

AJCC Staging Moments

AJCC TNM Staging 8th Edition

Melanoma Case #2



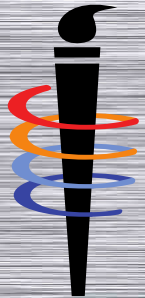
AJCC

American Joint Committee on Cancer

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Melanoma Case # 2

Presentation of New Case

- Newly diagnosed melanoma patient
- Presentation at Cancer Conference for treatment recommendations and clinical staging



Melanoma Case # 2

History & Physical

- 60 yr old female presented with 1cm x0.5cm pigmented skin lesion located on left calf of leg, no palpable inguinal or popliteal adenopathy, no evidence of in-transit or satellite disease
- No family history



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Marghoob A, Halpern A.
[Atlas of Cancer](#). Edited by
Maurie Markman, Ashfaq
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Melanoma Case # 2

Imaging Results

- No imaging



Melanoma Case # 2

Diagnostic Procedure

- Procedure
 - Excisional biopsy pigmented lesion left leg
- Pathology Report
 - 0.6mm (Breslow) tumor thickness (now reported in tenths of mm)
 - No ulceration
 - Superficial spreading melanoma
 - <1 mitosis/mm²
 - Extends to peripheral margin



Melanoma Case # 2

Clinical Staging

- Clinical staging
 - Uses information from the physical exam, imaging, and diagnostic biopsy including excision of primary tumor for melanoma
 - Excision of primary tumor includes shave bx, punch bx, incisional bx, excisional bx, or complete excisional bx (microstaging)
- Purpose
 - Select appropriate treatment
 - Estimate prognosis



Melanoma Case # 2

Clinical Staging

- Synopsis: patient with melanoma skin left leg, Breslow tumor thickness 0.6mm, no ulceration, <1 mitosis/mm², nodes clinically uninvolved
- What is the clinical stage?
 - T_____
 - N_____
 - M_____
 - Stage Group_____



Melanoma Case # 2

Clinical Staging

- Clinical Stage - correct answer
 - cT1a
 - cN0
 - cM0
 - Stage Group IA
- Treatment is selected based on stage
- Review treatment guidelines for this stage



Melanoma Case # 2

Clinical Staging

- Rationale for staging choices
 - cT1a for <0.8 mm in tumor thickness AND no ulceration
 - cN0 because nodes were clinically negative on physical exam*
 - cM0 because there were no signs or symptoms to suggest distant metastases*
- *Additional tests would likely be performed if evidence of regional or distant disease before developing a treatment plan



Melanoma Case # 2

Treatment Options

- Review treatment guidelines for this stage
- Discuss appropriate treatment plans for this patient



Melanoma Case # 2

Surgery & Findings

- **Surgery**
 - Wide excision melanoma of leg
 - 1 cm margin
- **Operative findings**
 - No contributory information



Melanoma Case # 2

Pathology Results

- Residual melanoma in situ
- Deep and peripheral margins negative



Melanoma Case # 2

Pathological Staging

- Pathological staging
 - Uses information from clinical staging, operative findings, and resected specimen pathology report
- Purpose
 - Additional precise data for estimating prognosis
 - Calculating end results (survival data)



Melanoma Case # 2

Pathological Staging

- Synopsis: patient with 0.6mm primary tumor thickness lesion and residual melanoma in situ
- What is the pathological stage?
 - T_____
 - N_____
 - M_____
 - Stage Group_____



Melanoma Case # 2

Pathological Staging

- Pathological Stage correct answer
 - pT1a
 - cN0
 - cM0
 - Stage Group IA
- Based on pathological stage, there is more information (compared to clinical staging) to estimate prognosis and to contribute to adjuvant treatment decision-making



Melanoma Case # 2

Pathological Staging

- Rationale for staging choices
 - pT1a for <0.8 mm in tumor thickness AND no ulceration
 - cN0 because nodes were clinically negative and pT1 patients do not require microscopic evaluation of their lymph nodes
 - cM0 – use clinical M with pathological staging unless there is microscopic confirmation of distant metastases



Prognostic Factors/Registry Data Collection

- Applicable to this case

- Measured tumor thickness: 0.6mm

- Ulceration: no

- Mitotic Rate: $<1/\text{mm}^2$

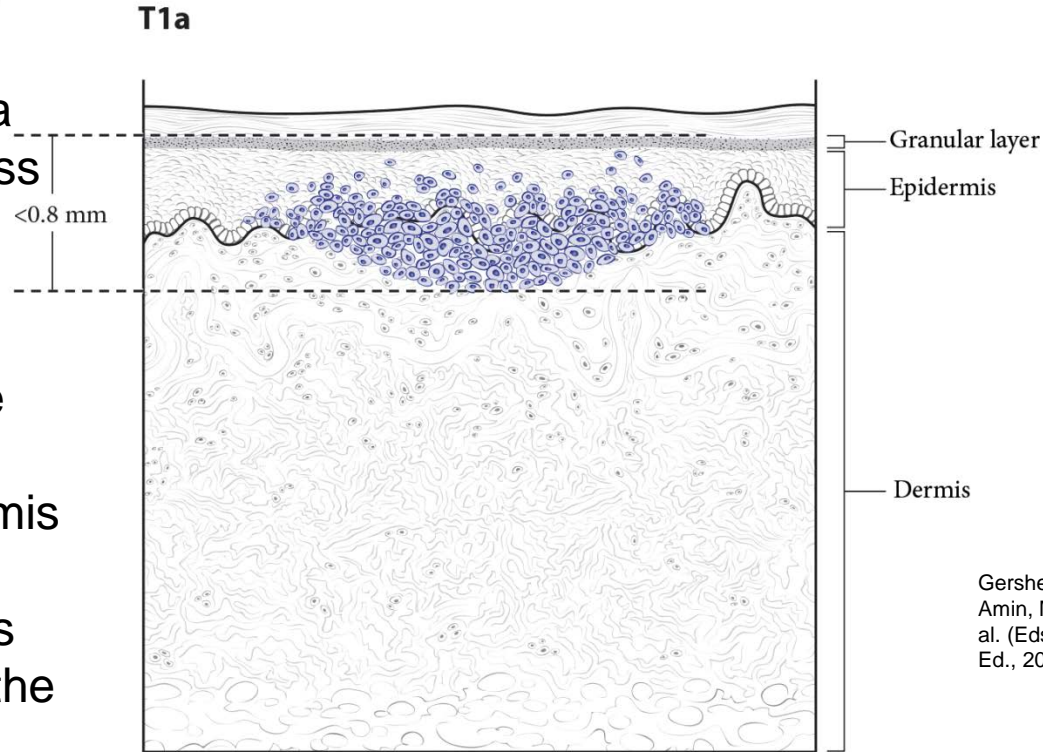
- Although not included as a T1 subcategory criterion in the 8th edition, it is strongly recommended that this prognostic factor be recorded for all primary melanomas



T1a

T1a is defined as
invasive melanoma
<0.8mm in thickness
without ulceration.

Tumor thickness is
measured from the
top of the granular layer of the epidermis
to the deepest
invasive cell across
the broad base of the
tumor.



Gershenwald, Scolyer, et al. Melanoma. In
Amin, M.B., Edge, S.B., Greene, F.L., et
al. (Eds.) AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. 8th
Ed., 2017



Melanoma Case # 2

Recap of Staging

- Summary of correct answers
 - Clinical stage cT1a cN0 cM0 Stage Group IA
 - Pathological stage pT1a cN0 cM0 Stage Group IA
- The staging classifications have a different purpose and method of assessment so can be different. Do not go back and change the clinical staging based on pathological staging information.



Staging Moments Summary

- Review site-specific information if needed
- Clinical Staging
 - Based on information before treatment
 - Used to select treatment options
- Pathological Staging
 - Based on clinical data PLUS operative findings and resected specimen pathology report
 - Used to evaluate end results (e.g. survival)

