



## Giant malignant melanoma of the cheek: A colossal consequence of homeopathy

We present the case of the largest head and neck malignant melanoma reported to date in a patient who pursued alternative medicinal treatments. A 77-year-old lady initially presented to Dermatology ten years ago with a 6-year history of a pigmented nodule on the left cheek. A clinical diagnosis of malignant melanoma was made; however, the patient refused excision and sought homeopathy treatment instead. She subsequently represented to Dermatology as the lesion, which had been slowly enlarging over the last 16 years, had now begun to obstruct her breathing and eyesight. On examination there was a 180mm x 150mm x 60mm ulcerated, friable and pungent mass on the left cheek. An incisional biopsy confirmed malignant melanoma and radiological staging revealed no metastases to the head, neck, chest, or pelvis. The patient underwent excision and reconstruction with a free transverse rectus abdominis musculocutaneous flap. Histopathology revealed an ulcerated nodular malignant melanoma with a Breslow thickness of 42mm. Three months post-operation she presented for follow-up with local recurrence and distant pulmonary metastases; she is currently undergoing palliative radiotherapy. This case highlights the unfortunate colossal consequences of pursuing homeopathy for the treatment of melanoma.