



QUALITY OF LIFE, QUALITY OF CARE, AND PATIENT SAFETY

COMPARISON OF QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH RELAPSE-FREE MELANOMA VERSUS BASAL CELL CARCINOMA USING THE EQ-5D-VAS INSTRUMENT

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Introduction: Melanoma (MM) and basal cell carcinoma (BCC) are skin-cancers that progress differently. This study aimed to compare the quality of life (QoL) of patients with BCC against that of patients with relapse-free MM.

Material and methods: This pragmatic cross-sectional study was conducted nationwide in France by private and hospital-based dermatologists who agreed to participate. Following appointments for MM or BCC between June 2017 and March 2018, all patients were given the chance to complete a specific questionnaire on QoL. The nature of the skin-cancer diagnosed, its management were filled in by the investigators. QoL was assessed using the standardized EQ-5D/VAS scale.

Results: 1172 patient questionnaires were assessable. The MM-group (primary diagnosis and relapse free follow up) :355 patients (52% women) The BCC- group :320 patients (47% women).

The sociodemographic characteristics of the patients were similar across the two groups. Mean age was 60years in the MM-group and 68years in the BCC group; and 92.7% and 93.3% were fully active and able to carry on all pre-disease performance without restriction according to the WHO performance scale as graded by the dermatologist. Some 41.6% of the MM-group and 22% of the BCC-group stated that they were still working. Mean EQ-5D, (SD) and mean EQ-VAS(SD) were respectively for MM: 0.85 (+/-0.20) & 76.32 (+/-18.40), for BCC 0.89 (+/-0.19) & 75.9 (+/-17.12)

Discussion: This study shows that the QoL scores of patients with MM or BCC were not negatively impacted. QoL as assessed by the EQ-5D/EQ-VAS was good overall in patients being treated for MM and BCC. However, the mean index value was significantly better in the BCC-group than in the MM one, which correlates with the better prognosis of BCC..

