



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

SMALL-DIAMETER MELANOMAS: CLINICAL AND HISTOPATHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS IN LATIN AMERICAN POPULATION.

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Introduction: Cutaneous melanoma is among malignancies with the highest increase in incidence in recent years. A major prognostic factor is depth of invasion and its early detection is crucial. Traditionally, mass education strategies highlight the importance of injuries over 6 mm. However, new diagnostic strategies make it possible to detect smaller lesions each time.

Objective: To characterize clinical and histopathological aspects of small-diameter melanomas (SM), in a Chilean university hospital.

Methodology: Retrospective, descriptive study in the Dermatology and Pathology services of the Clinical Hospital University of Chile. The total number of patients diagnosed with cutaneous melanoma, with a clinical diameter less than 6 mm, between 2002 and 2017 was included. Clinical characteristics were evaluated: sex, age, location, size (maximum clinical diameter), dermatoscopy and clinical diagnosis, as well as histopathological characteristics: diagnosis (melanoma in situ or invasive), Breslow index and ulceration. Data was reported using descriptive statistics methods.

Results: 20 patients, 15 women (75%), with an average age of 50.4 years (+15.1, range 28-79 years). Location: head and neck 5 (25%), upper extremities 2 (10%), trunk 4 (20%) and lower extremities 9 (45%). Average diameter of 3.7 mm. Clinical diagnosis: atypical nevus 9 (45%), melanoma 5 (25%), melanocytic nevus 5 (25%) and seborrheic keratosis 1 (5%). 12 lesions (60%) corresponded to one SM in situ and the remaining 8 to invasive SM, with Breslow between 250 and 3000 microns.

Conclusions: The present study is the first series of SM in Latin patients. We stand out the high number of invasive melanomas, including two cases in advanced stages, which corresponds to the need to improve strategies for early diagnosis. The data have dermatoscopic characteristics similar to larger lesions, so it is very important to use this tool in each pigmented lesion.

