

Cutaneous Melanoma Equivalent Terms, Definitions and Illustrations
C440-C449 with Histology 8720-8780
(Excludes melanoma of any other site)

Introduction

Cutaneous melanoma starts in the melanocyte cells of the skin. Melanocytes lie in the epidermis, the outermost layer of the skin. Melanocytes often cluster together and form moles (nevi). Most moles are benign, but some may go on to become malignant melanomas.

Melanomas are divided into 5 main types, depending on their location, shape and whether they grow outward or downward into the dermis:

- **Acral melanoma:** occurs on the palms of the hand, soles of the feet, or nail beds
- **Desmoplastic melanoma:** is a rare malignant melanoma marked by non-pigmented lesions on sun-exposed areas of the body
- **Lentigo maligna:** usually occur on the faces of elderly people
- **Superficial spreading or flat melanoma:** grows outwards at first to form an irregular pattern on the skin with an uneven color
- **Nodular melanomas:** are lumpy and often blue-black in color and may grow faster and spread downwards

These types account for the majority of melanomas occurring in the US population. For a more complete listing of histologic types of melanoma, see the *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual*, 6th Ed.

Melanoma can also start in the mucous membranes of the mouth, anus and vagina, in the eye or other places in the body where melanocytes are found. This scheme is used only for melanomas that occur on the skin.

Equivalent or Equal Terms

- Tumor, mass, lesion, neoplasm
- Type, subtype, predominantly, with features of, major, or with ____ differentiation.
- Giant pigmented nevus, giant congenital nevus
- Mole, Nevus
- Mixed epithelioid and spindle cell melanoma (8770): Epithelioid melanoma and spindle cell melanoma

Synonyms for In Situ

Behavior code 2
Clark level 1 (limited to the epithelium)
Hutchinson freckle (See synonyms for Hutchinson freckle)
Intraepidermal, NOS
Intraepithelial, NOS
Lentigo maligna
Noninvasive
Precancerous melanoma of Dubreuilh
Stage 0
Tis

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Synonyms for Hutchinson freckle

Circumscribed precancerous melanosis
Intraepidermal malignant melanoma
Lentigo maligna
Precancerous melanosis of Dubreuilh

Definitions

Amelanotic melanoma: A non-pigmented malignant melanoma.

Atypical melanocytic hyperplasia (dysplasia): Tumor-like lesion or condition may represent precursor stage or stage in development of melanoma. Not reportable.

Different lateralities: The right side of the body, the left side of the body and the midline are separate lateralities in the melanoma coding rules.

Evolving melanoma (borderline evolving melanoma): Evolving melanoma are tumors of uncertain biologic behavior. Histological changes of borderline evolving melanoma are too subtle for a definitive diagnosis of melanoma in situ. The tumors may be described as "proliferation of atypical melanocytes confined to epidermal and adnexal epithelium," "atypical intraepidermal melanocytic proliferation," "atypical intraepidermal melanocytic hyperplasia"; or "severe melanocytic dysplasia." Not reportable.

Familial Atypical Multiple Mole Melanoma Syndrome (FAMM, FAM-M): An inherited condition identified when:

- Melanoma has been diagnosed in a family member, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins
- Several family members have large numbers of moles (often more than 50) which may be abnormal or atypical moles.

Giant pigmented nevus: Diameter larger than 20 cm; frequently covers large areas of the body in a garment-like fashion. The trunk, head and neck are the most common sites.

Junctional nevus: Smooth, hairless, light to dark brown mole. Can be slightly elevated, usually multiple and can occur on any part of the body. Melanocytes are confined to the dermo-epidermal junction.

Hypodermis: A subcutaneous layer of loose connective tissue containing a varying number of fat cells.
Synonyms: subcutaneous fat; subcutis.

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In-transit metastasis: Metastasis found in the lymphatic channels more than 2cm away from the primary melanoma, but not reaching the regional lymph nodes.

Invasive tumor: A tumor that penetrates the basement membrane and invades the dermis.

Laterality: For skin sites, laterality divides the body into a right and left half as though a line were drawn from mid forehead to mid pelvis and from mid skull to mid buttocks. A midline laterality describes a tumor that is in the center of the “line” drawn from the mid forehead to mid pelvis or from the mid skull to the mid buttocks; it is impossible to categorize the tumor as being on the right or left side of the body.

Lentigo maligna: Is a specific histologic type of in situ melanoma. It appears as a brown or black mottled, irregular, lesion with increased numbers of scattered atypical melanocytes in the epidermis. It usually occurs on the face.

Lentigo maligna melanoma: Is an invasive melanoma that begins as lentigo maligna, but usually after many years the dermis is invaded by the tumor. Once invasion has occurred, the lesion is called lentigo maligna melanoma.

Midline: the middle dividing line that separates the body into right and left sides.

Most invasive: the histology that has the greatest extension into the dermis or subcutaneous fat.

Non-invasive tumor: A tumor confined to epithelium (intraepithelial), in situ tumor, with no penetration below the basement membrane.

Precancerous melanosis: An obsolete term for lentigo maligna.

Proliferation of atypical melanocytes confined to epidermis: Number of (proliferation) pigmented cells (melanocytes) not showing the normal cell structure (atypical). Not reportable.

Regressing melanoma: The term “regressing melanoma” does not refer to a specific histology; it refers to the physical appearance and size of the lesion. A regressing melanoma is reacting to the body’s immune system by shrinking in size. Partial spontaneous regression is not an uncommon finding in invasive primary melanoma; partial regression can be an indicator of poor prognosis. Proven complete regression is very rare; one website stated that only 33 cases of total regression have been reported. A regressive melanoma is usually thinner than it was originally. Although regression is a prognostic factor, the histologic type is more important for histology coding purposes. See Histology coding rules, Rule H5.

Satellite lesion or metastasis: Grossly evident metastatic skin lesion within the immediate vicinity (usually within 2 cm) of a primary malignant tumor; e.g., skin adjacent to primary malignant melanoma. This is a metastasis, not a separate primary.

Severe melanotic dysplasia: Tumor-like lesion or condition. Not reportable.

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Skin Layers:

- Epidermis – upper surface, thin layer (outermost layer)
- Dermis – lower, intermediate thicker layer (intermediate layer)
- Hypodermis – also called subcutis or subcutaneous fat – lowest layer (innermost layer)

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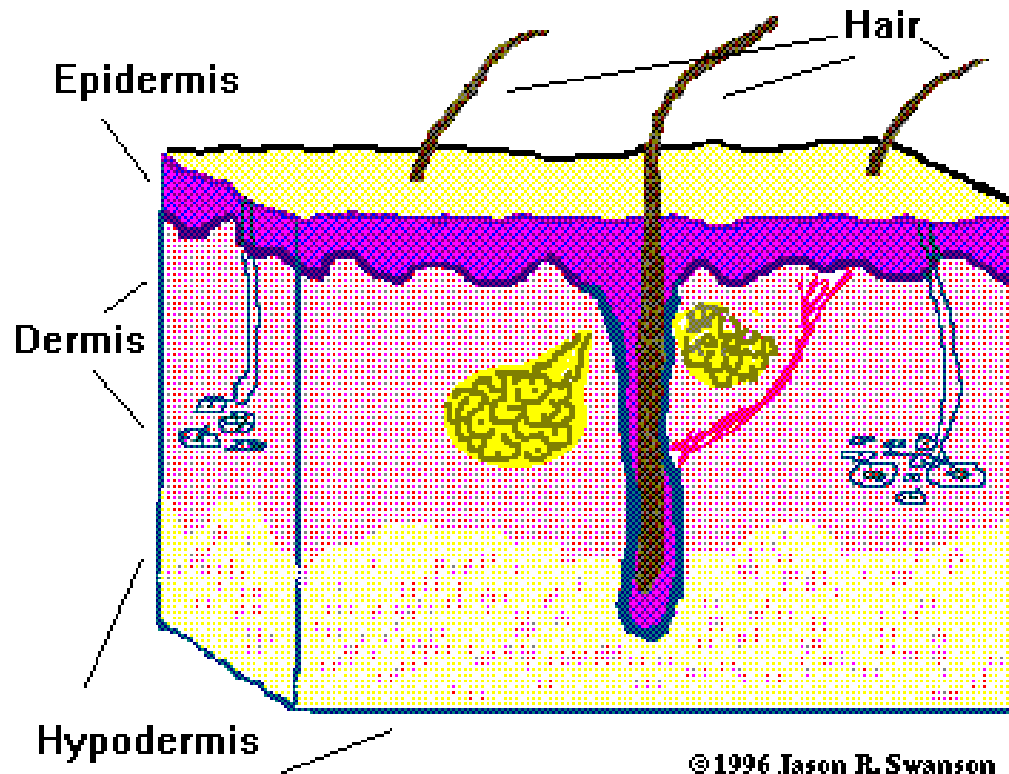
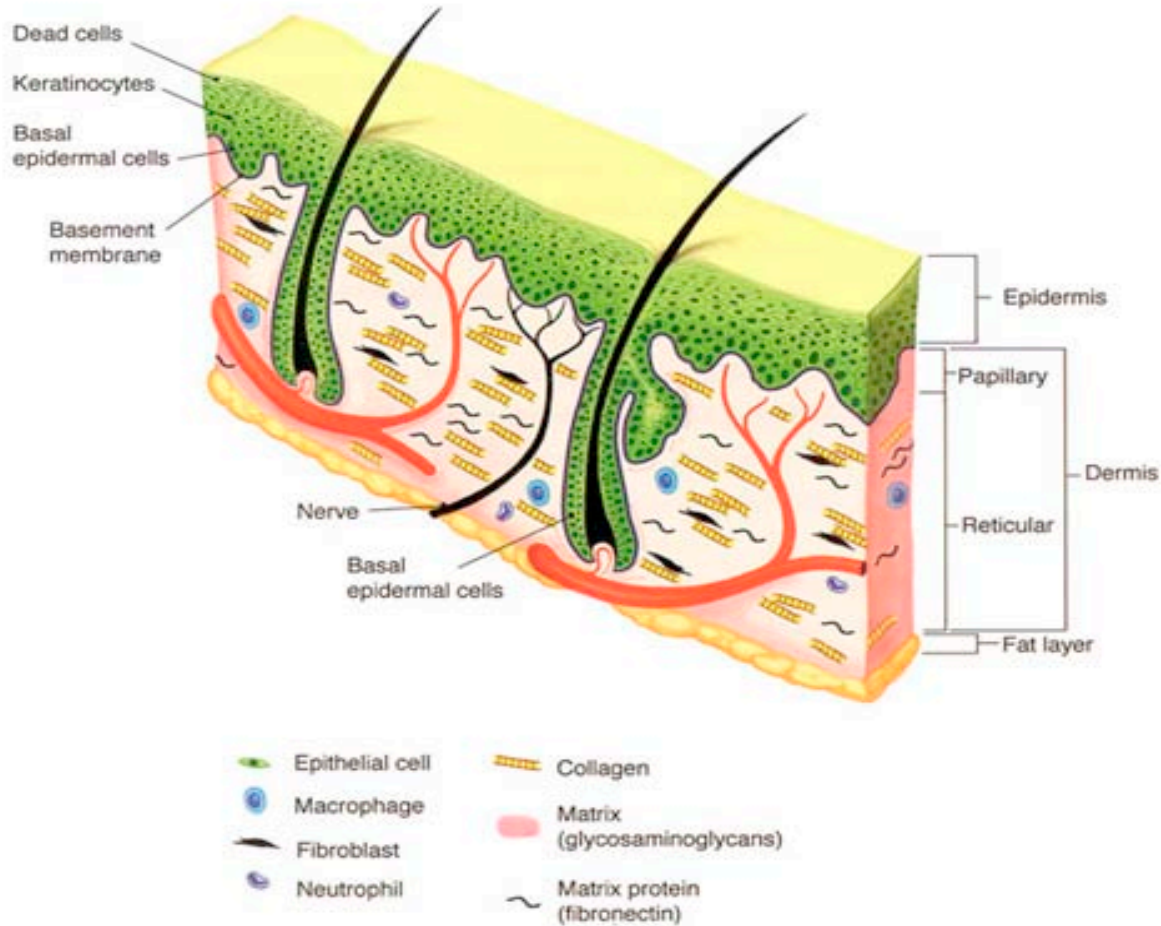


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Anatomy of Normal Skin



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