

Most patients with thyroid cancer respond very well to surgery followed by treatment with radioactive iodine. In a small percentage of patients, this treatment fails to be successful and such patients are then potential candidates for treatment with one of the newer drugs called tyrosine kinase inhibitors, which have been shown in clinical trials to be effective in patient with some forms of thyroid cancer.

In Australia, Lenvatinib is available for patients with differentiated thyroid cancer who have failed treatment with radioactive iodine. This drug is prescribed in specialised centres in Australia and does have a side effect profile, which can be managed by experts.

For patients with medullary thyroid cancer, there is no drug available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in Australia but there are Clinical Trial available for patients with this disorder and the details of those Trials can be found through the Foundation.

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