



**American Board of
Otolaryngology – Head
and Neck Surgery**



**THE AMERICAN
BOARD OF SURGERY**

Position Statement on Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery Focused Practice Designation

The American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS) and the American Board of Surgery (ABS) are committed to the highest standards of care for patients needing thyroid and parathyroid surgery.

The evaluation and surgical/non-surgical management of patients with thyroid and parathyroid diseases is within the scope of practice of diplomates who have their primary board certification from ABOHNS or ABS. Thyroid and parathyroid surgery is a core component of training for both boards. Primary certification in each specialty is achieved after completion of accredited training and successful passage of both written and oral examinations. One of the core areas that is comprehensively assessed during the primary board certification process for both specialties is the evaluation and surgical/non-surgical management of thyroid and parathyroid disease. Thyroid and parathyroid surgery is also included in both the ABOHNS and ABS Continuing Certification processes for diplomates with primary board certification.

Focused Practice Designation (FPD) in Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery recognizes those ABOHNS and ABS diplomates with a commitment to concentrating their surgical practice on patients with thyroid and parathyroid disease. Attaining the FPD in Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery requires meeting case requirements both in quantity and complexity, demonstrating participation in multidisciplinary care, passing a summative knowledge assessment, and reverifying requirements through continuing certification activities.

The FPD in Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery recognizes surgeons who have voluntarily chosen to focus their practice in this area and is not required for the evaluation and management of thyroid and parathyroid surgical patients. These patients can be treated by ABOHNS diplomates with primary certification in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery or ABS diplomates with primary certification in General Surgery or Complex General Surgical Oncology.