

Trends of melanoma diagnosed at the National Center of Pathology of Lithuania in 2014-2018



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Introduction and objectives:

Cutaneous melanoma is potentially the most dangerous form of skin tumor and causes 90% of skin cancer mortality [1]. The objective of the study was to evaluate epidemiological data of Melanoma of the National Center of Pathology of Lithuania during the 2014-2018 time period.

Materials and methods:

Medical documentation of the cases of histologically proven melanoma between 2014 and 2018 was analyzed. National Center of Pathology is handling one third of the pathology cases in Lithuania. Epidemiological data such as patients' age, sex, as well as tumor localization and its stage analysis was performed.

Acknowledgement:

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Results:

Between year 2014 and 2018, the number of 14498 skin tumors were excised suspecting melanoma: 19% were seborrheic keratosis, and 73% nevi, there was just 8% of melanomas. Number needed to excise to diagnose melanoma was 12. After histopathological examination of the material collected by the skin lesion biopsy or a smear, a total of 1132 melanomas were confirmed by biopsy or excision, and 87 melanoma was suspected by a smear. Among the 1132 registered cases, there were 432 (38 %) men and 700 (62 %) women (fig. 1). The mean age of individuals was 63 years. According to the age, there were 14 (more than 1 %) individuals younger than 25 years, 106 (9 %) individuals between 26 and 40 years old, 227 (20 %) individuals between 41 and 55 years old, 375 (33 %) between 56 and 70 years old and 404 (36 %) individuals older than 70 years. The age of 6 (less than 1 %) individuals was not known (fig. 2). In terms of the anatomical distribution of melanomas, 357 (31 %) were found on the trunk, 279 (25 %) on the lower limbs, 200 (18 %) on the head and neck, 194 (17 %) on the upper limbs, 48 (4 %) in mucous membranes, 2 in internal organs and in 52 (5 %) cases, there was no information about the anatomical location of the primary lesion (fig. 3). The most common anatomical distribution of melanomas among the women was the lower limbs – 223 (32 %) cases, among the men it was the trunk – 200 (46 %) cases. According to the stage, there were 198 (17 %) cases of pTis (melanoma in situ), 272 (24 %) cases of pT1a, 66 (6 %) cases of pT1b, 135 (12 %) cases of pT2a, 19 (2 %) cases of pT2b, 80 (7 %) cases of pT3a, 52 (5 %) cases of pT3b, 69 (6 %) cases of pT4a and 172 (15 %) cases pT4b, in 69 (6 %) cases there was no information about the stage (fig. 4).

Conclusions

The number needed to excise to diagnose melanoma was 12. Melanomas occurred most often among the patients aged 56 - 70 years. This tumor was found more frequently in female than in male patients. The most common location of melanoma among the women was the lower limbs and the trunk among the men. Most common tumor stage was pT1a.

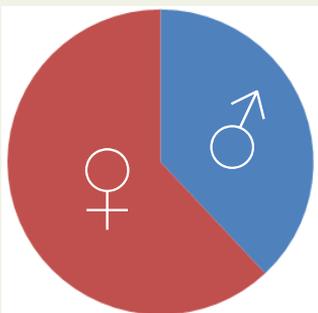


Fig. 1. Percentage of melanoma cases distributed by gender

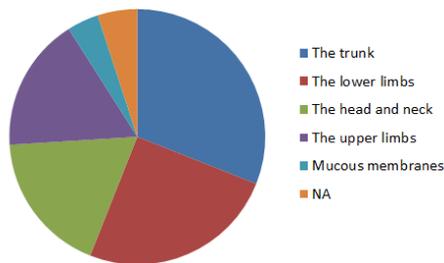


Fig. 3. Percentage of melanoma cases distributed by anatomical location

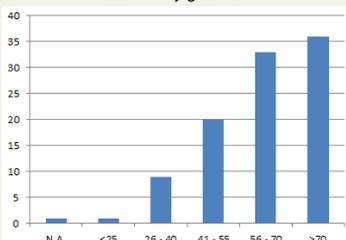


Fig. 2. Percentage of melanoma cases distributed by age group

References

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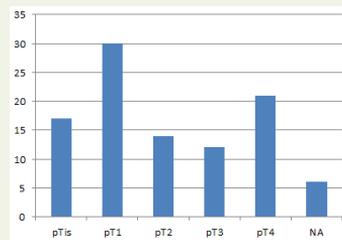


Fig. 4. Percentage of melanoma cases distributed by T stage