Skin Cancer in East Azerbaijan, Iran, Results of a Population-Based Cancer Registry

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Abstract: Background: Skin cancer is the most common type of cancers in white population with an increasing incidence worldwide. The incidence, morbidity and mortality rates of skin cancers are increasing and, therefore, pose a significant public health concern. This article aims to provide an overview of skin cancers with an emphasis on the epidemiology of skin cancers in East Azerbaijan, Iran and preventive behaviors including personal behavioral modifications and public educations.

Method: A retrospective study of skin cancer for the period 2004-2010 was performed. All available records with skin cancer diagnosis were evaluated. The rate and distribution of the main types of skin cancer was calculated based on gender, age and location of tumor. The diagnosis of skin cancer was based on histopathology of primary skin lesion.

Results: We studied the prevalence of skin cancers between 2004-2010 in Azerbaijan, Iran. A total of 1030 skin cancers (mean age of the patients 65/65+ 13/96 years) were diagnosed during this study. Of these lesions, 66/7% (687) were in males and 33/3% (343) in female. The most common type of skin cancer was Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) in 74/9% (771) lesions followed by Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) in 18/3% (188) and Melanoma in 4% (41). The head and neck area was the most common location of these lesions (87/8%) and in this area, the tumors were most often seen on the nose (21/9%).

Conclusion: In our study, BCC was the most common skin cancer and the head and neck was the most common location of these tumors. Our findings underline the need for improved preventive strategies to prevent the increasing non melanoma skin cancers incidence.

Skin cancers, Basal cell carcinoma, Squamous cell carcinoma, Melanoma

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