

MONTHLY Check-Up

WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL

FIVE FACTS:

thyroid cancer

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The Numbers

The incidence rate of thyroid cancer has been rising sharply since the mid-1990s. It is the fastest growing cancer with an estimated 56,000 new cases in the US in 2012. Thyroid cancer is found in all age groups, from children to the elderly, and 3 out of 4 new cases are diagnosed in women.

Two known risk factors include radiation exposure and family history. Radiation exposure can be from prior treatment for other benign or malignant diseases. A family history of thyroid cancer can also predispose a patient to developing thyroid cancer.

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Risk Factors

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Signs & Symptoms

Most thyroid cancers give no warning signs. A lump or nodule on your thyroid gland may be discovered on a physical exam by your doctor, or you may notice it yourself. They can be found on a CT scan or ultrasound for other ailments. Infrequently, thyroid cancer causes pain or trouble with breathing, speaking or swallowing.

A treatment course is planned after a needle biopsy determines if the nodule is benign or malignant. A thyroid cancer diagnosis typically results in removal of the entire thyroid gland, known as a thyroidectomy. Traditional radiation and chemotherapy are not typically necessary as treatment.

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Treatments

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What you Should do

If you should notice a lump on your neck, call your physician, who will likely send you for a simple blood test and an ultrasound. You may be referred to a thyroid specialist for further evaluation. If thyroid cancer is diagnosed, be sure to see a surgeon with specific training and expertise in thyroid surgery.



“**THYROID CANCER IS THE FASTEST GROWING CANCER IN MEN AND WOMEN.**”

DR. KAARE WEBER

Director of Surgery, White Plains Hospital

A native of Westchester County, Dr. Kaare Weber provides expertise in the minimally invasive surgical management of endocrine diseases of the thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands. He received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed his General Surgical Residency training at Mount Sinai Medical Center. He completed a Fellowship in Advanced Endocrine Surgery at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. He has published scholarly work on a broad range of general surgical topics.