

# Trends of basal cell carcinoma diagnosed at the National Center of Pathology of Lithuania in 2014-2018



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## Introduction and objectives:

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is a carcinoma derived from basal cells of the interfollicular epidermis and/or hair follicle. It constitutes ~75% of all skin cancers and is the most frequently occurring form of all cancers [1]. This tumor develops most often on sun-exposed areas of the skin, such as head and neck, although it can occur at sites with limited or no sun exposure. The occurrence of BCC also increases with age. Identifying groups at risk of developing BCC can help detect these tumors early, when they are easiest to treat and cure. The objective of the study was to evaluate epidemiological data of BCC of the National Center of Pathology of Lithuania during the 2014-2018 time period.

## Materials and methods:

Medical documentation of the cases of histologically proven basal cell carcinoma between 2014 and 2018 was analyzed. National Center of Pathology is handling one third of the pathology cases in Lithuania. Epidemiological data such as patients' age, sex, as well as tumor localization, its histological type, treatment options and relapse rate was performed.

## Results:

After histopathological examination of the material collected by the skin lesion biopsy or a smear, a total of 7688 BCCs were confirmed to 5946 patients by biopsy or excision, and 3768 BCC were suspected by a smear before surgical excision. The majority of the patients (39 %) diagnosed by biopsies were 75-89 years old, 38 % - 65-74, 16 % - 45-64, 4 % ≤ 44, 3 % ≥ 90 years old (fig. 2). Of these patients 61 % were female and 39 % – male (fig. 1). BCC occurred most often in the head region (including face, scalp and neck) – 64 %, followed by the trunk – 21 %, arms and legs – 8 %, in 7 % of cases the location was either not specified or in the multiple regions of the body (fig. 3). The predominant histological type of basal cell carcinomas was nodular (56 %), other diagnosed types were mixed types – 17%, and superficial (12 %), infiltrative (9 %), rare types (micronodular, sclerosing/morphoic, basosquamous, fibroepithelial, pigmented, BCC with sarcomatoid or adnexal differentiation) – 3 %; the type was not specified in 3 % of cases (fig. 4).

## Conclusions

Basal cell carcinomas occurred most often among the patients aged 75-89 years. This tumor was found more frequently in female than in male patients. The most common location of BCC were regions of the sun-exposed skin, such as face, scalp and neck and the predominant histological type was nodular .

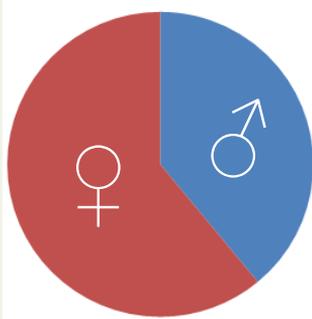


Fig. 1. Percentage of BCC cases distributed by gender

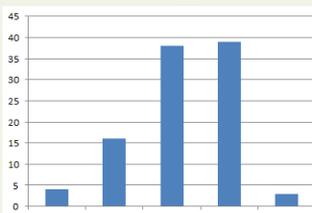
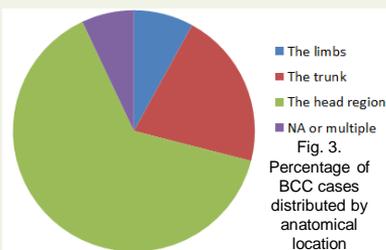
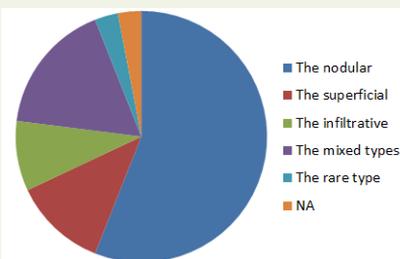


Fig. 2. Percentage of BCC cases distributed by age group



Percentage of BCC cases distributed by anatomical location



## References

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Fig. 4. Percentage of BCC cases distributed by histopathological type

## Acknowledgement:

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