

**PREVALENCE AND SURGICAL MANAGEMENT
OF BASAL AND SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA
IN THE SKIN OF THE HEAD IN IRAQ.
(PROSPECTIVE AND RETROSPECTIVE STUDY).**

A THESIS
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Abstract

Back ground:

World wide ,skin cancer has one of the lowest survival rates .It is well recognized that survival rates were improved if the disease is treated in its early stages.

The major risk factors for skin cancer are sun exposure , chemical carcinogens and radiation, viral carcinogens , in addition to the hereditary factors .

The majority of skin cancer are carcinoma comprising basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma . The treatment goal for tumor is disease ablation and patient rehabilitation to the highest physiological and psychological state, coincide with cancer which includes surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

Aims of the study

The study designed as :

A. Retrospective study to :

1. Determine the prevalence of malignant skin tumors(basal and squamous cell carcinoma) in the head region and geographical distribution of skin cancer in Iraqi patients in addition to know patients age , gender with topographic distribution of the malignant skin tumors in head region .

B. Prospective study to:

1.Determine the success of the surgical management(surgical excision) and the significance of the safe margins to decrease the rate of the recurrence .

Materials and methods

To determine the prevalence of the malignant skin tumors(basal and squamous cell carcinoma) in the head and in the other parts of the body , a retrospective descriptive study was done ,that includes a review of reported cases of malignant skin cancer from (1998- 2004). The materials were obtained from filing systems in Iraqi Cancer Registry Center at the Ministry of Health , to which most provinces reports were sent and registered.

Surgical management was done by a prospective study, that includes 33 patients with basal and squamous cell carcinoma that have been admitted to Al Hilla surgical teaching hospital in Al Hilla governorate, from 1-June 2006 to 31-December 2007 .

Results

It was found that the total number of the patients with malignant skin cancer over all body during the period from 1/ January / 1998 to the 31/December/2004 was ((3311)) patients; a (2247) patients had malignant skin cancer in the head both melanoma and non melanoma skin cancer ,which represent about (67.86 %)from the incidence of the skin cancer over all body. Basal cell carcinoma constitute (63.5%) from all malignant skin cancer in the head region, while squamous cell carcinoma constitute (29.1)% from all types of skin cancer in head.

The surgical management was done for (33) patients with basal and squamous cell carcinoma in the skin of the head , ,(19)males and (14) females patients. For the basal cell carcinoma, (24) patients(28 tumors),(13) were males and (11)were females patients and for squamous cell carcinoma (9) patients , (6) were males and (3) were females. All these patients underwent surgical excision for their tumors.

The excision of safe margins of normal tissue around the tumor was always attempted , (3- 10 mm) safe margin was excised for the basal cell carcinoma, and at least (10mm) for squamous cell carcinoma .Margins of excised tumors was examined by histopathologist. Free margin was obtained for all squamous cell carcinoma patients and only (2) basal cell carcinoma tumors has positive margin.

Conclusions

In general, there is an increase in the prevalence of the malignant skin cancer over all body in Iraq specially the squamous cell carcinoma. The most common skin cancers were the basal cell carcinoma which followed by squamous cell carcinoma .

The head was the primary site for the prevalence of malignant skin tumors from all body sites, and the nose was the most common site for the basal cell carcinoma while the cheek showed to be the most common site for the squamous cell carcinoma.

Although the follow up period was not long for determining the rate of the recurrence , we found 5mm safe margin was effective in the in the surgical excision of the primary basal cell carcinoma less than 2cm,and 1 cm (at least) safe margin was effective in the surgical management of the SCC; and the surgically excised tumor that shows positive margin should be re excised to prevent recurrence and complete removal of the skin tumor with negative margin not only factor ensure the complete local control .