RAI-refractory DTC
A DIFFICULT AND PERSISTENT THYROID CANCER

What is Progressive, RAI-refractory DTC?

RAI-refractory DTC, which stands for radioactive iodine-refractory differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC), is DTC that NO LONGER RESPONDS TO RADIOACTIVE IODINE (RAI) THERAPY. DTC includes papillary and follicular (including Hürthle Cell) thyroid cancers.

Some Patients' Differentiated Thyroid Cancers May Persist or Recur After Surgery and RAI

While most DTC patients respond to surgery and radioactive iodine treatment, in some patients the cancer can continue to progress. These patients account for approximately 5% of the nearly 43,800 patients diagnosed with thyroid cancer in the United States in 2022.

Some Patients Become Refractory to RAI

RAI-refractory DTC can be classified in the following basic ways:

1. When malignant/metastatic tissue does not concentrate RAI (no uptake outside the thyroid bed at the first therapeutic whole-body scan)
2. The tumor tissue loses the ability to concentrate RAI after previous evidence of RAI-avid disease (in the absence of stable iodine contamination)
3. RAI is concentrated in some lesions but not in others
4. Metastatic disease progresses despite a significant concentration of RAI

Some Patients' Differentiated Thyroid Cancers May Persist or Recur After Surgery and RAI

The prognosis for these patients whose DTC persists or recurs after surgery and RAI is poor. There are a limited number of treatment options available.

References:

4. Haugen B et al. 2015 American Thyroid Association Management Guidelines for Adult Patients with Thyroid Nodules and Differentiated Thyroid Cancer. 2016; 26(1)

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