

Reply to

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Reply to: Comment on “Surgery versus combined treatment with curettage and imiquimod for nodular basal cell carcinoma: One-year results of a noninferiority, randomized, controlled trial”



To the Editor: We would like to thank Drs Pitney and Muir¹ for their interest in our recently published article and are pleased to have the opportunity to respond to their comments.

We regret that they find the title of our article misleading. Curettage is a technique by which tissue is removed by scraping with a curette. As described in our article, we used curettage for the superficial debulking of the elevated tumor tissue of the nodular basal cell carcinoma. We chose to perform superficial curettage to allow for deeper penetration of the imiquimod cream in the entire tumor, because we hypothesized that extending tumor bulk might prevent penetration, especially in the central and deeper part of the tumor. We had no intention of performing thorough curettage as described by Barlow et al,² because this is a more invasive procedure with a higher risk of bleeding and scarring. To our knowledge, curettage is not a standardized treatment, and either superficial or thorough curettage can be performed for different purposes.

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