

Abbreviations and glossary

Abbreviations

AJCC	American Joint Commission on Cancer	GP	General practitioner
ALM	Acral lentiginous melanoma	HPF	High power field
AMR	Amrubicin	HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
APR	Abdomino perineal resection	IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
ARM	Anorectal melanoma	ILI	Isolated limb infusion
ATBC	Alpha-tocopherol beta carotene	ILP	Isolated limb perfusion
BAPS	British Association of Paediatric Surgeons	KM	Kaplan Meier
BSC	Best supportive care	LD	Limited disease
BSI	Brief symptom inventory	LDH	Lactate dehydrogenase
Bx	Biopsy	LM	Lentigo maligna
CAM	Complementary and alternative medicine	LMM	Lentigo maligna melanoma
CBT	Cognitive behavioural therapy	LYS	Life-year saved
CD4	Co-receptor for T cell receptor	M	Metastases
CD8	Co-receptor for T cell receptor	MDC	Multidisciplinary care
CHART	Continuous hyper-fractionated accelerated radiotherapy	MDT	Multidisciplinary team
CI	Confidence interval	MM	Melanoma
CM	Cutaneous melanoma	MMC	Mitomycin
CMN	Congenital melanocytic naevi	MSG	Melanoma study group
CO2	Carbon dioxide	MR	Mitotic rate
CT	Computed tomography	MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
CXR	Chest x-ray	MS	Median survival
DALY	Disability adjusted life year	MSLT-I	International multicentre randomised controlled trial
DFI	Disease free interval	N	Regional lymph nodes
DIF	Diffuse interstitial fibrosis	NCCN	National Comprehensive Cancer Network
DKG	German Cancer Society	NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
ED	Extensive disease	OCA	Vincristine, adriamycin and cyclophosphamide
ELCAP	Early lung cancer action project	OCP	Oral contraceptive pill
FDA	Food Drug Administration	OR	Odds ratio
FDG-PET	Fluoro-deoxy glucose PET	PAM	Primary acquired melanoma
FNA	Fine needle aspiration	PE	Cisplatin with etoposide
FU	Follow up	PET	Positron emission tomography
G-CSF	Granulocyte colony stimulating factor	PI	Cisplatin with irinotecan
GM-CSF	Granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor	POHEM	Population health model

POMS	Profile of mood states	T	Primary tumour
PS	Performance status	TIL	Tumour infiltrating lymphocytes
QOL	Quality of life	TMD	Total mood disturbance
RCT	Randomised clinical trial	TNFα	Tumour necrosis factor α
RPA	Recursive partitioning analysis	TROG	Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group
RR	Relative risk	Tx	Therapy
RRLCA	Relative risk for lung cancer	UICC	International Union Against Cancer
RT	Radiotherapy	USS	Ultrasound study
RTC	Randomised controlled trial	UV	Ultraviolet radiation
SLN	Sentinel lymph node	VA	Visual acuity
SLNB	Sentinel lymph node biopsy	WBRT	Whole brain radiation therapy
Solaria	Tanning or sunbeds	WHO	World Health Organization
SCLC	Small cell lung cancer	WLE	Wide local excision
SIR	Standardized incidence ratios	YLD	Years lost due to disability
SPF	Sun protection factor	YLL	Years of life lost
SRS	Stereotactic radio-surgery		
SVCO	Superior vena cava obstruction		

Glossary

Actinic keratosis	A precancerous condition. Consists of thick, scaly patches of skin. Also called solar or senile keratosis.
Adjuvant therapy	Additional treatment that is added to increase the effectiveness of the main treatment.
Aetiology	The cause or origin of disease.
Allied health professional (AHP)	One of the following groups of healthcare workers: physiotherapists, occupational therapists, art therapists, chiropodists/podiatrists, dieticians, drama therapists, music therapists, orthoptists, paramedics, prosthetists/orthotists, radiographers, speech and language therapists.
Anaesthetic	A drug that is taken to stop a person feeling pain during a medical procedure. A local anaesthetic numbs only a part of the body; a general anaesthetic causes a person to lose consciousness for a period of time.
Atypical naevi	A condition where a person has a number of moles that are generally larger than ordinary moles and have irregular and indistinct borders. Their colour is frequently not uniform and ranges from pink to dark brown; they are usually flat, but parts may be raised above the skin surface. If the condition runs in the family, it may be called familial dysplastic naevus syndrome.
Autosomal	Refers to a chromosome that is not involved in determining sex. If a disorder is autosomal it affects both males and females equally.

Basal cell carcinoma	A type of skin cancer that arises from the basal cells, small round cells found in the lower part (or base) of the epidermis, the outer layer of the skin.
Benign	Not cancerous; not malignant
Biopsy	Removal of a sample of tissue or cells from the body to assist in the diagnosis of a disease.
Brachytherapy	Radiotherapy delivered by a temporary or permanent implant of radioactive material into a tissue or organ.
Breslow thickness	A measuring scale of thickness for malignant melanomas, measured from the top layer of skin to the bottom of the tumour. The deeper the melanoma has grown, the more likely it is that some cells may have spread through the blood stream or lymphatic system.
Cancer	Growth of altered body cells that keep on growing and which is able to spread from where it started to another part of the body.
Carcinoma	Cancer of the skin tissue that covers all the body organs. Most cancers are carcinomas.
Cells	The 'building blocks' of the body. A human is made of millions of cells which are adapted for different functions. Cells are able to reproduce themselves exactly unless they are abnormal or damaged, as are cancer cells.
Chemoprophylaxis	The use of a drug or chemical to prevent future occurrences of a disease.
Chemotherapy	The use of drugs that kill cancer cells, or prevent or slow their growth.
Clinical oncologist	A doctor who specialises in the treatment of cancer patients, particularly through the use of chemotherapy, by may also use radiotherapy.
Clinical oncology	The specialist treatment of cancer patients, particularly through the use of chemotherapy, but may also be through the use of radiotherapy.
Cohort studies	Research studies in which groups of patients with a particular condition or specific characteristic are compared with matched groups who do not have it.
Computed tomography (CT)	An x-ray imaging technique.
Cytopathologist	A doctor who specialises in the study of disease changes within individual cells or cell types.
Cytotoxic	An agent that kills cells.
Dermatologist	A doctor who specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders.
Dermatology	The specialist treatment of skin disorders.

Dermatopathologist	A pathologist with special training and expertise in the diagnosing of skin diseases.
Dermatopathology	The study of the pathology of skin.
Dermoscope	A tool like hand-held microscope used by doctors to view a mole or suspicious spot on living skin.
Dermoscopy	Observing the skin directly using a special magnifying lens, usually performed on a mole or suspicious spot on living skin.
Dermis	The lower or inner layer of the two main layers of tissues that make up the skin.
Diagnostic radiographer	The role of the diagnostic radiographer is to work closely with other specialists, to provide safe and accurate imaging examinations, to give patients information and support and to discuss possible side effects and care.
Diathermy treatment	The use of a direct current electrical apparatus to ablate skin cancer and related dysplasias.
Distant spread	See metastasis
Ear, nose and throat (ENT)	Diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the ear, nose and throat.
Epidemiology	The study of populations in order to determine the frequency and distribution of disease and to measure risks.
Excision	Removal of tissue by surgery.
Fine needle aspiration cytology (FNA)	The use of a fine needle to biopsy a tumour or lymph node to obtain cells for cytological confirmation of diagnosis.
Hapū	Sub-tribe
Histology	The study of body tissue and cells by examination under a microscope to find out what type of body tissue it is, or if a cancer, what type of body cells the cancer cells look like most.
Histopathologist	A doctor who specialises in examining tissue samples microscopically in order to make a diagnosis and ensure tumour excision is complete.
Histopathology	The study of microscopic changes in diseased tissues.
<i>In situ</i>	Localised and confined to one area; often used to describe a cancer that has not spread.
Iwi	Tribe
Isolated limb infusion	A technique that may be used to deliver anticancer drugs directly to an arm or leg. The flow of blood to and from the limb is stopped temporarily and anticancer drugs are injected directly into the blood of the limb. This allows the person to receive a high dose of drugs in the area where the cancer occurred.

Isolated limb perfusion	A technique in which blood vessel surgery is used to temporarily isolate the circulation of an arm or leg from the rest of the body. The blood is mixed with high doses of chemotherapy drugs, recirculated through a heart-lung machine, and heated for a period of time to enhance the drug's potency. The treated blood is recirculated to the affected limb.
Kaupapa Māori	Incorporating Māori culture and belief systems.
Kaitiaki	Carer
Laser therapy	The use of laser technology to ablate skin cancer and related dysplasias.
Lentigo maligna	Flat, mottled, tan-to-brown freckle-like spots with irregular borders, usually appearing on the face or other sun-exposed areas of older persons, which typically enlarge slowly for many years before cancer appears. Also known as Hutchinson's or melanotic freckle.
Lesion	An area of abnormal tissue.
Local recurrence	Local persistence of primary tumour due to incomplete excision.
local metastasis	Development of separate melanoma colonies due to lympho-vascular metastasis despite complete excision of the primary tumour; including 'in transit metastases' and 'satellitosis'.
Lymphadenopathy	Disease or swelling of the lymph nodes.
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	A non-invasive method of imaging which allows the form and metabolism of tissues and organs to be visualised (also known as nuclear magnetic resonance).
Malignant	Cancerous. Malignant tumours can invade and destroy nearby tissue and spread to other parts of the body.
Mana	Power, respect, status
Margin	The edge or border of the tissue removed in cancer surgery.
Maxillofacial	The speciality that combines full surgical training with dental expertise for the treatment of diseases, injuries, tumours and deformities of the face and jaws.
Medical oncology	The specialist treatment of cancer patients through the use of chemotherapy and for some tumours, immunotherapy.
Melanocyte stimulating hormone	Melanocyte stimulating hormone is derived from the pituitary gland and keratinocytes amongst other cells and is capable of stimulating melanin production by melanocytes to increase pigmentation.
Melanoma	A form of skin cancer that arises in melanocytes, the cells that produce pigment.
Meta-analysis	The statistical analysis of the results of a collection of individual research studies in order to add the findings together.
Metachronous	At different times.

Metastases	Also known as 'secondaries'. Tumours or masses of cells that develop when cancer cells break away from the original (primary) cancer and are carried by the lymphatic and blood systems to other parts of the body.
Minimum dataset	A widely agreed-upon and generally accepted set of terms and definitions making up a core dataset acquired for medical records and used for developing statistics for different types of analyses and users.
Mohs surgery	A surgical technique used to treat skin cancer. Individual layers of cancerous tissue are removed and examined under a microscope one at a time until all cancerous tissue has been removed.
Morbidity	A diseased condition or state.
Mortality	Either (a) the condition of being subject to death or (b) the death rate, which reflects the number of deaths per unit of population in any specific region, age group, disease or other classification, usually expressed as deaths per 1000, 10,000 or 100,000.
Noa	Ordinary, safe
Neoplasm	An abnormal mass of tissue that results from excessive cell division.
Occupational therapist	A health professional trained to help people who are ill or disabled learn to manage their daily activities.
Oculoplastic surgeon	A doctor who specialises in the restoration, reconstruction, correction or improvement of the shape and appearance of the eye.
Odds ratio	The ratio of a part to the remainder. It is used to express the chance that a particular outcome will occur.
Oncologist	A doctor who specialises in treating cancer.
Oncology	The study of the biological, physical and chemical features of cancers. Also the study of the causes and treatment of cancers.
Palliative	Anything that serves to alleviate symptoms caused by the underlying cancer but that is not expected to cure it.
Palliative care	Active, holistic care of patients with advanced, progressive illness that may no longer be curable. The aim is to achieve the best quality of life for patients and their families. Many aspects of palliative care are also applicable in earlier stages of the cancer journey in association with other treatments.
Pathologist	A doctor who examines cells and identifies them. The pathologist can tell where in the body a cell comes from and whether it is normal or a cancer cell. If it is a cancer cell, the pathologist can often tell the type of body cell from which the cancer developed. In a hospital practically all the diagnostic tests performed with material removed from the body are evaluated or performed by a pathologist.
Perineural	Around a nerve or group of nerves.
Physiotherapist	A specialist trained in using exercise and physical activities to condition muscles and improve level of activity.

PICO	Populations, interventions, comparisons, outcomes
Plastic surgeon	A doctor who specialises in surgery to correct damage to the skin. For example, reducing the amount of scarring or disfigurement that may happen because of surgery to treat a skin tumour.
Positron emission tomography (PET)	A highly specialised technique using a radioactive tracer to produce a computerised image of body tissues to find any abnormalities. PET scans are sometimes used to help diagnose cancer.
Precancerous	A term used to describe a condition that may (or is likely to) become cancer. Also called premalignant.
Prognosis	A prediction of the likely outcome or course of a disease, the chance of recovery or recurrence.
Prognostic factor	Patient or disease characteristics, for example age or co-morbidity, which influence the course of the disease under study.
Protocol	An agreed policy that defines appropriate action.
Psychological	Adjective of psychology, which is the scientific study of behaviour and its related mental processes. Psychology is concerned with such matters as memory, rational and irrational thought, intelligence, learning, personality, perceptions and emotions and their relationship to behaviour.
Psychologist	A specialist who can talk with patients and their families about emotional and personal matters, and can help them make decisions.
Psychosocial	Concerned with psychological influences on social behaviour.
Radiologist	A doctor who specialises in creating and interpreting pictures of areas inside the body. An interventional radiologist specialises in the use of imaging techniques to assist treatment, for example, the insertion of intravenous catheters.
Radiology	The use of radiation (such as x-rays) or other imaging technologies (such as ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging) to produce images to assist in diagnosis and treatment of disease.
Radiotherapy	The use of radiation, usually x-rays or gamma rays to kill cancer cells and treat tumours.
Randomised controlled trial (RCT)	A type of experiment that is used to compare the effectiveness of different treatments. The crucial feature of this form of trial is that patients are assigned at random to groups that receive either the interventions being assessed or control treatments. RCTs offer the most reliable (i.e. least biased) form of evidence of effectiveness.
Scintigraphy	A diagnostic method. A radioactive tracer is injected into the body. The radiation it sends out produces flashes of light on a scintillator (instrument used to detect radioactivity), and they are recorded. Also called radionuclide scanning.
Sensitivity	The proportion of people with a disease who have a positive test for the disease.

Sentinel (lymph) node biopsy	Removal and examination of the sentinel node(s) (the first lymph node(s) to which cancer cells are likely to spread from a primary tumour). To identify the sentinel lymph node(s), the surgeon injects a radioactive substance or blue dye, or both, near the tumour. The surgeon then uses a scanner to find the sentinel lymph node(s) containing the radioactive substance or looks for the lymph node(s) stained with dye. The surgeon then removes the sentinel node(s) to check for the presence of cancer cells.
Specificity	The number of people without a disease who have a negative test. (A specific test will rarely misclassify people with a disease as being diseased).
Supportive care	Care that helps the patient and his or her family and carers to cope with cancer and its treatment and in the case of the family and carers, with bereavement. It aims to help the patient maximise the benefits of treatment and to provide the best possible quality of life.
Surgical oncologist	A doctor who specialises in using surgery to treat cancer.
Synchronous	At the same time.
Systemic therapy	Treatment that reaches and affects cells throughout the body rather than targeting one specific area; for example, chemotherapy.
Therapeutic radiographer	The role of the therapeutic radiographer is to work closely with other specialists, to deliver the radiotherapy as prescribed, to give patients information and support and to discuss possible side effects and care.
Tapu	Sacred, forbidden, special
Topical therapy	Treatment with drugs in a lotion, ointment or cream applied to the skin.
Tumour	A mass of excess tissue that results from abnormal cell division. Tumours perform no useful body function.
Whānau	Family, community
Whānau ora	Family wellness

Adapted from *Appendix 6, the Guidance on cancer services: Improving Outcomes for people with skin tumours including melanoma. The Manual*, February 2006. Developed by the National Collaborating Centre for Cancer (NHS).