

Table 1. Comparison of demographic features and laboratory results between patients with benign and malignant thyroid disorders.

	Benign (n=134, 66%)	Malignant (n=68, 33%)	p
Demographics			
Age, years	47±12	49±12	0.463
Gender (F/M)	111/23	57/11	0.971
Preoperative drug use	14	3	0.184
Laboratory results			
TSH, IU/mL	1.4±1.2, (1.07)	1.9±2.5, (1.2)	0.257
Tg (ng/mL) ^β	64 (0.25-1286)	20 (0.07-567)	<0.001
Tg (normal / high, %*)	78 / 56, (41%)	46 / 22, (32%)	0.073
Anti-Tg (IU/mL)	29±3.8	41±12	0.263
Anti-TPO (IU/mL)	47±9	53±15	0.715
TSH/Tg ^β	0.02 (0.004-8.6)	0.04 (0.002-19)	0.024
Tg/TSH ^β	43 (1-9100)	17 (1-5200)	0.072
FNAB** (ND / B / I / SM / M)	8 / 105 / 17 / 4 / 2	4 / 16 / 10 / 11 / 31	12 / 121 / 27 / 15 / 33
Type of thyroid disorders			
Multi-nodular goiter	103	62	
Solitary thyroid nodule	26	5	
Toxic goiter (diffuse, nodular, multinodular)	5	1	
Surgical procedures (n=210)^α			
Lobectomy	35 (3) ^{&}	4 (1) ^{&}	
Total thyroidectomy	102	65	

Data are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD) for normally distributed variables and median (range) for non-normally distributed variables.

Differences between continuous and categorical variables were assessed by Student's t test for normally distributed variables and the Mann-Whitney U test^β for non-normally distributed variables, and Fisher's exact test, respectively.

* Percentages show the frequency of higher Tg levels (above the normal range).

** A total of 208 FNAB results in 187 patients were evaluated. In the malignant group, 65 FNABs were performed in 62 patients, while in the benign group, 143 FNABs were performed in 125.

ND: non-diagnostic; B: benign; I: indeterminate; SM: suspicious for malignancy; M: malignant; Tg: thyroglobulin; TSH: thyroid-stimulating hormone-thyrotropin; TPO-Ab: thyroperoxidase antibody; FNAB: fine needle aspiration biopsy.

& completion thyroidectomy,

^α completion thyroidectomy (4), central neck dissection (2) and parathyroidectomy (2)

^β Mann-Whitney U test.