

# 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.



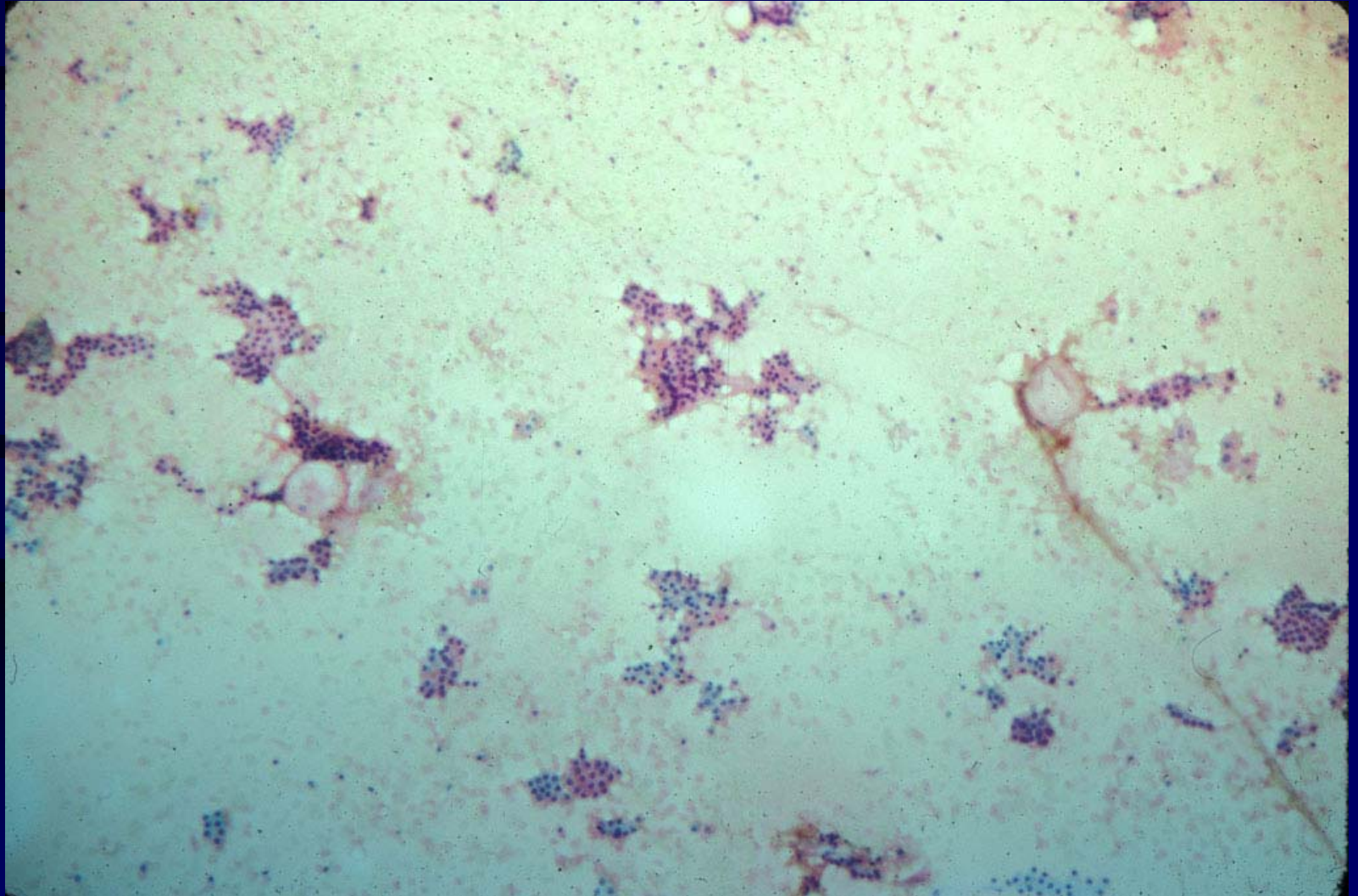
Similar or identical terms have been used by cytopathologists which convey markedly different meanings to cytopathologists and endocrinologists at different institutions.



Examples:

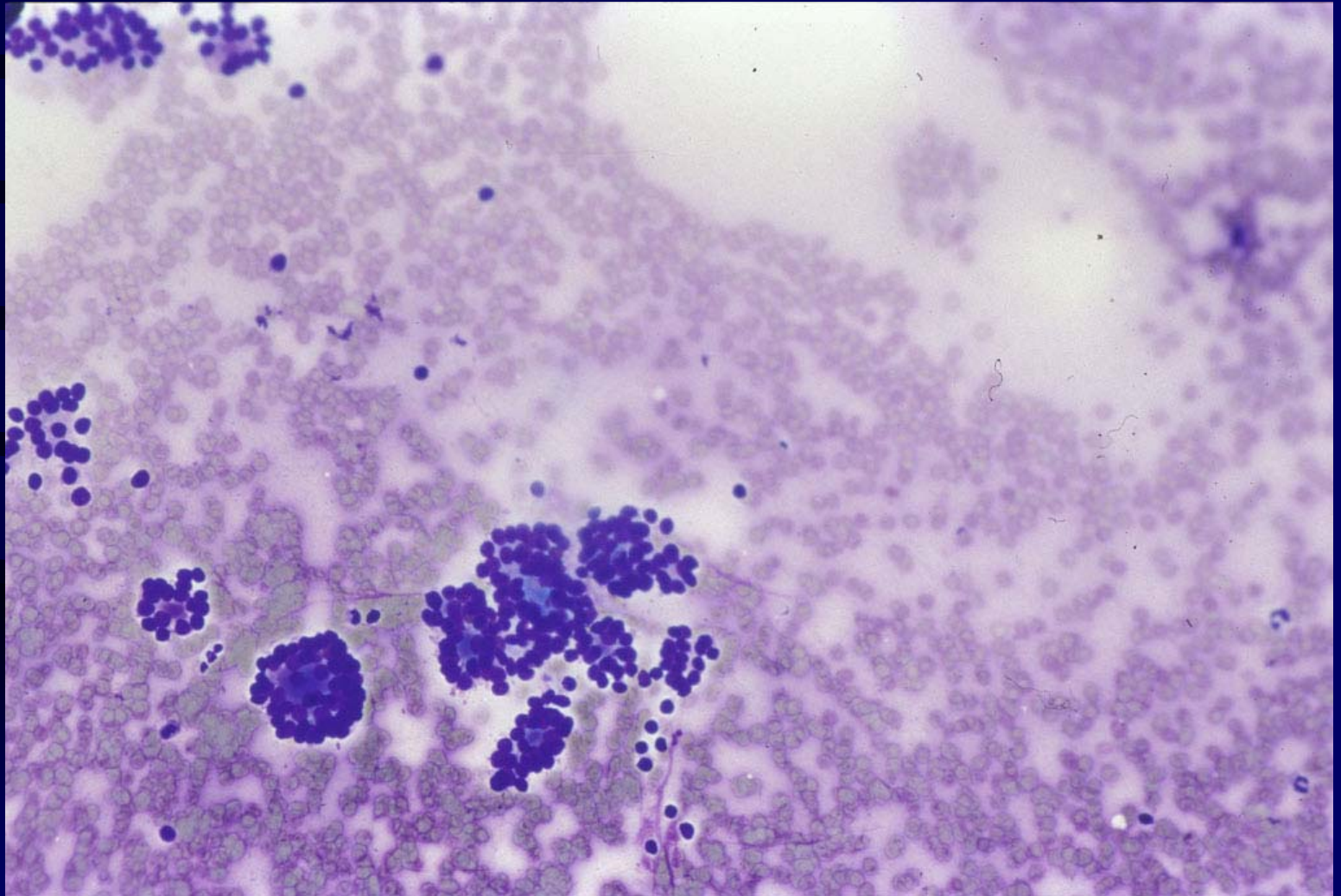


# Case A





# 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



# Adequacy Assessment Criteria

**Yolanda Oertel, M.D.**

**Washington Hospital Center**

**Washington, D.C.**

Panel Members:

Yolanda Oertel, M.D.

Eleni Bourtsos, M.D.



# 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

