

Respiratory distress caused by radioiodine therapy in patients with differentiated thyroid cancer

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Respiratory distress accompanied by stridor is an uncommon complication of ^{131}I radioiodine therapy for differentiated thyroid cancer that occurs within 48 hours of treatment. This report presents three cases with papillary thyroid carcinoma in which ^{131}I therapy caused this acute complication. One of them had no apparent risk for this complication such as the existence of remnant thyroid tissue or laryngeal problems before the treatment. These cases remind physicians that ^{131}I therapy is not a simple, riskless procedure.

Key words: ^{131}I , thyroid cancer, neck edema, respiratory distress, complication