

OPTIMIZING SKIN CANCER DETECTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION: AN EARLY ACCESS LESION-DIRECTED CONSULTATION

Mylle S¹, Hoorens I¹, Van de Maele B¹, Verhaeghe E^{1°}, Brochez L^{1°}

¹ Department of Dermatology, University Hospital Ghent, Belgium
[°] Equal contribution

INTRODUCTION

Systematic screening of the general population for skin cancer has **not** been proven to be **cost-effective**. In previous studies, we observed comparable detection rates in a population-based total body examination (TBE) and a lesion-directed screening (LDS) (2.3% versus 3.2%), the latter specifically **addressing a lesion of concern** meeting one of the criteria listed under ‘Materials and Methods’ (1). We examined this **lesion-directed screening approach** in depth by introducing an early access consultation at our dermatology department.

Not advised nor referred by physician (N=186)

RESULTS

45 skin cancers have been confirmed histologically resulting in a minimum **detection rate** of **13.2%**. Among these 14 were melanoma, 18 BCC, 12 SCC and 1 T-cell lymphoma correlating with minimum detection rates of 4.1%, 5.3%, 3.5% and 0.3% respectively. After TBE in patients without a malignant index lesion 3 additional BCCs were detected (detection rate of 1.2% (3/251)). A **significant higher skin cancer detection rate** was observed in **patients advised** by the general practitioner to visit a dermatologist (26/110 (23.6%) versus 19/186 (10.2%), P<0.001). Analysis of anxiety before and after the consultation, showed a significant decrease in VAS in patients without a suspicious lesion (P<0.001).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

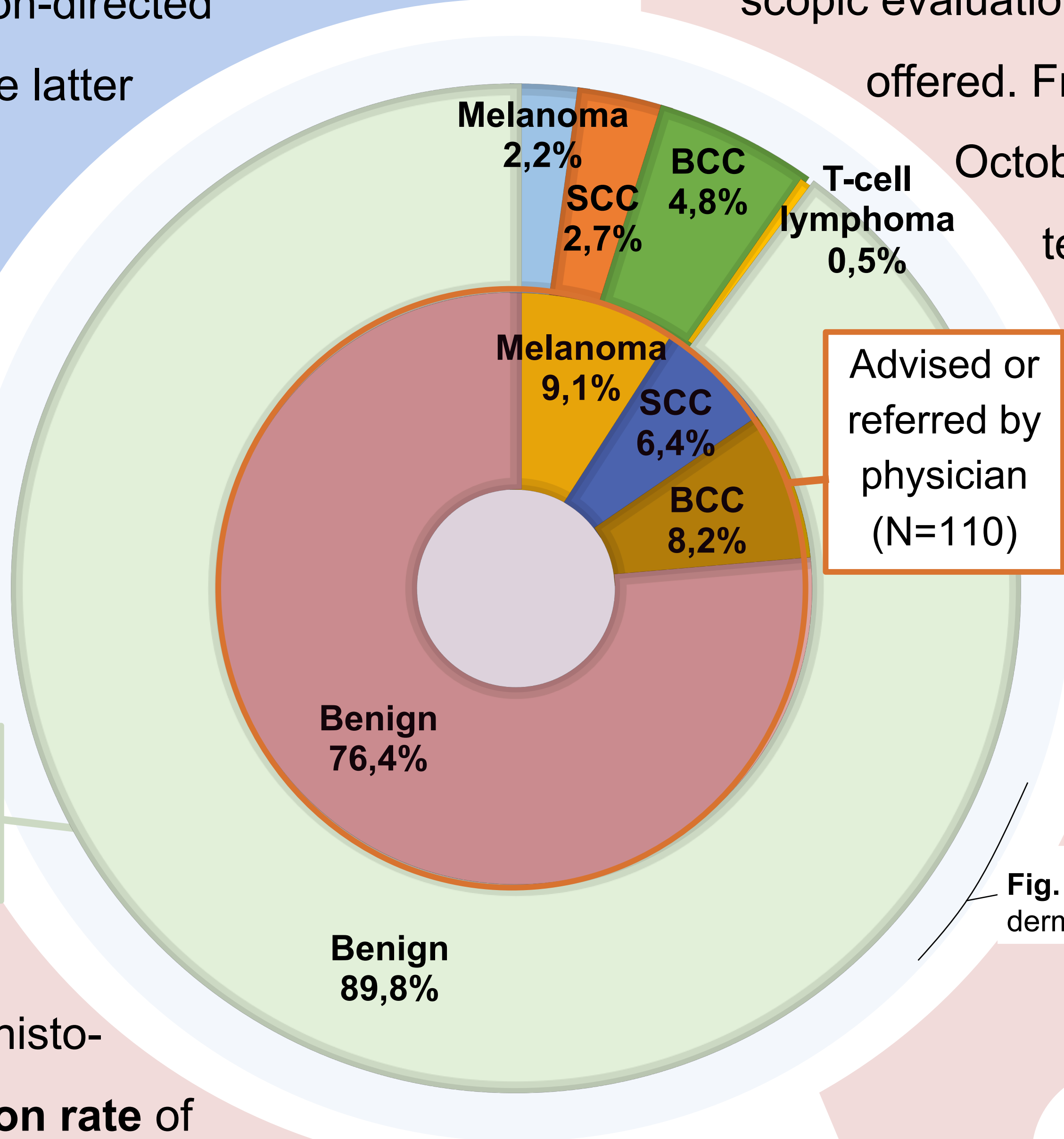
Patients contacting the dermatology unit with 1 to 3 lesion(s) of concern were offered an early access consultation, preferably within one week. After clinical and dermoscopic evaluation of the lesion(s) of concern, a TBE was offered. From February 2017 to April 2017 and October 2017 to July 2019, 342 patients consulted, of which 297 gave consent to analyse their data.

Inclusion criteria

1-3 lesions that met one of the following criteria:

New lesion in adult (18+)	Changed mole
Ugly duckling	Fast growing mole
Referral by non-dermatologist concerning suspicious lesion	Lesion in worried patient already in follow-up for skin cancer

Fig. 1: detection rates illustrated by (non-)referral or advice by non-dermatologist to consult a dermatologist



Advised or referred by physician (N=110)

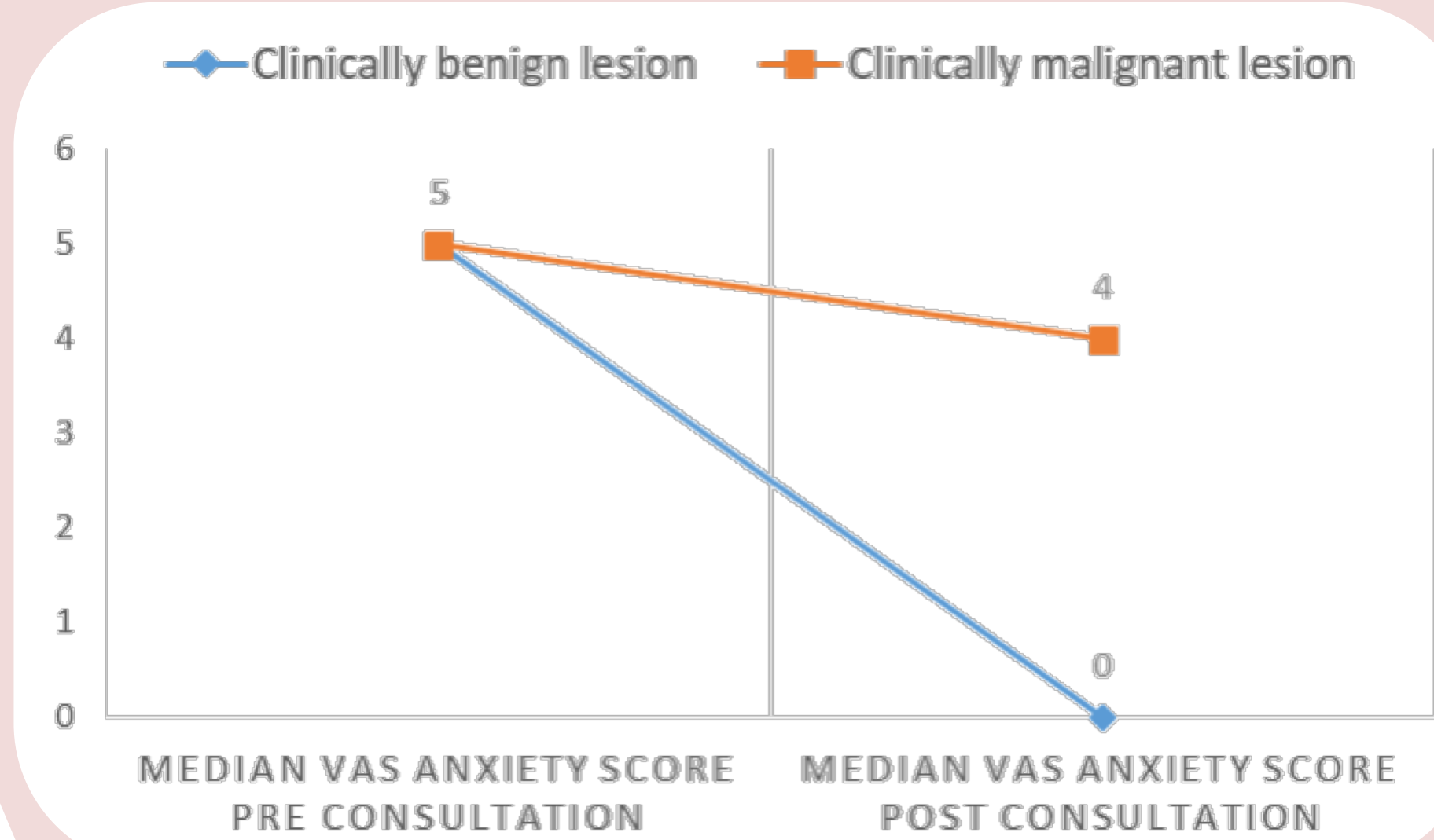


Fig. 2: VAS anxiety scores illustrated according to clinical diagnosis

Lesion	TBE screening (N=1668) ¹	LDS (N=248) ¹	Early access consultation (N=342)
Melanoma N(%)	8 (0.5)	1 (0.4)	14 (4.1)
NMSC N(%)	31 (1.9)	7 (2.8)	31 (9.1)
SCC N(%)	30 (1.8)	7 (2.8)	12 (3.5)
BCC N(%)	1 (0.1)	0 (0)	18 (5.3)
T-cell lymphoma N(%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0.3)
Total detection rate	39/1668 (2.3%)	8/248 (3.2%)	45/342 (13.2%)

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that a lesion-directed approach in an early access consultation **is feasible and delivers a high skin cancer detection rate**. We believe this early access LDS may be a way to achieve cost-effective early detection of skin cancer in the general population. Future studies should address tools that can help to optimize the preselection of lesions for an early access consultation.



CONTACT
DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY
UZ GENT
+32 (0)9 332 22 87
sofie.mylle@uzgent.be

REFERENCES

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