



## ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY ● ● ● ● ●

The excellent analysis by these authors shows that the worse survival of men with DTC is attributed to more advanced disease at the time of presentation. The authors suggest that more aggressive screening of men to detect thyroid cancer at an earlier stage would improve their outcomes, and this seems very reasonable. The worse outcome of men with thyroid cancer has influenced the evaluation of thyroid nodules to the point at which, all other factors being equal, male sex is in the minds of many endocrinologists a factor that enters into the decision for surgical

removal. However, the data of the authors shows that survival of men is related to traditional risk factors and not male sex.

Others have concluded that sex is not an independent risk factor in DTC in multivariate analysis in smaller cohorts (1,2). At this time, it is still unclear whether men have intrinsically more aggressive disease or whether the reduced DSS is due to delayed diagnosis. When men present with localized disease, their survival is the same as that in women, a factor that reinforces the conclusion that sex is not an independent factor for DSS.

## References

1. Toniato A, Boschini I, Casara D, Mazzarotto R, Rubello D, Pelizzo M. Papillary thyroid carcinoma: factors influencing recurrence and survival. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2008;15:1518-22. Epub March 7, 2008.
2. Konturek A, Barczynski M, Nowak W, Richter P. Prognostic factors in differentiated thyroid cancer—a 20-year surgical outcome study. *Langenbecks Arch Surg* 2012;397:809-15. Epub February 15, 2012.