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[Neurosurgery](#). 2010 Sep;67(3):E867-9; discussion E869.

Malignant transformation of intramedullary melanocytoma: case report.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE: Meningeal melanocytomas are low-grade primary melanocytic tumors with benign histological features and a favorable clinical prognosis. Transition from meningeal melanocytoma to primary melanoma of the central nervous system is exceptionally rare, with only 5 cases having been previously reported. Here, we discuss a case of malignant transformation of an intramedullary melanocytoma to primary melanoma and review the pertinent literature.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION: A 79-year-old woman presented with progressive paresis in the lower limbs followed by sphincter dysfunction. Magnetic resonance imaging scans disclosed an intramedullary lesion located at the T10-T11 level.

INTERVENTION: The patient underwent subtotal resection of an intermediate-grade melanocytoma. Two years later, the tumor recurred locally, and the patient underwent additional surgery to remove the intramedullary mass. The histological findings of the tumor were consistent with an intramedullary malignant melanoma.

CONCLUSION: The malignant transformation of melanocytic tumors of the central nervous system may occur years after surgical treatment, and its incidence remains unknown. Emphasis should be placed on the importance of careful and continued follow-up monitoring of the tumor.

PMID: 20657325 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Publication Types, MeSH Terms

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