








Is the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte “ratio” nale from head and neck to thyroidology for thyroidologists?: promise or passé?

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Dear Editor,

We read with a great deal the research article entitled “Is the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio a marker for differentiating between benign and malignant submandibular gland masses?” by Bora¹. This research of high quality seems to demand portraying to evaluation of the effect of the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (N/L) on distinguishing benign from malignant masses in the submandibular triangle of the head and neck which has recently been published in the 69th volume of *Rev Assoc Med Bras*¹. The author stated that he retrospectively evaluated 48 cases who had undergone surgery for submandibular gland masses with the histopathology of sialolithiasis, sialadenitis, pleomorphic adenoma²⁻⁴, and malignant conditions. He deduced and emphasized that N/L, *per se*, can be used as a biomarker in submandibular gland masses and has prognostic significance in malignant masses. Moreover, he proposed that N/L can be utilized as a biomarker beyond fine needle aspiration cytology. Thereto, he highlighted N/L as being proven in distinguishing between benign and malignant nodules in patients¹ with suspicious thyroid nodules^{1,5-17}. Nevertheless, at least a minimal debate is still ongoing on an accurate decision on N/L whether it is a biomarker in discrimination of malignity or not. Exempligratia, we reported that N/L was not a convenient and favorable biomarker in forecasting thyroid malignancy¹⁸ in thyroidology¹⁹⁻²⁹. Of note, N/L, particularly in the

thyroid with head and neck providers, the growing spectrum of clinical management for challenging conditions remains, especially for thyroidologists and thyroid health as different peas in a pod. *Fide, sed cui vide*. As a matter of fact, this issue merits further investigation. We thank Bora¹ for his valuable study.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

IS: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Resources, Software, Validation, Visualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **DS:** Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Resources, Software, Supervision, Validation, Visualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **TK:** Investigation, Methodology, Software, Validation, Visualization. **EC:** Investigation, Methodology, Software, Validation, Visualization. **DD:** Investigation, Methodology, Validation, Visualization. **AP:** Investigation, Methodology, Validation, Visualization. **PK:** Investigation, Methodology, Validation, Visualization.

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