Thyroid Aspiration Cytology:

The Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology
Consensus Recommendations
The thyroid gland is one of the most common sites for fine-needle aspiration but
There is little consensus on diagnostic criteria, diagnostic terminology or report format.
Numerous classification systems, diagnostic terms and criteria have been proposed over the last forty years.
Classification schemes have utilized between two and six diagnostic categories, each attempting to convey the degree of certainty a cytopathologist has as to whether or not a significant lesion is present.
Similar or identical terms have been used by cytopathologists which convey markedly different meanings to cytopathologists and endocrinologists at different institutions.
Examples:
Case A
Case B
Diagnoses:
Two Category System

A. Benign
B. Malignant/suspicious
Three Category System

A. Follicular neoplasm
B. Follicular neoplasm
Four Category System

A. Follicular Neoplasm, Indeterminate
B. Follicular Neoplasm, Probable Carcinoma
Five Category System

A. Follicular proliferation favor multinodular goiter
B. Follicular neoplasm, possible carcinoma.
Actual Clinical Diagnoses Made:

A. Follicular epithelial cells present suspicious for a multinodular goiter. A follicular neoplasm cannot be excluded.

B. Follicular epithelial cells present suspicious for a follicular neoplasm. A multinodular goiter cannot be excluded.
Diagnostic Criteria, Terminology and Report Format

A Consensus Proposal
Speakers and Panel Members
Historical and Histologic Basis for the Diagnosis of Thyroid Nodules

Sylvia L. Asa, M.D.
Ontario Cancer Institute
Indications for Fine-Needle Aspiration of the Thyroid and Technique

Zubair Baloch, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania Health System

Panel Members:
Martha Pitman, M.D., Boston, MA
Zubair Baloch, M.D., Philadelphia, PA
Diagnostic Terminology and Criteria for the Cytologic Diagnosis of Thyroid Lesions

Tarik M. El Sheikh, M.D.
Ball Memorial Hospital

William C. Faquin, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital

Panel Members:
Tarik El Sheikh, M.D., Munci, IN
William Faquin, M.D., Atlanta, GA
Sanjay Logana, M.D., Atlanta, GA
Maureen Zakowski, M.D., New York, NY
Harvey Cramer, M.D., Indianapolis, IN
Report Format for Thyroid Aspiration Cytology

Martha B. Pitman, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital

Panel Members:
Martha Pitman, M.D., Boston, MA
Harvey Cramer, M.D., Indianapolis, IN
Lester Layfield, M.D., Salt Lake City, UT
Ancillary Studies in Thyroid Cytology

Douglas P. Clark, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University

Panel Members:
Douglas P. Clark, M.D., Baltimore, MD
Maureen Zakowski, M.D., New York, NY