



AB062. SOH23ABS_152. An audit of excision margins of non-melanomatous skin cancers in a procedural outpatient clinic

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Background: Non-melanomatous skin cancer (NMSC) is the most common malignancy worldwide, with over 12,000 cases diagnosed in Ireland annually. Most low-risk lesions can be successfully treated in the outpatient setting with surgical excision under local anaesthesia. A complete excision with clear histological margins reduces the risk of local recurrence. A close margin is defined by the British Association of Dermatologists as <1 mm.

Methods: A retrospective audit of skin lesion excisions performed in a procedural outpatient clinic was conducted over a 3-month period. Demographic data were obtained from a prospectively maintained clinical database and excision margins were obtained from histopathological reports. The primary endpoint was the rate of complete excisions. Following the first audit cycle, a departmental teaching session was arranged to update clinicians on the latest guidelines from the British Association of Dermatologists and a second cycle planned to re-audit compliance.

Results: A total of 224 skin lesions were excised during the study period, of which 12.9% were NMSCs (n=29; 62% basal cell carcinoma, 38% squamous cell carcinoma). Of these, 7 had histological margins that warranted re-excision

as per guidelines.

Conclusions: An awareness of guidelines from expert consensus groups regarding NMSC excision margins is vital to ensure completeness of excisions and reduce local recurrence rates. Regular self-audit and departmental audit alongside regular education sessions are useful tools to increase compliance rates and improve patient outcomes.

Keywords: Complete excision; excision margins; histological margins; non-melanomatous skin cancer (NMSC); skin lesions

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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