Demographic, occupational, tumor characteristics and extent of metastasis

of metastatic melanoma patients diagnosed in Florida, 1996-2010.

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Recent decades have witnessed an increase in melanoma more than any other cancer, resulting in a 2010-2014 age-adjusted incidence rate (IR) of 22.3 and 2.7 per 100,000, respectively. Florida’s IR is the 2nd highest in the nation and mortality rate has doubled since 1975. Although metastatic melanoma (MM) is less frequent among minorities, it has been increasing steadily over the years. AIM: To describe the demographic, occupational, tumor characteristics and extent of metastasis of MM patients. A dataset of 80,349 Whites, African Americans (AA) and Hispanic stage II and IV MM patients at presentation was obtained from Florida Cancer Registry. Demographic information, occupational status and measures related to age at diagnosis, primary site and laterality, histology, and grade and stage of the cancers are reported. Data were analyzed using SAS. Means ± SD, frequencies and percentages, and chi-square tests were employed at P <0.05. Fifteen counties out of 67 accounted for 72% of all MM cases; 61% of the patients were married at the time of diagnosis. Majority reported having government sponsored coverage and sustained by outdoor occupations, while 60% had never smoked. Sixty-nine percent of patients were diagnosed with tumors of the trunk, shoulder and hip; laterality was evenly distributed between left 39% and right 37%. More African Americans and Hispanics had tumors that were either moderately or poorly differentiated. This study confirms the well-established race, gender and age disparity in MM diagnosis – majority white and male, and majority of the cases between 56 and 71 years of age.