

Actinic Keratosis at Student-Run Free Clinic: Need for Patient Education

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BACKGROUND

- ❖ Travis Park Dermatology Clinic is a student-run free clinic that was established in 2009 with the mission of providing free dermatological care to the uninsured and homeless populations of San Antonio.
- ❖ The clinic is held every 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening of the month and serves 20-25 patients during each clinic.
- ❖ Actinic keratoses (AK) are common, sun-induced lesions that can potentially progress to squamous cell carcinoma.
- ❖ AKs tend to recur, and patients are advised to follow-up once a year, and once every 6 months if there is a history of skin cancer.

RESULTS

- ❖ Of the 1,408 dermatology patient records during the 24-month time frame since we transitioned to our EMR system, 8 patients were diagnosed with actinic keratosis at our clinic
- ❖ 4 Female, 4 Male
- ❖ Average age: 56 years old
- ❖ Two patients had a previous diagnosis of skin cancer (unknown type)
- ❖ Three patients had a family history of skin cancer
- ❖ Average of 2.5 AK lesions per patient
- ❖ Seven of the eight patients elected to undergo treatment with cryotherapy.
- ❖ Six patients had discussions about sun protection; two patients had charted notes about explaining the need for follow-up.
- ❖ Only one patient returned to the clinic, and this individual was found to have a recurrent AK lesion that required further treatment.

CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ As most AK patients are advised to follow up once a year, it is crucial that our free clinic emphasize the importance of follow-up as well as sun protection
- ❖ Actinic keratoses have been found to be highly recurrent, especially in patients with multiple lesions.
- ❖ As a treatable and preventable condition, actinic keratosis is one modifiable way our clinic can make a significant impact on the community through careful communication and thorough patient education.
- ❖ To help achieve this goal, we have created a patient handout on the natural progression of AK to squamous cell carcinoma and the need for sun protection in preventing AKs.

METHODS

- ❖ To better serve our patients with actinic keratosis, we conducted a retrospective review using our RedCap electronic medical record (EMR) system to evaluate treatment and follow-up in patients with a new diagnosis of AK in our clinic.
- ❖ Patient charts were evaluated using multiple parameters such as sex, age, family history, lesion description, and follow-up.



Actinic keratosis

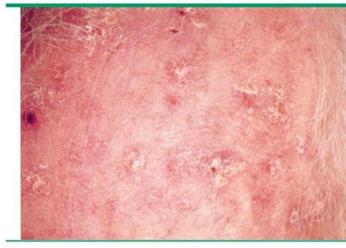


Actinic keratosis. Scale overlies erythematous macules.

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Actinic keratosis



Multiple actinic keratoses present as rough, scaly, red macules on sun-damaged skin.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Travis Park

Dermatology Clinic

A STUDENT RUN FREE CLINIC



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