

Dermoscopy to avoid missing melanoma

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Despite advances in drug therapy for melanoma in recent years, the prognosis remains poor in its advanced stages. What we dermatologists have to keep in mind in our daily practice is to detect melanoma as early as possible. In this talk, we will discuss what we consider to be the key points of dermoscopy in the diagnosis of melanoma. In the case of flat melanomas, it is important to identify asymmetries in color and internal structure. However, palmoplantar lesions of acral melanoma often show a parallel pattern along the ridges, are often confused with benign lesions. Nodular melanomas are often symmetrical, and amelanotic lesions are difficult to diagnose. In addition, it is sometimes difficult to determine the borderline of a lesion using dermoscopy when the lesion is histopathologically melanoma in an area that is too light in color to be visible. Furthermore, the quality of the images obtained by dermoscopy also affects the diagnosis. For this reason, the usefulness of a dermoscopy camera developed by a Japanese company in collaboration with our institution will also be presented.