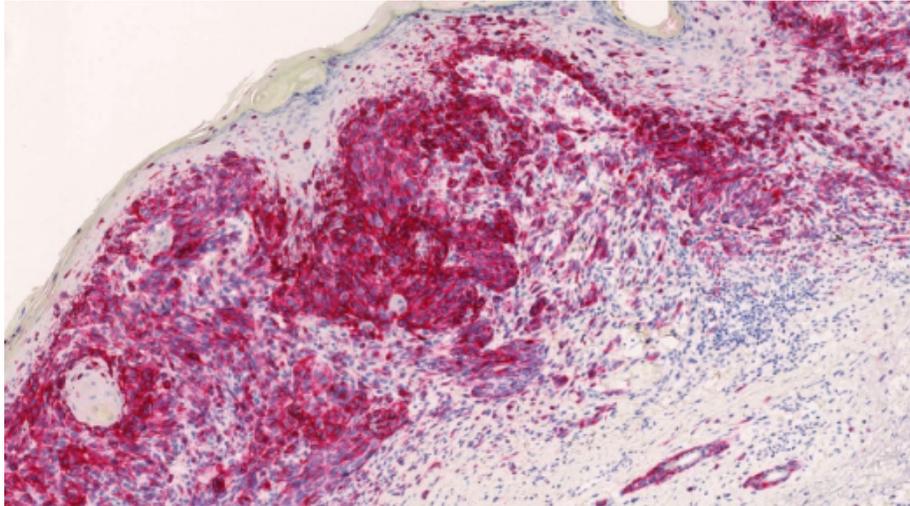


CPC October 2025 Newsletter

In our September issue, we talked about how CPC pathologists play a crucial role in melanoma diagnoses by examining tissue samples under a microscope using the H&E stain to visualize cells and tissue. We discussed one of the first immunostains involved in the workup, the PRAME immunostain.

In this issue, we continue our series of insights into the workup of suspected melanoma specimens by discussing the next stain that may be ordered by one of the pathologists, the **HMB-45** immunostain.



HMB-45 targets a pre-melanosomal protein and tends to show a gradient of expression in benign nevi, with stronger staining in superficial cells and weaker or absent staining deeper in the lesion. In contrast, melanomas often show diffuse and strong HMB-45 staining throughout the lesion. This pattern can help distinguish benign from malignant melanocytic proliferations.

Look for our November newsletter for part 4 of our stain series, to include details about CPC's p16 IHC stain.

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