The State of the Dysplastic Nevus in the 21st Century

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Disclosures

- Myriad Genetics
 - Advisory board; honorarium
- Castle Biosciences
 - Advisory board; honorarium



What do I do?

- Clinical
 - 60% Mohs micrographic and reconstructive surgery and high risk skin cancer
 - 40% Dermatopathology sign-out
 - Multidisciplinary cutaneous oncology program – Huntsman Cancer Institute
- Administrative
 - Residency Program Director, Dermatology







ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The Genetic Evolution of Melanoma from Precursor Lesions

 A. Hunter Shain, Ph.D., Iwei Yeh, M.D., Ph.D., Ivanka Kovalyshyn, D.O., Aravindhan Sriharan, M.D., Eric Talevich, Ph.D., Alexander Gagnon, B.A., Reinhard Dummer, M.D., Jeffrey North, M.D., Laura Pincus, M.D.,
Beth Ruben, M.D., William Rickaby, M.B., Ch.B., Corrado D'Arrigo, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., Alistair Robson, F.R.C.Path., and Boris C. Bastian, M.D.

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

From the Departments of Dermatology and Pathology (A.H.S., I.Y., E.T., A.G., J.N., L.P., B.R., B.C.B.) and the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (A.H.S., I.Y., E.T., A.G., B.C.B.), University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), San Francisco; the Departments of Dermatology and Pathology, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland (I.K.); the Department of Pathology, Orlando Health, Orlando, FL (A.S.); the Department of Dermatology, University Hospital of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland (R.D.); and the Department of Dermatology, Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester (C.D.), and the Department of Dermatology, St. John's Institute of Dermatology, London (W.R., A.R.) - both in the United Kingdom. Address reprint requests to Dr. Bastian at the UCSF Dermatopathology Service, 1701 Divisadero St., Suite 280, San Francisco, CA 94115, or at boris .bastian@ucsf.edu.

N Engl J Med 2015;373:1926-36. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1502583 Copyright © 2015 Massachusetts Medical Society. The pathogenic mutations in melanoma have been largely catalogued; however, the order of their occurrence is not known.

METHODS

We sequenced 293 cancer-relevant genes in 150 areas of 37 primary melanomas and their adjacent precursor lesions. The histopathological spectrum of these areas included unequivocally benign lesions, intermediate lesions, and intraepidermal or invasive melanomas.

RESULTS

Precursor lesions were initiated by mutations of genes that are known to activate the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway. Unequivocally benign lesions harbored *BRAF* V600E mutations exclusively, whereas those categorized as intermediate were enriched for *NRAS* mutations and additional driver mutations. A total of 77% of areas of intermediate lesions and melanomas in situ harbored *TERT* promoter mutations, a finding that indicates that these mutations are selected at an unexpectedly early stage of the neoplastic progression. Biallelic inactivation of *CDKN2A* emerged exclusively in invasive melanomas. *PTEN* and *TP53* mutations were found only in advanced primary melanomas. The point-mutation burden increased from benign through intermediate lesions to melanoma, with a strong signature of the effects of ultraviolet radiation detectable at all evolutionary stages. Copy-number alterations became prevalent only in invasive melanomas. Tumor heterogeneity became apparent in the form of genetically distinct subpopulations as melanomas progressed.

CONCLUSIONS

Our study defined the succession of genetic alterations during melanoma progression, showing distinct evolutionary trajectories for different melanoma subtypes. It identified an intermediate category of melanocytic neoplasia, characterized by the presence of more than one pathogenic genetic alteration and distinctive histopathological features. Finally, our study implicated ultraviolet radiation as a major factor in both the initiation and progression of melanoma. (Funded by the National Institutes of Health and others.)





Smm atypical nevus. Left Sacrum







The current(ish) state of affairs...



Do you believe dysplastic (Clark) nevi are truly premalignant lesions?





How do you report "dysplastic nevi"?

62% A. Dysplastic nevus B. Clark nevus C. Nevus with architectural disorder 19% D. Other 12%





Do you assign a histologic "grade" to these nevi?





If yes, what grading system do you use?

- A. Cytology as three grades (mild, moderate, ⁷³⁹ severe)
- B. Cytology and architecture as two separate grades
- C. Cytology as two grades only

D. Other grading system





Origin of Familial Malignant Melanomas From Heritable Melanocytic Lesions

'The B-K Mole Syndrome'

Wallace H. Clark, Jr, MD; Ronald R. Reimer, MD; Mark Greene, MD; Ann M. Ainsworth, MD; Michael J. Mastrangelo, MD

(Arch Dermatol 114:732-738, 1978)



Familial atypical multiple mole-melanoma syndrome

HENRY T. LYNCH, BERT C. FRICHOT, III, AND JANE F. LYNCH

From the Department of Preventive Medicine/Public Health, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska; and the Departments of Dermatology and Preventive Medicine/Public Health, Creighton and Nebraska University Health Foundation, Omaha Veterans Administration Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska, USA

SUMMARY A family is described showing concordance for malignant melanoma and a cutaneous phenotype characterised by multiple large moles of variable size and colour (reddish-brown to bright red) with pigmentary leakage. Transmission of the cutaneous phenotype in the subject family, and in several others currently under investigation, shows an inheritance pattern consistent with a simple autosomal dominant factor. This cutaneous phenotype signifying melanoma risk may now be added to an increasing body of knowledge dealing with cancer-related genodermatoses.



Brief history

- 1978 Dr. Clark describes nevi associated with melanoma prone families
 – The B-K mole syndrome
- 1978 Dr. Lynch describes a single multigenerational family with melanoma and nevi



Brief history

- 1980 Dr. Elder and Clark describe 'dysplastic nevi' in a non-familial setting
 - Introduction of the term 'dysplastic nevus syndrome'
 - Familial and sporadic variants
 - Formally postulated that 'dysplastic nevi' are precursors of melanoma



Dr. Wallace H. Clark, Jr.



The concept evolved...



Dr. David Elder



When you are frustrated by the pathology report and management of these lesions please send all complaints to...





REVIEW

Dysplastic nevus: Fact and fiction

Cliff O. Rosendahl, MBBS, PhD,^a Jane M. Grant-Kels, MD,^b and Syril Keena T. Que, MD^b Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, and Farmington, Connecticut

The term "dysplastic nevus" (DN) implies that this nevus exists as a distinct and defined entity of potential detriment to its host. We examine the current data, which suggest that this entity exists as histologically and possibly genetically different from common nevus, with some overlapping features. Studies show that a melanoma associated with a nevus is just as likely to arise in a common nevus as in DN. Furthermore, there is no evidence that a histologically defined DN evolves into a melanoma or that the presence of 1 or more DN on an individual patient confers any increased melanoma risk. We suggest that the term "dysplastic nevus" be abandoned so that the focus can shift to confirmed and relevant indicators of melanoma risk, including high nevus counts and large nevus size. (J Am Acad Dermatol 2015;73:507-12.)

Key words: B-K mole syndrome; *BRAF*; common nevus; congenital melanocytic nevus; cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 2A *(CDKN2A)*; dysplastic nevus; familial atypical multiple-mole melanoma; melanoma; *p16*, *p53*.

- Recommend abandoning the term "dysplastic nevus."
- Highlights melanoma risk is linked to high nevus counts and large nevus size



POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Point: What's in a name?

David E. Elder, MB, ChB, FRCPA Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Key words: diagnosis; dysplastic nevus; epidemiology; melanoma; nevus; risk.

J Am Acad Dermatol 2015;73:513-4

Counterpoint: The "dysplastic" nevus

What I do and do not believe

Clay J. Cockerell, MD Dallas, Texas

Key word: dysplastic nevus.

J Am Acad Dermatol 2015;73:514-5

Point: What's in a name?

David E. Elder, MB, ChB, FRCPA Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- "Dysplastic nevi are benign neoplasms of melanocytes that are significant in relation to melanoma in 3 ways: as potential precursors, markers of increased risk, and simulants."
- "Dysplastic nevi are intermediate between common nevi and melanoma – clinically, microscopically and genomically."
- ...in my opinion the term "mild dysplasia" should be abandoned."



Counterpoint: The "dysplastic" nevus

What I do and do not believe

Clay J. Cockerell, MD Dallas, Texas

- "I believe that most so-called 'severely dysplastic' are either melanoma or melanoma in situ arising in a nevus."
- "I believe it would be reasonable to change the name 'dysplastic' nevus."
- "I do not believe the name 'dysplastic' nevus will change anytime soon."



What is a dysplastic nevus?





Architecture	Nests bridge rete
	Nests at the side of rete
	Single cells between nests, nests predominating
	Lentiginous elongation of rete
	Anastomosis of rete
	Little or no pagetoid spread
Host response	Patchy lymphocytic infiltrate
	Eosinophilic fibroplasia
	Lamellar fibroplasia
	Prominent vessels
Cytology	Variable slight to moderate atypia
	Few (if any) mitoses
	Occasional macronuclei
	Scattered epithelioid nevus cells
	Scattered cells with finely granular melanin

Table II. Histologic criteria proposed by Clark et al⁴¹



Table III. World Health Organization criteria for the diagnosis of dysplastic nevi⁴²

Major criteria*	Basilar proliferation of atypical melanocytes, extending at least three rete ridges beyond dermal component Organization of proliferation in
	lentiginous or epithelioid cell pattern
Minor criteria*	Lamellar or concentric eosinophilic fibrosis
	Neovascularization
	Inflammatory response
	Fusion of rete ridges

*The diagnosis of dysplastic nevi requires fulfillment of both major criteria and 2 minor criteria.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Table IV. European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Cooperative Group criteria⁴³

Common nevus	<2 features noted below for
	dysplastic nevi
Dysplastic nevus	≥ 3 of the following features: marked
	junctional proliferation, irregular
	nevus nests, large nuclei, and
	lymphohistiocytic infiltrate
Melanoma in situ	Pagetoid growth
	Continuous junctional proliferation



Architectural Disorder:	0	1
Junctional component nested at both edges	Yes	No
Good overall symmetry	Yes	No
More than 5% of nests cohesive	Yes	No
Suprabasal spread prominent, or present at edge	No	Yes
Confluence of >50% of proliferation	No	Yes
Single-cell proliferation absent or focal Sum total:	Yes	No
Key: $(0-1) = Mild; (2-3) = Moderate; (4-6) = Severe$		
Cytologic Atypia:	0	1
Nuclei round or oval, and euchromatic	Yes	No
Nuclei > basal-layer keratinocyte nuclei	No	Yes
Nucleoli prominent	No	Yes
Cell diameter > 2× basal-layer keratinocyte nuclei Sum total:	No	Yes
Key: $(0-1) = Mild$; $(2) = Moderate$; $(3-4) = Severe$		

TABLE 7. Duke Grading System for Clark Nevi

NOTE. A separate score is obtained for architecture and cytology by assigning a value of 0 or 1 for each criterion and summing.

Shea CR, Vollmer RT, Prieto VG, Correlating architectural disorder and cytologic atypia in Clark (dysplastic) melanocytic nevi, Hum Pathol 1999, 30:500-5



"I know one when I see one."

Duncan et. al., *J Invest Dermatol* 1993 100:318S-321S Piepkorn et. al., *J Am Acad Dermatol* 1994,30:707-714 Weinstock et. al., *Arch Dermatol* 1997,133:953-958 Clemente et.al., 1991 *Hum Pathol* 22:313-319





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N ENGL J MED 373;20 NEJM.ORG NOVEMBER 12, 2015













Figure S34. Case 35.







Ε.







Mutations in nevi

- Common nevi have a high rate of BRAF V600E mutations
- Sporadic dysplastic nevi appear to be enriched for NRAS and BRAF non-V600E mutations
- Recurrent TERT promoter mutations in a significant portion of dysplastic nevi



Clinical validation of a gene expression signature that differentiates benign nevi from malignant melanoma

Background: Histopathologic examination is sometimes inadequate for accurate and reproducible diagnosis of certain melanocytic neoplasms. As a result, more sophisticated and objective methods have been sought. The goal of this study was to identify a gene expression signature that reliably differentiated benign and malignant melanocytic lesions and evaluate its potential clinical applicability. Herein, we describe the development of a gene expression signature and its clinical validation using multiple independent cohorts of melanocytic lesions representing a broad spectrum of histopathologic subtypes.

Methods: Using quantitative reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR) on a selected set of 23 differentially expressed genes, and by applying a threshold value and weighting algorithm, we developed a gene expression signature that produced a score that differentiated benign nevi from malignant melanomas.

Demitty The good events and signature along if a dimension existing

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Clarke et al.



Fig. 3. Distribution of diagnostic scores in the clinical validation cohort.

Table 3. Performance of the signature with	ithin individual	subtypes*
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Pathologist classification	Signature classification		Signature performance	
	Malignant	Benign	Sensitivity	Specificity
All melanomas			90%	
Superficial spreading	90	15	86%	
Nodular	37	1	97%	
Lentigo maligna	28	3	90%	
All nevi†				91%
Compound	6	95		94%
Intradermal	1	40		98%

*Results reported only for subtypes with \geq 30 samples.

+Compound nevi group contained 52 dysplastic nevi.



RESULT DESCRIPTION

Myriad myPath[™] Melanoma utilizes a molecular signature measured by qRT-PCR that would classify a sample as malignant, benign or indeterminate. This graph shows your patient's Score relative to Myriad myPath[™] Melanoma Scores according to the range of benign and malignant lesions in the independent validation cohort with a threshold of "0".

- For Scores from -16.7 to -2.1 the gene signature classification is benign; for Scores from -2.0 to -0.1 the gene signature classification is indeterminate (*less than 10% of the cases); for Scores from 0 to +11.1 the gene signature classification is malignant melanoma.
- A Score range of -16.7 and +11.1 was established in the validation study¹ and Scores within this range will be reported. Scores outside of the validated range may lead to test cancelation or follow-up with the ordering physician.
- Individual lesions may or may not be representative of this cohort.

Table 3

Change in pre-test and post-test diagnosis.

Diagnosis	Pre-test	Post-test	Change
All diagnostically cha	Ilenging cases (n=218	3)	
Benign	23 (10.6%)	89 (40.8%)	+66 (30.2%)
Malignant	20 (9.2%)	47 (21.6%)	+27 (12.4%)
Indeterminate	175 (80.3%)	82 (37.6%)	-93 (-42.7%)
Atypical junctional m	elanocytic proliferation	(n = 44)	
Benign	1 (2.3%)	12 (27.3%)	+11 (25.0%)
Malignant	1 (2.3%)	9 (20.5%)	+8 (18.2%)
Indeterminate	42 (95 5%)	23 (52.3%)	-19 (-43.2%)
Dysplastic nevus (n=	= 40)		
Benign	13 (32.5%)	25 (62.5%)	+12 (30.0%)
Malignant	0	6 (15.0%)	+6 (15.0%)
Indeterminate	27 (67.5%)	9 (22.5%)	-18 (-45.0%)
Atypical Spitz tumor	(n = 38)		
Benign	0	12 (31.6%)	+12 (31.6%)
Malignant	0	3 (7.9%)	+3 (7.9%)

Cockerell et al. Medicine (2016) 95:40

What do we do now?







Clinical decision making based on histopathologic grading and margin status of dysplastic nevi

Keith L.Duffy, MD,^a , David J. Mann, MD,^b Vesna Petronic-Rosic, MD,^b and Christopher R. Shea, MD ^b

Salt Lake City, Utah and Chicago, IL

Arch Dermatol. 2012 Feb;148(2):259-60



Department of Dermatology



JAMA Dermatology | Original Investigation

Risk of Subsequent Cutaneous Melanoma in Moderately Dysplastic Nevi Excisionally Biopsied but With Positive Histologic Margins

Caroline C. Kim, MD; Elizabeth G. Berry, MD; Michael A. Marchetti, MD; Susan M. Swetter, MD; Geoffrey Lim, MD; Douglas Grossman, MD, PhD; Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, MD; Emily Y. Chu, MD, PhD; Michael E. Ming, MD, MSCE; Kathleen Zhu, BA; Meera Brahmbhatt, MD; Vijay Balakrishnan, BS; Michael J. Davis, BMus; Zachary Wolner, BA; Nathaniel Fleming, BA; Laura K. Ferris, MD, PhD; John Nguyen, BA; Oleksandr Trofymenko, BA; Yuan Liu, PhD; Suephy C. Chen, MD, MS; for the Pigmented Lesion Subcommittee, Melanoma Prevention Working Group

JAMA Dermatol. 2018;154(12):1401-1408. doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2018.3359 Published online October 10, 2018.



Results

- 467 moderately dysplastic nevi with positive histologic margins observed for >3 years
 - Median f/u 6.9 years
- <u>NO</u> cases of cutaneous melanoma developed at those sites
- 100 patients (22.8%) <u>developed a</u> <u>cutaneous melanoma at a separate site</u>





Do you think there is a TERT promoter mutation in this lesion?

Dx: Compound dysplastic nevus with moderate cytological atypia, narrowly excised 100x

49 year old, left lower back 40x



Dx: Malignant melanoma, superficial spreading type, Breslow depth 0.32 mm 100x



J Am Acad Dermatol Volume 74, Number 1

J AM ACAD DERMATOL JANUARY 2016

A nongrading histologic approach to Clark (dysplastic) nevi: A potential to decrease the excision rate

Daniel F. Lozeau, MD, Michele J. Farber, MD, and Jason B. Lee, MD Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Study results

- 17,024 Total nevi
- 8654 cases Clark nevi (50.8%)
- 959 recommended for re-excision (11.1%)
- 765 re-excised (79.8%)

Study results

- Of those re-excised 765
 - 621 no residual nevus (81.2%)
 - 123 identifiable benign component (16.1%)
 - 6 not classifiable as benign or malignant
 - 15 melanoma (2.0%)
 - 12 MIS
 - 3 superficially invasive

My dermatopathologic approach?

- Less use of the term dysplastic nevus, Clark's nevus or nevus with architectural disorder
 - Use of the terms 'junctional or compound lentiginous nevus'
 - Atypical junctional/compound melanocytic proliferation



How do I practice?

- I <u>never</u> diagnose a lesion with moderate or severe dysplasia
- In my estimate this is unfair to the clinician



How do I practice?

• Make specific recommendations to the clinician on management of the lesion



Report example

2 - COMPOUND MELANOCYTIC PROLIFERATION WITH ATYPICAL FEATURES (SEE COMMENT)

COMMENT: The overall features appear to be most consistent with a compound dysplastic nevus; however the asymmetry of the proliferation, scattered atypical melanocytes and rare melanocytes above the dermal-epidermal junction are unusual features. A complete re-excision is recommended given the lateral margin involvement.

My colleagues in dermatopathology, Drs. Scott Florell and Anneli Bowen, have also reviewed this case and they agree with the above interpretation.

Keith Duffy, MD Dermatopathologist Electronically signed 8/31/2012 9:37:54AM



Always another set of eyes...





Conclusions

- Dysplastic nevi appear to be different histologically and genomically
- Still...only a small number progress to melanoma
 - Which ones?
 - Will the genomic and personalized medicine revolution make our job better/easier/more conclusive?



Conclusions

- We are still stuck in The (seemingly) Eternal Debate
- Pigmented lesions are a team sport
 - Clinician concern
 - Concensus dermatopathology opinion
 - Photographs!
- Molecular medicine is coming commercially to a lab near you





Thank you. Questions or comments? Keith.duffy@hsc.utah.edu