

24 Ocular melanoma

There are two primary types of ocular melanoma, uveal (choroid, iris and ciliary body) and conjunctival melanoma. Both types are uncommon.¹ For uveal melanoma, eye-conserving plaque radiotherapy is the most common treatment and results in similar rates of local control to surgery for most tumours.² Other forms of treatment include periodic observation, transpupillary thermotherapy, charged particle irradiation, local tumour resection, enucleation and exenteration. Despite this, the survival rate of uveal melanoma has not changed over a 25-year period.³ This may well reflect an inability to prevent or treat metastatic disease.

Similarly for conjunctival melanoma, there has been a move to using eye-conserving treatment.⁴ Local resection is well established and commonly used. Topical chemotherapy and radiotherapy may have a role, but it is yet to be defined. The management of ocular melanoma is complex and should be conducted in specialised units where eye-conserving therapies are available.

Evidence summary	Level	Reference
Eye-conserving therapies are available for ocular melanoma which results in similar rates of local control to enucleation	IV	2

Recommendation	Grade
1. Ocular melanoma is a complex and uncommon form of melanoma that should be managed in specialised units where eye-conserving therapies are available	C

For those requiring further information on ocular and periocular melanoma, please refer to the comprehensive document accompanying these guidelines, which will be available on the website at www.cancer.org.au/clinical_guidelines under the 'skin cancer' heading.

References

1. Char DH. Ocular melanoma. *Surg Clin North Am* 2003; 83(2):253–74, vii.
2. Shields CL, Shields JA. Recent developments in the management of choroidal melanoma. *Curr Opin Ophthalmol* 2004; 15(3):244–251.
3. Singh AD, Topham A. Survival rates with uveal melanoma in the United States: 1973–1997. *Ophthalmology* 2003; 110(5):962–965.
4. Paridaens AD, McCartney AC, Minassian DC, Hungerford JL. Orbital exenteration in 95 cases of primary conjunctival malignant melanoma. *Br J Ophthalmol* 1994; 78(7):520–528.