



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

## CORRELATION BETWEEN CLINICAL AND HISTOLOGICAL FEATURES WITH THE NUMBER OF STAGES OF 292 BASAL CELL CARCINOMAS TREATED BY MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

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**Introduction:** Mohs micrographic surgery (MMS) is a well-established technique for the treatment of basal cell carcinomas due to complete evaluation of the surgical margins. Furthermore, it spares healthy tissue leading to better functional and esthetic results. However, MMS has specific criteria for its indication including H-zone location, size, aggressive subtype on histology, recurrent tumors or ill-defined.

**Objective:** To correlate clinical and histological features of basal cell carcinomas with the number of stages in MMS.

**Materials and Methods:** Retrospective study of patients submitted to MMS by the same dermatologist, from August 2014 to September 2018. Data was inserted on a database immediately after each surgery. The following data was analyzed: age, gender, phototype; location, size (<1 cm, between 1 and 2 cm, and >2 cm), delimitation and histological subtype (aggressive: micronodular, infiltrative, morpheaform or basosquamous; non-aggressive: superficial or nodular), recurrent and the number of stages in MMS. For statistical analysis, Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis tests were performed, with  $p < 0.05$ .

**Results:** 292 basal cell carcinomas from 260 patients were included in the study, with an average age of 60.4 years-old (26 to 93). 249 (85%) were located on the H-zone, 154 (53%) were ill-defined, 150 (51%) histologically aggressive, 129 (44%) larger than 1 cm and 21 (7%) recurrent. Aggressive subtype [adjusted OR 1.40 (95% CI 1.38–1.67)], ill-defined [adjusted OR 1.42 (95% CI 1.41–1.68)], recurrent tumours [adjusted OR 1.68 (95% CI 1.24–2.38)] and tumour size >1 cm [adjusted OR 1.50 (95% CI 1.19–1.49)] were significantly associated to two or more stages.

**Conclusion:** Basal cell carcinomas that were histologically aggressive, recurrent, ill-defined or larger than 1 cm were associated to subclinical spread in the present study. These findings are important for patients' and surgeons' expectations prior to the operation.

