Study on Early Onset Melanoma and Germ-Line Mutation in CDKN2A among Patients in Imam Khomeini Hospital Complex

Samira Ferdosi¹, Mojtaba Saffari², Razieh Alishahi¹, Alireza Ghanadan³,⁴*, Reza Shirkoohi¹,⁵*

Abstract

Objective: Malignant melanoma is a highly lethal melanocytic neoplasia with different predisposing factors. The genetic background in familial cases is an important issue in finding at risk family members. CDKN2A is one of these predisposing genes which have been estimated to be involved in germ line mutation in approximately 5-10% of familial melanoma cases. Materials and Methods: An inclusion criteria for familial melanoma was prepared according to the literature, and the age of onset was considered as a single criteria for selection. A total number of 322 melanoma cases were investigated regarding the criteria, among which 20 patients were chosen (<40 years). DNA was extracted from Formalin Fixed Paraffin Embed of normal tissues and DNA sequencing was performed for all coding sequences of CDKN2A (p16). Results: One of the cases showed a pathogenic mutation in codon 108, exon 2 (322G >C; Asp108His). Further analysis of his offspring indicated no mutation in the next generation. Conclusion: As far as the authors of the present study are concerned, this was the first report on this germ-line mutation with mentioned amino acid alteration in the melanoma. Screening the CDKN2A gene for possible mutation could prevent the incidence of familial cases in at risk members.

Keywords: Melanoma- CDKN2A- familial cases- mutation

Asian Pac J Cancer Prev, 22 (10), 3347-3353

Introduction

Cutaneous malignant melanoma (CMM) is a malignant skin tumor; it is a heterogeneous ailment with different environmental and genetic factors (Hill et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2015). Melanoma is a malignant tumor of melanocytes (Ferdosi et al., 2016), (Figure 1) which is often considered one of the most lethal and treatment resistant human cancers (Louveau et al., 2020). Its incidence rate is enhancing significantly (Rhee et al., 2013) and it is the reason for vast majority of skin cancer deaths all over the world (Thompson et al., 2009). The number of new cases and deaths of melanoma in US are reported to be 76,380 and 10,130, respectively (Siegel et al., 2016). The highest incidence rate of melanoma is in Australia (38.5/100,000 for men and 29.5/100,000 for women), the medium rate is in North America (16.4/100,000 for men and 11.7/100,000 for women), and the lowest rate is in Western Europe (7.3/100,000 for men and 10/100,000 for women).

A positive family history associates with intensifying risk of melanoma; approximately 10% of melanoma occurs in a familial setting with CDKN2A mutations (Rossi et al, 2019; Read et al, 2016). The two genes with high risk susceptibility for CMM are called CDKN2A and CDK4 (Puntervoll et al., 2013). These genes are found to be mutated in up to 40% of familial melanomas and approximately 2% of all melanoma cases (Lee et al., 2015). Mutations in CDKN2A has the lowest frequency in Australia (20%) and the highest frequency in Europe (57%) (Karagianni et al., 2018). Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 2A (CDKN2A), the first known melanoma susceptibility gene, is located on chromosome 9 (9p21.3) (Ming et al., 2020).

CDKN2A encodes two separate proteins, p16INK4A (p16) and p14ARF (p14), both of which are involved in cell cycle inhibition via various pathways (Chan et al., 2021). CDKN2A is known as the redundant high penetrance human familial melanoma locus. The incidence rate of germ-line mutation in CDKN2A is very low in general population (Aoude et al., 2015). Germ-line CDKN2A mutations are found in 5-20% of familial melanoma cases (Helgadottir et al., 2014, Helgadottir et al., 2015). Furthermore, this mutation is associated with enhanced risk of melanoma (Helgadottir et al., 2016). It has been seen that germ-line mutations in p16 have
currently caused a wide range of cancers like melanoma and pancreatic carcinoma; it has also been reported that there is a remarkable association between this mutation (CDKN2A) and pancreatic neoplasia (Jenkins et al., 2013; Potrony et al., 2015). The researchers of the present study have shown in their previous study that the majority of patients are diagnosed in higher stages of disease (Ferdosi et al., 2016); thereafter, finding methods to reduce the rate of advanced melanoma is of great importance. Screening familial cases which are eligible to do the mutation analysis is one of the critical policies in this regard. Therefore, the present study involved cases which followed CDKN2A mutation analysis.

Materials and Methods

Patients and tissues

Cases were selected based on patient’s file review from archives of the Cancer Institute of Iran, Imam Khomeini Hospital Complex, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. An inclusion criteria was prepared based on literature and patients were selected to participate in the study based on the age of onset (Table 1) (Razi et al., 2015; Sa et al., 2018). Formalin fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) blocks obtained from selected patients were observed by pathologist and normal tissue was separated for DNA extraction and germline mutation analysis. Out of a total number of 322 patients, 20 met the inclusion criteria and entered the study for FFPE block selection.

Preparation of DNA

DNA extraction was performed by QIAamp DNA mini kit (Qiagen, USA) according to recommended protocol. First, paraffin was removed according to manufacturer’s instruction, and then DNA was extracted from tissue samples using mentioned DNA extraction kit. The quantity and quality of extracted DNA were measured using NanoDrop (ND2000, thermoscience, USA) and agarose gel electrophoresis, respectively.

PCR, Sequencing, and analysis

PCR was implemented on DNA extractions and specific primers were employed for all exons (exons 1, 2, and 3) of CDKN2A (Table 2) using PCR master mix (1.5mM MgCl2) (Ampliqon, Denmark). The Standard PCR amplification conditions consisted of a hot start at 94°C for 5 minutes, followed by 94°C for 30 seconds, 62°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 30 seconds, for 30 to 40 cycles, with a final amplification at 72°C for 5 minutes. DNA quality was confirmed using DNA staining by GelRED (Biotum- US) on a 2% agarose gel and a band of 500bp was observed. For mutation detection, the researchers analyzed PCR products using Sanger DNA sequencing (ABI 3130, USA). Both forward and reverse PCR sequencing data from each sample were monitored using FinchTV 1.4.0 software (Geospiza, USA) for any altered nucleotide arrangement and were aligned with the normal sequence of CDKN2A using BLAST, from NCBI bioinformatics tool (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi). The possible alteration was checked for probability of mutation or polymorphism using Mutation Taster and Clinvar online tools. The protein sequence was analyzed for domain information and the position of mutation was identified based on the function of protein motifs using the Eukaryotic Linear Motif (ELM) resource for Functional Sites in Proteins (http://elm.eu.org/).

A complete three generation pedigree was drawn for a patient with mutation and his family members were invited for screening of the same germ-line mutation (consent forms were obtained from all participants). DNA was derived from fresh blood and DNA sequencing was done for the same mutation.

Results

Sample preparation

A total number of 322 cases (163 males and 159 females) selected from archives of Cancer Institute of Iran were investigated in the present study. The patients were within the age range of 25-75 with the average age of 56±6.1. Different melanoma forms were observed in the patients. The most common melanoma form was early onset (<40 years) and consisted of 58% of the patients. In addition, the majority of cases were comprised of at least one family member with invasive melanoma and/or pancreatic cancer (early onset (<40 years)). The most prominent body site affected was the trunk (44%), followed by the lower extremity (26%), and the head and neck (17%). The number of primary lesions per patient was 1 for 97% of cases.

Table 1. Including Criteria

| Low melanoma incidence area* | Moderate to high melanoma incidence areab |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| * Two primary melanoma in one person* | * Three primary melanoma in one person* |
| * Families with at least one of members with invasive melanoma and one or more other first- or second-degree family members with melanoma and/or pancreas cancer (Which should be in the same side of the family) Early onset (<40 years) | * Families with at least one of members with invasive melanoma and two or more other first- or second-degree family members with invasive melanoma and/or pancreatic cancer (Which should be in the same side of the family) Early onset (<40 years) |

* Sistan and Baluchestan provinces in males and Hormozgan province in females; b, Semnan, Isfahan, and Hamedan provinces in males and Semnan, Yazd, and Isfahan provinces in females; c, could occur same time or in different period of time.

Table 2. Information of Primers

| Exon Name | Forward Sequence | Reverse Sequence |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Exon 1    | GGAAGAAGAGAGAGGGGC | CTGCAAACCTGTCTCCTCC |
| Exon 2    | GGGGCTCTACACAGCTTCC | AGGGCGATAGGGGAGACTCAG |
| Exon 3    | CGTGAAGCCATTGCGAGAAC | CCCCTGAGCTTCCCTAGTT |
The missense mutation caused alteration of Aspartate amino acid to Histidine in codon number 108. Analysis of mutation data using bio-informatic tool (Mutation taster) showed pathogenic characteristic. The mentioned germ line mutation at this nucleotide side and with different amino acid alteration was found to be reported before as Uncertain and likely pathologic and in it is presented as a conflicting amongst these two mentioned category (rs121913381) for this disease in ClinVar, considering the previous literature. Searching motif activity of CDK2NA of 55. Out of 322 patients, 20 met the inclusion criteria (i.e., the age of onset).

**PCR sequencing analysis**

DNA sequencing data was analyzed to check mismatches and any alterations. There was a nucleotide change in G position as a missense change in one of cases with malignant melanoma (Figure 1) which caused amino acid alteration. The data analysis indicated mutation in exon 2 of CDKN2A gene (322G >C; Asp108His) (Figure 2A). The missense mutation caused alteration of Aspartate amino acid to Histidine in codon number 108. Analysis of mutation data using bio-informatic tool (Mutation taster) showed pathogenic characteristic. The mentioned germ line mutation at this nucleotide side and with different amino acid alteration was found to be reported before as Uncertain and likely pathologic and in it is presented as a conflicting amongst these two mentioned category (rs121913381) for this disease in ClinVar, considering the previous literature. Searching motif activity of CDK2NA

Table 3. CDKN2A Mutation Study in Familial Melanoma

| Country                | Group                                      | Sample size | Number of cases with mutation | Novel mutation                                                                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Austria                | Burgstaller-Muehlbacher, et al             | 700         | 4                             | p.A34V c.151-4 G>C                                                            |
| Italy                  | Cossu A, Casula M, et al                  | 532         | 24/316(7.6%)                  | Gly23Asp                                                                      |
| Queensland, Australia  | Aitken J, et al                            | 482         | 9/87(10.3%)                   | Nt500G                                                                        |
| Nine geographic regions in Australia, Canada, the United States, and Italy | Begg CB, Orlow I, et al                  | 6887        | 33                            | Common polymorphism (nt500 and/or nt540 in the 3′ untranslated region and Ala148Thr in exon 2) |
| Greek                  | Nikolaou V, Kang X, et al                 | 320         | 16                            | Most common mutation is :p16 p.R24P-34G>C c.41_43delins20bp c.301G>C (p.G101R) c.301G>A (p.G101E) c.296_297insGACC |
| Australia, Spain and the United Kingdom | MarkHarland, Anne E Cust, et al           | 2929        | 58                            | p.A148T (rs3731249)                                                           |
| Dutch                  | Gruis NA, van der Velden PA, et al         | 15          | 13                            | 19 basepair (bp) germline deletion                                           |
| Leiden                 | de Snoo FA, Bishop DT, et al              | 22 families (1528persons) | 209                          | r.225-243del                                                                |
| Canada                 | Mark Harland ; Elizabeth A. Holland, et al | 107         | 4                             | G-34T located in the 5′ UTR                                                    |
| United Kingdom         | Liu L, Dilworth D, et al                  | 50-80%      | 25-60%                        | G-34T (AUG translation initiation codon)                                       |
| southern Sweden        | Åke Borg, Ulla Johansson, et al           | 10 families | 3                             | in-frame 3-bp insertion (duplication) at nucleotide 332: resulting in an arginine insertion at codon 105 |
| Western Sweden         | Erlandson A, Appelqvist F, et al          | 107 patients (from 68 families) | 2                             | Asp108 Tyr                                                                   |
| Canada                 | W. D. Foulkes, T. Y. Flanders, et al      | 25 families | 3                             | Ins 111Arg                                                                   |

Figure 1. Malignant Melanoma with Pagetoid Distribution of Melanoma Cells and Consumption of Epidermis in Right Side of the Field (H&E, magnification × 20).
protein in the mutation point revealed a caspase activity in this position using the Eukaryotic Linear Motif (ELM) resource for Functional Sites in Proteins (Figure 3). A pedigree based on three generations was drawn for his family. Patient had a history of long time exposure to sunlight (8 hours per day) in the central area of Iran which has a dry and sunny climate for 5 years due to his job responsibility as a building constructor. He had white skin, brown eyes with dark hair and belonged to one of the main Iranian races (Lor). Patient had a single atypical nevus with 9 mm diameter in chest, 15 mm lateral to left nipple with vertical growth and 1.6 mm thickness. The patient had left axillary lymph node involvement and deceased. Family pedigree indicated a family history of gastric cancer in a member of his second degree relative on his mother side (Figure 4). There was no other history of cancer in all three generations. The proband had 2 daughters who were investigated for the same mutation in exon 2 of CDKN2A gene after informed consent assignment. No mutation was observed in the same position in both of them (Figure 2B, C).

Table 4. Residue Conservation

|     | Human                  | EGFLDTLVVLHRAGARLDVRDAWGRPLVDLAEELGHRDVAR |
|-----|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Mouse| EGFLDTLVVLHGSGARLDVRDAWGRPLDLAQERGHQDIVR |
| Rat  | EGFLDTLVVLHQAGARLDVRDAWGRPLDLALERGHHHDVVR |

Figure 2. DNA Sequence Analysis. The c.322G>C; Asp108His mutation detected in patient (A) which was not detected in his daughters (B, C).
Germline CDKN2A mutations occur in 5–20% familial melanoma cases (Helgadottir et al., 2014; Helgadottir et al., 2015). This mutation is associated with enhanced risk of melanoma (Helgadottir et al., 2016). Germline mutations in exon 1 CDKN2A affect just the transcript of p16, while a couple of such mutations in exon 2 have the capability to affect both proteins (p16 and p14) (Jenkins et al., 2013). Totally, 40 percent of mutations in CDKN2A occur in exon 1α and 53% in exon 2. Mainly, mutations in CDKN2A are missense (distributed along the whole length of coding sequences that caused loss of function proteins) or nonsense, insertions or deletions, splicing mutations, and eventually regulatory mutations (70%, 23%, 5%, and 2%, respectively) (Aoude et al., 2015; Potrony et al., 2015). Several mutations are known in this gene. There are many studies related to CDKN2A mutation, some of which are summarized in Table 3. (Gruis et al., 1995; Borg et al., 1996; Foulkes et al., 1997; Aitken et al., 1999; Liu et al., 1999; Harland et al., 2000; Begg et al., 2005; Erlandson et al., 2007; de Snoo et al., 2008; Nikolaou et al., 2011; Harland et al., 2014; Burgstaller-Muehlbacher et al., 2015; Cossu et al., 2016).

The present study showed that among cases which attended to the Imam Khomeini hospital complex during 10 years, 30% (92/322) had early onset melanoma. In this study, the patients were checked for mutation in CDKN2A gene. There might be more number of cases if the family history was included; however, communication problems (data collection was done during 10 years) and considering only early onset as a criteria for family melanoma, limited the number of cases. Out of 20 cases, only one of patients had a missense mutation in exon 2 c.322G>C. Although the mutation in this position has been reported before, the acid amino alteration in germ line and in this disease, specifically, is reporting for the first time (as far as the authors are concerned). By using bioinformatics tools
(Mutation taster) a pathologic change was observed. Two other reports also pointed the correlation between the mutation in this position and melanoma. One of the studies reported a novel mutation in p16 c.322 G>T; Asp108Tyr (p14Arg163Leu) in three Swedish families (totally 7 cases) which was heterozygous. However, this mutation has been reported as a somatic mutation in other cancers. It was demonstrated that this mutation was involved in pathogenesis of malignant melanoma (Erlandson et al., 2007). Another study had reported the known germline mutation of CDKN2A (322G>A: Asp108Asn) in Australian population and its role in melanoma predisposition (Foulkes et al., 1997).

In the present study, amongst 20 patients, there was a patient with novel germline missense mutation in CDKN2A (322G>C: Asp108His) (Figure 4). In this substitution, an acidic amino acid (Asp) was replaced by a polar amino acid (His) (Asp) (Erlandson et al., 2007). Aspartate was located on 10th beta turns (Figure 2) in domain 1 of P16(Figure 2) (Foulkes et al., 1997; Fogarty and Bergmann, 2017). This site is highly conservative in human, mouse, and rat (Table 4) (Erlandson et al., 2007). The high conservation may indicate the critical function of p16 protein as a cell cycle regulatory. The domain has caspase 3 and caspase 7 cleavage sites which are well-known enzymes for programmed cell death (Apoptosis) (Panneer Selvam et al., 2018). Apoptosis and proliferation are two opposite points in the cell life. Usually, the balances between these two phenomena are very critical for cell and tissue survival and maintenance (Woo et al., 2003; Fogarty and Bergmann, 2017; Panneer Selvam et al., 2018). It is suggested that a germ line mutation in the caspase cleavage site of CDKN2A could increase the susceptibility to neoplasia.

The family history of proband revealed a gastric cancer on his mother side (uncle) increasing the possibility of inheritance in this family. Familial melanoma and CDKN2A mutation could be associated with different type of cancers, especially pancreas. Fortunately, there was no mutation in his offspring (two daughters) (Figure 4). Other family members did not attend to screening program, but they were asked to join annually clinical screening program due to increased risk of melanoma in the family. Concerning gastric cancer, there are some reports for the association of this cancer in the family with melanoma and CDKN2A gene mutation (Read et al., 2016).

Familial cancer genes increase the susceptibility of cancer in inherited person among the family member; therefore, it is important to inform family members of the screening advantages in preventing this disease which would save lives and increase the quality of life especially in poor prognostic cancers (Leachman et al., 2017).

Study limitation

This study was conducted according to accepted ethical standard of ethics committee, Tehran University of Medical Sciences. The mutation analysis was limited to the patient and his offspring. Other family members especially parents of patient were refused to participate in sampling and mutation investigation. The parental screening could be helpful to find De novo mutation in proband and increasing the possibility of pathogenic feature in founded mutation

Author Contribution Statement

The authors confirm contribution to the paper as follows: study conception and design: Reza Shirkoohi; data collection: Samria Ferdosi and Rezieh Alishahi; analysis and interpretation of results: Reza Shirkoohi for genetic pedigree and DNA sequencing, Alireza Ghanaian for Slide preparation and pathologic diagnosis; draft manuscript preparation: Reza Shirkoohi and Mojtaba saffari. All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Acknowledgements

This work is supported by Cancer Research Center, Cancer Institute of Iran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

References

Aitken J, Welch J, Duffy D, et al (1999). CDKN2A variants in a population-based sample of Queensland families with melanoma. J Natl Cancer Inst, 91, 446-52.
Aoude LG, Wadt KA, Pritchard AL, et al (2015). Genetics of familial melanoma: 20 years after CDKN2A. Pigment Cell Melanoma Res, 28, 148-60.
Begg CB, Orlov I, Hummer AJ, et al (2005). Lifetime risk of melanoma in CDKN2A mutation carriers in a population-based sample. J Natl Cancer Inst, 97, 1507-15.
Borg A, Johannsson U, Johannsson O, et al (1996). Novel germline p16 mutation in familial malignant melanoma in southern Sweden. Cancer Res, 56, 2497-2500.
Burgstaller-Muehlbacher S, Marko M, Muller C, et al (2015). Novel CDKN2A mutations in Austrian melanoma patients. Melanoma Res, 25, 412-420.
Chan SH, Chiang J, Ngeow J (2021). CDKN2A germine alterations and the relevance of genotype-phenotype associations in cancer predisposition. Hered Cancer Clin Pract, 19, 21.
Cossu A, Casula M, Cesarecchio R, et al (2016). Epidemiology and genetic susceptibility of malignant melanoma in North Sardinia, Italy. European journal of cancer prevention: the official journal of the European Cancer Prevention Organisation (ECP).
de Snoo FA, Bishop DT, Bergman W, et al (2008). Increased risk of cancer other than melanoma in CDKN2A founder mutation (p16-Leiden)-positive melanoma families. Clinical cancer research : an official journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, 14, 7151-7.
Erlandson A, Appelqvist F, Wennberg AM, et al (2007). Novel CDKN2A mutations detected in western Swedish families with hereditary malignant melanoma. J Invest Dermatol, 127, 1465-7.
Ferdomi S, Saffari M, Eskandarieh S, et al (2016). Melanoma in Iran: a Retrospective 10-Year Study. Asian Pac J Cancer Prev, 17, 2751-5.
Fogarty CE, Bergmann A (2017). Killers creating new life: caspases drive apoptosis-induced proliferation in tissue repair and disease. Cell Death Differ, 24, 1390-1400.
Foulkes WD, Flanders TY, Pollock PM, et al (1997). The CDKN2A (p16) gene and human cancer. Mol Med, 3, 5-20.
Gruis NA, van der Velden PA, Sandkuijl LA, et al (1995).
Homozygotes for CDKN2A (p16) germline mutation in Dutch familial melanoma kindreds. *Nat Genet*, **10**, 351-3.

Harland M, Cust AE, Badenas C, et al (2014). Prevalence and predictors of germline CDKN2A mutations for melanoma cases from Australia, Spain and the United Kingdom. *Hered Cancer Clin Pract*, **12**, 20.

Harland M, Holland EA, Ghiorzo P, et al (2000). Mutation screening of the CDKN2A promoter in melanoma families. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer*, **28**, 45-57.

Helgadottir H, Höiom V, Jónsson G, et al (2014). High risk of tobacco-related cancers in CDKN2A mutation-positive melanoma families. *J Med Genet*, jmgdgenet-2014-102320.

Helgadottir H, Höiom V, Tuominen R, et al (2015). CDKN2A mutation-negative melanoma families have increased risk exclusively for skin cancers but not for other malignancies. *Int J Cancer*, **137**, 2220-6.

Helgadottir H, Höiom V, Tuominen R, et al (2016). Germline CDKN2A Mutation Status and Survival in Familial Melanoma Cases. *J Nat Cancer Instit*, **108**, djw135.

Hill VK, Gartner JJ, Summers Y, et al (2013). The Genetics of Melanoma: Recent Advances. *Ann Rev Genomics Human Genet*, **14**, 257-79.

Jenkins NC, Jung J, Liu T, et al (2013). Familial melanoma–associated mutations in p16 uncouple its tumor-suppressor functions. *J Invest Dermatol*, **133**, 1043-51.

Karagianni F, Njauw CN, Kyrou K, et al (2018). CDKN2A/CDK4 status in greek patients with familial melanoma and association with clinico-epidemiological parameters. *Acta Derm Venerol*, **98**, 862-6.

Leachman SA, Lucero OM, Sampson JE, et al (2017). Identification, genetic testing, and management of hereditary melanoma. *Cancer Metastasis Rev*, **36**, 77-90.

Lee KC, Higgins II HW, Qureshi AA (2015). Familial risk of melanoma and links with other cancers. *Melanoma Manag*, **2**, 83–9.

Liu L, Dilworth D, Gao L, et al (1999). Mutation of the CDKN2A 5’UTR creates an aberrant initiation codon and predisposes to melanoma. *Nat Genet*, **21**, 128-32.

Louveau B, Jouenne F, Tetu P, et al (2020). A Melanoma-Tailored Next-Generation sequencing panel coupled with a comprehensive analysis to improve routine Melanoma genotyping. *Target Oncol*, **15**, 759-71.

Ming Z, Lim SY, Rizos H (2020). Genetic alterations in the INK4a/ARF Locus: Effects on Melanoma Development and Progression. *Biomolecules*, **10**, 1447.

Nikolaou V, Kang X, Stratigos A, et al (2011). Comprehensive mutational analysis of CDKN2A and CDK4 in Greek patients with cutaneous melanoma. *Br J Dermatol*, **165**, 1219-22.

Panneer Selvam S, Roth BM, Nganga R, et al (2018). Balance between senescence and apoptosis is regulated by telomere damage-induced association between p16 and caspase-3. *J Biol Chem*, **293**, 9784-9800.

Potrony M, Badenas C, Aguilera P, et al (2015). Update in genetic susceptibility in melanoma. *Ann Translational Med*, **3**, 210.

Puntervoll HE, Yang XR, Vetti HH, et al (2013). Melanoma prone families with CDK4 germline mutation: phenotypic profile and associations with MC1R variants. *J Med Genet*, **50**, 264-70.

Razi S, Enayatrad M, Mohammadian-Hafshejani A, et al (2015). The epidemiology of skin cancer and its trend in Iran. *Int J Prev Med*, **6**, 64.

Read J, Wadt KA, Hayward NK (2016). Melanoma genetics. *J Med Genet*, **53**, 1-14.

Rhee JYd, Krijnen P, Gruis NA, et al (2011). Clinical and histologic characteristics of malignant melanoma in families with a germline mutation in CDKN2A. *J Am Acad Dermatol*, **65**, 281-8.

Rossi M, Pellegrini C, Cardelli L, et al (2019). Familial Melanoma: Diagnostic and Management Implications. *Dermatol Pract Concept*, **9**, 10-6.

Sa BCS, Moredo LF, Gomes EE, et al (2018). Hereditary melanoma: a five-year study of Brazilian patients in a cancer referral center - phenotypic characteristics of probands and pathological features of primary tumors. *An Bras Dermatol*, **93**, 337-40.

Siegel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A (2016). Cancer statistics, 2016. *CA Cancer J Clin*, **66**, 7-30.

Thompson JF, Scolyer RA, Keeford RF (2009). Cutaneous melanoma in the era of molecular profiling. *Lancet*, **374**, 362-5.

Woo M, Hakem R, Furlonge C, et al (2003). Caspase-3 regulates cell cycle in B cells: a consequence of substrate specificity. *Nat Immunol*, **4**, 1016-22.

Yang XR, Shi J, Bennett H, et al (2015). Germline copy number variations in melanoma families with/without CDKN2A/CDK4 mutations. *Cancer Res*, **75**, 2755.