



EPIDEMIOLOGY

THE ROLE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE PREVENTION AND SCREENING OF SKIN CANCER: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY IN MOROCCO

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Introduction: Given the high incidence of skin cancer, it is certain that general practitioners (GPs) will continue to play a greater role in the prevention and early detection of this disease.

Materials and Methods: We realized a cross-sectional descriptive survey by means of a questionnaire among GPs practicing in the private and public sector in the city of Fes. The main objective of our study was to evaluate the current role of GP's in the prevention and early detection of skin cancer.

Results: We recorded 158 questionnaires. The mean age of our study was 45.91 ± 10.28 years [26-66 years]. Men were most represented than women. They represented 56%. The dermatological activity in practice was in majority (47.5%) less than 10%. Almost all the GP's representing 96.2% affirmed that the prevention and screening of patients for skin cancer was included in their everyday practice. However, 51.2% of GP's did not search for risk factors of skin cancer in their practice. A thorough skin examination was performed by 15.2% of the GP's. The systematic search for suspicious skin lesions wasn't done in 61.4% of cases. The patients with risk factors were not systematically monitored as we recorded only 22.8% of these patients had been monitored for early detection of skin cancer. Some GP's representing 43.6% acknowledged having difficulties in skin cancer screening. The main reason we found was the non-recognition of suspicious lesion followed by lack of time for examining patients. Some GP's representing 39.2% advice patients on photo protection in their routine practice.

Conclusion: Most GPs are willing to take part in SC prevention and screening in their daily practice. However, our results demonstrate a high need for additional education and training.

