While most melanomas appear on the skin, mucosal melanomas do not. Instead, they occur in the mucous membranes, or moist surfaces of areas inside your body.

Mucosal melanoma accounts for approximately 1.4% of all melanomas. It tends to develop later in life, with a median age of diagnosis of 70. There are no clear environmental risk factors that have been identified for this type of melanoma.

What are the Signs and Symptoms of Mucosal Melanoma?

Depending on the site involved, the signs and symptoms of mucosal melanoma vary and may include:

- Nose bleeds, breathing difficulty, or pain inside the nose
- Pigmented lesions/masses inside the mouth
- Pain or bleeding from the anus
- Vaginal bleeding, discharge, pain or itching
- Difficulty or pain during swallowing
- Blood in the urine
- Abdominal pain on the right side of abdomen
- Yellowed skin and whites of the eyes

Promptly see your healthcare provider if you experience any of the above symptoms.