



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

DERMOSCOPY USAGE IN PLASTIC SURGERY

John Kiely⁽¹⁾

Cambridge University Hospitals Nhs Ft, Plastic Surgery, Cambridge, United Kingdom⁽¹⁾

Background: Dermoscopy is a technique for assessment of pigmented lesions, allowing triage of their likely behaviour in to benign, concerning or malignant. It is well validated when used by Dermatologists, however its use by Plastic Surgeons is less studied. Dermoscopy use has been recommended in national guidelines.

Objective: This study aims to evaluate current usage of and attitudes to Dermoscopy in a single Plastic Surgery department.

Materials and Methods: A retrospective audit was performed looking at all patients presenting for assessment of pigmented lesions to the Plastic Surgery Department at Cambridge University Hospital, UK over the period January- February 2018.

Patient notes were reviewed for referral source, site of lesion, documented use of dermoscopy, management and diagnosis. A survey was subsequently performed within the department, with questions regarding usage, training, awareness of guidelines and perspectives on how pigmented lesions should be assessed.

Results: 42 patients were identified. 74% of lesions were on the face. Dermoscopy was not performed for 79% of patients, and 93% were referred for biopsy, only 68% of which were excisional. 3 patients were diagnosed with Melanoma, and 6 with Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer. All other lesions were non-cancerous.

16 members of staff answered the survey. All were regularly involved in the assessment and surgical management of pigmented lesions. 67% stated that they always or usually used a dermatoscope, and 53% found dermoscopy very useful in their assessment. Only 67% had received formal training, and only 47% were aware of the national guidelines recommending its use. 20% felt that pigmented lesions should always or usually be assessed by a Dermatologist prior to referral to a Plastic Surgeon.

Conclusions: Dermoscopy usage by Plastic Surgeons should be improved to optimise patient management. This could be performed by increasing training and feedback from lesion excision histology.

