

# Dermoscopically, melanoma, spitz nevi indistinguishable

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(HealthDay)—Melanoma may be dermoscopically indistinguishable from Spitz nevi, according to a study published in the January issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

Aimilios Lallas, Ph.D., from the Istituto di Ricerca e Cura a Carattere Scientifico in Reggio Emilia, Italy, and colleagues analyzed demographic, clinical, and dermoscopic variables in [patients](#) ( $\geq 12$  years old) with symmetric, Spitzoid-looking lesions that were diagnosed histopathologically as Spitz nevus or melanoma.

The researchers found that of 384 included lesions, 86.7 percent were histopathologically diagnosed as Spitz nevus and 13.3 percent as melanoma. With increasing age, the risk of melanoma significantly increased, reaching 50 percent or higher after the age of 50 years.

"Our results confirm the observation that melanoma may be dermoscopically indistinguishable from Spitz nevi, strongly suggesting that the only safe strategy not to miss [melanoma](#) is to excise all Spitzoid-looking lesions in patients aged 12 years or older," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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