FUNDAMENTALS:
Subtypes of Melanoma
Superficial spreading melanoma (SSM)

- Most common type (60%), peaks in adults 40-60 years
- Usually found on trunk in men, lower legs in women.
- Irregularly pigmented, poorly circumscribed; usually >6mm. “Red, white, and blue” tumor.

(courtesy of Dermatology Clinic: Bellevue Hospital Center)
Nodular melanoma (NM)

- 20% of melanoma cases, peak: adults 40-60 years
- Usually a circumscribed dark-brown papule or nodule; frequently ulcerated
- Vertical growth > horizontal spread, thus typically diagnosed at a thick stage and carries the worst prognosis

(courtesy of Dermatology Clinic: Bellevue Hospital Center)
Lentigo maligna melanoma (LMM)

- 10% of cases, in older adults (>60 years);
- Often on the face, related to chronic light exposure
- Large macule with irregular pigment, may have areas of regression
- By definition, LMM requires development of clinical nodule or tumor invasion into the dermis
- Long vertical growth phase, thus carries better prognosis

(courtesy of Dermatology Clinic: Bellevue Hospital Center)
Acral lentiginous melanoma

- 5% overall, but 30% of melanomas in dark-skinned individuals (ex. African-Americans, Asians)
- Develops in areas without hair follicles, such as the palms or soles
- Present with late / advanced stage of disease

(courtesy of Dermatology Clinic: Bellevue Hospital Center)
Acral lentiginous melanoma – variants

Subungual melanoma
- Presents as a dark streak under the nail; pigment streaks in the nail fold (“Hutchinson sign”) extending to the finger tip

Digital melanoma
- found on tips of toes or fingers
Amelanotic malignant melanoma

-Skin-colored or pink
-More often nodular or subungual, but can be any type
-Difficult to recognize: the differential diagnosis includes basal cell carcinoma, vascular tumors, Spitz nevus