



The Philippine Society
of Otolaryngology -
Head and Neck Surgery



The Academy for
Head and Neck Oncology
of the Philippines



The International Federation
of Head and Neck Oncologic
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"No More Blind Biopsies": Integrating the Use of Ultrasound in Head and Neck Practice

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Office-based Head and Neck Ultrasonography is creating an explosive interest in the practice of the ENT Surgeon. This tool has proven to be a valuable source of information for the Head and Neck Surgeon. It can be regarded as the stethoscope of the surgeon. It provides invaluable dynamic information to the patient on the tumors arising from the head and neck region, both the palpable and nonpalpable ones. It is non-invasive, inexpensive and relatively easy to perform, together with its interventional procedures.

We can now perform biopsies for non palpable thyroid nodules, as well as palpable ones with other sonographic features suspicious for malignancy. more accurate and earlier diagnosis can be provided, as well as non invasive drainage and delivery of medication procedures. Aside from its substantial role in the thyroid gland, this tool has been extensively used for parathyroid tumors, salivary glands, neck nodes, vocal cord procedures, tongue base and other areas that sound waves can mechanically approach to create dynamic images. The ultrasound machine is not only a diagnostic tool, but also a therapeutic means of approaching areas that somewhat create uncertainty for the clinician.

It has presented the clinician a better outpatient experience despite the political and economical issues that come along

with this new practice. The establishment of Surgeon Performed Office Ultrasonography can easily be accomplished, as long as there is commitment present and the clinician is willing to welcome a learning curve for the benefit of both the surgeon and patients.