



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

FACTORS RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCERS

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Background: While sun exposure is a well-established risk factor for non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC), limited data is available on the association of factors such as patient sun protection behaviors and skin cancer knowledge.

The objective of this study was to investigate factors that may predispose patients to NMSC and determine if they are associated with patient sun protection behaviors, skin cancer knowledge, and how these may influence quality-of-life following NMSC diagnosis.

Methods: From June 30th, 2017 to April 31st, 2018, we surveyed consecutive patients undergoing Mohs micrographic surgery for NMSC removal at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Relevant patient demographics, exposure histories, sun protection behaviors, skin cancer knowledge, and Skin Cancer Quality of Life (SCQOL) scores were collected and evaluated.

Results: Of the 175 patients surveyed during the study period, 33.1% identified as white Hispanic (WH) and 66.3% as white non-Hispanic (WNH). Mean age was 66.9 ± 12.3 years (73.7% male, 26.3 % female). WH wore hats and sunglasses less frequently ($p < .001$ and $.010$), had lower skin cancer knowledge scores ($p = .003$), and worse quality of life scores ($p < .001$) following NMSC diagnosis. Bivariate analysis revealed having more prior skin cancer surgeries was associated with worse quality of life ($p = .034$).

Conclusion: Compared to WNHS, WH were less knowledgeable regarding skin cancer risks and suffered worse QOL following NMSC diagnosis. These findings support the need for patient education initiatives to improve overall knowledge about skin cancer and improve quality of life among white Hispanics.

