

Sebaceous Cell Carcinoma Responds Well to Mohs

BY ALICIA AULT

AUSTIN, TEX. — Mohs surgery seems to be effective for primary sebaceous cell carcinoma when there is an absence of orbital extension, according to a retrospective case study.

Sebaceous cell carcinoma of the eyelid is extremely rare, but not uncommon, representing up to 5% of all eyelid tumors, Dr. Humza Ilyas of the Universi-

ty of Wisconsin, Madison, said at the annual meeting of the American College of Mohs Surgery. Dr. Ilyas presented a series of 16 cases that were seen at a single clinic from 1987 to 2008.

A major issue with these tumors is that they are frequently misdiagnosed histopathologically and clinically, said Dr. Ilyas. That causes a delay in diagnosis, so "it's important to maintain a high index of suspicion," he said. Patients who have

the tumors typically do not do that well. Primary sebaceous cell carcinoma is complicated by recurrence, and it can be multicentric or demonstrate pagetoid spread.

In this case series, nine tumors (56%) were on the upper lid and seven (44%) were on the lower lid. The patients' mean age was 72 years, with a range of 51-90. Mean time from symptom onset to diagnosis was 8 months (range, 5 weeks to 2 years).

One patient had orbital extension, and exenteration was performed. All other patients had Mohs surgery (15), with a mean of 3.5 layers. One Mohs patient was lost to follow-up. Post-op follow-up ranged from 7 months to 14 years, with a mean duration of 4.5 years.

One (7%) of the 14 Mohs patients developed a local recurrence 1.5 years after surgery; that patient had exenteration as treatment and had no further evidence of disease 12 years later. Twelve of the 14 (86%) had no evidence of local recurrence.

Of the 14 who had Mohs, 6 (43%) had histologic evidence of pagetoid spread. There were no deaths attributable to the sebaceous cell carcinoma.

Dr. Ilyas said that although this was a small study, Mohs appears to be the most effective option for tumors with pagetoid spread. The outcomes were comparable to published series in the literature with conventional wide excision with frozen or paraffin margin controls, he said. There may be instances where adjunctive radiation or topical chemotherapy may be helpful.

Dr. Ilyas reported no disclosures. ■

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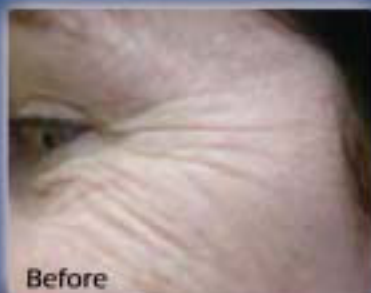
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BCC Is Most Common Form Of Periocular Skin Cancer

AUSTIN, TEX. — A chart review aimed at quantifying the incidence and type of periocular skin cancers showed that the vast majority were basal cell carcinomas, and that there was a slight predominance of the cancers in men.

The study was undertaken partly because there has been an increase in eyelid malignancies, which is thought to be due to a lack of protection from ultraviolet radiation, Dr. Jens Thiele said at the annual meeting of the American College of Mohs Surgery.

This is the largest U.S.-based study of periocular cancers ever conducted, said Dr. Thiele, a dermatologist in private practice in Birmingham, Ala.

He and his colleagues reviewed charts at a single center from 553 consecutive Mohs surgery patients from January 2005 to September 2008.

All of the patients were white (Fitzpatrick skin types I, II, and III). There were 346 men and 207 women. Interestingly, 61% of the tumors were in men.

Of the tumors, there were 435 basal cell carcinomas (BCCs), 105 squamous cell carcinomas (SCCs), 10 melanomas, and one of each of the following: sebaceous carcinoma, trichoepithelioma, and dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans.

The investigators also quantified location and pre- and postoperative defect sizes. Most often, BCCs were located on the lower eyelid (246, or 57%). They

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