

Who Pays the Price?

Andrew Balster





HPI

No prior treatment or evaluation for his wound.

Recently hospitalized for symptomatic anemia.

Requested evaluation/treatment during his hospitalization

He was refused to be seen at his outpatient dermatology appointment due to lack of insurance or ability to self pay.

Approach to non healing wounds

- Infection
- Ischemia
- Metabolic
- Immunosuppression
- Radiation
- Edema
- Malignancy



Work up

Wound biopsy

- Pending...

CT chest, abdomen and pelvis

- Osteomyelitis in the exposed right scapula
- Multiple pulmonary nodules
- Paratracheal and right axillary lymphadenopathy
- Left hepatic lobe lesion 2cm x 1cm

Where to biopsy?

- Bronchoscopy with biopsy of a right lower lobe nodule
- Pathology from skin biopsy and pulmonary nodule were consistent with BCC



Basal Cell Carcinoma

1. 3.6 million cases annually
2. Slowly progressive local infiltration
3. Sun exposed areas
4. Metastasis are rare, but have been reported
5. Risk factors include time as well as size
6. Poor prognosis
7. Treatment

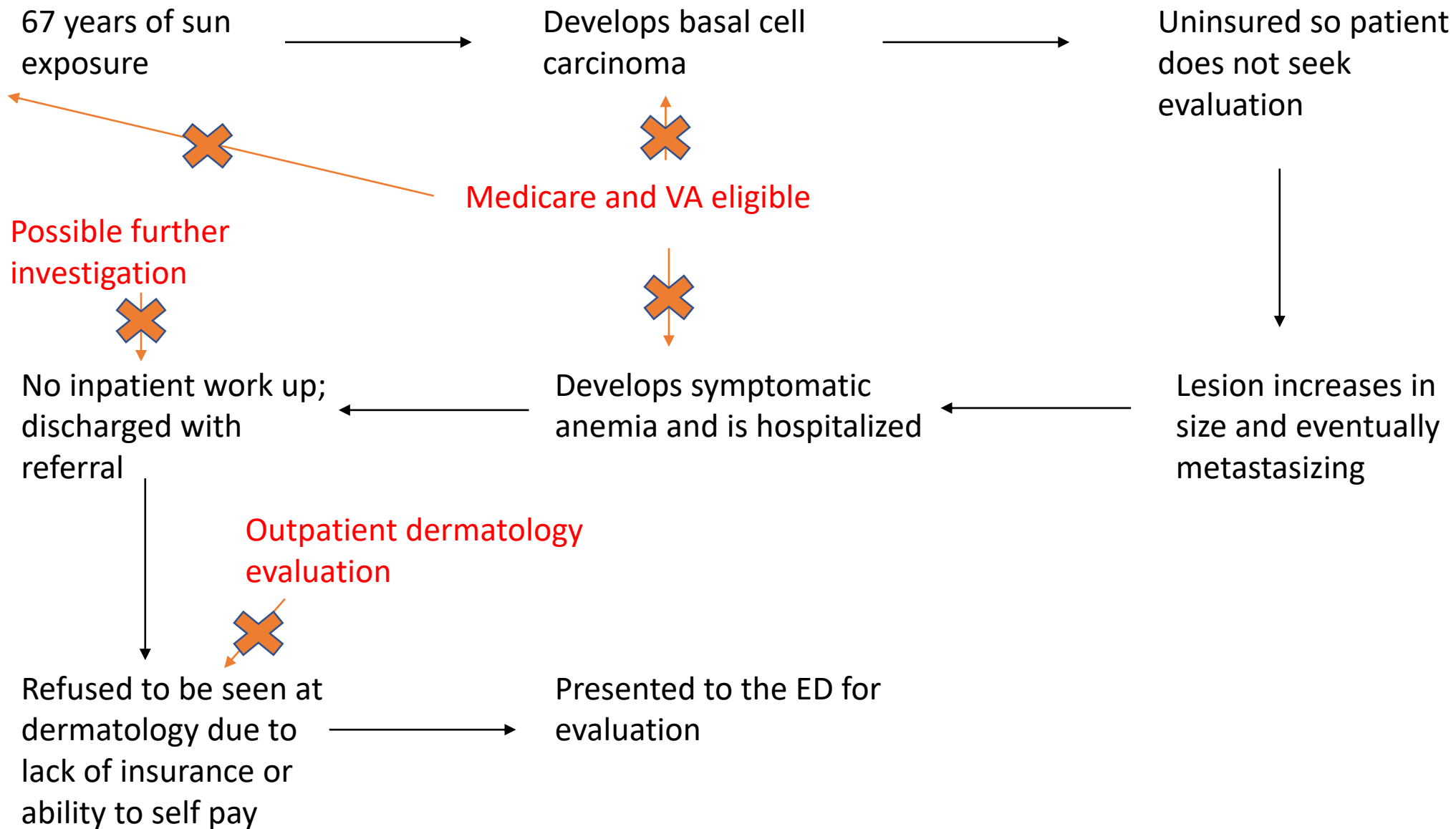
McCusker M, Basset-Seguin N, Dummer R, et al. Metastatic basal cell carcinoma: Prognosis dependent on anatomic site and spread of disease. *European Journal of Cancer*. 2014;50(4):774-783. doi:10.1016/j.ejca.2013.12.013

Piva de Freitas P, Senna CG, Tabai M, Chone CT, Altemani A. Metastatic basal cell carcinoma: A rare manifestation of a common disease. *Case Reports in Medicine*. 2017;2017:1-4. doi:10.1155/2017/8929745

How did this happen?

Lack of health insurance

Financial limitations



BCC and access to care

- Early detection allows for early treatment
- Delayed presentation has large consequences for cost and morbidity/mortality



Follow up

- Patient given prognosis <6 months
- Offered palliative radiation and chemotherapy
- Patient discharged on home hospice and passed away 3 months later

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