Clinical insights and management strategies in medullary thyroid carcinoma in East Malaysia, Sabah: A case series

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) is a rare form of thyroid cancer and often presents with a different clinical and molecular profile. MTC can occur sporadically or as part of inherited syndromes such as Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia type 2 (MEN2). Herein, we present a case series of MTC in East Malaysia, Sabah. Objective: This study aims to explore the current cohort of MTC in Sabah in terms of disease extension, diagnostic evaluation and management. **Materials and Methods:** This was a retrospective case series study in the period of March 2023 to March 2025. Sociodemographic and clinical data were collected from the patient's clinical records in Hospital Queen Elizabeth II, Sabah, Malaysia. **Results:** The study included 7 patients with anterior neck swelling and elevated calcitonin and CEA levels. The cohort comprised predominantly six females and one male, aged 20 to 64, all diagnosed with sporadic MTC. Five patients underwent total thyroidectomy with neck dissection; one patient is due completion thyroidectomy, and one male patient did not undergo surgery due to extensive disease. Subsequently, two patients had further RET genetic testing. Due to persistent CEA elevation post-surgery, one patient required a redo modified radical neck dissection. **Conclusion:** Management of MTC depends on early diagnosis through calcitonin screening, genetic testing, and tailored therapy.

Keywords: medullary thyroid carcinoma, thyroid carcinoma, calcitonin, Sabah Malaysia