



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MENOPAUSAL HORMONE THERAPY AND KERATINOCYTE CARCINOMA

Raagini Suresh⁽¹⁾ - Amanda Twigg⁽¹⁾ - Jenny Murase⁽¹⁾

University Of California, San Francisco, Dermatology, San Francisco⁽¹⁾

Introduction: Keratinocyte carcinoma (KC) is the most common malignancy in the United States. The two most common forms of KC are basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), accounting for 80% and 20% of cases, respectively.

Objective: While there are many well-established risk factors for KC, a more controversial risk factor for KC development is menopausal hormone therapy. This review synthesizes existing information about this topic and identifies knowledge gaps for future study.

Materials and Methods: A systematic review of the literature using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH terms) “menopausal hormone therapy; skin neoplasms” was conducted using the PubMed database from March 19, 2018 to April 1, 2018. This yielded 168 articles, case reports, and reviews, which were then further refined for inclusion during the development of this manuscript. Additional articles were identified from cited references.

Results: Four studies pertaining to this topic were identified. Results were evaluated in the context of these studies’ strengths and weaknesses. Menopausal hormone therapy contributes to an increased risk of BCC in Caucasians and may make these tumors more aggressive histologically. There is not enough evidence to make a conclusion regarding the potential relationship between menopausal HRT and SCC, though one study suggested an increased risk of SCC with HRT use and another demonstrated a temporal association, with prolonged length of menopausal HRT use and increased risk of SCC development.

Conclusions: Ever users of menopausal HRT should be screened more frequently for KC. This issue is of importance to dermatologists, as patients receiving earlier diagnoses of KC will have better opportunity to pursue treatment.

