



International
Melanoma Conference

From Prevention to Treatment

November 7 - 8, 2008
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Organisers



ONKOLOŠKI
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International Melanoma Conference

From Prevention to Treatment

Melanoma is a skin cancer with its incidence dramatically on the rise. Physicians are therefore more frequently than ever challenged with the disease, not merely with its diagnosis, but also with the follow-up, as the survival of melanoma patients has fairly improved recently. At the present time, at which the spread of information is incredibly rapid, the patients and their relatives have access to various data about the disease, of which some may be founded on a firm scientific basis while, on the other hand, they are also overwhelmed with ill sources of information without any scientific value. In case of so serious disease as melanoma, the patients' naivety and their longing for health may thus be open to manipulations.

Therefore, the aim of the International Melanoma Conference is to provide comprehensive and scientifically verified information on the development, detection and treatment of melanoma to the medical doctors of different specialties who often come across this cancer in the patients that they treat in their every day practice. A special emphasis will be laid to the prevention and early detection of melanoma given that the results of Australian research studies confirm that this approach to treatment considerably increases the survival and reduces the incidence of melanoma. The participants will also be informed of the basic treatment modalities of melanoma, i.e. surgery, irradiation and systemic treatment. The presentation of surgical treatment will focus particularly on the sentinel node biopsy which has been proved to be effective in prolonging the survival of certain groups of melanoma patients. The latest irradiation techniques have also markedly improved the effectiveness of this treatment method, whereas in the field of systemic treatment of melanoma, the major benefit has been found to be adjuvant treatment with high doses of Interferon alpha.

The topics presented by the lecturers will be further extended at the workshops on surgery, dermatoscopy, radiotherapy and systemic treatment of melanoma and on the management of toxic treatment effects. The participants will thus have the opportunity to learn more about melanoma by taking part in discussions and also to expand their knowledge about the disease by acquiring more facts that could be useful in finding answers to most interesting and sometimes essentially controversial questions.

Janja Ocvirk
President of the Scientific committee



International Melanoma Conference
From Prevention to Treatment

Organising Committee

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Organiser
Institute of Oncology Ljubljana

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Scientific Agenda

DAY 1 - November 7

10.00-12.00 Workshops

Location: Institute of Oncology Ljubljana. Transfer to the location Institute of Oncology will be organized free of charge. Departure will be from City hotel at 9:15.

Dermoscopy in early diagnosis of melanoma

Igor Bartenjev (MD, PhD, Outpatient Clinic Dermatologija Bartenjev-Rogl, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Medicine)

Mirjam Butina Rogl (MD, Outpatient Clinic Dermatologija Bartenjev-Rogl)

Presentation of typical surgical procedures use in melanoma management (Sentinel lymph node biopsy, lymphadenectomy)

Marko Hočevar (MD, PhD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

Management of adverse event of high-dose interferon α 2b adjuvant therapy - Patient Management

Janja Ocvirk (MD, PhD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

Radiotherapy indications and techniques in melanoma management

Primož Strojani (MD, PhD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

12.30-14.00 Lunch

Location: City Hotel Ljubljana

14.00-14.15 Welcome and Introduction

Location: City Hotel Ljubljana

Session I: Chair: Marko Hočevar MD, PhD; Janja Ocvirk MD, PhD

14.15-14.45 Epidemiology of melanoma and primary prevention

Borut Žgavec (MD, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Department of Dermatovenereology)

14.45- 15.15 Etiology and risk factors

- Genetics of familial melanoma
 - Genetic testing and patient counseling in melanoma
- Marko Hočevar (MD, PhD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

15.15-16.00 Q&A

16.00-16.15 Coffee Break

Diagnosis

Session II: Chair: Marko Snoj MD, PhD; Igor Bartenjev MD, PhD

16.15-16.45 Clinical presentation and early diagnosis of melanoma

Igor Bartenjev (MD, PhD, Outpatient Clinic Dermatologija Bartenjev-Rogl, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Medicine)

16.45-17.15 Pathology

Matej Bračko (MD, PhD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

17.15-17.45 Specifics in functional diagnostic imaging in melanoma
Maja Marolt Mušič (MD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

17.45-18.15 Staging and prognosis of melanoma
Marko Snoj (MD, PhD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

18.15-18.45 Q&A

DAY 2 - November 8

Location: City Hotel Ljubljana

Management

Session III: Chair: Marko Hočevar MD, PhD; Janja Ocvirk MD, PhD

9.00-10.00 Melanoma surgery

- Surgical margins
- SLNB
- Surgical management of melanoma in difficult sites
- Surgery for stage IV disease
- Management of recurrent or in-transit disease - Isolated Limb perfusion

Alexander M.M. Eggermont (MD, PhD, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

10.00-12.30 Interferon in adjuvant therapy for melanoma

- Adjuvant treatment with HDI
Peter Mohr (MD, Elbeplinikum, Buxtehude, Germany)
- Long term treatment with PEG-IFN alfa 2b
Alexander M.M. Eggermont (MD, PhD, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

12.30-12.45 Q&A

12.45-13.00 Coffee Break

Session IV: Chair: Primož Strojjan MD, PhD; Janja Ocvirk MD, PhD

13.00-13.30 Role of radiotherapy in melanoma management
Primož Strojjan (MD, PhD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

13.30-14.00 Treatment options for metastatic melanoma
Janja Ocvirk (MD, PhD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

14.00-14.15 Practice guidelines in melanoma
Marko Snoj (MD, PhD, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana)

14.15-14.30 Q&A

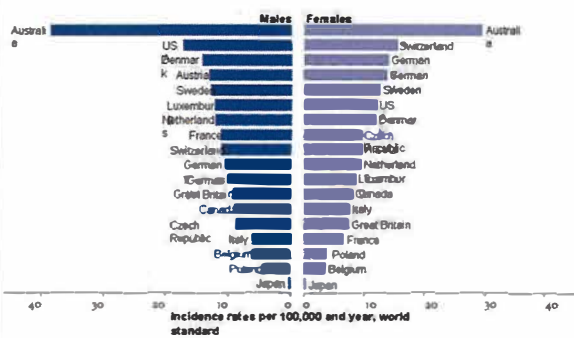
14.30-15.30 Lunch

Incidence

- ↑↑↑ Australia / New Zeland
 - M=37,7 F=29,4
- ↑↑ Nord America
 - M=16,4 F=11,7
- ↑ Nord Europe
 - M=8,3 F=10,0
- Asia - the lowest
 - M=0,3 - 0,5 F=0,2 - 0,4
- World
 - M=2,8 F=2,6

Ferlay J, Bray F, Pisani P, Parkin DM. *GLBOCAN 2002: Cancer Incidence, Mortality and Prevalence Worldwide*. IARC CancerBase No. 5, version 2.2. IARC Press, Lyon 2004 (<http://www-dep.iarc.fr/>)

Melanoma incidence worldwide 2002



Globocan estimation 2002,

Slovenija

- Incidence rate per 100,000
 - 1963-1967 → male 1,7/100 000
→ female 2,6/100 000
 - 1996-2000 → male 11,0/100 000
→ female 11,8/100 000
 - 2001-2005 → male 14,5/100 000
→ female 16,3/100 000
- Incidence rate per 100,000 (95% prediction interval)
 - 2008 → male 18,0/100 000
→ female 20,0/100 000

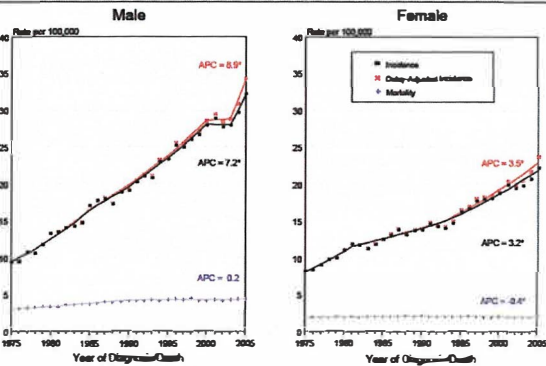
CANCER REGISTRY OF SLOVENIA
The Cancer Incidence in Slovenia 2009
Report No. 47 / Ljubljana 2009

ANNEXURE 2.4. MORTALITY RATES AT YOUNG ADULT AGE

AGE-GROUPS (YEARS)	All Races			Whites		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1975	2.1	2.6	1.6	2.3	2.9	1.7
1976	2.2	2.8	1.8	2.4	3.1	1.8
1977	2.3	2.9	1.8	2.5	3.2	1.9
1978	2.3	3.0	1.7	2.6	3.3	1.9
1979	2.4	3.2	1.8	2.7	3.6	2.0
1980	2.5	3.3	1.7	2.8	3.6	1.9
1981	2.6	3.5	1.9	2.9	3.6	2.1
1982	2.6	3.5	1.8	2.9	3.6	2.0
1983	2.6	3.5	1.8	2.9	3.6	2.0
1984	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.0
1985	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1986	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1987	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1988	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1989	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1990	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1991	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1992	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1993	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1994	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1995	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1996	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1997	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1998	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1999	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
2000	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
2001	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
2002	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
2003	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
2004	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
2005	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1
1975-2006	2.6	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.6	2.1

US Mortality Files, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Rates are per 100,000

SEER Incidence, Delay Adjusted Incidence and US Death Rates Melanoma of the Skin, White, by Sex



Source: SEER Incidence and US Mortality Files (National Center for Health Statistics, CDC). Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population (19 age groups - Census P25-114). Regression lines and APCs are calculated using the Advanced Regression Program Version 3.3.1, April 2002, National Center for Health Statistics. The APC in the Annual Percent Change for the regression line represents the APC shown on the graph to the nearest tenth.

Most striking features

1. The incidence has been substantially increasing over past few decades
2. The mortality has been increasing only slightly (even decreasing in certain age groups)
3. The proportion of early diagnosed melanomas (thin melanomas) has been increased



Two highlight points

1. Fast increasing incidence
2. Slow increasing or levelling off mortality

The questions ?

- Is incidence really increasing so much?
- Are we getting so much better now ?
- Were we so bad in the past ?
- Are we erroneous now ?

The possible reasons of discrepancy between incidence and mortality

1. Overdiagnosed now
2. Misdiagnosed in the past
3. "Non-diagnosed" in the past
4. Not notified in the past
5. Concept of "benign melanoma"
6. True increasing incidence

Melanoma

■ Environmental factors

- UV irradiation
 - UV-B
 - UV-A

■ Genetic factors

- Genetic (in)stability
- Fenotype
 - Anatomical site
 - Skin type

UV irradiation - sun exposure

- Chronic or intermittent pattern
- H&N melanomas
 - Higher levels of chronic sun exposure (↑ 2,43)
 - Higher levels of occupational sun exposure (↑ 3,25)
- Trunk melanomas
 - Higher levels of intermittent/recreational sun exposure

Whiteman DC. J Clin Oncol 2006.

Fenotype – anatomical site

- Different type and number of melanocytes
- H&N melanoma over represented
 - 9% body surface → 14,8% of all melanomas (↑1,6)
 - Face surface 3,5% → 8,9% (↑ 2,6)
- Trunk melanomas under represented

Hoersch B. Brit J Dermatol 2006.



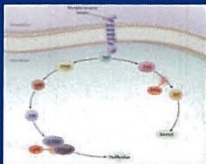
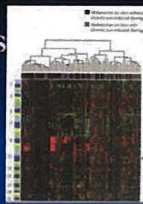
Fenotype - skin type

- **Type I**
Often burns, rarely tans. Tends to have freckles, red or fair hair, blue or green eyes.
- **Type II**
Usually burns, sometimes tans. Tends to have light hair, blue or brown eyes.
- **Type III**
Sometimes burns, usually tans. Tends to have brown hair and eyes.
- **Type IV**
Rarely burns, often tans. Tends to have dark brown eyes and hair.
- **Type V**
Naturally black-brown skin. Often has dark brown eyes and hair.
- **Type VI**
Naturally black-brown skin. Usually has black-brown eyes and hair.



Etiology - genetics

- **Trunk melanomas**
 - BRAF and N-RAS mutations
- **H&N melanomas**
 - KIT mutation and CDK4 CCND1 amplification



Curtin JA. N Engl J Med 2005.
Curtin JA. J Clin Oncol 2006.

Melanoma divergent carcinogenesis

Intermittent sun exposure
Unstable melanocyte population
↑ nevi

Chronic sun exposure
Stable melanocyte population
↑ solar keratoses

Trunk melanoma

H&N melanoma



Lifetime risk of Developing or Dying of Cancer

Melanoma of the Skin

- Whites 2.11 (2.09, 2.14)
- Blacks 0.08 (0.07, 0.10)

http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2005/results_merged/topic_lifetime_risk.pdf

Risk factor

Anything that increases the chance of developing a disease is called a risk factor

Risk factors in melanoma

- Sunlight (UV irradiation)
- Light complexion (skin type I and/or II)
- Number of pigmented lesions
 - Freckles and common/atypical moles
- Prior cutaneous melanoma
 - 10xRR, greatest risk in first two years
- Positive family history
- Immunosuppression

Tsao H. NEJM 2004.

CDKN2A

- cyclin dependent kinase 2A
- Chromosome 9p21
- tumor suppressor gene
- Four exons (1 α , 1 β , 2 and 3)
- two different proteins
 - INK4A (p16) \rightarrow CDK4/6 \rightarrow RB \rightarrow G1 to the S-phase
 - ARF (p14) \rightarrow p53

Kamb A, Natl Genet 1994.

CDKN2A

- Germline mutation in 10-25% melanoma families (Australia, North America, Europe)
- Population prevalence 0,01% (1/10000)
- P16 mutated in majority of pts
- Exon 1 β mutations very rare (additional CNS tumors)

CDKN2A

- Penetrance (latitude dependent)
 - Europe 56%
 - USA 76%
 - Australia 91%

Bishop DT, J Natl Cancer Inst 2002.

Hereditary melanoma in Slovenian population

- Genetic test in 67
 - 26 families
 - 26 multiple primaries
 - 3 children
- Positive in 8 (31%) families, 15 (37%) individuals
- CDK4 - 0

Peric B, BMC Med Genet 2008.

GenoMel (The Melanoma Genetics Consortium)

- Since 1997
- <http://www.genomel.org/>
- Mission to develop and support collaboration between member groups to:
 - Identify melanoma susceptibility genes
 - Evaluate genes-environment interactions
 - Assess the risk of melanoma and other cancers related to variations in these genes

CLINICAL PRESENTATION AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF MELANOMA

- Epiluminent dermatoscopy
 - estimate changes from the surface down to the D-E junction
 - many pros but also some contras
- EL is an important support but not a substitute in the clinical diagnosis of melanoma

MELANOMA DEVELOPEMENT RISK FACTORS



- genetics
- numerous melanocytic nevi
- dysplastic melanocytic nevi
- congenital nevi (> 1,5 cm)
- phototype 1 and 2
- excessive UV insulation exposure

MELANOMA DEVELOPMENT



- DE NOVO – 50%
- MELANOCYTIC NEVUS – 25%
- LENTIGO MALIGNA - 10-15%
- KONGENITAL MELAN. NEVUS – 5 – 10%

Malignant melanoma

- malignant tumor of melanocytes

Progression of malignant melanoma

- radial growth phase (non-tumorigenic melanoma)
 - radial expansion through epidermis (melanoma in situ)
 - migration of melanoma cells into dermis, but showing no proliferation (microinvasive melanoma)
- vertical growth phase (tumorigenic melanoma)
 - new clone of melanoma cells in the dermis, which have the ability to survive and proliferate
 - dermal nodule larger than any epidermal nest
 - mitoses in the dermal component

MM – histologic types

- superficial spreading melanoma
- lentigo maligna / lentigo maligna melanoma
- acral-lentiginous melanoma
- nodular melanoma

- other rare types

Role of Imaging in MM

- **Primary staging of the disease**
 - **US of the primary lesion**
 - US of regional lymph nodes(LN)
- Follow - up
- Relaps

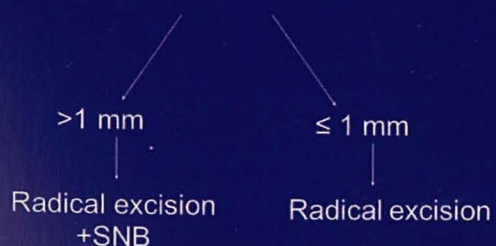
US of primary MM

- Dermatology - special US with 20 MHz probe
- US with linear probe 12-15 MHz ??

L. Serrone, Mel.Res 2002

US – primary MM

- Before surgery
- US of primary MM (12 – 15 MHz)



Sentinel lymph node biopsy (SNB)

Indicated in patients with primary MM

- > 1mm
- thinner < 1 mm:
 - Clark IV/V
 - ulceration

Preoperative evaluation of regional lymph nodes

- **US**
- CT
- MRI
- PET-CT

Wagner JD. Cancer 2003

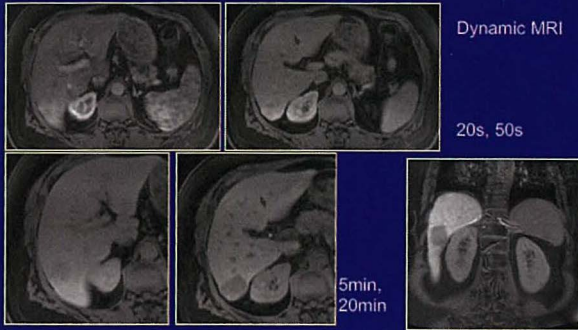
SNB - US

- Metastases < 2 - 4 mm not visible by US
- 10% of patients can be spared one surgical procedure

Rossi et al. J Am Surg Oncol 2003

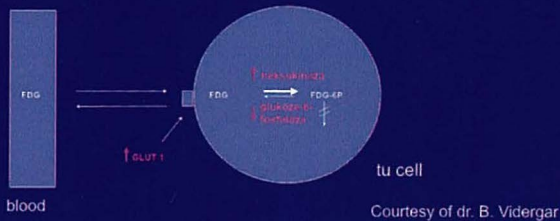
Sitari E. Am Surg Oncol. 2005

Relaps of MM - imaging



PET/CT

- 18- FDG (increased uptake of flour deoxi glucose in malignant tumors)



PET/CT

False positive uptake:

- after biopsy or operation (healing)
- after irradiation and/or chemotherapy
- growth factors (bone marrow and spleen uptake).
- benign lesions (goiter, parath-, thyroid adenoma, gynecomastia, polyps, leiomyoma)
- physiological conditions
- artefacts



Courtesy of dr. B. Vidergar

Source	No. of cases	Cutaneous (%)	Ocular(%)
Pemberton 1853	23	61	39
Coley and Hoguet 1916	79	86	12
Brodens and McCarty 1916	70	94	6
Goke 1928	43	77	23
Gleave 1929	40	55	45
US National Cancer Data Base(1985-94)	77 370	94	6

Till 1980 rare disease in Western world (~ 1% all cancers).
 Incidence in Slovenia is growing, doubling time 6 to 10 years.
 Incidence in Slovenia is growing more in females than in males.

In 1988 incidence for men was 5.3, and for women 4.7 (per 100,000) with peak in middle ages. In 1999 incidence for men was 11 and in women 13. In 1988 there were 50 new cases in men and 47 in women; in 1999 was 106 new cases in men and 134 in women.

05/21/22

Prognostic Factors Analysis of 17,600 Melanoma Patients: Validation of the American Joint Committee on Melanoma Staging System

Charles M. Balch, Seng-Jaw Soong, Jeffrey E. Gershenwald, John F. Thompson, Douglas S. Rainigan, Marshall Urist, Kelly M. McMasters, Merrick I. Ross, John M. Kirkwood, Michael B. Atkins, John A. Zager, Daniel G. Coit, David Byrd, Renee Desmond, Yuting Zhong, Ping-Yu Liu, Gary H. Lyman, and Abe

Purpose: The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) recently proposed major revisions of the tumor-node-metastasis (TNM) categories and stage groupings for cutaneous melanoma. Thirteen cancer centers and their cooperative groups contributed staging and survival data from a total of 30,450 melanoma patients from 47 databases in order to validate this staging proposal.

Setting and Methods: There were 17,600 melanoma patients with complete clinical, histologic, and

following three independent factors: the number of metastatic nodes, whether the metastases were clinically occult or clinical, and the presence or absence of primary and (3) in the M category, nonvisceral metastases. A marked diversity in the history of pathologic stage III melanoma was associated with a better survival for patients with visceral metastases. A marked diversity in the history of pathologic stage III melanoma was associated with a better survival for patients with visceral metastases. A marked diversity in the history of pathologic stage III melanoma was associated with a better survival for patients with visceral metastases.

Prognostic Factors for Primary Melanoma Patients Staged after Node Dissection

Variable	P	Risk Ratio	95% CI
Nodal status	<0.00001	2.239	1.913-2.621
Ulceration	<0.00001	1.938	1.674-2.242
Thickness	<0.00001	1.583	1.433-1.749
Site	<0.00001	1.483	1.281-1.716
Age	0.0002	1.095	1.044-1.147
Level of invasion	0.9082	1.007	0.886-1.131
Sex	0.1705	0.900	0.774-1.046

Balch CM, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2001;19:3622-3634

AJCC Staging Criteria: T Stage (Node Negative)

Variable	χ^2
Thickness*	15.1
Ulceration*	15.1
Age	15.1
Site	15.1
Level	15.1
Gender	15.1

Balch CM, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2001;19:3622-3634.
 American Joint Committee on Cancer. Melanoma.
 In: Greene FL, et al, eds. AJCC Cancer Staging Manual.
 6th ed. New York, NY: Springer, 2002:309-317.

AJCC Staging Criteria: T Stage

Depth	Ulceration	
	-	+
<1.0 mm	95%	91%
1.01-2.0 mm	89%	77%
2.01-4.0 mm	78%	63%
>4.0 mm	67%	45%

*10-year survival rates (9-15% less in each category)

Balch CM, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2001;19:3622-3648.

Prognostic Value of the Number of Positive Nodes

- Significant predictor of outcome in patients with regional metastases
- Risk groups are best divided into
 - 1 positive node
 - 2 to 3 positive nodes
 - 4+ positive nodes

Estlin CM, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2001;19:3627-3634.

5-Year Survival by Node Class

+ Nodes	Microscopic	Macroscopic
1	61%	46%
2	56%	37%
3	56%	27%
4	36%	24%
>4	35%	24%

Estlin CM, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2001;19:3627-3634.

2002 AJCC Melanoma Staging System: N Classification

	Number	Type	Stage*
N1	1	a micro	IIIA/B
		b macro	IIIB/C
N2	2-3	a micro	IIIA/B
		b macro	IIIB/C
		c in-transit or satellite, no + nodes	IIIB
N3	4+ and/or matted, in-transit, satellite or ulceration		IIIC

*For those without ulceration

Estlin CM, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2001;19:3627-3634.

2002 AJCC Pathologic Stage Groupings for

Stage	T	N	M
IIIA	T1-4a	N1a	0
	T1-4a	N2a	0
B	T1-4b	N1a	0
	T1-4b	N2a	0
	T1-4a	N1b	0
	T1-4a	N2b	0
C	T1-4a/b	N2c	0
	T1-4b	N1b	0
	T1-4b	N2b	0
	Any	N3	0
IV	Any	Any	M1

2002 AJCC Melanoma Stage Groupings

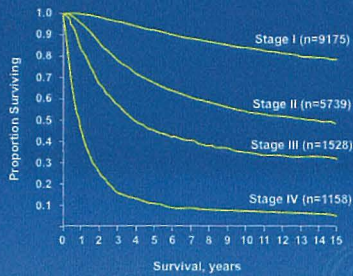
Stage	TNM Classification	Description	5-Year Survival Rates
IA	T1a N0M0	T ≤1.0 mm, no ulceration (Clark level I/III)	95%
IB	T1b N0M0	T ≤1.0 mm, ulceration or Clark level IV/V	91%
	T2a N0M0	T 1.01-2.0 mm, no ulceration	89%
IIA	T2b N0M0	T 1.01-2.0 mm, ulceration	77%
	T3a N0M0	T 2.01-4.0 mm, no ulceration	75%
IIB	T3b N0M0	T 2.01-4.0 mm, ulceration	63%
	T4a N0M0	T >4.0 mm, no ulceration	67%
IIC	T4b N0M0	T >4.0 mm, ulceration	45%

2002 AJCC Melanoma Stage Groupings

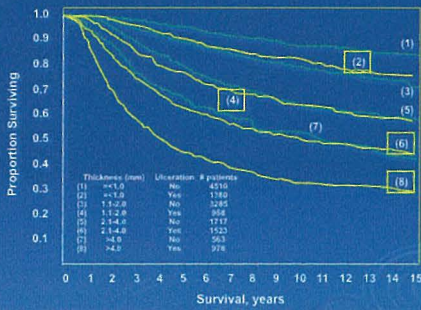
Stage	TNM Classification	Description	5-Year Survival Rates
IIIA	AnyT1a M0	1 micro node, no ulceration	69%
	AnyT2a M0	2-3 micro nodes, no ulceration	63%
IIIB	AnyT1a M0	1 micro node, ulceration	53%
	AnyT2a M0	2-3 micro nodes, ulceration	50%
	AnyT1b M0	1 macro node, no ulceration	59%
	AnyT2b M0	2-3 macro nodes, no ulceration	46%
IIIC	AnyT1b M0	1 macro node, ulceration	29%
	AnyT2b M0	2-3 macro nodes, ulceration	24%
	AnyT1c M0	≥4 nodes, matted nodes or nodes + in-transit metastasis	27%
IV	AnyTAnyN M1a	Distant skln, subcutaneous, or node metastasis	19%
	AnyTAnyM1b	Lung metastasis	7%
	AnyTAnyN M1c	Any visceral metastasis or elevated LDH ^a with metastasis	10%



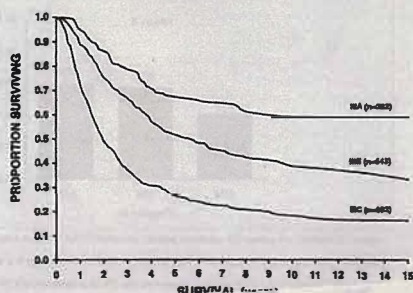
Cutaneous Melanoma: 15-Year Survival by Stage



15-Year Survival Stratified by Tumor Thickness and Ulceration*



An Evidence-based Staging System



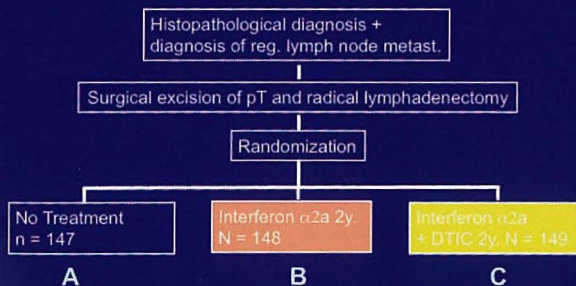
„Low dose“ interferon trials in stage II melanoma

	AJCC stage	Pat. (n)	Therapy schedule	DFS	OS	Follow up
Grob	IIA, B	499	IFN- α 2a 3x3 Mill IE s.c. 18 months vs. observation	.035	.059	5 years
Pehamberger	IIA, B	311	IFN- α 2a 3x3 Mill IE s.c. 18 months vs. observation	0.02	+	3 years

Low-dose interferon studies stage III malignant melanoma

Collaborating group	AJCC stage	Patients (n)	Therapy and dose	DFS	OS	median follow up
EORTC 18871	IIA, B, III	800	IFN- α 2a 1MIU s.c. daily over 2 years vs. g-IFN 0.2 mg daily vs. observation	-	-	7 years
Cascinelli	III	444	IFN- α 2a 3MIU s.c. over 2 years vs. observation	-	-	3 years
Scotisch	II, III	95	IFN- α 2a 3MIU s.c. over 2 years vs. observation	-	-	2 years
ECOG 1690	II, III	642	HDI vs. IFN- α 2b 3 MIU s.c. over 2 years vs. observation	-	-	3 years
DeCOG	III	470	-IFN- α 2a 3 MIU s.c 2 years + DTIC 850 mg/m ² i.v 2 years -IFN- α 2a 3 MIU s.c 2 years vs. -observation	-	+	4 years
UK-MCG	III	654	IFN 3 MIU s.c. 2 years vs. observation	-	-	3 years

ADO-ADJ1

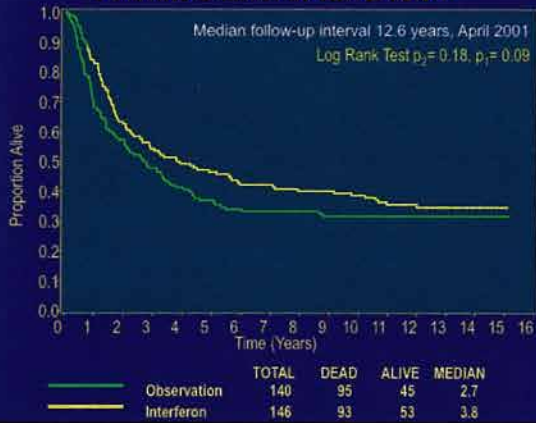


Interferon alpha 2a 3 MIU SC 3x/wk x 24 mo vs.
Interferon alpha 2a 3 MIU SC 3x/wk + DTIC 850 mg/m² x 24 mo

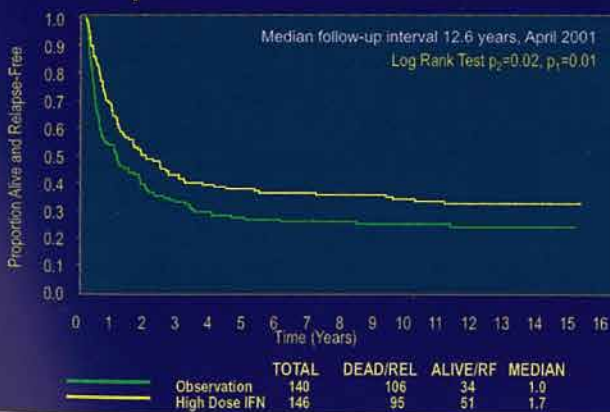
Interferon "high dose" in stage III melanoma

	Rezidivfreies Überleben	gesamt Überleben
ECOG 1684	P = 0.004	P=0.04
ECOG 1690	P=0.054	P=0.995
ECOG 1694	P=0.0007	P=0.035

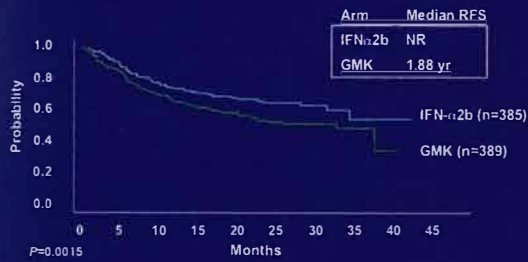
Overall Survival for E1684



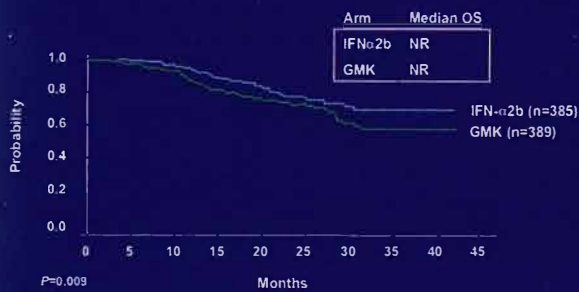
Relapse-Free Survival for E1684



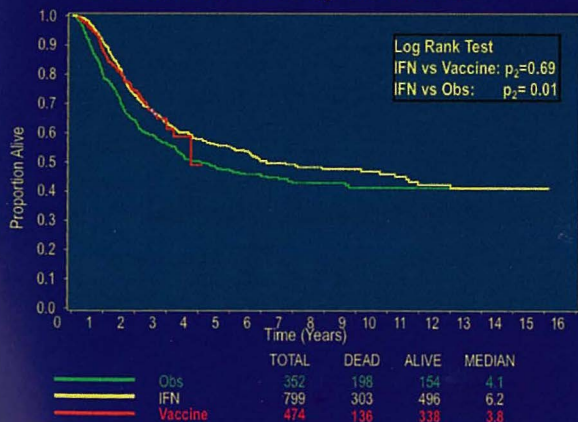
E1694: Relapse-Free Survival by Treatment Group



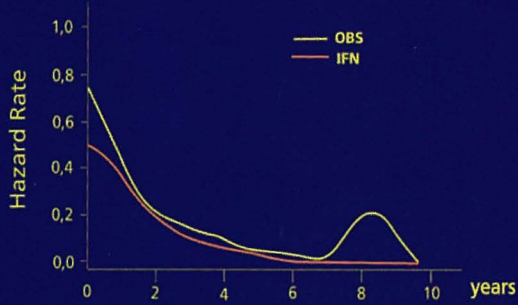
E1694: Overall Survival by Treatment Group



Overall Survival by Treatment



The hazard analysis of the high dose therapy shows a positive effect within the first 3 months

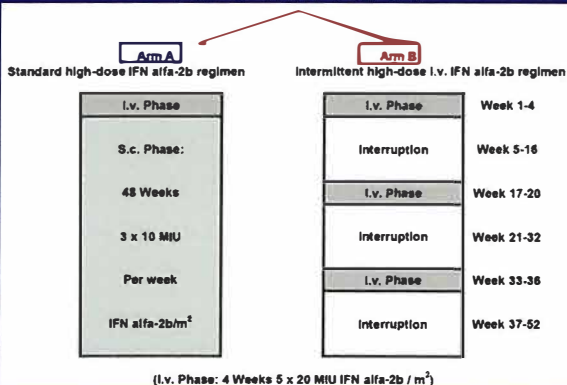


ECOG 1697 in stage IIb, IIc, IIIa melanoma

- IFN- $\alpha 2\alpha$: (Induktion ECOG 1684) 20 Mill I.E./m² 5x/w i.v. 4w versus
- Observation

coordinator: ECOG / USA
pat. (n): 1420

ADO MM-ADJ5



Interim-Analysis High-Dose Interferon DeCOG MM-ADJ-5

Early Termination

	Arm A (standard HDI)	Arm B (pulsed HDI)
Neutropenia	1 (0.5%)	0
Liver function	3 (1.6%)	3 (1.6%)
CK-elevation	0	2 (1.0%)
Fatigue/ Depression	17 (9.2%)	5 (2.6%)**
Other	27 (14.6%)	14 (7.3%)*

Interim Analysis High-Dose Interferon DeCOG MM-ADJ-5

Relapse free survival

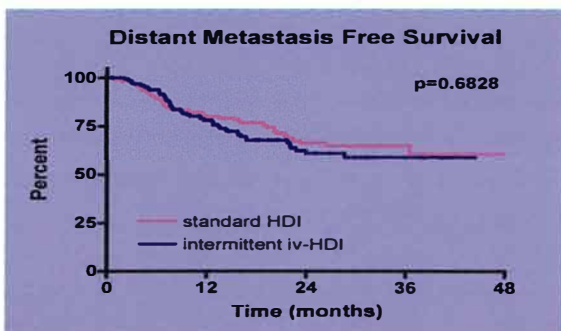
Arm A: 67 patients Arm B: 66 patients

68.1 % 67.7 % (p=0.75)

Median follow up:

72 weeks 67 weeks

Interim Analysis High-Dose Interferon DeCOG MM-ADJ-5



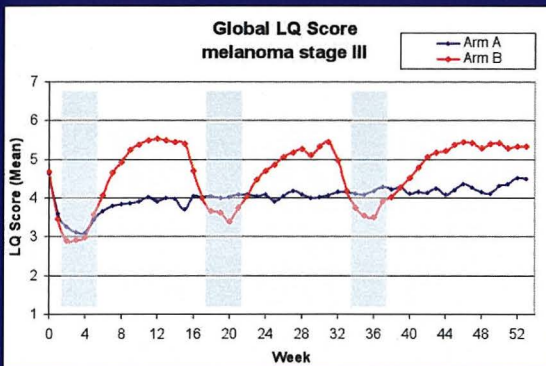


Interim Analysis High-Dose Interferon DeCOG MM-ADJ-5

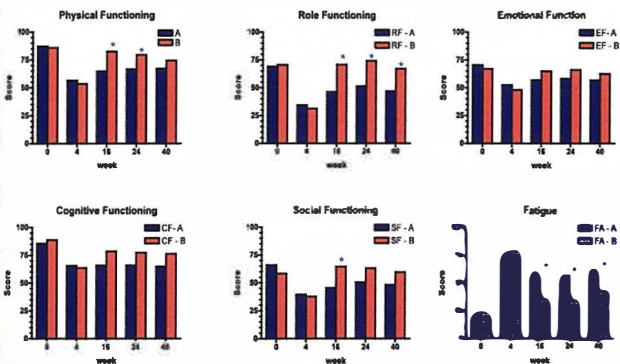
Treatment discontinuation

Treatment discontinuation due to adverse events
or impact on quality of life:

Arm A (standard)	Arm B (pulsed)	
48 (20.5 %)	24 (12.5 %)	(p = 0.01)



EORTC QLQ-C30 dimensions



Conclusion, Interim Analysis High-Dose Interferon, DeCOG MM-ADJ-5

- Toxicity: Less depression / fatigue in the pulsed i.v. arm
- No cumulative toxicity in the pulsed i.v. arm
- Less treatment discontinuation in the pulsed i.v. arm
12.5 % vs. 20.5 % ($p = 0.01$)
- No significant difference in DMFS, OS and RFS in 377 pat. after 101 events and follow up of 1.4 years
- A statement in regards of equivalence of both regimens can not be made yet

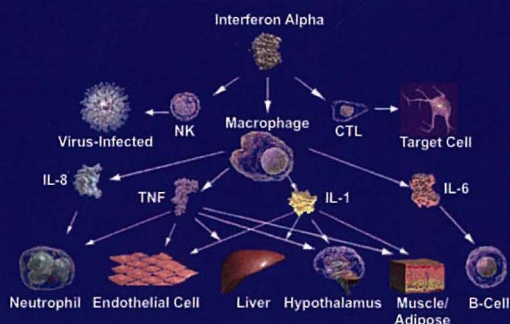
Interferon: Adverse Events

Profile of Toxicities

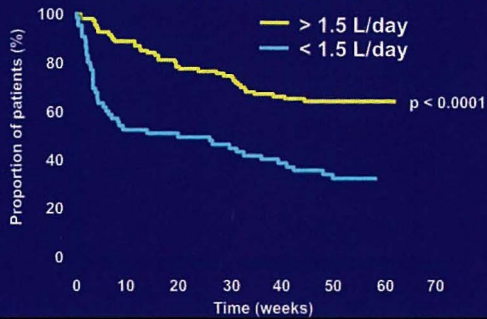


www.thebody.com/pw/images/interferon.gif

The Interferon Cascade



Fluid Intake > 1.5 L/day Prevents Early and Late Discontinuation



Neuro-Psychiatric Symptoms

- Irritability
- Cognitive disorders
- Disturbed sleep
- Depression
- Fear disorders
- Fatigue-syndrome

Psychiatric Side Effects

- 13 - 23% of all IFN α -treated patients
- Depression light : 56%
- medium : 19%
- serious : 25%
- suicide syndrome 6% of patients
- Cave : „personality disorders“

INTRODUCTION

XRT TODAY:

- Most effective non-surgical mode of therapy
- Locoregional treatment



**ITEGRAL PART OF
MULTIDISCIPLINARY
MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS
WITH MELANOMA**

INTRODUCTION

70s – INTEREST FOR XRT RENEWED:

- Modern (MV) radiotherapy devices and computer based systems for radiotherapy treatment planning
- Knowledge on radiobiology principles escalated
- Accumulation of clinical experiences



RADIOBIOLOGY

- Tumor volume – response to XRT (YES)
- Variability in intrinsic radiosensitivity to XRT (YES)
- XRT dose – response (YES)



RADIOBIOLOGY TUMOR VOLUME vs. RESPONSE

TABLE V
Relationship between mean tumour diameter and frequency complete response in tumours treated with an ETO dose between 106 and 122 Gy.

Mean diameter (mm)	Complete response: no. of tumours
<1.0	67 (86%) [*]
1.0-2.9	32 (41%)
3.0-4.9	7 (14%)
5.0-6.9	3 (6%)
≥ 10.0	0 (0%)

^{*} Statistically significant related to tumour size ($p < 0.001$).

Overgaard et al. *Radiation Oncol* 1994; 5: 183-92.

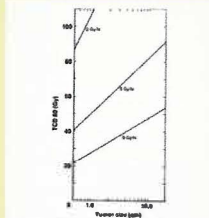


Fig. 4. Estimated total dose to ensure 90% of tumours (TCP₉₀) as a function of tumour size. Lines are given for 106, 112, 118 and 122 Gy. Note that even small tumours require very high dose levels to obtain a TCP of 90%.

Strojjan et al. *Radiation Oncol* 1999; 10: 169-82.

RADIOBIOLOGY INTRINSIC RADIOSENSITIVITY

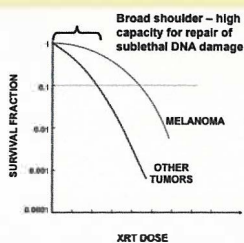
- Low α/β -ratio (but wide 95% CI) → large variations in radiosensitivity
- Role of glutathione, immunological response, issue oxygenation?

Clinical radiobiology of malignant melanoma
S.M. Bastian^{1,2}, J. Overgaard³, K. D. Therasse⁴, M. Overgaard⁵, P. Vignot⁶, S. V. Vignot⁷, and J. Strojjan⁸

INTRINSIC RADIOSENSITIVITY OF HUMAN CELL LINES IS CORRELATED WITH RADIOPROTECTIVE CAPACITY: ANALYSIS OF 100 PUBLISHED SURVIVAL CURVES
B. FRENK, PH.D. AND E. P. MALKIN, M.D., PH.D.
Lecturers in Radiotherapy (Frenk), F-100 Institute '87, Institut Catalana d'Oncologia, Vilanova i la Geltrú, Spain

Radiation Sensitivity in Fibro Primary Tumors and Metastatic Lesions of Malignant Melanoma¹
Einar K. Selstad¹
Institute for Cancer Research and the Norwegian Cancer Society, Norwegian Cancer Research, Oslo, Norway

RADIOBIOLOGY INTRINSIC RADIOSENSITIVITY



RADIOBIOLOGY TUMOR DOSE VS. RESPONSE

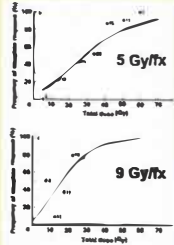


Fig. 4. Dose-response relationship in the 5 Gy/fx group (a) and in the 9 Gy/fx group (b) with correction for tumor size and (c) in the 5 Gy/fx group with correction for tumor size. The solid lines represent dose-response curves predicted from the analysis of the entire series. The strong interindividual effect of tumor size is illustrated by the 5 Gy/fx data where the dose-response relationship is better when an size correction is performed (a) but evokes after size correction (b).

Overgaard et al. *Radiat Oncol* 1986; 5: 183-92.

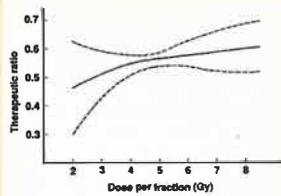


Fig. 8. Estimated therapeutic ratio as a function of fraction size (full line). The therapeutic ratio is the quotient between the (predicted) isoeffect dose for 50% probability of severe subcutaneous fibrosis and for 80% probability of complete tumor response. Stippled lines are the 95% confidence limits calculated by standard propagation of error techniques.

Roelcke et al. *Radiat Oncol* 1987; 14: 169-82.

RADIOBIOLOGY FRACTIONATION PATTERN

	RESPONSE TO XRT	
	<4Gy/odmerek	≥4 Gy/fx
Halberstadt, 1976	21%	92%
Overgaard, 1980	35%	81%
Harwood, 1981	25%	71%
Katz, 1981	27%	72%
Strauss, 1981	46%	81%
Doss, 1982	39%	67%
Overgaard, 1986	42%	86%
TOTAL	64/176 (36%)	254/309 (82%)
Bone metastases	73%	84%
Skin & lymph node metastases	49%	75%
Brain metastases	38%	50%
TOTAL	46/126 (37%)	403/630 (64%)

From: *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1991; 20: 429-32.
Friedl A, Peters LJ. *Ann Plast Surg* 1992; 28: 39-44.

RADIOBIOLOGY FRACTIONATION PATTERN

Are high doses/fx really advantageous???

➤ 1 randomized trial only: RTOG Trial 83-05

(Saito et al. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1991; 20: 429-32)

- XRT regimens (126 pts): 50 Gy/25 fx vs. 32 Gy/8 fx
- no difference in response rate (CR+PR = 60%)
- no data on duration of response

➤ Retro/prospective studies (on postoperative XRT):

STUDY	TU SITE	NO OF PTS	D/FX	RR
Corry, 1999	all	42	2 Gy	10%
Burmeister, 2006	all	234	2.4 Gy	6.8%
Chang, 2006	all	14	1.71-2 Gy	12%, no difference between the two groups
		41	6 Gy	

MUCOSAL MELANOMA



Treatment of choice: **SURGERY**
→ LRR ≈50%

XRT:

- seems to improve LC (particularly after nonradical resection)
- ±
- large primaries
- perineural invasion
- nasal cavity/paranasal sinuses primaries
- most effective treatment for unresectable disease
- role of elective nodal XRT = ?
- no influence on survival

Ballo M, Ang KK. Surg Clin N Am 2003; 3:33-42.
Mendenhall WM et al. Am J Clin Oncol 2005; 58: 626-30.
Krengli M et al. Crit Rev Oncol Hematol 2008; 65: 121-8.

INDICATIONS FOR XRT ADJUVANT/POSTOPERATIVE XRT

After surgery of primary tumor:
high risk for local recurrence after surgery alone

- close/positive resection margins
(re-operation not possible)
- early local recurrence
- multiple recurrent tumors
- H&N *desmoplastic* primaries
(when adequate surgical margins could not be achieved)
- H&N *mucosal* melanoma

INDICATIONS ADJUVANT/POSTOPERATIVE XRT

After surgery of regional lymphatic metastases

- Nonradical surgery
 - Extracapsular tumor extension
 - Diameter of involved node ≥ 3 cm
 - Multiple nodal involvement
- } RR $\leq 50\%$

Nodal basin recurrence rate: H&N >> axilla > groins

Lee RJ et al. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2000; 46: 467-74.



INDICATIONS

ADJUVANT/POSTOPERATIVE XRT

	SURGERY	SURGERY + XRT
HEAD & NECK mets	Browsher (1986), 33% Ebers (1986), 50% Singletary (1986), 15% Calabro (1988), 15% O'Brien (1992), 28% O'Brien (1997), 19% Shen (2000), 14%	Ang (1997), 5% O'Brien (1997), 7% Davis (2001), 14% Ballo (2003), 5%
AXILLARY mets	Browsher (1986), 13% Calabro (1989), 15%	Davis (2001), 8% Ballo (2002), 10%
INGUINAL mets	Browsher (1986), 9% Calabro (1989), 17%	Davis (2001), 8% Ballo (2004), 5%
ALL SITES	Karakousis (1980), 49% Monsour (1992), 52% Lee (2000), 36%	Corry (1999), 10% Stevens (2000), 11% Ballo (2004), 9% Brizman et al. (2008), 7%

27%

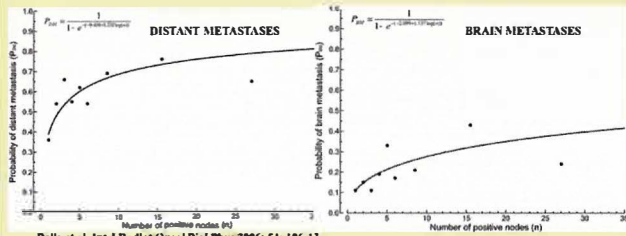
19%

19%

≈ 10%

Fife K, Thompson JF. *Lancet Oncol* 2001;2: 614-21.

WHEN to irradiate?



Ballo et al. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2006; 54: 106-13.

- 50-60% pts will develop distant metastases
- No survival benefit



INDICATIONS

ADJUVANT/POSTOPERATIVE XRT

TREATMENT OF RESIDUAL MICROSCOPIC DISEASE:

➤ After SNB,

- when surgery is not an option because of patient condition

(Bonnen et al. Cancer 2004; Ballo et al. Head Neck 2005)

➤ After technically inappropriate surgery (excision of clinically apparent nodal disease)

- additional, more extensive surgical procedure is needed which is not feasible or is refused by the patient

(Ballo et al. Head Neck 2005)

INDICATIONS

XRT AS A PART OF PALLIATIVE TREATMENT

WHEN?

➤ surgery:

- not possible (Inoperable metastases, poor general condition)
- ineffective (multiple mets, multiorgan mets)

WHAT?

- all sites of mets (cutaneous, lymphatic, bone, visceral...)

WHY?



to decrease disease related signs & symptoms

INDICATIONS FOR XRT

ADJUVANT/POSTOPERATIVE XRT

➤ CUTANEOUS – LYMPHATIC METASTASES

- ≤ 1 cm \rightarrow $>85\%$ CR Overgaard J et al. R&O 1986;5:183-92. Bentzen SM et al. R&O 1989;16:169-82.
- >5 cm \rightarrow $<30\%$ CR

➤ BRAIN METASTASES

- multiple: whole brain XRT + corticosteroids Urist M et al. Cancer 1983;51:2152-4.
 - \rightarrow prolongation of median survival for 1-2 mos
 - \rightarrow measurable \uparrow of performance status in 60-70% pts
- 1-3 mets, 2r <3 cm: stereotactic RS + whole brain XRT
 - \rightarrow local control - 90%
 - \rightarrow prevailing cause of death: mets outside of CNS
 - \rightarrow sporadic long lasting survival

Gaudy-Marqueste C et al. IJROBP 2006;65:309-16.

Available Therapy

- Stage IV disease continues to comprise an ominous prognosis
- Approaches to treatment have included
 - chemotherapy
 - biotherapy
 - immune adjuvants
 - cancer-specific vaccines
 - cytokines
 - monoclonal antibodies
 - isolated limb perfusion

Single Agent Therapy

Drug	RR
C ⁶ -alkylators	9 – 16 %
Platinum	0 – 15 %
Vinca alkaloids	12 – 26 %
Taxanes	13 – 16 %

Single Agent Therapy

- Dacarbazine
- is the only FDA and EMEA approved therapy for metastatic melanoma
 - RR 8-16%
 - TTP 4-6 months
 - No statistical survival benefit vs. BSC

Ipilimumab (CTLA4 Mob)

Phase II: ipilimumab vs. ipilimumab+ DTIC

CR	0%	6%
PR	9%	17%
SD	11%	11%
OS	11.2 mo	14.8 mo
PFS	2.7 mo	3.3 mo

Fischhoff, ASCO 2005, ABS 7525

Phase III study: DTIC vs. DTIC + ipilimumab – ongoing EORTC 18071

Elescomol (HS protein)

STA-4783 + paclitaxel vs. paclitaxel

Med PFS	3.68 mo	1.84 mo	p=.035
RR	15.1%	3.6%	

O'Day 2007

Axitinib (VEGFR inhibitor)

Phase II study, 32 pts (1 with prior treatment for metastatic melanoma)

ORR	15.6 mo
Med PFS	2.3 mo
Med OS	6.8 mo
Med OS subgr.	13.0 mo dBP>90 6.2 mo dBP<90

Fruehauf, JCO 2008, Abs 9006

Cutaneous Melanoma – Guidelines

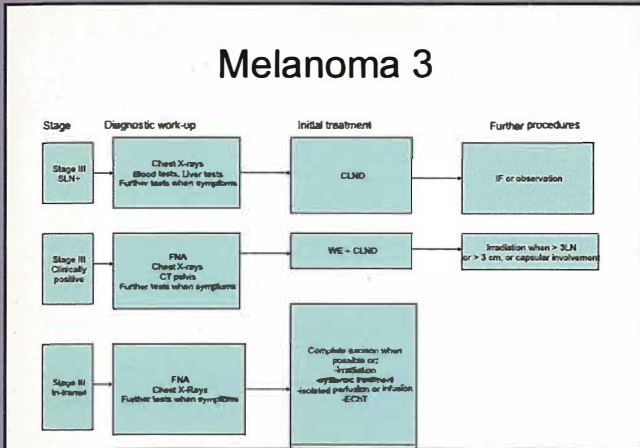
Marko Snoj

Stage I,II

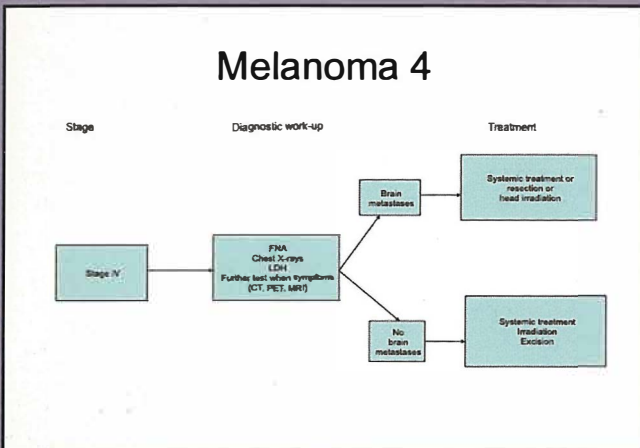
Stage	T	N	M
0	Tis	N0	M0
IA	T1a	N0	M0
IB	T1b	N0	M0
	T2a	N0	M0
IIA	T2b	N0	M0
	T3a	N0	M0
IIB	T3b	N0	M0
	T4a	N0	M0

Stage	T	N	M
IIIA	T1-4a	N1a	M0
	T1-4a	N2a	M0
IIIB	T1-4b	N1a	M0
	T1-4b	N2a	M0
	T1-4a	N2b	M0
	T1-4a/b	N2c	M0
IIIC	T1-4b	N1b	M0
	T1-4b	N2b	M0
	T1-4	N3	M0
IV	T1-4	N1-3	M1a-c

Melanoma 3



Melanoma 4





INTRON® A IMA PREDNOST PRI ZDRAVLJENJU MELANOMA

Intron A 18 milijonov i.e., raztopina za injiciranje, večodmerni peresnik Intron A 30 milijonov i.e., raztopina za injiciranje, večodmerni peresnik Intron A 60 milijonov i.e., raztopina za injiciranje, večodmerni peresnik. Kakovostna in količinska sestava Vsak vložek zdravila Intron A raztopina 18 MIE za injiciranje, večodmerni peresnik, vsebuje 15 milijonov i.e. žni (6 odmerkov po 3 milijoni i.e. ali 12 odmerkov po 15 milijona i.e. za skupno količino 18 milijonov i.e.) rekombinantnega interferona alfa-2b. Vsak vložek zdravila Intron A raztopina 30 MIE za injiciranje, večodmerni peresnik, vsebuje 25 milijonov i.e. žni (6 odmerkov po 5 milijonov i.e. ali 12 odmerkov po 2,5 milijona i.e. za skupno količino 30 milijonov i.e.) rekombinantnega interferona alfa-2b. Vsak vložek zdravila Intron A raztopina 60 za injiciranje, večodmerni peresnik, vsebuje 50 milijonov i.e. žni (6 odmerkov po 10 milijonov i.e. ali 12 odmerkov po 5 milijonov i.e. za skupno količino 60 milijonov i.e.) rekombinantnega interferona alfa-2b. Seznam pomožnih snovi natrijev dihidrogenfosfat dihidrat, natrijev dihidrogenfosfat, dinatrijev edetat, natrijev klorid, meta-krezol, polisorbat 80, voda za injekcije q.s. Volumen raztopine, ki jo je mogoče injicirati s peresnikom = 1,2 ml (v peresniku je nekaj več raztopine, da zagotovimo, da iz peresnika injicirani volumen natančno ustreza odmerku. Terapevtske indikacije Kronični hepatitis B, Kronični hepatitis C, Dlakastocelčna levkemija, Kronična mielocelna levkemija, Multipli mielom, Folikularni limfom, Karcinoidni tumor, Maligni melanom. Odmerjanje in način uporabe Večodmerna pakiranja so namenjena le za posamezne bolnike. Zdravljenje mora uvesti zdravnik z izkušnjami iz zdravljenja bolnikov s boleznimi. Maligni melanom. Za uvedbo terapije dajte bolniku interferon alfa-2b intravensko v odmerku 20 milijonov i.e. žni na dan 5 dni na teden v času 4 tednov. Izračunani odmerki interferona alfa-2b dodajte 0,9 % raztopini natrijevega klorida in ga dajte bolniku v 20-minutni infuziji. Za vzdrževalno zdravljenje je priporočeni odmerki 10 milijonov i.e. žni, dan subkutano 3 dni na teden (vsak drugi dan) v času 48 tednov. Če se med zdravljenjem z interferonom alfa-2b pojavijo hudi neželeni dogodki, še posebej če število granulocitov pade na $< 500/\text{mm}^3$ ali če vrednost ALT/AST naraste na > 5 -kratno zgornjo mejo normale, začasno prekinite zdravljenje, dokler se neželeni dogodek ne ublaži. Zdravljenje z interferonom alfa-2b ponovno uvedite z le 50 % prejšnjega odmerka. Če je intolerance trdovratna tudi po prilagoditvi odmerka ali če število granulocitov upade na $< 250/\text{mm}^3$ ali se vrednost ALT/AST zviša na > 10 -kratno zgornjo mejo normale, prekinite terapijo z interferonom alfa-2b. Četudi optimalni (minimalni) odmerki za doseganje polnega kliničnega učinka ni znani, morate bolnike zdraviti s priporočenimi odmerki, opisanim z zmanjšanjem odmerka v primeru toksičnosti. Kontraindikacije Preobčutljivost za zdravilno učinkovino ali katerokoli pomožno snov. Anamneza hude obstoječe srčnebolezni, npr. nekontrolirano kongestivno srčno popuščanje, nedavni miokardni infarkt, huda aritmija, Huda ledvična ali jetrna insuficienca, vključno z insuficienco, ki nastane kot posledica metastaz, epilepsija in/ali moteno delovanje osrednjega živčevja. Kronični hepatitis z dekompenzirano jetrno cirozo, Kronični hepatitis pri bolnikih, ki se zdravijo ali so se nedavno zdravili z imunosupresivi, razen kratkotrajne ukinitve kortikosteroidov, Avtoimunske hepatitis ali avtoimunska bolezen v pretekli anamnezi, imunosuprimirani bolniki po transplantaciji. Obstoječa bolezen ščitnice, razen če jo je mogoče nadzirati s konvencionalno terapijo. Otroci in mladostniki. Obstoječa huda duševna bolezen ali huda duševna bolezen v pretekli anamnezi, še posebej huda depresija, samomorilne misli ali poskus samomora. Posebna opozorila In previdnostni ukrepi Za vse bolnike Redko so med terapijo z zdravilom Intron A opažali akutne preobčutljivostne reakcije na interferon alfa-2b (npr. urtikarijo, angioedem, bronhokonstrikcijo, anafilaktične reakcije). Če se takšna reakcija razvije, prekinite zdravljenje in uvedite ustrezno medikamentozno terapijo. Pri prehodnem izpuščaju ni potrebna prekinitve zdravljenja. Pri zmernih do hudih neželenih pojavih je lahko potrebna prilagoditev režima odmerjanja, v nekaterih primerih pa tudi prekinitve terapije z zdravilom Intron A. Vse bolnike, pri katerih se med zdravljenjem z zdravilom Intron A pojavijo motnje delovanja jeter, morate natančno spremljati in zdravljenje prekiniti, če se znaki in simptomi slabšajo. Med terapijo z zdravilom Intron A ali do dva dni po prenehanju terapije lahko nastopi hipotenzija, zaradi katere je lahko potrebna podpora terapija. Pri bolnikih na terapiji z zdravilom Intron A morate vzdrževati ustrezno hidracijo, saj so pri nekaterih bolnikih opažali hipotenzijo zaradi izgube tekočine. V tem primeru je lahko potrebno nadomeščanje tekočine. Četudi je zvišana telesna temperatura lahko povezana z gripoznim sindromom, ki je pogost med zdravljenjem z interferonom, morate najprej izključiti druge vzroke za trdovratno zvišanje telesne temperature. Zdravilo Intron A morate uporabljati previdno pri bolnikih z izbrpučnimi boleznimi in motnjami, npr. pri tistih s pljučno boleznijo v anamnezi (npr. kronična obstruktivna pljučna bolezen) ali sladkorna bolezen z nagnjenostjo h ketoacidozi. Previdnost je potrebna tudi pri bolnikih z motnjami koagulacije (npr. tromboflebitisom, pljučno embolijo) ali hudo mielosupresijo. Pri bolnikih, zdravljenih z interferonom alfa, vključno s tistimi, ki so zdravljeni z zdravilom Intron A, so redko opažali pljučne infiltrate, pnevmonitis in pljučnico, ki so občasno vodili čeli do smrti bolnika. Etiologija teh motenj ni bila ugotovljena. O teh simptomih so poročali pogosteje pri sočasni uporabi kitajskega zeljsnega pripravka shosai-koto in interferona alfa. Pri vseh bolnikih, ki dobio zvišano telesno temperaturo, kašelj, dispnejo ali kakšne druge simptome dihal, morate opraviti rentgensko slikanje prsnega koša. Če rentgenogram pokaže pljučne infiltrate ali znake motenosti pljučne funkcije, morate bolnika skrbno nadzorovati in po potrebi ukiniti interferon alfa. Četudi so o tem pojavu poročali pogosteje pri bolnikih s kroničnim hepatitisom C, zdravljenih z interferonom alfa, so ga opažali tudi pri tistih z malignimi boleznimi, zdravljenimi z interferonom alfa. Videti je, da pljučni neželeni pojavi minejo ob takojšnji ukinitvi interferona alfa in zdravljenju s kortikosteroidi. V redkih primerih so po zdravljenju z alfa interferoni poročali o očesnih neželenih dogodkih, npr. krvavitvah v mrežnico, bombažu podobnih lisah in zamášitvi mrežnične arterije ali vene. Pri vseh bolnikih je potreben oftalmološki pregled na začetku zdravljenja. Vsi bolniki, ki tožijo o spremembah ostrine vida ali vidnega polja ali ki imajo druge oftalmološke simptome med zdravljenjem z zdravilom Intron A, morajo biti takoj poslani na celoten oftalmološki pregled. Med zdravljenjem z zdravilom Intron A priporočamo redne preglede vida, še posebej pri tistih z boleznimi, ki so lahko povezane z retinopatijo, npr. sladkorna bolezen ali hipertenzija. Pri bolnikih, pri katerih se pojavijo nove oftalmološke motnje ali se obstoječe poslabšajo, premislite o prekinitvi zdravljenja z zdravilom Intron A. Medsebojno delovanje z drugimi zdravili in druge oblike interakcij Narkotike, hipnotike ali sedative morate uporabljati previdno pri sočasni uporabi z zdravilom Intron A. Interakcij med zdravilom Intron A in drugimi zdravili še niso v celoti ovrednotili. Pri sočasni uporabi zdravila Intron A in drugih potencialno mielosupresivnih snovi priporočamo previdnost. Interferoni lahko vplivajo na oksidativne presnovne procese, kar morate upoštevati med sočasno terapijo z zdravili, ki se presnovijo po tej poti, npr. s ksantinskim derivatom teofilinom in aminofilinom. Nosečnost in dojenje Za interferon alfa-2b ni kliničnih podatkov o vplivih na nosečnost. Vpliv na sposobnost vožnje in upravljanja s stroji Bolnike počite, da bodo lahko med zdravljenjem z zdravilom Intron A utrujeni, zaspani ali zmedeni, zato je priporočljivo, da se izogibajo vožnji ali delu s stroji. Rok uporabnosti 15 mesecev. Med uporabo je zdravilo kemično in fizikalno stabilno 27 dni pri temperaturi med 2 in 8 °C. Z mikrobiološkega stališča lahko zdravilo po odpiranju shranjujete največ 27 dni pri temperaturi med 2 in 8 °C. Za čas shranjevanja in druge pogoje shranjevanja med uporabo je odgovoren uporabnik. Posebna navodila za shranjevanje Shranjujte v hladilniku (2 °C - 8 °C). Ne zamrzujte. Imetnik dovoljenja za promet SP Europe 73, rue de Stalle 1180 Bruxelles Belgija. Način in režim izdaje zdravila Izdaja zdravila je le na recept. Datum priprave informacije oktober 2008. Popolno informacijo o tem zdravilu dobite na predstavištvu Schering-Plough CE AG, Dunajska 22, 1000 Ljubljana, tel: 01 300 10 70, fax: 01 300 10 80