

Dear IDS Members,

We would like to invite you to participate in a new IRB approved **Multicenter Retrospective Cohort study on dermoscopic features of Merkel Cell Carcinoma.**

The aim of the study to investigate the frequency of dermoscopic criteria (global pattern and local features) in Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC). Most of the data available in the literature are based on case series or single cases. The goal is to identify dermoscopic predictors for the discrimination of MCC from other benign and malignant tumors routinely included in the differential diagnosis.

The control group will include tumors with a similar clinical morphology. i.e. non-pigmented, non-hyperkeratotic and non-papillomatous nodules from the following diagnostic categories (mainly but not exclusively): nevus, angioma, adnexal tumor, dermatofibroma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, melanoma.

We ask IDS members to contribute in the study with cases of MCC and controls. For each submitted MCC case, please also submit 2 control cases.

Mandatory for each submitted case:

- Clinical and dermoscopic image of the tumor
- Demographic data (age, sex)
- Clinical information (maximum diameter if not obvious in the clinical image, anatomic location if not obvious in the clinical image)
- Final histopathologic diagnosis

Optional:

- Anamnestic information (immunosuppression, specified)
- Additional information from histopathologic reports (Breslow thickness for melanoma, subtype for BCC and SCC, hp type for nevi)
- Information from immunohistochemistry or PCR for the presence of MCPyV (for MCC only).
- Clinical information on MCC stage at diagnosis (presence of regional or distant metastasis)

All the images will be stored in the IDS Database, hosted by the Medical University of Vienna. All contributors of images will be asked if they want to submit the images and metadata for the purposes of this study only or if they want to provide additional sharing licence.

To submit your cases and to ask for clarifications, please contact the Study coordinator: Dr. Katarzyna Korecka ([kasia.korecka@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.korecka@gmail.com)).

Authorship in the final manuscript will be granted to the 16 participants contributing with the highest number of cases. All contributors of images/cases will be acknowledged in the paper.

The principal Investigator of the project is Prof. Aimilios Lallas

Deadline: May 31st 2024