sibly, an acquired cancerous tendency in nevi, or creates the environmental conditions suitable for the action of more specific cancerigenic factors.

It has been said that bluish black to slate black, flat or slightly elevated pigmented moles possess the most marked disposition toward a malignant transformation (Eller). The onset of such a development is indicated often by an increase in the size and in the intensity of pigmentation of the nevus. This is followed later by crusting and bleeding from the growing lesion. While radical surgical removal of suspected or early malignant nevi offers the only chance of cure, the ultimate prognosis of malignant melanomas is very unfavorable, because these tumors metastasize very early, both by way of the lymphatics and of the blood stream into remote organs, which are sometimes studded with secondary deposits. These appear often in showers.

It may be pointed out in this connection that the histological differential diagnosis between a benign nevus and a beginning malignant melanoma is not infrequently very difficult and sometimes cannot be made with absolute reliability. The histological diagnosis of malignant nevi has to be based upon the demonstration of atypically arranged nevus cells, atypical cellular and nuclear structures, reactive changes in the surrounding vasculo-connective tissue and invasion of nevus cells into lymphatics and blood vessels. It is advisable to take into consideration in doubtful cases the pertinent clinical and historical data before a definite diagnosis is made on the basis of histological evidence. This procedure is indicated by the fact that sometimes the biological malignancy of nevi seems to precede the histological one (Schürch).

VIII. MEDICO-LEGAL ASPECTS OF TRAUMATIC EPITHELIOMAS

Medico-legally, acute traumatic cutaneous malignancy presents obviously greater difficulties in the establishment of causative interrelations and therefore requires closer scrutiny of the circumstances surrounding the development of the allegedly traumatic tumor, than is the case regarding cutaneous neoplasms attributed to the effects of chronic irritation or repeated injuries of an accidental or occupational nature. These agents have been accepted as provocative causes of precancerous lesions, as the evidence for such damages (Pack; Ewing; Moran) in court, especially in industrial workers, has been sufficiently conclusive to secure monetary compensations.

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