



# Melanoma Diagnostic Confidence Checklist:

1. Was my mole's diagnosis clear or borderline? [Yes/No]

2. Has my biopsy been reviewed by more than one pathologist? [Yes/No]

3. Is there any uncertainty or indeterminate language in the report? [Yes/No]

4. Could additional molecular testing provide a clearer answer? [Yes/No]

5. Can my existing biopsy tissue be used for a more in-depth analysis? [Yes/No]

## Why asking the right questions about your biopsy matters:

- 1 in 6 melanomas may be initially misdiagnosed<sup>1</sup>.
- Pathologists show up to 40–50% diagnostic discordance for borderline or early invasive lesions<sup>1</sup>.
- Patients with early-stage melanoma have a 5-year survival rate of ~99%, compared to ~30% for metastatic disease<sup>2</sup>.
- Patient-reported surveys indicate 1 in 3 melanoma patients experienced a diagnostic delay or initial misdiagnosis before correct identification<sup>3</sup>.

1. Elmore J G, et al. *Pathologists' diagnosis of invasive melanoma and melanocytic proliferations: observer accuracy and reproducibility study* British Medical Journal (BMJ) 2017; 357 <https://www.bmj.com/content/357/bmj.j2813>  
2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2024) *Cancer data in Australia*. Australian Government, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer/cancer-data-in-australia>.  
3. Melanoma Institute Australia & Melanoma Patients Australia. *State of the Nation: A Report into Melanoma in Australia*. 28 March 2022. <https://melanoma.org.au/news/state-of-the-nation/>