

メラノーマ患者においてリンパ節全郭清は生存率を 改善しない (Abstract LBA9002)

センチネルリンパ節生検陽性のメラノーマ患者に対する拡大リンパ節郭清 術は不要である可能性がある

Extensive lymph node dissection may not be necessary for patients with melanoma with a positive sentinel node biopsy

リンパ節転移陽性患者のメラノーマ腫瘍周囲のリンパ節郭清は生存率を改善しない、と 第51回American Society of Clinical Oncology年次集会で発表された。原発腫瘍を外 科的に切除した後、ステージIIIメラノーマ患者483人が経過観察のみの群または完全リン パ節郭清(CLND)群にランダムに割り付けられた。微小転移巣を有する患者のみがスタ ディに含まれた。患者らの追跡期間中央値は35か月であった。経過観察群では、14.6%の 患者がリンパ節局所転移を来したのに対し、CLND群では8.3%であった。しかし、スタディ対 象者全体において、5年無再発率(p=0.72)、無遠隔転移率(p=0.76)またはメラノーマ特 異的生存率(p=0.86)に関しては治療による有意差はなかった。センチネルリンパ節にがん が認められた患者は、メラノーマ再発および転移のリスクが高いと考えられている。世界的 に、これらの患者にはCLNDを行うことが推奨されている。今回のスタディは、治療を変え不 必要な手術やそれによる副作用から何千人もの患者を救うのに役立つ可能性が高い。

Full Text

A randomized study presented by researchers at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's 51st Annual Meeting finds that surgical removal of the lymph nodes surrounding a melanoma tumor after a positive lymph node biopsy does not improve survival. The study will likely change practice and conclude a long-standing debate about the role of this approach, called complete lymph node dissection (CLND). More importantly, the new knowledge gained from this study will help spare thousands of patients with melanoma from unnecessary surgery and its significant side effects

Patients who have cancer detected in the sentinel lymph node upon biopsy are deemed to be at increased risk of melanoma recurrence and metastasis. Worldwide, it is recommended that such patients undergo CLND

CLND is an extensive surgical procedure that involves removal of entire groups of lymph nodes. It carries the risk of debilitating side effects, including infection, nerve damage and lymphedema. According to the authors, lymphedema can occur in more than 20% of patients and persist long-term in 5-10% of patients.

"I think that our study is the beginning of the end of a general recommendation of complete lymph node dissection for patients with positive sentinel nodes," said senior study author Claus Garbe, MD, a professor of dermatology at the University of Tübingen in Tübingen, Germany. "However, it is possible that this surgery may provide a smaller survival advantage than this study could detect. So, doctors may want to discuss this finding with their patients to help them decide whether this procedure is right for them."

Following surgery to remove the primary tumor, 483 patients with stage III melanoma and a positive lymph node biopsy were randomly assigned to observation only or CLND. Patients in the observation group were closely monitored for signs of disease recurrence – they underwent a lymph node ultrasound exam every three months and CT/ MRI or PET scans every six months. Patients in the CLND group followed the same schedule of check-ups after CLND.

Patients had a median follow-up of 35 months. In the observation group, 14.6% of patients developed lymph node regional metastases, compared to 8.3% in the CLND group. However, the differences in three and five-year recurrence-free survival, distant metastases-free survival, and melanoma-specific survival were not statistically significant between the two groups. In this study, a survival difference of 10% or higher between the two treatment groups was considered statistically significant based on the study design

Only patients with micrometastases were included in this study. According to the authors, CLND will continue to be recommended for patients with larger macrometastases.

Another analysis of this study is planned in three years: however, Dr. Garbe stated it is unlikely that the overall findings of the study will change, because prior research has shown that the majority (roughly 80%) of melanoma recurrences happen in the first three years of initial diagnosis

Another ongoing CLND randomized trial, MSLT-II, is much larger and designed to detect an even smaller (5%) difference in survival. However, the final results from MSLT-II are not expected until 2022.

ASCO Expert Lynn Schuchter, MD, FASCO noted that "This is the first study to offer solid evidence that many patients with melanoma don't need extensive lymph node surgery. The findings should reduce the use of an approach that we have long assumed to be optimal. This is great news for patients, who can forego extensive surgeries without compromising their survival chances

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