

Evaluation of a training course for general practitioners within the Melanoma Multimedia Education project of the Italian Melanoma Intergroup

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BACKGROUND. As a part of the National Oncological Plan 2023-2027 on the importance of multidisciplinary and interactive E-learning training, the Italian Melanoma Intergroup (IMI) has developed MelaMed (Melanoma Multimedia Education), a national project for general practitioners (GPs) on the prevention and detection of cutaneous melanoma through a WEB platform and an online course. MelaMed enables participants to (1) recognize skin lesions that require specialist dermatological assessment, (2) select patients at high risk of melanoma and (3) be informed of the diagnosis and treatment pathway of patients with melanoma.

METHODS. The project is ongoing. A free online platform and online course were developed and launched in June 2022. Before starting the course, enrolled participants fill out a pre-test questionnaire concerning the basic knowledge of the disease and the recognition and management of suspicious lesions. After the course, participants will fill out the same questionnaire again. The online course will end in December 2023. We present an interim descriptive analysis of results (January 2023-July 2023).

RESULTS. So far, five IMI centers have participated in the project for a total of 1320 participants. Of these, 302 compiled the pre-test questionnaire. **Table 1** shows the characteristics of total respondents. Forty-seven percent of them were aged <40 years. Respondents were almost equally divided between GPs (47%) and resident GPs (48%). **Table 2** shows the results of the pre-test questionnaire. Among the theoretical questions, the "ABCDE" and "ugly duckling" rules are well known (96% and 91% of correct answers, respectively), but a lower percentage (68%) of respondents knows the "EFG" rule for the recognition of nodular melanomas and the Breslow thickness statement (29%). Among the images, **lentigo maligna** was recognized correctly by as few as 36% respondents. This lesion poses a differential diagnosis with solar lentigo (diagnosed, incorrectly, by 57%)

CONCLUSIONS. Pre-evaluation questionnaire showed a **lack of knowledge** of the two major points of melanoma diagnosis (EFG) and management (Breslow thickness). We will compare the proportions of correct answers to the questionnaires before and after the course once available.

	Centre					Total
	Varese	Parma	Romagna	IDI Roma	Sassari	
Enrolled Respondents	50	111	1042	33	84	1320
<i>Age group</i>						
<40	23 (58%)	38 (55%)	41 (34%)	6 (60%)	34 (55%)	142 (47%)
40-60	17 (43%)	29 (42%)	45 (37%)	4 (40%)	27 (44%)	122 (40%)
>60	0 (0%)	2 (3%)	35 (29%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	38 (13%)
<i>Profession</i>						
GP	13 (33%)	25 (36%)	83 (69%)	2 (20%)	18 (29%)	141 (47%)
Resident GP	27 (68%)	44 (64%)	24 (20%)	8 (80%)	43 (69%)	146 (48%)
Pediatrician	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	14 (12%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	15 (5%)

Table 1. Characteristics of respondents, numbers and percentages by centre. GP, General Practitioner. Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding

Questions	Total N(%)
<i>Theoretical multiple choice questions</i>	
Q1: Identify a risk factor for melanoma	300 (99%)
Q2: choose what is needed for a complete visual examination of the skin	279 (92%)
Q3: explain the acronym ABCDE	291 (96%)
Q4: explain the EFG rule	206 (68%)
Q5: explain what is meant by the "ugly duckling" sign	274 (91%)
Q6: choose a true statement about dermoscopy	190 (63%)
Q7: choose a true statement about Breslow thickness	88 (29%)

Table 2. Number and percentage of correct answers to theoretical multiple-choice questions and multiple-choice diagnosis for skin tumor images.

<i>Multiple choice diagnosis for skin neoplasms images.</i>	
<i>Percentage of correct answers with respect to the type of lesion</i>	
I1: Thin melanoma	123 (41%)
I2: Congenital nevus	98 (32%)
I3: Seborrheic keratosis	235 (78%)
I4: Nodular melanoma	214 (71%)
I5: Thick melanoma	154 (51%)
I6: Melanocytic nevus	252 (83%)
I7: Congenital nevus	235 (78%)
I8: Melanoma with regression	174 (58%)
I9: Malignant lentigo	108 (36%)
I10: Basal cell carcinoma	262 (87%)



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P104



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