



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

ONE STEP MELANOMA SURGERY - POSSIBLE MODEL FOR TREATING MELANOMA PATIENTS?

Georgi Tchernev⁽¹⁾ - Ivanka Temelkova⁽¹⁾

Medical Institute Of Ministry Of Interior, Mvr-sofia, Dermatology And Venereology, Sofia, Bulgaria⁽¹⁾

Background: With the newly described one step melanoma surgical approach, some patient groups could be successfully treated within one surgical session. Depending on the tumour thickness (measured preoperatively) at a later stage (also depending on the ultrasound findings of the locoregional lymph nodes) the respective surgical intervention is planned with the respective field of surgical safety (one-stage melanoma surgery with or without removal of lymph nodes).

Observation: We present a patient treated with the one-step melanoma surgery method with perfect final results. The preoperative tumour thickness determined via ultrasound and the postoperatively measured histological tumour thickness was identical: between 0.98 and 1 mm, which allowed removal of the melanoma lesion with a field of surgical security of 1 cm in all directions and did not require additional removal of a draining lymph node or excisions.

Key message: Thanks to this new approach, some patients could avoid one surgical intervention, which could be interpreted as a significant advantage or probably also survival benefit. This methodology and its successful application were first officialised by the representatives of the Bulgarian Society for Dermatologic Surgery- (BULSDS), and the purpose of this action, in general, is to fully improve clinical management of patients suffering from cutaneous melanoma in terms of compactness by 1) reducing the number of unnecessary surgeries or the number of surgical interventions in general; 2) reducing side effects occurring in surgeries and 3) introducing a serious optimization in terms of financial resources needed or used in the second hospitalization of patients. The question remains open whether the accepted or the current recommendations for surgical treatment of melanoma will be transformed or adapted for the matching patient groups.

