



QUALITY OF LIFE, QUALITY OF CARE, AND PATIENT SAFETY

FIVE YEAR AUDIT OF INPATIENT DERMATOLOGY CONSULTS AT A CANADIAN TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

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Introduction: Dermatology consultations provide valuable clinical information for healthcare teams in hospitals. Because skin conditions affect up to 24% of the population, many patients with skin disease are seen in hospitals by non-dermatologists. Moreover, many patients admitted for non-dermatological diseases have underlying skin conditions, while others develop skin conditions during their admission. This leads to a considerable amount of dermatology consultations in-hospital. Studies show consultations by dermatologists resulted in a change to diagnosis, treatment plan, and length-of-stay for patients admitted to hospital.

Objective: To date, there have been no peer-reviewed publications analyzing inpatient dermatology consultations in Canada. Hence, we aim to describe dermatology consultations seen at Vancouver General Hospital over a five-year period.

Methods and: We used data collected from January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2015 from all dermatology consultations seen at Vancouver General Hospital. Data collected included dermatological diagnoses and source of referral.

Results: Over a five-year period, 1,418 distinct dermatology consults were seen. The top 10 diagnoses included drug eruptions (19.3%), cutaneous infections (14.8%), eczemas other than contact dermatitis (14.8%), skin conditions associated with connective tissue disease and vasculitis (5.6%), contact dermatitis (4.7%), bullous diseases (4.6%), malignant skin conditions (4.1%), psoriasis (3.9%), ulcers (2.5%), and urticaria (2.1%). A literature review demonstrated similar findings in common diagnoses at other institutions around the world. The majority of consultations originated from Internal Medicine and Subspecialties (35.0%), Emergency Medicine (14.8%), Surgery (12.7%), Blood & Marrow Transplantation (12.6%), and Family Medicine (10.6%).

Conclusion: The Vancouver General Hospital dermatology consult service team provides insight into diagnosis and management for a broad range of skin conditions. This information can be used to focus teaching objectives for students and residents as well as





optimize the delivery of dermatology care to patients.

