



QUALITY OF LIFE, QUALITY OF CARE, AND PATIENT SAFETY

COMPARISON BETWEEN QUALITY OF LIFE IN MELANOMA AND NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER PATIENTS

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Introduction: The impact of skin cancers on patients' health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is often overlooked, and direct comparisons between melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) are rare.

Objective: To compare HRQoL in patients with melanoma and NMSC, to highlight the possible differences in symptomatic and psychosocial aspects.

Materials and Methods: This is an observational cross-sectional single-center study, conducted in a day surgery unit of a dermatological reference center in Rome, Italy. Participants were unselected, consecutive adult patients with a diagnosis of melanoma, at the time of wide excision, or NMSC at the time of surgery. HRQoL was measured using the two scales of Skindex-17, i.e., symptoms and psychosocial. The 12-item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) was used to identify patients with possible anxiety or depression (defined as "GHQ-12 cases").

Results: The study population included 433 patients: 65 with melanoma and 368 with NMSC. Skindex-17 symptoms mean scores were higher in NMSC than in melanoma patients, while no significant differences were observed on the psychosocial scale. Each of the single items of the symptoms scale had higher scores in NMSC patients. The item "feel depressed" had a significantly higher score in melanoma patients. The percentage of GHQ-12 cases was significantly higher in patients with melanoma (32.8%) compared to NMSC patients (8.7%), and this was apparent on all items. After adjustment in logistic regression analysis, the main determinants of HRQoL impairment in NMSC were: Patient's Global Assessment (PtGA), clinical severity, diameter of the tumor, phototype 1 or 2, history of a previous NMSC, and being resident outside Lazio, the Region which includes Rome. In melanoma the main determinant was PtGA.

Conclusion: NMSC places on patients a greater symptoms burden than melanoma, while the psychological impact of melanoma is pervasive, and it is significantly higher than that of



ABSTRACT BOOK

ABSTRACTS



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