

Malignant Melanoma of Digits with Emphasis on Subungual Melanoma

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Background: Subungual melanoma is rare, attributing to 1 to 3 percent of all melanomas occurring in white populations and 15 to 30 percent of melanomas occurring in dark-skinned populations. In roughly two-thirds of cases, subungual melanoma presents as a brown to black, longitudinal band including a single nail bed. Most commonly it occurs in older patients and at an advanced stage.

Objectives: The objective of our study was to assess the prevalence of subungual melanoma in Slovenia.

Methods: This was a retrospective study of patients with melanoma on digits diagnosed in years 2017 and 2018, with emphasis on subungual melanoma. Data was extracted from Cancer registry of Slovenia.

Results: 12 patients were diagnosed with malignant melanoma of digits, 50% female and 50% male with mean age of 72 years. Seven patients died till the end of the year 2019. The histological subtypes were nodular melanoma (8 patients), blue nevus melanoma (1 patient), superficial spreading melanoma (2 patients); 1 lesion was unclassifiable. Nine patients were diagnosed with advanced disease (stage IIIC or IV). All patients had surgery, only 2 patients had re-excision of primary scar, 4 were treated with RT, 2 with immunotherapy. Four patients presented with recurrent local disease.

Three patients with malignant melanoma treated during a 2 year period had their primary lesion in the nail bed. We present a clinical case of patient with subungual melanoma.

Conclusion: Malignant melanoma of nail unit in Slovenia is a rare disease, diagnosis is delayed and treatment is rarely effective.