

THE DOUBLING TIME OF SERUM THYROGLOBULIN IS A VERY STRONG PREDICTOR OF PROGNOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH PAPILLARY THYROID CARCINOMA

the first four data points was a significant prognostic factor in univariate and multivariate analysis. In this study, thyroid cancer-specific deaths occurred only in stage IV disease. But only 6 of 189 (3.2%) of patients in stage IV died of the disease, giving a 10-year cause-specific survival rate of 94.6%. Using the Tg-DT, 5 of 17 patients with a Tg-DT of <1 year and 1 of 21 of patients with Tg-DT of 1 to 3 years died of thyroid cancer, while none of the patients in the other groups died. Thus, the Tg-DT was better than TMN staging at

predicting the risk of death. This investigation has put a quantitative number on what we are already knew clinically, namely that patients with rising Tg levels are at high risk for recurrence and death. We should use the Tg-DT in the same way we use calcitonin doubling time to predict which patients with medullary thyroid cancer are at high risk for recurrence and death.

— **Stephanie L. Lee, MD, PhD**

References

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