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Clinicopathological profile of a cohort of patients with malignant melanoma diagnosed at a district general hospital in the UK

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Introduction and objectives: Malignant melanoma (MM) display a spectrum of clinical and histological manifestations. Correct diagnosis and standardised reporting of MM according to the guidelines provided by the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) ensures that all necessary data are provided to the clinicians for the commencement of specific treatment. The objectives of this study were to determine clinicopathological features of MM in the study population and to assess the completeness of reporting according to the RCPATH guidelines.

Methodology: This was a retrospective correlational cross-sectional study conducted in Kings Mill Hospital (KMH). All MM cases, which were histologically confirmed, from skin clinics of KMH from January 2020 to December 2021 were included.

Results: There were 168 patients with MMs, and 54.8% (n=92) were men. The age range was 23 to 96 years, with a mean of 63.9 years. Lower limbs were the most frequently involved site (26.7%; n=45), followed by the chest wall (25%; n=42). Superficial spreading MM was the commonest histological subtype (75.6%; n=127), followed by nodular melanoma (14.3%; n=24). The mean age for thin melanomas (<1 mm in thickness) was 59.7 years compared to 66.7 years for thick melanomas. Ulceration was present in 20.8% (35/168), seven cases had lymphovascular invasion, and only two had microsatellites. BRAF mutation was tested in 36 and detected in 20. More than 99% (167/168) of the reports included the complete core data set items in the histology report.

Discussion and conclusion: Compliance with histopathology datasets was more than 99%. The commonest subtype in the study population was superficial spreading malignant melanoma, and lower limbs were the most frequently involved site.

Keywords: malignant melanoma, dataset, prognosis, histopathology

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