



# Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited

Flat C, 23/F., Lucky Plaza,  
315-321 Lockhart Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6277

**Title:** A Retrospective Chart Review Of Basal Cell Carcinoma And Squamous Cell Carcinoma Biopsies And The Rate Of Cancer Presence In The Wide Excisions

**Reviewer code:** 00646582

**Science editor:** Wen, Ling-Ling

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-12 14:05

**Date reviewed:** 2013-10-30 15:22

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I cannot recommend the paper as is to be accepted. Firstly I am not quite clear what the research question is. I concluded that it must be how many of incompletely excised non melanoma skin cancers turn out not to have any tumour cells on the wide local excision. This is an interesting question, as it has implications on the size of scar patient is left with and the morbidity, but unfortunately when analysing the data the authors did not consider size of the lesion that was excised, nor if the wide excision was supposed to be a curative excision in the first place. This needs to be mentioned in the paper. There should also be a definition of what the pathologists consider margin involvement. I certainly know some pathologists who depending on condition on slide (e.g. SCC) will consider a peripheral margin of 0.1mm still to be involvement of margin and report it so, and also recommend a wider excision. So I am not surprised that more SCCs turn out to have no cancer cells on the wide local excision. In the conclusion paragraph the authors do not attempt to explain the study findings nor elaborate on the benefit of the study results. This needs to be amended. Finally a comment on references used, they seem all to be book references and fairly outdated in today's terms. I would recommend that the authors do a literature search and include more up to date references in the paper. The authors have clearly worked hard on the paper and I am sorry I cannot give a more favourable opinion.



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**Title:** A Retrospective Chart Review Of Basal Cell Carcinoma And Squamous Cell Carcinoma Biopsies And The Rate Of Cancer Presence In The Wide Excisions

**Reviewer code:** 00646502

**Science editor:** Wen, Ling-Ling

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-12 14:05

**Date reviewed:** 2013-11-06 06:58

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The work is well written and focuses on an interesting aspect of skin cancer surgery. I feel pretentious the sentence of the core tip "This finding suggests an excision wound caused by biopsy may trig a body response to eliminate cancer cells" which is not mentioned in the discussion. This aspect can be further expanded in the discussion bringing histological data of their own experience or a review of the literature.