




RESEARCH ARTICLE

Pediatric patients with cutaneous melanoma: A European study

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Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2018;65:e26974.

Coordinated by the EXPeRT, this study collected 219 patients (aged 0–18 years, median 14.4) prospectively registered between 2002 and 2012 under national cooperative projects dedicated to rare pediatric tumors in Italy, Poland, Germany, and France (plus additional cases collected from dermatology registries in Germany and Israel)

Major findings:

- the clinical history of melanoma in children and adolescents might resemble that of adult counterpart
- Sentinel lymph node biopsy was performed in 112 patients (76% of those with Breslow thickness > 0.75 mm) and was positive in 37.5%
- Systemic therapy was used in 33 cases
- In stage III, survival was similar for patients who received (n=23 cases) or not (n=21) adjuvant therapy
- For the whole series, 3-year overall and disease-free survival rates were 91.4% and 84.0%, respectively (median follow-up 41.8 months)
- Tumor site, tumor stage, and ulceration influenced survival rates. Patients treated by pediatric oncologists (n=140) were more likely to have advanced disease than those treated by dermatologists (n=79)

