

MELANOMA



What is it?

Is a type of skin cancer that occurs when melanocytes begin to grow uncontrollably



Functions of the skin

- >Physical protection of the skin
- >Thermoregulation
- >Vitamin D synthesis
- >Storage of fats

PHYSIOLOGICAL AND ANATOMICAL STAGES

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Melanoma cells are found on the outer skin surface and their presence is fairly negligible, not easy to spread through to other parts, also known as situ stage

1

The melanoma at this stage is very thin and can only be seen under the microscopes as ulcerations. Depending on the thickness of the Melanoma, it can either be classified as 1A OR 1B

2

The melanoma at this stage is very thick and can easily travel through the epidermis and through the dermis

3

Melanoma has highly in motion and majorly travels to the lymphatic system, this the cancer is thick and can be observed as ulcerations. The classes here are A,B,C,D

4

The melanoma travels through the bloodstream to other major organs of the body. The classification of the melanoma here is based on the body organ that it has attacked:

- >M1a: Cancer has only travelled to surrounding areas of the skin and soft tissues
- >M1b: Cancer has reached the lungs
- >M1c: Cancer has spread to other parts that do not affect the CNS
- >M1d: Cancer has spread to the CNS

Diagnosis



The easiest and fastest way is to observe lumps, blemishes, spots on the skin that are changing in color and size. A biopsy exam can also help examine if the disease is melanoma. In advanced cases, a CT scan can be done to prove further

References

American cancer society, melanoma (2012)