

Epidemiology of Skin Cancer

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Objective: The aim of the study is to find out the skin cancer distribution, level of risk and histopathological typing.

Design: Retrospective cancer registry-based study.

Setting: Cancer Research Unit, Basrah Medical College.

Method: The study was performed from 2005 to 2009. Four hundred fifty-seven new cases were registered during five years. Eighty-three cases were not inhabitants of Basrah governorate and were excluded from statistical analysis. Therefore, the sample used in the study is 374 (81.8%).

Result: Skin cancer accounts for 4.7% of all new cancer cases registered from 2005 to 2009. The mean age of skin cancer cases was 54.8±18.4 years. The risk increased with advancing age in both sexes in terms of relative frequency and in age specific incidence.

Conclusion: Skin cancer has a major share among total cancer cases in Basrah. Further analytical epidemiological study to identify the determinants of local patterns is advised.

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