

Editor

Acral lentiginous melanoma is a type of melanoma located on the extremities with distinctive histological pattern of radial growth. The size of the lesion is usually small in these locations. In a large series of 126 acral lentiginous melanomas presented by Phan and colleagues, the median diameter of the melanoma was 20mm.¹ Nevertheless, not all melanoma noted in the extremities are of this type. We observed two cases of giant melanomas in the feet of Chinese patients from Henan province of China (fig.1).

A 35-year-old housewife came with a tumour in the left foot. On examination, an ulcerated mass was noted in centre of the arch of the foot. The tumour was light brown, partly necrotic and with areas of haemorrhage, measuring 8cm in greatest dimension. Pathological examination showed features of nodular melanoma. The patient was treated by a below ankle amputation. She was well 2 years after operation.

A 72-year-old male retired factory worker noted a tumour on the outer aspect of the right foot. It was 8cm in greatest dimension, brown and partly necrotic with areas of haemorrhage. Pathological examination showed features of nodular melanoma. Radiological work-up included computed tomography scan showed multiple metastases in both lungs. The patient was treated by a below ankle amputation and chemotherapy. Unfortunately, he died 4 months after presentation.

The incidences of melanoma in Asian populations, such as Chinese, are much lower than in white populations.² Feet were found to be the commonest site of predilection of cutaneous melanoma in Asian populations.³ These 2 melanomas have been the largest melanomas seen in this part of the body in our practice. They are probably among the largest documented in the literature. Melanoma should be in the differential diagnosis of big tumour in the foot in non-white patient.

References

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Legends

Figure 1. Giant plantar melanomas: tumour in the upper is case 1 and tumour in lower is case 2.