

Pioneering
Non-Invasive
Surgery



MEET THE EXPERT

Pr. Luca Giovanella

Clinical Director – Center for Diagnosis & Therapy of Thyroid Disease

Ente Ospedaliero Cantonale (EOC) - Switzerland

“Patients require echotherapy to stop the never ending story of follow-up.”

Professor Giovanela, can you please describe your institution?

The Competence Center for Diagnosis and Therapy of Thyroid Disease is based in one of the public hospitals of the EOC group. The department of nuclear medicine that I chair includes a large thyroid unit dedicated to both thyroid cancer and benign thyroid disease. We have different specialties working together in the same department: **Endocrinologists, nuclear medicine physicians and radiologists.**



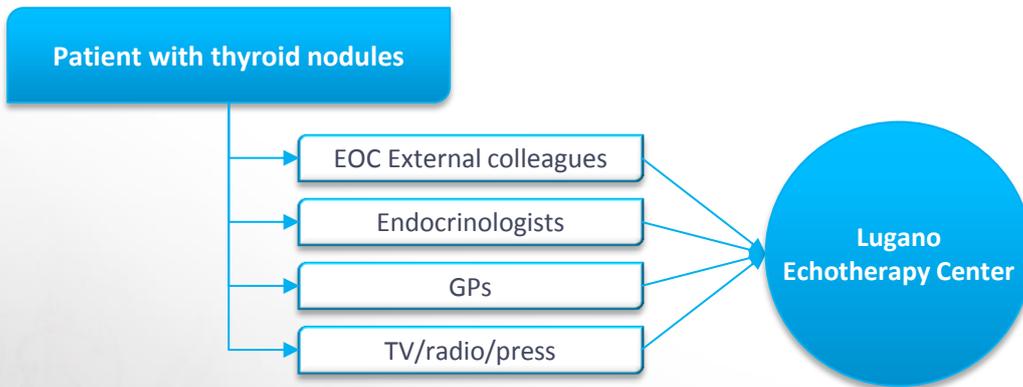
Could you tell us the reasons why you chose to acquire the Echopulse®?

Echopulse® is a very promising, non-invasive equipment. We are highly interested as it perfectly **completes our panel of treatment options for benign thyroid diseases.**

I believe it **offers a very useful alternative to radio-iodine therapy** in certain cases of **hyper-functioning nodules.**

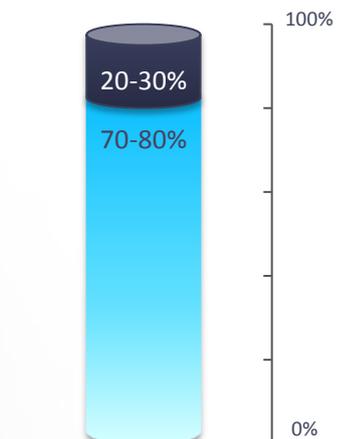
In these cases, the objective is not only volume reduction but also maintaining the function of the thyroid.

How did the patients who seek echotherapy at your center learn about it?



“Television and radio are highly interested in medical innovation. Their interviews and news on echotherapy are directly broadcast to potential patients that will then contact us.”

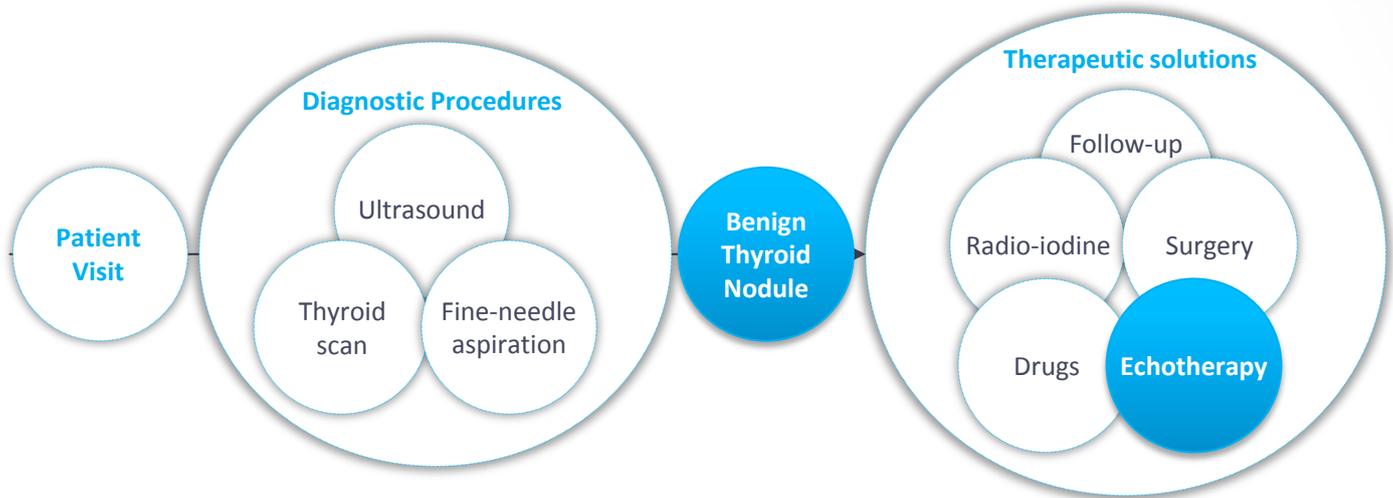
A lot of patients are referred to us for echotherapy specifically, but **many patients** also learn about this new non-invasive treatment alternative themselves and **call our center directly.** We receive many requests from other regions in **Switzerland and from adjacent countries** like Italy. Obviously we need to carefully screen indications.



“About 70-80% of patients calling for echotherapy are eligible to this technique.”

Can you describe the patient workflow in your center?

Since we added echotherapy to our care offerings, we can easily offer patients an integrated management program from diagnosis to treatment. When the patient is diagnosed with a benign nodule, we suggest the most appropriate therapeutic solution so the patient can choose accordingly .



Did the introduction of echotherapy bring a new patient population to your center?

Yes. Especially patients with nodules that are too small to justify the risk of a surgical intervention but too large to be left without any form of treatment. For these patients, general practitioners or endocrinologists usually perform an ultrasound once or twice a year. These **patients can benefit from echotherapy to stop the never ending story of follow-up** and the related subconscious anxiety.



What feedback do you get from your patients on echotherapy?

Feedback from our patients is positive. When we visit patients one week after treatment, they are really happy. During treatments, some patients are impressed by the machine and the staff operating it, yet all are clearly **happy to avoid surgery**, which is clearly more complex and with more risks.



Can you say a word about your relationship with Theraclion?

Our relationship is very good. We received intense **support** in the training phase and still get support whenever needed. Globally, our impression is very positive.



Could you please describe your results with echotherapy?

Our experience so far is good. We have experienced **no major side effects**. I was pleasantly surprised as I expected shrinkage only after a long period of time. Instead, we observed a **relatively fast reduction in nodule volume just one month after the treatment**.

“Echopulse® is a very promising equipment that is non-invasive and relatively simple for the patient.”

For instance, you can see hereafter the case of a **57-year old patient with a solid isoechoic nodule at the lower third of the left thyroid lobe**. The treatment with echotherapy led to very **good results in terms of efficacy and no side effects**.

Treatment details:

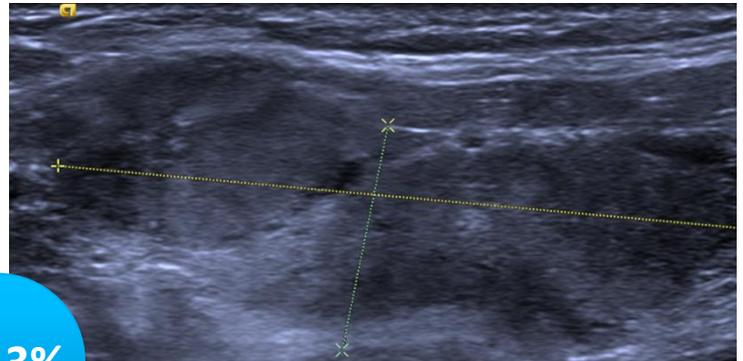
- Power: 2.26 Kj

- Procedure duration (from check-in to check-out): 43 min



Before echotherapy

-35.3%



3 months after echotherapy

What could be potential new application areas for Echopulse?

We plan to offer echotherapy to patients with a combination of hot and cold nodules, performing functional and volumetrical therapy. For example, **we could treat hyper-functioning nodules by radio-iodine and the dominant cold nodules with echotherapy**.



Echopulse® is a class IIb medical device (according to Directive 93/42/EEC) designed and marketed by Theraclion. Echopulse® has received CE-mark for non-invasive treatment of breast fibroadenomas and thyroid nodules – CE n° 0120. Not covered by statutory health insurance schemes in Europe (with the exception of Germany where it is covered by several insurance companies). Before use, read the instruction for use carefully.

Non contractual pictures

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THERACLION
102 Rue Etienne Dolet
92240 Malakoff – France
+33(0)155489070
contact@theraclion.com
www.theraclion.com