

New peri-op approach accurately IDs melanoma in nail matrix

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"Intraoperative RCM examination of the nail matrix is an efficient diagnostic approach of melanonychia striata that permits an extemporaneous diagnosis of malignancy and therefore a one-step surgical treatment of in situ or minimally invasive melanoma, reducing dramatically the duration of postoperative disability," the authors write.

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Intraoperative reflectance confocal microscopy can be used to diagnose melanonychia striata in the nail matrix, according to a study published online June 7 in the *British Journal of Dermatology*.

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Sébastien Debarbieux, M.D., of the Centre Hospitalier Lyon Sud in Pierre Bénite, France, and colleagues assessed the feasibility of intraoperative [diagnosis](#) of melanonychia striata in a series of nine patients who underwent a matricial biopsy for an acquired melanonychia (one benign lentigo, eight melanomas). RCM examination was performed in vivo and/or ex vivo.

The researchers found that confocal and histopathological features correlated well. Confocal features were used for unequivocal intraoperative diagnosis of seven of the [melanoma](#) cases, and RCM correctly classified the lentigo as benign. RCM did not provide a definite classification for the last lesion, which corresponded histopathologically to an early melanoma.

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