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**Original article**

**Cytopatholgical study of anterior triangle neck masses in patients at tertiary care centre M.Y. Hospital Indore – 2013-2015**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** A lump is the most likely clinical problem to be encountered in the neck.

Fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) is a simple, rapid and cost effective method to sample superficial masses found in the head and neck. It causes minimal trauma to the patient and involve virtually no risk of complications. Aim of the study is to determine the prevalence of anterior triangle neck lesions and evaluate the role of FNAC with the respect to the age, sex & site.

**Material and methods:** The study consists of 1032 patients with palpable anterior triangle neck masses coming to the Department of Pathology at M.Y. Hospital, Indore. The period of study was two years. Aspirations were done by using 20 ml syringe and 22/24 gauge needles. Smears were stained with Papanicolaou stain.

**Observation and Results:** Out of 1032 patients of anterior triangle of neck lesions studied, 437 were males and 595 were females, giving a male : female ratio of 1:1.36. Lymph node was the predominant site aspirated, constituting 721 cases (69.86%) with tuberculous lymphadenitis being the most common lesion. Thyroid lesions constituted 23.64% and miscellaneous were 6.50%.

**Conclusion:** FNAC is important diagnostic test for differentiating inflammatory from malignant lesions so that unnecessary surgical biopsy can be avoided and helps in proper management of the patients.

**Key words**: anterior triangle neck masses, FNAC, tubercular lymphadenitis, thyroid lesions.