Morphological features of naevoid melanoma: results of a multicentre study of the International Dermoscopy Society


1Dermatology and Skin Cancer Unit and 2Pathology Unit, Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova-IRCCS, Reggio Emilia, Italy
3Dermatology Unit, Fondazione IRCCS Ca’Grande Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan, Italy
4Dermatology Unit, University of Siena, Siena, Italy
5Dermatopathology Unit, San Gallicano Dermatological Institute, IRCCS, Rome, Italy
6Department of Oncology, Anatomic Pathology Unit, Gaetano Rummo General Hospital, Benevento, Italy
7Pathology Unit and 8Dermatology Unit, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy
8The University of Queensland Australia, Gladstone GP Superclinic, Gladstone, Qld, Australia
9I.C.L.I.D., Milan, Italy
10Private Practice, Nice, France
11Clinic of Dermatology and Venerology, Faculty of Medicine, Military Medical Academy, Belgrade, Serbia
12Service of Prevention and Early Melanoma Diagnosis, Department of Medical Oncology Centro di Riferimento Oncologico – National Cancer Institute, Aviano, Italy
13Skin Cancer Unit, IRCCS – Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori Meldola (FC), Italy
14Melanoma Unit, Dermatology Department, Hospital Clinic, University of Barcelona, IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain
15Private Practice, Perugia, Italy
16General Practitioner, Thorpewood Medical Group, Norwich, U.K.
17Division of Dermatology and Venerology, Medical University of Graz, Austria

Correspondence
Caterina Longo.
E-mail: longo.caterina@gmail.com

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Conflicts of interest
None declared.

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Summary

Background Naevoid melanoma (NeM), a rare variant of melanoma, can be difficult to detect as its clinical and histopathological morphology can simulate a naevus.

Objectives To describe the clinical and dermoscopic features associated with NeM.

Methods Lesions with a histopathological diagnosis of NeM were collected via an e-mail request sent to all members of the International Dermoscopy Society. All lesions were histopathologically reviewed and only lesions fulfilling a set of predefined histopathological criteria were included in the study and analysed for their clinical and dermoscopic features.

Results Twenty-seven of 58 cases (47%) fulfilled the predefined histopathological criteria for NeM and were included in the study. Clinically, 16 of the 27 NeMs presented as a nodular lesion (59%), eight (30%) as plaque type and three (11%) as papular. Analysis of the global dermoscopic pattern identified three types of NeM. The first were naevus-like tumours (n = 13, 48%), typified by a papillomatous surface resembling a dermal naevus. In these lesions local dermoscopic features included irregular dots/globules (46%), multiple milia-like cysts (38%) and atypical vascular structures (46%). The second type were amelanotic tumours (n = 8, 30%), typified by an atypical vascular pattern (75%). The third type consisted of tumours displaying a multicomponent pattern (n = 4, 15%), characterized by classical local melanoma-specific criteria. Two lesions (7%) were classified as mixed-pattern tumours as they did not manifest any of the aforementioned patterns.

Conclusions While NeMs may be clinically difficult to differentiate from naevi, any papillomatous lesion displaying dermoscopically atypical vessels and/or irregular dots/globules should prompt consideration for the possible diagnosis of NeM.