Basal cell epithelioma at a glance

Epidemiology

Prevalence 100 000 cases in the UK, 2001; 90% of non-melanoma skin cancers

Age More common in the elderly

Race Races with fair complexion

Other

Associated with chronic exposure to UVB and, more rarely, exposure to non-ionizing radiation and inorganic arsenic

Clinical features

Lesions commonly at sides of the nose and around the orbit Slow-growing, pearly, flesh-coloured translucent smooth papules or nodules with rolled edges or plaques Surface telangiectasia

Frequent central necrosis with crusting or ulceration More rarely, cystic or pigmented lesions



Fig. A Basal cell carcinoma below the right eye. Nodule.



Fig. B Classical crateriform basal cell carcinoma. Ulcerating nodule.

Management

Cryosurgery Curettage/cautery Excisional surgery (± grafting) Mohs' micrographic surgery (± grafting) Chemosurgery (intralesional 5-fluorouracil) Radiotherapy



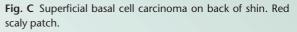




Fig. D Morphoeic basal cell carcinoma on the face. Irregular plaque.



Fig. E Pigmented basal cell carcinoma. Courtesy of Dr R.C.D. Staughton.