

International Conference on

Medical Devices

September 21-22, 2015 Orlando, USA

Dermatoscopy in plastic surgery

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Introduction: Dermatoscopy has become a useful non invasive technique, which has demonstrated evidence based improvement in diagnostic accuracy when used by dermatologists whilst assessing potential malignant skin lesions. Plastic surgeons are at the forefront of skin malignancy management; however the use of dermatoscopes by plastic surgeons remains questionable. The aim of this survey was to determine the awareness and use of dermatoscopes within the UK by plastic surgeons.

Method: The survey was conducted by contacting on call Plastic Surgery Registrars within different hospitals in the UK. Data was recorded including, number of years experience in plastics, familiarity with dermatoscopes; whether the device was used by the individual, any formal training they had received, if the device was found to be useful and if the device was recommended.

Results: In total 17 different units were contacted. The mean number of years experience was 7.5 years. In total 16 (94%) were aware of adjuncts for diagnosing melanocytic lesions and 15 (88%) were familiar with dermatoscopes, although only 8 (47%) had used the device. Furthermore only 1 (14%) person had received formal training. Overall 6 (75%) out of the 8 found it useful and would recommend the device for future use.

Conclusion: This survey demonstrates that the use of dermatoscopes within the plastic surgery community remains small. However a significant number, despite having no formal training, found the device to be of beneficial use. Reduce the number of unnecessary operations which will improve patient care and enable the department to become more economical.

Biography

Ali Vahedi has completed his Medical Degree from Leicester Medical School, UK. He is currently a Surgical Trainee in the Welsh Deanery. He has been involved with numerous research projects and international presentations.

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