



TELEDERMATOLOGY

INCIDENTAL MELANOMA DETECTION FOLLOWING TELEDERMATOLOGY CONSULTATION FOR SKIN LESIONS IN PATIENTS.

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Introduction and Objective: Teledermatology is increasingly being used as an adjunct to dermatologic care. Incidental findings following teledermatology consults are a concern since early detection and treatment is essential to reducing morbidity and mortality due to malignant melanoma and other non-melanoma skin cancers.

Material and Methods: We retrospectively reviewed teledermatology consults and their associated clinic visits between December 2015 and June 2016. Demographics and characteristics of the teledermatology visits, clinic visits and histopathologic findings were collected. Categorical results were analyzed using Chi-squared tests.

This quality control review was conducted at the Veteran's Affairs Health System in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Results: There were 232 teledermatology consults reviewed from this time period. Subjects were 96.1% male and 85.3% Caucasian with an average age of 66.4 years. There were 293 unique lesions sent for consult and 131 incidental lesions detected. Six (6) of the incidental lesions were melanomas for an incidental melanoma detection rate per consult of 2.6% (6/232). There were eight total melanomas, with incidental melanomas representing 75% of all melanomas detected. A significantly larger proportion of incidental lesions were found on the back (30.5% vs. 15.0%, $p=0.0003$, 95% CI 6.03 to 24.06) and abdomen/chest (14.5% vs. 6.8%, $p=0.011$, 95% CI 1.14 to 15.7) compared to consult lesions. A significantly larger proportion of consult lesions were found on the head and neck (52.6% vs. 35.1%, $p=0.0009$, 95% CI 6.89 to 27.51) compared to incidental lesions. All six incidental melanomas were on the back or abdomen.

Conclusion: This study suggests that detection of melanomas is best done with total body skin exams performed by a dermatologist. Identifying all potentially harmful lesions requires examination beyond a patient's lesion of concern. High yield areas for detecting potentially harmful lesions on skin examination prior to dermatologist consult include the back,





abdomen and chest.

