



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

HEALING BY SECONDARY INTENTION VS. OTHER REPAIR TECHNIQUES ON THE NOSE – COMPARING PATIENT SATISFACTION AFTER MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY FOR BASAL CELL CARCINOMAS

Maria-angeliki Gkini⁽¹⁾ - Anshoo Sahota⁽¹⁾

Barts Health Nhs Trust, Department Of Dermatology, London, United Kingdom⁽¹⁾

Introduction: Mohs Micrographic Surgery (MMS) is the gold standard treatment for nasal Basal Cell Carcinomas (BCCs). Repair options include secondary intention healing, primary closure, skin grafts and flaps. Following a change in law on consent in the UK, an increase in the number of patients requesting secondary intention healing has been observed.

Objective: To compare levels of satisfaction and adverse events between patients who opted for healing of their defect by secondary intention and those who requested other repair techniques.

Materials and Methods: All consecutive patients who had MMS for nasal BCC from January to December 2017 were allocated to two groups based on the repair technique – secondary healing (group 1) and other repair techniques, including primary closure, flap or graft (group 2). A 5-item questionnaire was used to assess the level of satisfaction and potential adverse events. Independent Samples T Test was used in the statistical analysis.

Results: 39 (group 1) and 19 patients (group 2) were enrolled. Both groups were happy with their overall BCC management (group 1: 95%, group 2: 89%, $t=0.752$, $p=0.455$). Six months post-treatment, Group 1 (85%) was happier about the appearance of their nose compared to group 2 (85% vs 79%, $t=0.983$, $p=0.238$). Ease of breathing was unchanged in both groups. Nearly all patients would opt again for the same repair technique, for future skin cancers. 4 patients from each group experienced adverse events.

Conclusions: Patients who had healing by secondary intention were slightly happier overall about the management of their post-MMS nasal defects. We propose that secondary healing could potentially serve as an effective, time-saving and cosmetically acceptable alternative to more complicated repairs in most post-MMS nasal defects and should routinely be offered as a repair option.

