CHOROIDAL MELANOMA ASSOCIATED WITH MULTIPLE BENIGN AND MALIGNANT TUMOURS
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Introduction: Choroidal melanoma and choroidal metastasis are distinct pathological entities with very different treatments and prognoses. They may be difficult to distinguish to the untrained observer.

Case presentation: A case of concomitant choroidal melanoma in a woman with primary medullary thyroid carcinoma and hepatic metastasis is described. The choroidal lesion was thought initially to be a large metastasis although the ultrasonic exam suggested a choroidal melanoma. The complementary exams revealed also two giant hepatic haemangiomas and a suprarenal gland haemangioma. Surgery was performed for the thyroid and suprarenal tumours. Enucleation of the left eyeball was performed and histopathologic and immunohistochemical examinations were consistent with the diagnosis of choroidal melanoma. The patient survived for 2 more years after the surgery.

Conclusion: Although metastases are the most common ocular tumour, a differential diagnosis of a concurrent primary ocular malignancy should always be considered, even in patients with known malignant disease. Thorough ophthalmic evaluation is important, as multiple primary malignancies may occur concomitantly. The prognostic and therapeutic implications of accurate diagnosis by an ophthalmologist are of profound significance to affected patients and their families.