

MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

CUTANEOUS MELANOMA: FACTORS OF MORTALITY AND OCCURRENCE OF METASTASIS

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Introduction: In Africa and the Maghreb, melanomas are rare , but often thick nodular or acrolentiginous type with early lymph node metastasis. This study was conducted to determine the predictors of mortality and metastasis in patients with melanoma.

Materiels and Methods: A retrospective study was performed on all cases of cutaneous melanoma between January 2006 and December 2016 in the dermatological department of Ibn Rochd Hospital in Casablanca.

The events studied were the factors of mortality and the occurrence of metastasis. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 16.0 software.

Results: Eighty-five patients were included. Thirty five were women and 50 were men. The average age was 58.6 [16-96]. The lower extremities were the most frequently affected site (60.7%) with 45.2% at the plantar site. Breslow averaged 10.9 mm [2-40] and 60.7% of patients had a breslow \geq 4 mm. The factors associated with mortality during follow-up were regional lymph node metastasis: 68.4% of patients who had lymph node metastasis died versus 38% of those who did not ($p = 0.035$) . Also 62% of patients who developed metastasis died compared to 15.4% in patients who didn' t have metastasis ($p = 0.001$). Factors associated with the occurrence of metastasis were Breslow thickness : metastasis at 1 year were found in 67.5% of patients with a Breslow \geq 4mm versus 7.5% in those with Breslow <4mm.

Discussion: In this study, the significantly factors associated with mortality during follow up are the presence of regional lymph nodes at the time of diagnosis and distant metastasis. Breslow thickness was the major factor in the development of metastasis at one year, as in the literature. This study is limited by the low sampling and retrospectivity of the series, hence the interest of further studies.