

# AJCC Staging Moments

AJCC TNM Staging 8th Edition

Melanoma Case #1



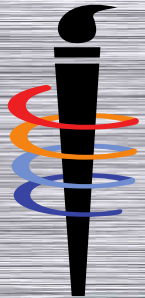
# AJCC

**American Joint Committee on Cancer**

Validating science. Improving patient care.

## Contributors:

Jeffrey E. Gershenwald, MD, FACS  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Houston, Texas



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Presentation of New Case

- Newly diagnosed melanoma patient
- Presentation at Cancer Conference for treatment recommendations and clinical staging



# Melanoma Case # 1

## History & Physical

- 83 yr old female who presented with 2 cm maximal diameter brown lesion right cheek over right malar eminence; no clinical evidence of ulceration, cervical lymphadenopathy, in-transit or satellite disease
- No family hx of melanoma



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Imaging Results

- No imaging



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Diagnostic Procedure

- Diagnostic Procedure
  - Excision skin lesion right cheek
- Pathology Report
  - Melanoma in situ
  - Lentigo maligna type
  - Peripheral margin involved



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Clinical Staging

- Clinical staging
  - Uses information from physical exam, imaging, and diagnostic biopsy including excision of primary tumor in melanoma
  - Excision of primary tumor includes shave bx, punch bx, incisional bx, excisional bx, or complete excisional bx (microstaging)
- Purpose
  - Select appropriate treatment
  - Estimate prognosis



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Clinical Staging

- Synopsis: patient with melanoma in situ with involved peripheral margin, no clinical lymphadenopathy
- What is the clinical stage?
  - T\_\_\_\_\_
  - N\_\_\_\_\_
  - M\_\_\_\_\_
  - Stage Group\_\_\_\_\_





# Melanoma Case # 1

## Clinical Staging

- Clinical Stage correct answer
  - cTis
  - cN0
  - cM0
  - Stage Group 0
- Based on stage, treatment is selected
- Review treatment guidelines for this stage



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Clinical Staging

- Rationale for staging choices
  - cTis for melanoma in situ
  - cN0 because nodes were clinically negative on physical exam\*
  - cM0 because there were no signs or symptoms to suggest distant metastases\*
  - \* Additional tests would likely be performed if evidence of regional or distant disease before developing a treatment plan



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Treatment Options

- Review treatment guidelines for this stage
- Discuss appropriate treatment plans for this patient



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Surgery & Findings

- Surgery
  - Re-excision with 5mm margin
- Operative findings
  - No contributory information



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Pathology Results

- Residual melanoma in situ
- Lentigo maligna melanoma
- Extends close to, but does not involve, radial margins; deep margins uninvolved



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Pathological Staging

- Pathological staging
  - Uses information from clinical staging, operative findings, and resected specimen pathology report
- Purpose
  - Additional precise data for estimating prognosis
  - Calculating end results (survival data)



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Pathological Staging

- Synopsis: patient with melanoma in situ, no nodes removed, clinically nodes negative
- What is the pathological stage?
- T\_\_\_\_\_
- N\_\_\_\_\_
- M\_\_\_\_\_
- Stage Group\_\_\_\_\_



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Pathological Staging

- Pathological Stage - correct answer
  - pTis
  - cN0
  - cM0
  - Stage Group 0





# Melanoma Case # 1

## Pathological Staging

- Rationale for staging choices
  - pTis for melanoma in situ
  - cN0 because of exception for pathological Stage 0 and pT1 → they do not require microscopic evaluation of nodes
  - cM0 – use clinical M with pathological staging unless there is microscopic confirmation of distant metastasis



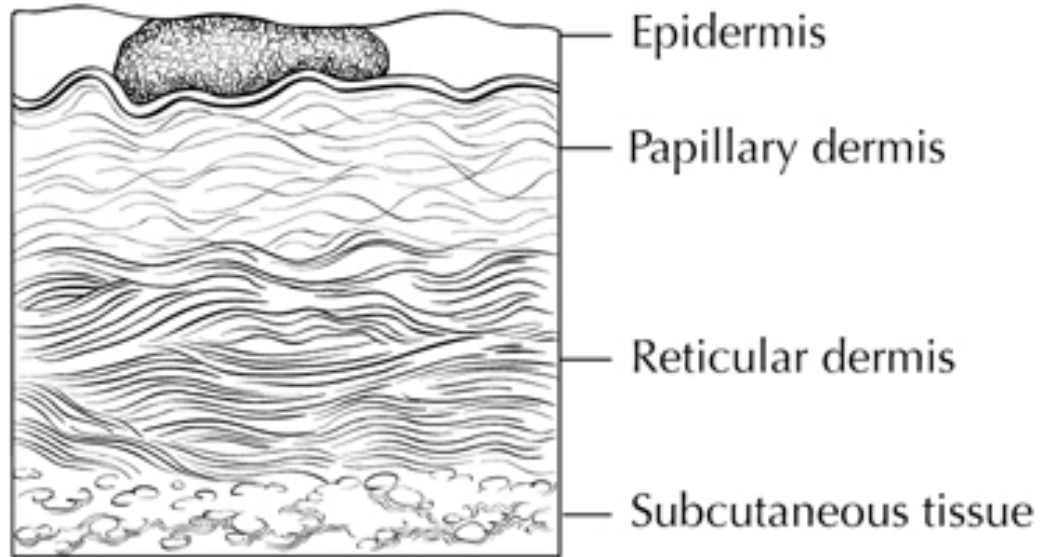
# Prognostic Factors/Registry Data Collection

- Applicable to this case
  - Primary tumor thickness: not applicable
  - Ulceration: not applicable



# Tis – melanoma in situ

## Tis



*Melanoma. In Compton, C.C., Byrd, D.R., et al. (Eds.) AJCC Cancer Staging Atlas, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2012)*



# Melanoma Case # 1

## Recap

- Summary of correct answers
  - Clinical stage - cTis cN0 cM0 Stage Group 0
  - Pathological stage - pTis cN0 cM0 Stage Group 0
- Staging classifications each have a different purpose and method of assessment so can be different. Do not go back and change the clinical staging based on pathological staging information.



# Staging Moments Summary

- Review site-specific information if needed
- Clinical Staging
  - Based on information before treatment
  - Used to select treatment options
- Pathological Staging
  - Based on clinical data PLUS operative findings and resected specimen pathology report
  - Used to evaluate end results (e.g. survival)

