

The Prevalence of the BRAF(V600E) Mutation Is Increasing in Papillary Thyroid Cancers

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phylaxis was associated with an increase in the ratio of papillary to follicular thyroid cancers. It should be noted that the mutations discussed above are found in PTC and not in follicular thyroid carcinoma. A higher prevalence of BRAF mutation was reported in regions of China with higher iodine intake as compared with regions with lower iodine intake (3). However, in the United States, the intake of iodine has been sufficient for many decades, so it

is unlikely that higher iodine intake can explain the increased prevalence of the BRAF mutation in PTC. It is possible that thus far unrecognized environmental pollutants damage DNA, cause BRAF mutations, and are responsible for thyroid carcinogenesis, but this remains to be demonstrated.

— Jerome M. Hershman, MD

References

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