Foreword

With the evolution and more widespread use of advanced imaging, we are identifying an increasing number of conditions at an asymptomatic or presymptomatic stage. In many cases it is unclear whether these will ever produce symptoms or alter life expectancy. Nowhere has this phenomenon has been more marked than in the thyroid where improvements in ultrasound have permitted the identification of ever smaller nodules, some of which are microcarcinomas. In many cases it is unclear whether these will ever alter life expectancy. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Drs. Jennifer Kuo, James Lee, and their colleagues from the New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center provide a comprehensive perspective on this topic entitled, "Updates in the Management of Thyroid Nodules." They begin with a discussion of ultrasound, including the American Thyroid Association and American College of Radiology classification systems. Cytopathology and the Bethesda Classification System are covered in significant detail. Next they address molecular profiling, including gene expression classifiers, mutation panels, and microRNA classifiers. They move on to discuss followup and surveillance for nodules that are not initially excised. They finish with the surgical management of small thyroid cancers, including the controversy over lobectomy versus total or near total thyroidectomy. Their presentation is lucid and provides the perspective of experts in the field. This superb treatise is a significant addition to the literature on this subject and should become a valued resource for all clinicians navigating the management dilemnas that will likely continue to increase with more sophisticated testing.

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