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### **Surgical treatment of non melanoma head and neck skin cancer: a review of surgical outcomes for 143 consecutive cases**

Non melanoma skin cancers (NMSC) including basal cell carcinomas (BCC) and squamous cell carcinomas (SCC) can be prevalent in the head and neck region due to sun exposure. This audit reviewed surgically treated NMSC's at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton as the main service provider for NMSC of the head and neck in South West England. Surgically excised head and neck NMSC's between January 2023 and June 2023 within our electronic database were crosschecked against the Trusts pathology reporting system. The current national guidance including NICE and British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) were used as guidance for surgical margins. Analysis included anatomical sites, type of reconstruction, histopathology and excision margins. Of the 143 cases identified, 74% were BCC's and 26% were SCC's, the most common subtype being nodular and moderately differentiated respectively. The overall rate of incomplete excision with respect to NMSC type showed was 15.4%, of which 14% were BCC's and 19% were SCC's. The rate of incomplete excision with respect to anatomical site showed the highest prevalence in the nose (31.8%) and ear (31.8%) for both NSMC's. Most common surgical outcome for both NMSC's was primary closure. This highlights the challenges in achieving complete surgical excision of NMSCs, particularly in anatomically complex regions, where incomplete excision rates were highest. Adherence to national guidelines remains essential to improving surgical outcomes. Although, current guidance provides margins for the whole body, not considering anatomical limitations.

#### **Biography**

I am a resident doctor working in the UK with a special interest in plastic and maxillofacial surgery, particularly surgeries involving head and neck malignancies. I also have an interest in dermatology and undertook this audit as it was an area which combines my interests.