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11.5 Post - surgical care and interpretation of the pathology report

11.5.1 Background

Ascertaining if surgical treatment for keratinocyte cancer (KC) has been adequate is crucial, because this will determine the follow-up regimen, and whether to offer further surgery, adjuvant treatment or other additional treatment (see Follow-up after treatment for keratinocyte cancer).

11.5.2 Overview of evidence (non-systematic literature review)

11.5.2.1 Histopathology

Usually the histopathology will be consistent with expectations based either on clinical diagnosis or biopsy prior to surgery. Certain histologic features, anatomical sites or other factors indicate a high likelihood of recurrence, despite appropriate surgical treatment (Table 5).

Occasionally the histopathology may be different from pre-surgical expectations, usually worse. The finding of features associated with higher risk than expected after excision may alter a clinician's determination of optimal treatment for the individual, leading to further surgery or adjuvant therapy.