

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THYROID CANCER?

Thyroid cancer is the most common endocrine cancer worldwide. This cancer is the **5th most common in Puerto Rico** and, according to several studies conducted in recent years, the incidence of thyroid cancer on the island is higher than in the United States.

Thyroid cancer is the **second most diagnosed cancer in Puerto Rican women and the tenth most diagnosed cancer in Puerto Rican men.**



A woman is three times more likely to be affected by thyroid cancer than a man



In its early stages, thyroid cancer tends to present no symptoms, but as it progresses, it can be identified by the following:

- Neck pain that may extend to the jaw and ears.
- Nodules in the front of the neck
- Difficulty swallowing and taking deep breaths
- Difficulty speaking or a hoarse voice

RISK FACTORS FOR THYROID CANCER:

- Female sex
- Ages between 25 and 65. For females, the risk may begin at age 15
- Exposure to radiation to the head or neck, especially in childhood
- Family history of thyroid disease or thyroid cancer
- History of thyroid enlargement
- Inherited diseases, such as:
 - Familial medullary thyroid cancer (FMTC)
 - Familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)
 - Multiple endocrine neoplasia
 - Cowden's syndrome

