Supplementary Materials

Table S1. Sensitivity analysis.

	Overall	Sensitivity analysis (1)	Sensitivity analysis (2)
	PP (95% C.I.)	**PP (95% C.I.)**	**PP (95% C.I.)**
Diameter > 3mm	5.6 (4.2 - 7.4)	5.6 (4.0 - 7.8)	4.5 (3.0 - 6.6)
cLNM	1.1 (0.9 - 1.4)	1.2 (0.9 - 1.7)	1.2 (0.7 - 1.9)
pLNM	3.6 (3.1 - 4.2)	3.6 (3.1 - 4.3)	3.7 (3.0 - 4.4)
DTS	12.7 (9.9 – 16.1)	13.1 (9.9 – 17.0)	13.8 (9.3 – 20.0)
DTS due to progression	31.6 (25.3 – 38.7)	28.1 (32.1 - 33.7)	26.1 (22.9 - 29.7)

Sensitivity analysis (1): Studies that included non-papillary cancers in the study population were excluded in the analysis.
Sensitivity analysis (2): Studies that included patients who underwent AS for less than one year were excluded in the analysis.
PP: pooled proportion, CI: confidence interval, cLNM: clinical lymph node metastases, pLNM: pathological lymph node metastases, DTS: delayed thyroid surgery.