

Supplementary Table S1. Search strategy

PubMed		Search strategy	Numbers
P	#1	(((((thyroid cancer) OR (thyroid carcinoma)) OR (thyroid tumor)) OR (papillary thyroid cancer)) OR (thyroid neoplasm)	94,066
	#2	(cervical lymph node) OR (neck lymph node)	38,156
	#3	#1 AND #2	5436
Intervention	#4	(metastasis) OR (metastatic)	1,436,116
	#5	#3 AND #4	4005
	#6	((ultrasonography) OR (ultrasound)) OR (US)	2,497,831
	#7	(computed tomography) OR (CT)	876,390
	#8	#6 AND #7	449,815
P+I	#9	#5 AND #8	317

Embase		Search strategy	Numbers
P	#1	'thyroid cancer' OR 'thyroid carcinoma' OR 'thyroid tumor' OR 'papillary thyroid cancer' OR 'thyroid neoplasm'	88,150

	#2	'cervical lymph node' OR 'neck lymph node'	18,642
	#3	#1 AND #2	3260
	#4	'metastasis' OR 'metastatic'	954,603
	#5	#3 AND #4	2772
I	#6	'ultrasonography' OR 'ultrasound' OR 'us'	1,451,034
	#7	'computed tomography' OR 'ct'	1,235,000
	#8	#6 AND #7	133,587
P+I	#9	#5 AND #8	486