## Spitz Nevus

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# Sophie Spitz (1948) Juvenile Melanoma 



- Childhood lesions that histologically resembled malignant melanoma
- Behaved as benign tumors
- 12 of 13 patients initially diagnosed as having melanoma alive 13 years later
- Depth of invasion of these lesions did not correlate with prognosis


## Terminologic Confusion

## Benign juvenile melanoma

Epithelioid or spindle cell nevomelanocytic nevus
Spitz tumor
Pseudomelanoma
Spindle cell nevus
Epithelioid cell nevus

## How Common?



- Incidence 1-10\%
- First two decades of life
- Caucasians
- Head and neck
- Legs in women


## Four Clinical Variants



- Light-colored and soft lesions, which are usually smooth and pink or slightly pigmented
- Light-colored and hard lesions, resembling a dermatofibroma or a keloid
- Dark-colored lesions with varying degrees of pigmentation
- Multiple or agminated lesions

| Clinical criteria of Spitz nevus and malignant melanoma |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Criterion | Spitz nevus | Malignant melanoma |
| Symmetry | Yes | No, except for early lesions and the rare nodular form of melanoma |
| Diameter <6 mm | Often | No in most cases; early lesions may be small |
| Ulceration and pruritus | Rare | Common |
| Age predominance | Children and young adults | Generally adults |
| Evidence of regression | No | Present in 23\% |
| Recurrence after incomplete excision | 4\% to 5\% | Likely |
| Metastatic potential | None | High |



## Histopathology



## Criteria



- Symmetry
- Borders
- Cell type
- Maturation
- Absent pagetoid spread of single cells.
- Kamino bodies






## Symmetry

- No lateral extension of junctional activity beyond the limits of dermal component
- Similarity comparing one field with another
- Peripheral borders sharply circumscribed


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## Epithelioid and Spindle Cells



- Spindle cells more common
- Cells are arranged in fascicles with vertical orientation related to the rete ridges-"raining, streaming fish"
- Beware junctional epithelioid melanocytes in adult





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## Maturation



- Presence of small, normal nevus cells in the deeper part of the lesion
- No prominent nests at base
- Diminution of size of both nuclei and nucleoli



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## Kamino Bodies



- Coalescent, pale pink bodies
- Multiple step sections may be necessary
- PAS and trichrome positive
- NOT apoptosis


## Genetic Alterations



| Lesions n=95 | B-RAF/N-RAS | H-RAS |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Spitzoid MM | $86 \%(31 / 36)$ | $0 \%$ |
| $86 \%$ of mets <br> $(6 / 7)$ | $7 \%(1 / 15)$ |  |
| Spitzoid lesions <br> susp. for MM | $35 \%(8 / 23)$ | $14 \%(3 / 22)$ |
| Atypical Spitz <br> nevus | $0 \%(0 / 22)$ | $29 \%(4 / 14)$ |
| Spitz nevus | $0 \%(0 / 14)$ |  |

Am J Surg Pathol. 2005 Sep;29(9):1145-51 van Dijk MC, Bernsen MR, Ruiter DJ.

## Spitz nevi and spitzoid

## Should Spitz Nevi Be Excised?



## Spitz Nevus or Not?




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## Spitz Nevus with Sclerosing Features




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## Melanoma with Spitzoid Features



