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Authors
Ramdas, Kirtie HR
van Lee, Lotte B
Beck, Samuel
et al.

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Abstract

Histological completeness of BSS Excisions by dermatologists, plastic surgeons and general practitioners.

Kirtie HR Ramdas¹, Lotte B van Lee¹, Samuel Beck², Vincent Noordhoek Hegt³, Tamar Nijsten¹, Renate van den Bos¹

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¹Department of Dermatology, Erasmus MC Rotterdam, The Netherlands
²LCPL-PATHAN, location Rijswijk, The Netherlands
³Department of Pathology, Erasmus MC Rotterdam, The Netherlands

OBJECTIVES
First to determine the proportion of incompletely excised basal cell carcinomas (BCCs) treated by conventional excision by dermatologists, plastic surgeons and general practitioners. Second to identify characteristics of incomplete excised BCCs.

METHODS
Analysis of pathology reports of 3005 primary BCC excisions by general practitioners (31%), dermatologists (34%) and plastic surgeons (35%) from an urbanized area in the South West of the Netherlands from 2008-2014. Chi-square test and independent T-tests were used to analyze the primary outcome. Logistic regression was used to determine the odds ratio for incomplete excision in the groups corrected for patients age, patients sex, site, size, subtype and specialism.

OUTCOME MEASURES
Proportion of incompletely excised BCC per specialism, age and sex of patients, anatomical site, excision size (as a proxy for BCC size), and subtype.

RESULTS
Dermatologists had a complete excision rate of 93.24%, plastic surgeons 83.33% and general practitioners 69.61% (p<.0001). Head neck tumors were more often incompletely excised (OR 2.7; 95% CI: 2.0-3.7; p<.0001) compared to the trunk. Infiltrative BCCs were more often incompletely excised compared to nodular BCCs (OR 3.8; 95% CI: 2.7-5.4; p<.0001). Plastic surgeons and general practitioners had a higher rate of incomplete excisions compared to dermatologists (OR 2.0; 95% CI: 1.5-2.7; p<.0001, resp. OR 6.1; 95% CI: 4.5-8.3; p<.0001).

CONCLUSION
Regardless of subtype, location and size dermatologists had a significantly higher rate of completely excised basal cell carcinomas compared to general practitioners and plastic surgeons.