



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

SKIN CANCER OF THE EAR: CLINICOPATHOLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS OF 889 PATIENTS TREATED WITH MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY.

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Introduction: Skin cancer commonly appear on sun-exposed areas of the body such as the ears. Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is the most common cutaneous cancer in this anatomical region. There are several alternatives for skin cancer treatment. Mohs micrographic surgery (CMM) is the gold standard for skin cancer of the ear treatment. It allows histologic examination of 100% of the surgical margins with the highest cure rates (95-99%) and causes less damage to healthy tissue than other options.

Objective: To describe the demographic, clinical and histological characteristics, and therapeutic management of patients with skin cancer of the ear.

Materials and methods: The present study is a retrospective, descriptive, observational cohort study of 889 patients diagnosed with skin cancer of the ear that were treated with CMM in a hospital of third level of complexity during the period between 2004 and 2014.

Results: 78% (n=693) were men. 82% were 65 years of age or older. The two most common types of skin cancer were BCC (80%) and squamous cell carcinoma (19%). Tumors were mostly located in preauricular region and helix. 8% of the 889 patients had recurrent tumors. 25% of recurrent tumors required 3 stages or more of CMM. In contrast, 14% of the tumors without previous treatments required 3 stages. The most frequent closures technique was the primary intention (53%), follower by flaps (23%).

Conclusion: The demographic characteristics, the type of tumor and the anatomical locations were similar to those already described. The male predominance in ear skin cancer highlights photoprotection as an essential tool in the prevention. We emphasize that the cases of tumor recurrence had more subclinical extension and required more stages of CMM. For this reason, we would like to highlight the importance of examine 100% of the surgical margins in skin cancer on the ear.

