

Background

- Ultrasound (US) guided FNAC is a **minimally invasive, accurate** and **cost-effective** sampling technique used most commonly in the evaluation of thyroid lesions.
- Scheduled together with normal diagnostic US appointment lists
- Requires cyto-technician to ensure sufficient sampling is taken



Problems faced

- Limited to **4 slots** per week due to availability of cyto-tech
- **Long** appointment wait time for FNAC → anxious **longer** wait for TCU for results
- **Disrupt** diagnostic lists as FNAC procedure takes longer to perform

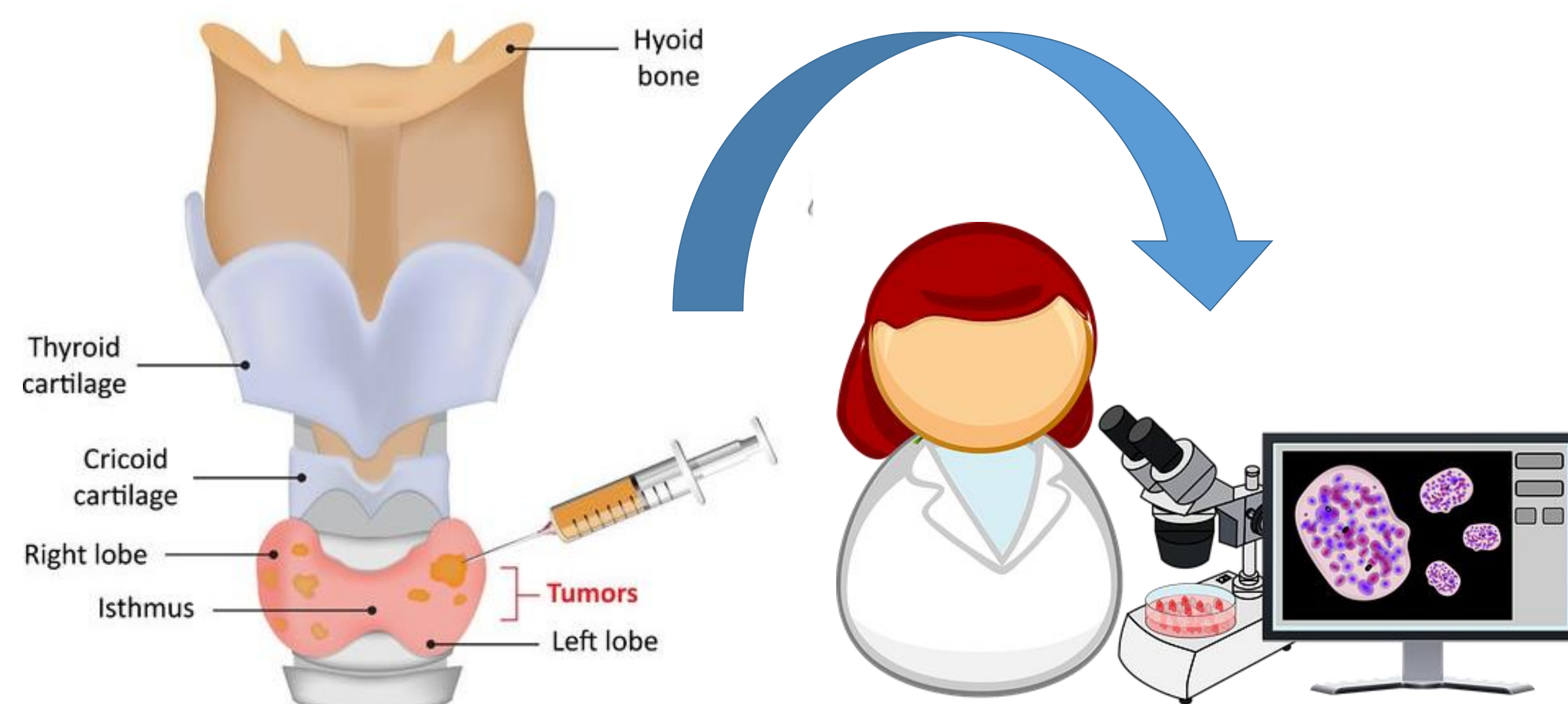
Aims

- To **expedite** sampling of suspicious thyroid lesions – same-day or next-day appointment
- To streamline operation workflow in diagnostic US rooms – **reduce** patients' waiting time
- To reduce manpower requirement by **enhancing productivity** while maintaining quality of care



Methodology

- **Dedicated** FNAC Clinic created in May 2017
- 4 weekdays with 4 slots per day from 8:30am to 11:30am (**16 slots** per week!)
- Located in **Interventional Radiology Suite** using separate US machine
- New technology in Laboratory Medicine – **Liquid Based cytology** using PreserCyt Solution
- Cyto-tech **not required** – allowing the staff to be deployed to other areas
- Only one radiologist, one nurse and one radiographer required



Results

- Appointment lead time for FNAC reduced from 4-6 weeks to **1-2 days**
- **Adhoc walk-in** cases accepted!
- **Turn-around-time reduced** from clinical suspicion to diagnostic imaging to histo-path confirmation
- **Earlier definitive** treatment plans for patients
- **Reduction** in manpower requirement



Project Impact

- More diagnostic US slots made available (**12 slots per week!**)
- Reduced appointment lead time for diagnostic US
- **Win-win** situation for all

Future expansion

- Whole day clinic with 8 slots per day to match demands if necessary
- Future advancement in Lab Med to allow sampling without presence of cyto-tech → increase scope of FNAC clinic for other lesions

Conclusion

- Patients receive critical sampling tests at a **faster** rate – **shorter wait** time between diagnosis and treatment
- **Hassle-free** pathway for patients without extra resource expenditure