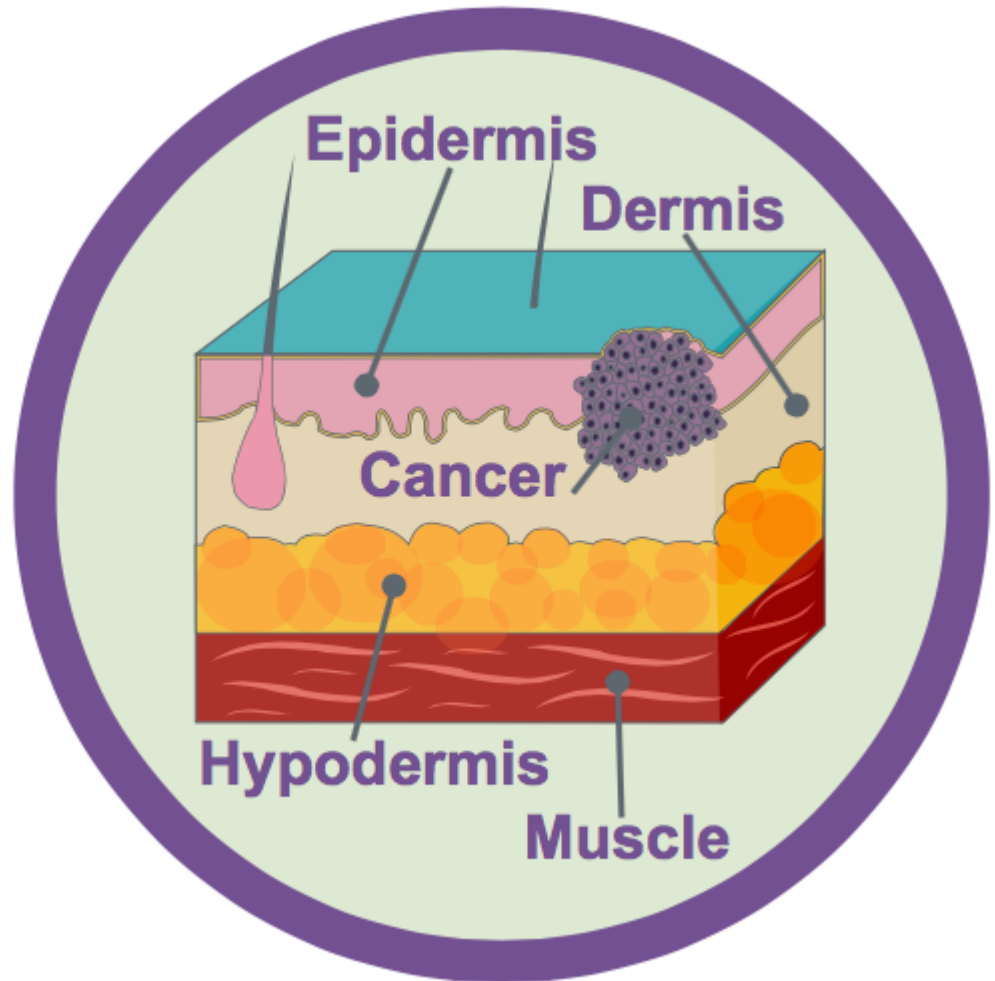


# Skin NETs - Merkel Cell Carcinoma

Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC) is a rare type of skin cancer thought to start in neuroendocrine cells called Merkel cells. It's an aggressive form of skin NET and can occur on or just underneath the surface of the skin.



## REFERENCES

Eur J Cancer (2015),  
doi: 10.1016/j.ejca.2015.06.131  
Lebbe C. et al., Diagnosis and treatment of Merkel Cell Carcinoma. European consensus-based interdisciplinary guideline

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology  
(NCCN Guidelines) version 1.2017-Oct 2016  
Merkel Cell Carcinomas



Registered charity number 1092386

## Diagnosis for Skin - Merkel Cell Carcinoma NETs

### Bloods

Full blood count  
- Liver and kidney function  
- Clotting

Biopsy is gold standard investigation  
- Incisional or excisional (if excisional with a minimum 1-2cm margin - consideration of possible functional impairment in head and neck lesions)

Once MCC identified: Full body skin examination by an expert dermato-oncologist, along with lymph node examination – especially in area of identified MCC

### Imaging

- Ultrasound scan of area including local lymph nodes  
- Total body scan with PETCT\*  
(If PETCT not available – brain MRI with contrast and CT neck/chest/abdomen and pelvis.)

### Sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB)

If possible (A sentinel lymph node is defined as the first lymph node to which cancer cells are most likely to spread from a primary tumor)

### Pathology

Differentiation and cellular morphology  
Depth (Breslow in mm)  
Synaptophysin  
Chromogranin  
Mitotic rate  
Merkel cell polyomavirus  
CK20, NSE, Hirtiglin interacting protein (HIP1)  
Vimentin, Melan-A/MART1, LAC and TTF1 to exclude other skin lesions/cancers.  
Exclude possible synchronous tumour (eg SqCC)  
For SLNB ; location and whether LN capsule has been breached.

## **Treatments you may have for Skin - Merkel Cell Carcinoma NETs**

Operable : Wide local excision with minimum 1-2cm margins +/- lymph node dissection.

Followed by radiotherapy to tumour region and tumour surgical site - plus LN site(s) if multiple or capsule has been breached.

If inoperable or assessed as lymph node positive high risk and reasonably well / good general health : consider radiotherapy +/- chemotherapy, or Electrochemotherapy (a way of getting chemotherapy into cancer cells using an electric pulse to send the chemotherapy into the cancer cells).

Hyperthermic isolated limb perfusion (HILP) is a surgical procedure for delivery of heat and chemotherapy to an extremity : it may be considered as an alternative to amputation in specific, select cases.

In metastatic disease : chemotherapy +/- radiotherapy alongside best supportive care can be considered based on symptoms and general health.

At all stages consider enrollment into a clinical trial.

### **Follow-up after surgery**

Formal clinical skin examination including lymph node assessment plus USS 4 monthly for years 1 - 3, then 6 monthly to a minimum of 5 years... with annual full body scan\*

In inoperable / metastatic disease : follow up as per treatment (or potential for treatment) protocols dictate.

A diagnosis of cancer is one of the greatest challenges you can face. It is normal to feel anxious, frightened and worried about the future. But when you're dealing with a NET, there's no need to 'go it alone'. From diagnosis and throughout treatment and beyond, our team and our services are here to offer guidance, support, education and information to anyone affected by NETs every step of the way - whether it's over the phone, on our website or a chat in person.

The NET Patient Foundation is the only charity in the UK dedicated to providing support and information to people affected by NETs. Here are some of the services we offer:

## Helpline – 0800 434 6476

Our free, confidential helpline is for anyone who has questions about NETs. Your call will be answered by one of our nurses or trained staff members with experience of NETs.

## Discussion Forums

The discussion forums are easy to use. If you're feeling anxious or just need to hear from someone else who has been there they offer a way to gain support and reassurance from others in a similar situation to you.

## Patient Education Meetings

We run information and support sessions for people living with NETs. These meetings include talks from some of the country's top NET specialists.

## NET Natter Groups

NET Natter meetings are informal support groups which offer an opportunity to meet with others in your area who are affected by NETs – patients, supporters, friends and family.

