

# Difficult Melanocytic Neoplasms †

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**Abstract:** Distinction between a melanocytic nevus and a melanoma is usually straightforward. However, in a percentage of cases, this distinction is extremely difficult, if not impossible. An algorithm based on certain histologic criteria and careful clinicopathological correlation can help a dermatopathologist/pathologist reach an accurate diagnosis. Combined congenital nevus vs. melanoma arising in association with a congenital melanocytic nevus, Spitz’s nevus vs. “spitzoid” melanoma, blue nevus vs. melanoma arising in a blue nevus, congenital nevus vs. “nevroid” melanoma, desmoplastic melanoma, melanoma with regression/ regressed melanoma, melanocytic nevi on special sites, spindle cell melanoma vs. other spindle cell neoplasms, metastatic melanoma, recurrent nevus vs. recurrent melanoma are but some of the problematic cases a dermatopathologists/pathologist is confronted with in their daily practice. I will present some of the most difficult cases of melanocytic lesions, pointing out the particular histological criteria used for their diagnosis.

**Keywords:** melanoma; desmoplastic; dermatopathology.

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## Conflicts of Interest

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