

Letter to Editor**Efficacy of Moh's surgery (MS) in treatment of basal cell carcinoma**

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To the editor

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is the most common cancer of the skin in the Caucasians. There are many methods for treatment of it. The highest cure rate can be seen with Mohs' surgery (MS). In this method, after removal of the tumor with angle of 45°, the shape of the tumor is depicted over the paper and then it is divided to smaller parts while every part is marked with a different stain. These sections, then, are horizontally cut with frozen section and evaluated under light microscope. If there is involvement of a margin, further removal is done until all margins are clear. After complete removal of the tumor, the wound is repaired.

Our objective was to determine the efficacy of Mohs' surgery for the treatment of BCC, which can rarely metastasize but can cause significant destruction. This method of surgery was used in Iran for the first time in St-Alzahra Hospital in year 2000.

In this study 218 patients' files who had suffered from skin cancers and have been treated with MS, from 2000 to 2004, were evaluated. 175 of the patients had BCC. All the cases had histopathologic confirmation of their lesions.

From 218 skin cancer specimens, 175 turned out to be BCC. Totally, 194 BCC lesions in 175 people were treated with MS. From the histopathologic view, the most common type of BCC was nodular (80.57%).

Tumor recurrence was seen in 3 cases, although no metastases were noted. In all cases, the recurrence was seen in the first 6 months of the operation. Using PTI method, annual recurrence rate was calculated to be 0.98%.

Regarding this study, MS is strongly recommended for treatment of the BCC in our country under the appropriate indications. The advantages one and the expected cure rate (94%-99%) or degree of tissue preservation are the highest in this method.

References

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