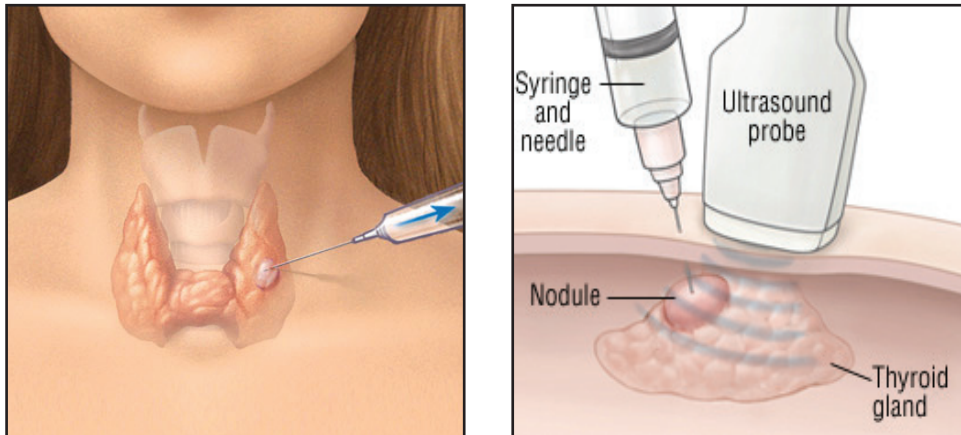


Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA)



What is a FNA?

A fine needle aspiration is a biopsy procedure that helps your doctor diagnose and treat your illness. A thin needle is inserted into a mass or lump to extract cells that will be examined under a microscope. This procedure may be done in the office or may be performed under ultrasound guidance (an ultrasound guided FNA).

Fine needle aspiration is a very safe, minor procedure. Often, major surgical biopsy can be avoided by performing an FNA.

What are the risks or complications?

- Complications are very rare
- The procedure may cause some slight discomfort, but this is usually tolerable. A local anesthetic, such as lidocaine, may first be injected.
- Bleeding — do not take aspirin or NSAIDs (ibuprofen, Aleve, Naproxen, Motrin)
- Infection



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