

Global Summit on

# Melanoma & Carcinoma

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## Melanoma in Iran: A retrospective 10-year study

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**Background:** Melanoma, the most life-threatening type of skin cancer, is a malignant tumor initiating in melanocytes that rapidly metastasizes and causes death.

**Materials & Methods:** In this retrospective study, samples were selected from patients' information files in our Cancer Institute in Tehran with a designed checklist. A total of 322 files were found from 2003 until 2012. Then the raw data were transferred to Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 16 and additional analysis was performed by Students t-test. The important variables were considered according to the available information from history of pathology including age, gender, occupation, stage and location of tumor.

**Results:** Our data showed that incidence of melanoma has been different in the studied 10-year period according to age. Also, incidence of melanoma was higher in men than women. It was more common in lower limbs. More commonly housewives among women and farmers among men were affected by melanoma.

**Conclusions:** Taken together the descriptive data clarified general aspects of this disease for further screening and interventions.

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## Anal melanoma: A rare, but catastrophic tumor

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**Introduction:** Malignant melanoma of the anal canal is a rare and aggressive disease, whose early diagnosis is difficult. Its presentation with no specific symptoms leads to a late diagnosis at an advanced stage. The prognosis of anorectal malignant melanoma is poor and frequent related to distant metastasis and the absence of response of chemoradiotherapy. Surgery remains the mainstay of therapy; otherwise the best approach is controversial. Considering no survival benefits for APR, wide local excision should be considered as the treatment of choice.

**Methods:** This report collects nine cases of anorectal melanoma treated at our division from June 1977 to 2006, as well as a review of the literature.

**Results:** There were eight females and one male, of medium age 69 years (range: 41-85 years). Most frequent presentation was bleeding, with two of them with amelanotic melanomas. Wide Local Excision (WLE) was performed in seven of them. Mean survival was 24 months.

**Conclusion:** Anorectal melanoma remains challenging. Efforts should be taken to early diagnosis, and wide local excision with negative margins is the preferred treatment. Abdominoperineal resection (APR) is a reasonable option for bulky tumors or when the sphincter is invaded.

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