



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

ONE STEP MELANOMA SURGERY (OSMS) WITHOUT USING ULTRASONOGRAPHY FOR PREOPERATIVE TUMOUR THICKNESS MEASUREMENT: A NEW SURGICAL MARGIN FOR TREATING MELANOMA PATIENTS?

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BACKGROUND: One step melanoma surgery is a new surgical approach by which specific groups of patients with cutaneous melanoma may be operated only by or within a single surgical session. Until now, the Bulgarian Society for Dermatologic Surgery (BULSDS) has presented models of clinical behaviour, in which preoperative measurement of tumour thickness in combination with echographic measurement of the locoregional lymph nodes could lead to the conduct of the so-called one-step melanoma surgery. Although this one step surgery currently does not fit in the recommended guidelines, it ensures compliance of the recommended boundaries of operational security while saving patients a repeated excision and relieves the healthcare institutions or the patients themselves financially.

CASE REPORT: We at this moment present 2 cases from the Bulgarian Society for Dermatologic Surgery (BULSDS) of one step melanoma surgery with a perfect final result, where the tumour thickness was not preoperatively determined by high-frequency echography. Preoperative assessment of tumour thickness was performed based on the clinical picture and dermatoscopy. The histologically established tumour thickness was identical to the preoperative assessment, i.e. <1 mm. Removal of the melanocytic lesion was performed with operational security field of 1cm in all directions, where, as a rule, no further removal of the draining lymph nodes is required.

CONCLUSION: One step melanoma surgery has two significant advantages: 1) it saves a re-excision in certain groups of patients, which in turn is 2) significantly more favourable from a financial point of view. Its applicability in the appropriate groups of patients and the postoperative (although in a limited number of patients) results achieved indicate the need to optimise the current algorithms and direct them individually to each patient.

