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# Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer

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# Introduction

- NMSC
- BCC (75%)
- SCC (20%)
- Merkel Cell(1%)
- {Adnexal}/{Sarcoma} others
- High levels in Head and Neck and are increasing in Incidence
- A great opportunity for OMF Surgeons

Melanoma 5%





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- UK 230,000 cases NMSC/year
- 90% of all skin cancers are NMSC
- 57% males 43% females
- Age Incidence rates Highest in > 90yr olds
- Trends UK since 1990s, incidence rates have increased by 169%
- Last decade, rates have increased 42%
- Mortality > 720 deaths from NMSC UK each yr
- <1% of all cancer deaths
- Projections Incidence up to 400,000 per year

Cancer Research UK.

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/non-melanoma-skin-cancer>





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# Causes of Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer (NMSC)

- Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation: Sunlight / Tanning Beds
- Skin Type Fair Skin; Red or Fair Hair
- Genetic Factors
  - Family History
  - Previous Skin Cancer
- Other Factors
  - Chronic Wounds / Inflammation
  - Weakened Immune System
  - Human Papillomavirus (HPV)



# Genetics of NMSC:

## Key Genetic Mutations

- TP53: Mutations in this tumor suppressor gene are common in NMSC
- PTCH1/2 SUFU : Mutations in these genes are linked to basal cell carcinoma (BCC)
- CDKN2A: Alterations in this gene are associated with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)

## Genomic Instability

- DNA Repair Deficiency: Defects in DNA repair mechanisms genomic instability and cancer

## Epigenetic Changes

- Methylation: Abnormal DNA methylation patterns can contribute to NMSC development

## Inherited Syndromes

- Gorlin Syndrome: Caused by mutations in the PTCH1 gene, increasing the risk of BCC
- Xeroderma Pigmentosum: A condition with defective DNA repair -high risk of skin cancers

## Tumor Microenvironment

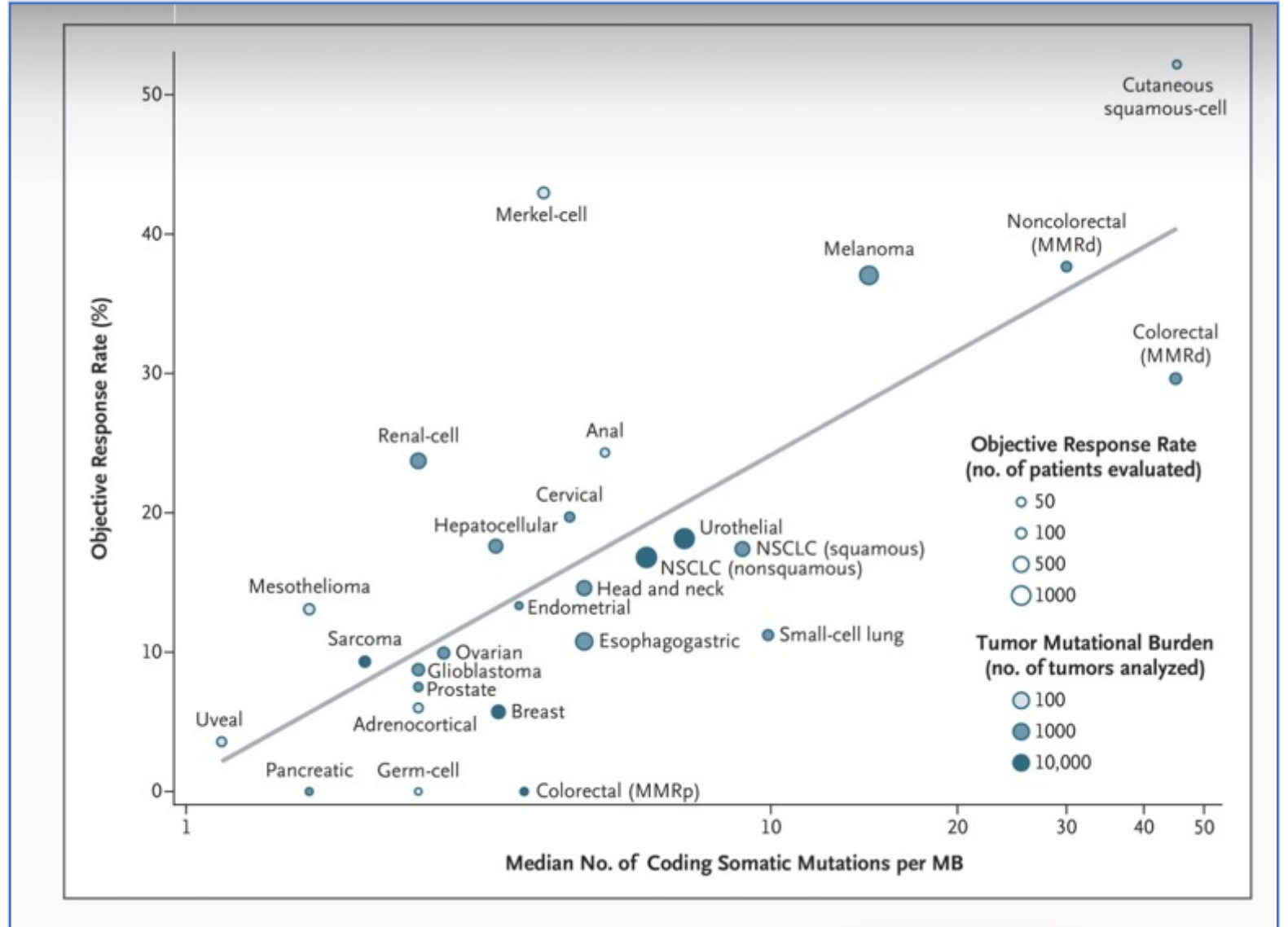
- Immune Response: Genetic factors influencing the **immune response** can affect NMSC progression

Yarchoan NEMJ 2017

Tumor Mutational  
Burden and Response  
Rate to PD-1 Inhibition

**cSCC is highly  
Immunogenic**

PDL-1 highly  
expressed







## Common Immunotherapy Drugs for NMSC

- Cemiplimab (Libtayo)
  - Type: Anti-PD-1 antibody
  - Use: Approved for advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC) not curable by surgery or radiation
- Pembrolizumab (Keytruda)
  - Type: Anti-PD-1 antibody
  - Use: Effective in treating advanced CSCC and Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC)
- Avelumab (Bavencio)
  - Type: Anti-PD-L1 antibody
  - Use: Used for advanced MCC.
- Nivolumab (Opdivo)
  - Type: Anti-PD-1 antibody
  - Use: Investigated for use in advanced NMSC.
- Ipilimumab (Yervoy)
  - Type: Anti-CTLA-4 antibody
  - Use: Sometimes used in combination with other immunotherapies for advanced skin cancers





## Features of Aggressive NMSC

- Local Invasion
- Cranial Nerve involvement VII V
- Vital Structures Eyes, Nose, Skull Base, Bone
- Parotid Gland
- Loco-Regional Lymph nodes
- Distant Metastasis



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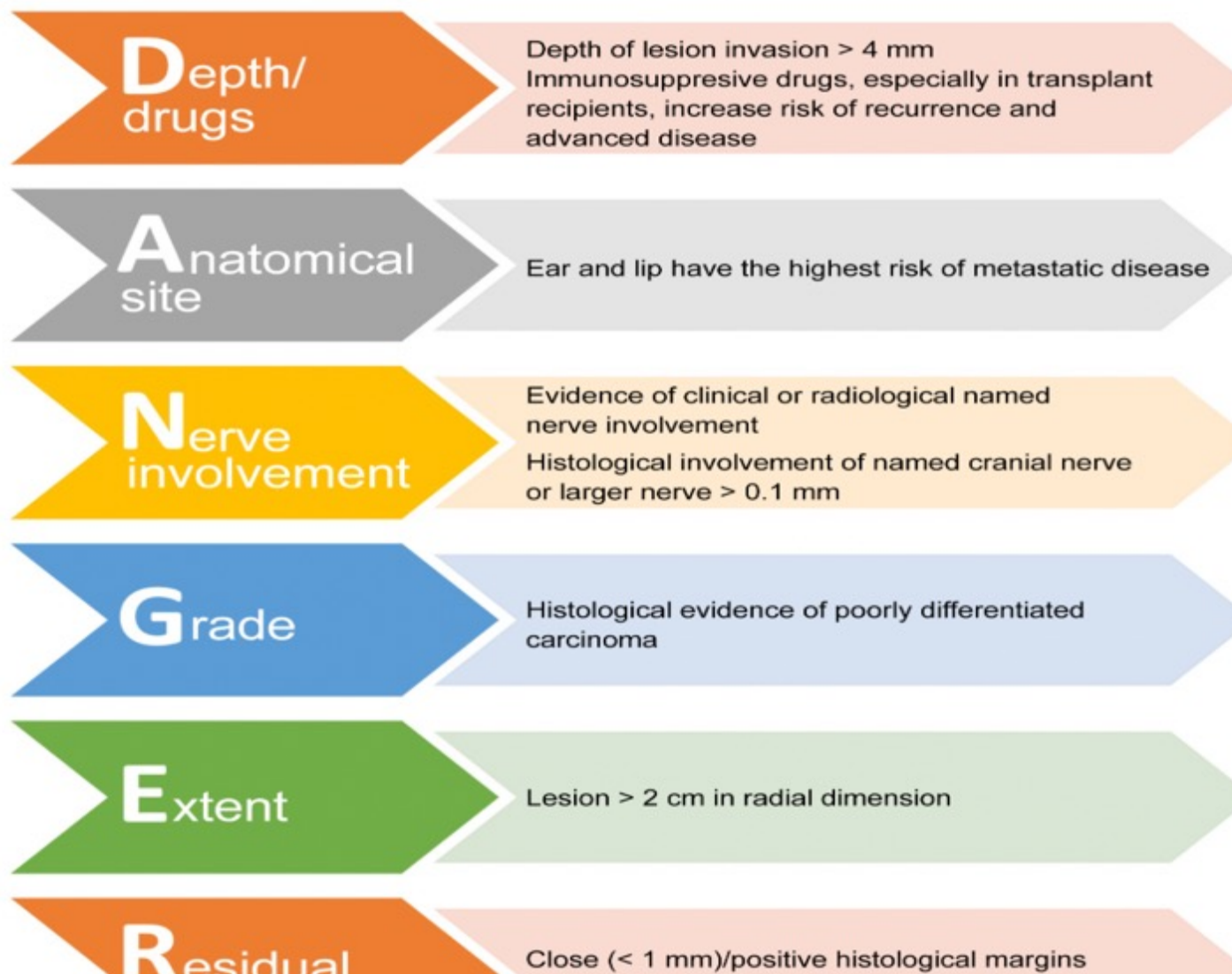
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Health District, Sydney,  
NSW.

## 1 The DANGER framework used to identify high risk primary cutaneous lesions



## The Good

- Local Disease with no nodal extension
- Prognosis good with excision margins
- Local Recurrence 2-5%



## The Bad

- Multi focal disease
- Nodal extension
- Parotid and Facial Nerve Involvement
- Perineural Spread
- Critical Structures
  - Oral Sphincter, Eye , Nose



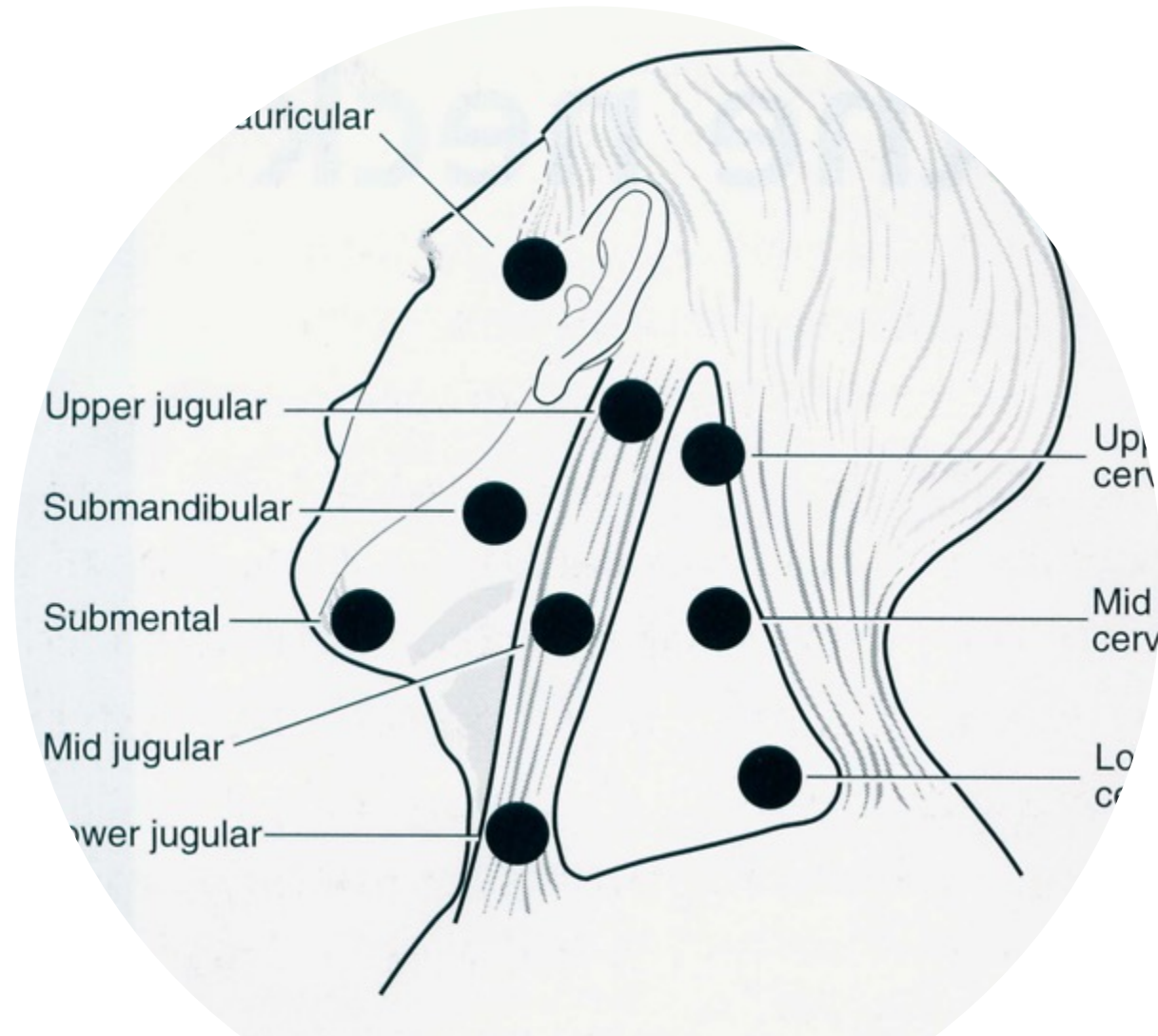




- Widespread Malignancy
- Cranial Extension
- Neglect
- Poor general health
- Psychological Issues
- Team resource

## The Ugly





## Parotid and Neck in cSCC

- Survival is related to Neck Disease
- Parotid first echelon nodal bed
- Any regional metastasis to the neck when compared to parotid alone conferred **worse** DSS and OS
- Regional metastasis of HNCSCC to the neck confers **worse** outcomes compared to metastasis to the parotid alone.



Sydney Unit

n= 535 cSCC

Long follow up

Parotid Staging parotid positive  
only ? neck mets?

Neck Disease -Overall Survival  
and Disease Specific Survival  
reduced with neck metastasis

Follow up and Survival  
Management Strategies





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HEAD  
NECK

JOURNAL OF THE SCIENCES AND SPECIALTIES OF THE HEAD AND NECK

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

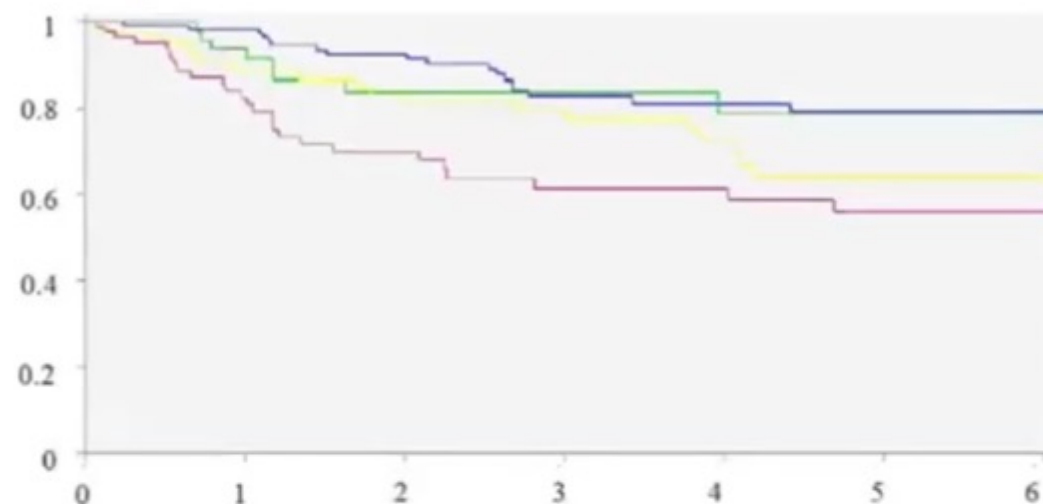
## The significance of regional metastasis location in head and neck cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

Craig P. Mooney MBBS, Jonathan R. Clark MBBS, MD, FRACS,  
Kerwin Shannon MBBS, FRACS, Carsten E. Palme MBBS, FRACS ... See all authors

First published: 21 May 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/hed.26744> | Citations: 5



Disease Specific Survival



Numbers at Risk

Time (years)

Single node at Parotid	128	104	83	63	44	32	21
Multiple nodes at Parotid	50	41	27	20	16	12	11
Single node at Neck	84	63	50	39	26	17	13
Multiple nodes at Neck	91	54	34	25	23	16	12





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- Develop Neck protocols
- Extra capsular Spread ECS
- PNI
- Facial Palsy or Trigeminal Neuralgia Red Flags for spreading cSCC
- Consider Extent of resection, Allow for Skip Lesions
- Reconstruction considerations
- Adjuvant Radiotherapy

## What are the Risk Factors for Neck Metastases from cSCC?

### Tumour Factors:

Size: Tumors >2 cm

Depth of Invasion Tumors that invade beyond the subcutaneous fat

Poor Differentiation a higher risk

Perineural Invasion

### Location:

Critical sites Tumours located on the ear lip or temple

### Patient Factors:

Immunosuppression: Increase tumour burden

Age: Older patients are at higher risk.

Histopathology: PNI LVI

ECS Spread beyond the lymph node capsule

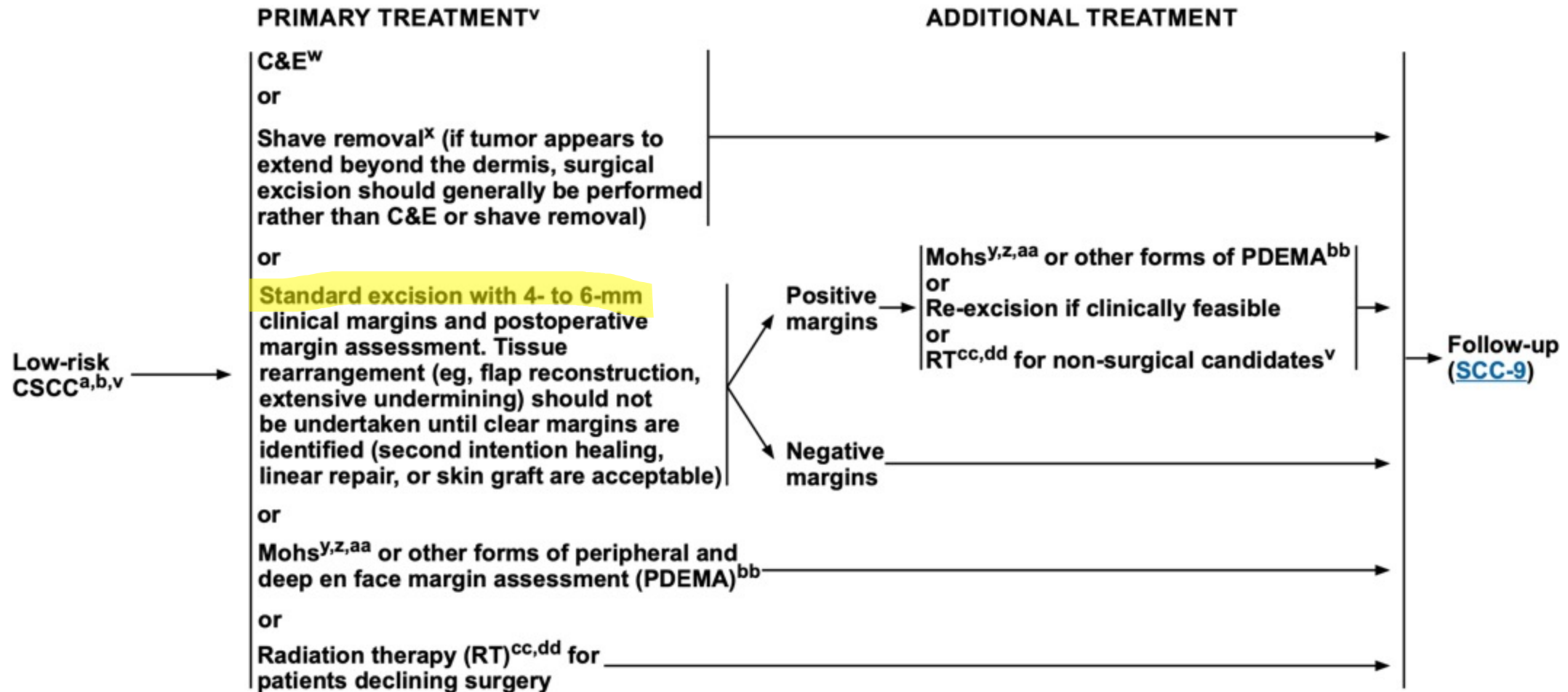
### Previous Treatments:

SCC in scar

Prior RT to head and neck area



## NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2024 Squamous Cell Skin Cancer





## NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2024 Squamous Cell Skin Cancer

### TREATMENT PLANNING

### PRIMARY TREATMENT<sup>v</sup>

### ADDITIONAL TREATMENT

**High-risk/  
very-high-risk  
CSCC where  
surgery or  
RT has a high  
likelihood of  
cure<sup>a,b,cc,ee</sup>**

Consider  
sentinel lymph  
node biopsy  
(SLNB)<sup>ff,gg</sup> in  
cases that are  
recurrent or with  
multiple high-  
risk features

Mohs<sup>y,z,aa</sup> or other forms  
of PDEMA (preferred for  
very high risk)<sup>bb,hh,ii,jj</sup>

or

**Standard excision with  
wider surgical margins<sup>kk</sup>**  
and postoperative  
margin assessment<sup>jj</sup>  
and second intention  
healing, linear repair, or  
skin graft

or

For non-surgical  
candidates, consider  
multidisciplinary  
consultation and  
discussion of definitive  
RT<sup>cc,dd</sup>

Positive  
margins

Negative  
margins

Multidisciplinary consultation  
to discuss options:

- Re-resect,  
if feasible

- RT<sup>cc,dd</sup>

or

- If surgery and/or RT<sup>dd</sup>  
are not curative

Follow-up ([SCC-9](#))

laCSCC or Unresectable  
disease ([SCC-6](#))

If extensive perineural, large,  
or named nerve involvement,  
or if other poor prognostic  
features<sup>a,ll</sup>:  
recommend multidisciplinary  
consultation and  
consider adjuvant RT<sup>cc,dd,ii,mm</sup>

Follow-up ([SCC-9](#))

Personalised Tx Plan  
Follow up

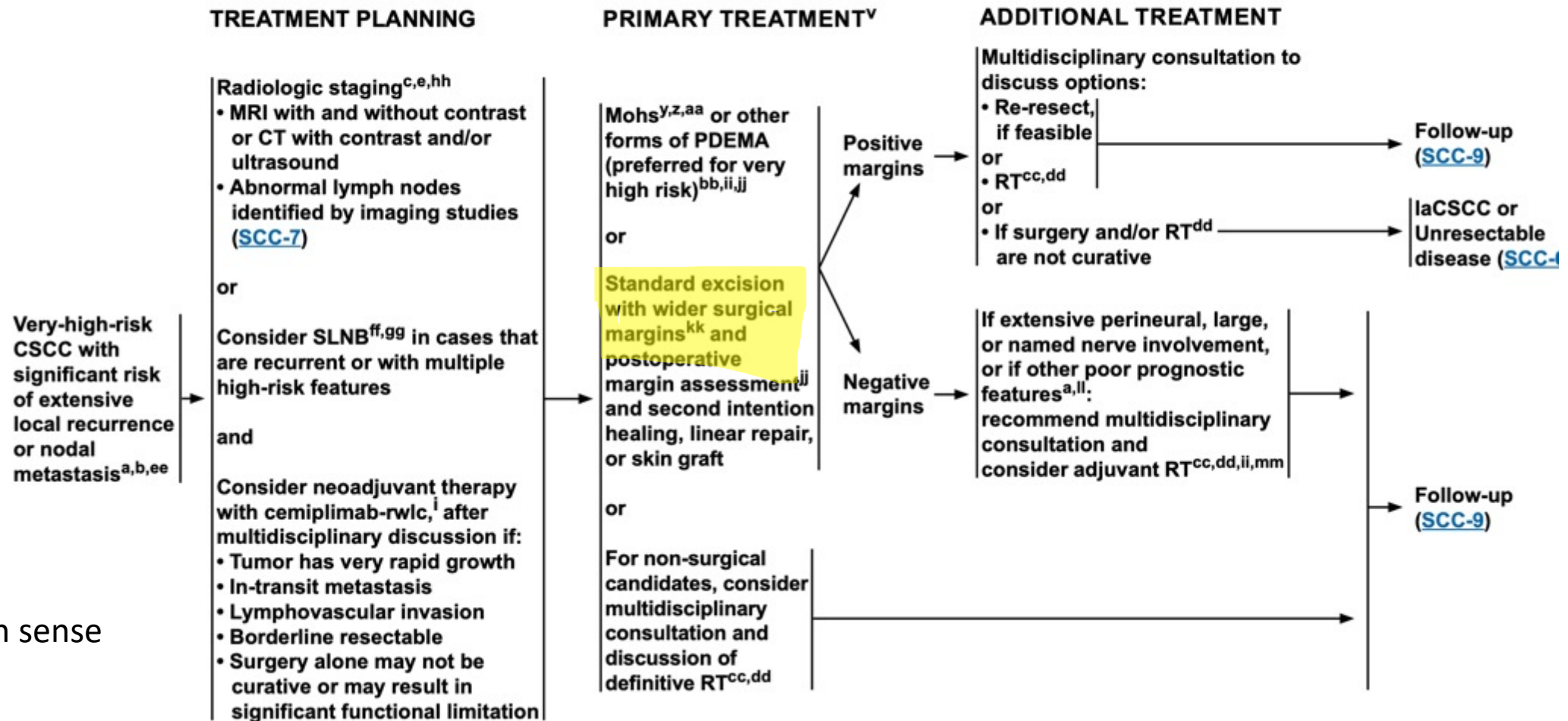




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## Common sense



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Follow up plans  
3yrs to Life  
Dedicated resource  
Data  
Audit  
Quality Improvement  
Peer Review  
Collaborative Trials

## FOLLOW-UP

### Local disease:

- **H&P<sup>xx,yy,zz</sup>**
  - ▶ For patients who are low risk:  
Every 3–12 mo for 2 y, then every 6–12 mo for 3 y, then annually for life<sup>b</sup>
  - ▶ For patients who are high risk:  
Every 3–6 mo for 2 y, then every 6–12 mo for 3 y, then annually for life<sup>b</sup>
  - ▶ For patients who are very high risk:  
Every 3–6 mo for 2 y, then every 6 mo for 3 y, then every 6–12 mo for life<sup>b</sup>
- **Consider imaging:**
  - ▶ If clinical exam is insufficient for following disease
  - ▶ If there is appreciable risk of subclinical local or nodal recurrence<sup>e</sup>
- **Patient education**
  - ▶ Sun protection
  - ▶ Self examination of skin

### Regional disease:

- **H&P<sup>xx,yy,zz</sup>**
  - ▶ Every 2–3 mo for 1 y,  
then every 2–4 mo for 1 y,  
then every 4–6 mo for 3 y,  
then every 6–12 mo for life
- **Consider imaging:**
  - ▶ If clinical exam is insufficient for following disease
  - ▶ If there is appreciable risk of subclinical local or nodal recurrence<sup>e,aaa</sup>
- **Patient education**
  - ▶ Sun protection
  - ▶ Self examination of skin  
and lymph nodes

Modification to Determine Treatment Options and Follow-up for Local OSCC Based



# Merkel Cell Carcinoma

A rare type of skin cancer that starts in Merkel cells, which are found in the epidermis and near nerve endings Neuroendocrine carcinoma of the skin

- **Causes and Risk Factors**
- Not entirely clear, but often linked to the Merkel Cell Polyomavirus
  - 80% MCC cases;
- **Risk Factors:**
  - Long-term sun exposure UV-B p-53 mutation
  - Weakened immune system UV-A and Methoxsalen use in Psoriasis; T cell Immunodeficiency
  - Older age (average diagnosis around 70 years old)
  - History of other skin cancers
- **Appearance:** Fast-growing, painless nodules that can be flesh-coloured, bluish-red, or purple.
- **30% Occult Neck disease**
- Face, head, neck, but can appear anywhere on the body



- **Diagnosis**
- Biopsy of the affected area
  - Ultrasound, CT scan,
  - PET-CT scan

## Staging

- **TNM System:**
  - **Tumour (T):** (T1 to T4)
  - **Node (N):** Spread to nodes
  - **Metastasis (M)**

Table 1  
Important features of Merkel cell carcinoma.<sup>7</sup>

Acronym	Meaning
A	Asymptomatic/lack of tenderness
E	Expanding rapidly
I	Immunosuppression
O	Over 50 years of age
U	Site exposed to ultraviolet light on a person with fair skin

Clinical staging guidelines for Merkel cell carcinoma by the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) 2010.

Stage	Local disease	Lymph nodes	Metastasis	5-year disease-free survival
I (T1)	Yes	No	No	79% with -ve SNB 60% with no SNB
II (T 2, 3, 4)	Yes	No	No	58%, 49%, 47%
III (N+, any T)	No	Yes	No	Micro 42% Macro 26%
IV (Any T or N)	No	Yes	Yes	18%





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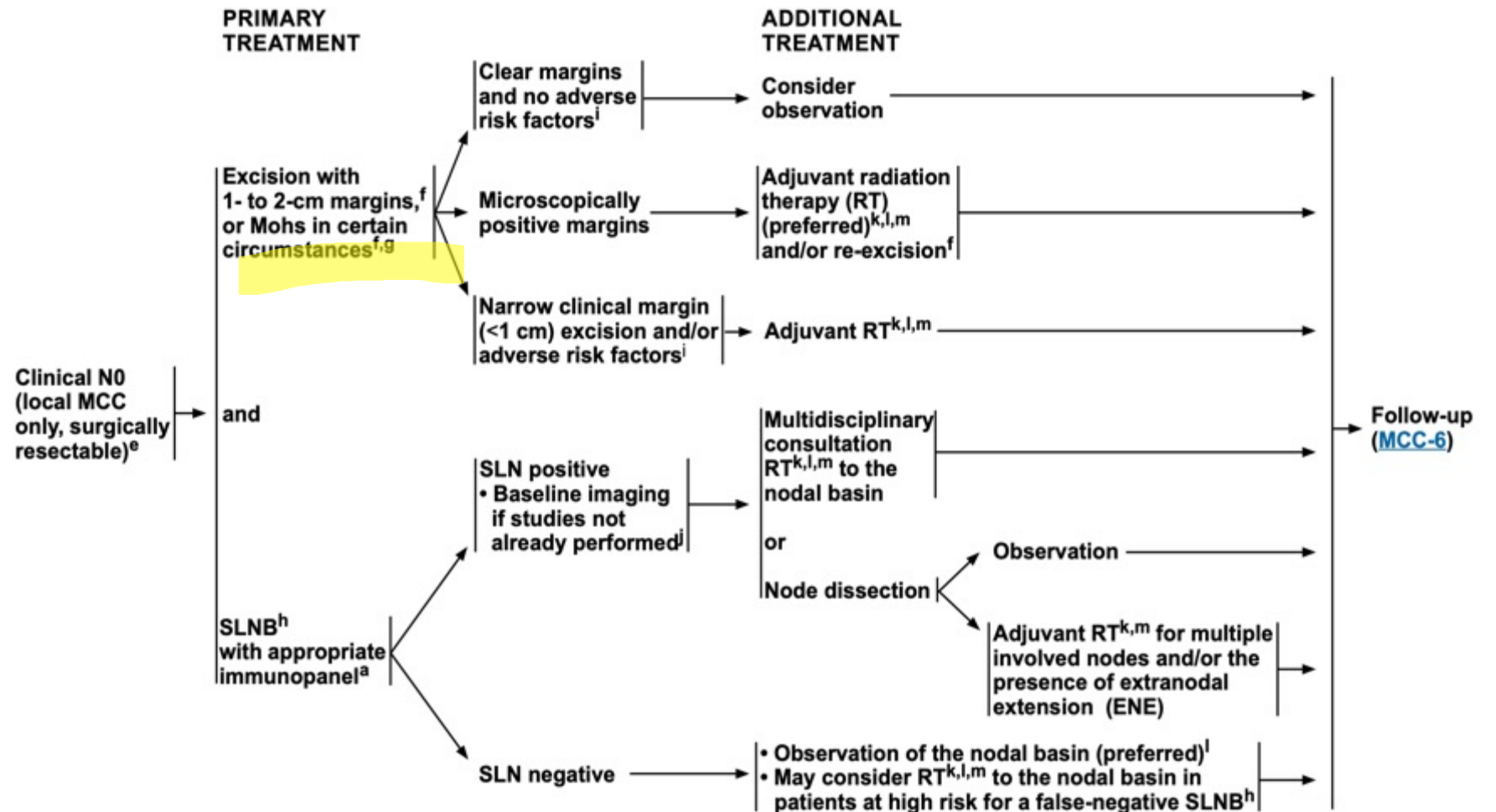


- **Surgery:** Wide Excision margins 1cm if Tumour <2cm
- Neck management 30% micro-metastases in Nodes
- Mohs Not recommended in UK
- **Radiotherapy:**
- **Chemotherapy:** For advanced cases
- **Immunotherapy:**
- **Prognosis**
- **Factors Affecting Prognosis:**
  - Stage at diagnosis
  - Patient's overall health
  - Response to treatment

### NCCN Guidelines Merkel Cell

Note excision margins  
No Moh's in UK  
No SLNB in UK

#### CLINICAL N0 DISEASE, LOCAL MCC ONLY, SURGICALLY RESECTABLE



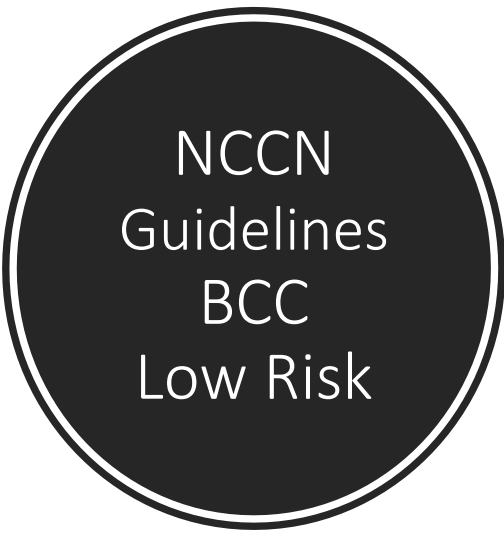


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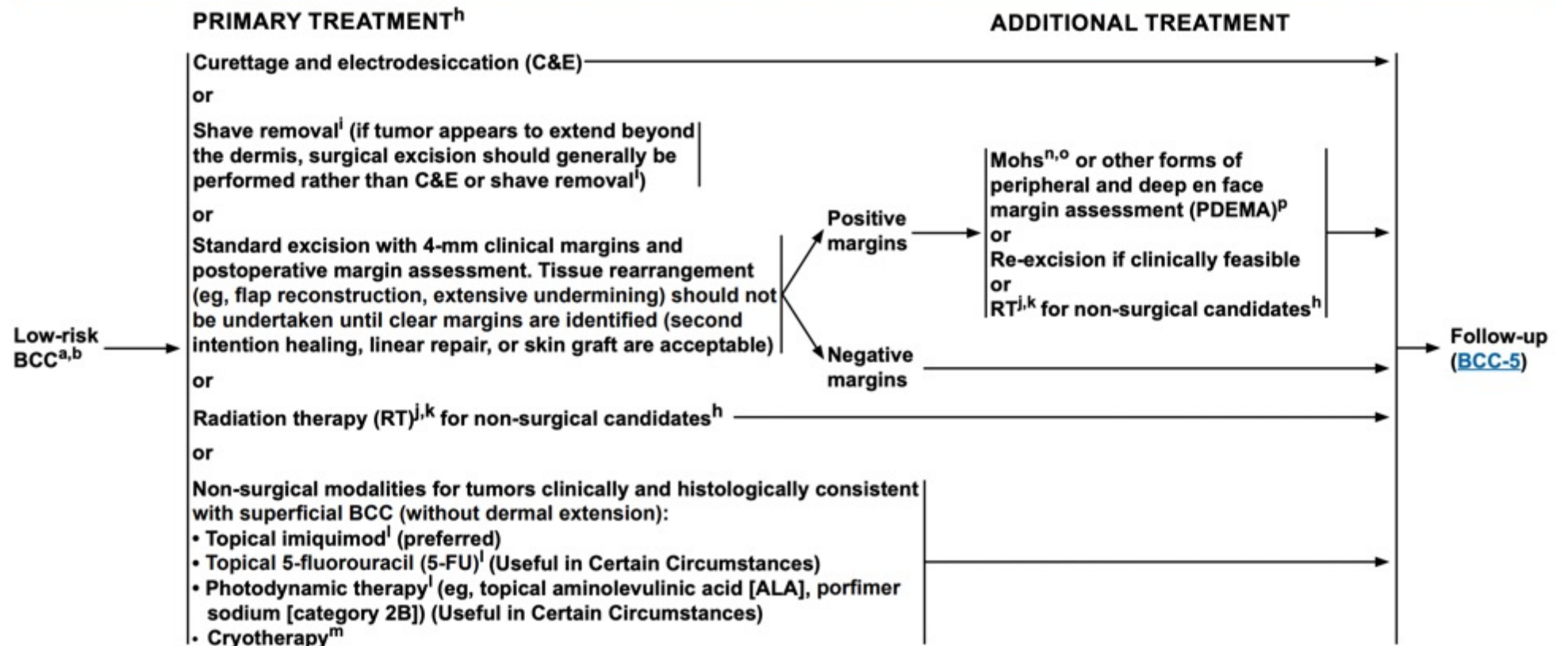
- PDEMA peripheral and deep en face margin assessment
- Mohs



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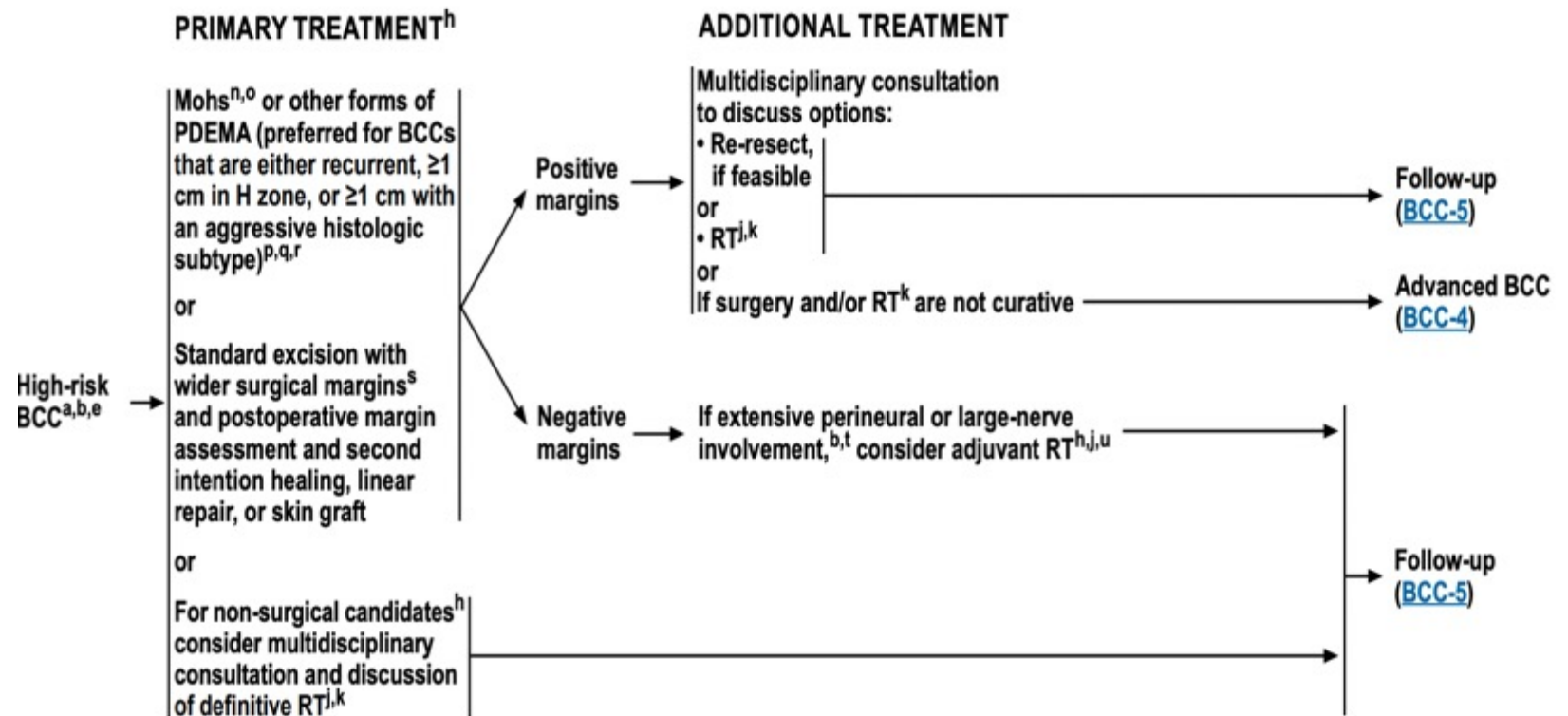


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High Risk  
BCC



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