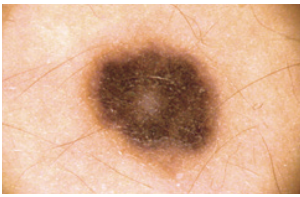


# Algorithm for differentiating skin tumours

## First step: is the structure clearly melanocytic?



Pigment network, branched streaks, aggregated globules, structureless brown/blue lesion? **Exception:** solar lentigo, accessory nipple

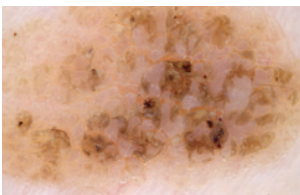


**clearly melanocytic**  
**ABCD rule of dermatoscopy**

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## Second step: is the structure non-melanocytic?

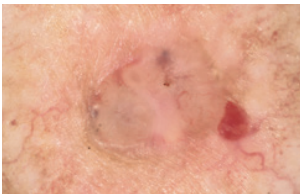
Excerpt from the most common types of non-melanocytic lesions:



Pseudo horn cysts, comedo-like openings, fingerprint-like structures, cerebriform structures, opaque colours



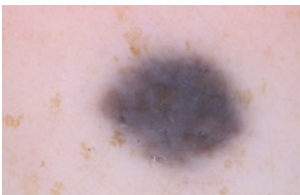
**Seborrhoeic keratosis**



Arborizing vessels, blue-grey oval globules, ulceration, spoke-wheel areas, leaf-like structures



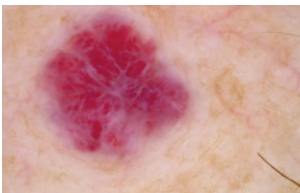
**Basal-cell carcinoma**



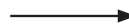
Homogeneous, blue pigmentation



**Blue Nevus**



Red to almost black globules



**Haemangioma**

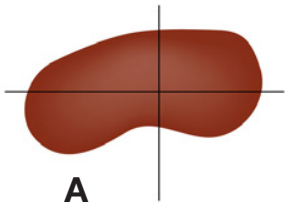
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**Third step: all other lesions are classified as melanocytic.**



**ABCD rule of dermatoscopy**

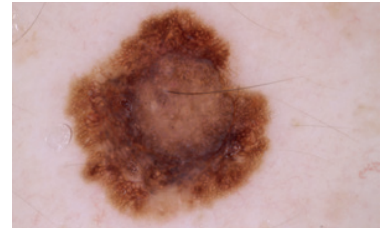
## Fourth step: ABCD rule of dermatoscopy



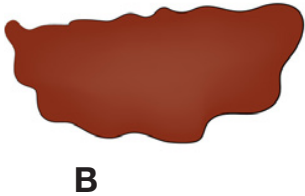
### Asymmetry:

Asymmetric in one or two axis

### Examples:

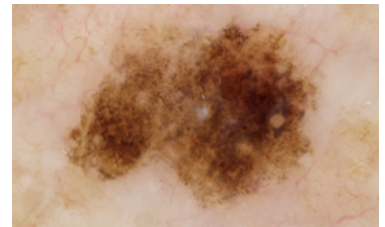


Asymmetrical lesion with atypical network, stripes, and dots with brown, grey, and blue colours. Image without polarisation filter with immersion fluid and full lighting (4 LEDs).

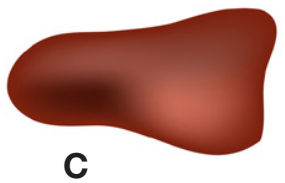


### Border:

Irregular or blurred

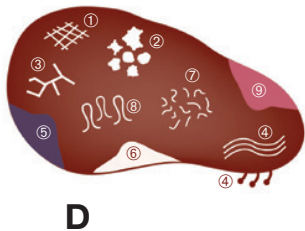


Asymmetric lesion with clumps, points, and a network of an invasive melanoma (< 0.5mm tumour thickness) with brown and grey colours. Image with polarisation filter with immersion fluid and full lighting (4 LEDs).



### Colour:

Differently coloured pigmentation  
Polychromatism (white, red, light brown, dark brown, black, and blue-grey)



### Dermatoscopic structure:

**Pigment network:** irregular mesh and/or pigmentation (1)

**Clumps and globules:** irregular size and distribution (2)

**Branched strips:** modified pigment network, abrupt discontinuation (3)

**Strips:** non-parallel, irregular strips (4)

**Structureless areas:** no recognisable structures (5), milky veil

**Regression structures:** whitish, scar-like depigmentation (6)

**Atypical vascular patterns:** irregular polymorphous vascular pattern (7), hairpin vessels (8), milky red areas (9)

**If one or more of these criteria correspond to a pigment spot, a suspicious or malignant lesion may be involved.**

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