

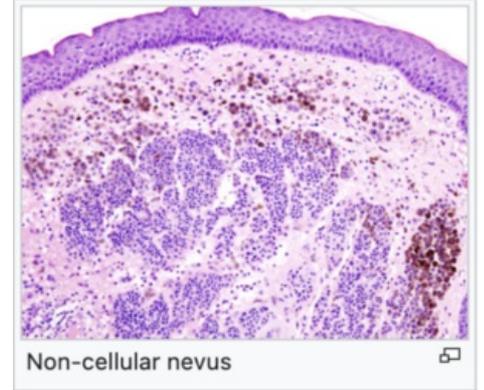
Melanocytic tumors

Melanocytic tumors belong to the neuroectoderm tumors. They arise from **melanocytes**, which are cells capable of producing melanin. Most non-tumor melanocytes are deposited in the epidermis, dermis and hair follicles. However, these cells can also be found in the mucous membranes, eyeball or meninges. They probably arise from *pluripotent cells* of the **neural crest** and migrate through the paraspinal ganglia, peripheral nerves to the epidermis.

Melanocytic tumors include non-cellular nevi and malignant melanomas.

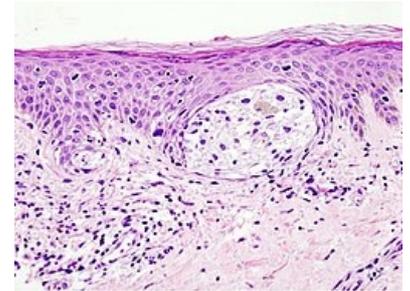
Non-cellular nevi

- These are benign tumors occurring mainly **in the skin, mucous membranes and eyeball**.
- They most often occur **in the skin**, where we call them a birthmark or **melanocytic nevus**.
- They may be congenital or acquired, where acquired are more common and are associated with UV radiation and inflammatory cytokines.
- under the microscope, they look like nests of accumulated melanocytes in the basal layer of the epidermis or in various parts of the dermis.



Malignant melanomas

- They are **malignant tumors**.
- They occur less often than non-cellular cells, but their incidence increases faster than other tumors.
- It is one of the tumors with the **worst prognosis**.
- They can occur in the skin, eyeballs, and meninges.
- They rarely occur around the prostate or internal genitalia of women, in the mucous membranes of the oral, nasal and distal rectum.
- Tumor cells have an **atypical character** (prominent nuclei and nucleoli) and **increased mitotic activity**, including atypical mitoses.
- Tumor cells can grow.
 - **Superficially spreading melanoma** - grows horizontally and does not reach deeper layers.
 - **Nodular melanoma** - spreads vertically and extends into the deeper layers and subcutaneous adipose tissue.
 - **Lentigo maligna melanoma** - spreads radially and later vertically, is typical of the elderly.
- Malignant melanoma looks like a **birthmark with irregular edges**, *irregularly colored*. It may **itch or hurt**, and **gradually increases**.
- In the advanced stage, melanoma has a dark color.
- Melanocytes are **irregularly distributed** at different heights of the epidermis.
- Tumor margins are formed by individual melanocytes.



Malignant melanoma in the skin

Links

Related Articles

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- ws:Melanocytární nádory