The Role of Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy
in the diagnosis and management of
Solitary Thyroid Nodules

THESIS

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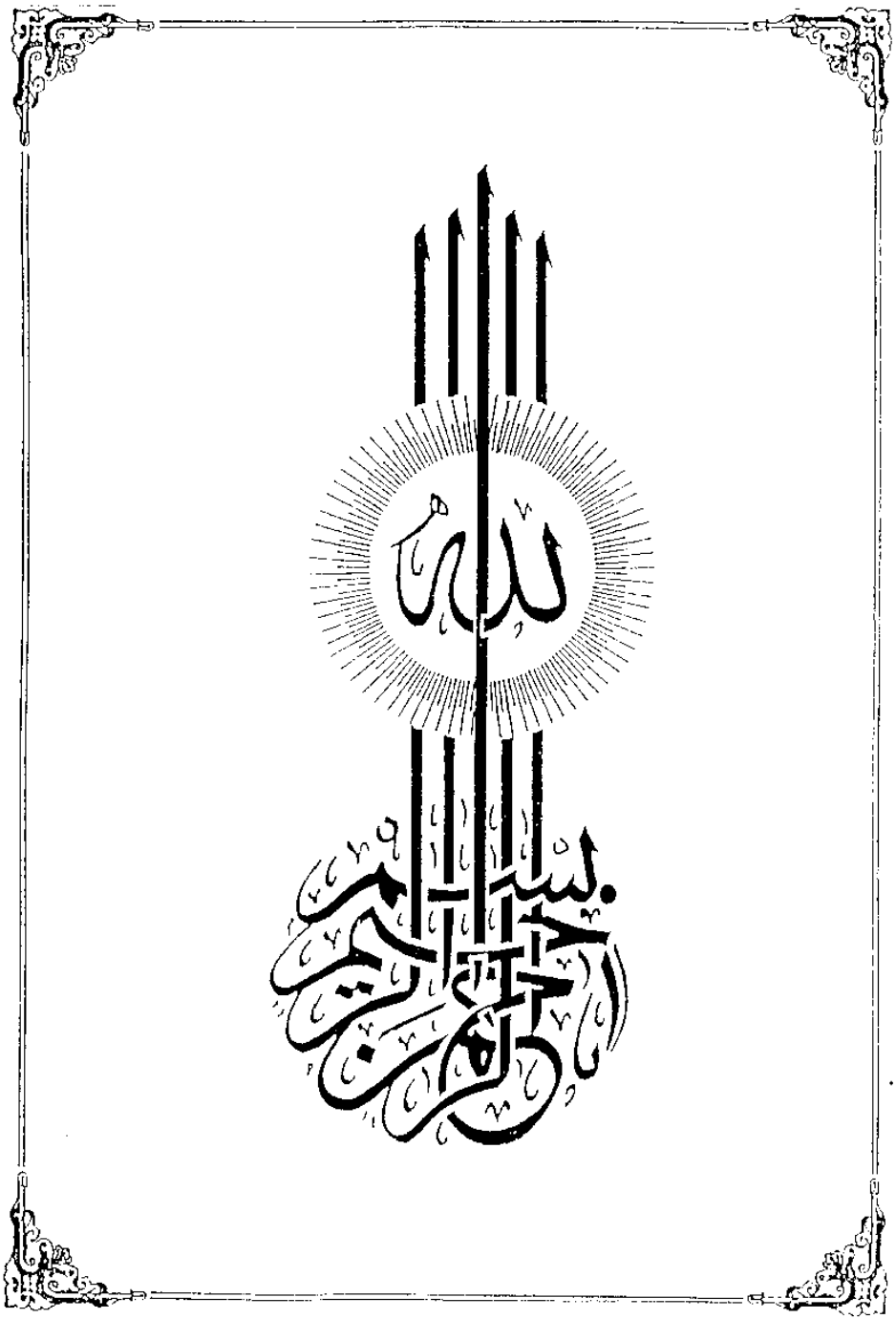

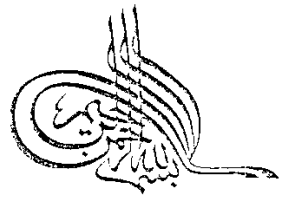

" قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا
إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ "

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Introduction and Aim of the work

Introduction and Aim of Work

Introduction

The solitary thyroid nodule is one of the most commonly encountered thyroid pathologies in clinical practice (*Sykes, 1981; Sadoul, 1995*).

The approach to a patient with a palpable solitary thyroid nodule represents a controversial issue. The surgeon's major concern is the selection of patients who require surgery, taking in consideration the relative frequency of benign lesions in comparison to malignant lesions where only 5 to 30 % of solitary thyroid nodules are malignant (*Ashcraft and Van Herle, 1981*).

History and clinical examination are frequently unable to distinguish between benign and malignant thyroid nodules. Radio active isotope thyroid scanning and neck ultrasonography are helpful in the diagnosis of a solitary thyroid nodules but still have only a limited value in detecting malignant lesions (*Cox et al., 1991*).

For a long time surgical excision of all solitary thyroid nodules was employed as the sole measure to exclude

malignancy which does not come without hazards (*Cagetti et al., 1984*).

Fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) for thyroid nodules was advocated in the 1950's (*Soderstorm, 1952*), although only recently that this utility has become more popular and the evaluation of the thyroid nodule has undergone a revolution.

The major effects of the procedure are a reduction in the number of patients referred for surgical treatment, and an in increase in the yield of neoplasm in those who are selected for surgery. Although FNAB has become the single most important diagnostic tool for the thyroid nodules, it continues to have limitations when employed as the sole preoperative diagnostic test (*Bugis et al., 1986*).

Aim Of Work

The aim of this study is to evaluate the role of fine needle aspiration biopsy in the preoperative diagnosis in patients with solitary thyroid nodules as compared to the postoperative histopathological result.

Review of literature