

Estimating the number of cases of non-melanoma skin cancer

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South West Public Health Observatory



Overview

- What's the issue with registration of non-melanoma skin cancers?
- Why do we need to estimate the unknown cases?
- How do we go about these estimates?
- Conclusions



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Non-melanoma skin cancer

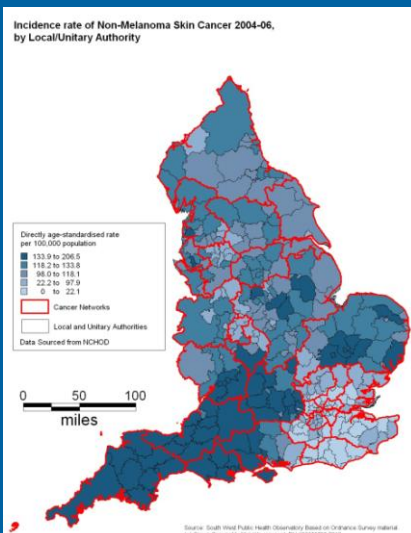
- Two types: Basal Cell Carcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma
- Basal more common
- Squamous can metastasize
- Aetiological risk factors include UV, ionizing radiation and trauma
- Managed primarily by excision (which can occur in primary care)



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The 'incidence' of non-melanoma skin cancer



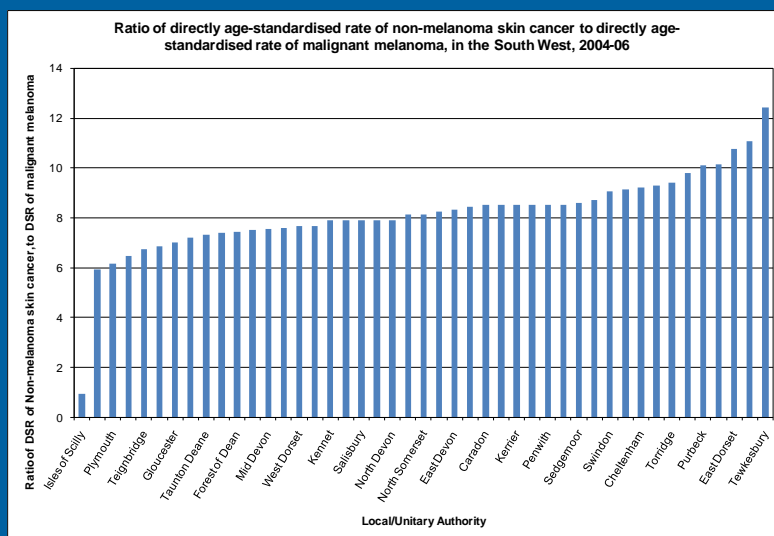
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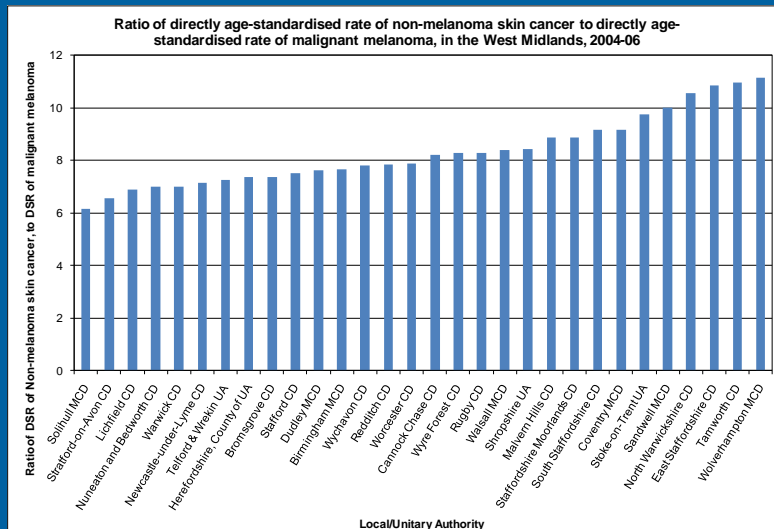
Why did this happen, and should we do anything about it?

- Traditionally NMSC not recorded as the mortality rate is very low
but
- More complex operations are performed for NMSC than MM
- Many dealt with by GPs
- High recurrence rate
- It's one of the most common cancers so we should know about it!

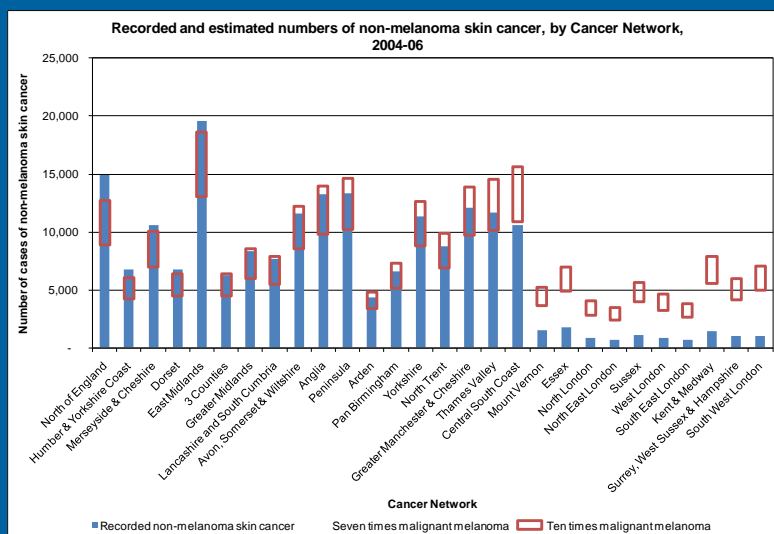
Estimating the missing incidence



Estimating the missing incidence



Applying estimates to cancer networks



The numbers

- 2004-06 data from NCHOD
- Areas with exceptionally low rates: 3,981 cases per year
- Revised estimate: 13,025 to 18,607 cases per year
- Estimate for England: 72,788 to 78,370 cases per year
- Actual recorded in England: 63,744 cases per year



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Notes

- Estimates only apply to first recorded cases in each year
- BCC and SCC very likely to have a number of recurrences in the months following diagnosis
- A number of factors will affect the estimates
 - Age structure of population
 - UV exposure
 - Awareness campaigns etc.
- SWPHO recording all NMSC for 2009, so will have better answers to these questions in time!



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Conclusions

- The number of first cases of non-melanoma skin cancer is severely underestimated in England
- We can estimate that between 9,000 and 14,600 cases go unrecorded
- The cost of these to the NHS is potentially very high
- There are likely to be even more than we can estimate due to recurrences

Thank you for your attention

www.swpho.nhs.uk/skincancerhub



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