Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer of the Head and Neck: An Issue of Facial Plastic Surgery

Nonmelanoma skin cancer (NMSC) is the most common type of cancer in the United States. It is more common in men than women, and the risk of developing NMSC increases with age. NMSC is caused by exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. The head and neck are common sites for NMSC because they are exposed to the sun more than other parts of the body.



Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer of the Head and Neck, An Issue of Facial Plastic Surgery Clinics (The Clinics:

Surgery Book 20) by Jack J. Kanski

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5
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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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Epidemiology

NMSC is the most common type of cancer in the United States, with over 1 million new cases diagnosed each year. The incidence of NMSC has been increasing over the past few decades, and this trend is expected to continue. NMSC is more common in men than women, and the risk of

developing NMSC increases with age. The average age of diagnosis is 65 years.

Pathogenesis

NMSC is caused by exposure to UV radiation from the sun. UV radiation damages the DNA in skin cells, which can lead to the development of cancer. The risk of developing NMSC is increased by the following factors:

* Fair skin color * A history of sunburn * A family history of NMSC * A weakened immune system * Exposure to certain chemicals, such as arsenic

Clinical Presentation

NMSC can present in a variety of ways, depending on the type of cancer. The most common types of NMSC are basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC).

- * BCC is a slow-growing cancer that typically appears as a small, pearly bump on the skin. BCC can also appear as a flat, reddish patch on the skin.
- * SCC is a more aggressive cancer that typically appears as a red, scaly patch on the skin. SCC can also appear as a wart-like growth or a bleeding sore.

Diagnosis

NMSC is diagnosed by a biopsy. A biopsy involves removing a small sample of tissue from the skin and examining it under a microscope.

Treatment

NMSC can be treated with a variety of methods, including surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy. The type of treatment that is best for a particular patient depends on the stage of the cancer, the patient's age and overall health, and the patient's preferences.

* Surgery is the most common treatment for NMSC. Surgery involves removing the cancer and a margin of healthy tissue around the cancer. * Radiation therapy is a type of treatment that uses high-energy X-rays to kill cancer cells. Radiation therapy can be used to treat NMSC that is located in a difficult-to-remove area or that has recurred after surgery. * Chemotherapy is a type of treatment that uses drugs to kill cancer cells. Chemotherapy can be used to treat NMSC that has spread to other parts of the body.

Role of Facial Plastic Surgery

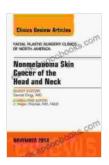
Facial plastic surgery can play a role in the treatment of NMSC of the head and neck. Facial plastic surgeons are trained in the removal of skin cancer and the reconstruction of the face. Facial plastic surgery can be used to remove NMSC that is located in a cosmetically sensitive area or that has recurred after surgery.

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