

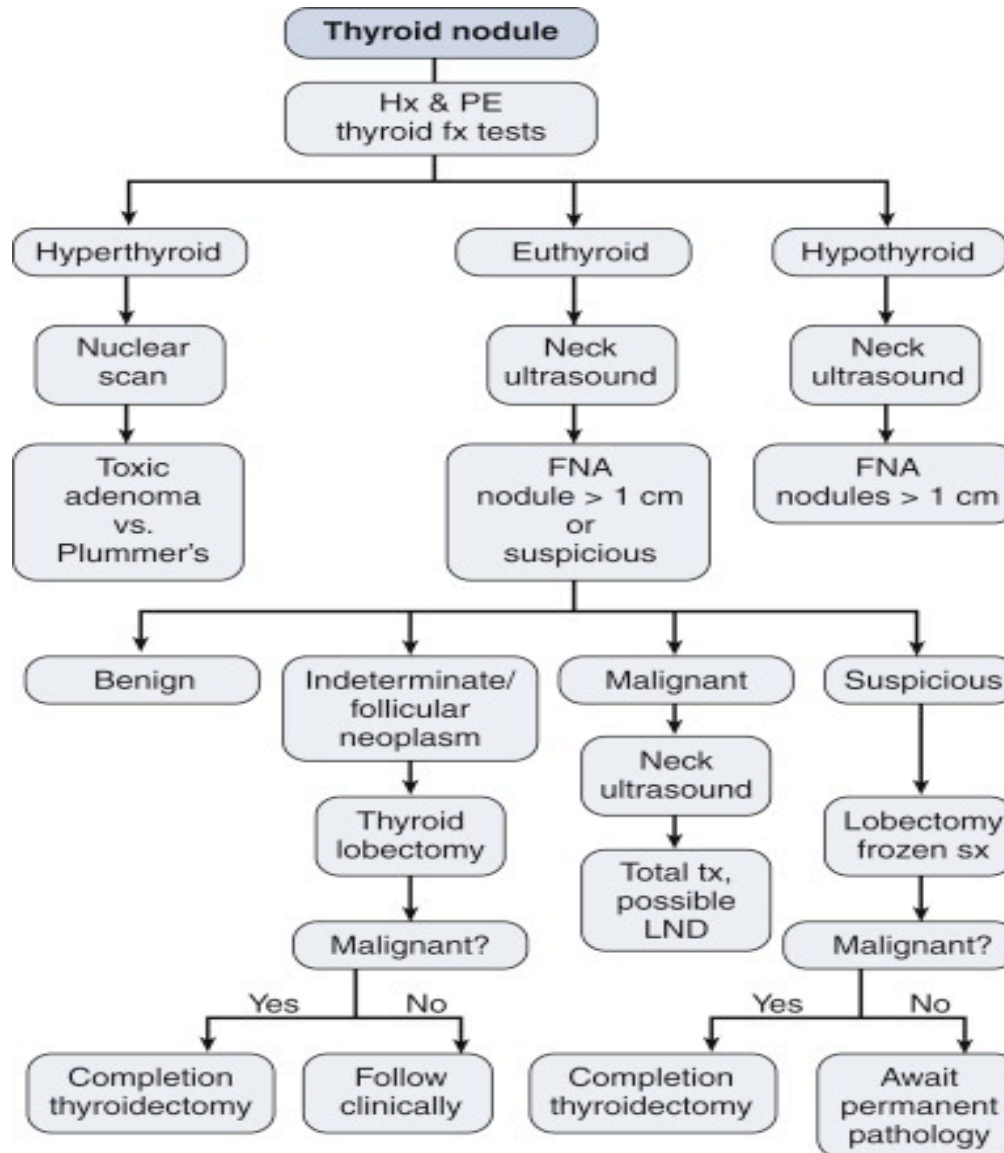
# Thyroid Surgery Complications

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PGY-3

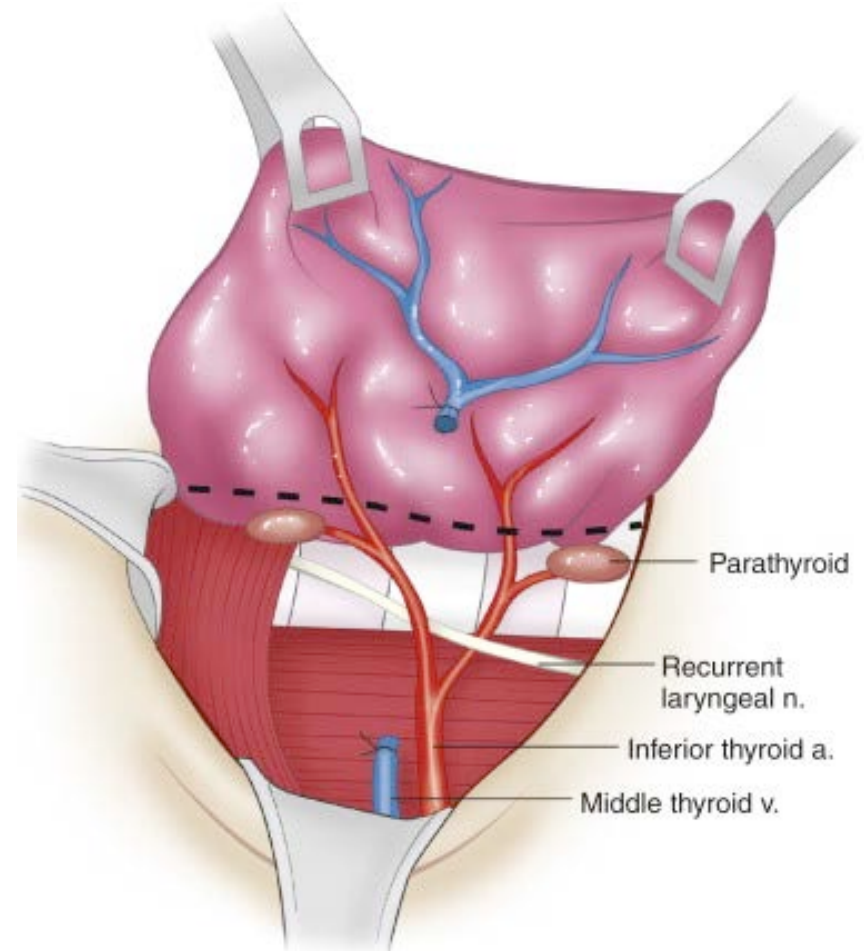
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# Thyroid nodule



# Hemithyroidectomy

- Traction placed on the superior pole and the superior thyroid vessels were ligated
- Areolar tissue between the common carotid artery and thyroid lobe are dissected
- Lobe retracted anteromedially and inferior thyroid artery and the recurrent laryngeal nerve identified
- Blood supply is ligated close to the thyroid
- Thyroid is retracted medially and Ligament of Berry is divided
- Pyramidal lobe removed and the thyroid was divided using diathermy
- Hemostasis visualized



# Post-Op Bleeding after Thyroidectomy



# Post-Op Expanding Neck Hematoma

- Can be a life threatening event due to airway compromise
- Occurs in less than 1% of cases
- Any post-op respiratory distress can be thought of as attributable to a neck hematoma until proven otherwise
  - Increasing facial edema, bruising, and pain
- Most often occurs within 4hrs of operation
  - All within 24hrs
- Lowest complication rates in patients of surgeons who performed more than 100 neck explorations annually.<sup>1</sup>



# Potential Risk Factors

- Ingestion of:
  - Aspirin
  - Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
  - High doses of vitamin E
  - Certain herbal health supplements
- Male gender
- Coagulopathy
- Age older than 30yrs

# Herbal Supplements Known to Cause Bleeding

Drug	From	Use
Danshen	Herb	Heart, liver, thyroid
Bromelian	Pineapple	Antiinflammatory
Don Quai	Herb	Menopause, Blood Pressure
Feverfew	Flowering shrub	Fever, headache, arthritis
Ginseng	Root	Energy, aphrodisiac
Gingko	Tree	Memory, depression, sexual dysfunction
Garlic	Herb	Antibacterial and antiviral, blood pressure
Ginger	Root	Flu
Omega 3 fatty acids	Fish oil	Hear disease

# Some Post-op Protocols include...

- Overnight observation
- Closer monitoring by staff
  - Routine neck circumference measurements
- Low threshold to contact house staff and faculty
- Watch for any change in voice
- Low-threshold for reexploration



# References

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3. Cameron, JL, **Current Surgical Therapy, 10<sup>th</sup> edition.**
4. Fischer, JF. **Mastery of Surgery, 5<sup>th</sup> edition.**
5. Souba. **ACS Surgery: Principles and Practices, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.**