Medullary Carcinoma of the Thyroid Gland with Follicular Structures

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In 1992, Neuhold et al. [Onkologie 1992;15:394-400] described a papillary variant of medullary thyroid carcinoma. Ruhlmann et al. [1] have published a case report on radioiodine accumulating lung metastases of a medullary thyroid carcinoma presenting with follicular, hTg-positive structures. Johnson et al. [2] and Michael et al. [3] presented similar cases of medullary thyroid carcinoma showing accumulation of ^{131}I in respective metastases. However, in these cases no immunohistochemistry with hTg antibodies was available. On the occasion of a symposium on current aspects of pathology, diagnosis and therapy of medullary thyroid cancer held in Bonn 1991, these results

were discussed controversially [4]. The findings of Neuhold and co-workers give rise to the assumption that papillary and follicular structures in medullary thyroid carcinoma may be found more often than described up to now. Since it is likely that in patients having such follicular (or papillary) variants of medullary thyroid carcinoma the metastases are of a similar histological pattern, immunohistochemistry should aim at identifying such structures, followed by initiation of whole-body scintigraphy and radioiodine treatment if appropriate. The sometimes equivocal findings show the necessity of a central register [4].

References
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