

Clinicoepidemiological characteristics of cutaneous malignancy in Sarawak: A 66-month review at the dermatology clinic Sarawak General Hospital, Kuching Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Based on the Malaysia Cancer Registry, the incidence of skin cancer is increasing. We aim to describe the demographic and clinical characteristics of patients diagnosed with cutaneous malignancy in Sarawak. **Methods:** This is a retrospective study on all patients who were diagnosed as having cutaneous malignancy at the Dermatology Clinic, Sarawak General Hospital over 66 months between 2018 and June 2023. Data were obtained from case notes and further analyzed. **Results:** There were 210 patients with a total of 229 lesions being identified. The male-to-female ratio was 2.53:1. The median age at diagnosis was 69 years (range:10-93). More than half of the patients were Chinese. The face was the most frequently reported affected location (37.6%). Of these, 51.2% of the lesions were located at the cheek, followed by the forehead and nose (both 17.4%). Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) was the most common cutaneous malignancy encountered (32.3%), followed by squamous cell carcinoma (SCC, 20.1%), keratoacanthoma 9.2%, melanoma 8.7%, metastatic cutaneous malignancy, SCC in-situ 8.3%, Kaposi sarcoma (KS) 5.2% and primary cutaneous lymphoma 3.5%. Nearly 2/3 of the BCC presented in the age group of 70-89 years. About a third of the SCC developed at the lower limbs. Acral lentiginous melanoma represented 30% of all melanomas. Breast cancer was the most common primary that reported cutaneous metastasis. All except 2 of the KS (83.3%) were associated with HIV infection. **Conclusion:** Our male patients demonstrated a significantly higher risk of primary cutaneous malignancy. BCC was the most encountered cutaneous malignancy.