

## **Thyroid malignancy - a surgical challenge**

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**ABSTRACT:** Thyroid malignancy pose a challenge to head and neck surgeon due to various problems like very large size of the tumor, pre existing recurrent laryngeal nerve palsy, retro-sternal extension, infiltration of important structures, multiple lymph node metastasis, stridor, etc. Surgery with post-op radioiodine ablation remains the main stay of treatment. We are presenting a series of 44 patients, 38 of whom had very large thyroid, 3 patients had pre-existing recurrent laryngeal nerve palsy and involvement of various important structures with lymph node metastasis. The problem encountering during surgery, complication and follow-up will be discussed in detail.

**CONCLUSION:** Thyroid malignancy presents with various surgical challenges but surgery and radioiodine ablation remain the main stay of treatment. They have excellent long-term prognosis after meticulous surgery.