

Melanoma Diagnosis

Early signs of melanoma are described by the ABCDE mnemonic: Asymmetry, Border, Color, Diameter and Evolution over time. These tumors can be evaluated with S-100 and LDH to monitor progression and prognosis. Treatment includes wide local excision and adjuvant therapy.



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Signs

ABCDE Mnemonic

[ABCDE Checklist](#)

Early signs of melanoma are described by the ABCDE mnemonic: Asymmetry, Border, Color, Diameter and Evolution over time.

Asymmetry

[Asymmetrical Melon](#)

A lesion which is asymmetric may be a sign of melanoma.

Border irregularity

[Irregular B-Border](#)

Borders which are irregular can also be hints that a lesion may be melanoma.

Color variation

[Different Colored Melon](#)

Color variability in lesions may increase suspicion of melanoma.

Diameter > 6mm

[Diameter > 6mm](#)

Melanoma often shows a diameter greater than 6mm.

Evolution over time

[Evolved Melon](#)

Melanoma lesions evolve over time and change shape, color and border rapidly.

Diagnosis

S-100 Tumor Marker

[S100 Sign](#)

S-100 protein family are useful as markers for certain tumors and epidermal differentiation. It can be found in melanomas, and used to track melanocyte differentiation.

LDH (Lactate Dehydrogenase) Screens for Metastasis

[Lactate Dehydrogenase Screen Metastasis](#)

Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) levels are proven to be an accurate predictor of prognosis and response to some treatments.

Treatment

Wide Local Excision

[Wide-Cutting Excision](#)

Primary treatment for melanomas is excision with wide margins. This is particularly helpful when these melanomas are in their radial growth phase.

Adjuvant Therapy

[Adjuvant Therapy](#)

Adjuvant therapy with BRAF kinase inhibitors is helpful in treating metastatic or unresectable melanomas.