

## DOES HEALTH INSURANCE STATUS AFFECTS THE EARLY DETECTION OF SKIN CANCER IN COLOMBIA?

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- The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest -



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### References

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## Introduction and objectives

Early consultation with specialists is important for prompt diagnosis of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC).<sup>1</sup> We aimed to describe the variability in the onset of a skin lesion and the time interval to histopathological skin cancer diagnosis according to Health Insurance Status (HIS). HIS includes attention for low-income population (subsidized health insurance-SHI), for people who work (contributive health insurance-CHI), and for those who have willingness-to-pay for healthcare attention (out-of-pocket (OOP)).

## Materials and methods

A descriptive, retrospective study was performed in a dermatology center of Bogotá-Colombia, from December 2013 to January 2020. We studied patients with melanoma, NMSC and primary cutaneous lymphoma skin cancers. We analyzed different types of skin cancers by sex, HIS and time of evolution (in months). Statistical analysis was performed in Microsoft Excel 365. We hypothesize that people who belong to SHI have a longer lapse of time of evolution with the disease than CHI and OOP.

## References

1. Glazer, A, Rigel, D, Winkelmann, R. and Farberg, A. (2017). *Clinical Diagnosis of Skin Cancer, Enhancing Inspection and Early Recognition*. [ebook] new york: ELSEVIER.



Characteristics	CHI (n=174)	OOP (n=23)	SHI (n=203)	Total (n=400)
<b>Melanoma (n= 19)</b>	33.8	21.0	21.6	27.3
Male	50.4	0	9.0	38.6
Female	13.0	21.0	25.8	20.8
<b>Basal cell carcinoma (n= 301)</b>	30.7	40.9	32.9	32.3
Male	31.8	29.5	27.1	29.5
Female	29.2	45.1	37.2	34.9
<b>Squamous cell carcinoma (n= 79)</b>	18.5	12.8	24.6	20.9
Male	18.8	5.7	17.2	17.1
Female	18.1	20.0	30.9	24.5
<b>Primary cutaneous lymphoma (n= 1)</b>	8.0	0	0	8.0
Male	8.0	0	0	8.0
Female	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (n= 400)</b>	28.2	31.9	30.9	29.8

**Table 1.** Characteristics of types of skin cancers according to health insurance status. Health Insurance Status (HIS) Subsidized health insurance-SHI), contributive health insurance (CHI), out-of-pocket (OOP).

## Results

Of 400 patients, 52.8% were women. Mean age was 70.4 years. The average time of evolution was 29.8 months (SD±10.5). Table 1 depicts the time of evolution with skin diseases by sex and HIS. All types of skin cancer showed that the longer time of evolution was seen in patients of SHI (mean time= 30.9 months). However, the average time in patients with Melanoma diagnosis in SHI was 21.6 months compared to 33.7 in CHI. Males assisted to dermatologist sooner than females, except in those males with Melanoma, who sought dermatological assistance 17.8 months later than females.

## Conclusions

Our study showed that SHI patients had a longer time interval between the onset of the lesion and the histopathological diagnosis, except in Melanoma. It is crucial that the SHI improves the time of referral to a dermatologist to make an early diagnosis and enhance the time of cure, prognosis and secondary prevention of the disease.

