



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY IN SINGAPORE: A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW

Wyb Ho⁽¹⁾ - V Tan⁽²⁾ - Mwp Tan⁽¹⁾

National Skin Centre, Singapore, Dermatology, Singapore, Singapore⁽¹⁾ - National Skin Centre, Singapore, Dermatology, Singapore, Singapore⁽²⁾

Introduction: Mohs micrographic surgery (MMS) has been practised in Singapore since 2008 and has become one of the main treatment options for high risk non-melanoma skin cancers (NMSC).

Objective: To report our centre's experience with MMS for the treatment of NMSC from 2009-2010.

Materials and methods: A retrospective review was done on all patients who underwent MMS at the National Skin Centre, Singapore from January 2009 to December 2013. Information collected included patient demographics, clinical and histopathological characteristics, surgical details and 5-year recurrence rate.

Results: A total of 668 tumours were removed in 621 patients by 4 Mohs surgeons during the study period. The mean age was 65.2 years, 54.8% were male and predominantly Chinese (73.5%). The most common tumour treated was basal cell carcinoma (91.8%), followed by squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) /SCC in situ (7.2%). Tumours were predominantly located on the nose (35.1%), followed by the periocular region (14.2%). The mean preoperative tumour size was 145.5mm², with a mean postoperative size of 340.2mm². The mean number of Mohs stages was 1.6 whilst the mean number of Mohs sections was 3.5. 25 cases (4.0%) required 4 or more stages. 543 defects (87.5%) were reconstructed in-house, and the most common form of reconstruction were direct closure (44.9%) and random pattern flaps (21.7%). 62 patients (10%) were lost to follow-up 1-month post operatively. Mean duration of follow-up for the remaining patients was 38.0 months (range 1.1- 112.5 months). For the period of 2010-2013, 3 patients (0.6%) had a recurrence of NMSC at a mean of 26.5 months (1.5-83.3 months). Postoperative infection rate was less than 1%.

Conclusion: This is the first study evaluating the role of MMS in Singapore. MMS is a highly effective treatment for high risk NMSC, with a low recurrence rate of 0.6%.

