

Assessment of Skin Cancer Presentation in the South West Region and Hampshire

UKACR & NCIN 2010

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South West Public Health Observatory



Aims

To establish a baseline assessment of the gravity of tumours treated across the South West and Hampshire

- To assess the number of tumour types
- To assess the reasons for delays prior to presentation
- To monitor the treatments used
- To identify gap in referral process

Background

- National Awareness & Early Diagnosis Initiative (2008)
- Implementation of NICE IOG (Skin Cancer) (2006)
 - Impact on clinics (increase number of cases; follow up)
 - Understanding of service and workload
 - Understanding of skin cancer presentation

Skin cancer

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the UK

South West Region (2006; UKACR data)

- 1,323 Malignant Melanoma (MM)
- 2,862 Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)
- 9,057 Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC)

- Incidence is rising as well as detection in younger people
- Male MM mortality has doubled in the last 30 years.
(CRUK, 2010)

Method

- All Trusts in the South West region and Hampshire were invited to participate
- 50 consecutive lesions seen in clinics (included Dermatology, Plastic Surgery and Maxillofacial Surgery)
- July to September 2008
- Data collected prospectively on Excel spreadsheet

Cohort:

10 Trusts participated

589 cases

Skin cancer type and gender

	Male		Female		Total cases		unknown
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
BCC	217	63.9	151	63.7	373	63.3	5
SCC	76	22	32	13.5	110	18.7	2
MM	45	13	50	21.1	94	16	0
Others	5	1.4	4	1.7	9	1.5	0
	345	100	237	100.0	589	100	7

Source: Assessment of skin cancer presentation in the South West and Hampshire in 2008 00

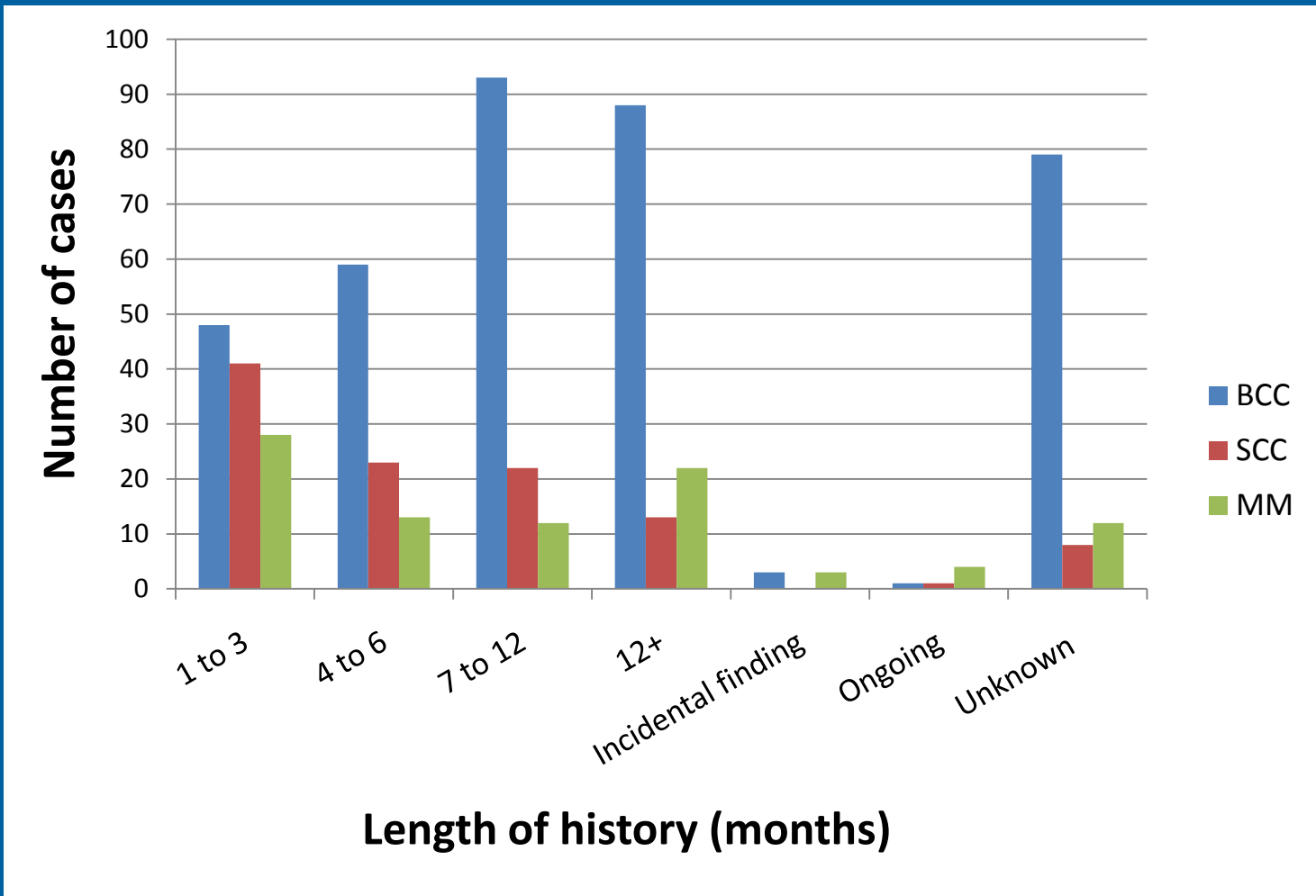
- There is a clear dominance of male in the cohort with a ratio of 1.45:1 and an age peak from 70 to 79 year old both for male and female.

Occurrence of previous skin cancer

	Tumour type					
	BCC		SCC		MM	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Previous skin cancer	168	45.7	45	40.9	17	18.1
No previous skin cancer	200	54.4	65	59.1	77	81.9
Total	368	100	110	100	94	100

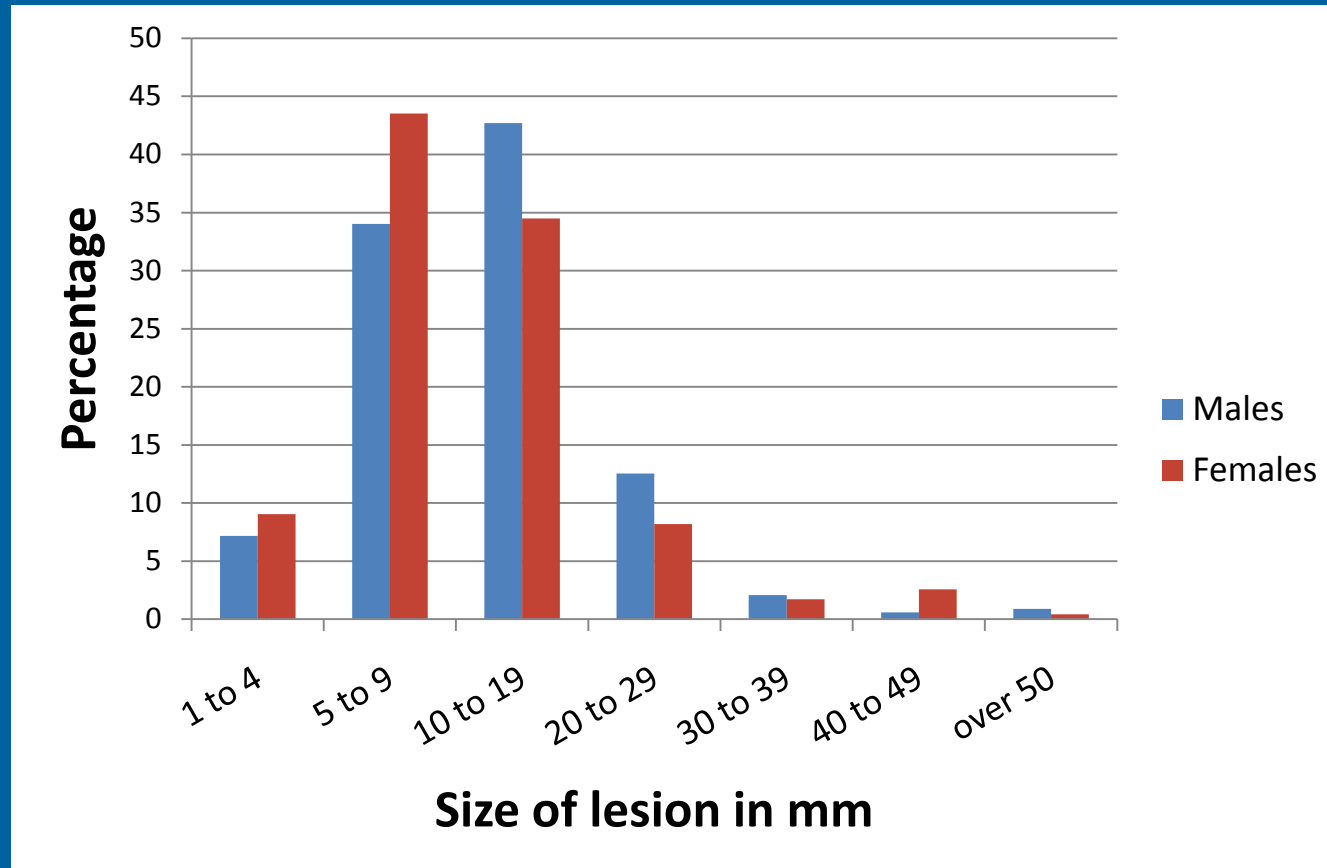
Source: Assessment of skin cancer presentation in the South West and Hampshire in 2008

Distribution of cancer types by length of history (months)



Source: Assessment of skin cancer presentation in the South West and Hampshire in 2008

Size of lesions at presentation by gender (all skin cancers)



Source: Assessment of skin cancer presentation in the South West and Hampshire in 2008

- Females had longer length of history than males; (70% (150/213) presented within 12 months compared to 76% of males (222/292)) .

2 week wait referral process

	Tumour type					
	BCC		SCC		MM	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2WW referrals	56	18	39	39	66	78
Non 2WW referrals	256	80	61	60	19	22
Follow up	6	2	1	1	-	-

Source: Assessment of skin cancer presentation in the South West and Hampshire in 2008

- Younger patients (58 patients under 50 years old) were more likely to be referred under the 2 week wait referral process (59% (34/58))
- More females (37% (73/200)) than males (29% (90/306)) were referred under the 2 week wait process

Percentage of treatment given and tumour type

	Tumour type		
	BCC	SCC	MM
	%	%	%
Topical treatment	3	2	0
Curretage	7.5	4.5	0
Excision and direct closure	56	55	85
Complex repair	26	35	18

Note: % do not add up to 100

Source: Assessment of skin cancer presentation in the South West and Hampshire in 2008

Main findings

- 18% BBCs were referred via the two week wait process
- Females are referred more frequently via the two week wait process than males but wait longer before presenting to GP
- Males presented with larger lesions than females
- More BCCs and SCCs required more complex excision than MMs

Conclusion

- Better education of GPs to identify skin cancer subtypes
- Awareness of the public for faster presentation of BCC and SCC to avoid complex surgery and worst outcome for MM
- Complex surgery cost extrapolated for South West data represent: 2,355 of BCCs and 1,002 of SCCs compared to 238 of MMs
(Underestimated value of the number of BCC&SCC due to under registration)

Although this audit focused initially on presentation, it highlights important issues on education, cost and a need to understand the magnitude of the problem. The latter is currently addressed by SWPHO with the development of a pilot of skin cancer registration and a collaborative project on the cost of skin cancer services.

This project was undertaken by

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Please visit our Websites:
www.swpho.nhs.uk
and
www.swpho.nhs.uk/skincancerhub/



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