

PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF SCAR COSMESIS AFTER THYROIDECTOMY: RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF TURKISH VS. SOUTH KOREAN INDIVIDUALS

Contact name: özdemir, murat

Institution/company: Ege University Hospital

Phone: 2147483647

Country: Turkey

E-mail: muratozdemir.md@gmail.com

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seda Gozener Ege University, School of Medicine, Department of Anatomy, Izmir; Soo Young Kim Yonsei University, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Thyroid Cancer Center, Seoul,; Özer Makay Ege University Hospital, Department of General Surgery, Division of Endocrine Surgery, Izmir,; Murat Ozdemir Ege University Hospital, Department of General Surgery, Division of Endocrine Surgery; Hur Hassoy Ege University, School of Medicine, Department of Public Health, Izmir; Yong Sang Lee Yonsei University, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Thyroid Cancer Center, Seoul; Seok Mo Kim Yonsei University, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Thyroid Cancer Center, Seoul, South Korea; Hojin Chang Yonsei University, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Thyroid Cancer Center, Seoul, South Korea; Bup-Wo Kim Yonsei University, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Thyroid Cancer Center, Seoul, South Korea; Gökhan İçöz Ege University Hospital, Department of Surgery, Division Endocrine Surgery, Izmir,; Hang-Seok Chang Yonsei University, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Thyroid Cancer Center, Seoul,; Cheong Soo Park Yonsei University, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Thyroid Cancer Center, Seoul,

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Purpose: "Scarless thyroidectomy (transoral endoscopic thyroidectomy)" is described for the surgical management of thyroid diseases in selected cases. Objective of this study was to investigate whether publics' perception of neck scar cosmesis in Turkey share the same perspectives as compared to the South Korean population. Methods: A review board-approved survey was administered to individuals. A total of 809 individuals completed the 15-question survey during a 2 months period. This was evaluated against age, gender, ethnicity, educational status, profession, income, presence of a neck scar, scar length, thickness, coloring, and length and psychological consequences of presence of a neck scar. Results: Replies were received from 525 (65%) Turkish and 284 (35%) Korean individuals (68% female, 32% male, mean age 47,2±13,3). Compared to Turkish individuals, Korean's would significantly feel more uncomfortable with a scar in the neck ($p<0.05$). This also counted for the length and thickness of the scar ($p<0.05$). They also reported to feel damaged and less attractive with a scar in the neck ($p<0.05$). Multivariate analysis showed that youngest age group (<26) in Turkey would feel more uncomfortable with a scar in the neck, compared to reference age group of 57-66 [OR=2.91 (95% CI=1.39-5.11)]. Korean ladies would feel more uncomfortable with a neck scar, compared to Korean men [OR=2.75 (95% CI=1.33-6.67)]. Conclusion: Among the surveyed individuals, for South Koreans, a scar in the neck is associated with concerns and fears when compared to Turkish individuals. Being

young in Turkey and female in South Korea are factors affecting perception of scar cosmesis.