A 7-Year Retrospective Review of Skin Cancer at University Malaya Medical Centre: A Tertiary Centre Experience

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Abstract

Introduction Skin cancer is ranked the ninth commonest cancer among males and tenth among females in Malaysia.

Objectives To review the pattern of skin cancers at University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC).

Methods This is a retrospective review of all histo-pathological confirmed skin cancers at UMMC from 2004 till 2010.

Results Among the 155 patients reviewed, basal cell carcinoma (BCC) was the commonest skin cancer (44.5%), followed by squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) (27.1%) and malignant melanoma (MM) (11.6%). The nodulo-ulcerative subtype made up 46% of all BCC while 50% of MM was of acral lentiginous subtype. Patients with BCC were significantly older (>60 years old), (p=0.003). A majority of skin cancers were found on the head and neck.

Conclusion BCC was the commonest skin cancer, with significantly older patients and located mainly on head and neck. MM was the least common skin cancer but associated with the highest mortality.

Keywords: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, malignant melanoma, Malaysia

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Skin Cancers</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basal Cell Carcinoma</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamous Cell Carcinoma</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basal Cell Carcinoma</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merkel Cell Carcinoma</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acral Lentigious Melanoma</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction

In December 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) reclassified skin cancer as a malignant tumour (M1). Skin cancer, especially melanoma, is the most common cause of cancer deaths worldwide. The incidence of skin cancer has been increasing worldwide, with an estimated 14.6 million new cases and 905,000 deaths in 2019. In the UK, skin cancer is the most common malignancy, with over 100,000 cases diagnosed each year, and melanoma is the most common type of skin cancer.

From the World Health Organization's Global Cancer Observatory, skin cancer is the most common cancer globally, with an estimated 14.6 million new cases and 905,000 deaths in 2019. In the UK, skin cancer is the most common malignancy, with over 100,000 cases diagnosed each year, and melanoma is the most common type of skin cancer.

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Fig 1 Skin Cancer, Distribution According to Age Group

Fig 2 Skin Cancer, Gender Distribution.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>WM (%)</th>
<th>SCC (%)</th>
<th>BCC (%)</th>
<th>Others (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>2(1.1%)</td>
<td>1(0.5%)</td>
<td>0(0%)</td>
<td>1(0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>3(1.4%)</td>
<td>5(2.7%)</td>
<td>0(0%)</td>
<td>4(1.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native</td>
<td>71(73.9%)</td>
<td>7(7.4%)</td>
<td>5(5.3%)</td>
<td>2(2.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>25(26.1%)</td>
<td>0(0%)</td>
<td>0(0%)</td>
<td>2(2.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Racial distribution of skin cancer patients.

A total of 72 skin papillomas were confirmed as carcinomas in various skin locations. The duration of the disease was 3–12 years. The main duration was 6–12 years and 12 cases had a duration of 1–3 years. The male to female ratio was 2:1. There were 51 males and 21 females. A total of 41 patients were male, and 31 patients were female. The patients were classified as follows:

- 30 cases with SCC
- 12 cases with BCC
- 10 cases with other skin cancers

Methodology

A case-control study was conducted in the Department of Dermatology of...
Fig 3 Site of Skin Cancers.

Fig 4 Basal Cell Carcinoma, Clinical Subtypes.

Fig 5 Malignant Melanoma, Subtypes.
Reference