

KSUM 2026

THE 57TH ANNUAL CONGRESS OF
THE KOREAN SOCIETY OF ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE

MAY 7 (THU) - 8 (FRI), 2026 | COEX, SEOUL, KOREA



Speaker : Minkook Seo

Affiliation : Asan Medical Center, Radiology

Specialty : Thyroid

Lecture Title : Ultrasound Anatomy of the Neck: Nerve

PT_No. : LD02-S2

This session will provide a practical overview of neck nerve anatomy in thyroid ultrasound, with a focus on why these nerves matter in daily practice. Rather than a purely anatomic review, the lecture will emphasize prevention of nerve injury during procedures and avoidance of unnecessary biopsy of nerve-mimicking lesions. Special attention will be given to recognizing “danger zones,” even for nerves that are not directly visible on ultrasound.

Each nerve will be discussed using a consistent framework, highlighting why it matters clinically and how it can be traced or inferred on ultrasound, particularly through key landmarks and common variations. The session will cover nerves that are readily visualized, such as the vagus nerve, as well as those that are typically not directly seen but remain critical to recognize, including the recurrent laryngeal nerve and the external branch of the superior laryngeal nerve. In addition, structures closely related to thyroid procedures, such as the middle cervical sympathetic ganglion, will be addressed due to their potential to mimic pathologic lesions.

Finally, the session will include a concise review of additional nerves that are frequently encountered or should be considered during neck procedures, including the cervical and brachial plexus, spinal accessory nerve, and phrenic nerve. Practical points on distinguishing these structures from lymph nodes or masses, along with brief mention of entities such as traumatic neuroma, will be incorporated to reinforce a clinically oriented approach to safe and accurate thyroid and neck ultrasound.