



Foreword

Management of Melanoma



Timothy M. Pawlik, MD, MPH, MTS, PhD, FACS, FRACS (Hon.)
Consulting Editor

This issue of the *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America* is devoted to covering the important topic of melanoma. The incidence of primary cutaneous melanoma continues to increase each year. While melanoma accounts for the majority of skin cancer-related deaths, surgical treatment of early disease can be curative. Over the last decade, there have been marked changes in the surgical and systemic treatment of melanoma. For example, within the surgical field, there have been multiple prospective randomized clinical trials to define the extent of surgery with important changes to how the nodal basin should be managed and staged. Among patients with advanced disease, treatment can be more challenging, although new advances in the area of immunotherapy now offer this group of patients more therapeutic options. In particular, the use of new laboratory, molecular, and imaging tests can better inform the initial workup of patients with newly diagnosed melanoma, as well as help tailor follow-up and personalized treatment options. As such, management of melanoma requires a well-informed multidisciplinary approach that incorporates surgeons, medical oncologists, among others, endocrinology, gastroenterology, medical oncology, and surgery. Surgeons therefore need to be well-informed about the emerging data on the diagnostic as well as surgical and systemic treatment options available for patients with melanoma.

I am thrilled to have Dr Keith Delman and Dr Michael Lowe guest edit this important issue of *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*. Dr Delman is the Carlos Professor of Surgical Anatomy and Technique in the Department of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine, where he is Professor of Surgery and Associate Chair of Faculty and Clinical Affairs. Dr Delman is an international expert in the treatment of patients with melanoma. Dr Delman co-chairs the Winship Cancer Institute's Melanoma Working Group/Multi-Disciplinary Tumor Board at Emory, where he leads the multidisciplinary care of nearly half of all patients diagnosed with melanoma in the state of Georgia each year. Dr Lowe is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Surgical

Oncology of the Department of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine. A board-certified surgeon, Dr Lowe serves as a surgical oncologist with a primary focus on cutaneous malignancy for the Division of Surgical Oncology within the Department of Surgery. He joined Emory after completing a fellowship in Complex General Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, New York. Given the combined knowledge and experience of Dr Delman and Dr Lowe, this duo of experts is ideally suited to be the guest editors of this important issue of the *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*.

The issue covers a number of important topics, including the workup as well as medical and surgical management of patients with melanoma. A wide array of expert authors reviews important surgical topics, such as operative margins, sentinel lymph node biopsy, management of the regional nodal basin, as well as reconstructive techniques. Other clinical locoregional and systemic topics, such as injectable therapies, neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapies, as well as novel targets and future therapies are covered. Furthermore, this issue addresses other topics, such as management of other age-related melanocytic lesions and noncutaneous melanomas. I want to thank Dr Delman and Dr Lowe for recruiting the help of such an amazing array of authors who are leaders in the field of melanoma treatment. Dr Delman, Dr Lowe, and all the authors do an expert job in summarizing the important and relevant aspects of caring for patients with melanoma. I would like to thank Dr Delman and Dr Lowe, as well as all the contributing authors for an excellent issue of the *Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America*.

Timothy M. Pawlik, MD, MPH, MTS, PhD, FACS, FRACS (Hon.)
Department of Surgery
Surgery, Oncology, Health Services
Management and Policy
The Ohio State University
Wexner Medical Center
395 West 12th Avenue
Suite 670
Columbus, OH 43210, USA

E-mail address:

tim.pawlik@osumc.edu