

# Journal Pre-proof

Pleural Metastatic Melanoma

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## **Pleural Metastatic Melanoma**

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A 69-year-old male farmer from a tropical region, who had been farming without proper sun protection, presented with constitutional symptoms and progressively worsening breathlessness over the past four weeks. Physical examination revealed stony dullness over the right hemithorax and an asymmetrical, irregular-edged, hyperpigmented ulcerated plaque with colour variation at his left posterior trunk (*Panel A*). Chest X-ray (*Panel B*) and transthoracic ultrasound confirmed the presence of massive right pleural effusion. Diagnostic thoracentesis revealed an exudative pleural effusion, and cytology was negative for malignancy. Medical thoracoscopy showed multiple discrete blackish pleural nodules and masses over the parietal and visceral pleura (*Panel C-D, Video 1*), with biopsy confirming metastatic melanoma (*Panel E-G*). The patient was started on immunotherapy with nivolumab and ipilimumab. Pleural metastatic melanoma is a rare entity and, unfortunately, a poor prognostic factor.<sup>1,2</sup> Its thoracoscopic appearance has rarely been described in the literature, highlighting the importance of awareness in its recognition. When consistent with clinical suspicion, the distinctive appearance of black pleural nodules and masses can almost confirm the diagnosis, as demonstrated in our case.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Declaration***

### ***Funding***

The authors declare that no funding was received for the publication of this case.

### ***Artificial intelligence involvement***

The authors declare that no artificial intelligence software was used in the preparation of this manuscript.

***Authors' Contribution***

SSK initiated the idea for manuscript submission and prepared the final draft. SSK also performed the medical thoracoscopic procedure. SSK and JSW acquired the clinical data and were involved in the initial care of the patient. JC was the pathologist in charge and FYH was the primary oncologist. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

***Conflicts of interest***

The authors have no conflicts of interests to declare.

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Ethics in publishing

1. Does your research involve experimentation on animals? :

Yes

If yes; please provide name of the ethical committee approving these experiments and the registration number. :

**Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for the publication of this case report and accompanying images.**

If yes; please confirm authors compliance with all relevant ethical regulations. :

Yes

2. Does your study include human subjects?:

Yes

If yes; please provide name of the ethical committee approving these experiments and the registration number. :

**Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for the publication of this case report and accompanying images.**

If yes; please confirm authors compliance with all relevant ethical regulations. :

Yes

If yes; please confirm that written consent has been obtained from all patients. :

Yes

3. Does your study include a clinical trial?:

No

4. Are all data shown in the figures and tables also shown in the text of the Results section and discussed in the Conclusions?:

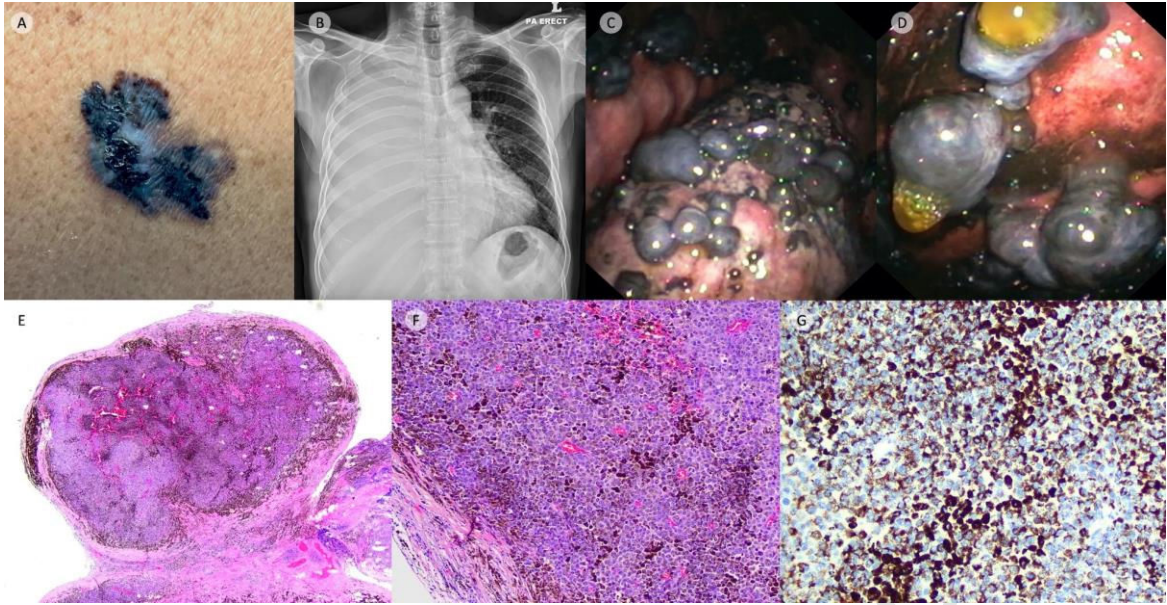
Yes

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## Figure Captions

**Figure 1.0** Panel A: An asymmetrical, irregular-edged, hyperpigmented ulcerated plaque with colour variation measured around 2.5 x 1.5cm at the left posterior trunk; *Panel B*: Large right pleural effusion; *Panel C, D*: Medical thoracoscopy revealed multiple discrete blackish pleural nodules and masses on both the parietal and visceral pleura. Biopsy of the lesions showed metastatic tumour nodules with heavily pigmented cytoplasm in low power (*Panel E, hematoxylin & eosin, x20 magnification*) and high power (*Panel F, hematoxylin & eosin, x100 magnification*) which were positive for HMB-45 stain (*Panel G, HMB-45 stain, x200 magnification*) confirming metastatic melanoma.



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