The MelaFind® melanoma detection system was developed by Mela Sciences, a clinical dermatology company. The system is used to help evaluate suspicious skin abnormalities (lesions). Specifically, the test is used to determine whether a particular colored (pigmented) skin lesion is likely to be melanoma. MelaFind® uses a sophisticated imaging system to capture photographs of the skin abnormality. The photograph is then compared to a database created from 10,000 skin biopsies. The result is a simple 'yes' or 'no'. The result can be used to help guide biopsy decisions. In clinical trials, MelaFind® was found to be very sensitive in detecting melanoma. The test was approved by the FDA in November 2011.

MelaFind® is not used on all skin lesions or all part of the body. According to the manufacturer’s website, MelaFind® is effective at finding melanomas ranging in size from 0.2 cm to 2.2 cm (2.54 cm = 1 inch). Larger or smaller lesions are not readily imaged by the system’s cameras.

For more information about melanoma diagnosis and staging visit the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University.

3. FDA New Device Approvals and Clearances. MelaFind® - P090012 [http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/DeviceApprovalsandClearances/Recently-ApprovedDevices/ucm280864.htm]