

Patients with Differentiated Thyroid Cancer and Coexistent Hashimoto's Thyroiditis Have a Better Prognosis Than Those without Thyroiditis

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY ● ● ● ● ●

Patients with HT are not predisposed to the development of DTC (1). However, in patients with HT who also have DTC, the cancer is less aggressive and the prognosis is better than in those without DTC, as shown in this study. This conclusion is in agreement with some other studies (2-4), but other reports do not substantiate the beneficial effect of HT on the outcome of DTC (5-7). Based on their conclusion that DTC in the presence of HT follows a less aggressive course, the authors of the present report recommend that this concept should be included in tailoring therapy. In an effort to relieve the stress of

the disorder, it is reasonable to tell patients with DTC and Hashimoto's or focal lymphocytic infiltration that this is a favorable host response to the tumor.

One limitation of the study is that the authors do not clearly state how many patients with HT were diagnosed by clinical criteria and how many were diagnosed by histopathology or how many with clinical criteria did not have typical histopathology.

What is the possible mechanism whereby HT may ameliorate DTC? Infiltration by cytotoxic T cells may kill carcinoma cells.

References

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