

## Referral Support Service

## Dermatology

### D10

### Keratoacanthoma

#### Definition

- Keratoacanthoma is a rapidly evolving skin lesion that resembles squamous cell carcinoma both clinically and histologically.
- [Images](#)
- It usually occurs in sun-damaged skin and typically grows rapidly over 4-6 weeks to produce a dome shaped nodule with central ulceration or a keratin plug looking like a small volcano.
- Following this the lesion spontaneously resolves over 4-6 months.

#### Exclude Red Flag Symptoms

- Difficult to distinguish clinically from squamous cell carcinomas.

#### Management

- All need referral for excision to either Dermatology or Maxillofacial surgeons under the 2 week rule as cannot exclude an SCC clinically.

#### Referral Information

##### Information to include in referral letter

- Site and size of lesion
- How long it has been present
- Photographs are required
- Relevant past medical/surgical history
- Current regular medication
- BMI/smoking status

##### Investigations prior to referral

- None needed.

#### Patient information leaflets/ PDAs

Patient information leaflet about keratoacanthoma from the British Association of Dermatologists.  
<http://www.bad.org.uk/shared/get-file.ashx?id=96&itemtype=document>

#### References

Excellent website with very good images: <http://www.pcids.org.uk/clinical-guidance/keratoacanthoma>