ABOUT MOLLIE’S FUND

As a sophomore in college, Mollie Biggane discovered a mole on her thigh. In the following six months, she underwent surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. The Mollie Biggane Melanoma Foundation was created in her memory after her tragic death at the age of twenty. The mission of Mollie’s Fund is to increase awareness for melanoma prevention, provide information and services on skin cancer detection, and support melanoma patients through education of the latest treatments.

ACRAL LENTIGINOUS MELANOMA

PREVENT ALM FROM ADVANCING WITH EARLY DIAGNOSIS

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Warning Signs
- An irregularly shaped growth or spot on the foot or palm of the hand that is changing or has an unusual color
- A raised patch on the sole or palm
- Pain on the sole of the foot when walking
- A streak in the nail that is not due to a bruise

Also
- ALM may resemble a plantar wart or fungal infection
- Surface may be flat, but grows inward
- Some tumors involve a loss of color or no change in color
- People with family members who develop melanoma including ALM may be more at risk
- Research into specific causes is ongoing

Diagnosis
As with other forms of melanoma, the “ABCDE” rule is used to help describe these threatening moles.

A symmetry
B border
C color
D diameter
E evolving

Irregularity
Variation. Too many colors in one mole.
>6mm. Often larger than a pencil eraser.
Changing – the most significant.

If symptoms suggest that cancer may be present, the next step is usually a biopsy. Recommended treatment therapies are dependent on the extent of involvement. Some people may be able to take part in clinical trials, which can offer access to new treatments not widely available.

Prevention
Death rates are higher than other forms of melanoma. This may be because ALM is often misdiagnosed or can go unnoticed. The best way to prevent ALM from advancing is early diagnosis. Get an annual skin exam and seek help immediately if an unexplained lesion appears on the foot, hand or nail.

Photo Credit: CDC/Carl Washington, MD, Emory Univ. School of Medicine; Mona Saraiya, MD, MPH