



Images In Medicine

Intranasal Mucosal Malignant Melanoma

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A 84-year old woman with left-sided pansinusitis had a large mass in the left nasal cavity which was removed with endoscopic surgery. Histologically, the tumor demonstrated highly abnormal malignant cells with increased mitotic activity without necrosis. Immunohistochemically, malignant cells express Pan-Melanoma Marker and S-100 protein. All others, including organ-specific markers are not expressed.

Fortunately, primary malignant mucosal melanoma of the head and neck is rare. Approximately 1% of all melanomas are mucosal melanomas, and ~55% of them involve mucous membranes of head and neck.¹

In sinonasal melanoma, ~57% patients present with symptoms of obstruction, followed by epistaxis (52%). In the late stages of disease, rhinorrhea, epiphora, proptosis, facial pain, and swelling may occur.

Once mucosal melanoma is discovered, the main goal is to gain local control at the primary site. If local control is achieved, patients have a better survival and a decreased chance of developing distant metastasis.²

Drug regimens for treating mucosal melanoma are still in the trial phase.

Gene therapy is also a possible treatment modality.

Mucosal melanoma is a rare disease that even with aggressive resection and treatment still has a poor 5-year survival.

REFERENCES:

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2. Malignant mucosal melanoma of head and neck. *Cancer* 1997, 80:1373-86.

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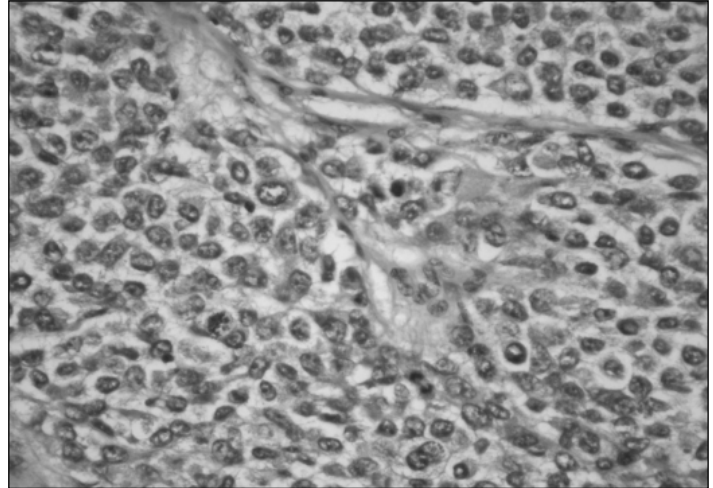
Disclosure of Financial Interests

The authors have no financial interests to disclose.

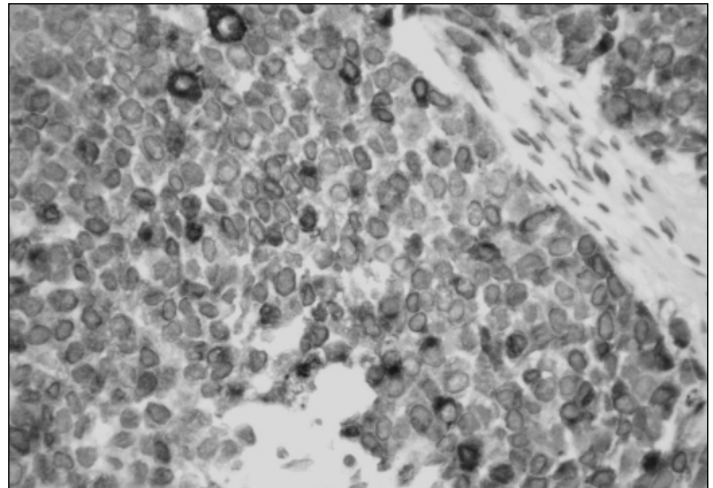
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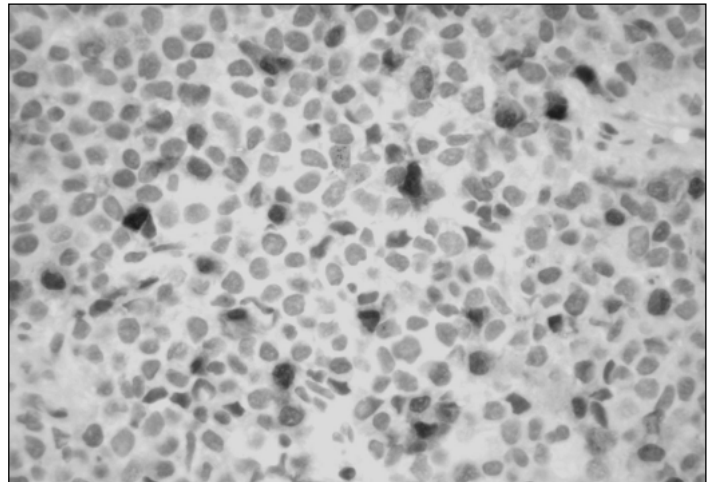
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H&E, high power view.



Pan-Melanoma marker expression.



S-100 protein expression.