

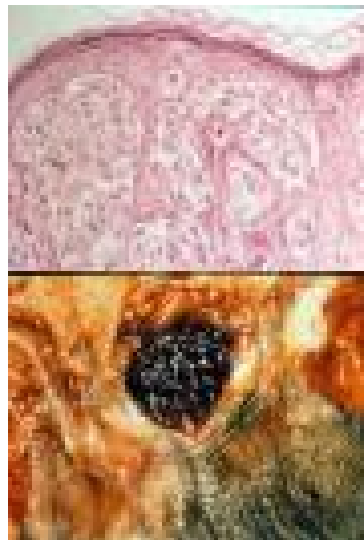
## ANAL MELANOMA

### Incidence

- Less than 1% of all melanomas, less than 1% of anal malignancies
- Third most common site of melanomas (skin , eye)

### Description

- Most often misdiagnosed as a hemorrhoid
  - Soft, painful, itchy, bleeding mass
  - Will reduce in size spontaneously or manually, or dilate during valsalva
  - 50% of adult population has hemorrhoids
- Key differences
  - No change in size
  - Does not respond to medical treatment
- Polypoid, pigmented; may appear as a thrombosed hemorrhoid
- Most arise near dentate line
- Stain for HMB-453



### Patients with Anorectal Melanoma

- At presentation, 26% of patients have distant metastases
- Average age: F (71) M (57)
  - Dramatic increase in young men in SF area (link to HIV/anal sex?)
- Main determinants of survivability are depth of invasion (as in all melanomas) and stage at diagnosis
  - Metastases – rich vascular supply and lymphatics
    - Sentinel nodes – mesenteric (rarer to inguinal)
    - Distant sites – bone, liver, lung

## Diagnosis

- High index of suspicion
- Rectal exams yearly
- Rigid scope
- Endorectal ultrasound
  - Accuracy in evaluating depth: 81-94%
  - Accuracy in evaluating lymph node metastases: 58-80%

## Treatment Options

- Until 20 years ago, APR was only option. Wide local excisions gained in popularity
  - APR – large morbidity associated with surgery
  - Mortality so high for anal melanoma (10-26% 5 yr survival at best)
    - Median survivability 12 -18 months
  - Still useful if circumferential, salvage or if involving the sphincter
- Wide local excision had gained in popularity
  - Decreased morbidity
  - Numerous retrospective studies →no difference in 5 yr in APR vs. WLE
  - 1-2 cm gross margin
- Sentinel node dissection
  - Regional recurrence
    - APR – 27%
    - WLE – 25%
- Adjuvant therapy
  - No consensus
  - Chemotherapy
    - Dacarbazine (20% response for 3-5 months)
    - Dacarbazine plus tamoxifen (50% response)
    - Interferon alpha?
    - Radiation?
    - Vaccines?

## Our best hope....early diagnosis

One study showed if depth of tumor was < 2 mm they were disease free at follow-up as opposed to those > 2 mm who all had recurrence (local, regional or distant).

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