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# Role of CT and MRI in the Diagnosis of Medullary Thyroid Cancer in Patients with Familial Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma (FMTC)

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Medullary thyroid cancer (MTC) is a rare but aggressive form of thyroid cancer that originates from the parafollicular C cells, which are responsible for producing calcitonin. While MTC accounts for a small percentage of all thyroid cancers, it is particularly signi cant in the context of familial medullary thyroid carcinoma (FMTC), a hereditary condition associated with mutations in the RET proto-oncogene. FMTC is characterized by the occurrence of MTC in multiple family members, o en at an early age, and is part of a broader spectrum of diseases known as multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2 (MEN2). Early

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e main advantage of CT in the evaluation of MTC is its ability to provide detailed images of the thyroid gland, cervical lymph nodes, and distant organs, particularly the lungs, liver, and bones. It is especially valuable in staging advanced disease and identifying distant metastasis. However, CT's reliance on ionizing radiation and its lower so -tissue contrast compared to MRI are notable limitations. It may also be less sensitive for detecting small thyroid tumors or subtle regional lymph node involvement. MRI, in contrast, o ers superior so -tissue contrast, making it particularly useful in evaluating the thyroid gland and surrounding tissues. It does not involve ionizing radiation, which is advantageous for long-term follow-up, especially in hereditary conditions like FMTC. MRI's ability to provide high-resolution images of lymph nodes and adjacent structures also enhances its role in staging and surgical planning. However, MRI may not be as e ective as CT in assessing lung metastases, and it can be more time-consuming and less accessible than CT in some clinical settings. In clinical practice, the combination of both CT and MRI can provide a comprehensive evaluation of medullary thyroid carcinoma in FMTC patients. While CT is useful for evaluating distant metastasis and lymph node involvement, MRI o ers superior so -tissue imaging, particularly for assessing the thyroid gland, regional lymph nodes, and adjacent structures. Together, these imaging modalities allow for a more accurate diagnosis, staging, and treatment planning in patients with FMTC.

e diagnosis of medullary thyroid carcinoma in patients with familial medullary thyroid carcinoma (FMTC) requires a comprehensive approach, and imaging plays a crucial role in this process. Both computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) provide valuable information for evaluating the primary tumor, lymph node involvement, and distant metastasis. While CT o ers detailed anatomical information and is useful for assessing distant metastases, MRI provides superior so -tissue contrast and is particularly bene cial for evaluating the thyroid gland and surrounding structures. e combination of these imaging techniques enhances the accuracy of diagnosis, staging, and treatment planning, ultimately improving patient outcomes. In clinical practice, both CT and MRI should be considered complementary tools, with each o ering unique strengths in the assessment of medullary thyroid carcinoma in FMTC patients.

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