Management of Malignant Melanoma of the Skin

Essay Submitted For Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree In General Surgery

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Sameh El-Sabbagh

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(ASG)	The apoeccrine sweat gland.
(ALM)	Acral lentiginous melanoma.
(AJCC)	American Joint Committee on Cancer.
(BCC)	Basal cell carcinoma.
(CT)	Computed Tomography.
(CVD)	Cisplatin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine.
(ECOG)	Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.
(ELND)	Elective Lymph Node Dissection.
(EORTC)	European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer.
(FDA)	Food and Drug Administration.
(FNAC)	Fine needle aspiration cytology.
(LDH)	Lactate dehydrogenase.
(Mets)	Metastasis.
(MRI)	Magnetic Resonance Imaging.
(PACV)	Polyvalent allogeneic irradiated whole-cell vaccine.
(PET)	Positron Emission Tomography.
(RFS)	Relapse-free survival.
(RT-PCR)	Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction.
(SCC)	Squamous cell carcinoma.
(SLN)	Sentinel lymph node.

(SLNB)	Sentinel lymph node biopsy.
(TILs)	Tumor infiltrating lymphocytes.
(UVA)	Ultraviolet A.
(UVB)	Ultraviolet B.
(XP)	Xeroderma pigmentosum.

Introduction

Melanoma is a malignant tumor of melanocytes (the cells that make the pigment melanin) which are derived from the neural crest. Although most melanomas arise in the skin, they may also arise from mucosal surfaces or at other sites to which neural crest cells migrate ***(Corona et al., 1996).***

Cutaneous melanoma is the most aggressive form of all skin cancers. Worldwide, it is expected that over 132,000 people will be diagnosed with the disease each year and more than 37,000 people are expected to die because of it annually. Moreover, the incidence of melanoma is rising faster than that of any other malignancy ***(Hodgetts, 2013).***

Sun exposure in the form of ultraviolet B (UVB) and ultraviolet A (UVA) light is a potential cause of melanoma. Evidence suggests that several episodes of sunburn due to intense, intermittent sun exposure significantly increase the risk of developing melanoma later in life ***(Gandini et al., 2005).***