Primary Melanoma in Unusual Sites

Melanoma can arise from either the conjunctiva or uveal layer, not the retina.

Ocular Melanoma

- Account for the greatest % other than the skin
- Rates have remained stable over the years

Uveal Lesions

Iris, ciliary body, choroid
UVEAL MELANOMA

- Vision loss due to choroidal circulation and subsequent ischemia, retinal detachment, vitreous hemorrhage
- Pain due to impingement on posterior ciliary nerve
- Death usually from distant metastases
- Can only spread hematogenously (no lymphatics), 30-50% die within 10 years
- Chromosome 3 monosomy greater risk of metastases
- 6 cases per million people, higher incidence in the south and those with light irises

Depends on tumor size
- Large lesions → enucleation
- Medium size lesions → plaque brachytherapy vs external beam radiation

CONJUNCTIVAL LESIONS

- Very rare (1/40th as common as uveal melanoma)
- Only 12% arise de novo
- 10-year mortality rate of 30%

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MUCOSAL MELANOMA
PRIMARY MUCOSAL MELANOMA

- Rare and aggressive
- Head and neck 55%
- Female genital tract 18%
- Anal/rectal 23%
- Urinary tract 2.8 %

PRIMARY MUCOSAL MELANOMA

- Median age seventh decade
- Women>men
- 5 year survival only 25%
- Incidence similar among races

PRIMARY MUCOSAL MELANOMA

- Must differentiate from a met of a primary cutaneous melanoma
- When biopsyng try to obtain a rim of normal tissue in hopes of finding the precursor lesion
- Lesions are often amelanotic and may resemble a lymphoma or angiosarcoma

ACRAL/SUBUNGUAL MELANOMA

- Accounts for 3-15% of all cutaneous melanomas *
- More common in those with ethnic skin
- Incidence has remained static
- Increased mortality

- Large number are initially misdiagnosed
- Many can be amelanotic
- One retrospective study of 83 patients with acral melanoma reported a 36% clinical misdiagnosis rate *

- Look for subtle pigmentation
- Biopsy if not responding to treatment or not looking like a classic wart

- Fuzzy or blurred lateral borders
- Pigment wider proximally
- Extension onto the proximal nail fold
- Often associated with nail dystrophy

Reddish to reddish black
- Can see globules of pigment at the periphery
- Distal part will often have streaks of pigment
- Presence of subungual blood does not rule out melanoma

SCALP MELANOMA

SUBUNGUAL HEMORRHAGE