

Dermatology Series: Skin Cancer in Skin of Color 1.2

Review of Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer in African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians: Diagnostic pearls from a review on the risk factors and clinical presentations of squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma in skin of color. Non-melanoma skin cancer in Hispanic and Asian populations is less studied, but distinct racial/ethnic presentations are reported.

SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA (SCC)

BASAL CELL CARCINOMA (BCC)

AFRICAN AMERICAN (AA)

- ✦ **Most common** cutaneous malignancy in AA persons
- ✦ 20-40% arise from areas of **inflammation or scarring, including in conditions** such as discoid lupus erythematosus (DLE)
- ✦ **NOT** commonly photo-distributed: Common areas include **anogenital region & lower legs**
- ✦ **DON'T MISS:** Erythema is **NOT** a common feature

- ✦ **Risk factors:** albinism, xeroderma pigmentosum, scars, ulcers, trauma, chronic infections, nevus sebaceous, arsenic ingestion, immunosuppression, radiation, but **NOT** photo-distributed
- ✦ Darker skin tone may be risk factor for **metastasis** (due to high conc. of skin transurocanic acid (photoreceptor that may cause photoimmune suppression)) → **closer follow-up may be warranted**
- ✦ **DON'T MISS:** Pigmentation occurs in >50% of tumors → can be mistaken for SK, MM, and nevus sebaceous (Figure 2)

HISPANIC

- ✦ Increased incidence of **pigmented SCCs** compared to Caucasians
- ✦ Hispanic men have the highest rate of penile SCC

- ✦ Increased incidence of **pigmented BCCs** compared to Caucasians
- ✦ BCCs are **6x more common** than SCCs in Hispanic persons

ASIAN

- ✦ Increased incidence of **pigmented SCCs** compared to Caucasians (Figure 1)
- ✦ Reports of SCCs arising in DLE

- ✦ Increased incidence of **pigmented BCCs** compared to Caucasians
- ✦ **DON'T MISS:** BCCs in Asian patients commonly have a characteristic **"glossy brown or black appearance"**

Conc...: concentration; SK: seborrheic keratosis; MM: malignant melanoma



Figure 2.



Citation: da Silva DLF, de Carvalho Vasconcelos J, Lobo VS, da Silva DLF, Coelho PB, et al. (2013) Basal Cell Carcinoma in African-Americans: Two Case Reports. *J Clin Exp Dermatol Res* S6: 016. doi:10.4172/2155-9554.S6-016

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