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Surgical options for the treatment of melanoma

Surgical Options for the Treatment of Melanoma: The surgical strategies for the treatment of melanoma have evolved over our experience treating 211 patients for the recent 20 years. While most of the features of our patients looked similar to those written in textbooks, we discovered some unfamiliar ones in our cases: The irrelevance of resection margin to local recurrence and/or metastasis led us to reduce it gradually down to 2cm in maximum. Even less than 1.5mm excision margins have been employed for the recent 7 years for the 18 cases of nail complex melanoma, which showed neither recurrence nor metastasis until now regardless of its depth and size. The morbidity between Stage 3 and 4 was not different. The role of prophylactic lymphadenectomy appeared unclear. Rather adjuvant interferon therapy might be effective but its effect needs to be clarified. Still the nature of undiscovered metastasis remains an area to be explored. Therefore, our team now pursues "preservative surgery" which emphasizes the optimal resection followed by functional and cosmetic reconstruction, especially in the hand.

Biography

Sung Tack Kwon has been a plastic surgeon as well as a sub-special board certified hand surgeon since 1989 and 2005, respectively. He has worked as a professor at Seoul National University since 1996 after the completion of the fellowship at the Hand Center of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in 1995. As a hand surgeon he devoted himself to congenital hand problems as well as tumors of the hand. He is now the chairman of the department of plastic surgery, college of medicine, Seoul National University. He is a milestone contributor of the 'Research Gate' with only a small number of papers (24) which have been reviewed over 2000 times and cited 67 times in reputed journals.

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