



#### Melanoma

**Classification and Prognosis** 

Emphasizing Pathology & History

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#### **Melanoma Statistics**

American Cancer Society

Cancer of the skin is by far the most common of all cancers.

- Melanoma accounts for less than 5% of skin cancer cases but causes a large majority of skin cancer deaths.
- About 70,000 new melanomas are diagnosed in the United States per year (about 40,000 in men and 30,000 in women).
- About 9,000 people in the US may be expected to die of melanoma per year (about 6,000 men and 3,000 women). (Compare with ~ 2,500 for SCC).
- The death rate has dropped since the 1990s for those younger than 50, but has been stable or rising in older age groups.

#### Melanoma Statistics - 2

American Cancer Society

- Incidence rates for melanoma have been rising for at least 30 years.
- The lifetime risk of getting melanoma is about 2% (1 in 50) for whites, 0.1% (1 in 1,000) for blacks, and 0.5% (1 in 200) for Hispanics.
- The risk for each person is affected by a number of different factors, including sun susceptibility and exposure, nevi, freckles, family and personal history of melanoma
- Melanoma occurs in younger as well as older people. Rates increase with age, with the highest incidence at age 85, but melanoma is one of the more common cancers in young adults, and occurs in teenagers.

#### Melanoma and Nevi

- Nevi are important mainly in relation to melanoma, most importantly as simulants but also as risk markers and, occasionally, as precursors.
- Although some melanomas may arise in a pre-existing benign nevus, the general tendency in nevi is to regress over time.
- Nevi and especially dysplastic nevi are among the strongest markers of individuals at increased risk for developing melanoma over time.
- Nevi are also the most important simulants of melanoma, both clinically and histologically.



#### ABCDE's of Melanoma

- A = Asymmetry one half not like the other
- B = Border irregularity like the map of a small island
- C = Color variegation shades of tan, brown, black, red, white, blue-gray
- D = Diameter no lower limit today
- E = Elevation, and Evolution
- Ugly duckling a mole out of step with the others



#### Tumorigenic & Nontumorigenic melanoma (Radial & Vertical Growth Phase)

- ABCD Criteria for RGP - Asymmetry
  - Border irregularity
  - Color variegation
  - Diameter > 4-6 mm
- Vertical Growth Phase - balloon-like expansion forms nodule
  - often symmetrical, smooth borders
  - color is often quite uniform - diameter often less than 6 mm



## Tumor Progression

•Radial Growth Phase In situ or invasive but nontumorigenic, rarely forms permanent cell lines, does not metastasize

•Vertical Growth Phase — Tumorigenic, forms permanent cell lines. Source of metastatic disease (cytogenetic evidence)

•Metastatic Melanoma As for VGP, capable of metastasis.



#### Prognosis of Primary Melanoma

Clark's levels, Breslow thickness, Ulceration, Mitogenicity, TNM Stage

#### [CANCER RESEARCH 29, 705-726, March 1969]

The Histogenesis and Biologic Behavior of Primary Human Malignant Melanomas of the Skin<sup>1</sup>

Wallace H. Clark, Jr.,<sup>2</sup> Lynn From, Evalina A. Bernardino, and Martin C. Mihm Department of Pathology and Dematology, Manahastin General Monital and Havad Medical School, Boston, Manacha

 Evidence is presented suggesting that superficial spreading melanoma and lentigo maligna melanoma ... though evolving at different rates, show a long period of superficial growth, followed by the relatively rapid appearance of nodules or deeper invasion within the primary lesion. This change in the nature of the primary lesion may be due to the appearance of one or more strains of cells of aggressive biologic potential. The subdivision of each of the forms of melanoma into 5 anatomic levels of invasion permits the accurate assignment of prognosis to each case.



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#### **Breslow's Thickness**

- "One possible reason for the lack of reliability of tumor size in estimating prognosis may be that studies to date have considered size in only two dimensions and have neglected tumor volume". •
- have neglécted tumor volume". "From a retrospective study of 98 invasive melanomas it was found that both tumor thickness and stage of invasion are of value in determining prognosis. By using these two criteria it was possible to identify a group of 45 patients only one of whom developed recurrent or metastatic disease. These criteria may be of value in selecting patients for prophylactic lymph node dissection." •
- •





#### 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of Melanoma Staging AJCC/UICC Balch et al, 2009

- T Stages of primary tumors are based on Breslow's thickness intervals .
- Mitogenicity is an independent factor and a rate <u>>1</u> is a modifier of stage T1
- Ulceration is a modifier of all T stages (T1b-T4b). •
- Nodal disease may be microscopic, i.e. non-palpable disease detected in sentinel node procedure, or macroscopic, i.e. palpable.
- Cutaneous, nodal and distant metastases have increasingly worse . prognosis.

	Thickness (mm)	Ulceration Status/Mitoses
1		
Ta	NA	NA
TI	a 1.00	<ul> <li>Without ulceration and mittable &lt; streng<sup>2</sup></li> <li>With ulceration or</li> </ul>
72	1.01-2.00	a. Without closation b: With uberation
τ	2.01-4.00	<ul> <li>Without ulowation</li> <li>With ulowation</li> </ul>
Ta	> 4.00	a: Without ulceration b: With ulceration
N.	No. of Matostatic Nodes	Norbi Metastatic Burden
NO	0	NA
N1		a: Micrometastasis* b: Macrometastasis1
NZ	24	<ul> <li>Micrometastasis*</li> <li>Macrometastasis*</li> <li>In transit metastases/tatelities without metastatic nodes</li> </ul>
NJ	4+ metastatic nodes, or matted nodes, or in transit metastassinatelities with metastatic nodes	
M	Sne	Serum LDH
Ma	No distant metartasea	NA
Mia	Distant skin, suboutaneous, or nodal metastases	Normal
MID	Lung metastases	Normal
Mite	All other visceral metastases	Normal
	Any distant reatastasis	Elevated

Table 1. THM Staging Categories for Cutar

sa Melanoma







#### MALIGNANT MELANOMAS AND RELATED LESIONS

- Radial Growth Phase Variants
  - Radial Growth Phase Absent
    - Nodular melanoma (VGP present, RGP absent)
  - Radial Growth Phase Present (with or without VGP)
    - Superficial spreading melanoma
    - Lentigo maligna melanoma
    - Acral-lentiginous melanoma
    - Mucosal-lentiginous melanoma
  - Vertical growth phase variants ...

#### MALIGNANT MELANOMAS AND RELATED LESIONS

- Vertical Growth Phase Variants
  - Nodular Melanoma
  - Desmoplastic melanoma
  - Neurotropic melanoma
  - Malignant blue nevus
  - Melanoma in congenital nevi
  - Minimal deviation melanoma
  - Clear cell sarcoma
  - Malignant melanocytic schwannoma
  - Melanocytic tumor of uncertain malignant potential (MELTUMP)

#### WHO histological classification of melanocytic tumours



### Histogenetic Subtypes Superficial Spreading (80%) Intermittent sun exposure Lentigo maligna (10%) Chronic continuous exposure Acral (5%) No sun exposure

#### Melanoma Classification

#### · Reasons to Classify

- All melanomas are not the same
- Morphological variation affects diagnostic criteria – nosologic differences
- Although no differences in prognostic outcome when other variables are controlled, there are differences in local progression and recurrence
- Different forms of melanoma have different etiologic and genetic basis, and targeted therapy needs to be tailored to these differences.

#### Nodular Melanoma Clinical Features

- Detectable RGP is absent by definition
   Tumorigenic melanoma without an adjacent nontumorigenic component
  - short-lived RGP may be obliterated by the developing tumor.
- ABCD criteria may not apply

   lesions are often symmetrical nodules/papules with raised discrete borders, fairly uniform color, diameter not always > 6 mm
- prognosis is similar to other melanomas when level and thickness are controlled



#### Nodular Melanoma Histologic Features

- Diagnosis may be tricky especially if there is no highgrade atypia
  - may be quite symmetrical at scanning magnification, but pigmentation and cytology generally vary from side to side.
  - uniform cytologic atypia and mitotic activity in dermis
  - maturation from top to bottom usually absent or imperfect
  - no adjacent radial growth phase by definition
  - epithelial involvement above the tumor may be subtle differential diagnosis includes epidermotropic metastatic melanoma
- Differential diagnosis includes benign lesions such as atypical compound nevi, Spitz nevi, deep penetrating nevi, cellular blue nevi







#### Nodular Melanoma

 Rate of growth in melanomas: characteristics and associations of rapidly growing melanomas. Liu W. Dowling JP, Murray WK, McArthur GA, Thompson JF, Wolfe R, Kelly JW. Arch Dermatol 2006.

 Rapidly growing melanomas were more often symmetrical, elevated, amelanotic, regular in border, and symptomatic, occurred more frequently in elderly men and individuals with fewer nevi and fewer freckles

• Early detection of thick melanomas in the United States: beware of the nodular subtype.

Demierre MF, Chung C, Miller DR, Geller AC. Arch Dermatol 2

– Nodular melanoma comprised 9% of all recorded cases but 34% of melanomas 2 mm or larger. A substantial number of thick melanomas in the United States are of the nodular subtype, and median thickness of nodular melanoma has not changed during the 12 years of study. New strategies are needed to decrease the incidence of thick melanoma in the United States.

#### Superficial Spreading Melanoma Clinical Features

- 70% of all melanoma cases (common melanoma)
- · occurs on usually covered, intermittently exposed skin
- relatively young adults median 50-60 yrs of age
- classic ABCD lesions

Asymmetry, Border irregularity, Color variegation, Diameter > 4 mm)

- highly associated with usual risk factors for melanoma:
   Dysplastic nevi, total nevi, large nevi, sun exposure habits, sun
  - More likely than LMM, ALM or MLM to be associated with mutations of the oncogene BRAF

## Superficial Spreading Melanoma SSM

- Asymmetry
- Border irregularity
- Color variegation
- Diameter > 4 mm
- Discrete border







#### Superficial Spreading Melanoma Histologic Features

"Pagetoid Melanoma" (McGovern)

- essential features of radial growth phase:
  - pagetoid melanocytic proliferation (PMP), usually high-level and extensive
  - breadth, asymmetry, poor circumscription, irregular epithelial hyperplasia
  - uniform moderate to severe atypia, mitoses in about 1/3
  - invasion without tumor formation ("microinvasive melanoma")
  - may progress to tumorigenic vertical growth phase melanoma
- morphology of VGP is similar to nodular and other melanomas







#### Lentigo Maligna Melanoma **Clinical Features**

- about 10% of all melanoma
- A "lentiginous melanoma"
- occurs on chronically exposed skin especially head and neck
- elderly population
- risk for LMM may be increased in outdoor workers
- · slow evolution over many years
- ABCD criteria are ultimately fulfilled by most evolving lesions
  border is illdefined and impalpable
- shades of tan, brown, black, fine reticulated lines within lesion vertical growth phase may develop as exophytic nodule or as endophytic tumor •







#### Lentigo Maligna Melanoma

#### **Histologic Features**

- Lentiginous (basal) melanocytic proliferation pattern
   mainly near dermal-epidermal junction
   relatively small cell type nevoid to small epithelioid cells
   uniformly atypical melanocytes in contiguity with one another
   continuous proliferation (extends between rete ridges)
   nested and pagetoid melanocytic proliferation are less prominent
   nests hang down from interface in droplet pattern, nests above elastotic dermis
   changes at periphery may be very subtle definition of margin issues
- Sun-damaged skin
   elastosis is usually severe, may be associated actinic lentigines
   epidermis tends to be atrophic, rete ridges are effaced
- "Final common pathway" in center of advanced lesions: pagetoid proliferation, epithelial hyperplasia, larger cell type
- Desmoplastic and/or neurotropic VGP should be considered
   especially when predominantly spindle cells







#### Acral-lentiginous Melanoma

- Palms, soles, subungual
- Great toe region most common
- Incidence similar in all races, thus most common form of melanoma in African, and Asian populations



• May be deceptively thick even in absence of a raised nodule













#### Acral-lentiginous Melanoma

- Lentiginous nontumorigenic compartment (radial growth phase)

- Compartment (radial growth phase)
   Continuous basal proliferation of uniformly atypical melanocytes
   Often a spindle cell tumorigenic compartment (vertical growth phase)
   May be deceptively thick even in absence of a raised nodule
   Tumorigenic component often desmoplastic and/or neurotropic (local recurrence risk)



















## Histomorphological signature of mutation status in melanoma

- Simple histomorphological features and patient characteristics were correlated to the mutation status of BRAF and NRAS in a cohort of 302 primary cutaneous melanomas.
- Univariate analysis showed positive associations with multiple factors

   BRAF mutation associated with nesting, scatter, absent chronic solar damage (CSD), young patient age, sharp circumscription, large cell size, heavy pigmentation, truncal location, round cell and nuclear shape, SSM subtype, large nuclear size, little solar elastosis, and a thickened or hyperplastic epidermal contour.
- Multivariate and prediction analysis showed that a combination of high nesting and scatter, low age, and large cell size predicted BRAF mutation with an error estimate of 13%.

<u>Amaya Viros</u>, Jane Fridlyand, Juergen Bauer, John Curtin, Daniel Pinkel, Boris C. Bastian. PLOS Medicine 5:941-951, 2008















#### Curing Advanced Disease

- 70% of Melanomas have activated BRAF
  oncogene which drives progression
  - Davies et al, 2002.
- Plexxikon Company developed a "designer drug" that inhibits common V600E mutation that activates BRAF
- Phase I and II trials of Plexxikon 4032 has been completed.

















#### A paradigm shift for melanoma therapy

From HYPERLINK "<u>http://www.medscape.com/news</u>"Medscape Medical News

ASCO 2009: Investigational Targeted Therapy for Metastatic Melanoma Shrinks Tumors, Causes Stir at Meeting

June 4, 2009 (Orlando, Florida) — The targeted-therapy revolution in oncology could be coming to melanoma, especially if the results of a phase 1 trial of an investigational agent are followed by similar results in subsequent trials, according to melanoma experts attending the American Society of Clinical Oncology 45th Annual Meeting.

In a dose-escalation, proof-of-concept study, more than half of metastatic melanoma patients with this BRAF mutation who received high doses of PLX4032 had tumor shrinkage, said lead study author Keith T. Flaherty, MD, from the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

"We are on the verge of a paradigm shift for melanoma therapy," said melanoma expert Boris Bastian, MD, from the University of California at San Francisco, who was not involved in the trial. "This is a decisive step toward personalized medicine," he added.

## A Drug Trial Cycle: Recovery, Relapse, Reinvention

The New York Times Feb 2010.

"In the weeks leading up to the annual oncologists' conference here, several of the patients on the trial of the drug known as PLX4032 had relapsed. One had died. Another, Christopher Nelson, who had made what seemed like a miraculous recovery in March, had lost his appetite again. Dr. Flaherty feared what he might see on Mr. Nelson's scan when he returned to his office at the <u>University of Pennsylvania</u>. The drug's ability to stop the melanoma, on average, he told the crowd, "appears to be approximately six months."

#### Summary

- Early melanoma is curable by simple surgery (complete local excision)
- Advanced melanoma is not yet curable, but for the first time drugs are available that elicit responses in most eligible patients.
- Therapy depends on the presence of mutations appropriate for the targeted therapeutic agents – personalized medicine.

#### Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary (Checklist)

MELANOMA OF THE SKIN: Biopsy, Excision, Re-Excision (for reference only)

#### Grossing

# Procedure (select all that apply) (Note A) Biopsy, shave Biopsy, punch Biopsy, incisional Re-excision Vumphadenectomy, sentinel node(s) Lymphadenectomy, regional nodes (specify):

- \_\_\_\_Other (specify): .
- \_\_\_\_ Not specified .
- Specimen Laterality
  Right
  Left
  Midline
  Not specified

#### Tumor Site (Note B) Specify (if known):

\_\_\_\_ Not specified Tumor Size (required only if tumor is grossly present) Greatest dimension: \_ cm \*Additional dimensions: \_ x \_ cm \_\_Indeterminate (see "Comment")

Macroscopic Satellite Nodule(s) (required for excision specimens only) Not identified Present Indeterminate

\*Macroscopic Pigmentation \*\_\_\_\_Not identified \*\_\_\_\_Present, diffuse \*\_\_\_\_Present, patchy/focal \*\_\_\_\_Indeterminate

#### Primary Tumor (pT)

pTX:	Primary tumor cannot be assessed (eg, shave biopsy or regressed melanoma) (see
"Comment")	
pT0:	No evidence of primary tumor
pTis:	Melanoma in situ (ie, not an invasive tumor: anatomic level I)
pT1: Melanor	na 1.0 mm or less in thickness, with or without ulceration (see Note D)
pT1a:	Melanoma 1.0 mm or less in thickness, no ulceration, <1 mitoses/mm <sup>2</sup>
pT1b:	Melanoma 1.0 mm or less in thickness with ulceration and/or 1 or more mitoses/mn
pT2: Melanor	na 1.01 to 2 mm in thickness, with or without ulceration
pT2a:	Melanoma 1.01 to 2.0 mm in thickness, no ulceration
pT2b:	Melanoma 1.01 to 2.0 mm in thickness, with ulceration
pT3: Melanor	na 2.01 to 4.0 mm in thickness, with or without ulceration
pT3a:	Melanoma 2.01 to 4.0 mm in thickness, no ulceration
pT3b:	Melanoma 2.01 to 4.0 mm in thickness, with ulceration
pT4: Melanor	na greater than 4.0 mm in thickness, with or without ulceration
pT4a:	Melanoma greater than 4.0 mm in thickness, no ulceration
nT4b:	Melanoma greater than 4.0 mm in thickness, with ulceration

#### Microscopic Features

- Histologic Type Maximum Tumor Thickness • .
- .
- Maximum Tumor Thickness Anatomic Level Ulceration Margins (select all that apply) Mitotic Index Microsatellitosis Lymph-Vascular Invasion Perineural Invasion Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes Tumor Regression Growth Phase :
- :
- .
- .
- Growth Phase Pathologic Staging (pTNM) <u>TNM Descriptors</u> :
- •

:

<u>Metastasis</u>
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Distant Metastasis (pM)

- \_\_ Not applicable \_\_ pM1: Dis
- Distant metastasis (documented in this specimen)
- \_\_\_\_рМ1: \*\_\_\_\_рМ1а: \*\_\_\_\_рМ1b: Metastasis in skin, subcutaneous tissues, or distant lymph nodes Metastasis to lung
- \*Specify site, if known: \_

.

- \*Additional Pathologic Findings (select all that apply)
- \_\_ Nevus remnant \*\_\_\_ Other (specify):
- •
- \*Comment(s)

#### Regional Lymph Nodes (pN)

pNX:	Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
pN0:	No regional lymph node metastasis
pN1: Metastasi	is in 1 regional lymph node
pN1a:	Clinically occult (microscopic) metastasis
pN1b:	Clinically apparent (macroscopic) metastasis
pN2: Metastasi	is in 2 to 3 regional nodes or intralymphatic regional metastasis without nodal metastasis
pN2a:	Clinically occult (microscopic) metastasis
pN2b:	Clinically apparent (macroscopic) metastasis
pN2c:	Satellite or in-transit metastasis without nodal metastasis
pN3:	Metastasis in 4 or more regional lymph nodes, or matted metastatic nodes, or in-trans
metastasis or si	atellites(s) with metastasis in regional node(s)
No nodes s	submitted or found
Number of lymp	oh nodes identified:
Number contain	ning metastases identified macroscopically:
Number contain	ning metastases identified microscopically:
Matted nodes:	
Present	
March 1 Arrows Mr.	- d

#### Lymph Nodes

- Number of sentinel nodes examined:
- Total number of nodes examined (sentinel and nonsentinel): \_\_\_\_
- Number of lymph nodes with metastases: •
  - \*Extranodal tumor extension:
  - \*\_\_\_\_ Present

•

- \*\_\_\_\_ Not identified
- \*\_\_\_\_ Indeterminate
- • \*Size of largest metastatic focus: \_\_\_\_ (mm) (for sentinel node)
- \*Location of metastatic tumor (for sentinel node) •
  - \_\_\_\_ Subcapsular
- • \*\_\_\_\_ Intramedullary •
- \*\_\_\_\_ Subcapsular and intramedullary

#### Margins

- Peripheral Margins
   Cannot be assessed
   Uninvolved by invasive melanoma
   time dimensional from closest peripheral margin: \_\_\_\_mm (required for excisions only)
   Speelfy location(s), if possible: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   Involved by invasive melanoma
   Speelfy location(s), if possible: \_\_\_\_\_mm (required for excisions only)
   Speelfy location(s), if possible: \_\_\_\_\_\_mm (required for excisions only)
   Speelfy location(s), if possible: \_\_\_\_\_\_mm (required for excisions only)
   Speelfy location(s), if possible: \_\_\_\_\_\_mm (required for excisions only)
   Speelfy location(s), if possible: \_\_\_\_\_\_mm (required for excisions only)
   Speelfy location(s), if possible: \_\_\_\_\_\_mm (required for excisions only)

#### :

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