Case Study

Acute Thyroid Nodule Hemorrhage

Chadde Ogren BS RDMS RVT RDCS

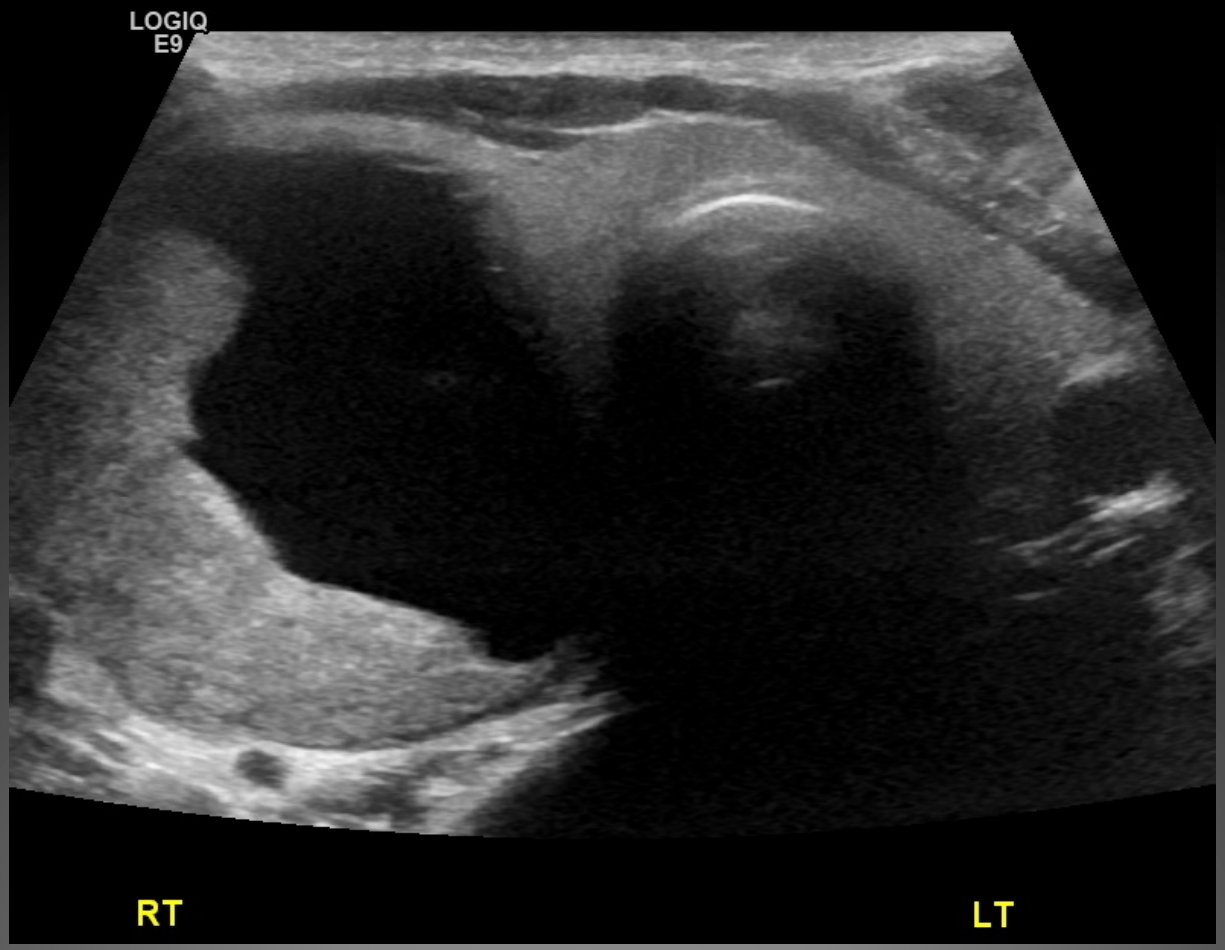
Intro

- A thyroid nodule refers to an abnormal growth of thyroid cells
- Thyroid nodules are very common. By age 60, 50% of the population has them. (American Thyroid Association)
- Thyroid nodules generally do not cause symptoms
- Rarely, acute neck swelling may be caused by a thyroid nodule hemorrhage

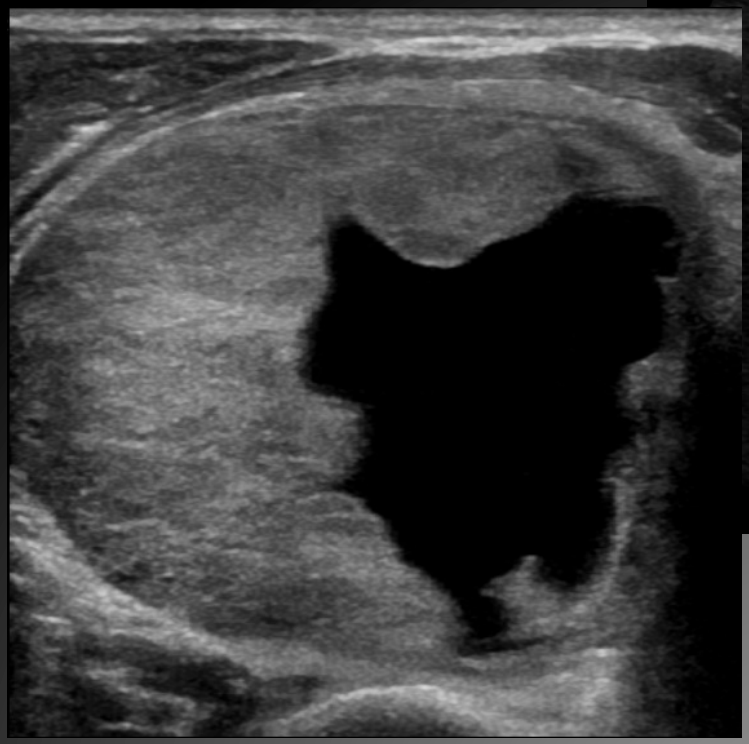
Case Report

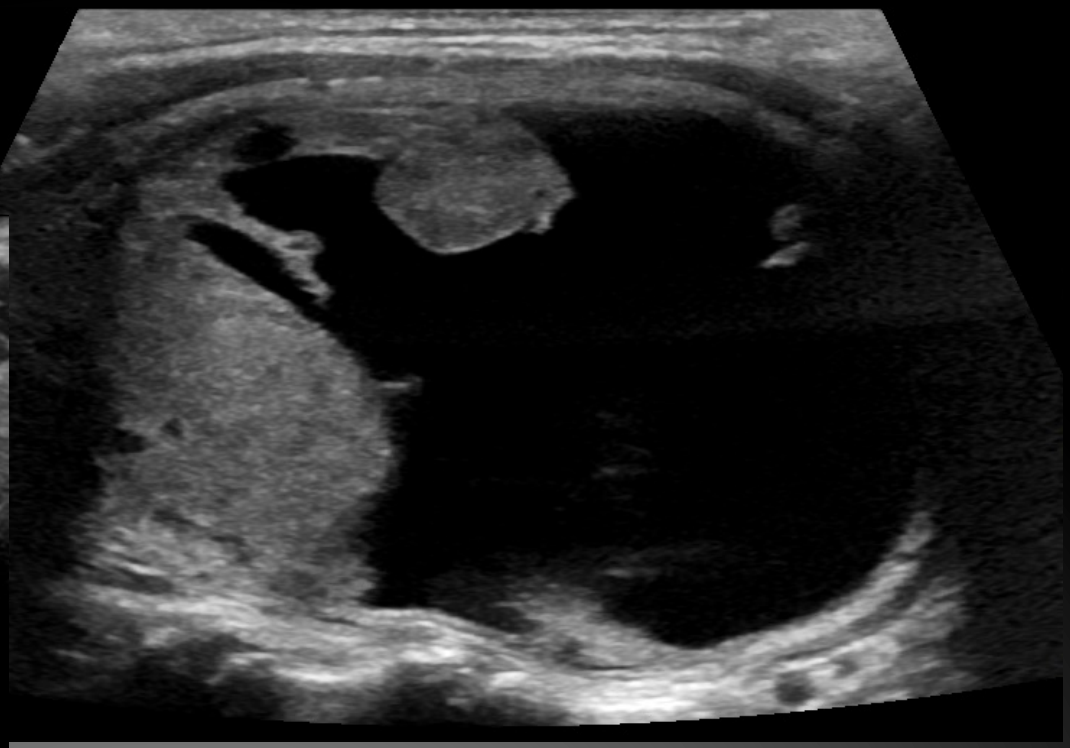
- 53 year old male
- Physician office visit due to sudden swelling on right side of neck, present for two days
- No history of thyroid nodules or disease
- Ultrasound revealed a right thyroid nodule with a large cystic component ~6.3 x 4.3 x 3.6 cm

Case Report

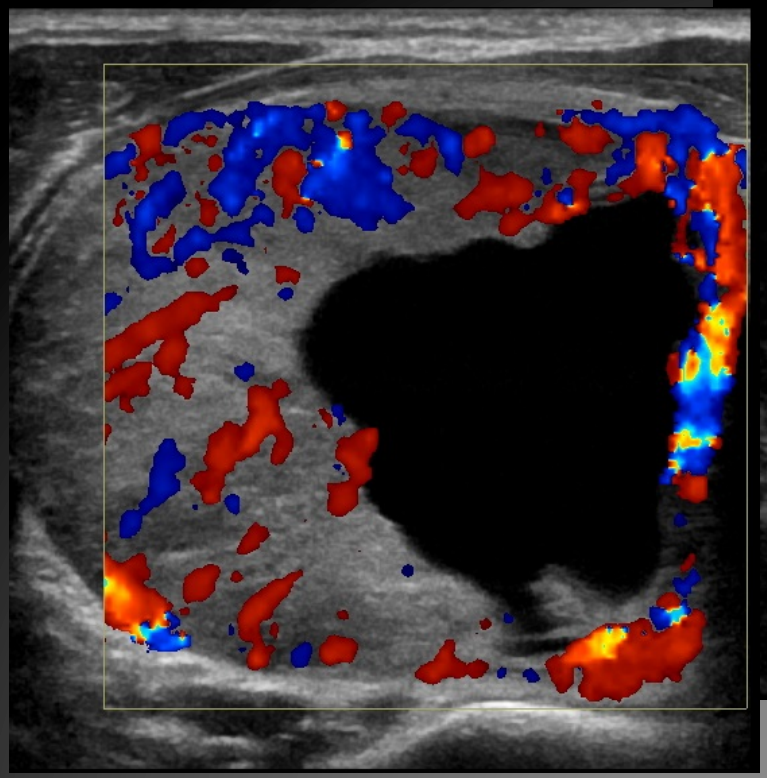


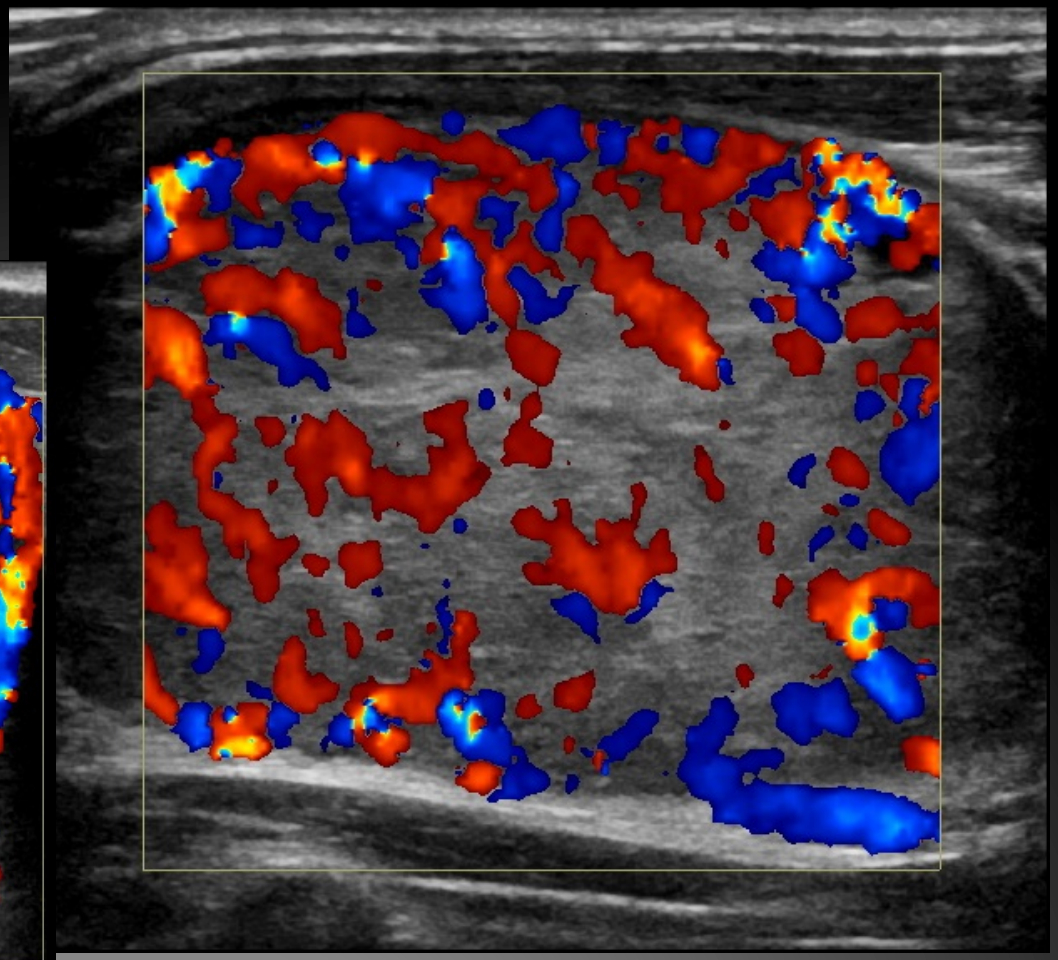
Case Report





Case Report





Discussion

- Thyroid nodule hemorrhage is not common

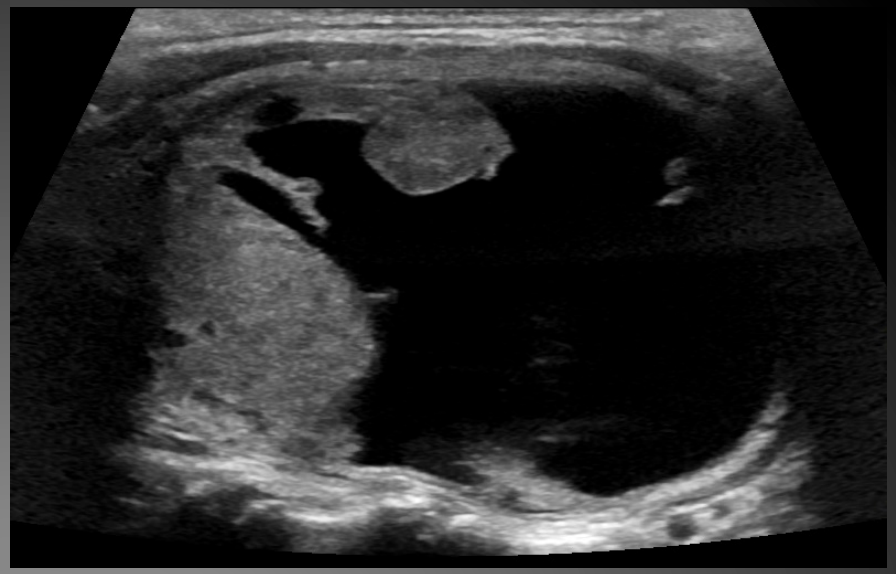
- Other causes of sudden neck swelling include:
  1) Inflammatory reaction
  2) Abscess
  3) Cyst

- Risk: Potentially life threatening if the thyroid nodule ruptured, hemorrhaging into the soft tissue, compressing the trachea. (2 written cases found)

Conclusion

- Acute unilateral neck swelling may be caused by hemorrhage within a thyroid nodule
- Thyroid ultrasound confirmed this finding

- Not common, but be aware of the potential risk



Thank you