

## **Study: Dramatic Rise In Thyroid Cancer Has Resulted From Overdiagnosis.**

The [AP](#) (2/21, Tanner) reports that research published in JAMA Otolaryngology suggests that “a dramatic rise in thyroid cancer has resulted from overdiagnosis and treatment of tumors too small to ever cause harm.” Investigators “analyzed government data from 1975 to 2009 and found thyroid cancers jumped from 5 cases per 100,000 people to 14 per 100,000.” The data indicated that “most of that increase was in papillary thyroid cancers, the most common and least deadly kind.”

The [Oncology Report](#) (2/21, Smith) reports that the researchers “saw a much greater absolute increase in thyroid cancer in women, at 3.3-fold (from 6.5 to 21.4 cases per 100,000), than in men, at 2.2-fold (from 3.1 to 6.9), during the study period, which suggests that the burden of overdiagnosis fell heavily on women, they wrote.”

[HealthDay](#) (2/21, Reinberg) reports, “According to [lead researcher Dr. H. Gilbert Welch], more people are having their neck imaged to look for blockage of the arteries or for other reasons, and nodules on the thyroid are then found.” Dr. Welch said, “This means that a lot of people are having their thyroids removed for a cancer that was never going to