Recognizing BCCs and SCCs: Key Points for Family Physicians

Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC)

- **Macroscopic Clues:** Pearly papule, telangiectasia, rolled borders, ulceration
- **Dermoscopy Features:** Arborizing vessels, blue-gray ovoid nests, leaf-like/spoke-wheel structures, shiny white lines, ulceration

Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)

- **Macroscopic Clues:** Plaque or nodule, scaly or crusted, tender, cutaneous horn, eroded or ulcerated
- **Dermoscopy Features:** White circles, keratin or scaling in a raised lesion, dotted or glomerular or hairpin or linear vessels, clustered or peripheral vessel orientation

"Prediction Without Pigment" Approach

- A strategy for evaluating non-pigmented lesions and deciding when to biopsy

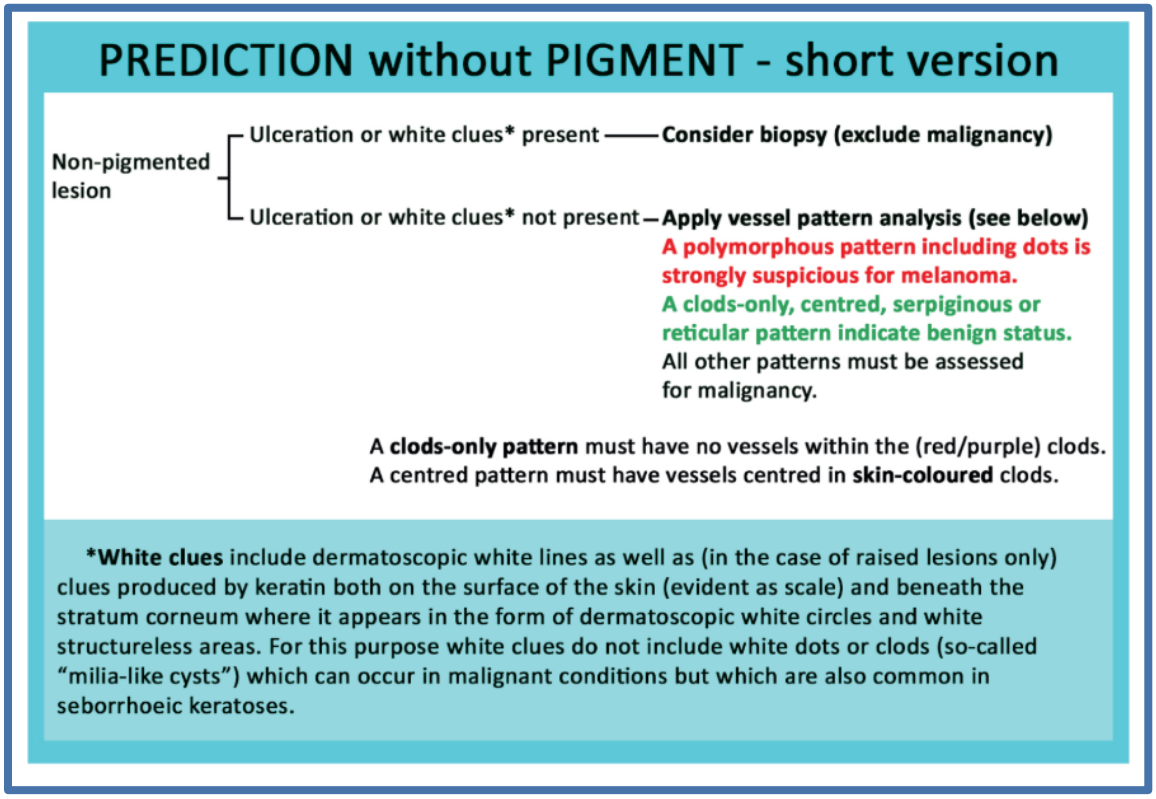

Figure 1. Prediction without Pigment Algorithm. Rosendahl C, Marozava A 2023.

Quick Comparison Table

Typical features	BCC	SCC
Vessels	Branched arborizing	Clustered dotted or glomerular
		Peripherally distributed
Pigment	Blue-grey ovoid nests	Radial brown dots
Surface	Smooth and pearly	Rough and scaly
Common Sites	Face and trunk	Head and extremities
Risk of Metastasis	Very low	Moderate to high

Tips for Practice

- Explore dermoscopy training (HealthCert, Cardiff University, University of Queensland)
- Use available dermoscopy resources (Dermoscopedia.org)
- Biopsy where possible
- Document lesion evolution
- Refer if lesion is ulcerated, growing rapidly, or diagnosis is uncertain

References

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