

Clinical Image

Tall Cell Variant of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma: Recognizing a Rare Aggressive Variant

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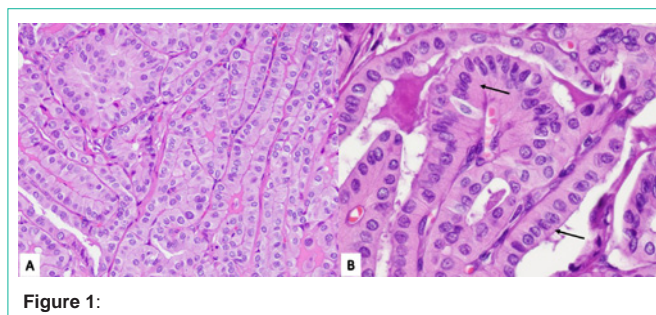
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Papillary Thyroid Cancer (PTC) accounts for 80–90% of all thyroid malignancies [1]. The most common morphology is the classical papillary which has an indolent course. Aggressive variants exist, of which Tall Cell Variant (TCV) is the most common. TCV is defined as a PTC in which 30% or more of tumor cells are 2-3 times as long as they are wide [1,2]. The histology image (Figure 1A, magnification 4x) shows tumor cells arranged back to back with abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm, and typical nuclear features of PTC; namely overlapping enlarged nuclei, intranuclear grooves, and occasional pseudoinclusions. Figure 1B (magnification: 20x) shows a high power view of the same case where the tall cell features of individual tumor cells can be better appreciated (arrows). This

**Figure 1:**

important feature should be recognized and reported in pathology reports as TCVs exhibit worse clinical course with extensive lymph node metastasis, extra thyroidal extension and high rate of recurrence [1,2].

References

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2. Ghossein R, Livolsi VA. Papillary thyroid carcinoma tall cell variant. *Thyroid*. 2008; 18: 1179-1181.