

PLASTIC SURGERY PANDEMIC TRENDS

Ms Yasmin Ismail BDS, MBBS, MRCS, FRCS (Plast)
Consultant Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeon





REFLECTIONS

- Skin Cancer
- Cosmetic Tourism
- General Plastic Surgery



SKIN CANCER

Pandemic Impact on Skin Cancer

- Pandemic March 2020
- Cancer Research UK : 60% fall in urgent cancer referrals (2019 pre pandemic comparison to 2021 pandemic)
- Longer waits for consultation, biopsy, diagnosis and definitive management
- Irish & UK registries only record single BCC / SCC per patient lifetime
- Incidence continues to rise
- Long-term risk of untreated skin cancer likely to be greater than Covid.

Pandemic Reality

- Decline in diagnosis especially elderly
- Clinics avoided - pandemic uncertainties, fear, immunosuppression

Pandemic Reality

- Delay in referral will likely result in later presentation of advanced disease, worse overall outcome
- Factors predicting outcome in NMSC



What About the Younger Population?

- Increasing incidence in younger population
- Melanoma and NMSC
- Reduced frequency of foreign holidays during Covid but tanning beds, UV lamps to set manicures.



Early Diagnosis Leads to Better Outcomes

- Increased referral trends last 6-12 months for non-healing and pigmented lesions
- Early diagnosis and treatment essential to optimal outcomes
- Diagnosis can be challenging in early stages















COSMETIC TOURISM

Cosmetic Tourism

- Demand for surgical and non-surgical treatments increased during pandemic.
- Ireland, UK, USA, Australia, EU ...



Impact of Cosmetic Tourism

- Potentially vulnerable group of patients.
- Standards of peri -Covid management? immediate post-op care?
- Complications after surgery most common presentations to GP or hospital clinics on return.





GENERAL PLASTIC SURGERY

General Plastic Surgery

- Adults and Paediatrics – surge over last 6 months
- “Lumps and bumps” including cysts, dermatofibromas, ganglions, lipomas, seborrhoeic keratoses.....
- Present prepandemic but noted changes in function or aesthetics
- Pandemic trauma and scarring

Pandemic End

- Increase in Skin Cancer Presentations
- Increase in General Plastic Surgery Cases
- Increase in Cosmetic Tourism.
- Awareness is fundamental and early referral for assessment key to outcomes.

E-mail : yasmin.Ismail@beaconhospital.ie

Thank you

E-mail : yasmin.ismail@beaconhospital.ie