



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

A GP DERMOSCOPY DIARY IN RECOGNITION AND DIAGNOSIS OF SKIN CANCER

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Skin cancer is the most common malignancy in humans and accounts for one third of newly diagnosed cancer. Melanoma or BCC can cause local tissue destruction, disfigurement, and lead to death if untreated; Primary care physician (GPs) therefore, is under pressure for timely recognition, treatment, and appropriate referral of suspected skin lesions in order to reduce morbidity (although mortality due to all cancers decreased, the mortality continued to increase for melanoma).

The primary care physician needs to be familiar with the clinical and dermoscopic presentation of skin lesions, and means of prevention of the most common skin cancers: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and malignant melanoma.

Dermoscopy is a noninvasive technique that enables a clinician to perform direct microscopic examination of diagnostic features, not seen by the naked eye, in pigmented skin lesions.

According to a meta-analysis study, Dermoscopy, a non-invasive, in vivo technique for the microscopic examination of pigmented skin lesions, has the potential to improve the diagnostic accuracy. There is an increase in sensitivity for melanoma diagnosis by primary care physicians using skin surface microscopy in recent years.

Numerous skin cancer educational interventions have been developed for primary care physicians (PCPs) to improve diagnostic accuracy. Standardized training is also a prerequisite for formal testing of melanoma screening in the primary care setting. PCPs should be equipped and examine skin lesions with a dermoscope.

What is more, Teaching SCE (Skin Cancer Examination) with inclusion of dermoscopy may be an effective means of enhancing skin cancer knowledge among Medical students. Introducing medical students to dermoscopy in their second or third year of medical school, along with teaching more standard skin cancer examinations (SCEs), may increase their familiarity with skin and help improve their accuracy when performing SCEs.

