

17 April 2018

Professor John Thompson,  
Chair of the Melanoma Guidelines  
E: [guidelines@cancer.org.au](mailto:guidelines@cancer.org.au)

Dear Professor Thompson,

**Re: RACGP response to the consultation on Draft clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and management of melanoma**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Cancer Council Australia for the opportunity to comment on the *Draft clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and management of melanoma*.

Whilst the guidelines cover highly specialised areas for dermatologists and oncologists, general practitioners do see patients undergoing some form of treatment for metastatic cancers and melanoma.

The RACGP would like to make the following specific comments:

1. We recommend the use of GRADE as a useful approach for presenting evidence for clinical decision-making: [www.gradeworkinggroup.org/](http://www.gradeworkinggroup.org/)
2. Adjuvant radiotherapy for resection of involved lymph nodes - Where there is no evidence of benefit and evidence of harm, we suggest revising this weak recommendation to better reflect the potential harms.
3. Chemotherapy for melanoma – The evidence suggests weak benefits and high chance of harm. The recommendation could better reflect balancing the risks of benefits and harms.
4. Immunotherapy for melanoma – similar comment as for chemotherapy.
5. The guidelines focus on variations of active treatment and we suggest that there could be more emphasis on shared decision-making. This is particularly pertinent in instances of palliative care and non-treatment options of the underlying disease, which requires discussion with patients.



Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

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Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and we welcome future opportunities for engagement on the issues discussed in this submission.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bastian Seidel  
President