

## **Beyond the Surface: A Case Report of a Patient with Small Bowel Metastasis and Melanoma History. Diagnosis and Management.**

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### **Abstract**

*Background:* Malignant melanoma (MM) is one of the most prevalent and deadliest forms of skin cancer, resulting from the malignant transformation of melanocytes. It accounts for approximately 1.7% of global cancer diagnoses and is the fifth most common cancer in the US. MM can metastasize to almost any part of the body, with early detection significantly improving prognosis.

*Case presentation:* We report the case of an 81-year-old female with a history of malignant melanoma (primary lesion on the left calf) and various comorbidities. She presented with severe anemia of unknown origin. A CT scan was performed due to her medical history, revealing a circumferential, asymmetrical parietal thickening at the level of a hypogastric ileal loop. The lesion suggested a tumoral substrate. Subsequent colonoscopy showed no metastatic lesions, but surgical intervention confirmed a malignant melanoma ileal metastasis. The patient underwent laparoscopic segmental resection with favorable post-surgery outcomes. Histopathological examination of the resected tissue confirmed the diagnosis of small intestine secondary lesions from the malignant melanoma.

*Conclusion:* This case underscores the necessity of considering metastatic melanoma in patients with a history of MM and vague gastrointestinal symptoms. Early and accurate diagnosis through advanced imaging and endoscopic techniques can significantly improve patient outcomes.

**Key words:** malignant melanoma, small bowel metastasis, immunotherapy, intestinal microbiome, anemia