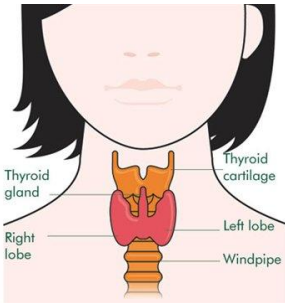


Thyroid Cancer Support Group - Wales

Thyroid Cancer Awareness Campaign



The thyroid is a small gland in the front of the neck just below the voice box. It is bowtie or butterfly shaped.

The thyroid gland makes and secretes hormones into the blood. These hormones are important in keeping our metabolism under control.

Thyroid disorders are common, but **thyroid cancer** is rare. Anybody, at any age can be affected.

The commonest thyroid problems are either under production of hormones (hypothyroidism) or over production (hyperthyroidism).

Both of these conditions are unrelated to cancer.

This leaflet is part of an international campaign to try and increase awareness.

*Compared to breast, lung, and bowel cancers **thyroid cancer** is much less common.*

In 2008, there were approximately 2154 new cases of thyroid cancer (1596 women, 558 men) diagnosed in the UK. (Compared to breast cancer 48034: lung cancer 40800: bowel cancer 39991).

The commonest way that thyroid cancers are found is when someone notices a lump in the neck where the thyroid gland sits. This is usually painless and many people feel otherwise well.

It is **very important** to know however, that having a lump in the thyroid is common and most lumps are **NOT thyroid cancer**.

*If you think you have found an unexplained lump in your neck don't panic as most lumps are harmless but do get it checked by your doctor. The majority of **thyroid cancers** respond well to treatment and people usually go on to live a normal life.*

If you have found this leaflet of interest and would like to find out more please contact:

Thyroid Cancer Support Group Wales (Registered Charity No. 1113774)

www.thyroidsupportwales.co.uk or email: thyroidgroup@tiscali.co.uk

or Tel: 0845 0092737

For further written information on **thyroid cancer** you can also try

www.thyroid-cancer-forum-uk.org.uk

Please Be Thyroid Aware