

Abstract

Epidemiology of lentigo maligna and lentigo maligna melanoma in the Netherlands, 1989 –2013

Karin Greveling, Marlies Wakkee, Tamar Nijsten, Renate R. van den Bos', Loes M. Hollestein

Dermatology Online Journal 22 (9)

Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Lentigo maligna (LM) is considered a precursor to LM melanoma (LMM). We assessed trends in LM and LMM incidence rates between 1989 and 2013 in the Netherlands, and estimated the risk of a LMM after LM. Data on newly diagnosed LM and LMM were obtained from the Netherlands Cancer Registry and PALGA (Dutch Pathology Database). Age-standardized incidence rates (European standardized rate [ESR]), estimated annual percentage changes (EAPC), and the cumulative incidence of LMM after LM were calculated. Between 1989-2013, 10,545 patients were diagnosed with a primary LM and 2,898 with a primary LMM in the Netherlands. The ESR for LM increased from 0.72 to 3.84 per 100,000 person-years, and for LMM from 0.24 to 1.19 between 1989-2013. LM incidence increased from 2002-2013 with 6.8% annually, prior to the – even steeper – rise in LMM incidence from 2007-2013 (EAPC: 12.4%). The cumulative incidence of LMM after a primary LM after 25 years follow-up was 2.0% for males and 2.6% for females. The increased incidence of LM and LMM in the Netherlands seems, besides increased awareness, increased histological confirmation, diagnostic drift and changed market forces, to reflect a true increase. The absolute risk of a LMM (at any location) after a histologically confirmed LM was low (2.0 – 2.6%).