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.

References:

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