Surgical treatment of melanoma

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Bay Plastic **Surgery**
LIFE AND BEAUTY

✳Surgery is the primary treatment for all stages of Melanoma

WLE Rationale...

* The **Wide Local Excision** is for gaining a large 'safety margin' around the site of the primary Melanoma, to reduce the risk of recurrence in *that site only*.

* No evidence of an overall survival advantage

Treatment groups

* Divided into:

    * in situ

    * Thin = <1mm

    * Intermediate = 1-4mm

    * Thick = >4mm

In situ Melanoma

* **No staging Investigations** are indicated

* Requires WLE **5mm**

Thin Melanomas [<1mm]

* Staging Investigations may have a **low** pick-up rate:

  * blood tests (LFTs, FBC, LDH)

  * No Imaging

    * ? US

    * ? CT

* Requires referral for:

  * WLE ~1cm

Intermediate Melanomas [1-4mm]

* Staging Investigations may still have a low pick-up rate.

    * blood tests (LFTs, FBC, LDH)

    * Imaging with CT or PET

* Requires referral for:

    * WLE 1-2cm
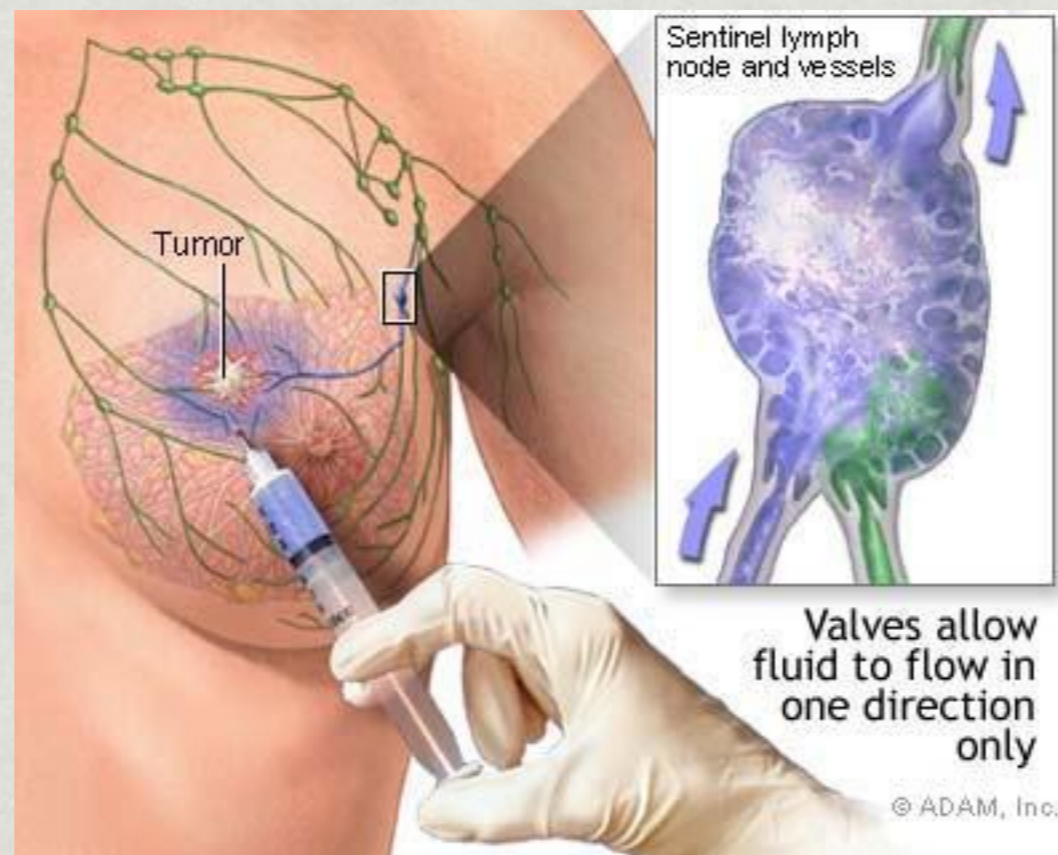
    * sentinel node biopsy

        * ~15% chance of *+ SN*

Thick Melanomas [>4mm]

* Staging investigations are more important (10-26% positive)

  * blood tests (LFTs, FBC, LDH)

  * Imaging

    * CT or PET

* Requires referral for:

  * WLE ~2-3cm

  * complete lymph node dissection

Sentinel node biopsy

* For Melanomas between 1 & 4mm

* "To pick the patients who don't need a full lymph node dissection"

* Injection of radionucleotide on morning of surgery

Sentinel node biopsy

* Localisation of the draining lymph node with probe.

* Important **prognostic** indicator:

    * SN **neg**ative = 12% Recurrence

    * SN **pos**itive = 46% Recurrence

* 5yr **survival is greater** in patients having a completion node dissection vs. observation

Regional Chemotherapy

* Isolated limb infusion

  * Very high chemo dose that couldn't be tolerated systemically

  * For:

    * in-transit mets

    * Thick primaries

    * Multiple distal recurrence

    * Inoperable palliation

The future:

* vemurafenib

* this has shown cell death in Melanoma cell lines if **v600E** muttation is present (60-80%)

* Trials have shown **80**% partial to complete regression, lasting *2 to 18 months*…..