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Contributors MSR was involved in conception, literature search and manuscript design. CG and BJLB oversaw manuscript revision. All authors were involved in editing and revising the draft paper, and approval for the final draft was obtained from all authors.

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.





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To cite Raja MS, Goldsmith C, Burton BJL. *Br J Ophthalmol* 2013;**97**:241.

Accepted 10 October 2012

Br J Ophthalmol 2013;**97**:241. doi:10.1136/bjophthalmol-2012-302714

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Management of small choroidal melanocytic tumour

Papadopoulou et al¹ are to be congratulated for submitting an informative article regarding the management of small choroidal melanoma with pertinent discussion and various educational points to remember. We were, however, surprised, not to find the use of OCT (optical coherence tomography) as part of the management to help the diagnosis or in the discussion section. The authors¹ correctly highlight the use of B-scan ultrasound to document the echographic features of melanocytic tumours; however, the use of OCT is complementary to human observation, echography and fluorescein angiography in cases of shallow subretinal fluid for multiple retinal pathology including small choroidal melanomas. Latest-generation OCT machines are quick, non-invasive and reliable with good reproducibility. With availability of enhanced depth-imaging mode, scanning of the choroid is now feasible. This has been well described by Shields et al, 2-5 and we find their mnemonic TFSOM (presence of three or more features suggests high risk of small choroidal melanoma vs benign choroidal naevus) very useful for risk stratification in choroidal melanocytic tumours. (TFSOM=T, thickness>2.0 mm; F, subretinal fluid; S, symptomatic; O, orange pigmentation; M, margin touching the optic nerve.) Also the referral guidelines developed by the ocular oncology group, for the Royal College of Ophthalmologists UK,6 recommend referral for specialist oncology opinion of any suspicious choroidal naevi >2.0 mm thickness or thickness >1.5 mm if associated with serous retinal detachment and orange pigment. OCT to detect serous retinal detachment (subretinal fluid) should be used to improve management of melanocytic choroidal lesions.

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