

Patient characteristics	Serum sPD-L1 expression PTC patient cohort cut-off			Plasma sPD-L1 expression PTC patient cohort cut-off		
	sPD-L1 <sup>low</sup> (<0.48 ng/ml)	sPD-L1 <sup>high</sup> (≥0.48 ng/ml)	P value	sPD-L1 <sup>low</sup> (<0.21 ng/ml)	sPD-L1 <sup>high</sup> (≥0.21 ng/ml)	P value
<b>Age</b>						
<55	38	34		30	42	
≥55	14	15	0.826	10	19	0.653
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	10	19		8	21	
Female	42	30	<b>0.047*</b>	32	40	0.177
<b>TNM stage</b>						
I/II	40	39		31	48	
II/IV	12	10	0.812	9	13	1.000
<b>Tumour size</b>						
<2 cm	40	37		33	44	
≥2 cm	12	12	1.000	7	17	0.339
<b>Multifocality</b>						
Present	19	16		18	17	
Absent	33	33	0.835	22	44	0.090
<b>Extrathyroidal extension</b>						
Present	11	12		7	16	
Absent	41	37	0.813	33	45	0.342
<b>Lymphovascular invasion</b>						
Present	11	13		12	12	
Absent	41	36	0.641	28	49	0.244
<b>Capsular Invasion</b>						
Present	10	3		3	10	
Absent	42	46	0.073	37	51	0.236
<b>Lymph node metastases</b>						
Present	24	24		18	30	
Absent	28	25	0.843	22	31	0.690
<b>Concurrent Hashimoto's Thyroiditis</b>						
Present	18	17		12	23	
Absent	34	31	1.000	28	37	0.521
<b>Treatment</b>						
Total Thyroidectomy	47	42		35	54	
Hemithyroidectomy	5	7	0.547	5	7	1.000

**Supplementary Table S1:** Relationship of serum and plasma sPD-L1 expression to clinicopathological characteristics in 101 PTC cases. The median sPD-L1 concentration in the serum (0.48 ng/mL) and plasma (0.21 ng/mL) of the PTC patient cohort was used as the cut-off value.