JAAD Game Changers*: Variability in mitotic figures in serial sections of thin melanomas

*A game changer is a short narrative stating how an article that originally appeared in *JAAD* changed the game of dermatology. **NOTE:** The Game Changer author is not the original author of the article. Please see the reference section for the original author information.

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Capsule Summary	• A rigorous approach to accurately capture mitotic activity and expected density of mitoses in T1b melanomas is needed. • We describe the variability in mitoses between serial sections and the minimum number of sections to review (5 sequential sections). • This will increase accuracy and should help prevent under diagnosis.
How did this article change the practice of dermatology?	Looking back at this article in 2018, these authors were ahead of their time in demonstrating the difficulty in determining the mitotic rate in melanomas.[1] The American Joint Committee on Cancer evaluated survival outcome of melanomas with <0.8-mm tumor thickness (Breslow) and determined that primary ulceration and tumor thickness were more important than mitotic rate in determining prognosis, and mitotic rate no longer is considered in staging of these tumors. T1a tumors are nonulcerated melanomas <0.8 mm in thickness, and T1b tumors are (1) 0.8 to 1.0 mm in thickness regardless of ulceration status or (2) ulcerated melanomas <0.8 mm in thickness.[1]

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REFERENCE

1. Knezevich SR, Barnhill RL, Elder DE, et al. Variability in mitotic figures in serial sections of thin melanomas. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2014;71:1204-1211.