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Characteristics and clinical outcomes of mucosal melanoma

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Characteristics and clinical outcomes of mucosal melanoma

1. Whilst the introduction of immune- and targeted therapy has revolutionized the therapeutic landscape and improved outcomes of patients with advanced cutaneous melanoma, the survival of mucosal melanoma lags behind and patients do not benefit from the novel therapeutic options (this thesis).
2. The poor survival of patients with mucosal melanoma treated with combined anti-CTLA-4/anti-PD-1 treatment suggests a lower immunogenicity as compared to their cutaneous counterpart (this thesis).
3. Mucosal melanoma arising from various locations all have a poor prognosis. However, different anatomical borders and distinct genetic alterations warrant an individualized staging system and therapeutic strategy for the various locations (this thesis).
4. Although the majority of the patients with vulvar melanoma present with localized disease, high recurrence rates and a short recurrence-free interval contribute to a poor prognosis (this thesis).
5. The morbidity of an aggressive resection should be balanced against the risk of early progression of disease (this thesis).
6. Neoadjuvant strategies may be the future in mucosal melanoma as they have the potential to reduce tumour size and therefore offering less-mutilating surgery with clear resection margins (Cui et al).
7. There is an urgent need to facilitate international collaborations, develop novel therapies and facilitate clinical trials to improve the clinical outcomes for patients with rare cancers (derived from the Lancet Oncology series on rare cancers).
8. As frequent tumours continue to be subclassified into discrete entities, each representing a small proportion of the total number of patients, the issues of clinical research for rare tumours are in fact the issues of oncology research in general (derived from Jean Yves Belard).
9. I may not have ended up where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be (derived from Douglas Adams).
10. Every mountain top is within reach if you just keep climbing. (derived from Barry Finlay)
11. In dreams and in love there are no impossibilities (derived from Janos Arany).
12. I run, because somehow completely exhausting myself is the most relaxing part of my day (Florine Boer).