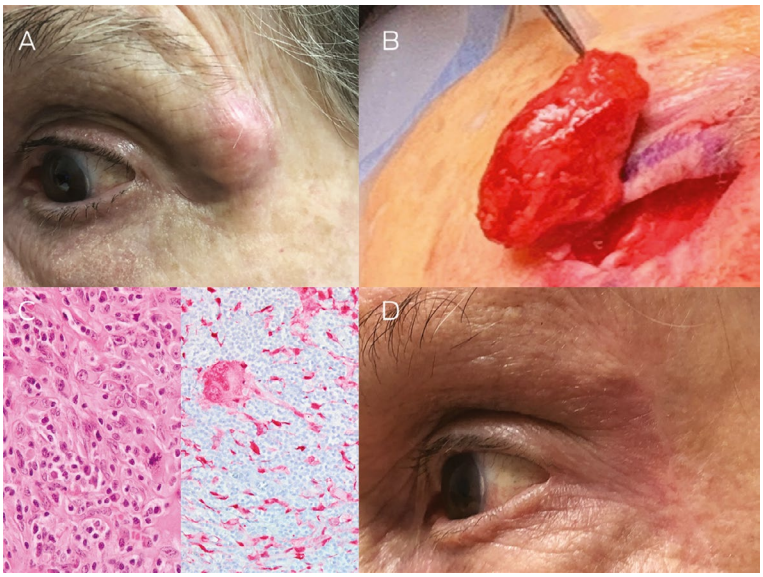
Snapshot

An eyebrow lump: malignant spindle cell melanoma



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An 88-year-old white woman presented with a subcutaneous mass on the left lateral brow (Figure, A). She had been aware of this lesion for the past 8 years, but it had increased in size over the past 2 months, and was associated with erythema and a sensation of paraesthesia. Orbital ultrasound revealed a well defined subcutaneous hypervascular lesion with no invasion in the adjacent structures, but the appearances were non-specific. She underwent excision biopsy (Figure, B). Histopathology (Figure, C; left: interlacing fascicles of malignant spindle shaped cells with background chronic inflammatory cell infiltrate [haematoxylin and eosin stain]; right, immunoperoxidase stain showing strong nuclear positivity for SOX10, a marker of malignant melanoma) revealed a malignant spindle cell melanoma with no perineural involvement. Wider excision was performed with adjunctive radiotherapy to the tumour bed. The post-operative positron emission tomography (PET) and computed tomography scans were clear. At 6 months, the site was well healed with a good cosmetic result (Figure, D). Spindle cell melanoma is a rare subtype of malignant melanoma. This case highlights the importance of histopathological confirmation and follow-up adjunctive therapies.[1]

Competing interests: No relevant disclosures. ■

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References are available online.

1 Xu Z, Shi P, Yibulayin F, et al. Spindle cell melanoma: incidence and survival, 1973–2017. *Oncol Lett* 2018; 16: 5091–5099. ■