

Margin/Tissue edges status (Core)

As a core dataset item for all cancers, Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD)¹ records whether tumour excision margins are clear by more than 5 mm, clear by greater than 1 mm but less than or equal to 5 mm, or present less than or equal to 1 mm, but without tumour reaching the margin. Skin cancer margins should therefore be measured in relation to both 1 mm and 5 mm breakpoints.

Guidelines on the surgical margins recommended for Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) are based on evidence utilising clinical margins. These are either 10 or 20 mm for this cancer. Histological margins are widely used as a surrogate marker for clinical margins.

References

- 1 National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) (2011). *Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset – 0.5.0. Skin*. Available at: <http://www.ncin.org.uk/search/cancer+outcomes+and+services+dataset+version+0+5+0>. (Accessed 8th April 2019).