

# MoleMax™



**Digital Epiluminescence Microscopy With MoleMax**



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# Objective

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## ➤ Early recognition of melanoma

- Epidemiology of melanoma
- Treatment of early melanoma
- Methods for improved detection
  - Epiluminescence Microscopy (ELM)
  - Digital Epiluminescence Microscopy
- Computer aided tracking of changing lesions

# Introduction

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- “To make an impact on cutaneous melanoma mortality in the U.S., All physicians -- not just dermatologists -- must be encouraged to take the initiative to seek out patients at perceived high risk for developing melanoma.
- Such high-risk persons need to be offered periodic surveillance examinations to detect melanoma in a premetastatic phase of development...”

Arthur R. Rhodes, MD, MPH  
The Melanoma Letter, 17, 1, 1999

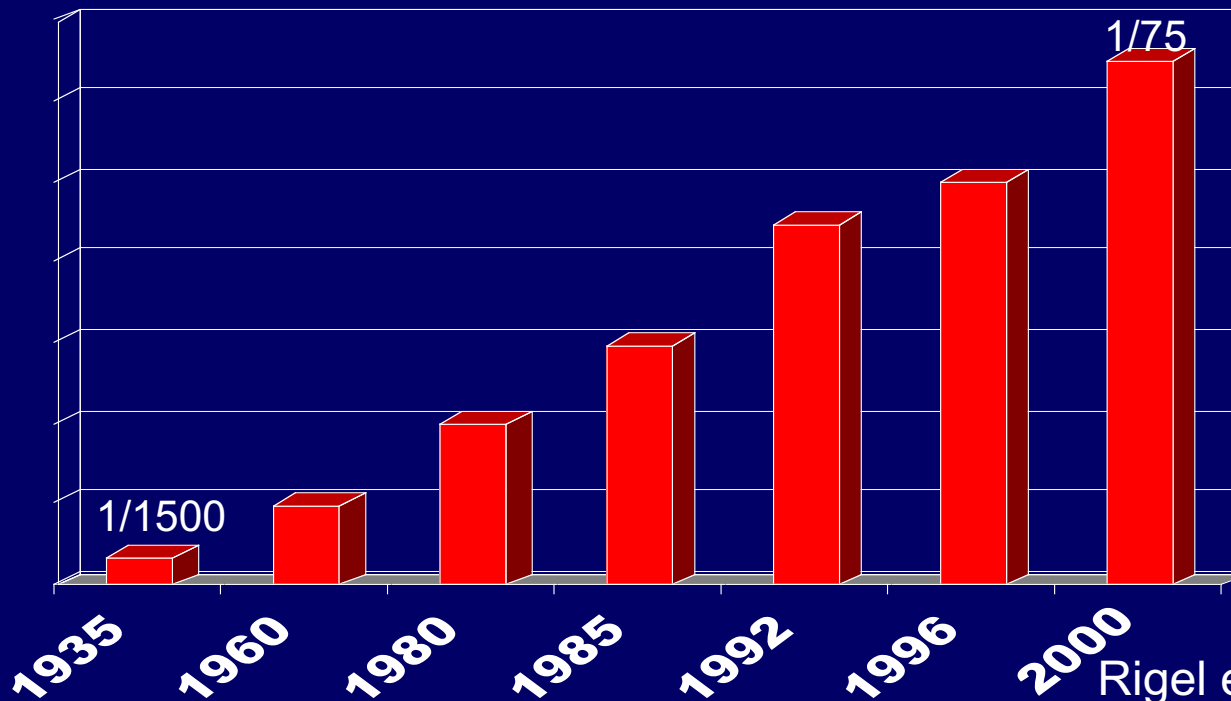
# Facts - Burden of Disease

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- 41,600 cases of cutaneous melanoma have been diagnosed in 1998 in the U.S. alone
- 7,300 people died of melanoma in 1999
- Approximately 50% of all melanomas occur in individuals younger than 55 years of age

# Facts - Burden of Disease

- In the 1930's, the lifetime risk for melanoma was 1:1500
- By the year 2000, the lifetime risk was already 1:75



Rigel et al. JAAD 34:5, 84

# Facts - Epidemiology

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- Incidence of melanoma in Caucasians has increased by 52% over the past 15 years
- Caucasians have a 10 times higher risk to develop melanoma than African-Americans and a two to four times higher risk than Hispanics

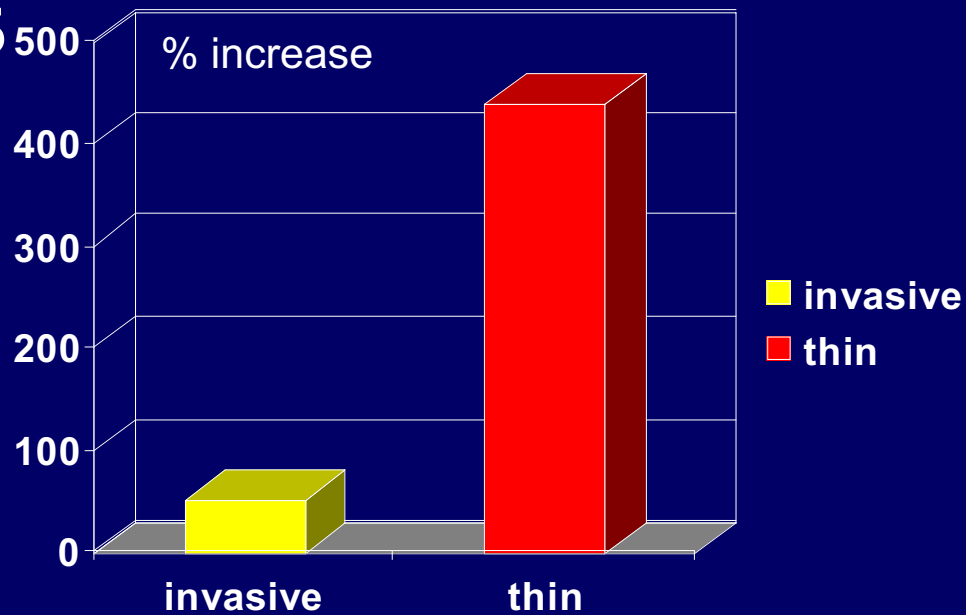
# Early Recognition of Melanoma

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- When melanoma is detected early, the chance for complete cure is excellent
- 5 – year survival rates after very early melanoma detection are greater than 95%
- Early recognition and treatment can turn a potentially fatal disease into an almost curable condition

# Facts - Early Detection

- Recently, the incidence of *in situ* melanomas has increased by about 400 % in Caucasians



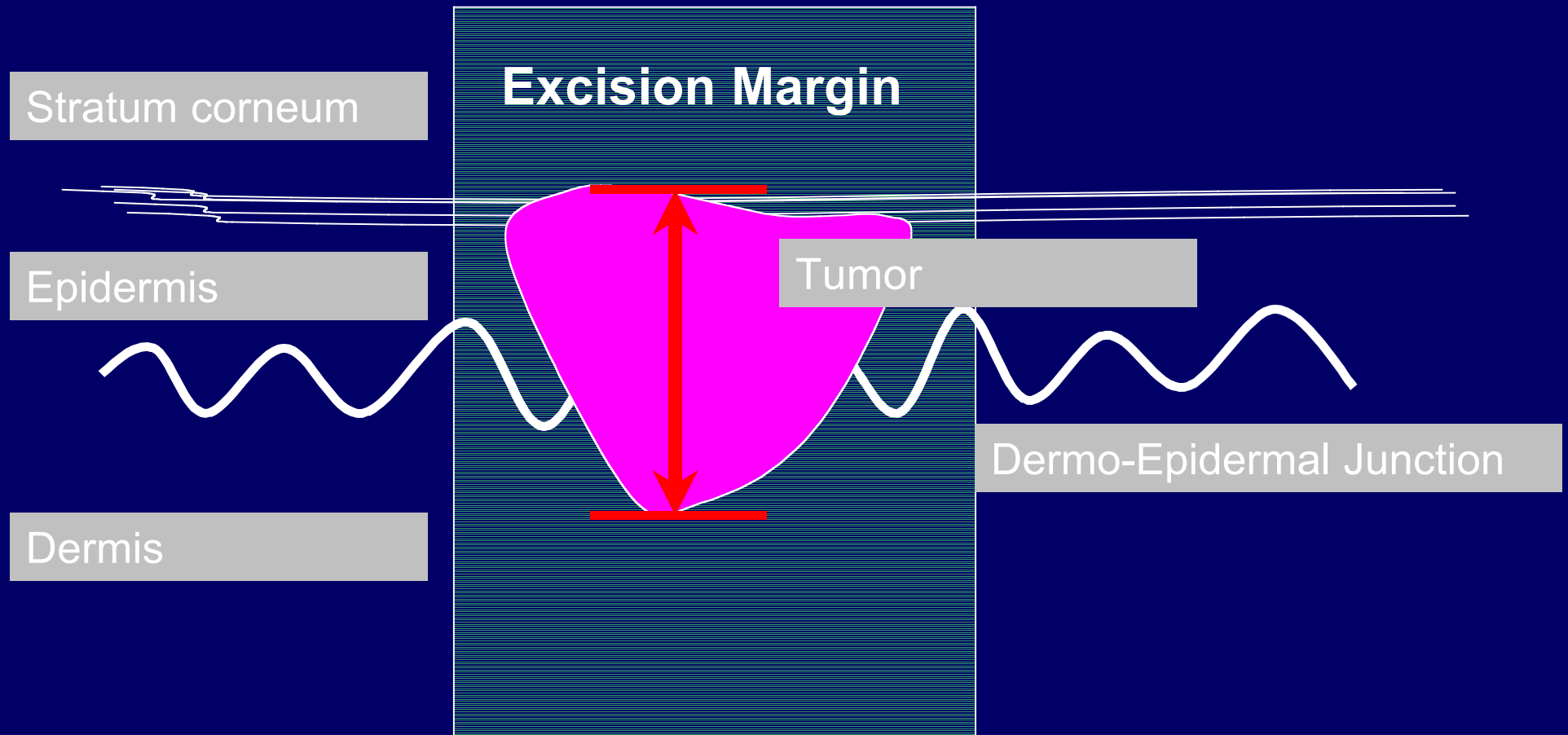
Elder et al. Cancer 1995

# When Is Melanoma *Thin or Early* ?

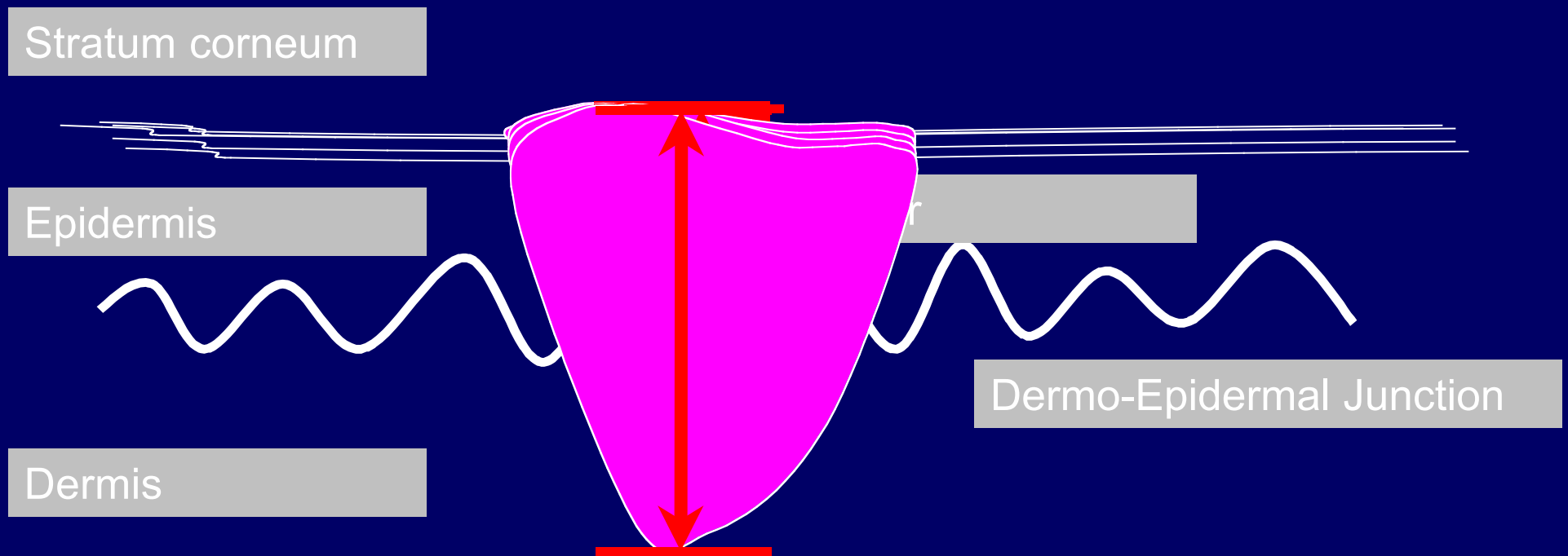
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- Invasion thickness is the most important single risk factor for melanoma
- Breslow's invasion thickness measures in millimeters the distance between the top layer of the epidermis and the deepest point of tumor penetration
  - Very thin tumors are 0.75 mm or less
  - Thin tumors are 0.76 mm to 1.5 mm

# Breslow's Invasion Thickness



# Breslow's Invasion Thickness



As melanoma grows, both the risk and the excision margin grows

# Treatment of Early Melanoma

- **Surgical removal is the treatment of choice**
- **Safety margins (NIH guidelines)**
  - **In situ melanoma: 0.5 cm of surrounding skin, down to the fat layer**
  - **Less than 1 mm invasion thickness: 1 cm, down to the fascia**
  - **1.1 mm to 3.99 mm: 2 cm margin, down to fascia**
  - **Larger 4.0 mm: 2 to 4 cm margins down to**

# How to Detect Melanoma Early

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- The goal is to detect melanoma before it becomes invasive or while it is still minimally invasive
- Epiluminescence microscopy (ELM) or Dermatoscopy is a recognized tool to improve early detection for equivocal pigmented lesions
- ELM allows doctors to visualize structures beneath the skin surface

# Melanoma Detection Using ELM

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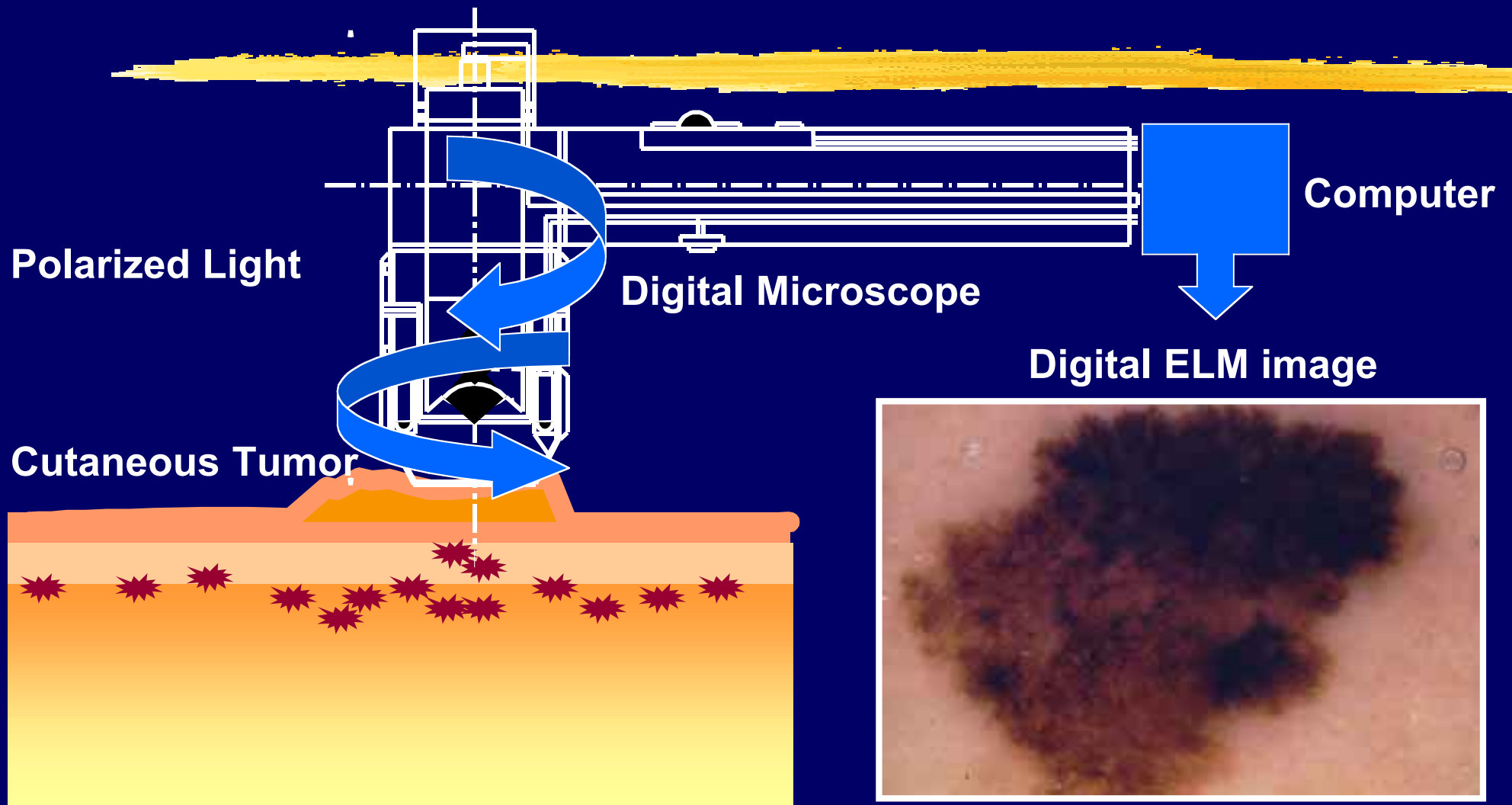
- ELM is a non-invasive, in vivo imaging method for pigmented skin lesion
- ELM provides additional morphologic criteria
- These criteria are helpful for the differentiation of benign nevi from melanoma

# ELM Facts

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- ELM and digital ELM (DELM) improve the diagnostic sensitivity and the diagnostic specificity
- Improvement in sensitivity: 10%–27%
  - Especially in clinically equivocal lesions
  - *Mayer J., Med. J. Aust. 1997*
- Improvement in specificity: ~ 10%
  - *Binder M. Et al., Arch. Derm. 131, 286–291, 1995*

# How Digital ELM Works



# MoleMax™ Digital Dermatoscopy

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- MoleMax™ is a computerized imaging system utilizing digital ELM
- It allows doctors to:
  - Examine pigmented skin lesion using digital technology
  - Store and retrieve of images of lesions
  - Detect subtle changes in lesions during follow up
  - Access databases and use on-line diagnostic support

# Digital ELM - Examining Lesions

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- Digital Epiluminescence microscopy (DELM) allows doctors to look beneath the surface of the skin
- Additional morphologic features are visualized with DELM
- DELM improves the diagnostic accuracy in
  - Benign pigmented skin lesion
  - Early melanoma

# DELM - Junctional Nevus

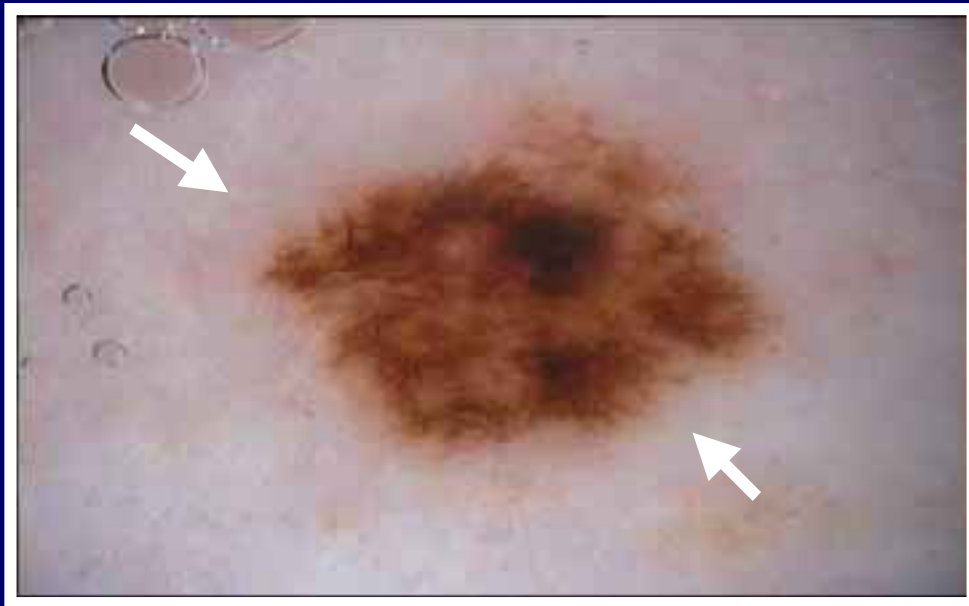
A benign junctional nevus,  
scanned with MoleMax



- **Nevus is almost symmetrical**
- **Border is fading towards the periphery**
- **Light and dark brown are dominating colors**
- **Pigment network is regular; No suspicious internal structures**

# DELM - Atypical Mole

A macular lesion,  
scanned with MoleMax



- Lesion is asymmetrical
- In most parts, pigment pattern is fading towards the periphery
- Dark and light brown are dominating colors
- Pigment network is discrete; pseudopods at the periphery

# DELM - Early Melanoma

A partially elevated lesion,  
scanned with MoleMax



Superficial spreading melanoma,  
Breslow's thickness: 1,2 mm

- Lesion is asymmetrical
- Pigment pattern ends abruptly
- Black, blue and dark brown are dominating colors
- Radial streaming and pseudopods at the periphery

# DELM - Early Melanoma

A macular lesion,  
scanned with MoleMax



Superficial spreading melanoma,  
Breslow's thickness: 0, 68 mm

- Lesion is asymmetrical
- Pigment pattern ends abruptly
- Black, dark and light brown are dominating colors
- Radial streaming and pseudopods at the periphery

# DELM - Early Melanoma

A macular lesion,  
scanned with MoleMax



Superficial spreading melanoma,  
Breslow's thickness: 0, 75 mm

- Lesion is asymmetrical
- Pigment pattern ends abruptly
- Dark and light brown are dominating colors
- Black dots and brown globules are haphazardly distributed
- Radial streaming and pseudopods are present

# Digital ELM - Track of Change

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- MoleMax™ facilitates objective comparison of pigmented skin lesions over time
- Pigmented skin lesions may change their
  - Size
  - Shape & appearance
  - Colors
  - Specific structures
- Real time, side by side comparison makes it easy to detect even subtle changes

# Pigmented Lesion, First Exam

A flat, pigmented macula,  
scanned with MoleMax



Lesion was digitally  
scanned for follow up

- Lesion is almost symmetrical
- Border is sharply demarcated from surrounding skin
- Light and dark brown are dominating colors
- Pigment network is regular; Brown globules at the periphery

# A Changing Mole, Follow up

First Exam

6 Months later



Objective Comparison

Detection of a growing lesion

# MoleMax™ - Main Features

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- Digital Mole Mapping
- Digital Epiluminescence Microscopy (DELM)
- Patient and Lesion Databases
- Storage and Retrieval of Images
- Follow up
- Printout
- Telecommunication & Diagnostic support

# Advantages of MoleMax™

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- The innovation of MoleMax™ is based on recognized, international scientific research
- MoleMax™ combines the advantages of computer technology with the power of an established diagnostic technique
- MoleMax™ improves the diagnostic accuracy for equivocal pigmented skin lesions

# Advantages for the Physician

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- **MoleMax™ supported skin exams**
  - **Make it easy to use epiluminescence microscopy and therefore improve diagnostic accuracy**
  - **Help to define objective criteria for decision making due to storage, retrieval and follow up of images lesions**
  - **Improve the quality of care**
  - **Help to reassure patients**

# Advantages for the Patient

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- **MoleMax™ supported skin exams**
  - Give the confidence a patient needs when they have a serious health problem
  - Improve compliance for
    - Follow up exams in regular intervals
    - Measures of primary prevention

# Summary

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- **DELM with MoleMax™ is a valuable tool for the early diagnosis of melanoma**
- **Epiluminescence microscopy has shown to improve the diagnostic performance for pigmented skin lesions**
- **MoleMax™ helps the physician to apply this technique most efficiently**