DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

EFFECT OF A DERMOSCOPY TRAINING COURSE ON THE ABILITY OF DERMATOLOGISTS TO DIAGNOSE SKIN LESIONS

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Background: Dermoscopy is an in-vivo noninvasive diagnostic technique. It is known to improve the diagnostic accuracy for several skin lesions in comparison with inspection only by the naked eye. However it is still controversial whether the dermoscopic clues are decisive for the therapeutic stretagy.

Objectives: The study investigated the effect of the dermoscopy education on dermatologists' diagnostic accuracy rate about several skin disorders which can be easily encountered in outpatient's settings.

Methods and Materials: Total 34 Korean dermatologists who attended a 1 day course of dermoscopy training program completed both pre-test before the course and post-test after the course. The contents of training program and questionnaires of tests were comprised of benign melanocytic lesions, melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, seborrheic keratosis, subungual hematoma, dermatofibroma, Bowen's disease, eccrine poroma and vascular lesions.

Results: The sensitivity of all disease were increased in the post-test (ranged 26.0% to 108.5% of rate increase) and significant increase was seen in eccrine poroma and dermatofibroma. The overall diagnostic accuracy rate of participants revealed a significant increase in the post-test comparing to the pre-test ($p<0.05$).

Conclusion: Dermatologists receiving the dermoscopy training program improved in diagnosis of common skin lesions. Education of diagnostic dermoscopic findings is essential for dermatologists resulting in unnecessary invasive skin biopsies.