Pigmented epithelioid melanocytoma (PEM) is a rare, melanocytic skin and mucosal tumor with low-grade malignancy. It is a recently defined histopathological entity. It encompasses epithelioid blue nevus of the Carney complex, a familial lentiginosis and multiorgan neoplasia syndrome, and most tumors previously described as animal-type melanoma (ATM).1,2 Dick3 first described ATM in gray horses in 1832. The similarity between the equine and human skin variant was noticed later by Darier.4 In 2004, Zembowicz et al4 observed the same features in 41 ATM and 47-year-old white man had a Report of a Case.

**Conjunctival Pigmented Epithelioid Melanocytoma: A Clinicopathological Case Report**

**Figure 1.** Reversed upper eyelid of the right eye, revealing the initial, intensely pigmented lesion on the tarsal conjunctiva with one of the new adjacent spots on the eyelid margin.

And GNA11 genetic analysis of exon 5, searching for mutations identified in 83% of blue nevi,6 were negative. At that time, a diagnosis of ATM was made.

A general checkup showed unremarkable findings without regional lymphadenopathy. To increase safety margins, we performed an uneventful re-excision using an Abbé-Mustardé lower eyelid flap to reconstruct the upper eyelid. Seven years later, the patient displayed no metastasis or local recurrence.

**Comment.** We describe a patient with conjunctival PEM. Pigmented epithelioid melanocytoma is a distinct, low-grade variant of skin and mucosal melanoma. It involves all age groups, with a preponderance in young adults. There is no predilection for sex or body localization, suggesting that sun exposure is unlikely to be a major factor in its pathogenesis.1

Clinically, PEM appears as a thick, darkly pigmented nodule or plaque. Histopathological features consist of a proliferation of spindle, epithelioid, and large epithelioid melanocytes—abundant with melanin—arranged in sheets and/or nests localized in the dermis, from where they may infiltrate the subcutaneous fat or, rarely, the epidermis. Cells show occasional atypia. Positivity for immunohistochemical markers is the same as in melanoma.

Pigmented epithelioid melanocytoma behaves less aggressively than conventional melanoma. Although sentinel lymph node metastases as high as 46% have been documented, liver metastasis occurred in only 1 case, with the patient being well 2 years after resection. One lethal case has been reported.1,2,5 It is not clear whether, after excisional biopsy, re-excision with margins as wide as those for classic melanoma is indicated.2

In our case, diagnosis of conjunctival PEM was primarily based on its histopathological features, evoking those of skin PEM. The patient’s age and clinical tumor characteristics also matched.

In conclusion, we describe the first patient, to our knowledge, with conjunctival PEM. It is important to differentiate PEM from both a benign blue nevus and classic conjunctival melanoma, as PEM, usually
manifesting in younger patients, has a specific, low-grade malignant potential requiring adapted management.

Author Affiliations: Jules-Gonin Eye Hospital, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland (Drs Bissig, Moulin, Spahn, and Schalenbourg); and Dermatopathology Consultations, Lahey Clinic, Burlington, Massachusetts (Dr Zembowicz).

Correspondence: Dr Schalenbourg, Jules-Gonin Eye Hospital, Ave France 15, CH-1004 Lausanne, Switzerland (ann.schalenbourg@fa2.ch).

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Figure 2. Histopathological findings (hematoxylin-eosin). A, Pigmented mass with locally destructive behavior and infiltration of the tarsal plate (original magnification ×20). B, Deeply pigmented spindle and epithelioid cells (original magnification ×100). C, Infiltration of orbicularis muscle (original magnification ×200). D, Heavily pigmented cells with prominent nucleoli (original magnification ×400).

Projecting the Growth of Cataract Surgery During the Next 25 Years

Cataract surgery is the most frequent surgical procedure performed in many countries, providing significant improvements in quality of life to seniors at a low cost. While the aging population is expected to burden all areas of health care, ophthalmologists provide approximately 90% of their procedure-based services to seniors, making this specialty particularly vulnerable. Further, among surgical specialties, ophthalmology will experience the greatest growth in demand for services in coming years. As a result, projecting future cataract surgery needs is vital for health human resource, hospital, and surgical center management and planning. However, in many jurisdictions including the United States, predicting the number of operations needed to meet population demand is difficult because of a lack of population-based surgery data and because unmet demand— as reflected by growing wait times—is generally unknown.

In Ontario, Canada, the cost of cataract surgery is covered by universal health care insurance, and a recent government-mandated Wait Time Strategy (WTS) has provided population-based analyses of wait times for cataract surgery. Evidence suggests that the surgery rates achieved by the WTS are appropriate to