Macroscopic satellite lesions (Core)

The presence of clinically/macroscopically apparent (or microscopically identified) metastases between the primary tumour and the regional lymph nodes is associated with adverse prognosis in melanoma and is classified as stage III melanoma in the 8th edition of the American Joint Commission on Cancer (AJCC) melanoma staging system.[1-3] Microsatellite, satellite and in-transit metastases, are thought to represent metastases that have occurred as a consequence of intralymphatic tumour spread. In the 8th edition AJCC melanoma staging system "(1) *satellite* metastases are defined as grossly visible cutaneous and/or subcutaneous metastases occurring within 2 cm of the primary melanoma); (2) *microsatellites* – microscopic cutaneous and/or subcutaneous metastases found adjacent or deep to a primary melanoma on pathological examination (see detailed discussion in **PATHOLOGICAL STAGING**). The metastatic tumour cells must be discontinuous from the primary tumour (but not separated only by fibrosis or inflammation because this could signify regression of the intervening tumour); or (3) *in transit* metastases (defined as clinically evident dermal and/or subcutaneous metastases identified at a distance greater than 2 cm from the primary melanoma in the region between the primary and the first regional lymph nodes)."[1] There was no substantial difference in survival outcome for these anatomically defined entities in the 8th edition AJCC international melanoma database of contemporary patients and hence they were grouped together for staging purposes.[3]

References

1 Amin MB, Edge SB and Greene FL et al (eds) (2017). *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. 8th ed.*, Springer, New York.

2 Read RL, Haydu L, Saw RP, Quinn MJ, Shannon K, Spillane AJ, Stretch JR, Scolyer RA and Thompson JF (2015). In-transit melanoma metastases: incidence, prognosis, and the role of lymphadenectomy. *Ann Surg Oncol* 22(2):475-481.

3 Gershenwald JE, Scolyer RA, Hess KR, Sondak VK, Long GV, Ross MI, Lazar AJ, Faries MB, Kirkwood JM, McArthur GA, Haydu LE, Eggermont AMM, Flaherty KT, Balch CM and Thompson JF (2017). Melanoma staging: Evidence-based changes in the American Joint Committee on Cancer eighth edition cancer staging manual. *CA Cancer J Clin* 67(6):472-492.