

When does a melanoma metastasize? Implications for management

June 18 2024



Credit: Unsplash/CC0 Public Domain

A new research perspective titled "When does a melanoma metastasize? Implications for management" has been [published](#) in *Oncotarget*.

In this new perspective, researchers John F. Thompson and Gabrielle J. Williams from The University of Sydney, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and the University of Western Australia discussed melanoma and timing [treatment](#). Selecting which patients with clinically localized melanoma require treatment other than wide excision of the primary tumor is based on the risk or presence of metastatic disease. This, in turn, is linked to survival.

"Knowing if and when a melanoma is likely to metastasize is therefore of great importance," the researchers emphasize.

Several studies employing a range of different methodologies have suggested that many melanomas metastasize long before the primary lesion is diagnosed. Therefore, waiting for dissemination of metastatic disease to become evident before making [systemic therapy](#) available to these patients may be less effective than giving them post-operative adjuvant therapy initially if the metastatic risk is high. The identification of these high-risk patients will assist in selecting those to whom adjuvant systemic therapy can most appropriately be offered.

"Further studies are required to better identify [high-risk patients](#) whose primary [melanoma](#) is likely to have already metastasized," the researchers write.

More information: John F. Thompson et al, When does a melanoma metastasize? Implications for management, *Oncotarget* (2024). [DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.28591](#)

Provided by Impact Journals LLC

Citation: When does a melanoma metastasize? Implications for management (2024, June 18)
retrieved 19 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-06-melanoma-metastasize-implications.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.