

Table 1. Clinical characteristics of patients in the two groups

Characteristics	Before PSM			After PSM		
	T group (N=181)	R group (N=49)	<i>P</i> value	T group (N=49)	R group (N=49)	<i>P</i> value
Age (y)	64.0(6.0)	65.0(5.5)	0.878	64.0(5.0)	65.0(5.5)	0.830
Female	122(67.40)	40(81.6)	0.053	40(81.6)	40(81.6)	1.000
Largest diameter(cm)	4.1(1.6)	3.2(1.5)	<0.001	3.1(1.2)	3.2(1.5)	0.828
Volume (ml)	18.6(22.0)	7.4(10.1)	<0.001	7.1(13.6)	7.4(10.1)	0.815
Location Right/Left/Isthmus	87/87/7 (48.1/48.1/3.8)	25/23/1 (51.1/46.9/2.0)	0.799	27/20/2 (55.1/40.8/0.1)	25/23/1 (51.1/46.9/2.0)	0.651
ACR TI-RADS scores			0.875		8(16.3)	0.919
2 points	36(19.9)	12(24.5)		11(22.4)	27.3(36.3)	
3 points	103(56.9)	29(59.2)		31(63.3)	29(59.2)	
4 points	32(17.7)	8(16.3)		7(14.3)	8(16.3)	
Follow-up period	36.5(21.8)	27.3(36.3)	0.068	35.7(25.9)	27.30(36.3)	0.211

Data are expressed as median(IQR) or number of nodules (percentages)

T group: Thyroidectomy group; RFA group: Radiofrequency ablation group; PSM: propensity score matching

Table 2. The comparison of complications and hypothyroidism of the groups

Variables	Before PSM			After PSM		
	T group (N=181)	RFA group (N=49)	<i>P</i> value	T group (N=49)	RFA group (N=49)	<i>P</i> value
Complications	66(36.4)	0	<0.001	13(26.5)	0	<0.001
Transient RLN palsy	4(2.2)	0	0.295	1(2.0)	0	0.317
Transient hypoparathyroidism	3(1.7)	0	0.365	1(2.0)	0	0.317
Fever	3(1.7)	0	0.365	1(2.0)	0	0.317
Wound infection	4(2.2)	0	0.295	0	0	1.000
Respiratory dysfunction	1(0.6)	0	0.603	0	0	1.000
Loss of consciousness	1(0.6)	0	0.603	0	0	1.000
Hypothyroidism	50(27.6)	0	<0.001	10(20.4)	0	0.001

Data are expressed number of nodules (percentages)

T group: Thyroidectomy group; RFA group: Radiofrequency ablation group; PSM: propensity score matching

Table 3. The comparison of treatment variables in the two groups

Variables	Before PSM			After PSM		
	T group (N=181)	RFA group (N=49)	<i>P</i> value	T group (N=49)	RFA group (N=49)	<i>P</i> value
Procedure time (min)	90.0(54.0)	4.8(4.1)	<0.001	95.0(62.0)	4.8(4.1)	<0.001
Cost (USD)	2443.2(967.6)	1979.2(268.4)	<0.001	2208.8(886.9)	1979.2(268.4)	0.013

Data are expressed as median(IQR)

T group: Thyroidectomy group; RFA group: Radiofrequency ablation group; PSM: propensity score matching

Table 4. Changes of volume and VRR at each follow-up in R and T group

Time (months)	R group			T group	
	Volume (ml)	VRR (%)	<i>P</i> value (Vs initial volume)	Volume (ml)	VRR (%)
Initial volume	7.4(10.1)	-	-	18.6(22.0)	-
After treatment				0	100%
1	4.3(4.0)	55.0(35.9)	<0.001	-	-
3	2.5(3.5)	75.9(18.8)	<0.001	-	-
6	1.2(2.2)	84.6(26.2)	<0.001	-	-
12	0.7(2.5)	92.7(27.5)	<0.001	-	-
24	0.3(1.4)	94.1(15.0)	<0.001	-	-

Data are expressed as median(IQR)

VRR: volume reduction rate