



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL COMPARING THE COSMETIC OUTCOME AND HISTOPATHOLOGICAL MARGINS OF PUNCH EXCISION VERSUS ELLIPTICAL EXCISION OF CLINICALLY DIAGNOSED FACIAL NEVI

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Introduction: Punch excision has been introduced as one of the methods used for the removal of nevi besides the commonly used elliptical excision. It is simpler and faster to do, but rarely used.

Objective: To compare the cosmetic outcome, histopathological margins, and rate of adverse events between punch and elliptical excision in the removal of facial nevi.

Materials and Methods: This is a randomized controlled trial in adult patients with facial nevi. Thirty-eight participants were randomized to either elliptical or punch excision. A dermatopathologist determined if the nevus was completely excised or not. Participants followed-up on the 2nd day and 7th day for pain assessment using Pain Visual Analogue Scale (pVAS) and to check for early adverse events. One month post-operation, participants assessed the cosmetic outcome of their scar using the cosmetic visual analogue scale (cVAS). Photographs taken at the time were shown to three blinded evaluators (a dermatology resident, dermatology consultant, and an independent assessor) to also rate the cosmetic outcome using cVAS. Adverse events were also noted by the co-author.

Results: Results showed that there were no significant differences between punch and elliptical excision in the cVAS scores across all assessors ($p=0.062$), the histopathological margins ($p=0.0799$), and the rate of adverse events including pain ($p=0.396$).

Conclusion: Punch and elliptical excision are comparable with respect to cosmetic outcome, capability to completely excising a nevus and the rate of adverse events.

