

# PRIMARY PENILE MELANOMA: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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## **Introduction:**

Melanoma is a dermatological neoplasm originating from melanocytes, which can affect any part of the body, with the penis being an very rare location.

## **Objective:**

To describe the clinical features of the Primary Penile Melanoma.

## **Methodology:**

A literature review was carried out using Pubmed databases in the period of February to the first half of March 2022, using the descriptors "Primary Penile Melanoma" and "Penile Neoplasms" with filter for publications from the last ten years.

## **Results:**

The primary penile melanoma is a rare malignant tumor that represents about 0.1% of all types of melanoma and 1.4% of penile cancers<sup>1,2</sup>.The most common location is the glans penis, responsible for about half of the cases, other sites of common involvement are the foreskin and ureteral meatus<sup>2</sup>. The most affected age group is those between 60 and 70 years old.The clinical presentation is similar to other melanomas, with the appearance of a macula, papule or, later, ulceration, pigmented in different shades, with progressive growth and asymmetry<sup>2</sup>.In the case of urethral melanoma, the diagnosis tends to be late in some cases due to the impossibility of visualizing the disease if it is internalized. Ulceration is more common in urethral melanoma, and may locate urinary disorders such as pain, dysuria, and hematuria<sup>1</sup>. Penile melanoma has a high mortality rate, with a life expectancy of less than three years after diagnosis in most cases, reaching five years in a minority of cases with localized disease. The main diagnostic method used is biopsy with histopathological analysis, and staging is also performed using imaging tests in order to determine the extent of the lesion. Surgical excision of the lesion with adequate margin expansion is the main treatment used in localized lesions. Topical imiquimod appears as a non-surgical alternative, despite the low number of registered uses<sup>3</sup>.

## **Conclusion:**

Penile melanoma, despite its rarity, is an important clinical concern, due to its high mortality and late diagnosis. In addition, due to its low prevalence and reported cases, the treatment is still not well defined. Thereby, its knowledge is important to be possible a diagnosis and treatment as early as possible.

## **References:**

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## **Keywords:**

Penile Neoplasms; Melanoma; Penile Diseases