

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online, Figure S1: Representative Raman spectra of melanoma and pigmented lesions, Figure S2: Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve for classifying melanoma vs. pigmented lesions with k-fold cross-validation (k=4, stratified), Table S1: Detailed clinical data summary, Table S2: Summary of lesion information.

Because Raman scattering is inherently a weak scattering process, we have to trade off acquisition time for a good signal to noise ratio (SNR). We have attempted to strike the right balance in these measurements and achieved adequate SNRs for integration times of 2 seconds [1,2]. We have found that these SNRs are sufficient for the extraction of discriminating biophysical signals [3,4] and are consistent with what other groups have reported [5–8].

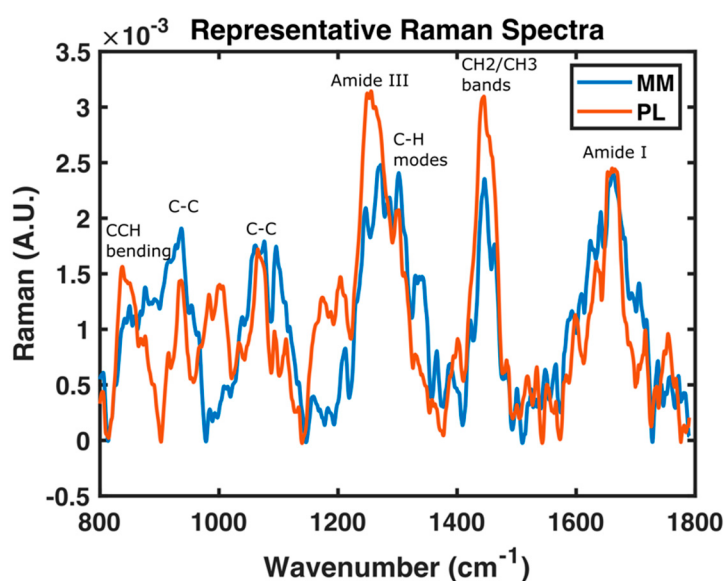


Figure S1: Representative Raman spectra of melanoma and pigmented lesions

In addition to leave-one-out cross validation, k-fold cross validation (k=4) with stratified sampling was applied. Briefly, the original sample was randomly partitioned into 4 equal-sized subsamples for melanoma (MM) and pigmented lesions (PL) respectively, and each of the 4 subsamples of MM and PL combined was used exactly once as the validation data. Note that the subset of PCs was selected within the cross-validation loop, so the calculated PCs might not be the same between leave-one-out and k-fold cross validation strategies and could be slightly different in different loops within a cross validation strategy. With k-fold cross-validation (k=4), the area under the ROC curve (AUROC) of 0.884 means high accuracy in distinguishing melanoma from pigmented lesions. If our recommendations based on Raman spectroscopy had been enacted, approximately 73.6% of the biopsies on pigmented lesions could have been avoided while accurately detecting all melanoma lesions in the data set (sensitivity of 100%). The blue shade shows the 95% confidence interval for the ROC. We think that the k=4 (stratified) cross-validation approach is less desirable than leave-one-out cross-validation which provides the maximum number of melanoma training cases in each iteration, and the comparable performance between both cross-validations shows the stability of our model.

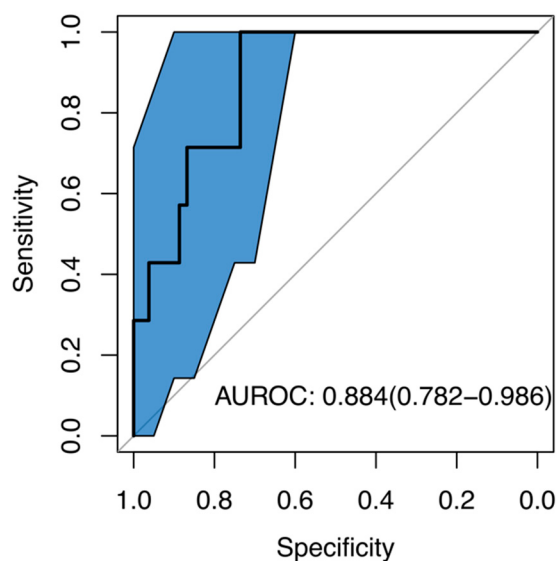


Figure S2. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve for classifying melanoma vs. pigmented lesions with k-fold cross-validation (k=4, stratified). The area under the ROC curve (AUROC) of 0.884 means high accuracy in distinguishing melanoma from pigmented lesions. If our recommendations based on Raman spectroscopy had been enacted, approximately 73.6% of the biopsies on pigmented lesions could have been avoided while accurately detecting all melanoma lesions in the data set (sensitivity of 100%). The blue shade shows the 95% confidence interval for the ROC.

Table S1. Detailed clinical data summary.

Lesion type	# Patients (n=52)	# Lesions (n=60)	# Measurements (n=185)
Pigmented lesions	46	53	158
Benign nevus	18	21	59
Mildly dysplastic nevus	17	21	64
Moderately dysplastic nevus	6	6	19
Severely dysplastic nevus	5	5	19
Melanoma	6	7	27

Table S2. Summary of lesion information.

Final lesion diagnosis		Benign nevus	Mild. dys. nevus	Mod. dys. nevus	Sev. dys. nevus	MM
Subjects	Mean age (range)	41 (18-72)	45 (24-75)	51 (35-71)	42 (19-81)	53 (28-87)
	Male	8	11	6	3	4
	Female	13	10	0	2	3
Number of lesions		21	21	6	5	7
Number biopsied (%)		21 (100%)	21 (100%)	6 (100%)	5 (100%)	7 (100%)
Location	Head and Head	2	2	1	0	3
	Trunk	12	16	5	3	3
	Upper limb	6	1	0	0	1
	Lower limb	1	2	0	2	0

Abbreviations: Mild. dys. nevus: mildly dysplastic nevus; Mod. dys. nevus: moderately dysplastic nevus; Sev. dys. nevus: severely dysplastic nevus; MM: Melanoma

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