



Taipei Veterans General Hospital Oncology Practice Guidelines: Thyroid Cancer

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Taipei VGH Breast Cancer Panel Members (2017)

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Thyroid Nodules are a Common Clinical Problem

- **The prevalence of palpable thyroid nodules is 5% in women and 1% in men**
- **High-resolution ultrasound can detect thyroid nodules in 19 to 67% with higher frequencies in women and elderly.**
- **The clinical importance of thyroid nodules is the need to exclude thyroid cancer**

Identify Malignant Nodules

- **History and physical examination**
- **Laboratory testing**
- **Imaging studies**
- **Fine needle aspiration biopsy**
- **Assess the likelihood of malignancy**

History in Favor of Malignancy

- **Young age (<15 yr) or older age (>45 yr)**
- **Male gender**
- **Neck irradiation during childhood or adolescence**
- **Rapid growth**
- **Recent changes in speaking, breathing, or swallowing**
- **Family history of thyroid malignancy or MEN2**

Manifestations of Malignancy on Physical Examination

- **Firm consistency of nodule**
- **Irregular shape**
- **Fixation to underlying or overlying tissues**
- **Vocal cord paralysis**
- **Regional lymph adenopathy**

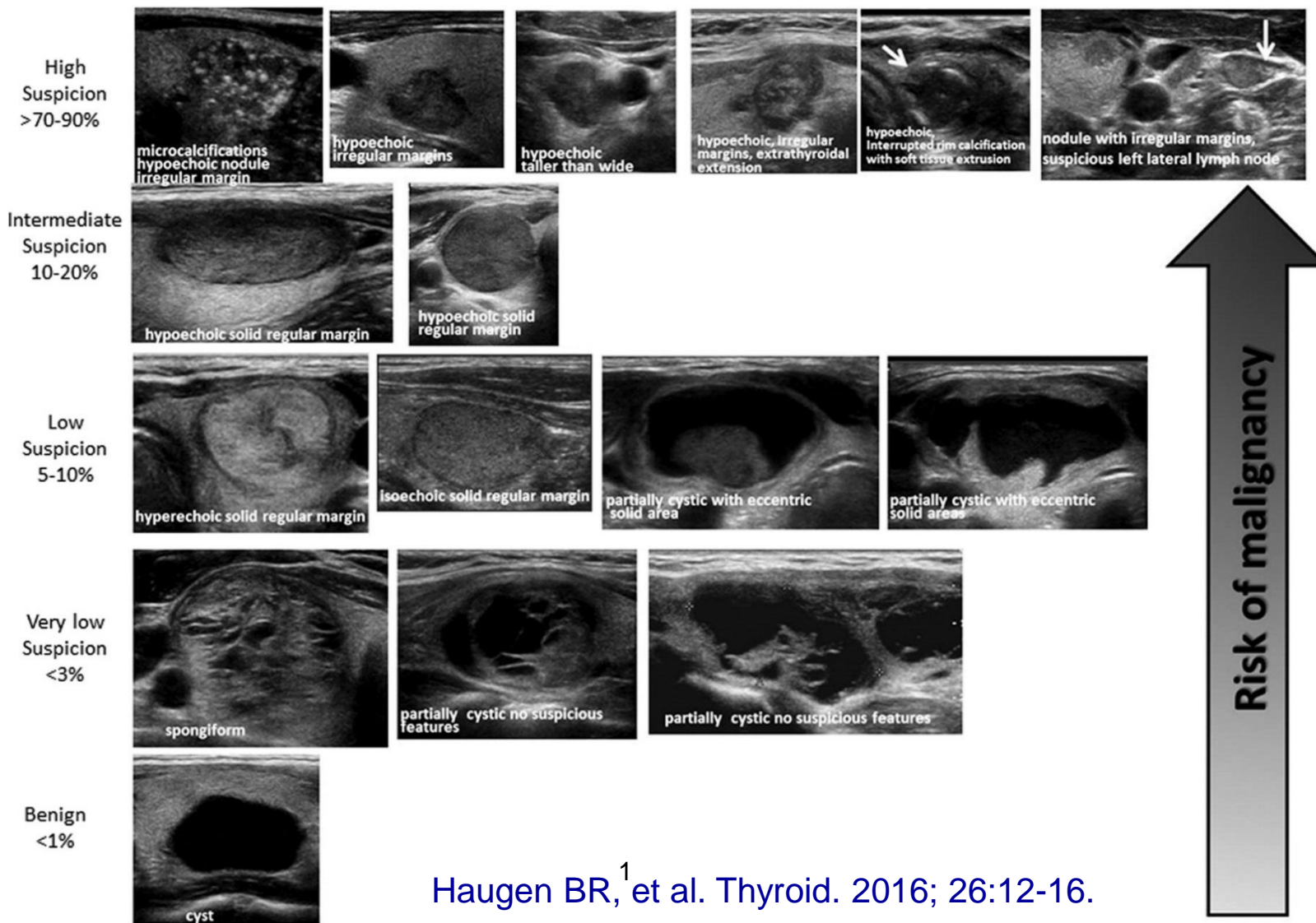
What is The First-line Screening Test?

- **Measure serum TSH in the initial evaluation**
- **If serum TSH is subnormal, a radionuclide thyroid scan should be performed**
- **Hyperfunctioning nodules rarely malignancy**

What Imaging Studies are Indicated?

- **Thyroid ultrasonography should be performed in all patients with thyroid nodules.**
- **Ultrasonography can represent the most useful thyroid image**
- **Assess the morphology and the size**
Assist in FNA and follow-up

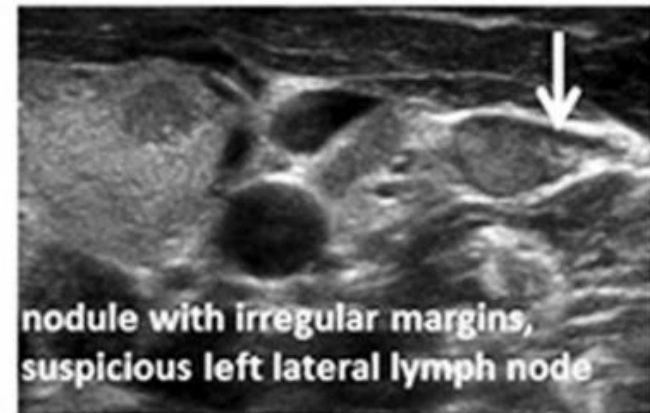
Sonographic Patterns and Risk of Malignancy



Haugen BR,¹ et al. Thyroid. 2016; 26:12-16.

Ultrasound Findings High Suspicion of Malignancy

High
Suspicion
>70-90%



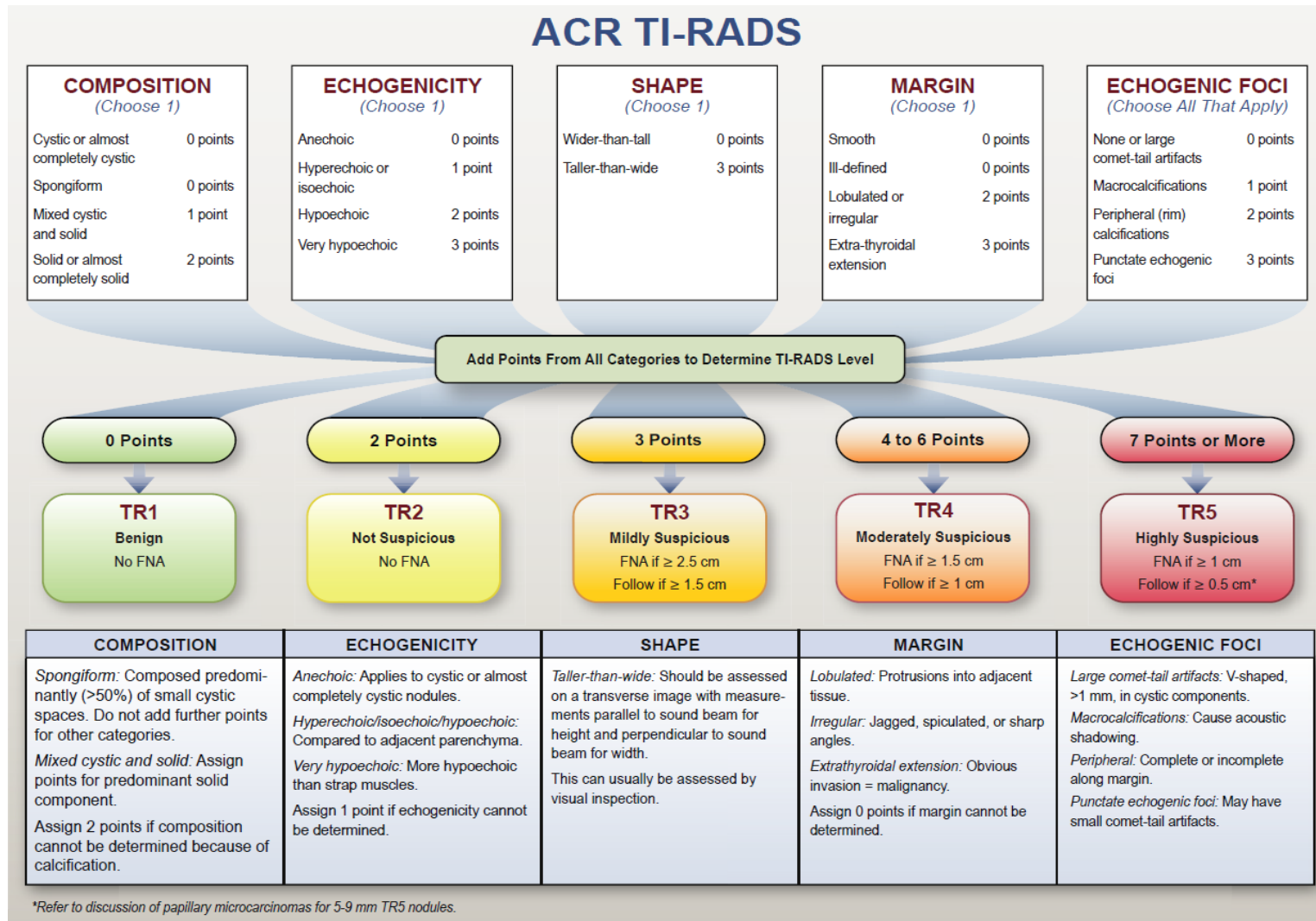
Sonographic Features of Thyroid Nodules and Recommended Threshold Size for FNA (2016)

<i>Sonographic features</i>	<i>Estimated risk of malignancy</i>	<i>Consider biopsy FNA size cutoff (largest dimension)</i>
High suspicion	>70-90 %	FNA at nodule >1 cm
Intermediate suspicion	10-20%	FNA at nodule >1 cm
Low suspicion	5-10%	FNA at nodule >1.5 cm
Very low suspicion	<3%	FNA at nodule >2 cm Observation without FNA is also a reasonable option
Benign	<1%	No biopsy Aspirate the cyst may be considered for symptomatic or cosmetic drainage

Sonographic Features of Thyroid Nodules and Recommended Threshold Size for FNA

<i>Sonographic features</i>	<i>Estimated risk of malignancy</i>	<i>Consider biopsy FNA size cutoff (largest dimension)</i>
High suspicion	>70-90 %	FNA at nodule >0.5 cm
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Low suspicion	5-10%	FNA at nodule >1.5 cm
Very low suspicion	<3%	FNA at nodule >2 cm
Benign	<1%	Aspirate the cyst may be considered for symptomatic or cosmetic drainage

ACR Thyroid Imaging, Reporting and Data System (TI-RADS)



What is the role of FNA biopsy?

- **FNA is the most accurate and cost-effective method**
- **FNA may be performed via palpation**
- **US guidance for FNA for difficult cases and previous nondiagnostic cytology.**

The Major Limitation of FNA

- **Limited utility in the evaluation of follicular neoplasms.**
- **Inadequate sampling or nondiagnostic specimens.**

Adequate Sampling (2016)

- **A satisfactory specimen contains at least five or six groups of 10 to 15 well-preserved cells.**
- **Some authors recommend between three and six aspirations per nodule.**
- **Use of ultrasound-guided biopsy combined with on-site cytologic examination improves the accuracy of sampling**

FNA cytology: Bethesda system

TABLE 8. THE BETHESDA SYSTEM FOR REPORTING THYROID CYTOPATHOLOGY: DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORIES AND RISK OF MALIGNANCY^a



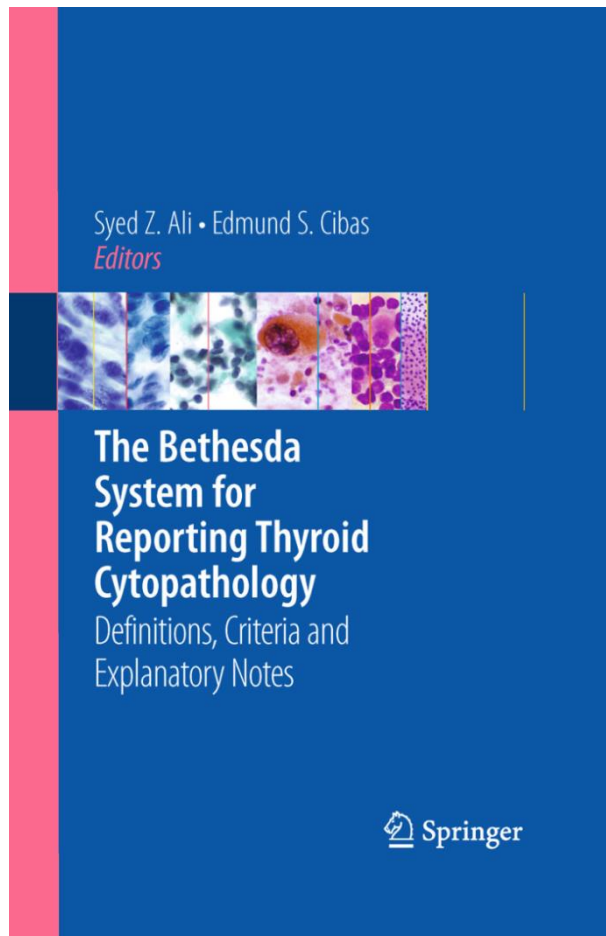
<i>Diagnostic category</i>	<i>Estimated/predicted risk of malignancy by the Bethesda system, %^a</i>	<i>Actual risk of malignancy in nodules surgically excised, % median (range)^b</i>
Nondiagnostic or unsatisfactory	1–4	20 (9–32)
Benign	0–3	2.5 (1–10)
Atypia of undetermined significance or follicular lesion of undetermined significance	5–15	14 (6–48)
Follicular neoplasm or suspicious for a follicular neoplasm	15–30	25 (14–34)
Suspicious for malignancy	60–75	70 (53–97)
Malignant	97–99	99 (94–100)

^aAs reported in The Bethesda System by Cibas and Ali (1076).

^bBased on the meta-analysis of eight studies reported by Bongiovanni *et al.* (103). The risk was calculated based on the portion of nodules in each diagnostic category that underwent surgical excision and likely is not representative of the entire population, particularly of nondiagnostic and benign diagnostic categories.

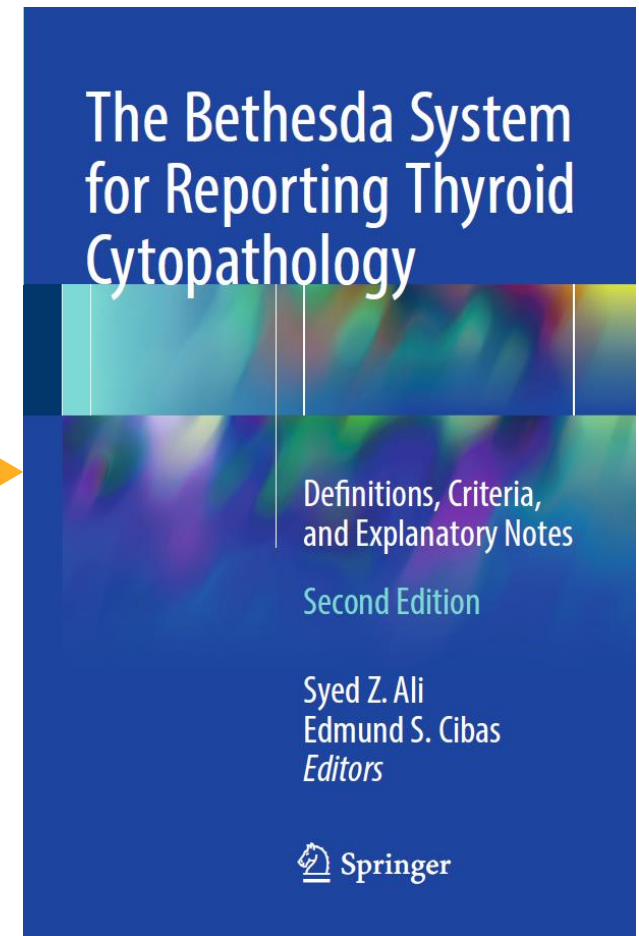
The Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology

1st Ed, 2010



1. Updated literature
2. Introduce of molecular testing
3. Revised ATA guidelines
4. Reclassification of NIFTP

2nd Ed, 2017



The 2017 Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology

- **TBS I: Nondiagnostic or Unsatisfactory**
 - should use only one of these for reporting results
- **TBS II: Benign**
- **TBS III: Atypia of Undetermined Significance**
 - Subcategorization based on types of atypia
- **TBS IV: Suspicious for a Follicular Neoplasm**
 - Cases that demonstrate mild nuclear changes associated with PTC are now included
- **TBS V: Suspicious for Malignancy**
- **TBS VI: Malignant**
 - Limited in cases with classical PTC features

Risk of Malignancy and Management

Diagnostic category	ROM (%) NIFTP = CA	ROM (%) NIFTP ≠ CA	Usual management
Nondiagnostic or unsatisfactory	5-10	5-10	Repeat FNA with ultrasound guidance
Benign	0-3	0-3	Clinical and sonographic follow-up
AUS	10-30	6-18	Repeat FNA, molecular testing, or lobectomy
SFN	25-40	10-40	Molecular testing, lobectomy
Suspicious for malignancy	50-75	45-60	Near-total thyroidectomy or lobectomy
Malignant	97-99	94-96	Near-total thyroidectomy or lobectomy

Discussion for Re-Classification of Class I and II

I. Nondiagnostic or Unsatisfactory

1. Cyst fluid only
2. Virtually acellular specimen
3. Other (obscuring blood, clotting artifact, drying artifact, etc.)

II. Benign

1. Consistent with a benign follicular nodule (includes adenomatoid nodule, colloid nodule, etc.)
2. Consistent with chronic lymphocytic (Hashimoto) thyroiditis in the proper clinical context
3. Consistent with granulomatous (subacute) thyroiditis

After Voting:

Class 0: Cyst fluid only

Class I. Unsatisfactory

1. Virtually acellular specimen
2. Other (obscuring blood, clotting artifact, drying artifact, etc.)

Class II. Benign

1. Consistent with a benign follicular nodule (includes adenomatoid nodule, colloid nodule, etc.)
2. Consistent with chronic lymphocytic (Hashimoto) thyroiditis in the proper clinical context
3. Consistent with granulomatous (subacute) thyroiditis

2019 VGHTPE Thyroid FNA Statistics

	n	%	excision	op rate %
TBS I	370	13.8	13	3.5
TBS II	2030	75.9	97	4.8
TBS III	107	4	34	31.8
TBS IV	32	1.2	21	65.6
TBS V	24	0.9	17	70.8
TBS VI	111	4.2	79	71.2
total	2674	100	261	/

2019 VGHTPE Thyroid FNA Correlation

	malignancy	ROM	overall ROM	neoplasm	RON
TBS I	3	23.1	0.8	3	23.1
TBS II	14	14.4	0.7	18	18.6
TBS III	16	47.1	15	21	61.8
TBS IV	1	4.8	3.1	15	71.4
TBS V	16	94.1	66.7	16	94.1
TBS VI	79	100	71.2	79	100
total	129	/	/	152	/

2019 VGHTPE Thyroid FNA AUS Subtypes

	n	%	excision	op rate %
AUS-C	59	55.1	19	32.2
AUS-A	24	22.4	7	29.2
AUS-H	16	15	7	43.8
AUS-C/A	3	2.8	1	33.3
AUS-NOS	5	4.7	0	0
total	107	100	34	/

2019 VGHTPE Thyroid FNA AUS Subtypes

	malignancy	ROM	overall ROM	neoplasm	RON
AUS-C	14	73.7	23.7	15	78.9
AUS-A	1	14.3	4.2	3	42.9
AUS-H	0	0	0	2	28.6
AUS-C/A	1	100	33.3	1	100
AUS-NOS	0	NA	NA	0	NA
total	16			21	

Benign Cytology

- The management of patients with benign lesions is more variable.
- Thyroid nodule size should be monitored by serial ultrasound about every 6-12 months.
- A second biopsy should be performed within 2 years to confirm the benign status.
- Repeat FNA is indicated if a nodule enlarges

Follow-up of nodules

<i>Sonographic features</i>	<i>Recommended follow-up</i>
High suspicion	Repeat US + FNA within 12 months
Low to intermediate suspicion	Repeat US at 12-24 months Consider FNA if nodules growth
Very low suspicion	Repeat US at 2-5 years Consider FNA if nodules growth

Nodule Growth Detected by Sonography

- More than a 50% increase in volume
or
- 20% increase in at least two dimensions with a minimal increase of 2 mm in solid nodules or in the solid portion of mixed cystic–solid nodules

Large Tumors

- Surgery should also be considered for large tumors (>3 cm)
- Especially in young subjects
- Composed of various cell populations, results of FNA are less reliable.

Pathology

HISTOPATHOLOGIC TYPE

Differentiated follicular thyroid carcinoma

- Papillary thyroid carcinoma
- Follicular thyroid carcinoma
- Follicular neoplasm of uncertain malignant potential
- Poor differentiated thyroid carcinoma

Anaplastic (undifferentiated) thyroid carcinoma

Non-follicular thyroid carcinoma

Medullary thyroid carcinoma

Others

Lymphoma

Metastasis to thyroid

Carcinoma, type cannot be determined

Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma (PTC)

- **Papillary thyroid carcinoma: (PTC)**
- Variants:
 1. Classical (usual)
 2. Microcarcinoma (occult, latent, small, papillary microtumor)
 3. Clear cell variant
 4. Columnar cell variant
 5. Cribriform-morular variant
 6. Diffuse sclerosing variant
 7. Follicular variant
 8. Macrofollicular variant
 9. Oncocytic or oxyphilic variant (follicular variant, non-follicular variant)
 10. Solid variant
 11. Tall cell variant
 12. Warthin-like variant

Follicular Thyroid Carcinoma (FTC)

- **Follicular thyroid carcinoma (FTC)**
 1. Minimal invasive
 2. Widely invasive
- Subtype variant:
 - Oncocytic (Hürthle) cell type
 - Clear cell variant

2017 WHO Classification for Encapsulated Follicular-patterned Tumors

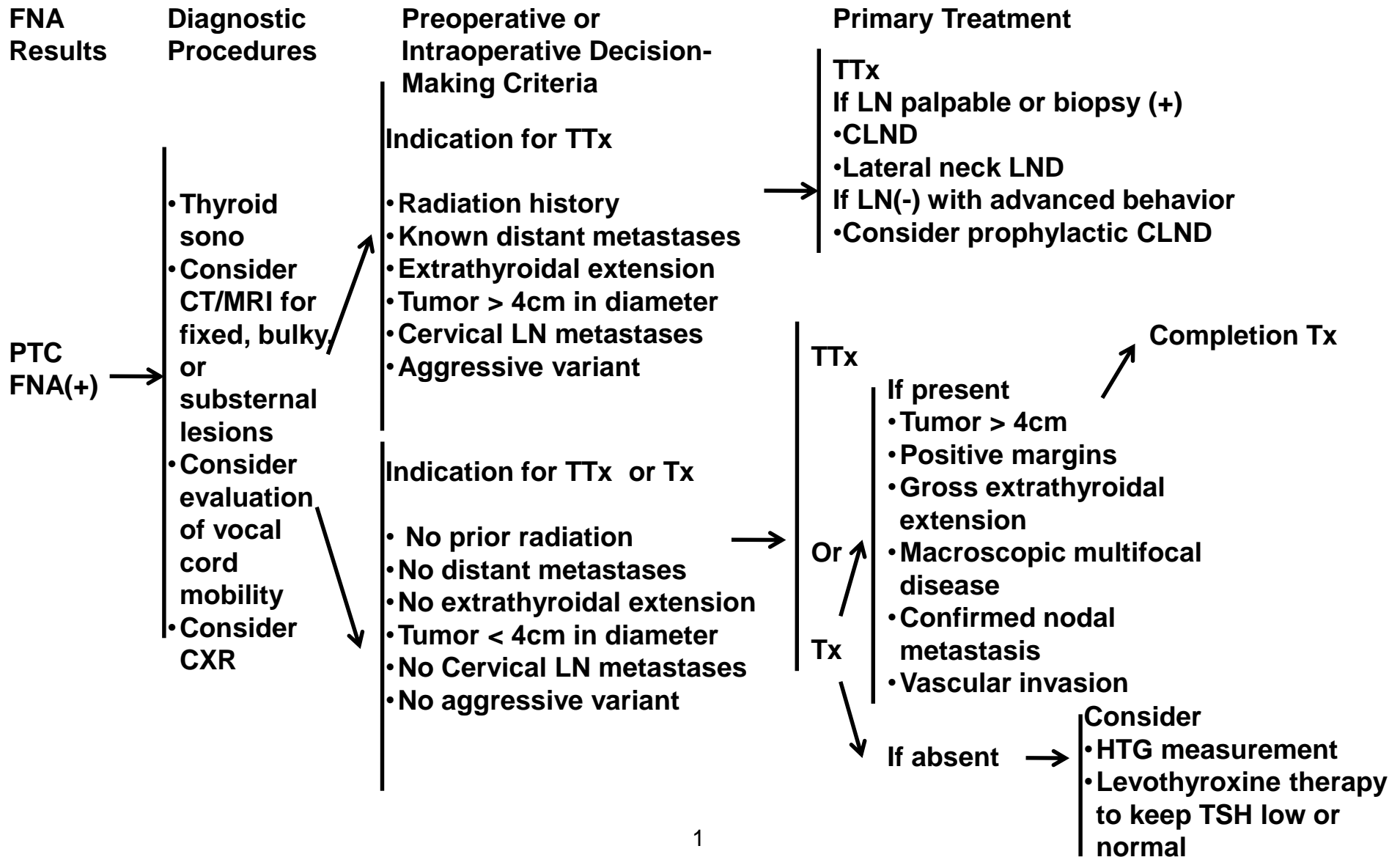
Capsular/Vascular Invasion

		Yes	?	No
Nuclear Features of PTC	Yes	Invasive EFVPTC	WDT-UMP	NIFTP
	?	WDC-NOS		
	No	FTC	FT-UMP	FA

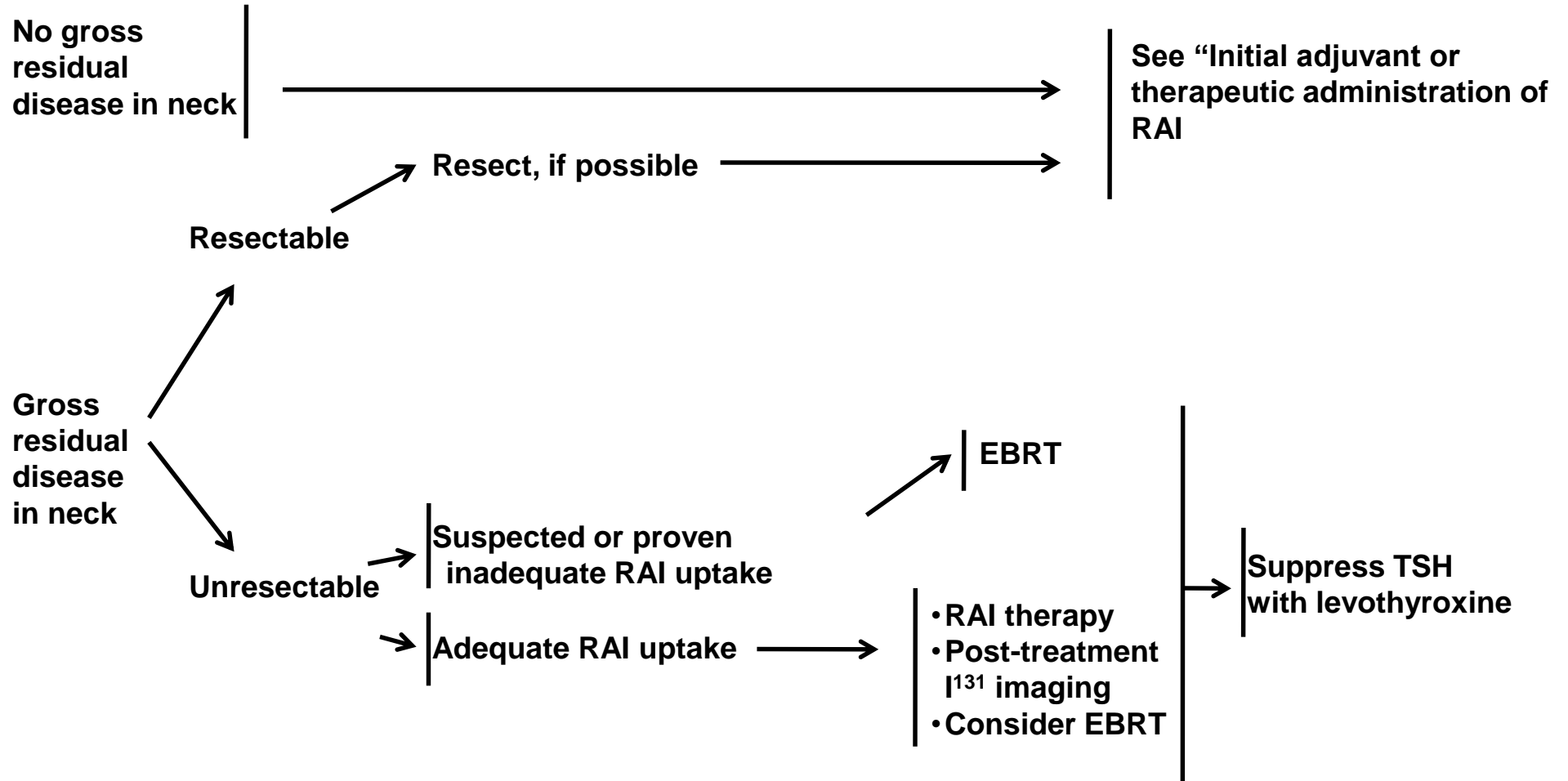
Treatment Related Terminology

- **Human thyroglobulin: hTG**
- **Operation procedures:**
 - **Thyroidectomy: Tx**
 - **Subtotal thyroidectomy: sTx**
 - **Total thyroidectomy: TTx**
 - **Central lymph node dissection: CLND**
 - **Modified radical lymph node dissection: MRLND**
- **Radioiodine: RAI**
- **External-beam radiation therapy: EBRT**
- **Parathyroidectomy: PTX**

Treatment of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma (PTC)



Treatment of Residual Disease (PTC)

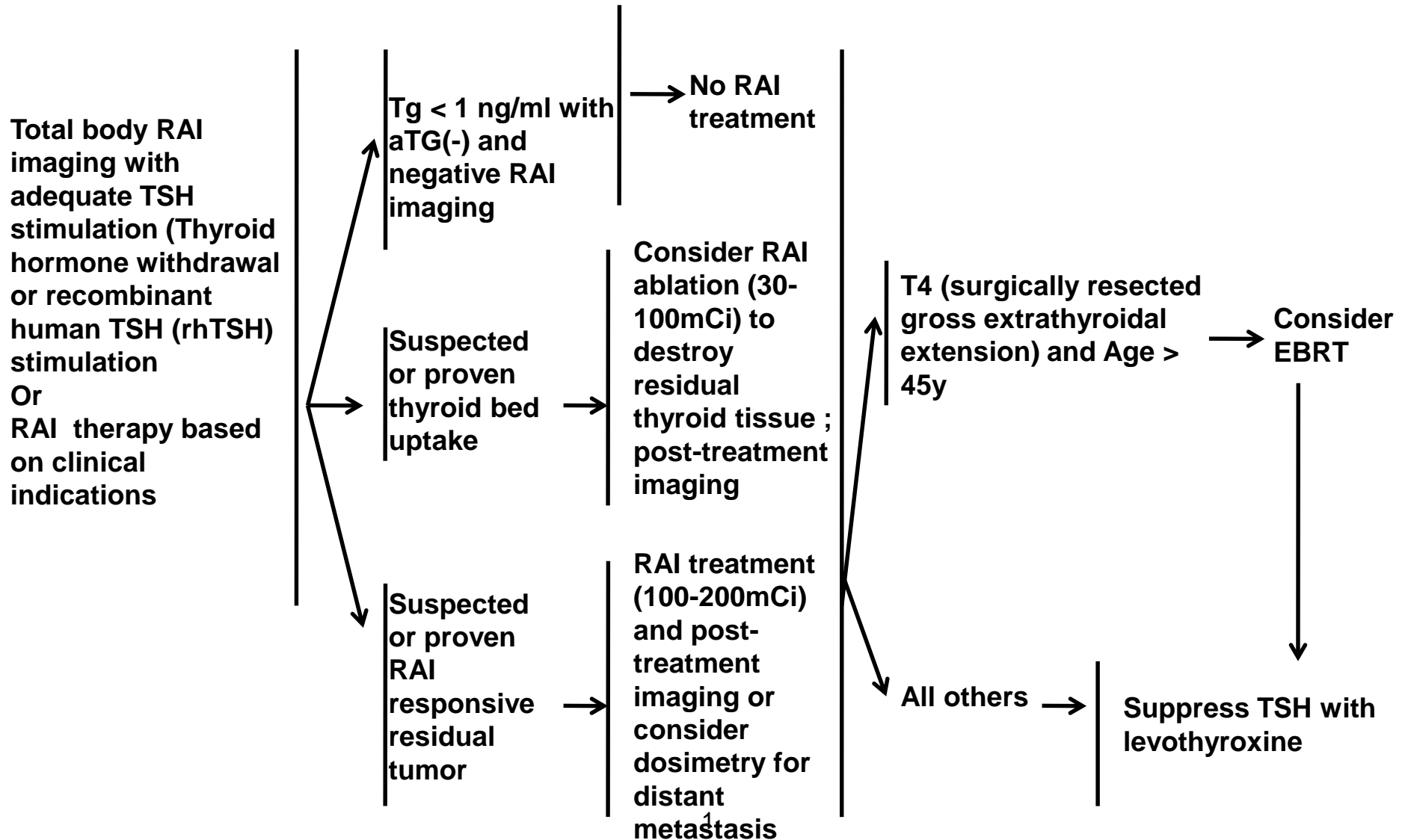


Initial Adjuvant or Therapeutic Administration of RAI (PTC)

- **RAI recommended:**
 - **Gross extrathyroidal extension**
 - **Primary tumor > 4cm**
 - **Known or suspected distant metastases**

- **RAI selectively recommended:**
 - **Residual thyroid tissue suspected**
 - **High-risk histology**
 - **Vascular invasion** **Lymphatic invasion**
 - **Cervical LN metastases**
 - **Minor extrathyroidal extension**
 - **Inappropriate post-op Tg**
Detectable TgAb

Post-op for Patients Considered for RAI Therapy (PTC)

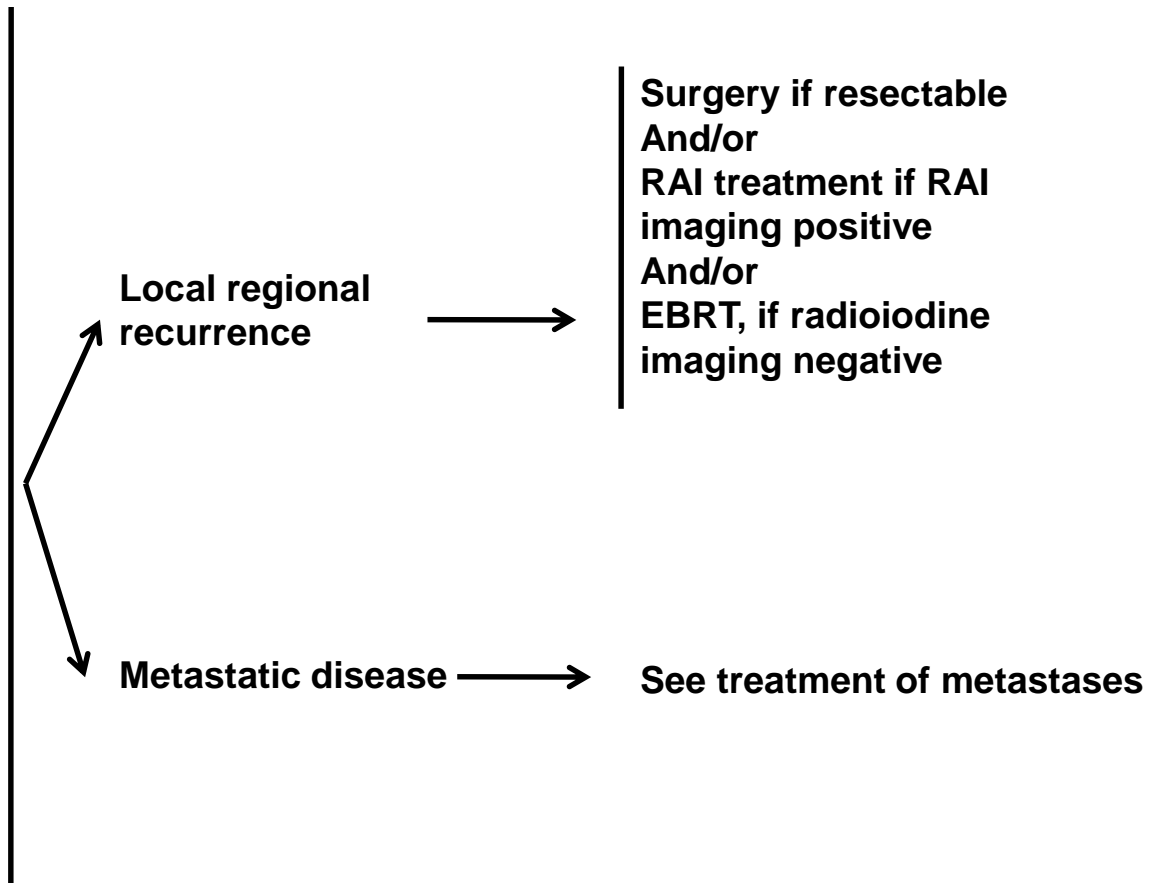


Surveillance, Maintenance and Recurrence (PTC)

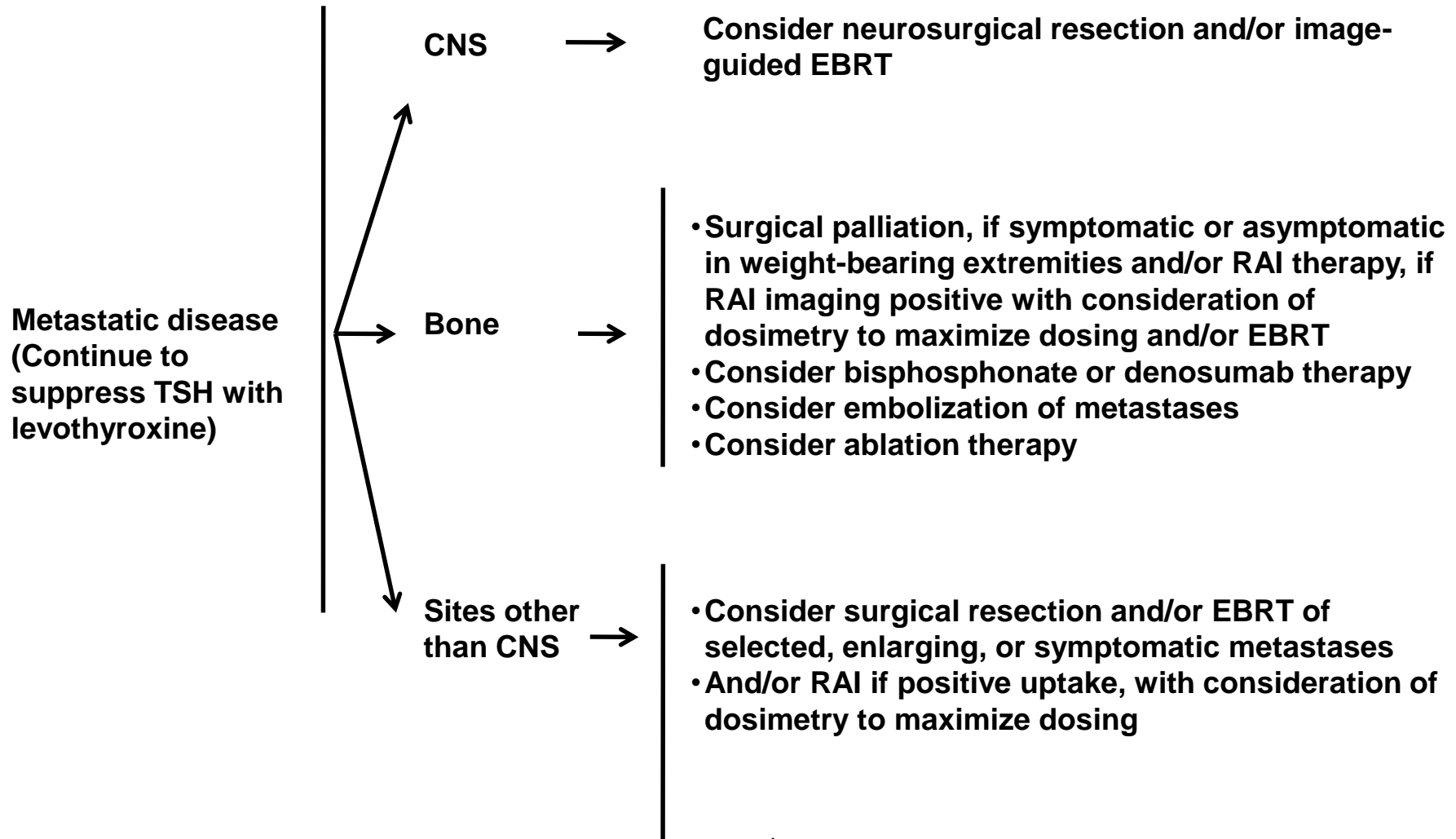
Surveillance and Maintenance

- Physical examination, TSH and Tg measurement + aTG
- Neck ultrasound
- Consider TSH-stimulated RAI imaging in high-risk patients, patients with previous RAI avid metastases, or patients with abnormal Tg levels, stable or rising aTG, or abnormal ultrasound during surveillance
- If RAI imaging negative and elevated hTg, consider additional non-RAI imaging (eg, neck ultrasound, neck CT, chest CT, FDG-PET/CT)

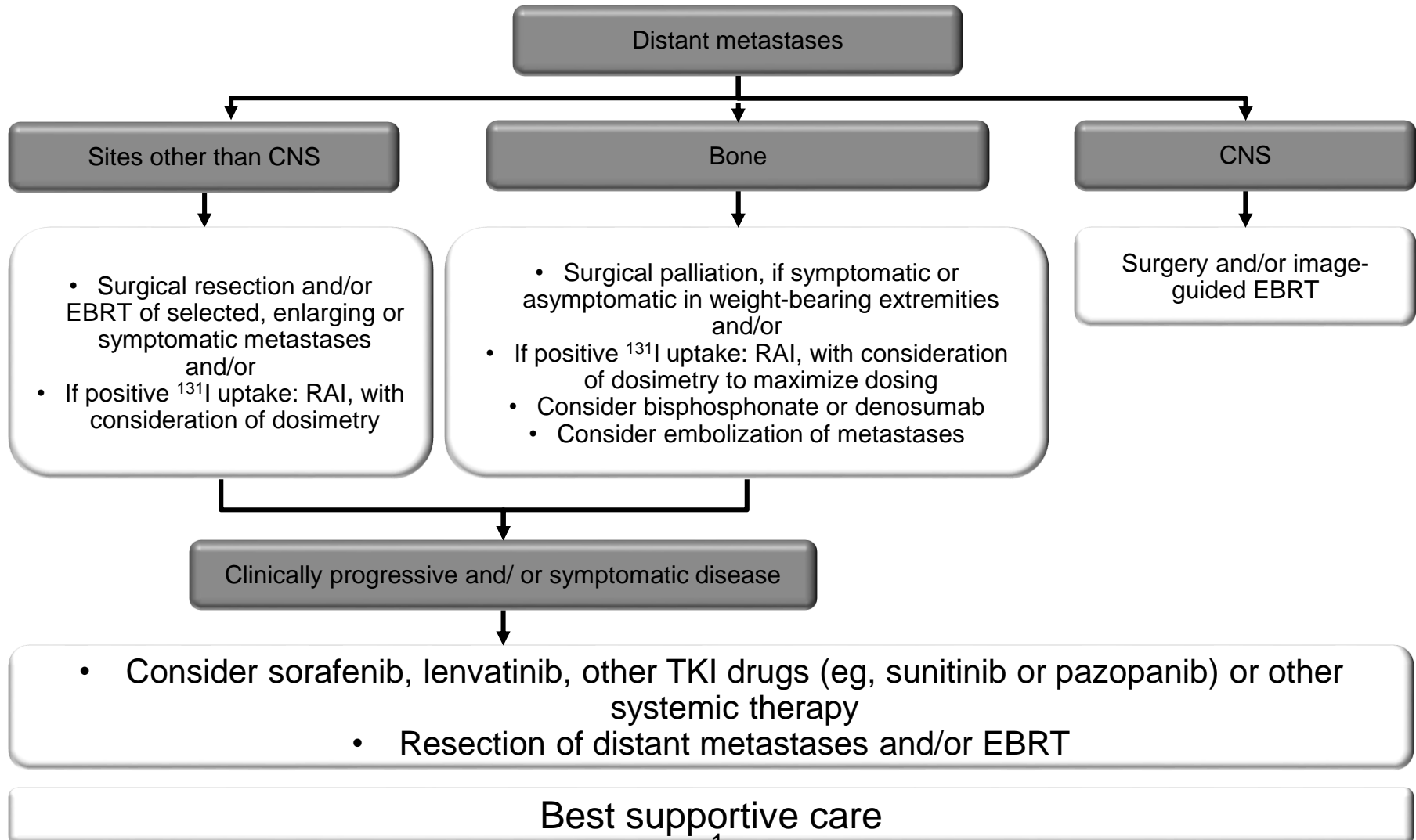
Recurrent Disease



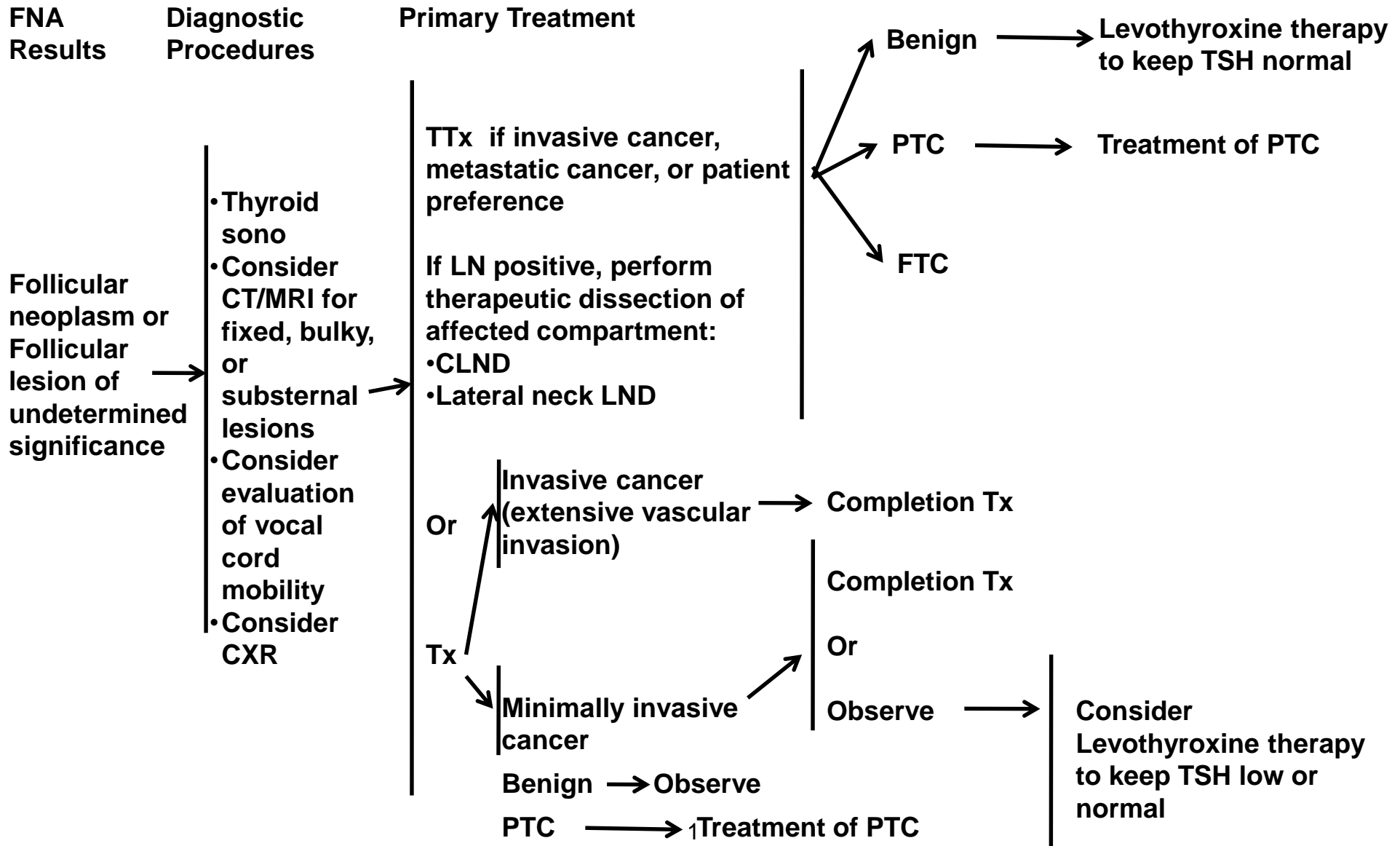
Treatment of Metastases (PTC)



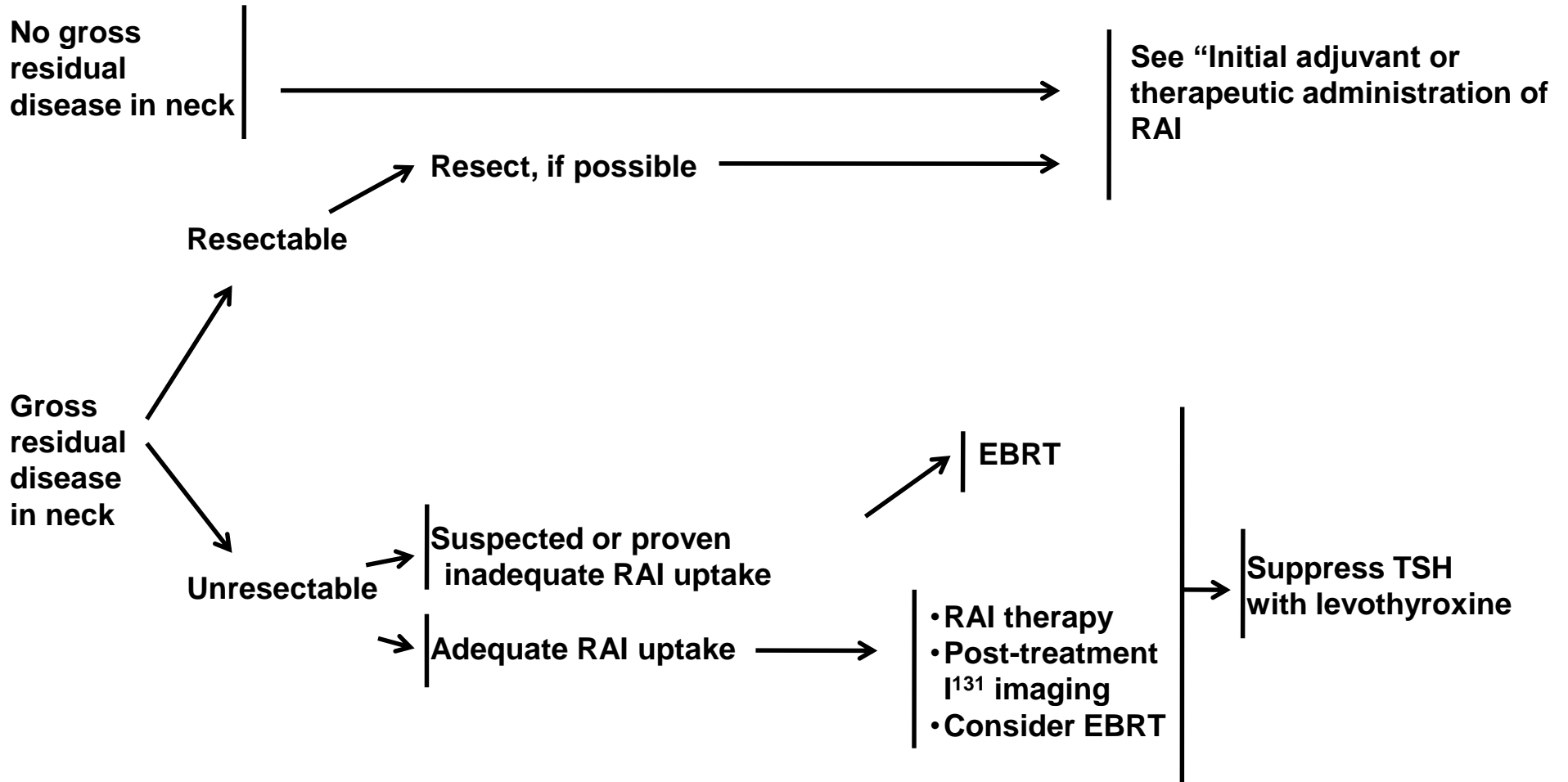
Treatment of Metastases (PTC)



Treatment of Follicular Thyroid Carcinoma (FTC)



Treatment of Residual Disease (FTC)

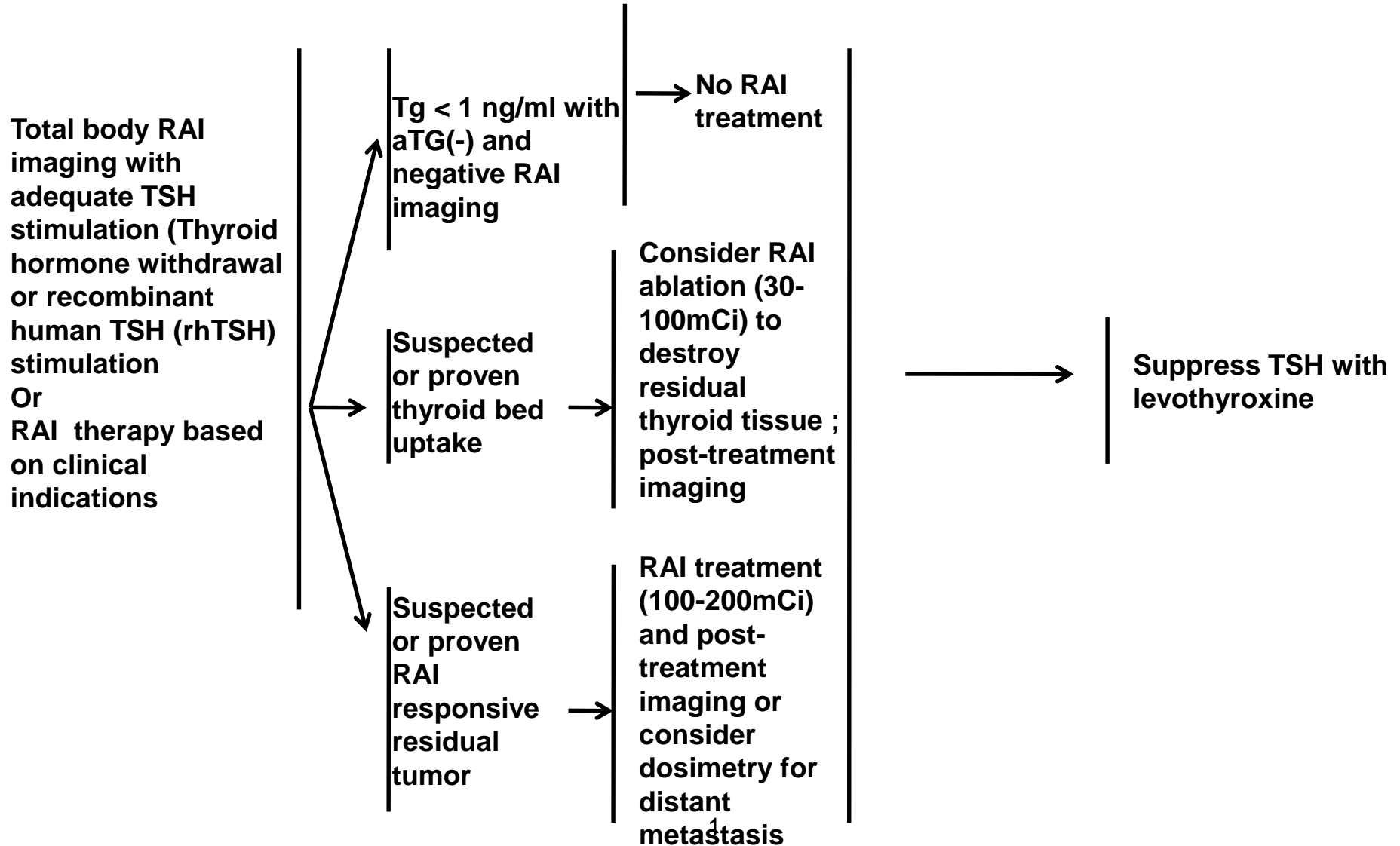


Initial Adjuvant or Therapeutic Administration of RAI (FTC)

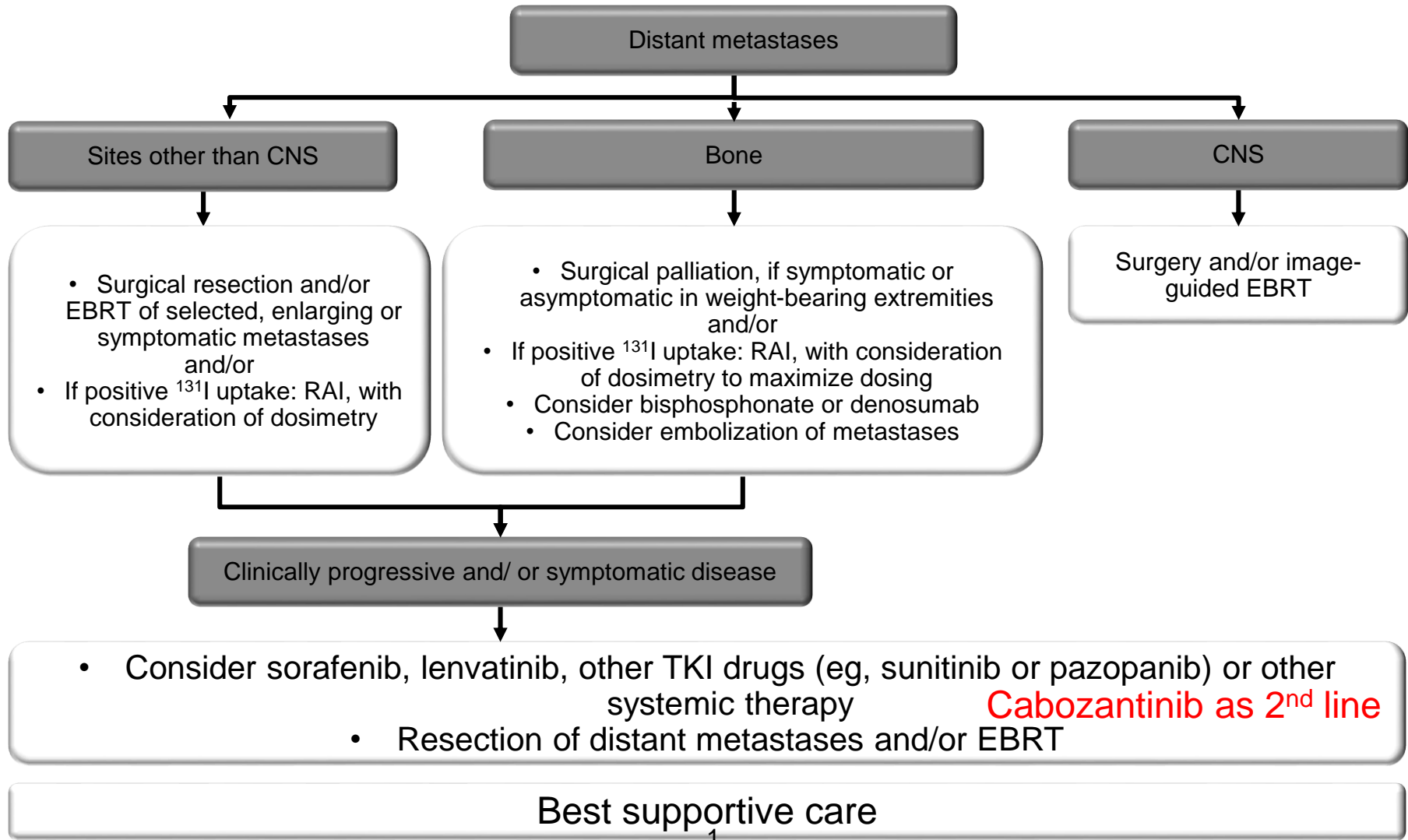
- **RAI recommended:**
 - **Gross extrathyroidal extension**
 - **Primary tumor > 4cm**
 - **Known or suspected distant metastases**
 - **Extensive vascular invasion**

- **RAI selectively recommended:**
 - **Residual thyroid tissue suspected**
 - **High-risk histology**
 - **Minor vascular invasion**
 - **Cervical LN metastases**
 - **Minor extrathyroidal extension**
 - **Inappropriate post-op Tg**

Post-op for Patients Considered for RAI Therapy (FTC)



Treatment of Metastases (FTC)



Treatment of Medullary Thyroid carcinoma (MTC)

Clinical presentation

Additional work up

Primary Treatment

MTC
on
FNA



- Basal calcitonin level
- CEA
- Pheochromocytoma screening
- Serum calcium
- Neck ultrasound
- Consider CT/MRI if N1 disease or calcitonin > 400 pg/ml
- Consider test of RET proto-oncogene mutations if available (utility and cost)

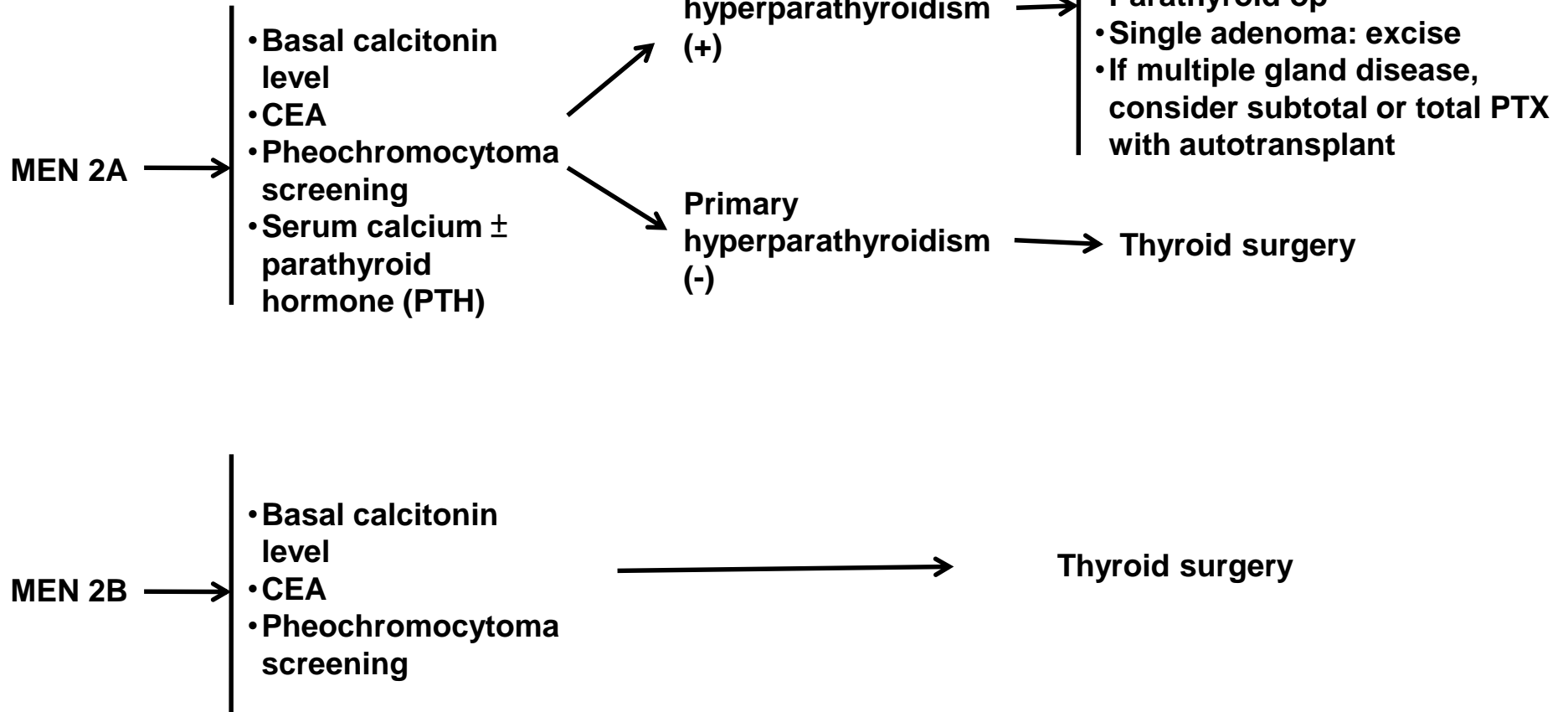


- TTx with CLND
- Therapeutic lat. ipsilateral or bil. MRLND for clinically or radiologically identifiable disease
- Consider prophylactic ipsilateral MRLND for high volume or gross disease in the adjacent central neck
- Consider therapeutic EBRT for grossly incomplete tumor resection
- Consider adjuvant EBRT for gross extrathyroidal extension (T4a or T4b) with positive margins after resection of all gross disease and following resection of moderate –to high-volume disease in the central or lat. Neck LN with extranodal soft tissue extension
- Postoperative levothyroxine supply to normalize TSH

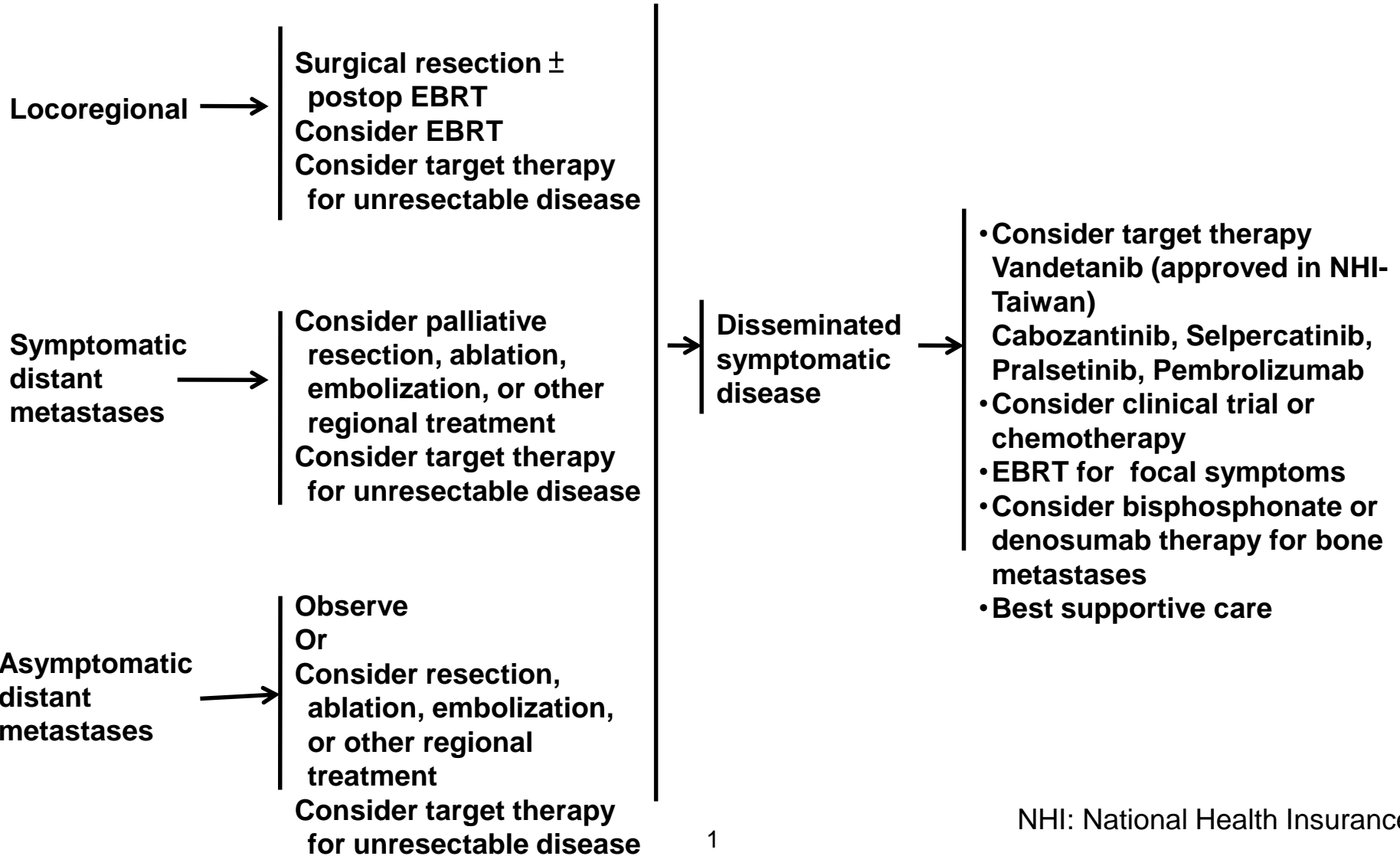
MTC and Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia (MEN)

Related presentation

Additional work-up



Recurrence or Persistent Disease (MTC)

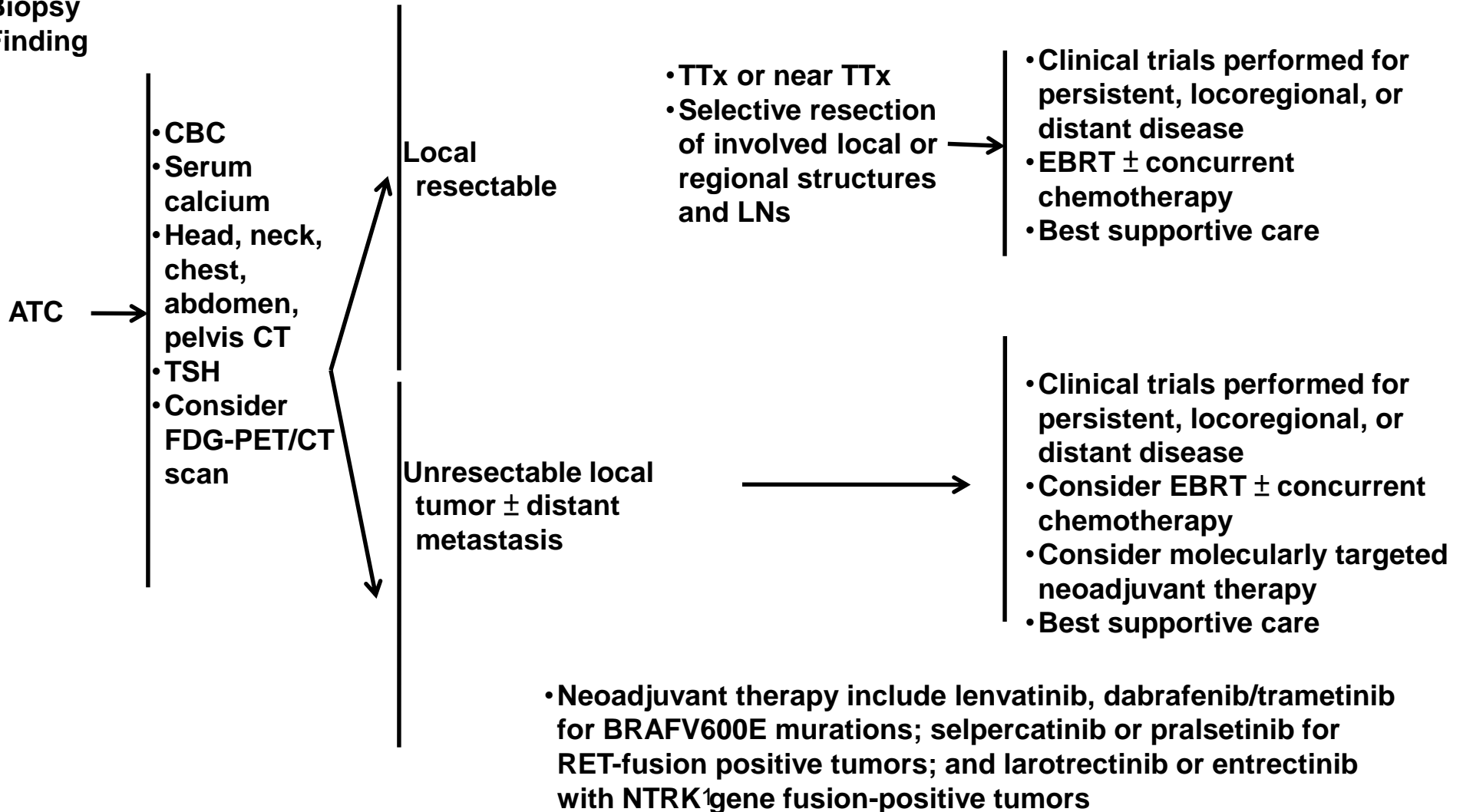


Anaplastic Thyroid Carcinoma (ATC)

FNA or Core Biopsy Finding

Diagnostic Procedures

Primary Treatment



Precision Medicine in Thyroid Cancer

- **Molecular testing should be considered for actionable mutations**
- **Well-differentiated thyroid carcinoma**
 - Pan-TKI: lenvatinib & sorafenib **Cabozantinib as 2nd line**
 - *NTRK* TKI: larotrectinib & entrectinib (2018)
 - *RET* TKI: selpercatinib (2020)
 - TMB-high: pembrolizumab (2020)
 - *BRAF* inhibitor: vemurafenib & dabrafenib (off-label/on-going trial)
- **Medullary thyroid carcinoma**
 - Pan-TKI: vandetanib
 - *RET* TKI: selpercatinib (2020)
 - TMB-high: pembrolizumab (2020)
- **Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma**
 - *BRAF*, *NTRK*, *ALK*, *RET*, and tumor mutation burden (TMB)

Pembrolizumab for patients with tumor mutational burden high (TMB-H) (≥ 10 mutations/megabase [mut/Mb]) tumors

How to Choose the Right TKIs and Use Optimally

1. NCCN guideline:

- Lenvatinib 的反應率優於sorafenib (65% vs. 12% 因此NCCN列Lenvatinib 為preferred)
- age>65 yrs: Lenvatinib有整體存活率的好處
- 在brain mets的病人，兩藥皆無data

2. ESMO:

- Higher response rate with lenvatinib and it may delay progression for longer
- lenvatinib and sorafenib are recommended as treatment options for differentiated thyroid cancer after radioactive iodine. However, they are recommended only for patients who have not had TKI before, or who have to stop them early because of tolerability (specifically, toxicity that cannot be managed by dose delay or dose modification). This is because there is not enough clinical evidence and no cost-effectiveness evidence to determine whether the treatments are effective when used sequentially.

3. lenvatinib is the optimally cost-effective treatment for RR-DTC, although both lenvatinib and sorafenib are cost-effective compared to placebo.

Cabozantinib for radioiodine-refractory differentiated thyroid cancer (COSMIC-311): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial

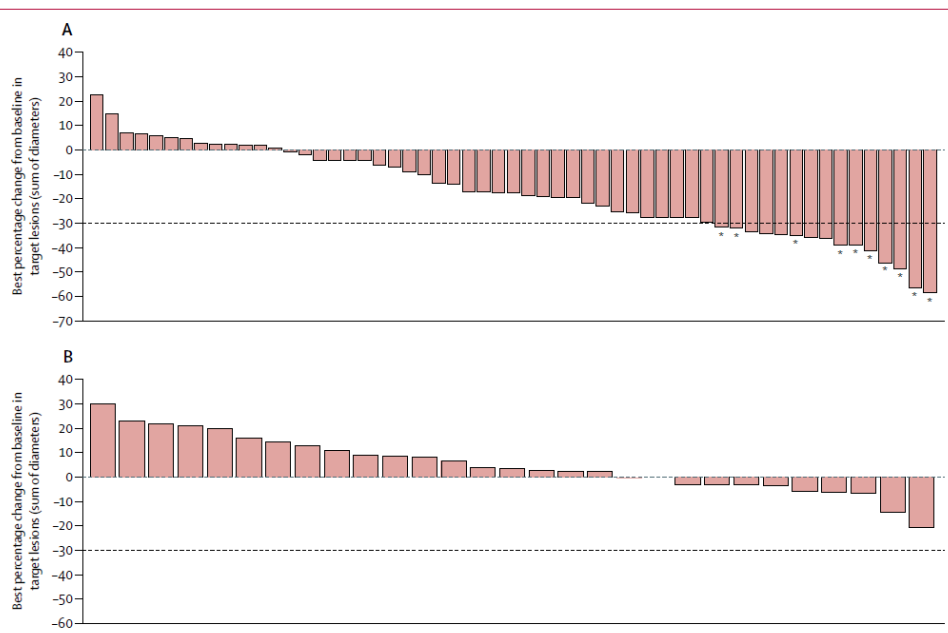
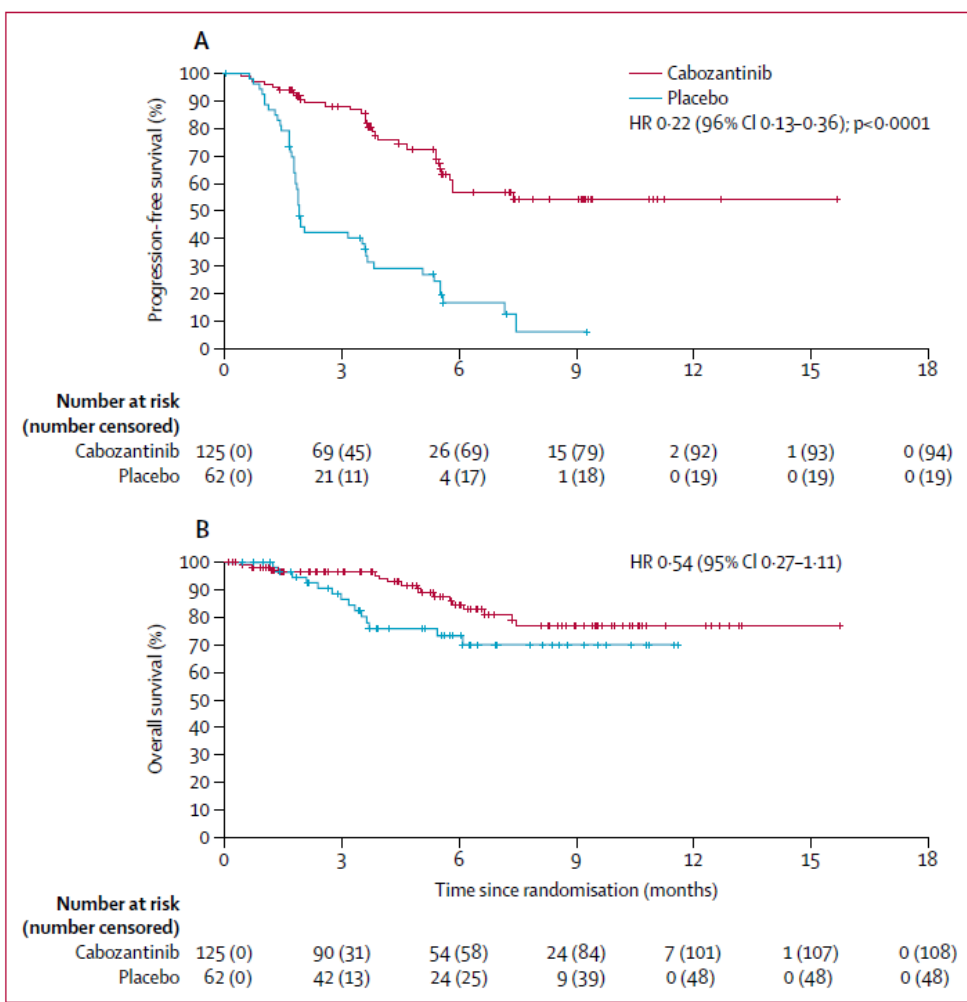


Figure 2: Waterfall plot for maximum percentage tumour reduction from baseline in target lesions for individual patients (objective response rate intention-to-treat population)
(A) Cabozantinib group. (B) Placebo group. Tumour response was assessed with Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumours version 1.1 by blinded independent radiology committee. The waterfall plots show the maximum percentage reduction or minimum increase from baseline in sum of diameters of target lesions before progressive disease or initiation of any non-protocol anti-cancer medication. Only patients with at least one baseline and post-baseline assessment are shown. Of the 58 patients in the cabozantinib group and 31 in the placebo group with at least one post-baseline assessment, one patient in the cabozantinib group and two patients in the placebo group did not have a qualifying sum of diameter for inclusion in the waterfall plot. * Confirmed partial response.

	ITT	Placebo
Radioiodine therapy status†		
Refractory	65 (97%)	33 (100%)
Ineligible	3 (4%)	0
Previous sorafenib or lenvatinib		
Sorafenib but no lenvatinib	26 (39%)	12 (36%)
Lenvatinib but no sorafenib	22 (33%)	13 (39%)
Sorafenib and lenvatinib	19 (28%)	8 (24%)

ORR 15%
PR 15%
SD: 69%
PD:6%



ITT PFS: not reached (5.7-)
PFs: 57% vs 17 % over 6 mo

Placebo PFS: 1.9 mo (5.8 in SELECT Trial)

Figure 3: Kaplan-Meier estimates of progression-free survival (A) and overall survival (B) in the intention-to-treat population
Disease progression was assessed with the use of Response Criteria in Solid Tumours, version 1.1 by blinded independent radiology committee. NE=not estimable. NR=not reached.

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