

■ **Imiquimod cream is a "cost-effective alternative" to excisional surgery for patients with superficial basal cell carcinoma (BCC)**, according to researchers from France and Spain.* They modelled the cost effectiveness of 5% imiquimod cream applied 5 times/week for 6 weeks versus excisional surgery among patients with a single superficial BCC < 2cm in diameter. Over a 1-year timeframe, the mean costs per patient cured were lower for imiquimod than surgery recipients, for both dermatology and nondermatology services (€621 vs €676 and €676 vs €1051, respectively).** The researchers note that the "generalizability" of these findings is limited, as all inputs used related to the Spanish Healthcare system only.

* Some of the researchers were affiliated with 3M.

** Costs were those associated with diagnosis, first- and second-line treatment, drug acquisition, outpatient visits, and surgical procedures.

Vanaclocha F, et al. Cost-effectiveness of treatment of superficial basal cell carcinoma: surgical excision vs. imiquimod 5% cream. *British Journal of Dermatology* 156: 769-771, No. 4, Apr 2007

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