



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

## A DELAYED DIAGNOSIS OF MELANOMA IN A FIVE YEARS OLD CHILD

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**Introduction:** Melanoma is a skin cancer developed from melanocytes. It is extremely rare in pediatric population.

**Observation:** A 5 years old boy is seen at the Dermatology departement of Befelatanana hospital for a pigmented lesion located at his righth foot sole. The disease begun, two month before the consultation, with a punctiform pigmented bump which increase gradually by size. The lesion didn't itch, and was unpainful. The patient was seen by several private doctors before, without an accurate diagnosis. He didn't have risk factors of skin cancer. The first skin examination showed a nodular pigmented lesion at the right sole, 8 mm in diameter, with an irregular edge, an almost uniform colour, a rough surface, no bleeding. There was non-inflammatories inguinal lymph nodes. A Nodular melanoma was suspected. The biology showed an elevated sedimentation rate. Imagings for staging didn't find abnormalities. The histology of the lesion obtained by excisional biopsy confirmed the diagnosis.

**Conclusion:** Melanoma in children is exceptionnal and the incidence increases with age. It accounts for 1 to 3% of all pediatric cancers. We report a case of delayed diagnosis due probably to the misconception of private practice physicians that this disease is not seen in children. Thus, all suspects pigmented bump which increase gradually by size even in children must be reffered to a Dermatologist with the aim of not missing the diagnosis of melanoma.

**Keywords:** Melanoma, child, delayed diagnosis

