



**Do you have early-stage melanoma and are age 75 or older?**

**If so, you may be eligible to participate in this study of a potential new treatment approach.**

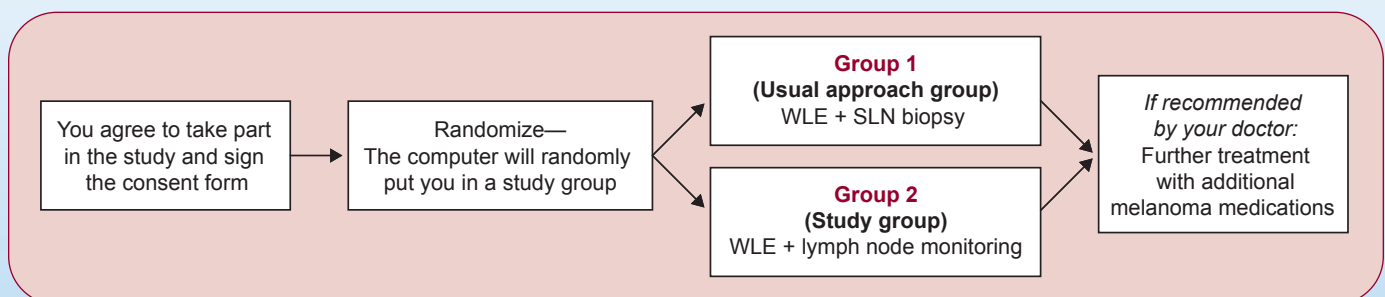
## Comparing the Effectiveness of Less Invasive Procedures with the Current Standard of Care for Older Adults with Early-Stage Melanoma

### **WHY** consider participating in this study?

- Research studies are an important way to test the effectiveness of new therapies and approaches to treating cancer.
- The usual approach (i.e., the standard treatment most patients receive) for early-stage melanoma is treatment with two surgical procedures:
  - A wide local excision (WLE), where the melanoma and some surrounding normal tissue are removed, *plus*
  - A sentinel lymph node (SLN) biopsy, which removes the nearby lymph nodes that cancer cells could spread to.
- These procedures are generally well tolerated, but can cause side effects such as infection, scarring, or bleeding. They are also sometimes followed by treatment with immunotherapy drugs, if it is advised by your doctor.
- The purpose of EA6244 is to find out if performing the WLE alone is just as effective as the usual approach (WLE plus SLN) for early-stage melanoma. Researchers also want to see if performing the WLE alone will lead to improvements in patients' overall well-being.

### **WHAT** does this study involve?

- If you are eligible for this study and choose to participate, you will be randomized (randomly assigned by a computer) to one of two groups. You will have an equal chance of being in either group:
  - **Group 1 (about 214 people):** You will get the usual approach used to treat early-stage melanoma, WLE plus SLN biopsy. You may also receive additional medication to treat your melanoma after these procedures, if recommended by your doctor.
  - **Group 2 (about 214 people):** You will get WLE combined with checking your lymph nodes regularly (ultrasound or CT scan), instead of the SLN biopsy. You may also receive additional medication to treat your melanoma after the WLE, if recommended by your doctor.





- For patients in both groups, after your WLE surgery is completed, your doctor and study team will monitor you for a total of 5 years from when you joined the study, to see if your melanoma returns (recurs). You also will be asked to complete surveys to learn more about your physical well-being and quality of life.

## WHO will take part in this study?

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- Approximately 428 adults age 75 or older with early-stage melanoma will take part in EA6244.
  - Please note, for this study, early-stage melanoma is defined as Breslow thickness  $\geq 0.8$  mm, or  $< 0.8$  mm with high-risk features, or at least a 5% risk of cancer cells traveling to the sentinel node (sentinel node metastasis).
  - You must be eligible for WLE and SLN biopsy per your doctor's recommendation in order to be able to participate in EA6244.
- You can decide to stop taking part in this study at any time, for any reason, even after you have enrolled.

## WHAT are the costs of taking part in this study?

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- Just as if you were receiving the usual care for your melanoma, you and/or your insurance plan will need to pay for some or all of the costs of medical care you will receive as part of EA6244.
  - Talk to your insurance provider to find out what they will pay for. If you are unsure which costs insurance will cover, ask your doctor or nurse for help finding the right person to talk to.
- Taking part in EA6244 may mean that you need to make more visits to the clinic or hospital than if you were getting the usual approach to treat your cancer.
- You will not be paid for taking part in EA6244.

## IF you would like more information:

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- About the EA6244 study, talk with your doctor, or:
  - Visit [www.ecog-acrin.org](http://www.ecog-acrin.org) and search EA6244, then select the link to the EA6244 page.
    - » If you are seeking information about the locations where this study is available, scroll down the page to Locations and Contacts and click the + sign.
  - Call the NCI Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237).
- About clinical trials:
  - General cancer information: visit the NCI website at [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)
  - Insurance coverage/paying for cancer treatment:  
[www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/learningabout/payingfor](http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/learningabout/payingfor)
- About ECOG-ACRIN:
  - Visit [www.ecog-acrin.org](http://www.ecog-acrin.org)
  - For a list of patient resources and links to patient advocacy groups, visit [www.ecog-acrin.org/patients/resources](http://www.ecog-acrin.org/patients/resources)

