

Basal Cell Carcinoma

The most common malignant skin tumour, which rarely ever metastasises.

Suggested approach to basal cell carcinoma OSCE station

Describing lesions:

- Lesion
 - "There is a skin-coloured papule/nodule present on the left cheek. It has a pearly rolled edge and there is surface telangiectasia."
 - "It is approximately 13mm in diameter."
 - "There is no ulceration, necrosis or secondary features (such as crusting, scaling or erosion)."
 - "On palpation, it is firm and not hot or tender."
 - "This lesion is consistent with a basal cell carcinoma."

Differential diagnosis:

- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Seborrhoeic keratosis
- Malignant melanoma

Complications

- Local tissue invasion
- Ulceration
- Rarely ever metastasises

Investigations

- Biopsy

Management

- Surgical removal
- Cryotherapy
- Curatage and cautery
- Radiotherapy



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