

Dermoscopy to Improve Family Medicine Residents' Diagnostic And Referral Accuracy of Skin Lesions

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Introduction

Dermoscopy is a noninvasive technique using direct microscopy to visual pigmented lesions allowing clinicians to distinguish morphologic features of lesions that are not seen with the naked eye. It is an important diagnostic tool for both dermatologists and family physicians alike. Dermoscopy is more accurate than naked eye examination and can improve a primary care provider's ability to triage suspicious lesions without increasing consultations.

Objective

Improve resident diagnostic accuracy of suspicious skin lesions in our Family Medicine Clinic.



Figure 1. DermLite Dermatoscope

The Three-Point Checklist

A screening algorithm to detect skin cancer.

1. Asymmetry of color or structure
2. Irregular or atypical pigment network
3. Blue-white color

One point is assigned to each and a score of 2-3 indicates need for biopsy and/or referral for further evaluation.



Figure 2. Image of Nevus from DermLite Dermatoscope

Hypothesis

We predict that training in dermoscopy will improve the clinical acumen of residents and lead to less unnecessary referrals, more appropriate referrals, and less unnecessary biopsies.

Intervention

Residents participated in a teaching day session on recognition of lesions using the ABCD criteria and dermoscopic evaluation of suspicious lesions using the three-point checklist. During a six-month period, residents will evaluate patients' skin lesions as benign or suspicious lesions. Each lesion will be photographed with a dermatoscope photo system and over read by a dermatologist. When appropriate, the lesion will be biopsied and sent for histopathology.

References

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