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Ultraviolet fluorescent tattoo facilitates accurate identification of biopsy sites

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Background: Cutaneous biopsy sites are often difficult to discern or are frequently misidentified when patients present for treatment of skin cancers. This frustrating situation can lead to delays in treatment and wrong site surgeries. Current methods aiming to prevent this situation are not perfect.

Objective: This study seeks to determine the efficacy of ultraviolet-fluorescent tattoos in facilitating the correct identification of suspected nonmelanoma skin cancer biopsy sites.

Methods: In this prospective cohort, 51 shave biopsy sites were tattooed with ultraviolet- fluorescent ink in a series of 31 patients suspected of having a cutaneous malignancy. At the time of follow up, the ability of the patient and the physician to identify the correct site with and without ultraviolet illumination of the tattoo was recorded. Visibility of the tattoo was graded before and after treatment.

Results: Patients could not positively identify their biopsy site in 35% of cases. In 7% of cases, physicians could not confidently identify the site without the aid of ultraviolet illumination. In conjunction with tattoo illumination, physicians confidently identified the site in 100% of the cases. No adverse events occurred.

Conclusion: Ultraviolet-fluorescent tattoos offer a safe and reliable means of accurately marking cutaneous biopsy sites.

Keywords: Ultraviolet tattoo; nonmelanoma skin cancer; biopsy site; Mohs micrographic surgery

Biography

Dr. Baum has built a reputation as a cosmetic dermatologist by providing leading-edge treatments, dedicated and personalized patient care, and excellent aesthetic results. Dr. Baum is often asked to share her expertise to the English and Spanish-speaking media about the latest advancements in skin care technologies. She has collaborated in several publications, in world re-known dermatological journals and books with her research. Dr. Baum remains committed to the highest standards of patient care and is actively involved in several professional organizations. Dr. Baum is proud to treat patients of all ages and skin types, and has experience in cosmetic, general, surgical and pediatric dermatology. Dr. Baum is a proud alumna of the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Science in neuroscience Summa Cum Laude, received her medical degree from the Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Upon graduation, Dr. Baum completed an internship in Westchester Hospital, as well as a residency in dermatology at the NSU COM Larkin Community Hospital, where she was chief resident during her last year. She is married with 2 children, and enjoys spending time with her family.

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