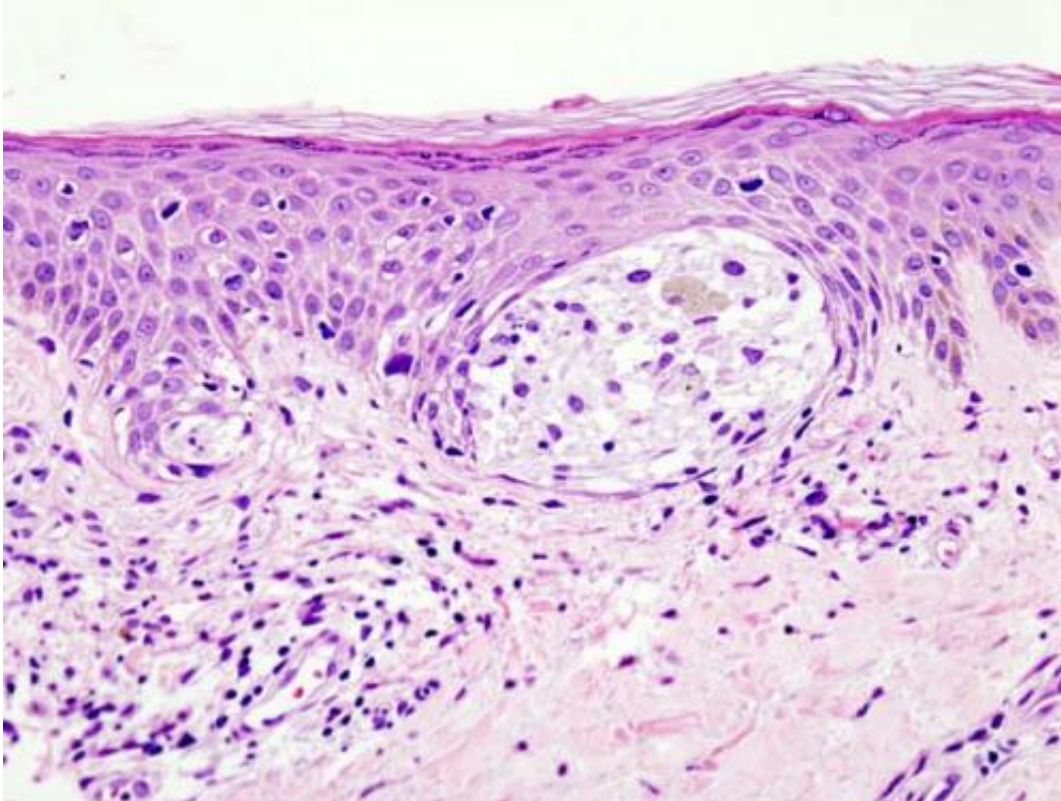


Five things to know about melanoma

May 13 2019



Melanoma in skin biopsy with H&E stain—this case may represent superficial spreading melanoma. Credit: Wikipedia/CC BY-SA 3.0

"Five things to know about ... melanoma" in *CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal)* provides a brief overview of this malignant skin cancer for physicians and patients.

- Sun exposure is an important factor in the development of

melanoma, so it often appears on the face, neck, arms and torso, where sun exposure is common.

- Melanoma can also occur on areas with minimal [sun exposure](#), such as palms and soles of the feet.
- A specific mitogen-activated pathway is linked to mutations causing [melanoma](#) and genomic sequencing is helping identify markers for diagnosis and treatment.
- About 10% of melanomas are challenging to diagnose as they may be pink, red, clear or normal skin-coloured.
- Patients with any suspicious skin lesions should be referred to dermatology. Coloured lesions with any of the ABCDE criteria—Asymmetric shape, irregular Border, Colour variation, Diameter greater than 6 mm (about the size of a pencil eraser) and Evolution (change)—should be considered suspicious.

More information: *CMAJ* (2019).

www.cmaj.ca/lookup/doi/10.1503/cmaj.181500

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