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Malignant skin tumors: Kids are not just little people

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Abstract: Skin tumors are a clinically heterogeneous group of dermatologic conditions that affect both children and adults. While similar types of skin tumors can impact both children and adults, the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of these skin neoplasms can vary drastically in children when compared to adults. Despite the clear need for literature elucidating the differences of skin tumors in children when compared to adults, there is a serious dearth of scientific contributions addressing this area. This contribution highlights the types of differences that can occur between adults and children with skin neoplasms, as well as the special considerations that need to be recognized when managing skin tumors in children by providing a comparative analysis of basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and KS occurring in adults with these same tumors occurring in children. Specifically, we examine the aforementioned tumors with a focus on: (1) epidemiology, (2) etiology, (3) clinical presentation, (4) work-up, and (5) treatment.

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