

Malignant melanoma originating from the nasal septum

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A 74-year-old woman presented with a 4-month history of recurrent right nasal bleeding. Nasal endoscopic examination revealed an irregular mucosal mass covered with blood clot which originated from the right septum and dark pigmented lesions anterior to the mass (**Figure 1**). Endoscopic mass resection was performed with a clear margin. Immunohistochemistry analysis was strongly positive for human melanoma black 45 antigen, confirming a diagnosis of malignant melanoma. The patient underwent proton radiotherapy (54Gy), and no recurrence or metastases was seen at 5-year follow up.



Figure 1. Nasal endoscopic examination showing an irregular mucosal mass on the right septum with dark pigmented lesions.

Primary nasal mucosal malignant melanoma is an extremely rare and aggressive tumour. The nasal septum and lateral wall of the nasal cavity are the most frequently involved sites and the presence of black pigmentation within tumour cells indicates a definite pathological diagnosis. The cornerstone of initial therapy is wide complete surgical resection, with radiotherapy considered as an adjuvant modality (Letievant et al, 2016).

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Reference

Letievant JC, Poupart M, Ambrun A, Colin C, Pignat JC. Single-center retrospective series of fourteen patients with mucosal melanoma of the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses. *Eur Ann Otorhinolaryngol Head Neck Dis.* 2016;133(6):387–391. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anorl.2016.07.003>

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