

Intestinal Perforated Malignant Melanoma: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Difficulties

I.D. Vilcea¹, I. Vasile¹, A-M. Vilcea², C.S. Mirea¹, C.F. Popescu³, P. Mitrut⁴

¹Surgical Clinic II, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, Romania

²Dermatology Clinic, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, Romania

³Department of Pathology, Emergency County Hospital of Craiova, Romania

⁴Medical Department II, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, Romania

Abstract

The intestinal malignant melanoma is a rare occurrence in the daily surgical practice, with difficult diagnosis (even on usual pathologic examination) and therapeutic attitude. Most of the lesions are secondary to a cutaneous primary melanoma, but there are cases in which the original site may not be discovered, and are considered as primitive intestinal melanomas. This paper presents the case of a 50 year old male patient, diagnosed and operated as emergency with acute abdomen caused by a tumoral perforation of the small bowel; several tumors, in different stages of local evolution, were discovered during laparotomy. A triple enterectomy with end-to-end entero-enteral anastomosis was performed, with uneventful postoperative recovery. The later postoperative evolution was marked by the occurrence of multiple subcutaneous recurrences and a bulky metastasis in the mediastinum; 18 month after the initial surgery, the patient died due to the melanoma recurrence. Diagnostic and therapeutic difficulties are discussed in this paper, related especially to the differential diagnosis of the origin of the intestinal lesion (a metastatic melanoma with unknown primary site or a primary malignant melanoma of the small bowel), since no other sites of origin were discovered after a thorough examination.

Key words: malignant melanoma, intestinal melanoma, perforated intestinal melanoma

Corresponding author: Alina Maria Vilcea, MD, PhD candidate
Papilian Victor Street No. 56, G8-1-1,
Craiova, Dolj County, 200753, Romania
E-mail: alina.vilcea@yahoo.com