



EPIDEMIOLOGY

HOW PATIENTS EXPERIENCED BEING DIAGNOSED WITH SKIN-CANCER: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN BASAL CELL CARCINOMA AND RELAPSE-FREE MELANOMA. RESULTS OF "OBJECTIFS PEAU-CANCERS CUTANÉES" A FRENCH STUDY

Ma Richard⁽¹⁾ - C Taieb⁽²⁾ - Jf Sei⁽³⁾ - L Misery⁽⁴⁾ - P Joly⁽⁵⁾ - M Aymonier⁽⁶⁾

Sfd, Hopital De La Timone, Marseille, France⁽¹⁾ - Sfd, Public Health, Paris, France⁽²⁾ - Fffcedv, Sfd, Paris, France⁽³⁾ - Cedef, Sfd, Brest, France⁽⁴⁾ - Sfd, Chu Rouen, Rouen, France⁽⁵⁾ - Hopital De La Timone, Dermatologie, Marseille, France⁽⁶⁾

Introduction: Melanoma (MM) and basal cell carcinoma (BCC) are skin-cancers with notoriously different prognosis. This study aimed to compare the feelings of patients when diagnosed with early-stage (primary and relapse-free) MM versus BCC.

Material and methods: This pragmatic cross-sectional study was conducted nationwide in France by private and hospital-based dermatologists who agreed to participate.

After being seen for a dermatology appointment between June 2017 and March 2018, consecutive patients were given the chance to complete a specific questionnaire on their feelings and fears about the skin-cancer they were diagnosed with. The nature of the skin-cancer diagnosed, its management were filled in by the investigators.

Results: 1172 patient questionnaires were assessable. The MM-group comprised 355 patients (52%6-women), 55 patients at initial diagnosis, and 300 relapse-free patients during follow-up. The BCC-group comprised 320 patients (47% women).

The sociodemographic characteristics of the patients were as follows: mean age was 68 (± 12) years; 71.5% were in a relationship; 36% had dependent children. Even if data significantly differed between the two groups regarding the "trauma" experienced at the time of diagnosis, anxiety about the progression and spread of the skin-cancer, fear of dying from cancer, and act of speaking about it with friends and family, with all of these items being more predominant among patients with MM, BCC was frequently perceived as a lethal tumor.

Conclusion: Be it MM or BCC, and regardless of the medical prognosis, being diagnosed with skin-cancer was perceived as "traumatic." The role and empathy of the dermatologist are vital at this key point in management. When communicating a diagnosis of Skin-cancer,





the information that the dermatologist provides must be clear despite the lack of time available during appointments.

