

# Ultrasound for Diagnosis of Head and Neck Lesions

*C.D.A. Verwoerd*

Department of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology,  
University Hospital, Rotterdam,  
The Netherlands

Ultrasound procedures produce images of normal and pathological structures in the neck, which reflect the acoustic properties of tissues and organs. Thus, they are different from CT or MRI images which are essentially anatomical sections, well known to radiologists and surgeons.

Ultrasound examination is an interactive procedure. The investigator explores the structures of the neck by placing the probe in different positions. During this procedure he will interpret the echoes and select certain images for documentation and illustration of his conclusions. For the clinician who is not performing the ultrasound sonography himself, it is very important to be aware of the possibilities and pitfalls of this technique.

This special issue covers:

- (a) The ultrasound 'anatomy' of the normal structure of the head and neck.
- (b) The contribution of ultrasound in the diagnostic assessment of patients with head and neck cancer, in comparison to CT, MRI and palpation; the sensitivity and specificity of ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration biopsy (USFNAB).
- (c) The demonstration of malignant carotid invasion and the evaluation of blood flow, the pathology of salivary glands, thyroid and parathyroids, branchiogenic and thyroglossal duct anomalies.

The issue ends with a summary for use in daily practice.

Authors and editor hope that this special issue will contribute to an adequate appreciation of the possibilities and limitations of ultrasound as a diagnostic tool in head and neck pathology.