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Skin cancer screening in primary care: A challenge to advance practice nurses

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Based on current literature, melanoma rates are increasing in both men and women in Canada, while other cancer types have been decreasing in prevalence. The importance of early recognition is an important healthcare discussion as the 5 year survival rate of a Stage I melanoma is 95-100% as compared to Stage IV melanoma survival rates of 16%. This podium presentation will inform Advance Practice Nurses of the need for skin cancer screening in their patient population through the use of total body skin exams. Information on the prevalence of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers will be discussed, along with the associated morbidity and mortality which exists. Skin cancer screening as compared to other cancer screening exams will be reviewed and attention will be given to patient perceptions of TBSE as well as potential barriers to screening. The performance of a total body skin exam will be discussed along with a brief mention of identification and triage of worrisome lesions. Finally, an example of a skin screening program implemented for the medically underserved will be presented.

Biography

Beth DeKoninck completed her DNP at Vanderbilt University and has practiced as a family nurse practitioner for 20 years. Her research is published in JAANP and has been presented at Advanced Practice Nurse/Advance Nursing Practice Congress in Germany, Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses of Indiana, and other APN conferences. She has spoken on healthcare topics in Nigeria, at Mayo Clinic and the Medforum Seminar in China. While maintaining a clinical practice, she is faculty at Indiana Wesleyan University and Adjunct Faculty at Vanderbilt University. She enjoys medical missions abroad to Nigeria, Haiti, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Sierra Leone.

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