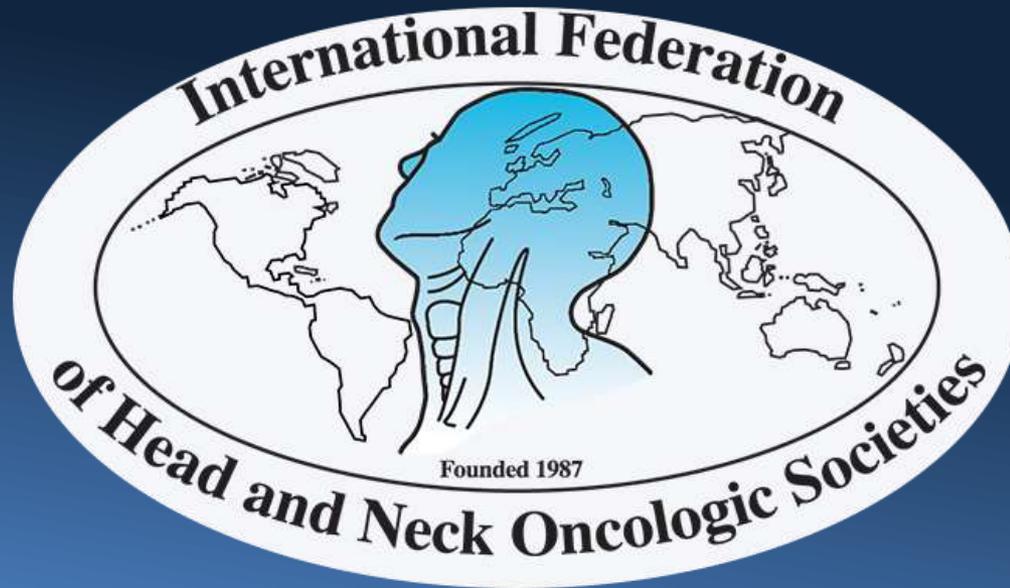




# The International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies

Current Concepts in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology 2017



[www.ifhnos.net](http://www.ifhnos.net)



# The International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies

Current Concepts in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology 2017

## Skin Cancer /Melanoma: Surgery

Dr. Patrick Gullane

# No Disclosures



# Presentation

- Be aware of the increasing Incidence of Melanoma
- Understand the changes in the Staging System
- Understand the Evaluation and importance of Prognostic Factors
- Be familiar with Treatment Management-
  - Margins How Wide-Is their a consensus?
  - Value of Sentinel Node-When,How and Why
  - Management of the Neck
- Be aware of the Role of Adjunctive Treatments
- Radiation and Systemic therapy

# Rising Incidence and Mortality of Melanoma in the US

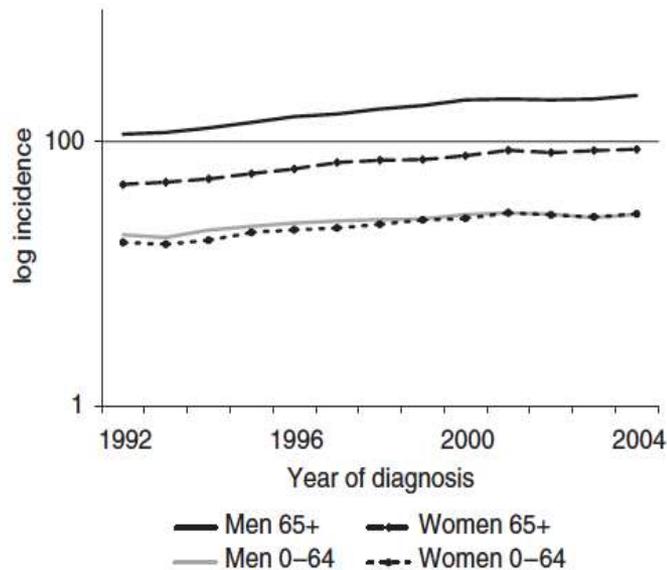


Figure 1. Age adjusted incidence of malignant melanoma per 100,000 according to age and sex 1992-2004. Note: Y axis is logarithmic scale.

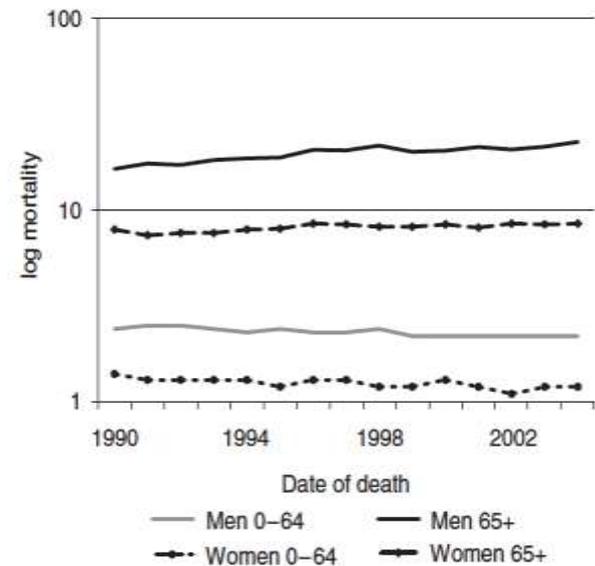


Figure 2. Age adjusted mortality rates from melanoma per 100,000 according to age and sex 1990-2004.

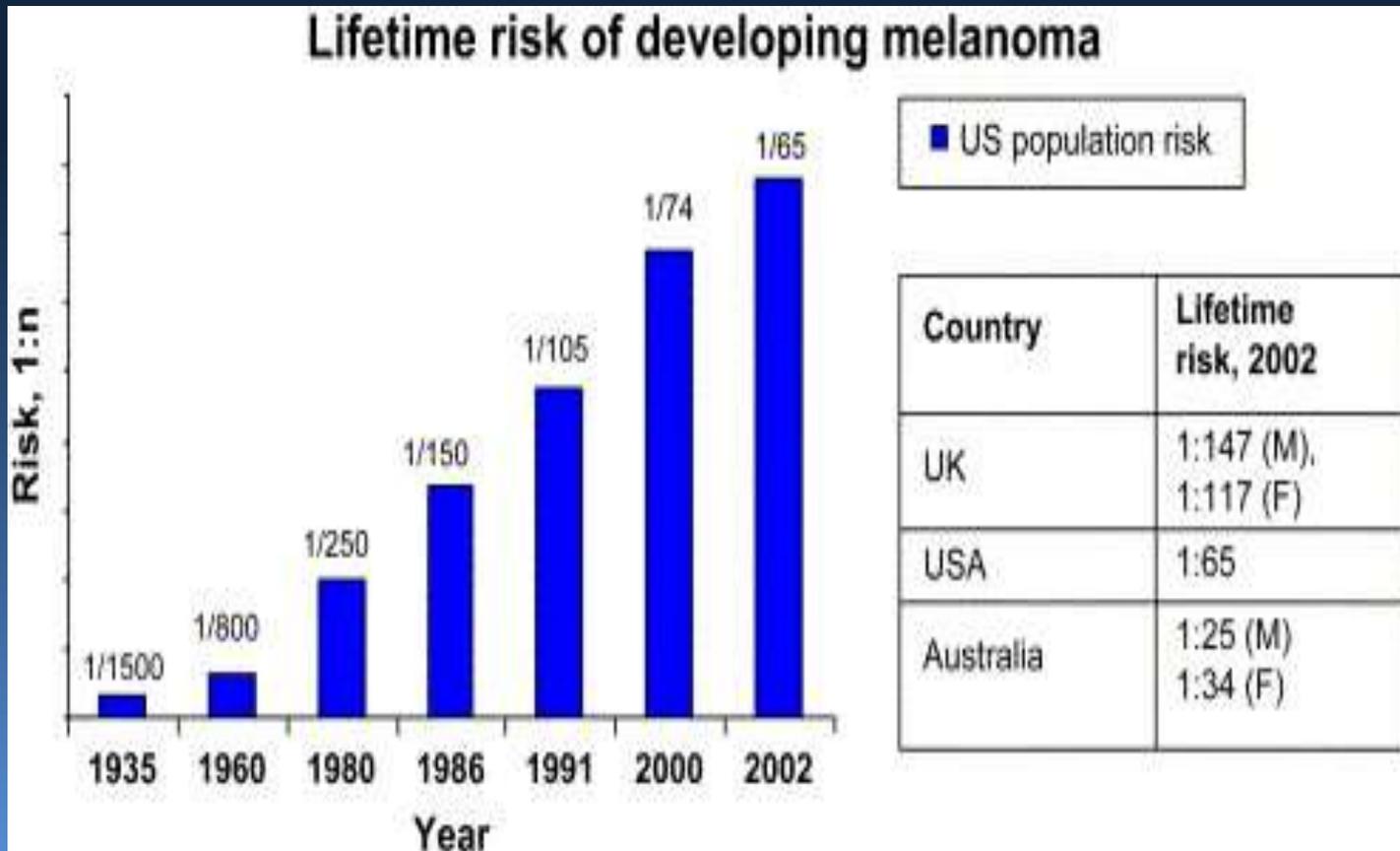
# Increasing Incidence

- 2009: 68,000/year
- 2014: 76,100/year
  - lifetime risk of melanoma approximately
  - 2.0% (1 in 50) for Caucasians



|                       |                |             | Males  | Females  |                       |             |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|--|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| Prostate              | 241,740        | 29%         |  |  | Breast                | 226,870 29% |
| Lung & bronchus       | 116,470        | 14%         |  |  | Lung & bronchus       | 109,690 14% |
| Colon & rectum        | 73,420         | 9%          |  |  | Colon & rectum        | 70,040 9%   |
| Urinary bladder       | 55,600         | 7%          |  |  | Uterine corpus        | 47,130 6%   |
| Melanoma of the skin  | 44,250         | 5%          |  |  | Thyroid               | 43,210 5%   |
| Kidney & renal pelvis | 40,250         | 5%          |  |  | Melanoma of the skin  | 32,000 4%   |
| Non-Hodgkin lymphoma  | 38,160         | 4%          |  |  | Non-Hodgkin lymphoma  | 31,970 4%   |
| Oral cavity & pharynx | 28,540         | 3%          |  |  | Kidney & renal pelvis | 24,520 3%   |
| Leukemia              | 26,830         | 3%          |  |  | Ovary                 | 22,280 3%   |
| Pancreas              | 22,090         | 3%          |  |  | Pancreas              | 21,830 3%   |
| <b>All Sites</b>      | <b>848,170</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>All Sites</b>   | <b>790,740</b>   | <b>100%</b>           |             |

# The Melanoma Epidemic



2017

# Case Scenario 1 in 2017

- M55
- SSM, 1.8mm
- Not ulcerated
- Clark IV
- Mitotic Rate  $1/\text{mm}^2$



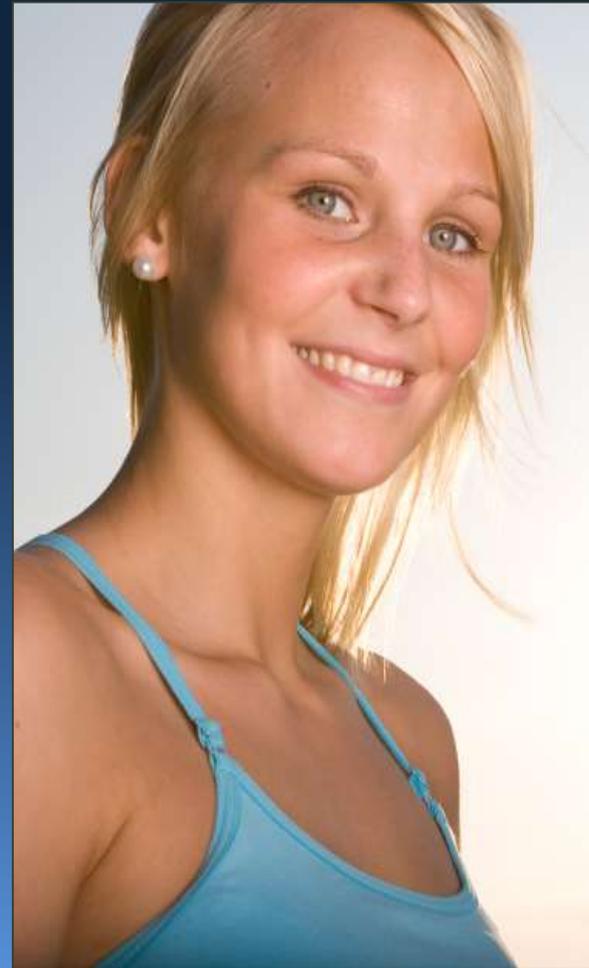
# Case Scenario 2 in 2017

- F72
- NM, 7.5mm
- Ulcerated
- Clark V
- Mitotic Rate  
7/mm<sup>2</sup>



# Case Scenario 3 in 2017

- F17
- SSM, 0.75mm
- Not ulcerated
- Clark III
- Mitotic Rate  $1/\text{mm}^2$



# Introduction

- 15-20% of melanomas present in head and neck
  - 6-10% are mucosal melanomas
- Behaviour is more aggressive than at other sites
- Risk factors:
  - UV light exposure
  - childhood sunburns
  - fair skin
  - Immunosuppression
  - large congenital nevi
  - sporadic or inherited dysplastic nevi
  - genetic disposition
  - previous melanomas

# Cutaneous Head & Neck Melanoma

- Associated with Poorer Prognosis
  - ?influence of scalp primaries
- Risk of nodal metastases - thickness
  - <0.75mm      Rare
  - 0.75 – 1mm      ~5%
  - 1 – 4 mm      8 – 30%
  - >4mm      ~40%

# Head & Neck Melanoma

- Most succumb from systemic disease despite regional control
  - Relative Absence of effective systemic agents
- Loss of disease control
  - Anatomical
  - Aesthetic
  - Functional



# Staging-7<sup>th</sup> now 8<sup>th</sup> edition

## Staging

TNM staging categories for cutaneous melanoma (seventh edition)

| T Classification | Thickness   | Ulceration Status  |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Tis              | NA          | NA   |
| T1               | ≤1.00 mm    | a: without ulceration and mitosis <1/mm <sup>2</sup><br>b: with ulceration or mitoses ≥1/mm <sup>2</sup> |
| T2               | 1.01–2.0 mm | a: without ulceration<br>b: with ulceration  |
| T3               | 2.01–4.0 mm | a: without ulceration<br>b: with ulceration  |
| T4               | >4.0 mm     | a: without ulceration<br>b: with ulceration  |

| <b>N Classification</b> | <b># of Metastatic Nodes</b>   | <b>Nodal Metastatic Burden</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| N0                      | 0  | NA   |
| N1                      | 1  | a: micrometastasis <sup>a</sup><br>b: macrometastasis <sup>b</sup>   |
| N2                      | 2-3  | a: micrometastasis <sup>a</sup><br>b: macrometastasis <sup>b</sup><br>c: in transit met(s)/satellite(s) without metastatic nodes |
| N3                      | 4+ metastatic nodes,<br>or matted nodes, or in<br>transit metastases/satellites<br>with metastatic nodes |  |
| <b>M Classification</b> | <b>Site</b>  | <b>Serum LDH</b>   |
| M0                      | No distant metastases  | NA   |
| M1a                     | Distant skin, subcutaneous,<br>or nodal metastases   | Normal   |
| M1b                     | Lung metastases  | Normal   |
| M1c                     | All other visceral metastases  | Normal   |
|                         | Any distant metastasis   | Elevated   |

2017



# AJCC Staging And Survival

Table 3. Survival Rates for Melanoma TNM and Staging Categories

| Pathologic Stage | TNM | Thickness (mm) | Ulceration         | No. + Nodes | Nodal Size  | Distant Metastasis | No. of Patients | Survival ± SE |            |            |            |
|------------------|-----|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                  |     |                |                    |             |             |                    |                 | 1-Year        | 2-Year     | 5-Year     | 10-Year    |
| IA               | T1a | 1              | No                 | 0           | -           | -                  | 4,510           | 99.7 ± 0.1    | 99.0 ± 0.2 | 95.3 ± 0.4 | 87.9 ± 1.0 |
| IB               | T1b | 1              | Yes or level IV, V | 0           | -           | -                  | 1,380           | 99.8 ± 0.1    | 98.7 ± 0.3 | 90.9 ± 1.0 | 83.1 ± 1.5 |
|                  | T2a | 1.01-2.0       |                    | 0           | -           | -                  | 3,285           | 99.5 ± 0.1    | 97.3 ± 0.3 | 89.0 ± 0.7 | 79.2 ± 1.1 |
| IIA              | T2b | 1.01-2.0       | Yes                | 0           | -           | -                  | 958             | 98.2 ± 0.5    | 92.9 ± 0.9 | 77.4 ± 1.7 | 64.4 ± 2.2 |
|                  | T3a | 2.01-4.0       | No                 | 0           | -           | -                  | 1,717           | 98.7 ± 0.3    | 94.3 ± 0.6 | 78.7 ± 1.2 | 63.8 ± 1.7 |
| IIB              | T3b | 2.01-4.0       | Yes                | 0           | -           | -                  | 1,523           | 95.1 ± 0.6    | 84.8 ± 1.0 | 63.0 ± 1.5 | 50.8 ± 1.7 |
|                  | T4a | > 4.0          | No                 | 0           | -           | -                  | 563             | 94.8 ± 1.0    | 88.6 ± 1.5 | 67.4 ± 2.4 | 53.9 ± 3.3 |
| IIC              | T4b | > 4.0          | Yes                | 0           | -           | -                  | 978             | 89.9 ± 1.0    | 70.7 ± 1.6 | 45.1 ± 1.9 | 32.3 ± 2.1 |
| IIIA             | N1a | Any            | No                 | 1           | Micro       | -                  | 252             | 95.9 ± 1.3    | 88.0 ± 2.3 | 69.5 ± 3.7 | 63.0 ± 4.4 |
|                  | N2a | Any            | No                 | 2-3         | Micro       | -                  | 130             | 93.0 ± 2.4    | 82.7 ± 3.8 | 63.3 ± 5.6 | 56.9 ± 6.8 |
| IIIB             | N1a | Any            | Yes                | 1           | Micro       | -                  | 217             | 93.3 ± 1.8    | 75.0 ± 3.2 | 52.8 ± 4.1 | 37.8 ± 4.8 |
|                  | N2a | Any            | Yes                | 2-3         | Micro       | -                  | 111             | 92.0 ± 2.7    | 81.0 ± 4.1 | 49.6 ± 5.7 | 35.9 ± 7.2 |
| IIIC             | N1b | Any            | No                 | 1           | Macro       | -                  | 122             | 88.5 ± 2.9    | 78.5 ± 3.7 | 59.0 ± 4.8 | 47.7 ± 5.8 |
|                  | N2b | Any            | No                 | 2-3         | Macro       | -                  | 93              | 76.8 ± 4.4    | 65.6 ± 5.0 | 46.3 ± 5.5 | 39.2 ± 5.8 |
|                  | N1b | Any            | Yes                | 1           | Macro       | -                  | 98              | 77.9 ± 4.3    | 54.2 ± 5.2 | 29.0 ± 5.1 | 24.4 ± 5.3 |
| IV               | N2b | Any            | Yes                | 2-3         | Macro       | -                  | 109             | 74.3 ± 4.3    | 44.1 ± 4.9 | 24.0 ± 4.4 | 15.0 ± 3.9 |
|                  | N3  | Any            | Any                | 4           | Micro/macro | -                  | 396             | 71.0 ± 2.4    | 49.8 ± 2.7 | 26.7 ± 2.5 | 18.4 ± 2.5 |
|                  | M1a | Any            | Any                | Any         | Any         | Skin, SQ           | 179             | 59.3 ± 3.7    | 36.7 ± 3.6 | 18.8 ± 3.0 | 15.7 ± 2.9 |
| Total            | M1b | Any            | Any                | Any         | Any         | Lung               | 186             | 57.0 ± 3.7    | 23.1 ± 3.2 | 6.7 ± 2.0  | 2.5 ± 1.5  |
|                  | M1c | Any            | Any                | Any         | Any         | Other Visceral     | 793             | 40.6 ± 1.8    | 23.6 ± 1.5 | 9.5 ± 1.1  | 6.0 ± 0.9  |
| Total            |     |                |                    |             |             |                    | 17,600          |               |            |            |            |



# AJCC 7<sup>th</sup> edition

## Staging Changes - Reasons

- Importance of Breslow thickness (Clark's level only has a role in tumours < 1mm deep)
- Importance of *ulceration and mitotic rate*
- Importance of in-transit and satellite lesions
- Based on a belief that micrometastatic disease better than clinically enlarged nodes
- Number of nodes *not size* important

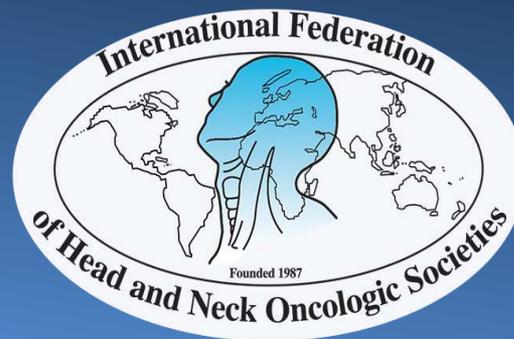
# AJCC 8<sup>th</sup> edition

## Staging Changes - Reasons

### Cutaneous Melanoma

- pT1a and pT1b categories introduced
  - pT1a  $\leq$  0.8mm
  - pT1b > 0.8mm -1mm
- M category
  - M1a Skin, subcutaneous tissue or non regional lymph nodes
  - M1b Lung
  - M1c Other non-central nervous system sites
  - M1d Central nervous system
- M Category modified by elevated or non-elevated LDH
- Stage Revised

# Workup prior to definitive treatment?



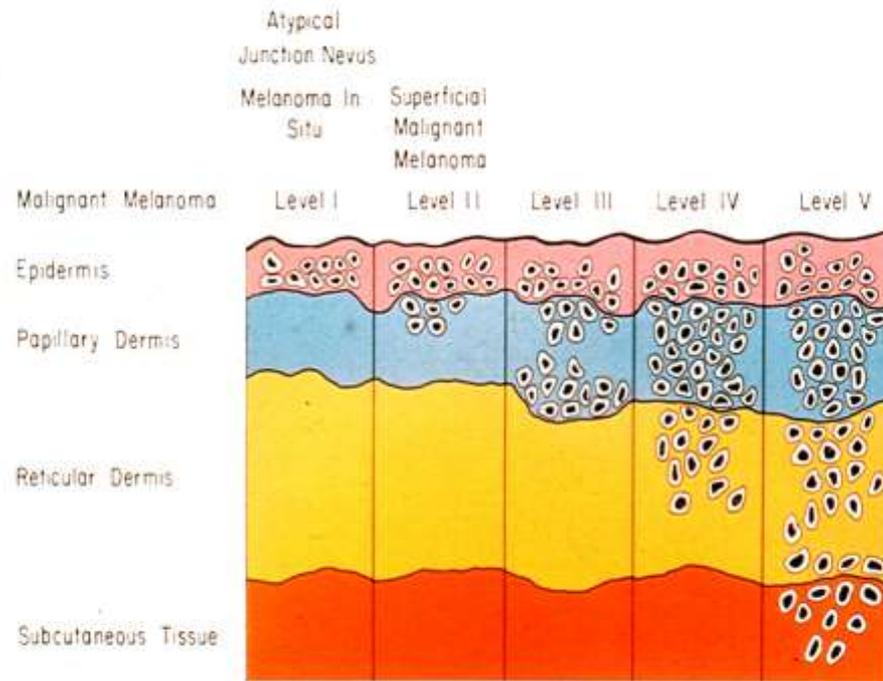
# Investigations for Melanoma

- Primary
  - Routine investigations are not required for asymptomatic patients
- Locoregional
  - +ve SNB – routine investigations are not indicated in the absence of systemic symptoms
  - Macroscopic nodes – CT +/- PET for symptoms, or in cases where change of management may result
  - FNA to confirm stage III disease
- Systemic
  - CT, MRI, PET, serum LDH for symptoms suggestive of systemic disease
  - Further investigations as indicated by treatment

# Diagnosis

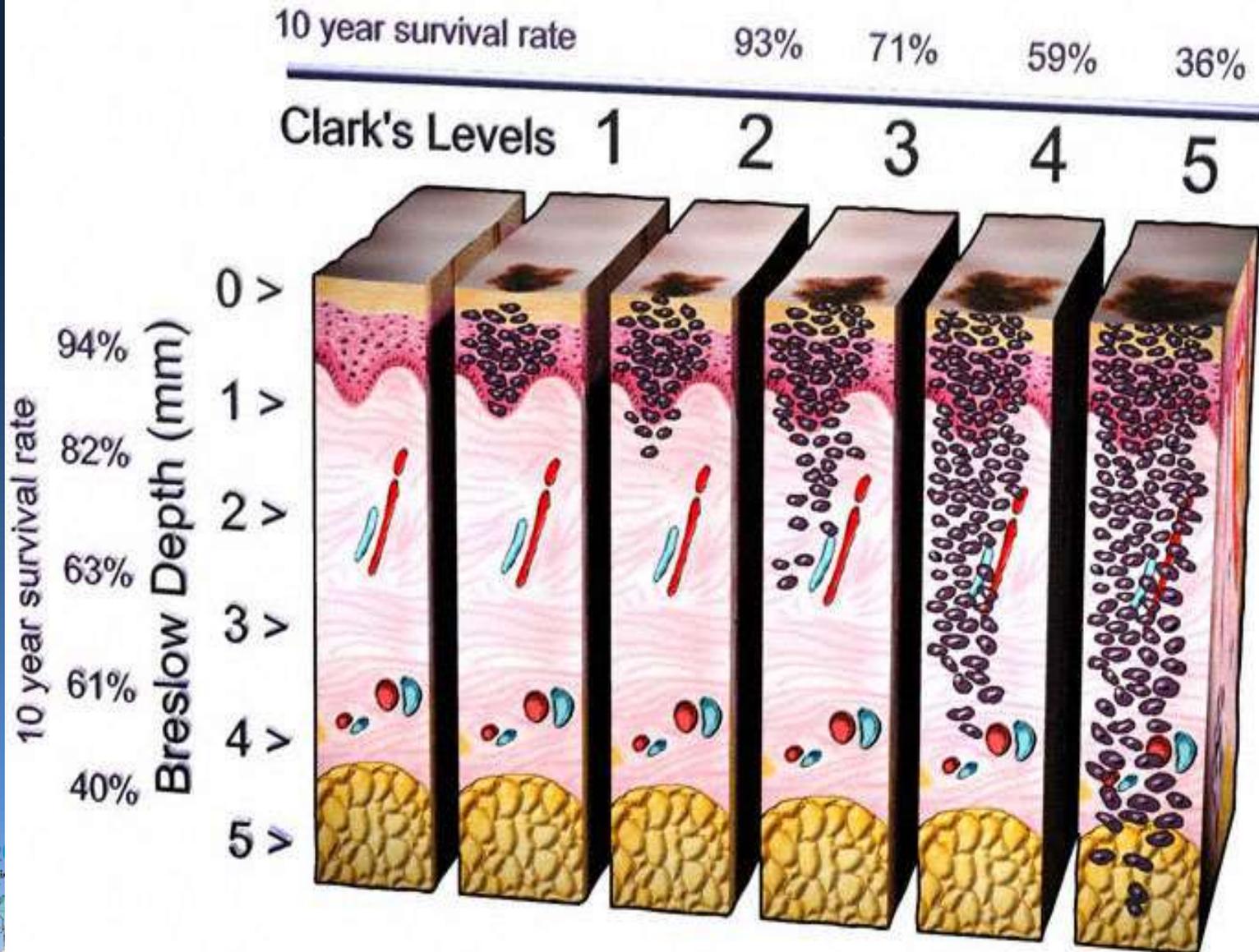
- ABCD(E)'s Of Melanoma:
  - Asymmetry, border, colour variegation, diameter >6mm, evolution
  - Bleeding, ulceration, tingling
- Full-thickness, excisional biopsy of suspicious lesions
- Tumour markers: HMB-45, S-100

## Malignant Melanoma - Depth of Invasion



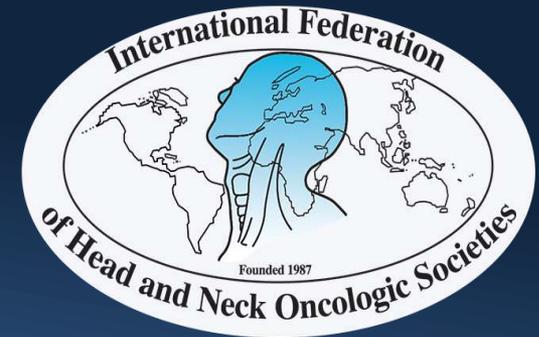
| Level   | Anatomical Invasion  |
|---------|--|
| Level 1 | Melanoma confined to the epidermis (melanoma in situ)          |
| Level 2 | Invasion into the papillary dermis                             |
| Level 3 | Invasion to the junction of the papillary and reticular dermis |
| Level 4 | Invasion into the reticular dermis                             |
| Level 5 | Invasion into the subcutaneous fat                             |

# 10 Year survival Rates



# Prognostic Factors

- Clinical prognostic Factors
  - Older age
  - Male
  - Head and neck site
- Histologic prognostic factors
  - Nodal metastases
  - Tumor thickness/depth
  - Ulceration
  - Vascular invasion
  - Microsatellite lesions



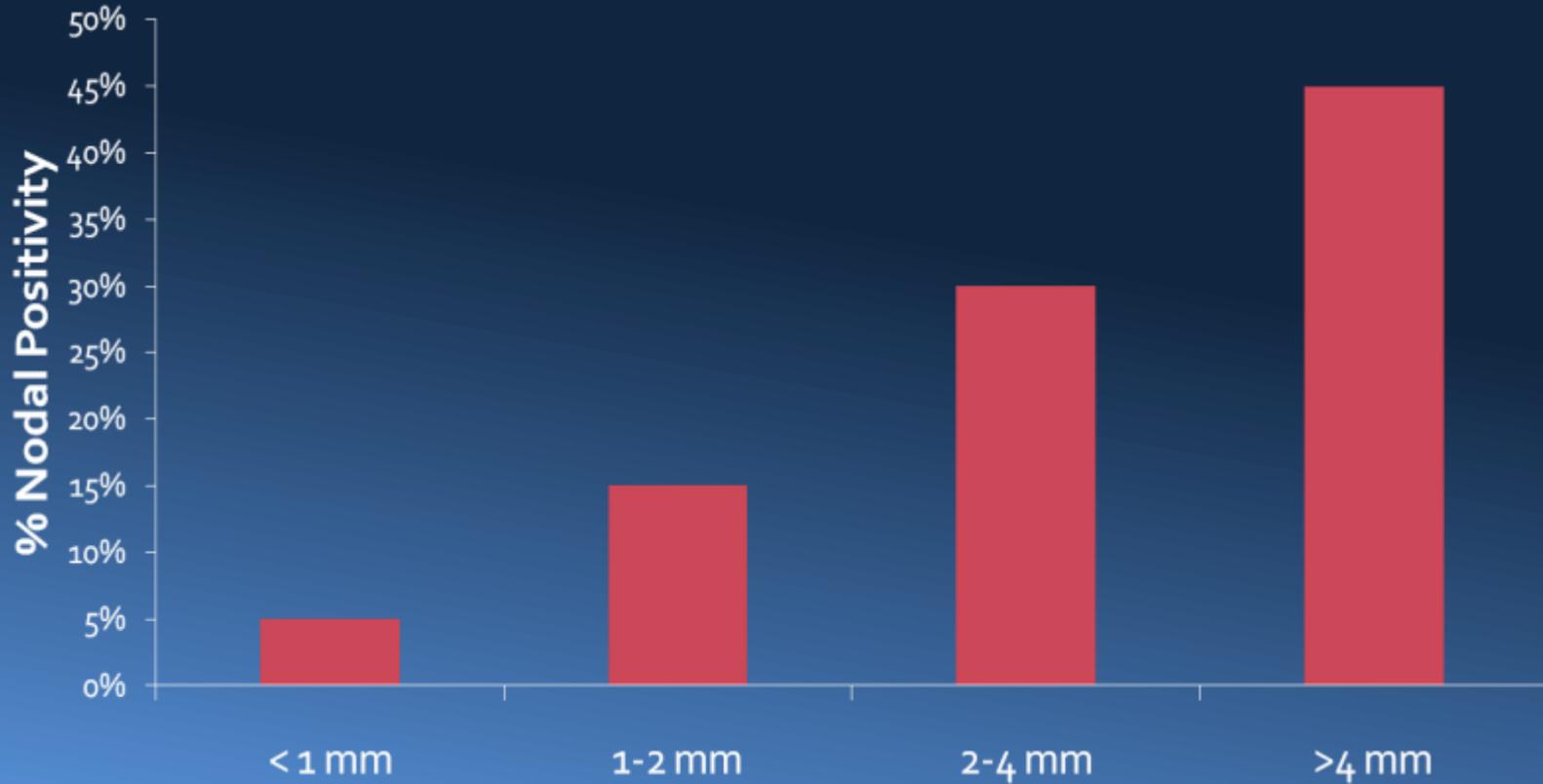
# Prognostic Factors:

## Nodal metastases

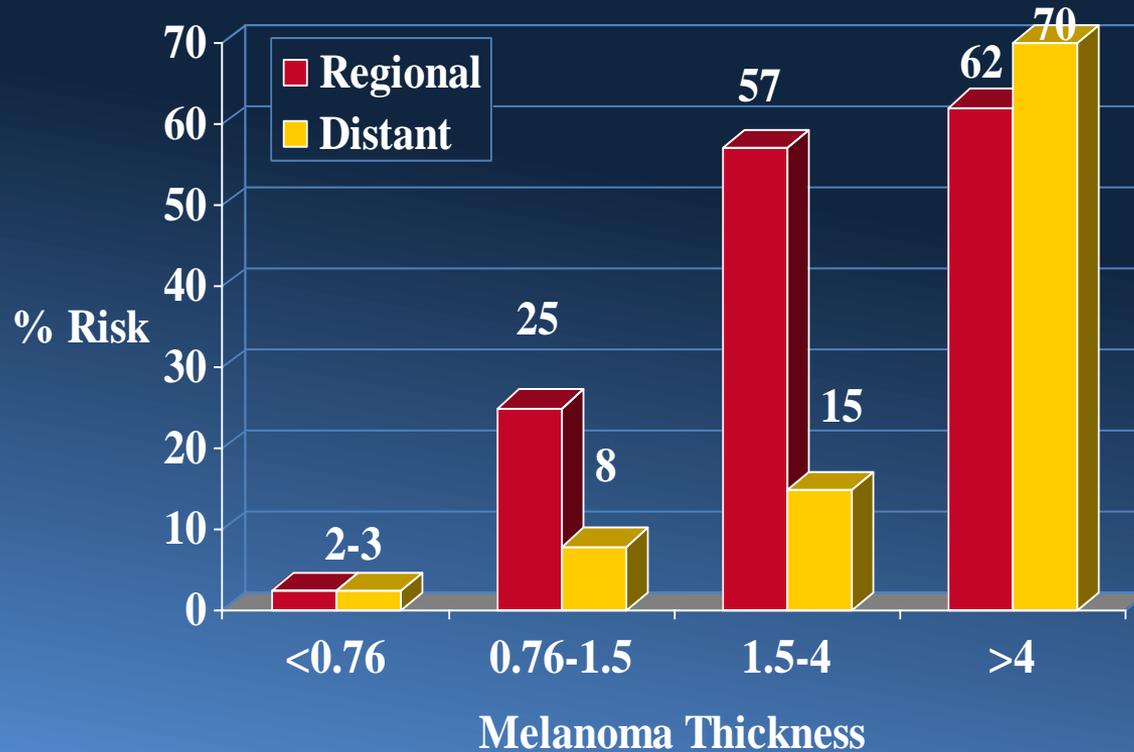
- Single most powerful predictor of recurrence and survival
- Occurs in 15-20% of patients
- Decreases survival by 40%-50% independent of other prognostic factors
- Increases with increasing tumor thickness

|                   |             |             |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Thin (T1)         | < 1.0mm     | ~ 2-5% risk |
| Intermediate (T2) | 1.01-2.0 mm | ~ 15%-25%   |
| Intermediate (T3) | 2.01-4.0 mm | ~ 30%       |
| Thick (T4)        | > 4.0 mm    | ~ 45%       |

# Risk Of Nodal Metastasis

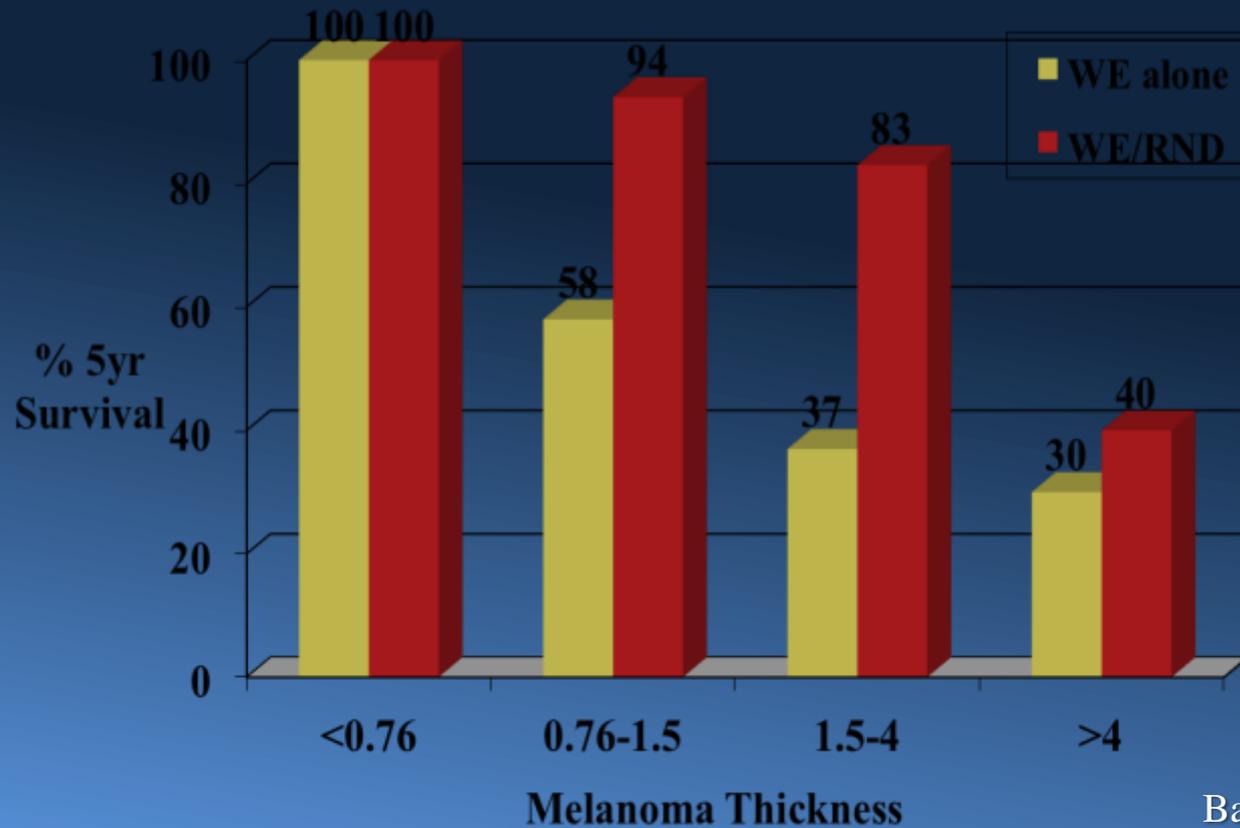


# Rationale for ELND



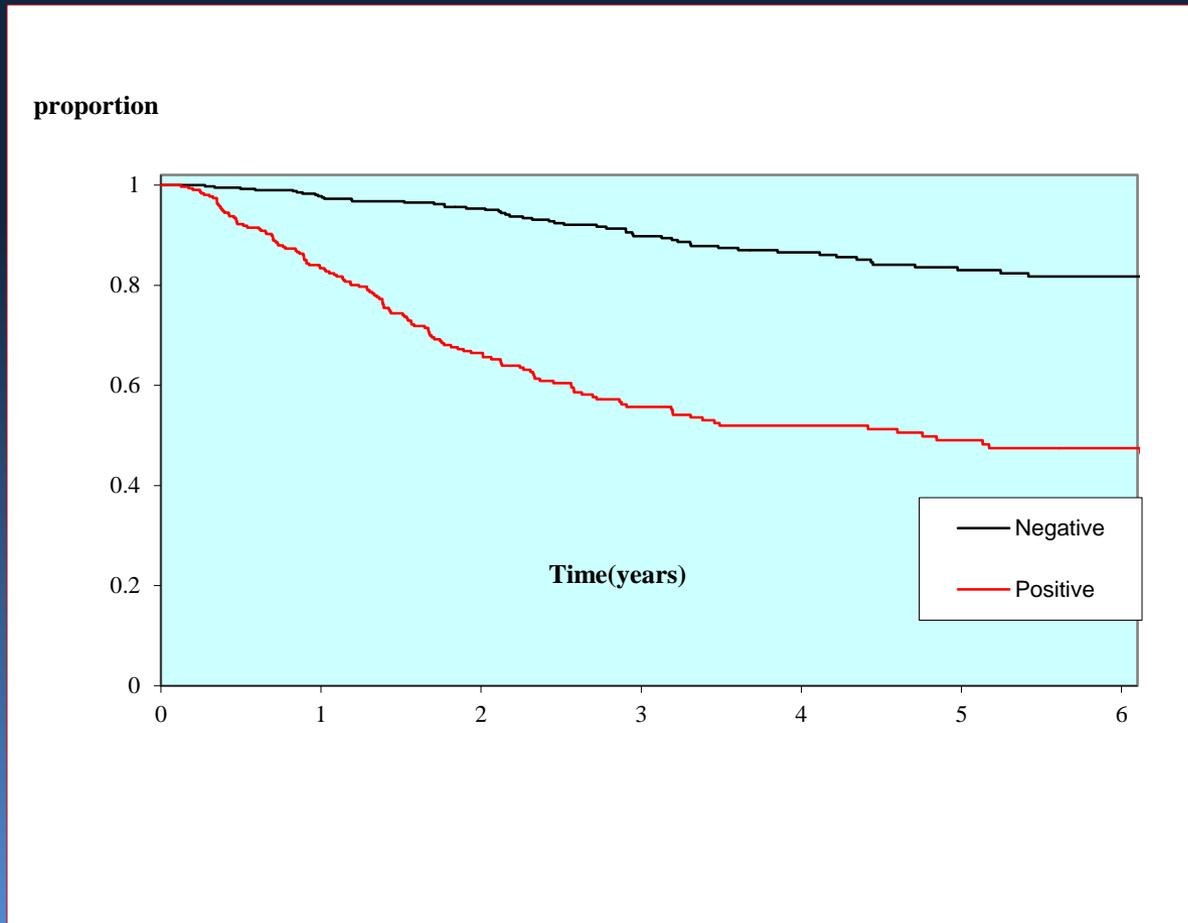
Balch 1980

# Rationale for ELND



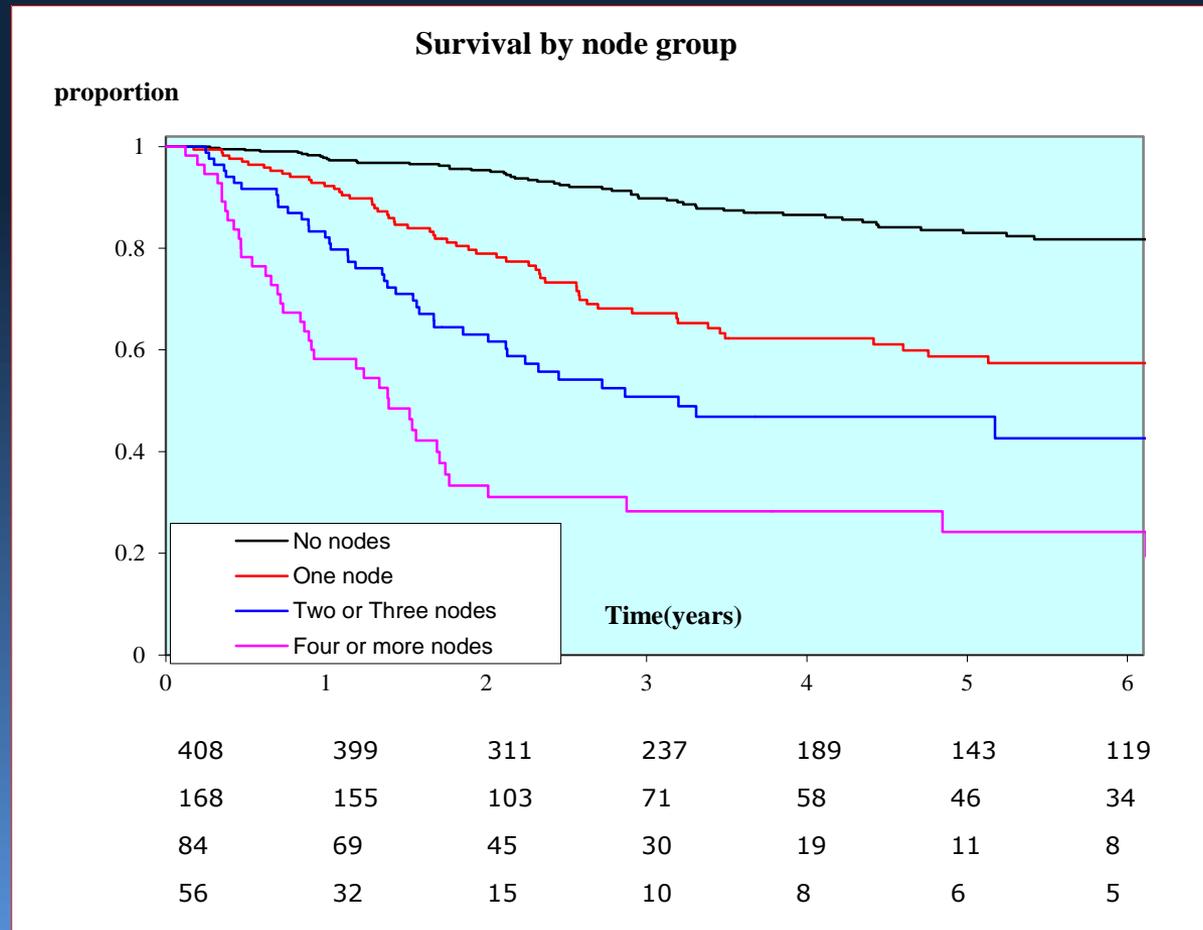
Balch 1979

# Impact of Nodal Metastases



5 ys 83% vs  
49%  
 $P < 0.0001$

# Impact of N Stage



# Mortality

- Mortality is typically related to the development of distant metastases
- Goals of management are
  - Locoregional control
  - Prevention of systemic disease
    - Adjuvant immunotherapy &/or chemotherapeutic agents
    - May have significant side effects
    - Expensive

# Management

- Wide local excision of primary
- Neck management
  - Watch & wait policy
  - Elective lymph node dissection
  - Sentinel node biopsy & nodal management

# Treatment of Primary Melanoma

- Wide local excision

... But How Wide?

# Margins – Randomised trials

- 5cm historical margins

French Co-operative Group, 1985

2cm vs 5cm margin for melanoma  $\leq$   
2mm

**NO DIFFERENCE**

Khayet et al, Cancer 2003

# Margins – Randomised trials

## ä Intergroup Melanoma Committee

- ä Compared 2 v 4 cm margins for MM 1 to 4 mm
- ä No significant difference in LR, ITM, survival
- ä Fewer SSG, shorter hospital stays
- ä Concluded 2 cm safe for intermediate thickness MM

Balch et al, *Ann Surg*, 1993

*No evidence to say that a margin  
> 1cm improves survival*

# Summary of margins trials

- No overall survival nor local recurrence advantage for margin >2cm
- No overall survival advantage for margin >1cm
- No RCT data for ALM and subungual melanoma
- Optimal margins for T3 primaries not certain

# Guidelines for excision margins

| <i>Melanoma</i>      | <i>Margin</i>       |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • In-situ            | 5mm                 |
| • 0 to 1.0mm         | 1cm                 |
| • 1.0 to 4.0<br>1cm) | (minimum<br>maximum |
| • 2cm                |                     |
| • >4.0               | minimum 2cm         |

Consider other pathological features

- satellitosis,
- lymphatic invasion,
- desmoplasia,
- neurotropism

# Various Melanomas



# Excision margins -Head and Neck

T < 1mm

- 1cm margin

T > 1mm

- As wide a margin up to 2cm that can be
- closed without graft / complicated flap or
- significant disfigurement
- If a graft or flap is required for the
- minimum margin – take the recommended
- margin (ie 2cm)

# Prognostic Factors

Tumour thickness

Ulceration

Clark level

Histological type

Cell type

Primary site

Regression

Mitoses

Lymphocytic infiltration

Vertical maturation grade

Blood vessel invasion

Lymphatic space invasion

Ploidy

S-Phase

DR-1 Expression

DNA index

HSP expression

HLA-DR staining

p53 mutations

CAM expression

Protease expression

Migration-associated  
molecule

Angiogenesis-related factor

Oncogene expression

Oestrogen receptor  
expression

Cytokine, growth factor  
expression

# Prognosis of Melanoma Based on Tumor Thickness

|                                | Sample Size | 10-year survival |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Tumor thickness $\leq$ 1.00 mm |             |                  |
| Level II                       | 975         | 94.8             |
| Level III                      | 688         | 84.7             |
| Level IV                       | 450         | 88.6             |
| Level V                        | 0           |                  |
| Tumor thickness 1.01-2.00 mm   |             |                  |
| Level II                       | 49          | 78.5             |
| Level III                      | 425         | 75.8             |
| Level IV                       | 713         | 72.4             |
| Level V                        | 12          | 65.6             |
| Tumor thickness 2.01-4.00 mm   |             |                  |
| Level II                       | 18          | 50.9             |
| Level III                      | 237         | 53.8             |
| Level IV                       | 562         | 60.4             |
| Level V                        | 55          | 37.3             |
| Tumor thickness > 4.00 mm      |             |                  |
| Level II                       | 14          |                  |
| Level III                      | 44          | 36.5             |
| Level IV                       | 194         | 38.6             |
| Level V                        | 132         | 38.8             |

# Ten-Year Survival Rates in Patients with Melanoma by Tumor Thickness and Ulceration (n = 4568)

| Thickness, mm | Number of patients with |            | 10-year survival rate |            | P value  |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|----------|
|               | No Ulceration           | Ulceration | No ulceration         | Ulceration |          |
| 0.01 – 1.00   | 2017 (95.5)             | 96 (4.5)   | 92.0                  | 69.1       | < 0.0001 |
| 1.01 – 2.00   | 944 (78.8)              | 255 (21.2) | 77.7                  | 62.9       | < 0.0001 |
| 2.01 – 4.00   | 500 (57.4)              | 372 (42.6) | 59.5                  | 53.2       | 0.006    |
| > 4.00        | 146 (38.1)              | 238 (61.9) | 54.5                  | 35.5       | 0.0006   |

2017



# Management of the Primary

- Wide local excision of Primary
  - -Margin analysis of the paraffin block
  - -No frozen section
- Delayed Reconstruction
  - -Margin Status
  - -Management of the Neck
- Neck Management
  - Watch & wait policy
  - Elective lymph node dissection



2017 — Sentinel node biopsy & nodal management

# Superficial lesions ( $<0.76\text{mm}$ thick)

- Excision:
  - 1 cm margin down to fascia
- N0 neck:
  - SLNB not indicated
  - Elective neck dissection not indicated

# Intermediate lesions (0.76-3.99mm thick)

- Excision
    - 1-2 cm margin down to fascia
  - N0 neck:
    - SLNB
  - N1-N3 neck:
    - neck dissection +/- superficial parotidectomy
- +/- chemotherapy
- +/- interferon  $\alpha$ -2b etc.

# Deep lesions (>4.0mm thick)

- Excision -- 2 cm margins down to fascia
  - N0 neck:
    - elective neck dissections not indicated
  - N1-N3 neck: neck dissection
    - +/- superficial parotidectomy
- +/- chemotherapy
- +/- interferon  $\alpha$ -2b

# Summary of Management

| MELANOMA        | DEPTH      | MARGIN |
|-----------------|------------|--------|
| • pTis melanoma | in situ    | 5mm    |
| • pT1 melanoma  | <1.0 mm    | 1cm    |
| • pT2 melanoma  | 1.0-2.0 mm | 1-2cm  |
| • pT3 melanoma  | 2.0-4.0 mm | 1-2cm  |
| • pT4 melanoma  | >4.0 mm    | 2cm    |

# Management of The Neck In Melanoma

# Prognostic Factors

Tumour thickness

Ulceration

Clark level

Histological type

Cell type

Primary site

Regression

Mitoses

Lymphocytic  
infiltration

Vertical maturation  
grade

Blood vessel invasion

Lymphatic space  
invasion

Ploidy

S-Phase

DR-1 Expression

DNA index

HSP expression

HLA-DR staining

p53 mutations

CA1 expression

Protease expression

Migration-associated  
molecule

Angiogenesis-related  
factor

Oncogene expression

Oestrogen receptor  
expression

Cytokine, growth factor  
expression

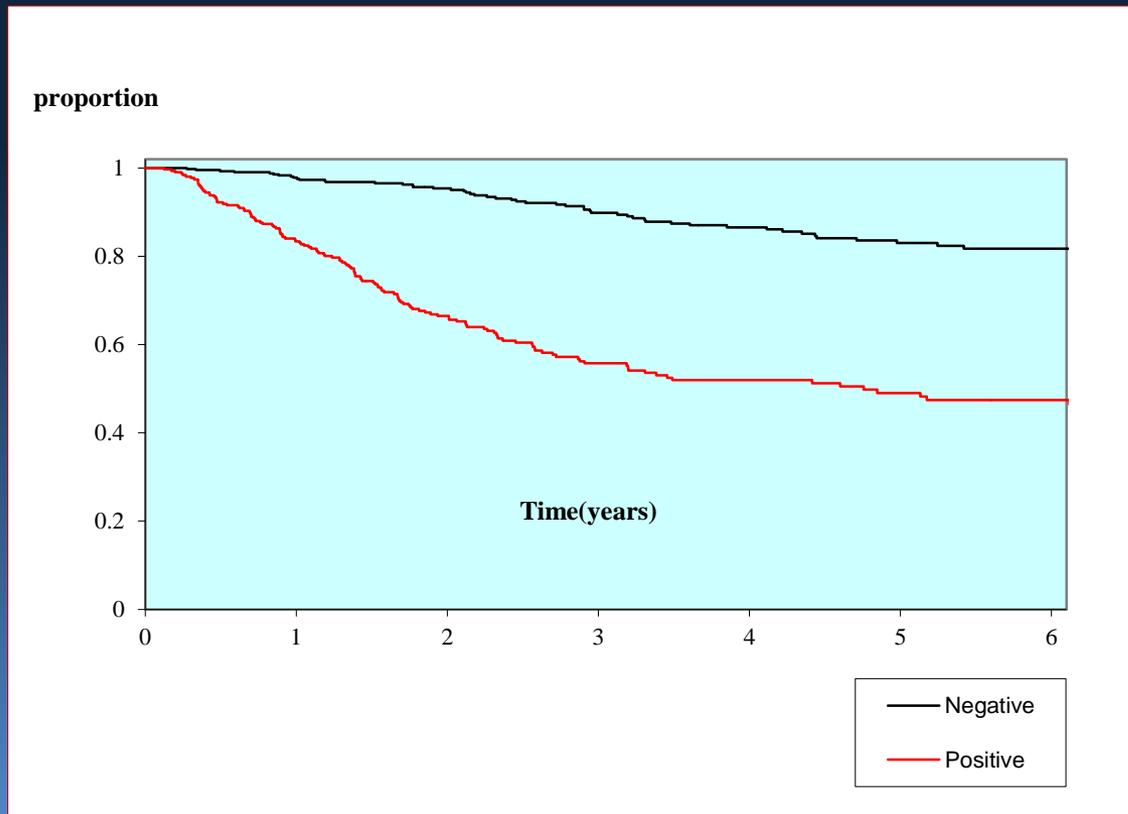
## Lymph node status

2017



# Impact of nodal metastases

## 5 Year survival **83% vs 49%**



Martin et al

5 ys 83% vs 49%  
P<0.0001

# Current Node Management

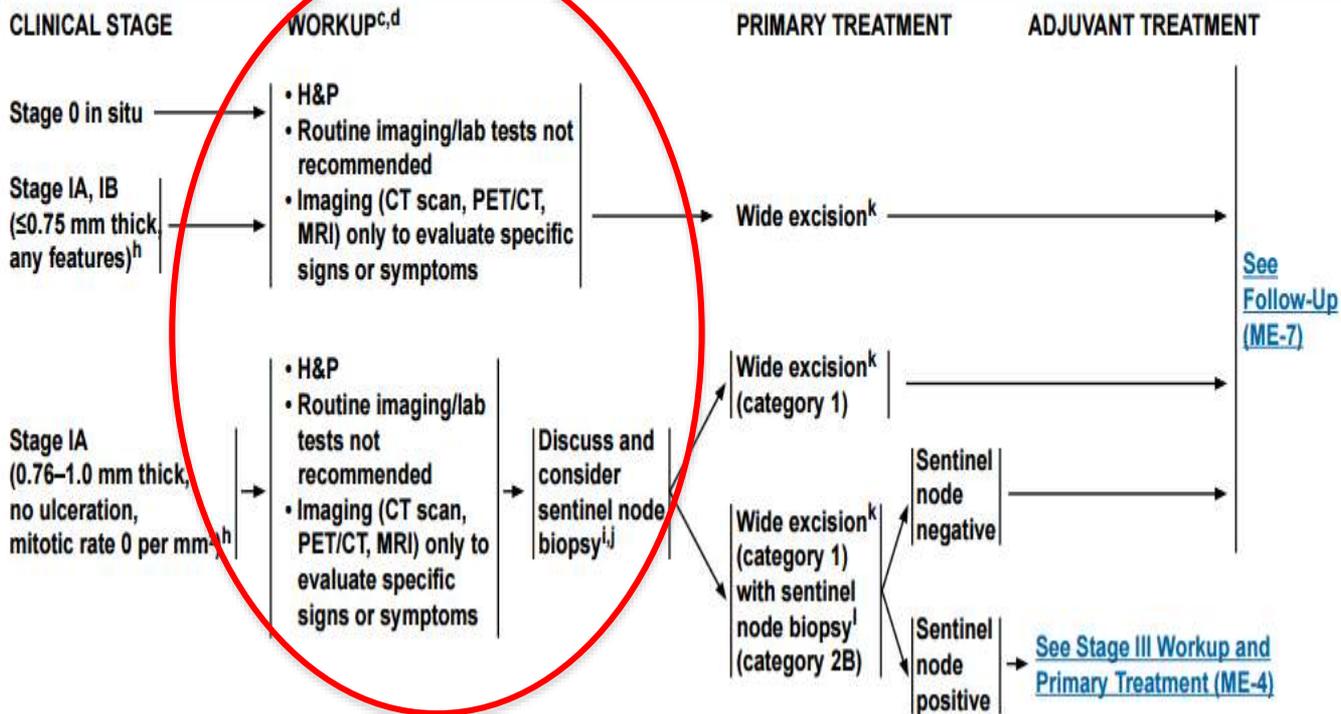
- SNB offered to
  - 1mm or greater
  - <1mm + ulceration, high MR, (younger age)
- SNB +ve
  - Offered participation in MSLT II, or
  - TLND , extent based on lymphatic mapping
- Clinically N+
  - Confirm diagnosis FNA, systemic staging
  - TLND, selective if appropriate
- pN+
  - Considered for adjuvant XRT
  - Offered adjuvant systemic therapy trials

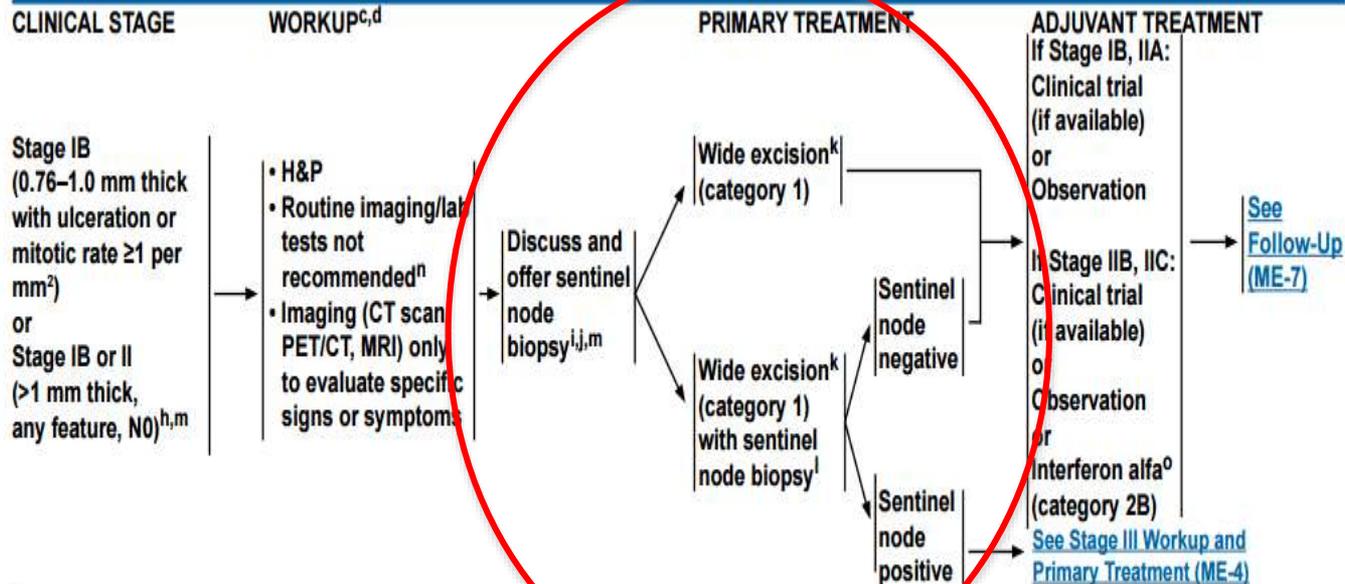


To snB  
or  
not to  
snB...?



# NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2016 Melanoma





<sup>h</sup>In general, SLNB is not recommended for primary melanomas  $\leq 0.75$  mm thick, unless there is significant uncertainty about the adequacy of microstaging. For melanomas 0.76 to 1.0 mm thick, SLNB may be considered in the appropriate clinical context. In patients with thin melanomas ( $\leq 1.0$  mm), apart from primary tumor thickness, there is little consensus as to what should be considered “high-risk features” for a positive SLN. Conventional risk factors for a positive SLN, such as ulceration, high mitotic rate, and LVI, are very uncommon in melanomas  $\leq 0.75$  mm thick. When present, SLNB may be considered on an individual basis.

<sup>m</sup>Microsatellitosis, when present in the initial biopsy or wide excision specimen, defines at least N2c and at least stage IIIB disease. SLN status does have prognostic significance in these patients, with a positive SLN upstaging a patient to N3, stage IIIC. However, the importance of SLNB in the management and outcome of these patients has not been clearly defined. Regardless of SLN status, these patients should be managed as stage III in discussions of workup, adjuvant therapy, and follow-up.

# Neck Management : Watch & wait

- In situ melanoma
- Thin melanoma < 1mm & less than Clark level III and no adverse pathologic features
  - Risk of nodal metastasis <2%
- Thick melanoma > 4mm
  - Some debate as to whether to offer SLNB

# Elective Lymph Node Dissection

- No strong evidence in favour of performing ELND in clinically node negative patients with H & N melanoma
- ND unnecessary in > 80% patients
- Clinical prediction of lymphatic dissemination is unreliable
  - Discordancy rate as high as 14%
  - Lymphatic draining patterns vary

# Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy

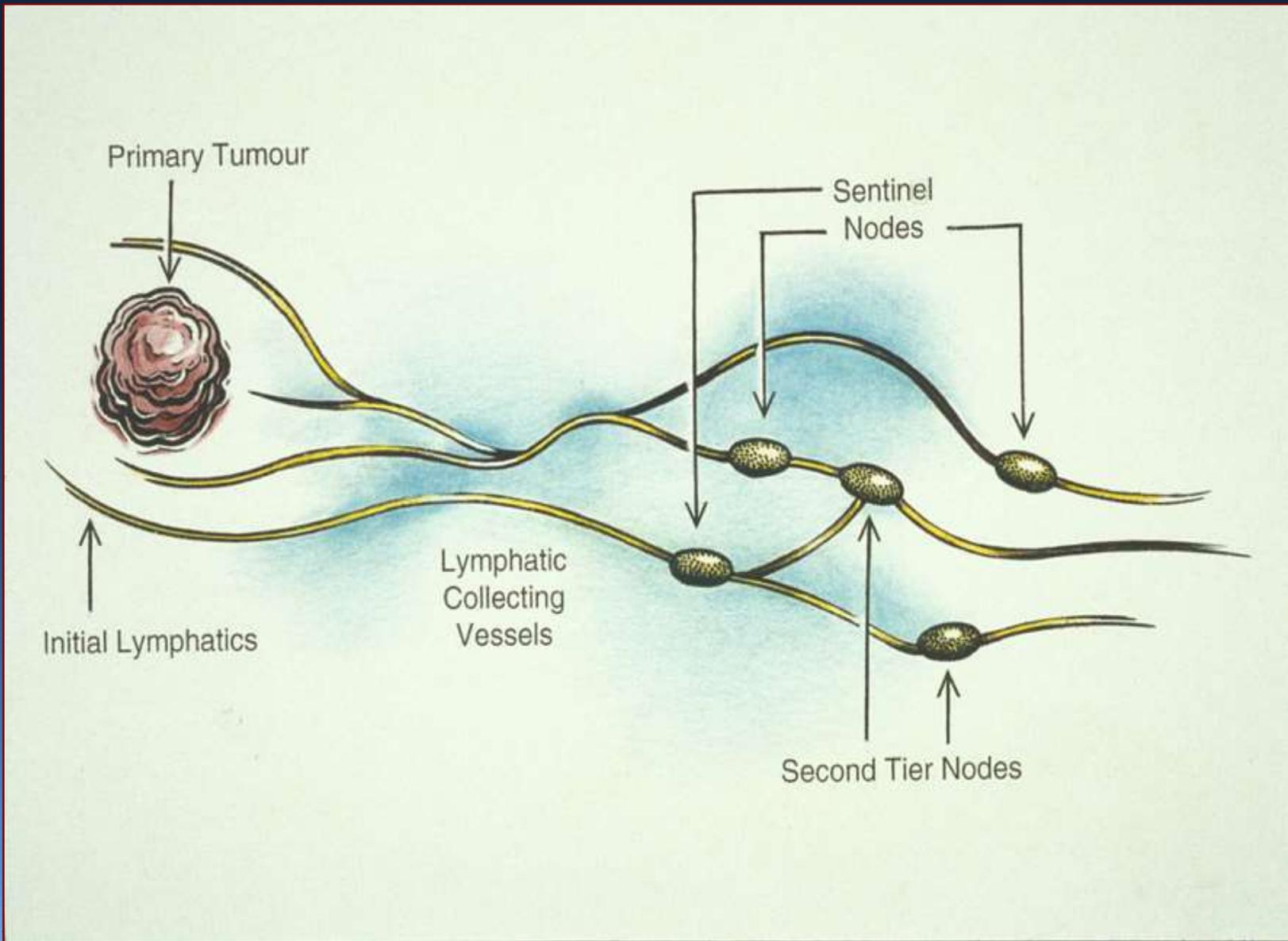
- ◆ Introduced by Cabanas in 1977
- ◆ Popularized by Morton 1990
- ◆ Staging and therapeutic procedure
  - Increases sensitivity to detect regional metastasis
  - Halts regional progression of disease.
  - Selects patients who might benefit from:
    - ✦ Further regional therapy
    - ✦ Systemic adjuvant therapy

# Role of Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy

- Popularized by Morton for Melanoma
- Rationale
  - Metastases occur through specific lymphatic channels to involve sentinel nodes as first site of spread
  - If the SLN is negative, the assumption is that rest of the regional nodes are very likely to be free of disease as well

# “Sentinel Node” - Definition

- “First draining lymph node on the direct drainage pathway from the primary tumor site” Morton
- “Any lymph node receiving direct drainage from a primary lesion site” Uren et al



# Indications

- > 1 mm depth, any Clark level
- < 1mm depth with Clark level IV, V or ulceration
- > 4 mm depth with no adverse risk features
  - Controversial

# Sentinel node biopsy



# Who should undergo SLN Biopsy?

## Summary Indications

- 1-4 mm thick
- ? Thin Melanomas
  - Ulcerated
  - Clark level IV or V
  - Mitoses-  $> 1/\text{mm}^2$

- ? Thick Melanomas

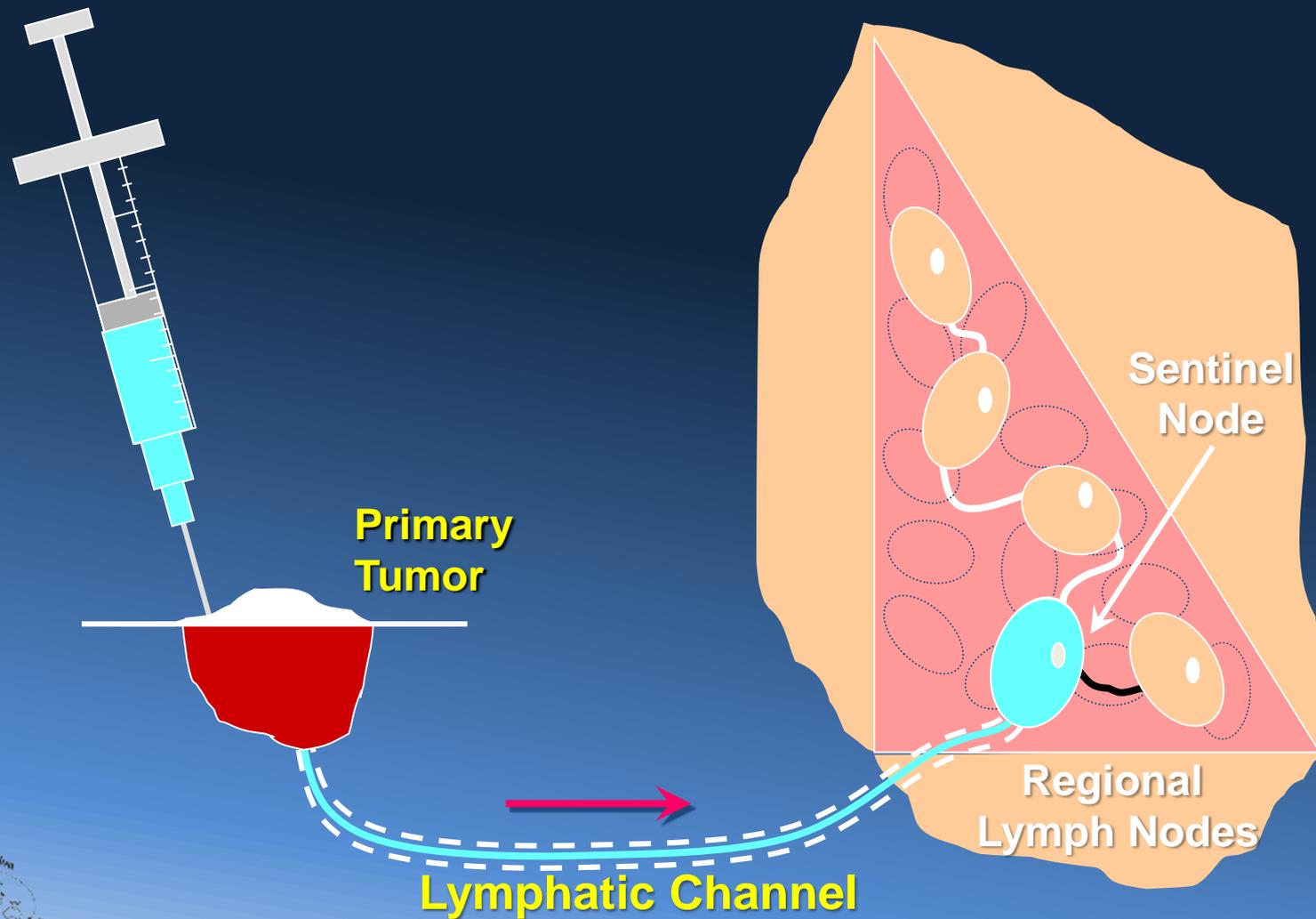
# Contraindications

- Clinically or radiographic lymph node metastases
- Tumors > 4 to 5 cm
- Disruption of lymphatic drainage
  - Prior extensive surgery
  - Extensive local flaps
  - Previous radiation to H & N
- Pregnancy and breast-feeding
- Allergy to dye

# SLNB Technique

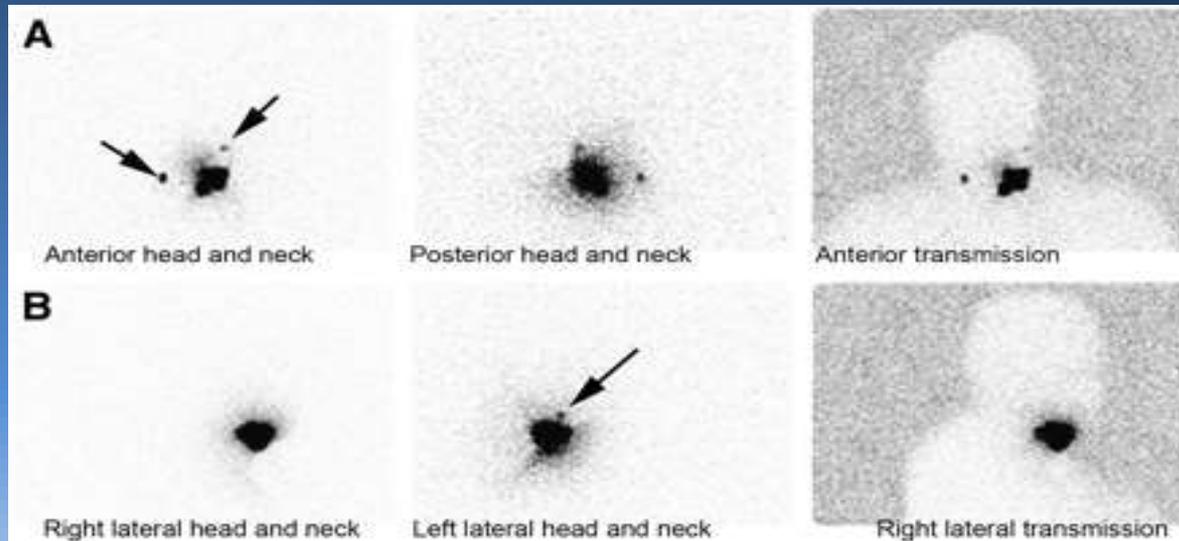
- Morning of Procedure:
  - Injection of primary site with radiolabelled sulfur colloids (technetium-99m)
  - Planar Lymphoscintigraphy (15 min – 1 hour)
- Inject tumour with blue dye (15 min)
- Wide Local Excision of Primary Site
- Use lymphoscintigraphy imaging, Gamma Probe and visualized blue dye to identify sentinel node

# Sentinel Node Technique

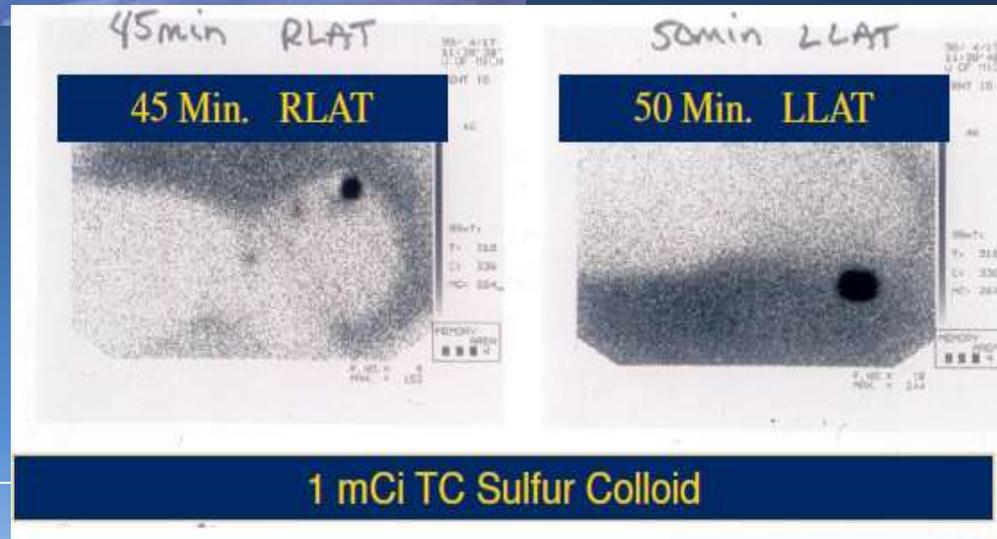


# Pre-operative Details

- Dynamic Lymphatic mapping is performed
- Multiple peripheral intradermal injections of Tc-99 Sulfur Colloid 40mBq within 12 hrs of surgery
  - Choice of radiocolloid
- Uptake sites labeled on skin surface

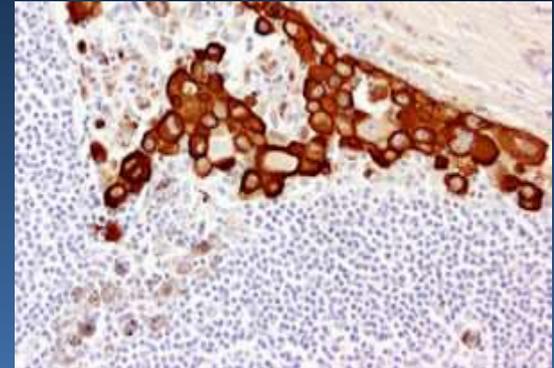


# SLNB Technique

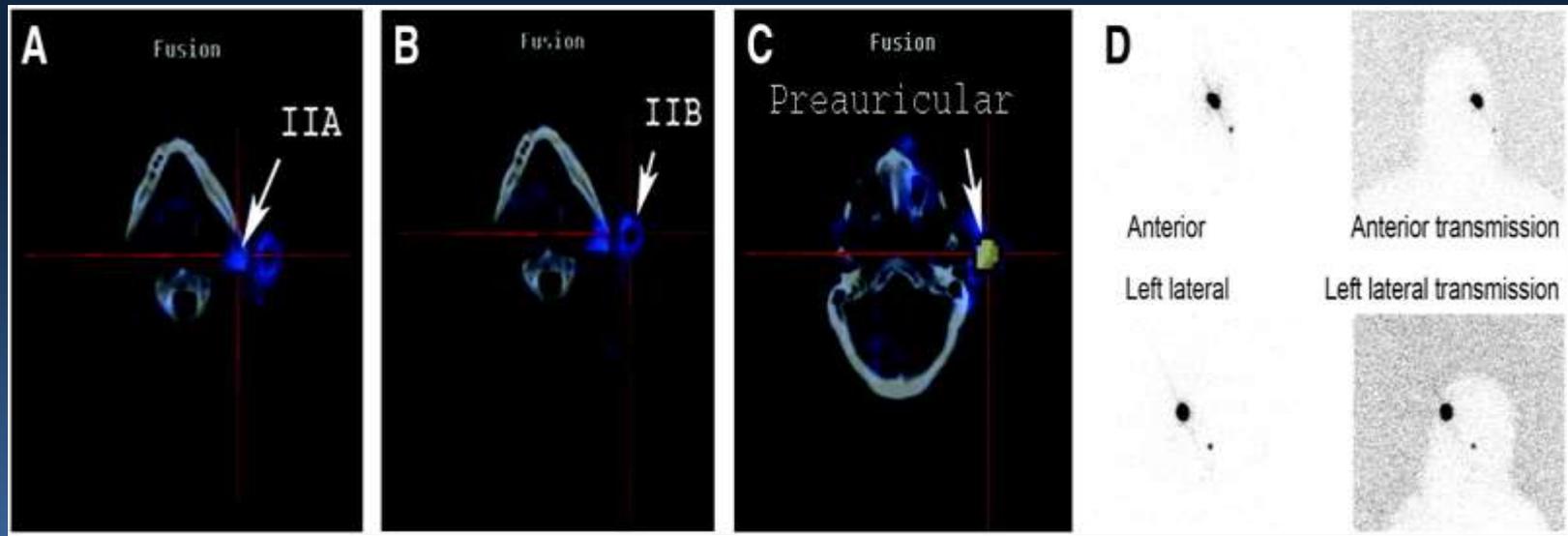


# SLNB Technique

- SLN serially section by pathology
  - As oppose to a single cut through the node
- Immunohistochemistry
  - S-100
  - Melan-A
  - HMB-45



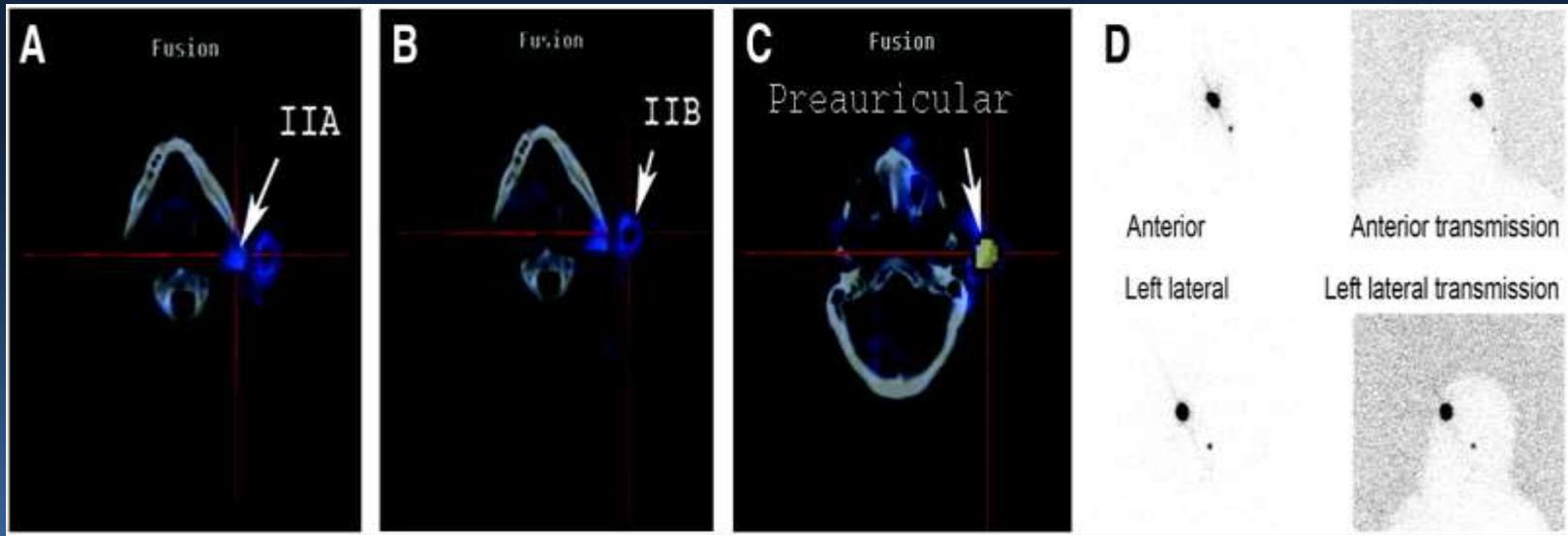
# Hybrid Imaging with SPECT/CT Lymphoscintigraphic Imaging



- Higher diagnostic reliability
  - Anatomic correlation
  - Higher specificity
- Better image quality
  - Due to CT attenuation correction

Sebaceous cell carcinoma of left upper eyelid: Planar imaging (D) demonstrated only 1 node, whereas SPECT/CT demonstrated 4 nodes, possibly because of slight delay in imaging time. Level IIA (A), level IIB (B), and preauricular (C) lymphatic chains are shown.

# Hybrid Imaging with SPECT/CT Lymphoscintigraphic Imaging

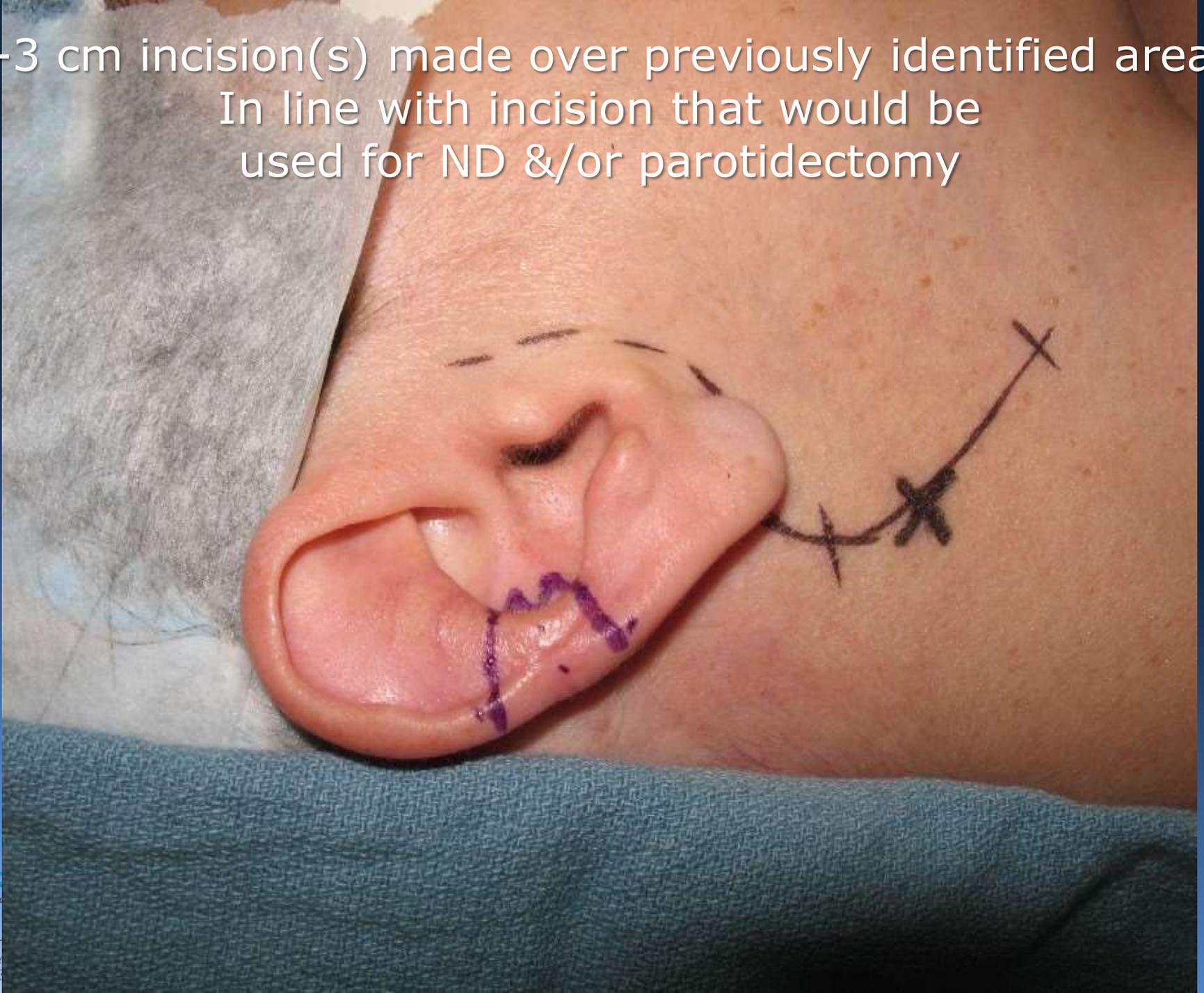


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# Intra-operative technique

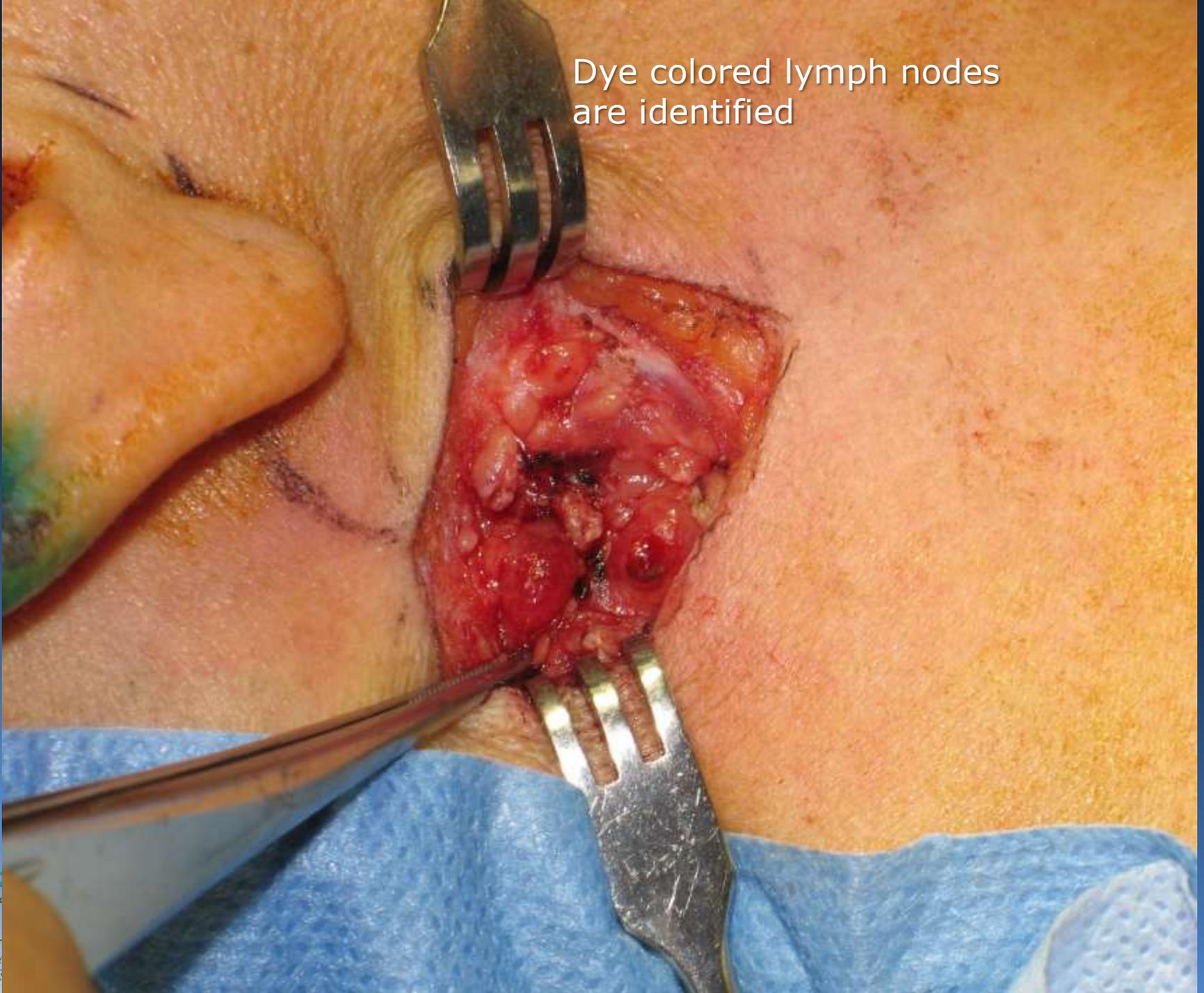
2-3 cm incision(s) made over previously identified areas  
In line with incision that would be  
used for ND &/or parotidectomy



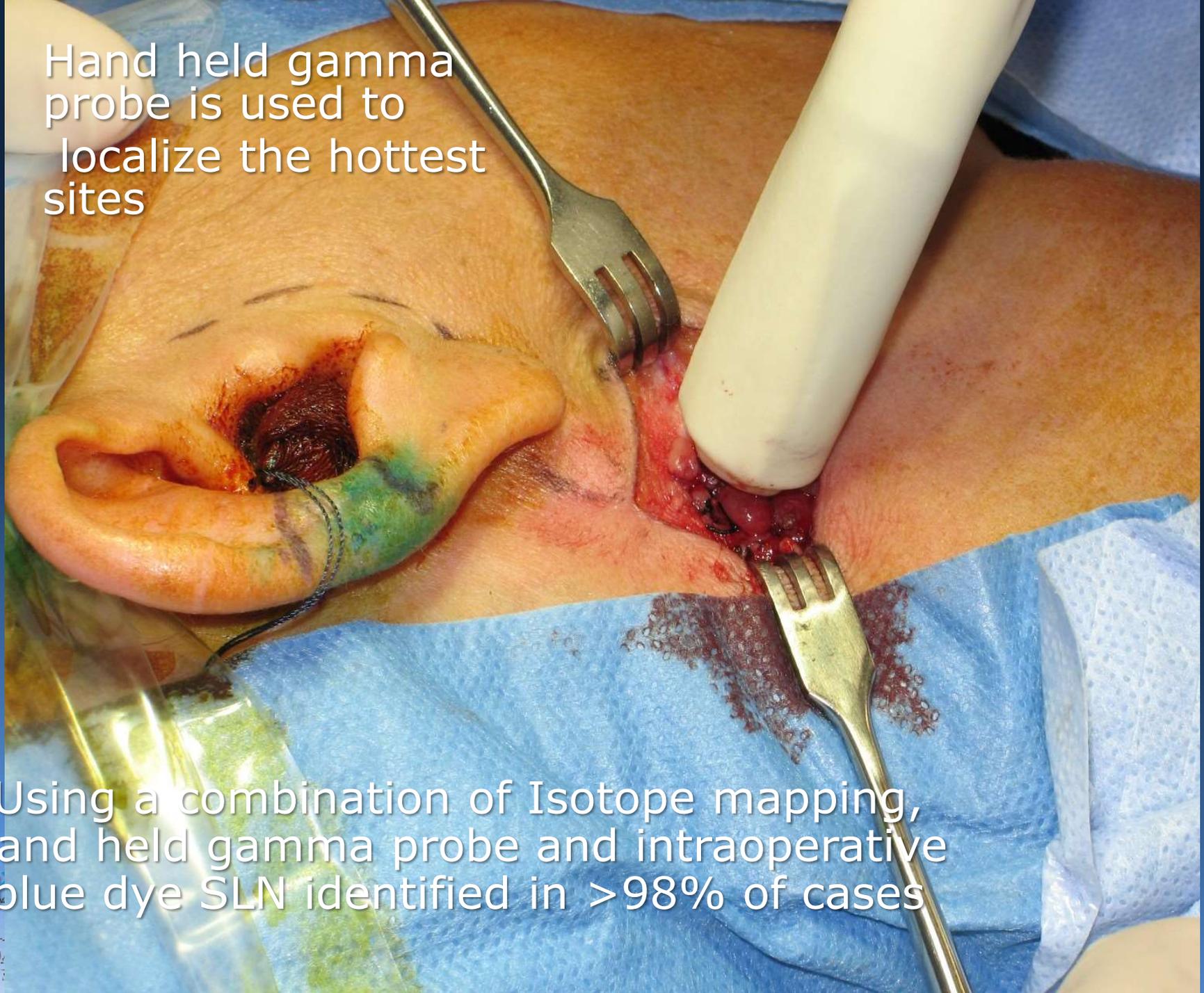
Isosulfan blue (<1cc) is injected into the derm  
at the biopsy margins



Dye colored lymph nodes are identified



Hand held gamma probe is used to localize the hottest sites



Using a combination of Isotope mapping, hand held gamma probe and intraoperative blue dye SLN identified in >98% of cases

SLN shows radioactive uptake exceeding a 10:1 ratio of ex vivo to resection bed count or a 3:1 ratio of in vivo to resection bed count.

10% rule: Keep looking until bed count < 10% of initial in situ count



Formalin fixation and  
Permanent Sections  
Special micro-sectioning

# SPECT-CT for SLNB

- Single Photon Emission CT
- Primarily H&N melanoma
- Improves anatomic location of SLN
  - EJ vs IJ
  - Levels IIA vs IIB vs VA
  - Parotid nodes
  - Suboccipital nodes
- Shortens operative time
- Proper placement of incision



# If SNB *positive*...

- Neck dissection and consideration for systemic therapy +/- clinical trial

# Management of +ve SN

- Therapeutic dissection
  - Based on pattern of drainage at LSG
  - Only 20% will have additional +ve nodes
- Is CLND-Complete Lymph node dissection necessary?

MSLT II

# Why is Head and Neck site different from all other sites?

- Cosmetic issues in the head and neck
- Technically challenging
  - Complex anatomy:
    - nerves and vessels at risk
    - Intraparotid nodes
  - Incision(s) need to be planned based on potential for neck dissection
- Radionuclide overlap between primary and drainage



# Arguments Against SNB

- Micromets may be clinically irrelevant
- False negative rates
  - Can still have regional recurrence following SNB and SNB w/ND
  - Drainage not predictable
  - Number of sentinel nodes generally greater than elsewhere- may miss
- ?? Survival benefit

# Summary

- SNB improves locoregional control of head and neck melanoma
- Sentinel-node biopsy has staging and prognostic value in patients with intermediate thickness melanoma
- But there is no clear survival benefit

# Current Role for SNB

- To identify patients with poor prognosis that can be offered adjuvant immunotherapy and/or chemotherapeutic agents
  - Very limited benefit
- Or to be enrolled in a clinical trial investigating systemic therapies

# MSLT-I

## *The* NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

FEBRUARY 13, 2014

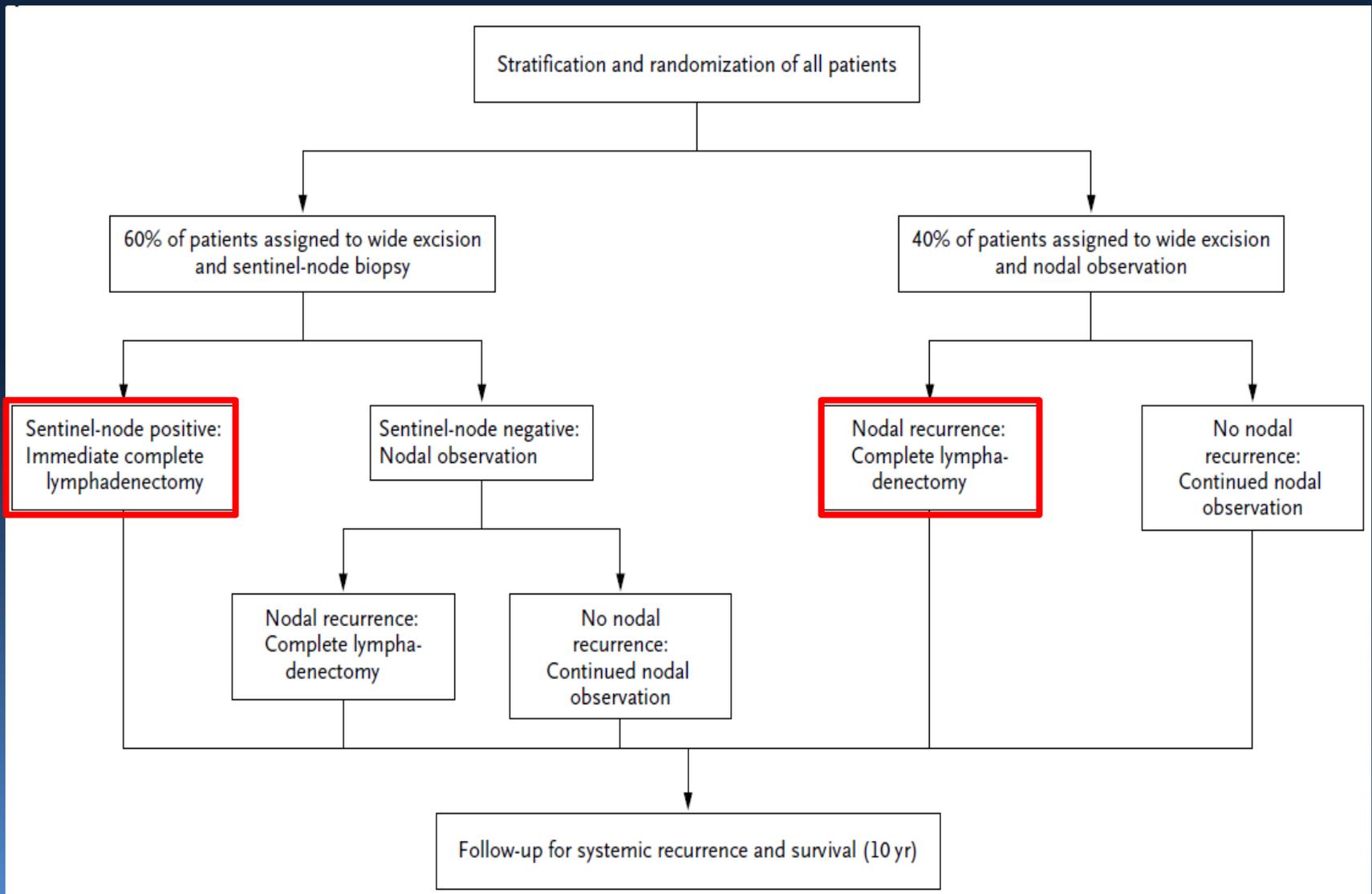
VOL. 370 NO. 7

### Final Trial Report of Sentinel-Node Biopsy versus Nodal Observation in Melanoma

D.L. Morton, J.F. Thompson, A.J. Cochran, N. Mozzillo, O.E. Nieweg, D.F. Roses, H.J. Hoekstra,  
C.P. Karakousis, C.A. Puleo, B.J. Coventry, M. Kashani-Sabet, B.M. Smithers, E. Paul, W.G. Kraybill,  
J.G. McKinnon, H.-J. Wang, R. Elashoff, and M.B. Faries, for the MSLT Group\*

# MSLT-1: Rationale

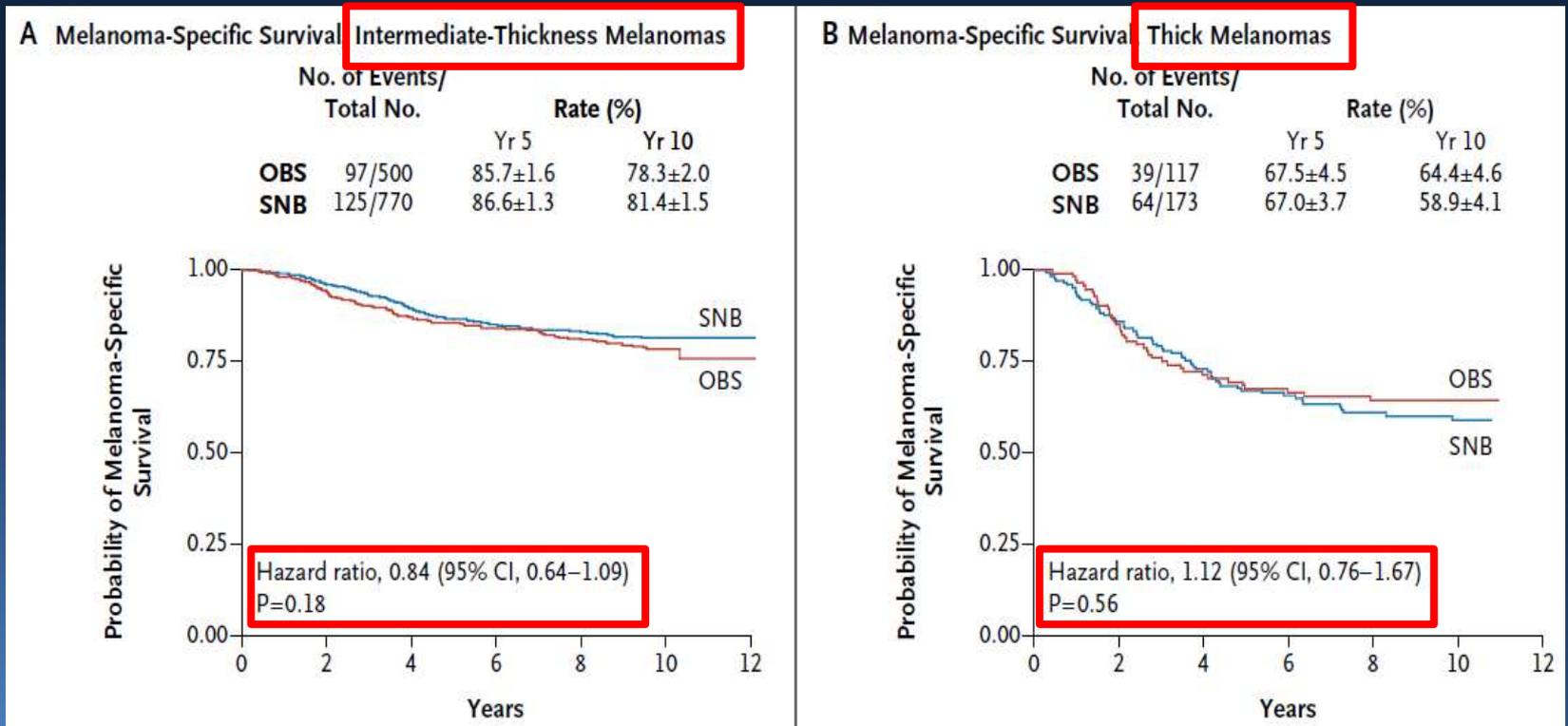
- Phase 3 Trial to assess the role of SNLBx in melanoma staging (identification of occult nodal metastases)
- Why?
  - Authors were unsatisfied with the other options:
    - Lymphadenectomy (procedure related risk)
    - Observation
- Results previously reported but only for intermediate thickness melanomas at 5 years (2006)



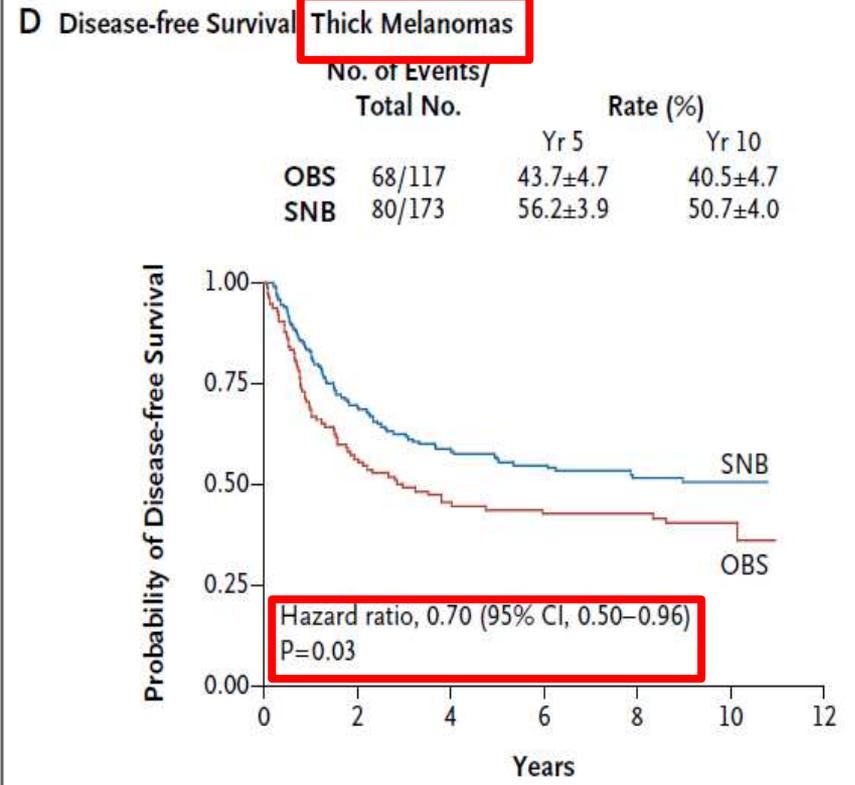
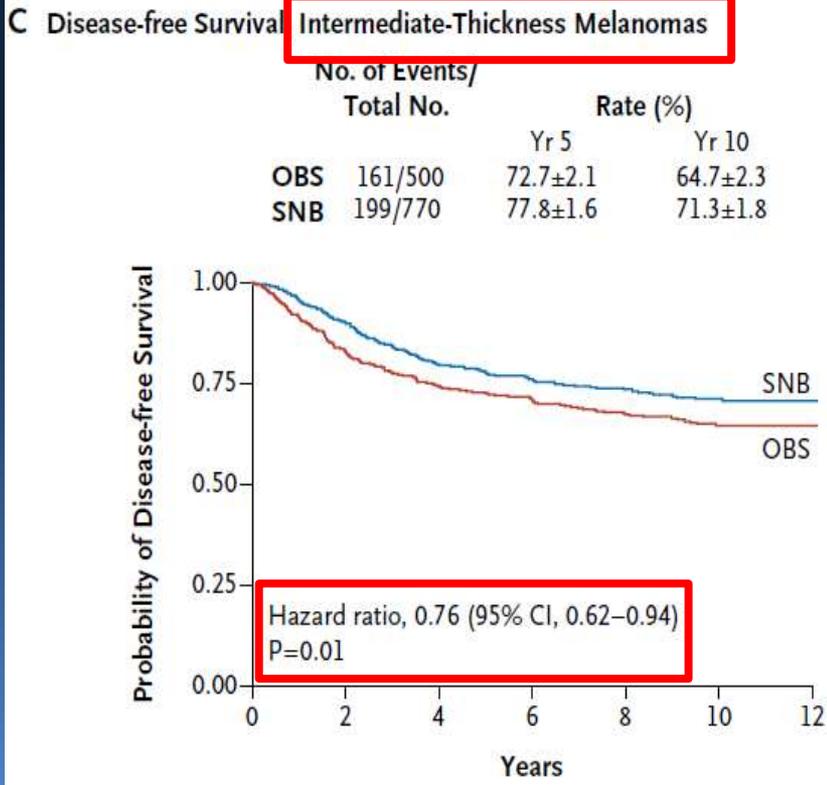
# Outcomes

- Primary
  - Melanoma Specific Survival (DSS)
- Secondary
  - Disease Free Survival (DFS)

# Primary Outcome (DSS)



# Secondary Outcome (DFS)



# MSLT – I Conclusions

- “Our long-term results confirm that sentinel-node biopsy correctly determines the pathologic status of the nodal basin in 96% of cases and is the most powerful **prognostic indicator.**”
- “These long-term results clearly validate the use of sentinel-node biopsy in patients with intermediate-thickness or thick primary melanomas. The procedure provides accurate and important staging information, **enhances regional disease control, and, among patients with nodal metastases, appears to improve melanoma-specific survival substantially.**”

# Bias

- Despite the consistent strength of the data from the MSLT-I, there has been some reluctance to accept the results of **comparisons between node-positive patients in the biopsy group and those in the observation group**, because of concern about ascertainment (surveillance) bias. Latent-subgroup analysis methods were used to address this statistical consideration.

## Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy for Melanoma: American Society of Clinical Oncology and Society of Surgical Oncology Joint Clinical Practice Guideline

*Sandra L. Wong, Charles M. Balch, Patricia Hurley, Sanjiv S. Agarwala, Timothy J. Akhurst, Alistair Cochran, Janice N. Cormier, Mark Gorman, Theodore Y. Kim, Kelly M. McMasters, R. Dirk Noyes, Lynn M. Schuchter, Matias E. Valsecchi, Donald L. Weaver, and Gary H. Lyman*

### Recommendations

SLN biopsy is recommended for patients with intermediate-thickness melanomas (Breslow thickness, 1 to 4 mm) of any anatomic site; use of SLN biopsy in this population provides accurate staging. Although there are few studies focusing on patients with thick melanomas (T4; Breslow thickness, > 4 mm), SLN biopsy may be recommended for staging purposes and to facilitate regional disease control. There is insufficient evidence to support routine SLN biopsy for patients with thin melanomas (T1; Breslow thickness, < 1 mm), although it may be considered in selected patients with high-risk features when staging benefits outweigh risks of the procedure. Completion lymph node dissection (CLND) is recommended for all patients with a positive SLN biopsy and achieves good regional disease control. Whether CLND after a positive SLN biopsy improves survival is the subject of the ongoing Multicenter Selective Lymphadenectomy Trial II.

2017

# 2013 NCCN Updated

- “There is consensus that the procedure should be discussed and offered to patients with primary melanomas greater than 1.0 mm thick.”
- For melanomas 0.76 to 1.0 mm thick, SLNB should be discussed and considered. The discussion about SLNB in this group of patients should include the recognition that the yield of a positive SLNB is low and the clinical significance of a positive SLN is modest.
  - Ulceration
  - High mitotic rate
  - Lymphovascular invasion

# MSLT – II

- SLN+ randomized to:
  - Completion lymphadenectomy
  - Observation
- Outcomes
  - Primary: DSS
  - Secondary: DFS and Recurrence at 10 years
- Estimated completion date 2022

# The New England Journal of Medicine

June 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

## Completion Dissection or Observation for Sentinel- Node Metastasis in Melanoma

- M.B. Faries, J.F. Thompson, A.J. Cochran, R.H. Andtbacka, N. Mozzillo, J.S. Zager, T. Jahkola, T.L. Bowles, A. Testori,
- P.D. Beitsch, H.J. Hoekstra, M. Moncrieff, C. Ingvar, M.W.J.M. Wouters, M.S. Sabel, E.A. Levine, D. Agnese,
- M. Henderson, R. Dummer, C.R. Rossi, R.I. Neves, S.D. Trocha, F. Wright, D.R. Byrd, M. Matter, E. Hsueh,
- A. MacKenzie-Ross, D.B. Johnson, P. Terheyden, A.C. Berger, T.L. Huston, J.D. Wayne, B.M. Smithers, H.B. Neuman,
- S. Schneebaum, J.E. Gershenwald, C.E. Ariyan, D.C. Desai, L. Jacobs, K.M. McMasters, A. Gesierich, P. Hersey,
- S.D. Bines, J.M. Kane, R.J. Barth, G. McKinnon, J.M. Farma, E. Schultz, S. Vidal-Sicart, R.A. Hoefler, J.M. Lewis,
- R. Scheri, M.C. Kelley, O.E. Nieweg, R.D. Noyes, D.S.B. Hoon, H.-J. Wang, D.A. Elashoff, and R.M. Elashoff



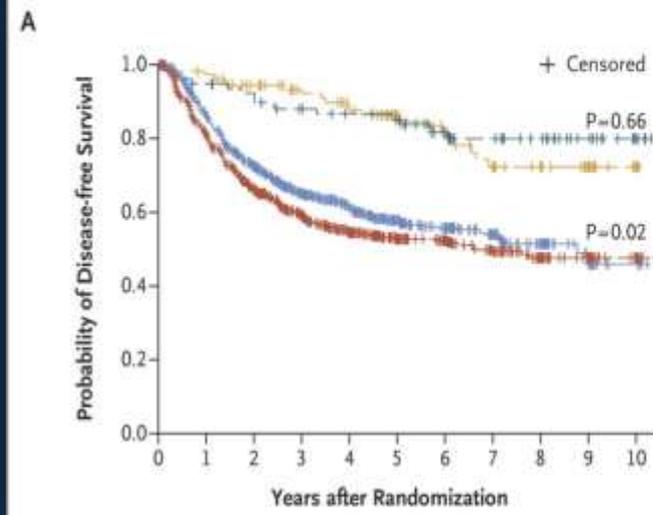
**A. Disease-free Survival**

**B. Survival without Nodal Recurrence**

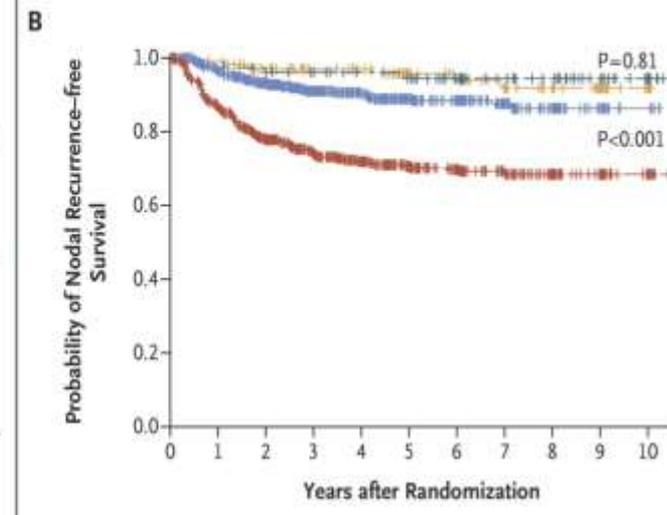
**C. Distant Metastasis-free Survival**

**D. Cumulative Rate of Non-sentinel-Node Metastasis.**

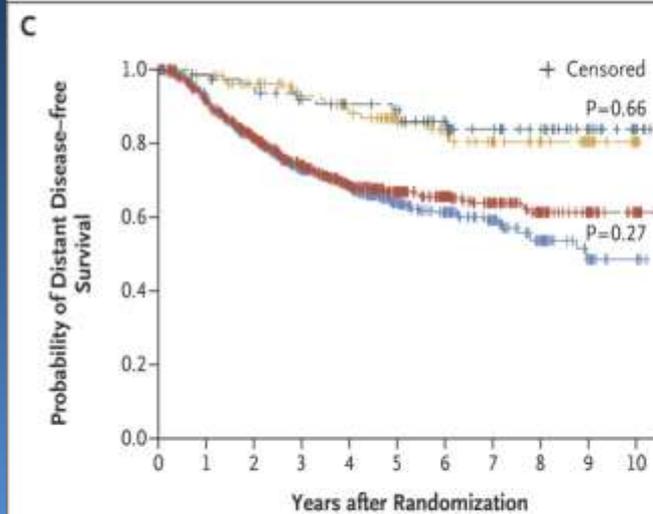
— Dissection, RT-PCR–positive    — Observation, RT-PCR–positive    — Dissection, pathologically detected    — Observation, pathologically detected



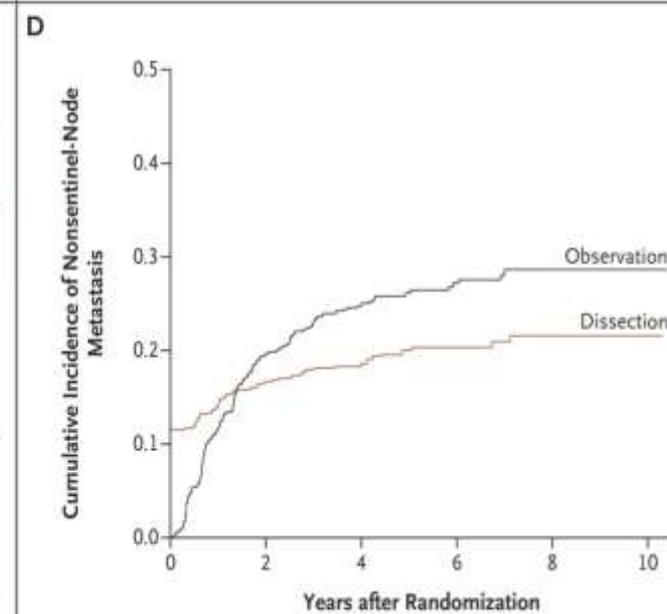
| No. at Risk | 0   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Subgroup 1  | 744 | 606 | 465 | 343 | 260 | 174 | 114 | 77 | 41 | 15 | 5  |
| Subgroup 2  | 820 | 629 | 477 | 346 | 249 | 171 | 124 | 87 | 50 | 28 | 6  |
| Subgroup 3  | 80  | 73  | 69  | 63  | 59  | 56  | 42  | 32 | 26 | 17 | 6  |
| Subgroup 4  | 111 | 103 | 93  | 81  | 73  | 59  | 49  | 36 | 27 | 18 | 4  |



| No. at Risk | 0   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Subgroup 1  | 744 | 662 | 552 | 412 | 308 | 201 | 138 | 89 | 50 | 21 | 6  |
| Subgroup 2  | 820 | 659 | 525 | 386 | 282 | 194 | 137 | 96 | 56 | 31 | 7  |
| Subgroup 3  | 80  | 75  | 72  | 67  | 62  | 59  | 47  | 36 | 30 | 18 | 7  |
| Subgroup 4  | 111 | 105 | 94  | 82  | 77  | 62  | 53  | 41 | 30 | 20 | 4  |



| No. at Risk | 0   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9  | 10 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| Subgroup 1  | 744 | 649 | 520 | 384 | 286 | 192 | 128 | 86  | 45 | 17 | 5  |
| Subgroup 2  | 820 | 708 | 580 | 431 | 312 | 217 | 154 | 106 | 62 | 34 | 8  |
| Subgroup 3  | 80  | 76  | 72  | 66  | 61  | 58  | 44  | 33  | 27 | 17 | 6  |
| Subgroup 4  | 111 | 104 | 94  | 81  | 73  | 59  | 50  | 38  | 28 | 19 | 5  |



Faries MB et al. N Engl J Med 2017;376:2211-2222



# MSLT II - Conclusions

Immediate completion lymph-node dissection:

- Increased the rate of regional disease control
- Provided prognostic information

**But**

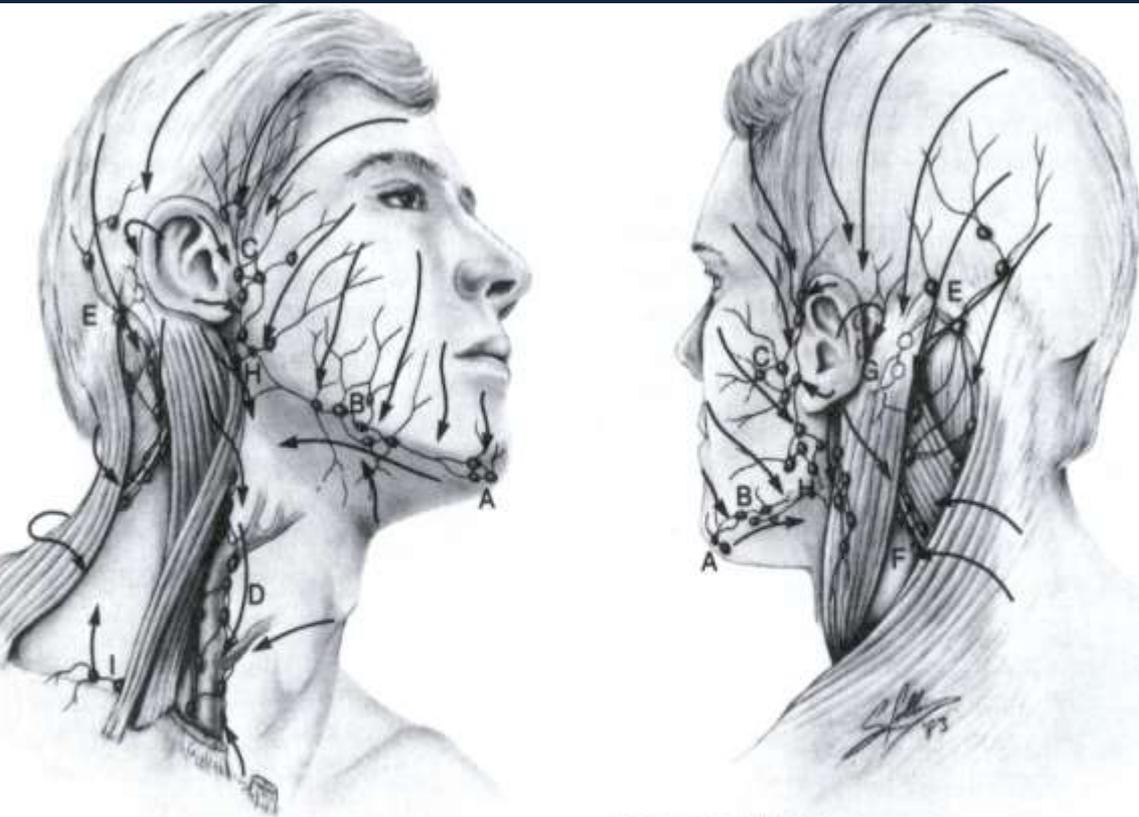
Did not increase melanoma-specific survival among patients with melanoma and sentinel-node metastases.

# Completion Dissection or Observation for Sentinel-Node Metastasis in Melanoma

- **Conclusions:**

- Immediate completion lymph-node dissection increased the rate of regional disease control
- and provided prognostic information but did not increase melanoma-specific survival
- among patients with melanoma and sentinel-node metastases. (Funded by the National Cancer Institute and others; MSLT-II ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT00297895.)

# Management of the PN+ Neck Surgery: What levels to dissect



Location of Nodes

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Submental     | F. Posterior Cervical |
| B. Submandibular | G. Retroauricular     |
| C. Preauricular  | H. Jugulodigastric    |
| D. Jugular Chain | I. Supraclavicular    |
| E. Occipital     |                       |





| CLINICAL/<br>PATHOLOGIC STAGE              | WORKUP <sup>P</sup>   | PRIMARY TREATMENT   | ADJUVANT TREATMENT  |
|--|---|---|---|
| Stage III<br>(sentinel node positive)      | Consider baseline imaging for staging (category 2B) and to evaluate specific signs or symptoms (CT scan, PET/CT, MRI)   | Discuss and offer complete lymph node dissection <sup>Q</sup>   | Clinical trial<br>or<br>Observation<br>or<br>Interferon alfa <sup>r</sup><br>or<br>High-dose ipilimumab <sup>s,t</sup> (category 2B)  |
| Stage III<br>(clinically positive node[s]) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FNA preferred, if feasible, or core, incisional, or excisional biopsy</li> <li>• Recommend baseline imaging for staging and to evaluate specific signs or symptoms (CT scan, PET/CT, MRI)</li> </ul> | Wide excision of primary tumor <sup>k</sup> (category 1) + complete therapeutic lymph node dissection | Clinical trial<br>or<br>Observation<br>or<br>Interferon alfa <sup>r</sup><br>or<br>High-dose ipilimumab <sup>s</sup> (category 2B)<br>or<br>Biochemotherapy <sup>u</sup> (category 2B)<br>and/or<br>Consider RT to nodal basin in selected high-risk patients based on location, size, and number of involved nodes, and/or macroscopic extranodal extension <sup>v,w</sup> (category 2B) |

(See  
Follow-up  
ME-7)

<sup>k</sup>See Principles of Surgical Margins for Wide Excision of Primary Melanoma (ME-B).

<sup>P</sup>Mutational analysis is recommended if patients are being considered for either routine treatment or clinical trials, but is not recommended for patients with cutaneous melanoma who are otherwise NED.

<sup>Q</sup>CLND contributes to staging. Its impact on regional disease control and overall survival is the focus of ongoing clinical trials. Factors that predict non-sentinel lymph node



| CLINICAL/<br>PATHOLOGIC STAGE                 | WORKUP <sup>p</sup>   | PRIMARY TREATMENT   | ADJUVANT TREATMENT  |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stage III<br>(sentinel node<br>positive)      | → Consider baseline imaging for staging (category 2B) and to evaluate specific signs or symptoms (CT scan, PET/CT, MRI)   | → Discuss and offer complete lymph node dissection <sup>q</sup>   | → Clinical trial<br>or<br>Observation<br>or<br>Interferon alfa <sup>r</sup><br>or<br>High-dose ipilimumab <sup>s,t</sup> (category 2B)  |
| Stage III<br>(clinically positive<br>node[s]) | → • FNA preferred, if feasible, or core, incisional, or excisional biopsy<br>• Recommend baseline imaging for staging and to evaluate specific signs or symptoms (CT scan, PET/CT, MRI) | → Wide excision of primary tumor <sup>k</sup> (category 1) + complete therapeutic lymph node dissection | → Clinical trial<br>or<br>Observation<br>or<br>Interferon alfa <sup>r</sup><br>or<br>High-dose ipilimumab <sup>s</sup> (category 2B)<br>or<br>Biochemotherapy <sup>u</sup> (category 2B)<br>and/or<br>Consider RT to nodal basin in selected high-risk patients based on location, size, and number of involved nodes, and/or macroscopic extranodal extension <sup>v,w</sup> (category 2B) |

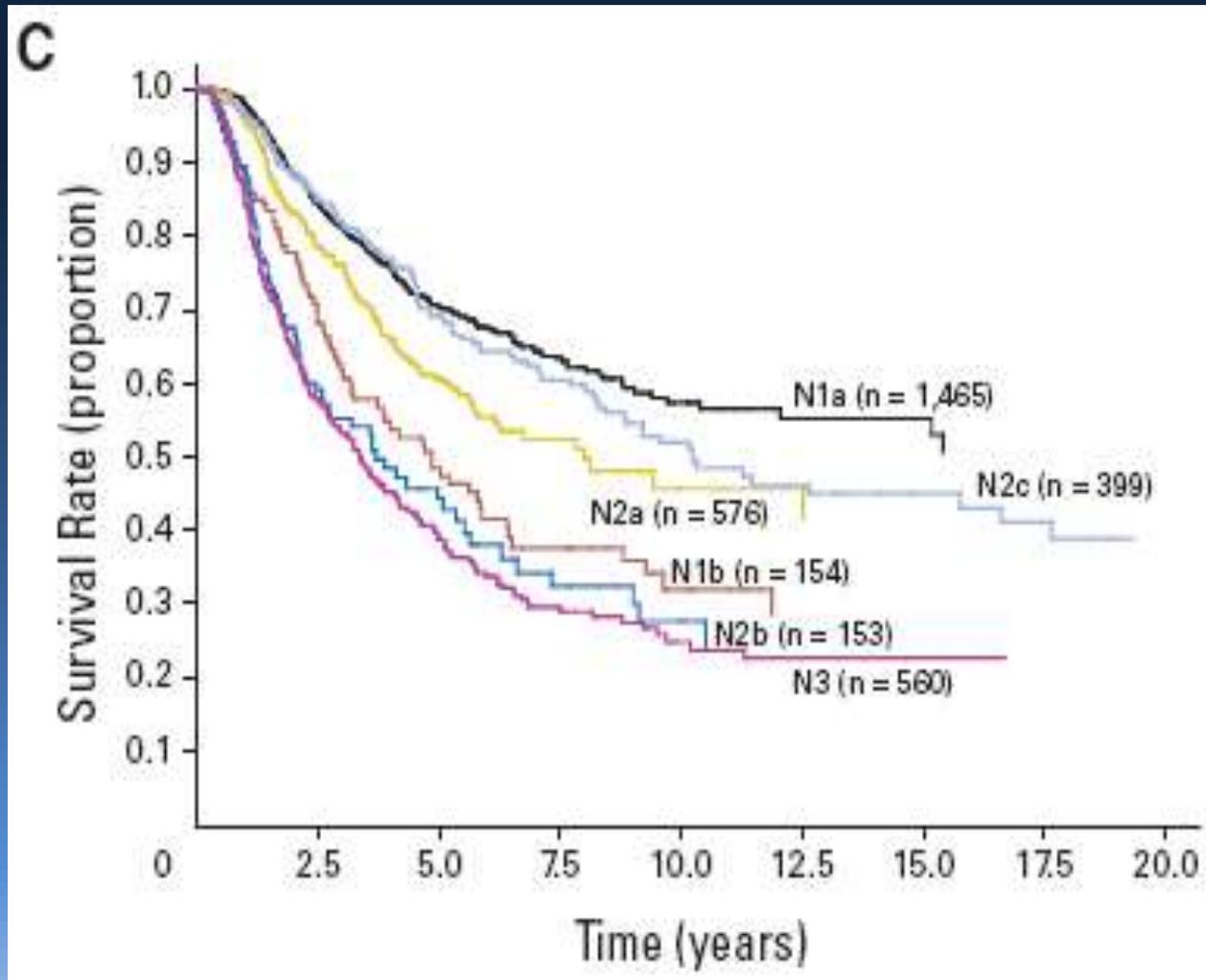
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<sup>q</sup>CLND contributes to staging. Its impact on regional disease control and overall survival is the focus of ongoing clinical trials. Factors that predict non-sentinel lymph node

# Nodal Burden vs Outcome



# ROLE OF RADIOTHERAPY

- ◆ 36 patients N+ cMMHN
  - ◆ 20 primary
  - ◆ 16 recurrent
- ◆ N+ with local excision of LN only + XRT
- ◆ 5 yr actuarial regional control 93%
- ◆ 5 yr actuarial DFS 59%

PRINCIPLES OF RADIATION THERAPY FOR MELANOMA

Consider RT in the following situations:<sup>1</sup>

PRIMARY DISEASE

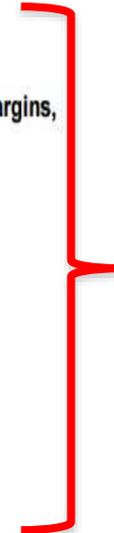
- Adjuvant treatment in selected patients with factors including, but not limited to deep desmoplastic melanoma with narrow margins, extensive neurotropism, or locally recurrent disease.

REGIONAL DISEASE<sup>2</sup>

- Adjuvant treatment in selected patients following resection of clinically appreciable nodes (category 2B)<sup>3</sup> if
  - › Extranodal tumor extension AND/OR
    - ◊ Parotid: ≥1 involved node, any size of involvement
    - ◊ Cervical: ≥2 involved nodes and/or ≥3 cm tumor within a node
    - ◊ Axillary: ≥2 involved nodes and/or ≥4 cm tumor within a node
    - ◊ Inguinal: ≥3 involved nodes and/or ≥4 cm tumor within a node
- Palliative
  - › Unresectable nodal, satellite, or in-transit disease

METASTATIC DISEASE

- Brain metastases ([See NCCN Guidelines for Central Nervous System Cancers](#))
  - › Stereotactic radiosurgery either as adjuvant or primary treatment
  - › Whole brain radiation therapy, either as adjuvant (category 2B) or primary treatment<sup>4</sup>
- Other symptomatic or potentially symptomatic soft tissue and/or bone metastases<sup>2</sup>



# Adjuvant RT

- Aim: improves regional control without unacceptable complications
- ? survival benefit
- Indications based on histopathological findings

# Published data on role of adjuvant RT

- Only randomized data: Creagan et al. 1978
- 56 pts
- Sx vs Sx + RT (unusual split course)
- Trend toward better DFS
- No comment on locoregional control

# TROG 96.06: Single arm phase II trial of adjuvant radiotherapy after lymphadenectomy

- 234 patients
- Radiotherapy: 48 Gy in 20 fraction given 5 days per week
- Lymph node field relapse rate 7%
- Late grade 3 toxicity (fibrosis, lymphoedema)
  - Axilla 9%
  - Groin 19%

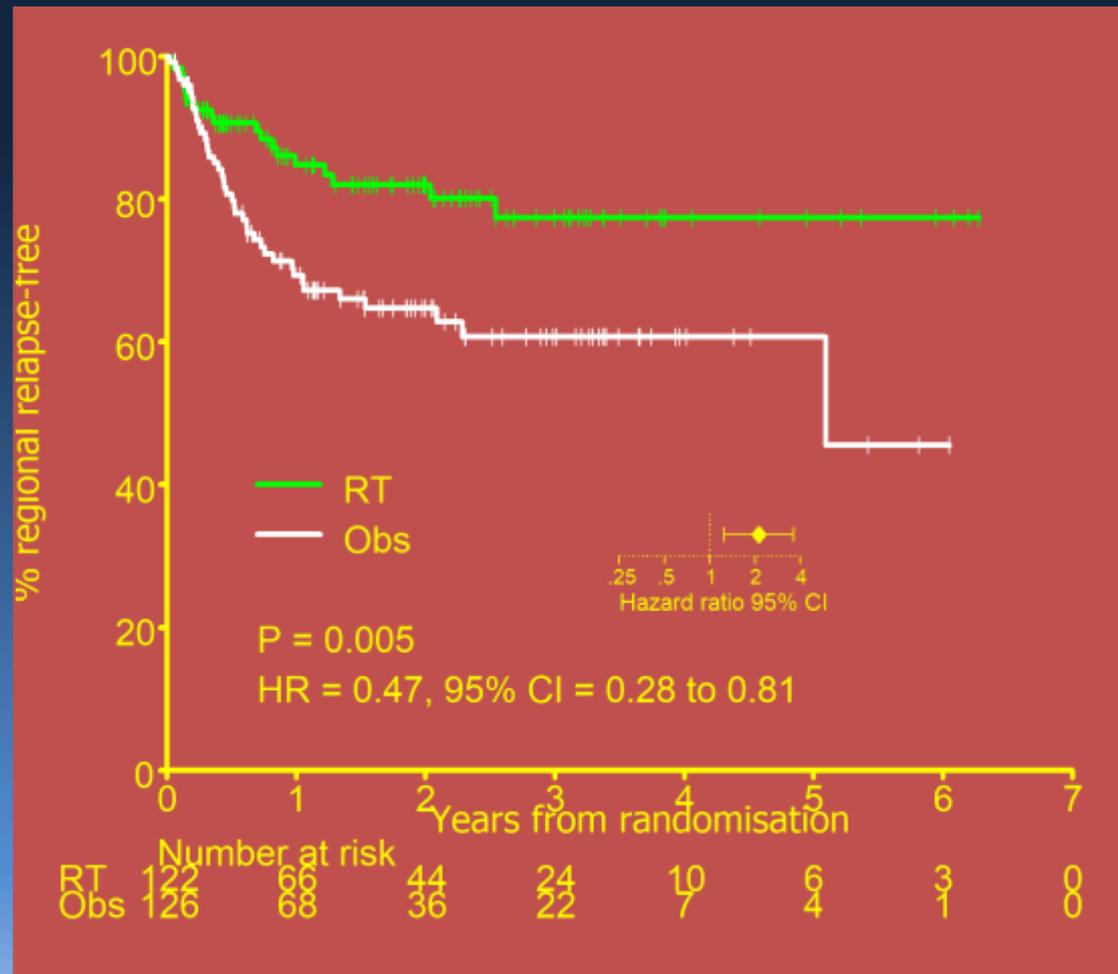
*Burmeister et al., ANZ J Surg 72:*

*344-48; 2002*

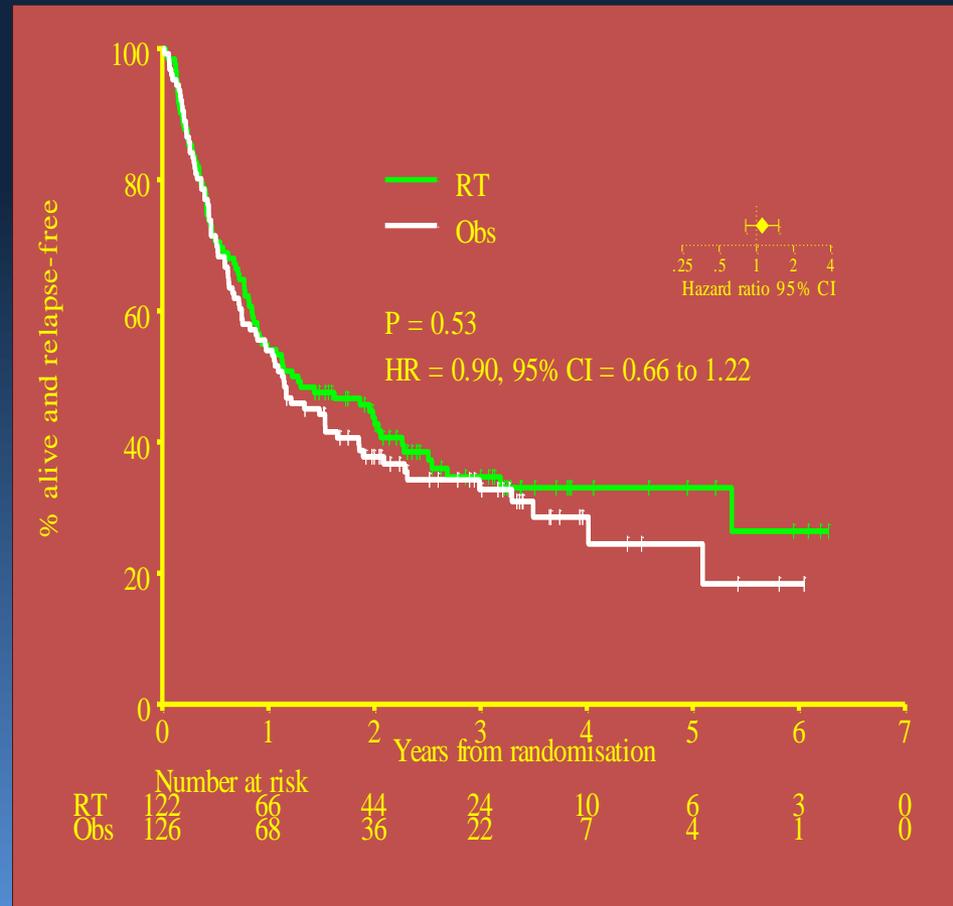
*Burmeister et al., Radiotherapy and Oncology 81: 136-42; 2006*



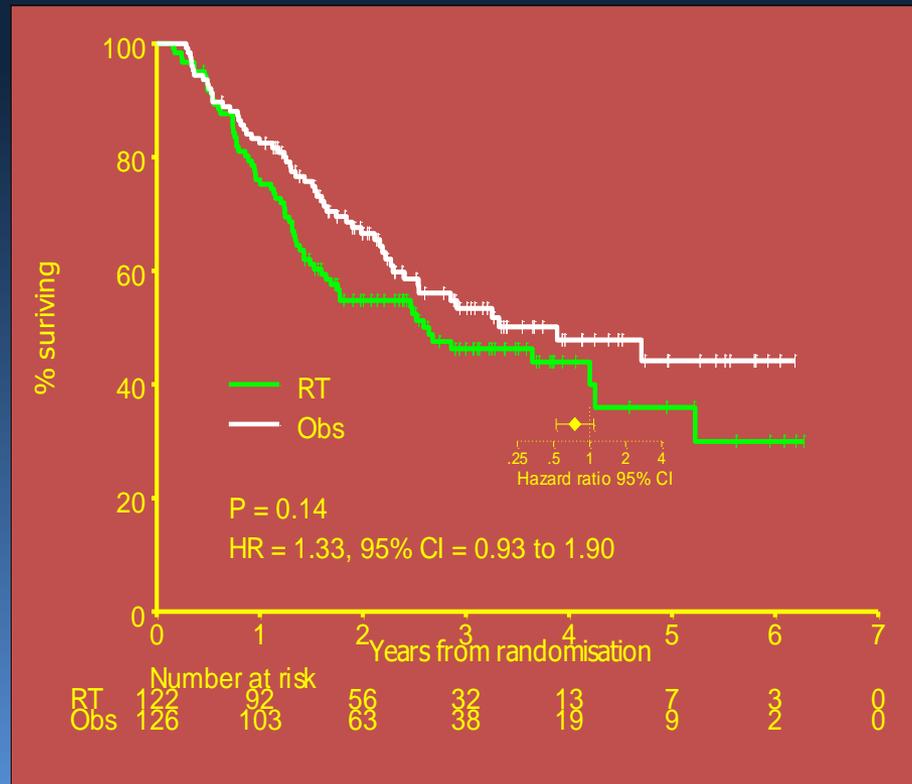
# Time to LN field relapse by arm



# No significant difference in relapse free survival (2 yr 44% vs 38%, $p=0.53$ )



# No significant difference in overall Survival (2yr 55% vs 67%, $p=0.14$ )



# Systemic Therapy



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## NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2016 Melanoma

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| CLINICAL/<br>PATHOLOGIC STAGE                 | WORKUP <sup>P</sup>   | PRIMARY TREATMENT  | ADJUVANT TREATMENT   |
|---|---|--|--|
| Stage III<br>(sentinel node<br>positive)      | Consider baseline imaging<br>for staging (category 2B) and<br>to evaluate specific signs or<br>symptoms<br>(CT scan, PET/CT, MRI)   | Discuss and offer<br>complete lymph node<br>dissection <sup>Q</sup>  | Clinical trial<br>or<br>Observation<br>or<br>Interferon alfa <sup>r</sup><br>or<br>High-dose ipilimumab <sup>s,t</sup> (category 2B)   |
| Stage III<br>(clinically positive<br>node[s]) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FNA preferred, if feasible, or<br/>core, incisional, or excisional<br/>biopsy</li> <li>Recommend baseline<br/>imaging for staging and to<br/>evaluate specific signs or<br/>symptoms<br/>(CT scan, PET/CT, MRI)</li> </ul> | Wide excision of primary<br>tumor <sup>k</sup> (category 1)<br>+ complete therapeutic<br>lymph node dissection | Clinical trial<br>or<br>Observation<br>or<br>Interferon alfa <sup>r</sup><br>or<br>High-dose ipilimumab <sup>s</sup> (category 2B)<br>or<br>Biochemotherapy <sup>u</sup><br>(category 2B)<br>and/or<br>Consider RT to nodal basin in selected<br>high-risk patients based on location,<br>size, and number of involved nodes,<br>and/or macroscopic extranodal<br>extension <sup>v,w</sup> (category 2B) |

(See  
Follow-up  
ME-7)

<sup>k</sup>See Principles of Surgical Margins for Wide Excision of Primary Melanoma (ME-B).

<sup>P</sup>Mutational analysis is recommended if patients are being considered for either routine treatment or clinical trials, but is not recommended for patients with cutaneous melanoma who are otherwise NED.

<sup>Q</sup>CLND contributes to staging. Its impact on regional disease control and overall survival is the focus of ongoing clinical trials. Factors that predict non-sentinel lymph node

# CONCLUSIONS

- A new era in systemic treatment for advanced stage melanoma
  - Targeted therapy: BRAF and MEK mutations
    - Some remarkable responses but resistance develops rapidly
  - Immunotherapy
    - Targets PD-1 and CTLA 4
    - 30% response, durable remissions in some patients
    - Need predictive biomarkers
    - Expensive
  - In the future patients at high risk will receive biomarker driven combinatorial therapy

# Adjuvant Therapy

- Chemotherapy
  - Dacarbazine (DTIC)
- Interferon
  - 1% survival benefit approx
- Immunotherapy
- Postoperative Radiation Therapy

# Conclusions

- Adjuvant RT improves nodal control
- Acceptable early toxicities
- No overall survival benefit
- Await QoL and lymphoedema data

# Conclusions

- Nodal status most significant predictor of disease free and overall survival
- SNB standard of care
- Better outcomes with therapeutic dissection for microscopic disease, but era of ELND over
- Therapeutic dissection may be selective
- Surgery remains the mainstay of regional metastatic melanoma treatment

# CONCLUSIONS

- Challenging disease with early metastasis
- Imperative for accurate staging
  - Pre-op: pathology, nodal staging
  - Intra-op: WLE + SLNB
  - Post-op: Pathologic staging, margin status, reconstruction