive iodine	Single-centre, retrospective	233 participants in Turkey
Biondi B, Bartalena L, Cooper DS, Hegedus L, Laurberg P, Kahaly GJ. The 2015 European Thyroid Association Guidelines on Diagnosis and Treatment of Endogenous Subclinical Hyperthyroidism. <i>European Thyroid Journal</i> 2015;4(3):149-63.	Endogenous subclinical hyperthyroidism	Various	CPG	European guideline, see recommendation 30
Tajiri J, Maruta T, Hamada K, Mizokami T, Higashi K. Radioiodine for patients with autonomously functioning thyroid nodules with a normal TSH level. <i>Eur J Clin Invest</i> 2015;45(9):1003.	Autonomously functioning thyroid nodules	Radioactive iodine	Letter describing case series	Description of 13 participants
Querat C, Germain N, Dumollard JM, Estour B, Peoc'h M, Prades JM. Surgical management of hyperthyroidism. <i>Eur Ann Otorhinolaryngol Head Neck Dis</i> 2015;132(2):63-6.	Hyperthyroidism	Surgery	Single-centre, retrospective	200 participants in France
Chakraborty D, Damle NA, Bal C, Prabhu M, Prasanth A, Reddy KS, et al. Efficacy of radioactive iodine therapy in hyperthyroidism of the elderly. <i>Indian J Nucl Med</i> 2018.	Hyperthyroidism	Radioactive iodine	Single-centre, retrospective	Conference abstract, 37 participants in India

	Population	Intervention(s)	Study Design	Comment
Adamczewski Z, Makarewicz J, Kusmierk J, Adamczewska M, Jarek P. Assessment of the results of 131I radioiodine therapy in patients with autonomously functioning thyroid nodules. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging 2019;Conference: 32nd Annual Congress of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, EANM 2019. Spain. 46(1 Supplement 1):S654.	Autonomously functioning thyroid nodules	Radioactive iodine	Unclear: Single-centre, retrospective?	Conference abstract, 202 participants in Poland
Lacic M. Radionuclide therapy in patients with autonomously functioning thyroid nodules and normal TSH blood level. Thyroid 2018;Conference: 88th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association. United States. 28(Supplement 1):A51-A52. Lacic M. Evaluation of the I-131 therapy in patients with autonomously functioning thyroid nodules and normal TSH level. Thyroid 2017;Conference: 87th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association. Canada. 27(Supplement 1):A52.	Autonomously functioning thyroid nodules	Radioactive iodine	Single-centre. Retrospective?	Conference abstract, 67 participants in Croatia
Abdelrazek SS, Szumowski P, Sykala M, Polak A, Mysliwiec J. The long term effect after 10 years of radioiodine therapy in patient with subclinical hyperthyroidism. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging 2017;Conference: 30th Annual Congress of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, EANM 2017. Austria. 44(2 Supplement 1):S784-S785.	Subclinical hyperthyroidism	Radioactive iodine	Single-centre. Retrospective?	Conference abstract, 920 participants in Poland
Ricci M, Montesano T, Ronga G, Ullo M, Sollaku S, Liberatore M. Volumetric changes of thyroid hot nodules after 131I therapy. Clinical and Translational Imaging 2017;Conference: 13th National Congress of the Italian Association of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, AIMN 2017. Italy. 5(Supplement 1):S62-S63.	Autonomously functioning thyroid nodules	Radioactive iodine	Single-centre. Retrospective?	Conference abstract, 114 participants in Italy
Campenni A, Amato E, Mure M, Gangemi V, Bertia M, Cucinotta M, et al. Middle-term outcome and safety of hyperthyroid patients treated with calculated activity of radioiodine. Clinical and Translational Imaging 2015;Conference: 12th National Congress of the Italian Association of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, AIMN 2015. Rimini Italy. Conference Publication:(var.pagings). 3 (SUPPL. 1):S120.	Hyperthyroidism	Radioactive iodine	Unclear: Single-centre, retrospective?	Conference abstract, 69 participants in Italy

APPENDIX 1: SEARCH STRATEGIES

Table 3 : Systematic reviews and guideline search results

Database	Date searched	Dates	Results
CDSR	19.8.20	Issue 8/12, August 2020	2
DARE	19.8.20	2015-2015/03/31	0
HTA	19.8.20	2015-2018/03/31	0
INAHTA	19.8.20	2015-2020/08/19	0
KSR Evidence	19.8.20	2015-2020/08/19	8
Epistemonikos	19.8.20	2015-2020/08/19	10
NICE Guidance	19.8.20	2015-2020/08/19	3
ECRI Guidelines	19.8.20	2015-2020/08/19	0
NICE Evidence	19.8.20	2015-2020/08/19	4
GIN	19.8.20	2015-2020/08/19	0
Total			27
Total after de-duplication			18

SEARCH STRATEGIES

Cochrane Library (Wiley) - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR): Issue 8 of 12, August 2020

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 2

#1 (hot or toxic or autonom*) near (thyroid* or hyperthyroid*) near (node or nodes or nodules or nodule) 19
 #2 "autonomous adenoma*" 2
 #3 unifocal and autonom* 1
 #4 "thyroid functional autonom*" 0
 #5 "autonomous* function* nodule*" or "autonomous* function* node*" 0
 #6 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 with Cochrane Library publication date Between Jan 2015 and Aug 2020, in Cochrane Reviews, Cochrane Protocols 2

Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE): 2015-2015/03/31

<https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/>

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 0

1 ((hot or toxic or autonom*) and (thyroid* or hyperthyroid*) and (node or nodes or nodules or nodule)) IN DARE FROM 2015 TO 2020 0
 2 (autonomous adenoma*) IN DARE FROM 2015 TO 2020 0
 3 (unifocal and autonom) IN DARE FROM 2015 TO 2020 0
 4 (thyroid functional autonom*) IN DARE FROM 2015 TO 2020 0

5 (autonomous* function* nodule* or autonomous* function* node*) IN DARE FROM 2015 TO 2020 0

6 #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 0

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database: 2015-2015/03/31

<https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/>

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 0

1 ((hot or toxic or autonom*) and (thyroid* or hyperthyroid*) and (node or nodes or nodules or nodule)) IN HTA FROM 2015 TO 2020 0

2 (autonomous adenoma*) IN HTA FROM 2015 TO 2020 0

3 (unifocal and autonom) IN HTA FROM 2015 TO 2020 0

4 (thyroid functional autonom*) IN HTA FROM 2015 TO 2020 0

5 (autonomous* function* nodule* or autonomous* function* node*) IN HTA FROM 2015 TO 2020 0

6 #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 0

INAHTA International HTA database: 2015-2020/08/19

<https://database.inahta.org/>

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 0

1 ((hot or toxic or autonomous or autonomy) and (thyroid or hyperthyroid or hyperthyroidism)) 0

2 "autonomous adenoma" or "autonomous adenomas" 0

3 (unifocal and autonomy) or (unifocal and autonomous) 0

4 "autonomously functioning" 0

5 "autonomous function" 0

KSR Evidence: 2015-2020/08/19

<https://ksrevidence.com/>

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 8

1 (hot or toxic or autonom*) and (thyroid* or hyperthyroid*) and (node or nodes or nodules or nodule) in All text 8 results

2 "autonomous adenoma" or "autonomous adenomas" in All text 0 results

3 unifocal and autonom* in All text 0 results

- 4 "thyroid functional autonomy" in All text 0 results
- 5 "autonomous function" or "autonomously functioning" in All text 2 results
- 6 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 in All text 8 results

Filtered by: PUBLICATION DATE 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

Epistemonikos: 2015-2020/08/19

<https://www.epistemonikos.org/>

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 10

Publication year: 2015-2020

Publication type: Systematic review

(title:(title:((hot OR toxic OR autonom*) AND(thyroid* OR hyperthyroid*) AND(node OR nodes OR nodules OR nodule)) OR abstract:((hot OR toxic OR autonom*) AND(thyroid* OR hyperthyroid*) AND(node OR nodes OR nodules OR nodule)))) OR abstract:(title:((hot OR toxic OR autonom*) AND(thyroid* OR hyperthyroid*) AND(node OR nodes OR nodules OR nodule)) OR abstract:((hot OR toxic OR autonom*) AND(thyroid* OR hyperthyroid*) AND(node OR nodes OR nodules OR nodule)))) OR (title:("autonomous adenoma*") OR abstract:("autonomous adenoma*")) OR (title:(unifocal AND autonom*) OR abstract:(unifocal AND autonom*)) OR (title:("thyroid functional autonom*") OR abstract:("thyroid functional autonom*")) OR (title:("autonomous* function* nodule*" OR "autonomous* function* node*") OR abstract:("autonomous* function* nodule*" OR "autonomous* function* node*"))

NICE Guidance: 2015-2020/08/19

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 3

Limits -

Document type: Guidance

Date: 2015+

Search terms	Results
Thyroid	3
Hyperthyroidism	1
Hyperthyroid	0
Autonomous adenoma	0
Unifocal autonomy	0
Autonomously functioning nodules	0
Autonomous functioning nodules	0
autonomous nodules	0

hot nodules	0
Total	4
Total after deduplication	3

ECRI Institute Guidelines Trust (Internet): 2015-2020/08/19

<https://guidelines.ecri.org/>

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 0

Limits -

Document type: Guidance

Date: 2015+

Search terms	Results (relevant)
Thyroid	23 (0)
Hyperthyroidism	2 (0)
Hyperthyroid	2 (0)
Autonomous adenoma	1 (0)
Unifocal autonomy	0
Autonomously functioning nodules	0
Autonomous functioning nodules	0
autonomous nodules	0
hot nodules	0
Total	27 (0)
Total after deduplication	23 (0)

NICE Evidence: 2015-2020/08/19

<https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 4

Limits -

Evidence type: Guidance

Date: 2015+

Search terms	Results (relevant)
Thyroid	285 (3)
Hyperthyroidism	58 (1)
Hyperthyroid	0
Autonomous adenoma	0
Unifocal autonomy	0
Autonomously functioning nodules	0
Autonomous functioning nodules	0
autonomous nodules	0
hot nodules	29 (0)

Total	372 (4)
Total after deduplication	302 (4)

Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) : 2015-2020/08/19

<https://g-i-n.net/home>

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 0

Date: 2015+

Search terms	Results (relevant)
Thyroid	16 (0)
Hyperthyroidism	2 (0)
Hyperthyroid	0
Autonomous adenoma	0
Unifocal autonomy	0
Autonomously functioning nodules	0
Autonomous functioning nodules	0
autonomous nodules	0
hot nodules	0
Total	18 (0)
Total after deduplication	16 (0)

Table 4 : Shared decision-making search results

Database	Date searched	Dates	Results
Embase (Ovid)	19.8.20	2015 - 2020/8/18	10
MEDLINE (Ovid)	19.8.20	2015 - 2020/8/18	5
CENTRAL (Wiley)	19.8.20	Issue 8/12, August 2020	3
Total			18
Total after de-duplication			15

SEARCH STRATEGIES

Embase (Ovid): 2015 - 2020 August 18

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 10

- 1 ((hot or toxic or autonom*) and (thyroid* or hyperthyroid*) and (node or nodes or nodules or nodule)).ti,ab. (2159)
- 2 autonomous adenoma*.ti,ab. (238)
- 3 (unifocal adj3 autonom*).ti,ab. (30)
- 4 thyroid functional autonom*.ti,ab. (8)

- 5 (autonomous* function* nodule* or autonomous* function* node*).ti,ab. (70)
- 6 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 (2350)
- 7 limit 6 to yr="2015 -Current" (449)
- 8 *decision making/ or *patient decision making/ or *shared decision making/ (65061)
- 9 exp *decision support system/ (12088)
- 10 ((share\$ or sharing\$ or inform\$) adj3 (decision\$ or deciding\$ or choice\$)).ti,ab. (50823)
- 11 (decision\$ adj2 aid\$).ti,ab. (8653)
- 12 ((decision\$ or choice\$) adj3 (making\$ or support\$ or behaviour\$ or behavior\$)).ti,ab. (229066)
- 13 ((patient\$ or consumer\$) adj2 (involve\$ or involving or participat\$)).ti,ab. (96583)
- 14 ((patient-centred or patient centred or patient-centered or patient centered) adj2 care).ti,ab. (8816)
- 15 (person centred or person centered).ti,ab. (6318)
- 16 sdm.ti,ab. (3349)
- 17 or/8-16 (399055)
- 18 7 and 17 (10)

MEDLINE and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Daily Update (Ovid): 2015-August 18, 2020

Date searched: 19.8.20

Records found: 5

- 1 ((hot or toxic or autonom*) and (thyroid* or hyperthyroid*) and (node or nodes or nodules or nodule)).ti,ab. (1534)
- 2 autonomous adenoma*.ti,ab. (178)
- 3 (unifocal adj3 autonom*).ti,ab. (24)
- 4 thyroid functional autonom*.ti,ab. (6)
- 5 (autonomous* function* nodule* or autonomous* function* node*).ti,ab. (48)
- 6 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 (1680)
- 7 limit 6 to yr="2015 -Current" (181)
- 8 exp Decision Making/ (202618)
- 9 exp decision support techniques/ (77371)
- 10 exp Decision Theory/ (12074)
- 11 ((share\$ or sharing\$ or inform\$) adj3 (decision\$ or deciding\$ or choice\$)).ti,ab. (37194)
- 12 (decision\$ adj2 aid\$).ti,ab. (5928)
- 13 ((decision\$ or choice\$) adj3 (making\$ or support\$ or behaviour\$ or behavior\$)).ti,ab. (169300)
- 14 ((patient\$ or consumer\$) adj2 (involve\$ or involving or participat\$)).ti,ab. (61923)
- 15 ((patient-centred or patient centred or patient-centered or patient centered) adj2 care).ti,ab. (6436)
- 16 (person centred or person centered).ti,ab. (5240)
- 17 sdm.ti,ab. (2592)
- 18 exp Informed Consent/ (41101)
- 19 (informed adj3 (consent* or agree* or assent*)).ti,ab. (38502)
- 20 or/8-19 (548753)
- 21 7 and 20 (5)

- #1 (hot or toxic or autonom*) near (thyroid* or hyperthyroid*) near (node or nodes or nodules or nodule) 19
- #2 "autonomous adenoma*" 2
- #3 unifocal and autonom* 1
- #4 "thyroid functional autonom*" 0
- #5 "autonomous* function* nodule*" or "autonomous* function* node*" 0
- #6 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 with Publication Year from 2015 to 2020, in Trials 3

NB - It was not considered necessary to apply the SDM facet as the number of records retrieved from the UFA facet alone were low. This database was therefore not searched again for the searches without study design filters below.

Table 5 : UFA searches without study design filter

Database	Date searched	Dates	Results
Embase (Ovid)	1.9.20	2015 - 2020/8/31	452
MEDLINE (Ovid)	1.9.20	2015 - 2020/8/31	180
Total			632
Total after de-duplication			455

SEARCH STRATEGIES

Embase (Ovid): 2015 to 2020 August 31

Date searched: 1.9.20

Records found: 452

- 1 ((hot or toxic or autonom*) and (thyroid* or hyperthyroid*) and (node or nodes or nodules or nodule)).ti,ab. (2163)
- 2 autonomous adenoma*.ti,ab. (240)
- 3 (unifocal adj3 autonom*).ti,ab. (30)
- 4 thyroid functional autonom*.ti,ab. (8)
- 5 (autonomous* function* nodule* or autonomous* function* node*).ti,ab. (70)
- 6 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 (2356)
- 7 limit 6 to yr="2015 -Current" (452)

MEDLINE and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Daily Update (Ovid): 2015 to August 31, 2020

Date searched: 1.9.20

Records found: 180

- 1 ((hot or toxic or autonom*) and (thyroid* or hyperthyroid*) and (node or nodes or nodules or nodule)).ti,ab. (1533)
- 2 autonomous adenoma*.ti,ab. (178)
- 3 (unifocal adj3 autonom*).ti,ab. (24)
- 4 thyroid functional autonom*.ti,ab. (6)
- 5 (autonomous* function* nodule* or autonomous* function* node*).ti,ab. (48)
- 6 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 (1679)
- 7 limit 6 to yr="2015 -Current" (180)