



Project Title: Benefits and harms of annual CT or PET/CT surveillance strategies in asymptomatic Stage III melanoma patients		Code: SMS9
Host School / Institute: Sydney Medical School/ NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre		Address: Medical Foundation Building, Levels 4-6, 92-94 Parramatta Rd, Camperdown NSW
Certificates & Clearances required: No		
Primary Supervisor: Dr Mbathio Dieng		
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Co-Supervisor/team: Nikita Khanna and Associate Professor Rachael Morton		
Project Type: Literature Review; Data Analysis		
Project Category: Cancer; Imaging		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: Systematic review, data analysis (Microsoft Excel)		
Project Keywords: Melanoma; Diagnostic Imaging; Follow-Up Studies; Benefit and Harms; Health Economics		
Project Description: <p>Surveillance imaging is a common follow-up strategy for asymptomatic melanoma patients. However, the benefits and harms of the different surveillance modalities (CT, PET and PET/CT) are largely unknown. A successful candidate will perform a review of the existing literature on the follow-up guidelines for melanoma patients. The applicant will be expected to extract the benefits and harms of surveillance imaging based on various criteria including prolonged survival, progression-free survival, 'scanxiety' and exposure to radiation. S/he will then summarise the benefits versus the harms of different imaging surveillance strategies and present these in lay language.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to develop an efficient tool for patients and clinicians to discuss surveillance imaging as a part of the post-surgical follow-up. This project provides the candidates with an opportunity to work closely with clinicians and consumers at the Melanoma Institute of Australia. At the end of the project, the student is expected to generate a summary table to outline the advantages and disadvantages of surveillance imaging. The outcome of this project will inform the Cancer Council Australia's melanoma guidelines. Dependent on input, the scholar may be a co-author on a peer-reviewed publication in a leading medical journal.</p> <p>Project URL: https://ctc.usyd.edu.au/our-work/research-divisions/health-economics/current-key-projects/petct-surveillance-for-melanoma/</p>		