Researchers at the University of South Florida have developed a skin cancer triage toolkit for primary care nurse practitioners can measurably improve their patient practice.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) reports that about half of all Americans who live to age 65 will have non-melanoma skin cancer at least once in their lifetime. Furthermore, one in 37 Americans will develop some form of melanoma during their lifetime, and every 62 minutes one American dies of melanoma, according to the American Cancer Society. It has been shown that additional training and use of dermoscopy can lead to an overall improvement in skin cancer triage ability without increasing the number of dermatology expert consultations. All primary care physicians (PCPs) should be equipped with basic screening assessment skills and tools to fulfill the role required of them.

USF scientists have proposed a skin cancer triage toolkit to assist PCPs in improving their ability to triage their patients for skin cancer. This toolkit may include a skin cancer detection and referral training manual, patient intake risk assessment form, dermoscopy training and resources, referral networking guide, patient education materials, biopsy overview and resources, introduction to teledermatology referral network development, coding for skin cancer guide, skin lesion and risk assessment laminated pocket guide, and potential dermoscope for primary care providers. This toolkit will help to improve skin cancer triage ability for PCPs and medical practitioners.

**ADVANTAGES:**
- More accurate diagnosis
- Improve patient education
- Improve dermoscopy skills
- Develop referral network

---

*Early Detection of Melanoma Significantly Increases 5-Year Survival Rate*

**5-Year Survival for Patients Depending on Progression of Melanoma**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progression of Melanoma</th>
<th>Survival Rate (measured in %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early detection</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaches lymph nodes</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metastasis</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Tech ID # 10B099  Copyright: TXu 1-719-712