

Unit 9 Assignment Case Study: Skin Cancer

Larry, a 45-year-old marathon runner, visits his primary physician for a routine physical checkup. During the checkup, a suspicious looking mole is detected at the back of his left hand. The lesion has an appearance suggestive of melanoma. Larry informs his doctor that the mole has gotten larger over the past two years.

Larry has a light complexion. He typically goes for a 5-6 mile run every day, and spends time gardening and biking. He is not sure whether any of his relatives have or have had skin cancer. He is referred to a dermatologist, who believes the mole looks like skin cancer. The mole is surgically excised and sent to pathology lab for histologic analysis.

Larry is diagnosed with malignant melanoma. As further treatment, Larry's physician wants to remove his left axillary mass and do histologic examination to ascertain whether or not Larry's melanoma has metastasized.