Author’s response to reviews

Title: Utility of repeat cytological assessment of thyroid nodules initially classified as benign: clinical insights from multidisciplinary care in an Irish tertiary referral centre

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Version: 2 Date: 25 Apr 2016

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Thank you for your helpful comments in relation to the abovementioned manuscript. In reference to the particular issues raised, we have amended the manuscript as follows (changes in red):
Reviewer #1

“A flow chart of all the Thy 2 nodules might be helpful to visualize the description of the results provided.” A flow chart has been added to the results section in line with the Reviewer’s comments – Figure 1.

“The addition of percentages to the 2nd paragraph of results section on page 8 would be helpful.” We have amended the text in line with the Reviewer’s suggestion – page 8, line 20-22.

“On page 9, please confirm how many patients had repeated biopsies or surgical resection........ Should that be 23+126 = 149?” The reviewer is correct; in total 149 (23+126) patients had either surgical resection or a routine repeat biopsy following an initial FNAB classified as Thy 2 - benign. We have amended the text – page 10, line 3.

“Line 21, page 11 mention 8% of Thy 2 nodule......Should that be 9/126=7%?” We agree with the Reviewer and the text has been amended – page 12, line 1; page 15, line 14.

“Hamburger's study was mentioned in the discussion on line 20, page 12. Was ultrasound guidance used for the biopsy?” Ultrasound guidance was not used and this has been clarified in the text – page 12, line 24.
Reviewer #2

“Page 3 abstract lines 14, 17, 18: The abbreviations Thy2, Thy 5…..” We have amended the text in line with the Reviewer’s suggestion – page 3, line 13-18.

“Page 5 line 5: when you mean clinically detected nodules ….” We have amended the text in line with the Reviewer’s suggestion and inserted a - page 5, line 4-6; reference no. 5.

Editorial Requests

Ethics/Consent: A statement in this respect is contained on page 6; line 16-21.

Authors Contributions: A statement in this respect is contained on page 18; line 18.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nigel Glynn (on behalf of the authors)