



A Message from the AHNS Endocrine Section ... to our patients

The international health crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus has touched us all. As physicians we are acutely aware of the direct impact this virus has already had on many people in the United States and around the world.

The threat of its spread has led many states to require physicians across the country to postpone many visits and surgeries that are not immediately “urgent/life threatening.” Understandably, this has caused significant anxiety for patients and physicians managing these critical medical /surgical problems.

Many patients with thyroid cancer have been directly affected by this effort to focus resources on COVID-19. Patients at all stages in their care, just after diagnosis, prior to surgery, prior to radioactive iodine scanning and in surveillance have been informed by their providers that their care is “on hold.” As physicians and surgeons dedicated to the care of patients with thyroid diseases, we recognize the particular stress this delay can cause.

Patients with thyroid cancer should be aware that:

- Your overall health is our greatest concern. Any delays are driven by decisions designed to offer the best care to all members of our different communities, you included.
- While it may feel that other medical conditions, including thyroid cancer, are being ignored or forgotten about, we can assure you that is not the case. Patients with urgent non-Covid-19 problems are still being cared for during this crisis. However, the immediacy with which medical problems need to be treated are being considered and prioritized based on many considerations.
- The vast majority of patients with well-differentiated thyroid cancer can have their care delayed for a period of time without it having a significant negative impact on their overall prognosis. While certain patients may need more immediate attention, most thyroid cancer patients will not be harmed by a short deferral of their care.
- You and your wellbeing are THE most important issue for us!

This is a stressful period for everyone. You should feel confident, however, that your physicians and surgeons are focused on your overall safety and that a short delay in your thyroid cancer care is safe. You should feel free during this time to reach out to your physicians and surgeons regarding any particular questions you have about your situation.

We hope that you and your families stay healthy and safe during this challenging time.

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