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Confocal Microscopy in Skin Cancer.

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ABSTRACT

PURPOSE OF REVIEW: Reflectance confocal microscopy (RCM) enables imaging of skin lesions at cellular level resolution at the bedside (in vivo) or in freshly excised tissue (ex vivo). This article provides an overview of strengths and limitations of non-invasive RCM in skin cancer diagnosis. **RECENT FINDINGS:** RCM features of common melanocytic and non-melanocytic skin neoplasms such as melanoma, actinic keratosis/squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, and nevi have been well defined and show good correlation with dermoscopic and histopathologic findings. Due to its technical properties, RCM is especially suitable for the examination of flat skin lesions. **SUMMARY:** In vivo RCM has been shown to increase the accuracy of non-invasive diagnosis of common skin neoplasms and is a valuable adjunct to dermoscopy, particularly in cosmetically and functionally sensitive areas such as the face or the genital area. **KEYWORDS:** Basal cell carcinoma; Dermoscopy; Facial macules; Histopathology; Lentigo maligna; Melanoma; Nevi; Non-melanoma skin cancer; Reflectance confocal microscopy; Skin tumors PMID: 29780659 PMCID: PMC5956038 DOI: 10.1007/s13671-018-0218-9