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| Table 1. Baseline Characteristics | | | |
| **Variable\*** | **Total**  **(n = 44)** | **Benign**  **(n = 36)** | **Microcarcinoma**  **(n = 8)** |
| **Sex** | | | |
| Female | 37 | 31 | 6 |
| **Age at diagnosis** | | | |
| Mean (standard deviation) | 45.77 (11.9) | 47.91 (16.89) | 43.63 (7.06) |
| <18 years old | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 18-64 years old | 35 | 28 | 7 |
| ≥65 years old | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| **Residence** | | | |
| Coast | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Highland | 35 | 27 | 8 |
| Other countries | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| **Employment** | | | |
| Domestic chores | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Student | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Labor | 32 | 26 | 6 |
| **Education level** | | | |
| None | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Elementary School | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| High school | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| University | 29 | 23 | 6 |
| **Family history of thyroid cancer** | | | |
| Yes | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| **BMI** | | | |
| Normal | 14 | 8 | 6 |
| Overweight | 28 | 27 | 1 |
| Obesity | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| **Cigarette Smoking** | | | |
| Yes | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| **Thyroid function** | | | |
| Euthyroid | 32 | 25 | 7 |
| Hypothyroidism | 12 | 11 | 1 |
| Hyperthyroidism | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Nodule composition** | | | |
| Solid | 19 | 11 | 8 |
| Predominantly solid | 25 | 25 | 0 |
| Mixed | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Laterality** | | | |
| Right lobe | 29 | 26 | 3 |
| Left lobe | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| Isthmus | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| **Methods of detection** | | | |
| Symptomatic nodule | 27 | 27 | 0 |
| Asymptomatic patient, screening detection, palpable nodule | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| Incidental, asymptomatic patient | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Nodule detected in the image for other causes | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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| **Table 2. Ultrasound features and cosmetic and symptom scores in patients before and after the procedures** | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Radiofrequency ablation benign nodule (n=36)** | | | | | | **Radiofrequency Microcarcinoma (n=8)** | | | | |
| Baseline | 1m | 3m | 6m | 12m | p-value | Baseline | 1m | 3m | 6m | 12m |
| Longest tumor diameter (mm) | 36 (21-43)  n=36 | 31  (12-35)  n=22  p= <0.001 | 33  (11-38.5)  n=7  p= 0.0042 | 20  (11-21)  n=9  p= 0.0025 | 10  (7-17)  n=8  p= 0.0018 | <0.05 | 8.5  (7-10)  n=8 | 9  (7.5-10)  n=4  p= 0.2319 | 8  (5.5-8.5)  n=3  p= 0.7157 | 3  (1.5-5)  n=3  p= 0.09418 | - |
| Tumor volume (ml) | 10.3  (1.86-18.97)  n=36 | 6.9  (0.48-10.15)  n=21  p= 0.00021 | 5.72  (0.77-7.25)  n=7  p= 0.045 | 0.98  (0.25-3.64)  n=11  p= 0.0077 | 0.11  (0.07-11.26)  n=8  p= 0.0264 | <0.05 | 0.25  (0.19-0.48)  n=8 | 0.19  (0.12-0.31)  n=4  p= 0.1168 | 0.10  (0.05-0.15)  n=3  p= 0.1306 | 0.01  (0.005-0.04)  n=3  p= 0.3642 | - |
| Volume reduction ratio (%) | - | 47.25  (36.38-64.17)  n=22 | 72.20  (62-73.20)  n=5  p= 0.019 | 74  (49-82)  n=9  p= 0.032 | 96.20  (85.4-97.80)  n=7  p= 0.076 | <0.05 | - | 42  (64-81.35)  n=3 | 52.5  (29.59-75.42)  n=2 | 94.85  (92.28-97.42)  n=2 | - |
| TSH | 1.71  (1.4-2.45)  n=32 | 1.37  (0.81-2.12)  n=8  p= 0.97 | 2.6  (1.69-3.46)  n=6  p= 0.578 | 1.97  (1.31-2.52)  n=6  p= 0.33 | 2.32  (1.88-2.66)  n=6  p= 0.24 | >0.05 | - | 2.27  (2.14-2.75)  n=4 | 2.14  (2.09-2.17)  n=3 | 1.30  (1.3)  n=2 | - |
| Cosmetic score  (1-4) | 2.00  (1-2)  n=36 | 1.00  (1-1)  n=16 | 1.00  (1-1)  n=10 | 1.00  (1-1)  n=9 | 1.00  (1-1)  n=4 | <0.001 | 1  (1-2)  n=8 | 1  (1)  n=6  p= 0.3632 | 1  (1)  n= 3  p= 0.4226 | 1  (1)  n=2  p= NA | 1  (1)  n=2  p= NA |
| Symptom score (0-10) | 2.5  (1.75-4.25)  n=36 | 1.00  (1-1)  n=16 | 1.00  (1-1)  n=12 | 1.00  (1-1)  n=7 | 0  (0-0)  n=4 | <0.001 | 0  (0-1)  n=8 | 0  (0)  n=5  p= 0.3739 | 0  (0)  n=3  p= NA | 0  (0)  n=2  p= NA | 0  (0)  n=2  p= NA |

Numbers are calculated with median and interquartile ranges.