

# Radiotherapy aids regional control of node+ melanoma

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(HealthDay)—Radiotherapy is effective in regional control of node-

positive malignant melanoma, but patients are at risk of early distant relapse, according to a study published Sept. 25 in the *Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Oncology*.

Lorna G. Keenan, from St. Luke's Hospital in Dublin, and colleagues retrospectively evaluated node-positive malignant melanoma patients treated with adjuvant nodal irradiation after lymphadenectomy (June 2012 and March 2015).

Based on the 21 identified patients (median follow up, 13.5 months), the researchers found no cases of lymph node field recurrences. However, the distant metastasis (DM) rate was 48 percent. In patients with extracapsular extension (ECE; 71 percent), the DM rate was significantly higher ( $P = 0.027$ ) than that seen in those without ECE (0 percent). In those with a maximum tumor size of  $>3$  cm (71 percent), the DM rate was higher than that seen in those with tumor size

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