

## A recent pale nodule with pseudocysts

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The diagnosis of pigmented lesions is a daily challenge in general practice. Dermatoscopy can provide extra clues, but requires significant expertise. This series will help you hone your skills.

### Case presentation

Over a one-month period, an 85-year-old man noted the development of a pale pigmented nodule in a tan-coloured macule that had been present for five years on his left shin (Figure 1). Dermatoscopy revealed a pale nodule with isolated white pseudocysts and a partial blue–grey veil, and the nodule was surrounded by an asymmetrical pigment network with a broken irregular mesh (Figure 2). Biopsy of the nodule revealed sheets of atypical spindle cells with mitoses within the dermis and scant melanin pigment (Figure 3).

### Diagnosis

The final diagnosis was a spindle cell melanoma (thickness 1.1 mm), which was subsequently widely excised.

### Discussion

On dermatoscopy, the pale nodule with white keratin pseudocysts shared features with a seborrhoeic keratosis appearing to arise within a solar lentigo. However, the asymmetrical broken pigment network surrounding the nodule and the asymmetrical blue–grey veil within the nodule were not the features of a seborrhoeic keratosis. These dermatoscopic findings, with the clinical history, prompted skin biopsy. The relative pallor of the nodule was related to the scant melanin pigment in the spindle melanocytes forming the tumour.

### Keypoint

Nodular melanomas, particularly when hypomelanotic, may be difficult to diagnose with dermatoscopy, and the main clues may be present within the peripheral macular component. **MT**



Figure 1. Nodule arising within an asymmetrical pigmented flat precursor.

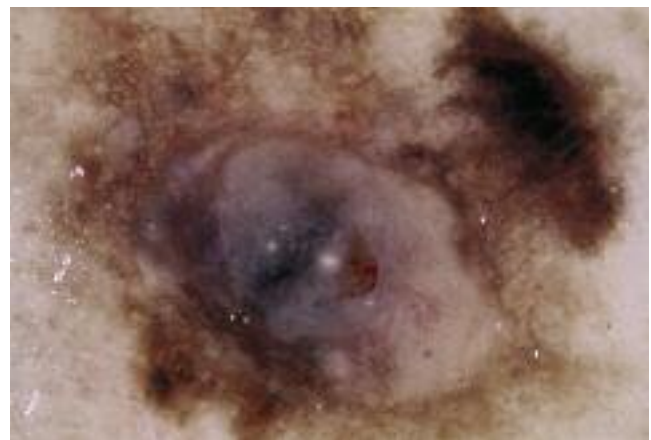


Figure 2. Dermatoscopy demonstrating pale nodule with multiple white pseudocysts and an irregular partial blue–grey veil overlying deeper blue–black pigment. The periphery is associated with a broken asymmetrical and irregular pigment network.

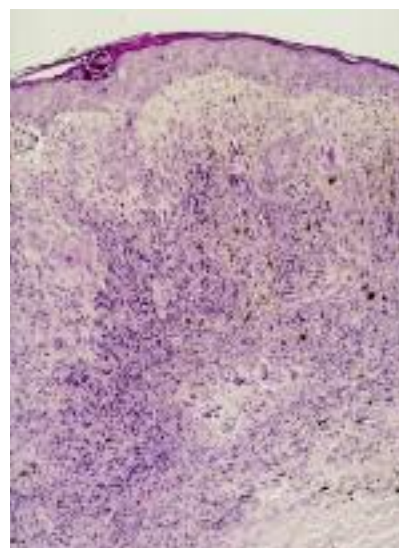


Figure 3. Biopsy of the nodule showing a deeply extending sheet of atypical spindle cells with mitoses and scant melanin pigment.

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