

The New York Eye Cancer Center



Mar 21, 2006

Recommendations for Patients with Choroidal Melanoma

If you have been diagnosed with choroidal melanoma, you need to have a medical evaluation to make sure the tumor has not already spread to other parts of your body. These evaluations can be very different at various centers around the world.

Patients are diagnosed with ocular melanoma every day. This can be a frightening experience. Though it is the kind of tumor that can spread to other parts of the body; most patients do not develop metastatic spread. However, because there is a risk of metastases we must perform an initial and follow up systemic evaluations.

At The New York Eye Cancer Center we suggest you have a complete physical examination at the time of diagnosis and every 6 months thereafter. These examinations should include a complete physical evaluation and a yearly chest x-ray. An abdominal imaging study is requested every 6 months for 3 years, and every year thereafter.

The New York Eye Cancer Center Recommendations

- 1) Pretreatment whole body FDG PET/CT Staging.
- 2) Follow up evaluations every 6 months for 3 years [MRI or CT of the abdomen (liver) and chest x-ray] or follow up FDG PET/CT for high risk patients.
- 3) At least yearly metastatic surveys for 7 additional years.

Abdominal Imaging Studies:

In general, we recommend magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) because it is more sensitive than computed radiographic tomography (CT), which is (in turn) better than abdominal ultrasound imaging for the detection of liver metastasis.

References:

- PET/CT imaging: detection of choroidal melanoma.** British Journal of Ophthalmology 2005 Oct;89(10):1265-9.
- Whole body positron emission tomography / computed tomography staging of metastatic choroidal melanoma** American Journal of Ophthalmology 2005;104(2):193-199.
- Whole body PET/CT imaging for detection of metastatic choroidal melanoma.** British Journal of Ophthalmology 2004 Aug;88(8):1095-7.
- Whole body PET/CT for initial staging of choroidal melanoma.** British Journal of Ophthalmology 2005 Oct;89(10):1270-4.

Whole-body FDG-PET/CT:

First investigated at The New York Eye Cancer Center, PET/CT is the only method that will survey the entire body for metastatic choroidal melanoma. The CT portion reveals the organs, bones and tumors within the body while PET sees if these tumors are metabolically active or growing.

PET/CT puts form and function on one diagnostic page. We have used this technique to examine the metabolic activity of intraocular melanoma, to look for metastatic melanoma, and to evaluate patients in follow up.

The New York Eye Cancer Center, 115 East 61st Street, New York City, New York, USA 10021 - 212-832-8170

Web site: <http://paultfingermd.com>

E-mail: contactus@paultfingermd.com