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Shaping the Future with Ultrasound

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Lecture Title: Ethanol Ablation of Thyroglossal Duct Cyst

Thyroglossal duct cyst (TGDC) is the most common congenital neck mass, accounting for 70%–75% of all congenital neck masses. Although the Sistrunk operation has been used as a standard of treatment, it is accompanied with a considerable surgical burden including the need for general anesthesia, a visible surgical scar on the neck surface, and postoperative complications. Ultrasound-guided ethanol ablation (US-EA) is a minimally invasive and office-based technique that is widely used as a non-surgical treatment for several benign cystic lesions, particularly benign thyroid cysts. Recently, US-EA has also been gaining popularity as a good alternative for TGDC treatment, which is associated with high feasibility and high safety profile and favorable treatment outcomes. To our best knowledge, seven studies on the use of EA as a primary treatment option for TGDC were published since 2011. Although these studies have reported promising results, there is a lack of consensus on several issues regarding the application of EA for TGDC, particularly its detailed techniques and role as a primary treatment. This presentation will provide a comprehensive review on EA for TGDC, addressing technical issues of EA and its possible role as a new standard of treatment for TGDC.