



CPC May 2026 Newsletter

MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH CPC – PATIENT EDUCATION Part 3



CPC would like to partner with your practice to enhance patient care and provide specialized education related to common skin ailments and what these diagnoses can mean for them. In this newsletter, we will discuss malignant melanoma.

Malignant melanoma is a serious and potentially life-threatening form of skin cancer that develops from melanocytes, the cells responsible for producing melanin (the pigment that gives skin its color). It most commonly arises in the skin but can also occur in other parts of the body, such as the eyes or mucous membranes. The primary risk factor is exposure to ultraviolet radiation, particularly from sunlight or tanning beds, which can damage DNA in skin cells. Individuals with fair skin, a history of sunburns, numerous moles, or a family history of melanoma are at higher risk.

Clinically, malignant melanoma often presents as a new or changing mole, and early detection is critical. Healthcare providers commonly use the “ABCDE” rule to evaluate suspicious lesions: Asymmetry, irregular Borders, multiple or uneven Colors, Diameter larger than 6 mm, and Evolution over time. Unlike other skin cancers, melanoma has a higher tendency to metastasize, meaning it can spread to lymph nodes and distant organs such as the lungs, liver, brain, and bones. Once it advances beyond the skin, treatment becomes more complex and prognosis worsens.

Treatment for malignant melanoma depends on the stage at diagnosis. Early-stage melanoma is typically treated with surgical excision, which can be curative if the cancer has not spread. For more advanced cases, therapies may include immunotherapy, targeted therapy, radiation therapy, or chemotherapy. Recent advances in immunotherapy, particularly immune checkpoint inhibitors, have significantly improved survival rates for patients with metastatic melanoma. Prevention remains key, including regular skin examinations, protective clothing, sunscreen use, and minimizing exposure to intense sunlight.

Early detection is key. Early detection through routine skin checks significantly improves the likelihood of successful treatment and reduces the risk of complications during treatment.

CPC can help! By integrating our specialized testing expertise with your clinical care, CPC strives to provide tailored educational resources that help patients better understand their results and treatment plans.

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