

Radiation Therapies

Presented by Dr. Mark Nestor, MD, PhD

Superficial radiation therapy (SRT) has been one of the primary treatments for nonmelanoma skin cancer (NMSC) since the 1970's. Benefits of SRT include new technology and treatment paradigms, new computerized treatment to ensure accuracy and safety and eliminated need for radiation oncologists. Modalities available in managing skin lesions encompass electron beam therapy (EBT), brachytherapy using isotopes, and SRT.

By penetrating the top layer of the skin, SRT avoids deep tissue injury. SRT has a high cure rate for NMSC; a recent study showed that 98.9% of NMSC did not recur 85 months after SRT. Additionally, SRT is a practical option for treating NMSC on lower extremities. Dr. Nestor's clinical experience demonstrates the use of SRT to treat approximately 800 NMSC patients (primary areas of NMSC: scalp, nose, lower legs) to date, with excellent cosmesis and only four recurrences.

Surgical Innovations

Presented by Dr. Susan Weinkle, MD

Providers often get higher reimbursement rates for procedures of the genitals, eyelids, and lips. Dr. Weinkle suggests using absorbable sutures on the skin's surface, "bury it and run it." Absorbable sutures often provide excellent cosmetic results with minimal adverse reactions and save costs.

DERMABOND ADVANCED topical skin adhesive kills 99.9% of bacteria on the skin and is an exciting way to close superficial wounds quickly. Because "time is the money," Dr. Weinkle suggests setting up everything before performing the excision and keeping the layout simple. Surgeries can be performed using clean gloves instead of sterile gloves without increasing the rate of infections. Having a surgical assistant helps with the overall efficacy dramatically.

Castroviejo instruments are handy in performing detailed and delicate works around the eyes. The SUTUREGARD® Intraoperative Skin Relaxation device stretches the skin while the tissue is processing and closes the wound with 65% less tension. Juven® therapeutic nutrition drink mix helps with wound healing and it is available over the counter.