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# A Choroidal Malignant Melanoma Case with Liver Metastasis 15 Months After Diagnosis

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**ÖZET**

*Tanıdan 15 ay sonra karaciğer metastazı saptanan koroidal malign melanoma*

Koroidal melanom en sık görülen primer intraokuler malign tümördür ve insidansı yılda yaklaşık 4000 vakadır. Malign melanom tüm kanserlerin %1.5'ini oluşturur. En sık metastaz yaptığı organ karaciğerdir. Bu yazıda koroidal melanom tanısından 15 ay sonra, sarılık, halsizlik, yorgunluk, karın ağrısı, abdominal distansiyon, bulantı ve kusma nedeniyle yapılan tetkiklerinde karaciğer malign melanom metastazı saptanan olgu sunulmaktadır.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Koroidal melanoma, karaciğer metastazı, malign melanom

**ABSTRACT**

*A choroidal malignant melanoma case with liver metastasis 15 months after diagnosis*

Choroidal melanoma is the most common primary intraocular malignant tumor and its incidence is approximately 4000 cases per year and the most frequently organ metastasis is liver. Malignant melanoma accounts for 1.5% of all cancers. We reported the case of a patient diagnosed with choroidal melanoma 15 months ago presented with jaundice, malaise, fatigue, abdominal distension and pain, nausea and vomiting. The evaluation revelaed a liver metastasis.

**Key words:** Choroidal melanoma, liver metastasis, malignant melanoma

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## INTRODUCTION

Malignant melanoma accounts for %1.5 of all cancers (1). It is often originated from the skin, however organs such as eyes and meninges may also be affected. Despite that intraocular malignant tumor is very rare, it is the most common primary intraocular malignant tumor and it often develops a choroidal structure. Liver is the organ which choroidal melanoma generally metastasis and has a poor prognosis (2,3). Herein, we aimed to highlight the liver metastasis which was detected 15 months after the diagnosis of choroidal malignant melanoma which lacked metastasis when diagnosed.

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## CASE REPORT

A 62 year old male patient was admitted to our clinic with complaints of jaundice, malaise, fatigue, abdominal pain and distension, nausea and vomiting for the last three weeks. In his medical history, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, congestive heart failure, chronic hepatitis B infections were found. It was also told that 15 months ago he was diagnosed with choroidal melanoma and had Cyberknife treatment in the epicenter where he was admitted with the complaint of the redness in the eyes. In the physical examination, nothing was detected except for 3 cm hepatomegaly, icterus on the skin and sclera. Hyperbilirubinemia, increased liver function tests and

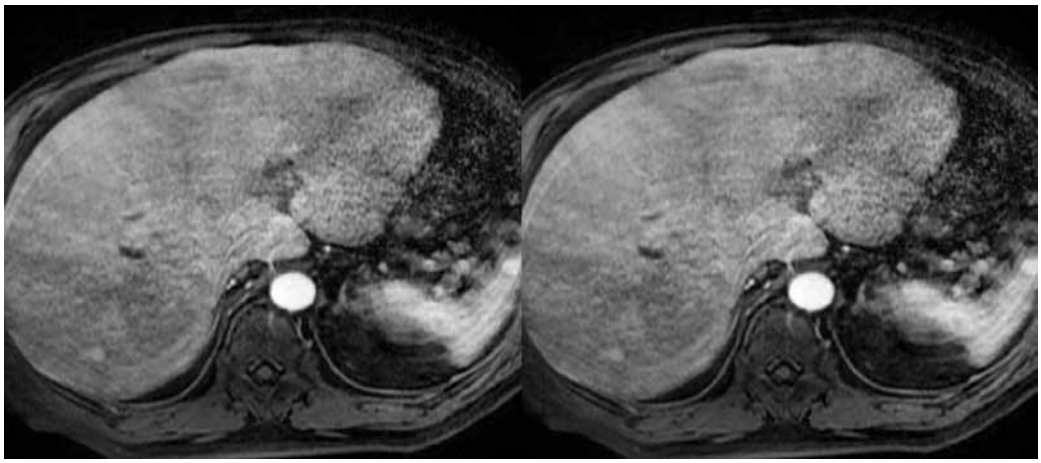

**Figure 1:** The dynamic magnetic resonance imaging of the abdomen

**Table 1:** Laboratory data of the case

| Parameters | |
|---|---|
| Urea (mg/dl) | 105.9 |
| Creatinine (mg/dl) | 1.7 |
| Na (mmol/lt) | 140 |
| K (mmol/lt) | 3,7 |
| Ca (mg/dl) | 7.9 |
| P (mg/dl) | 2.9 |
| Albumin (g/dl) | 3.1 |
| ALT (U/L) | 34 |
| AST (U/L) | 74 |
| ALP (U/L) | 133 |
| GGT (U/L) | 90 |
| LDH (U/L) | 2415 |
| T.BİL (mg/dl) | 31 |
| D.BİL (mg/dl) | 24.8 |
| I.BİL(mg/dl) | 6.2 |
| PT (8-13.5sn) | 17.4 |
| aPTT (22.7-31.8sn) | 82.2 |
| INR (0.85-1.3 sn) | 1.58 |
| WBC (4.6-10.2 (K/uL) | 11 |
| HGB (g/dl) | 8 |
| PLT (K/uL) | 174 |
| AFP | 5.15 |

increased urea, creatinine levels were detected in the laboratory tests (Table 1). In the abdominal MR, which was taken because of the jaundice and elevated liver enzymes, possibly metastatic mass images were observed (Figure 1). In order to confirm the diagnosis, core-needle liver biopsy was performed. Biopsy was reported as malignant melanoma metastasis (Figure 2). With the diagnosis of metastatic choroidal melanoma, patient was referred to oncology clinic for further treatment. The oncological consultation recommended palliative treatment due to his inconvenient general condition.

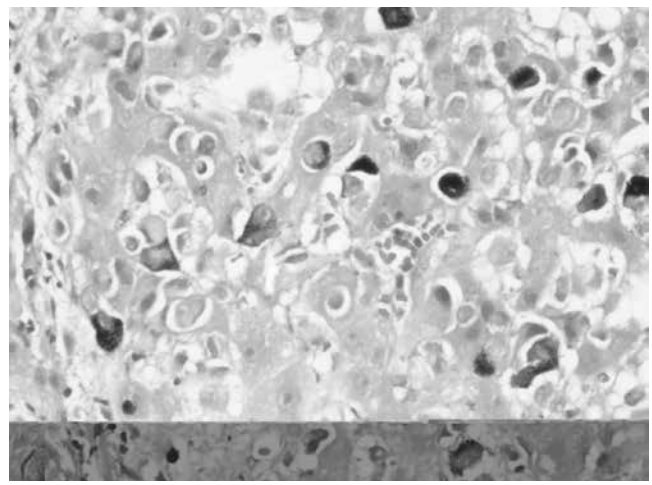

**Figure 2:** Pathological image of the liver metastases of malignant melanoma Enlargement by 40↑: malignant melanoma cells containing significant melanin with nucleoli

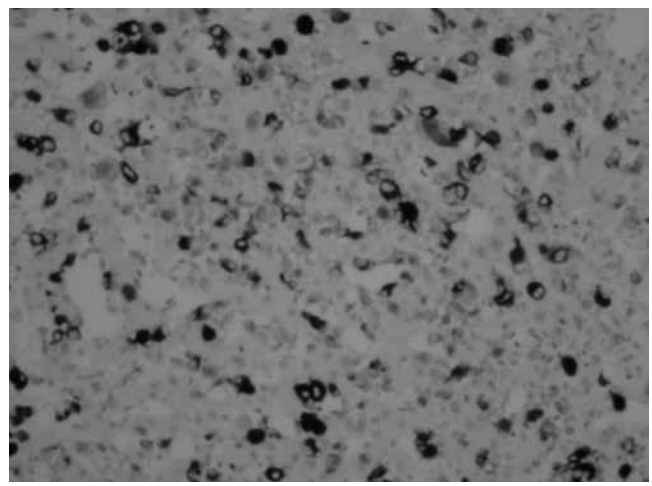

**Figure 3:** Pathological image of malignant melanoma metastases in the liver Enlargement by 20↑: HMB45 positivity in neoplastic cells

## DISCUSSION

Although malignant melanoma usually develops from melanocytes in the basal layer of the epidermis, it less likely occurs in structures such as eyes and meninges, and its frequency is increasing all over the world (3-5). Malignant melanoma accounts for 5% of all cancers. Choroidal melanoma is the most common primary intraocular malignant tumor and have an incidence of approximately 4000 cases per year worldwide, in other words it occurs in 4.3 people out of 1 million. Liver is the organ which choroidal melanomas metastasis most often and has a poor prognosis (2,3). Choroidal melanoma have a better prognosis than melanoma with skin origin, although more often tend to metastasis( 6,7). Defined risk factors for choroidal melanoma are determined as female gender, white skin, age and having a bright-colored iris (7). Although 50% of choroidal melanoma cases are asymptomatic, loss of vision, scotoma, and photopsia may be present in the form as well (3). Our patient presented to the eye clinic because of redness of eyes and diagnosed with choroidal melanoma. Choroidal melanoma making the metastasis most frequently to the liver and the other area that can metastasis are kidney, bone, lung and brain (8). Its prognosis is poor and it generally metastasis to the liver after 4 years of primary treatment (7). The incidence of choroidal melanoma is section 4.3 per million (3).

Treatment options for these tumors include observation, external radiotherapy, trans-pupillary thermography and enucleation. Observation is the recommended for the patients with <3mm choroidal melanoma, it should be exposed repeating eye consultations and active treatment should be initiated only in the presence of tumor growth (9). It is not possible to cure the metastatic malignant melanoma, the principle of treatment is to provide palliation. Chemotherapy and immunotherapy are used frequently in the treatment. Dacarbazine, cisplatine, nitrosureas, fotemustine, vinca alkaloids, and fluorouracil are effective chemotherapeutic agents. Dacarbazine is the most commonly used one and treatment response as a single agent of it is about 20%. Preliminary studies with combined chemotherapy have showed higher response rates, however in large randomized trials these rates could not be repeated and contribution to survival were limited (10-14).

In this case, we aimed to take attention to the liver metastasis, seen in a rate of 4.3 out of 1 million, which was detected 15 months after the diagnosis of choroidal malignant melanoma and we wanted to remark the importance of policlinic controls for early recognition of metastasis.

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