

## **Treatment of Thyroid Nodules**

Treatment depends on the type of thyroid nodule. If the fine-needle aspiration shows cancerous or suspicious cells, it is usually necessary to surgically remove the thyroid gland. Radioactive iodine therapy may also be used after surgery to destroy any remaining thyroid cells.

If benign nodules are very large and cause problems with swallowing or breathing, they may also need to be surgically removed; however, most are followed without surgery. Overworking 'toxic' nodules are almost never cancerous, but they may need to be surgically removed or treated with radioactive iodine, as they can cause hyperthyroidism.

Regular follow-up of nodules is also required when surgery is not recommended. Monitoring intervals depend on the size and characteristics of the nodule. If the nodule enlarges, you may also need to have a repeat fine needle biopsy.