

Preliminary report of survey of the proportion of thyroid ultrasound findings

1. Background and Objectives of the Survey

As the results of Fukushima Health Management Survey, thyroid cysts (<20.0mm) are suspected among ~40% children. Although these cysts don't need detailed examination, anxiety is occurred among people due to record such a minor status. It is a first trial in the world to survey a large number of participant's thyroid by such a high resolution thyroid ultrasound examinations, therefore the frequency of thyroid cysts and the variance of status are not well known. Under these circumstances, MOE conducts thyroid ultrasound examination same as Fukushima's one for sufficient number of children aged 18 years or younger in 3 areas and provide some helpful information on the thyroid survey to promote of understanding among people.

2. Overview of the Survey

(1) Areas

- Hirosaki City, Aomori Prefecture
- Kofu City, Yamanashi Prefecture
- Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture

(2) Participants

Children aged between 3 and 18 years living in the area where the radiation health effect of the Fukushima nuclear accident will hardly be detectable. The total population is about 4,500.

(3) Period of the Survey

November 2012 -March 2013

(4) Investigation Entruster

Japan Association of Breast and Thyroid Sonology

(5) Methods

- High resolution thyroid ultrasound examinations are conducted, which give the same quality data as the examination of the Fukushima Health Management Survey.
- Findings of the ultrasound examinations are classified in the same categories as the Fukushima Health Management Survey, and the proportion of thyroid cysts and nodules among children of the survey areas is estimated.

3. Results of the Survey

Total number of participants		4,365				
Results		Status	Number		Proportion (%)	
A	A1	No nodules/cysts	1,852	4,321	42.4	99.0
	A2	Nodules ≤ 5.0 mm or cysts ≤ 20.0 mm	2,469		56.6	
B		Nodules ≥ 5.1 mm or cysts ≥ 20.1 mm	44		1.0	
C		Immediate need for secondary examination	0		0.0	

Notes

The thyroid ultrasound examination in this survey was conducted to screen, not to determine disease.

4. Future plan

The final report including the result by the area will be published by the end of March.