

Ninth ISIC Skin Image Analysis Workshop @ MICCAI 2024

# Lesion Elevation Prediction from Skin Images Improves Diagnosis



Kumar Abhishek



Ghassan Hamarneh



SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY

# Deep Learning for Skin Lesion Diagnosis

**nature**

Letter | Published: 25 January 2017

**Dermatologist-level classification of skin cancer with deep neural networks**

[Andre Esteva](#), [Brett Kuprel](#), [Roberto A. Novoa](#), [Justin Ko](#), [Susan M. Swetter](#), [Helen M. Blau](#) & [Sebastian Thrun](#)

*Nature* **542**, 115–118 (2017) | [Cite this article](#)

**Annals of Oncology**  
Volume 29, Issue 8, August 2018, Pages 1836–1842

**Man against machine: diagnostic performance of a deep learning convolutional neural network for dermoscopic melanoma recognition in comparison to 58 dermatologists**

H.A. Haenssle<sup>1</sup>, C. Fink<sup>1</sup>, R. Schneiderbauer<sup>1</sup>, F. Toberer<sup>1</sup>, T. Buhl<sup>2</sup>, A. Blum<sup>3</sup>, A. Kalloo<sup>4</sup>, A. Ben Hadj Hassen<sup>5</sup>, L. Thomas<sup>6</sup>, A. Enk<sup>1</sup>, L. Uhlmann<sup>7</sup>, Reader study level-I and level-II Groups, Christina Alt, Monika Arenbergerova, Renato Bakos, Anne Baltzer, Ines Bertlich, Andreas Blum, Theresia Bokor-Billmann, Jonathan Bowling...Iris Zalaudek

**BJD**

**Deep-learning-based, computer-aided classifier developed with a small dataset of clinical images surpasses board-certified dermatologists in skin tumour diagnosis**

Y. Fujisawa, Y. Otomo, Y. Ogata, Y. Nakamura, R. Fujita, Y. Ishitsuka, R. Watanabe, N. Okiyama, K. Ohara, M. Fujimoto

*British Journal of Dermatology*, Volume 180, Issue 2, 1 February 2019, Pages 373–381.

**European Journal of Cancer**  
Volume 113, May 2019, Pages 47–54

Original Research

**Deep learning outperformed 136 of 157 dermatologists in a head-to-head dermoscopic melanoma image classification task**

Titus J. Brinker<sup>a, b</sup>, Achim Hekler<sup>a</sup>, Alexander H. Enk<sup>b</sup>, Joachim Klode<sup>c</sup>, Axel Hauschild<sup>d</sup>, Carola Berking<sup>e</sup>, Bastian Schilling<sup>f</sup>, Sebastian Haferkamp<sup>g</sup>, Dirk Schadendorf<sup>c</sup>, Tim Holland-Letz<sup>h</sup>, Jochen S. Utikal<sup>i, j, k</sup>, Christof von Kalle<sup>a, l</sup> Collaborators<sup>2</sup>

2017

2018

2019

2024

2020

**nature medicine**

Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 05 February 2024

**Deep learning-aided decision support for diagnosis of skin disease across skin tones**

[Matthew Groh](#), [Omar Badri](#), [Roxana Daneshjou](#), [Arash Koochek](#), [Caleb Harris](#), [Luis R. Soenksen](#), [P. Murali Doraiswamy](#) & [Rosalind Picard](#)

*Nature Medicine* **30**, 573–583 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)

**nature medicine**

Article | Published: 18 May 2020

**A deep learning system for differential diagnosis of skin diseases**

Yuan Liu, Ayush Jain, Clara Eng, David H. Way, Kang Lee, Peggy Bui, Kimberly Kanada, Guilherme de Oliveira Marinho, Jessica Gallegos, Sara Gabriele, Vishakha Gupta, Nalini Singh, Vivek Natarajan, Rainer Hofmann-Wellenhop, Greg S. Corrado, Lily H. Peng, Dale R. Webster, Dennis Ai, Susan J. Huang, Yun Liu, R. Carter Dunn & David Coz

*Nature Medicine* **26**, 900–908 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

**European Journal of Cancer**  
Volume 119, September 2019, Pages 57–65

Original Research

**Systematic outperformance of 112 dermatologists in multiclass skin cancer image classification by convolutional neural networks**

Roman C. Maron<sup>a, 1</sup>, Michael Weichenthal<sup>b, 1</sup>, Jochen S. Utikal<sup>c, d</sup>, Achim Hekler<sup>a</sup>, Carola Berking<sup>e</sup>, Axel Hauschild<sup>b</sup>, Alexander H. Enk<sup>f</sup>, Sebastian Haferkamp<sup>g</sup>, Joachim Klode<sup>h</sup>, Dirk Schadendorf<sup>h</sup>, Philipp Jansen<sup>h</sup>, Tim Holland-Letz<sup>i</sup>, Bastian Schilling<sup>j</sup>, Christof von Kalle<sup>a</sup>, Stefan Fröhling<sup>a</sup>, Maria R. Gaiser<sup>c, d</sup>, Daniela Hartmann<sup>e</sup>, Anja Gesierich<sup>j</sup>, Katharina C. Kähler<sup>b</sup>, Ulrike Wehkamp<sup>b</sup>...Alexander Thiem

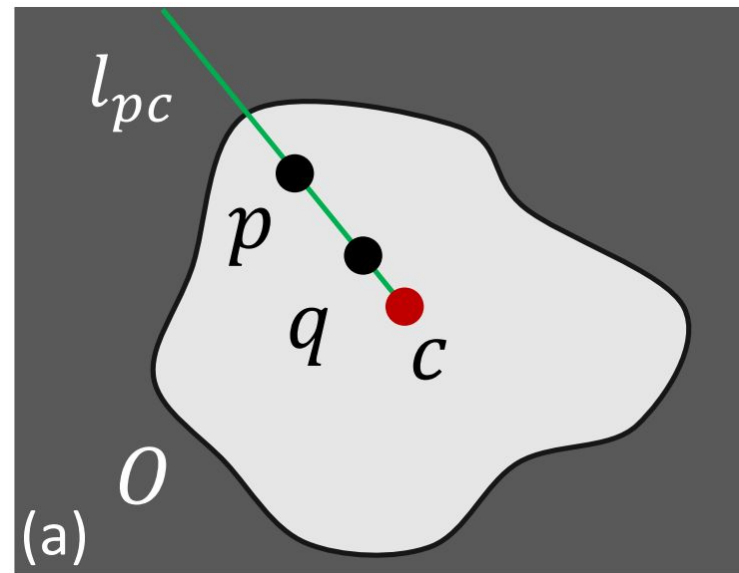
**European Journal of Cancer**  
Volume 118, September 2019, Pages 91–96

Original Research

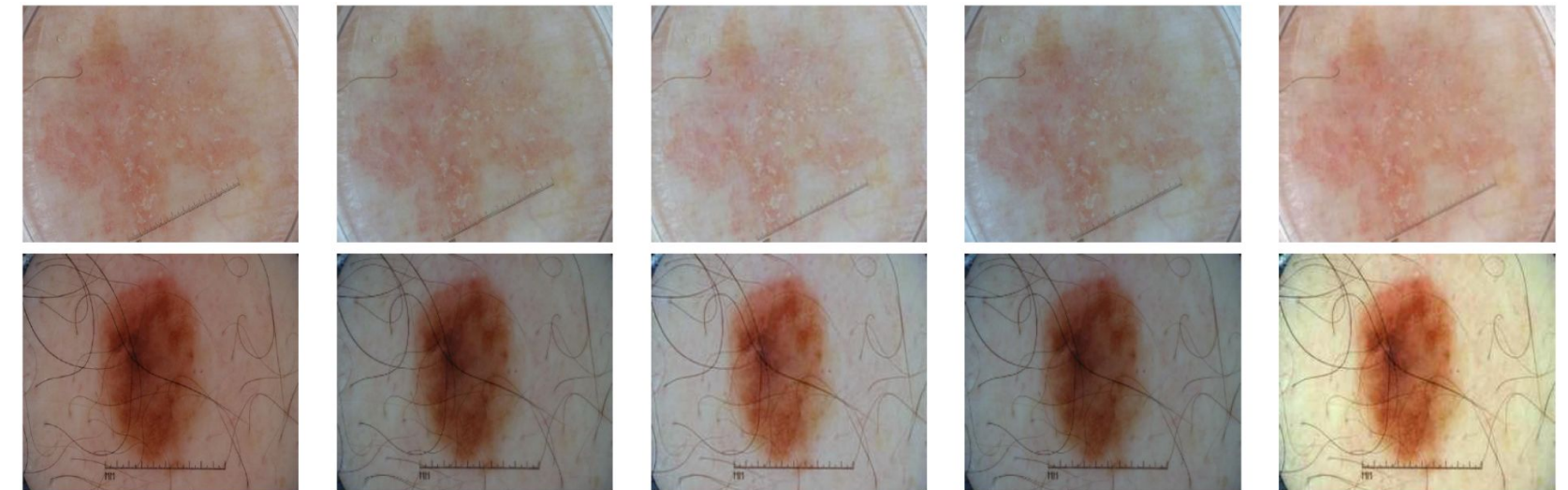
**Deep learning outperformed 11 pathologists in the classification of histopathological melanoma images**

Achim Hekler<sup>a</sup>, Jochen S. Utikal<sup>b, c</sup>, Alexander H. Enk<sup>d</sup>, Wiebke Solass<sup>e</sup>, Max Schmitt<sup>a</sup>, Joachim Klode<sup>f</sup>, Dirk Schadendorf<sup>f</sup>, Wiebke Sondermann<sup>f</sup>, Cindy Franklin<sup>g</sup>, Felix Bestvater<sup>h</sup>, Michael J. Flaig<sup>i</sup>, Dieter Krahl<sup>j</sup>, Christof von Kalle<sup>a</sup>, Stefan Fröhling<sup>a</sup>, Titus J. Brinker<sup>a, d</sup>...

# Additional Features Improve Skin Image Analysis

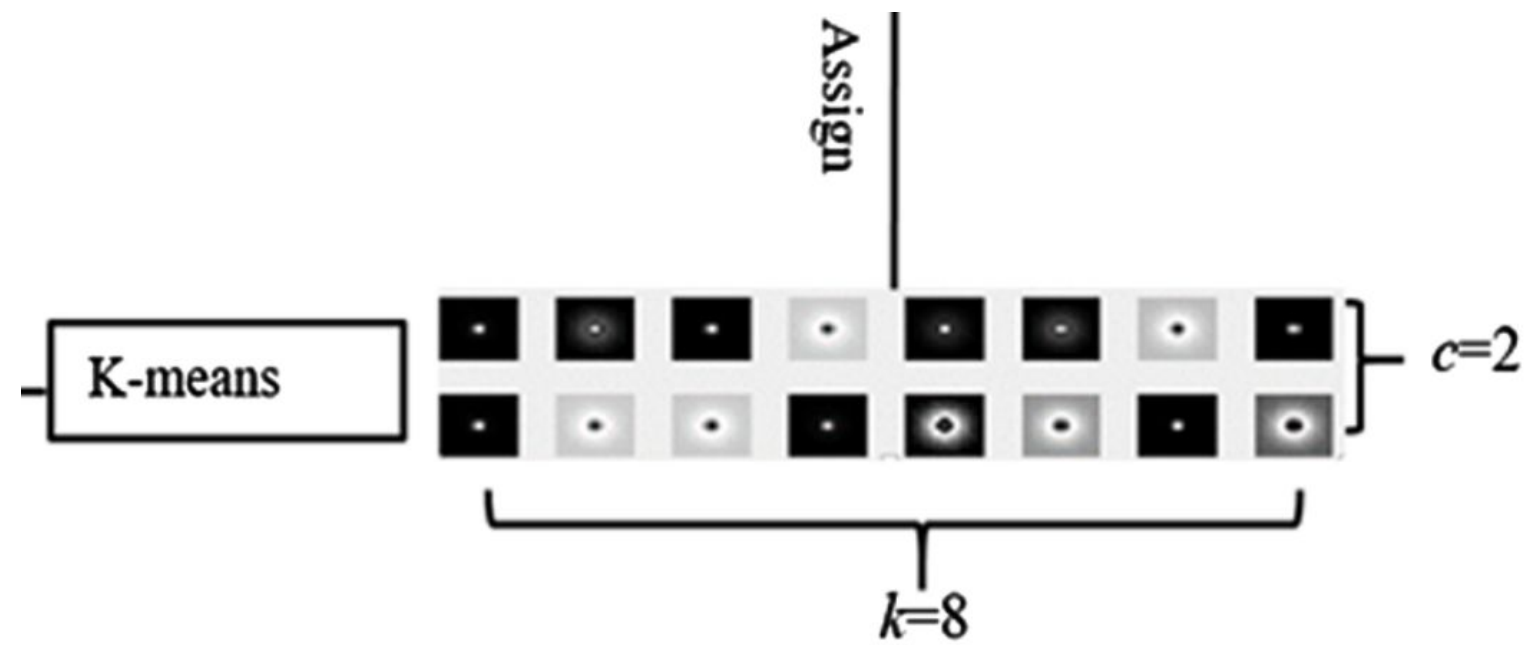


(a) Shape prior [1]



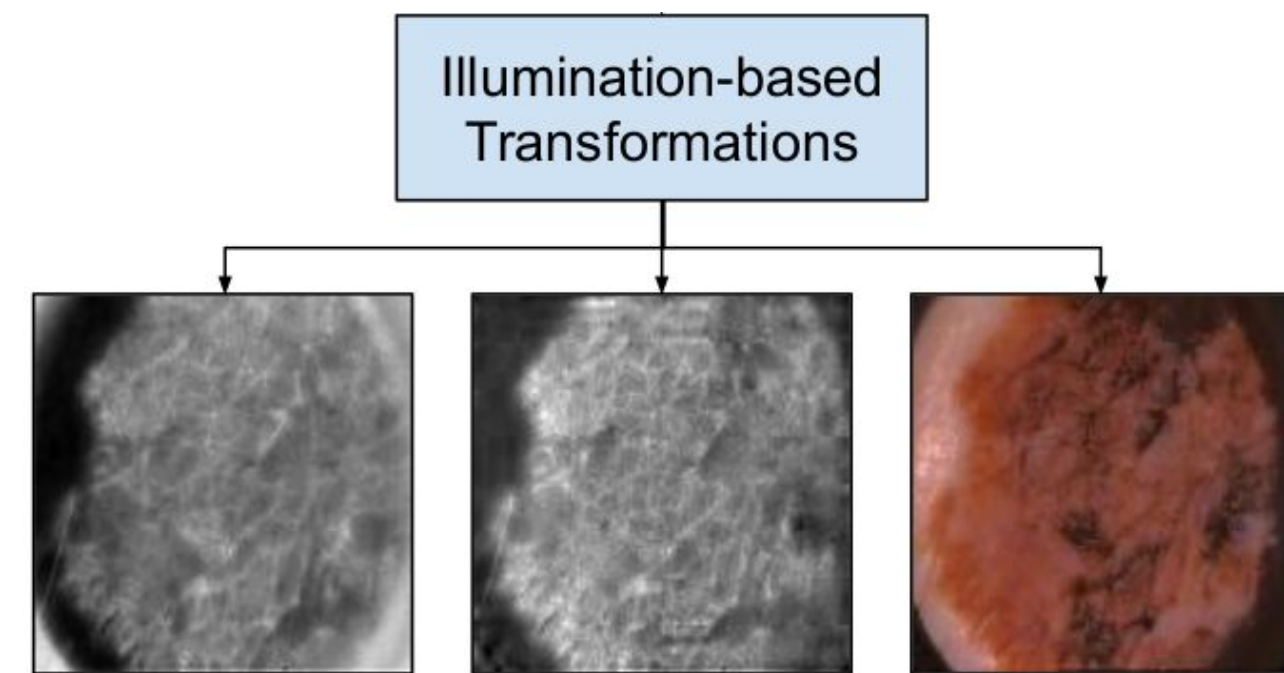
(a) Original (b) LNRE (c) SLRMSR (d) Shades of Gray (e) White Patch

Color constancy algorithms [2]



$k \times c$  Textons

Lesion texture [3]



GRAY

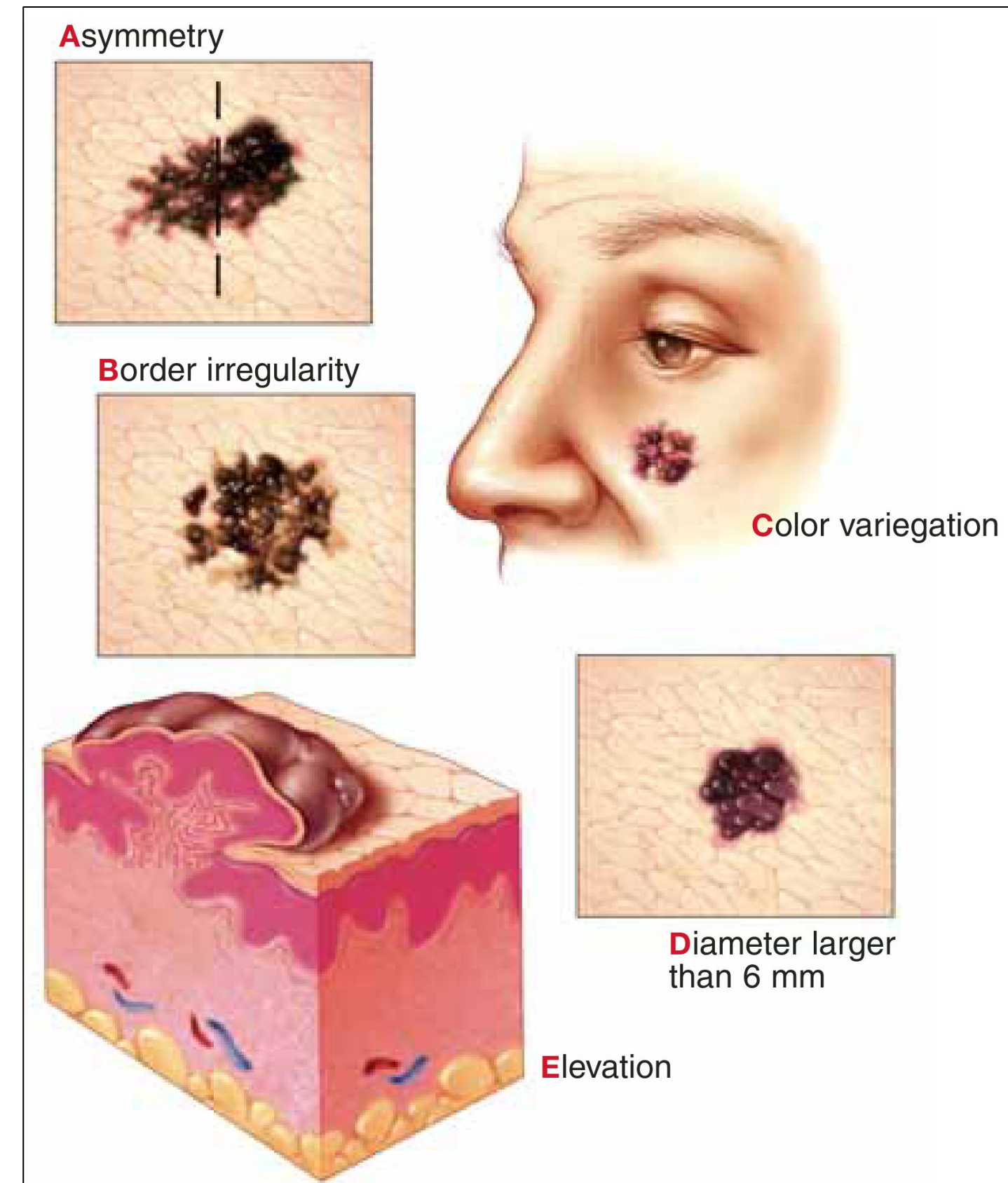
Intrinsic

SA

Illumination-based features [4]

# Lesion Elevation in Clinical Practice

- Part of the American Cancer Society's **ABCDE** criteria.



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- The **palpation of skin** is an important step in lesion diagnosis, and is often one of the reasons for dermatologists' dissatisfaction with **tele dermatology**.

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## **RESULTS**

In 14 of 16 cases, the correct diagnosis was chosen ( $P = .012$ ,  $\chi^2$  test). The incorrect diagnoses were multiple small lesions of psoriasis that had been

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**BJD** British Journal of Dermatology  
IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES IN SKIN DISEASE WORLDWIDE 

|  Full Access

**Tele dermatology: a review**

D.J. Eedy, R. Wootton

First published: 22 August 2002 | <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2133.2001.04124.x> |

training per year.<sup>23</sup> By comparison, dermatologists' criticisms were usually concerned with picture quality, lack of rapport with patients, inability to palpate lesions or carry out diagnostic tests and that the systems were time-consuming and unsatisfying.<sup>29,44,57</sup> In a study using high

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**JRSM**  
JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

[J R Soc Med.](#) 2006 Dec; 99(12): 598–600.

PMCID: PMC1676320

doi: [10.1258/jrsm.99.12.598](https://doi.org/10.1258/jrsm.99.12.598)

PMID: [17139058](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17139058/)

Palpation of the skin—an important issue

[Neil H Cox](#)

adequately close to show fine detail. Also, even good quality photos are two-dimensional; raised lesions of urticaria, for example, may be difficult to distinguish from flat lesions of a similar colour, and quality of scaling can only be guessed at. Touching the skin is a modality that is omitted in tele dermatology, but there are clearly situations where it can be important. Indeed, the inability to palpate lesions has also been given as a reason for dermatologists being less satisfied than primary care physicians with the results of tele dermatology.<sup>7</sup> Even enthusiasts admit that this can be a problem.



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**Lesion elevation information as a proxy for in-person palpation may benefit teledermatology.**

# Lesion Elevation in Deep Learning-based Methods

Skin Research & Technology



Forward Series

ORIGINAL ARTICLE | [Open Access](#) |

**A feature fusion system for basal cell carcinoma detection through data-driven feature learning and patient profile**

P. Kharazmi, S. Kalia, H. Lui, Z. J. Wang, T. K. Lee

First published: 22 October 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/srt.12422> | Citations: 53

## 3.4 | Patient profile

Patient profile information consists of lesion location, lesion size, lesion elevation (a binary variable indicating whether the lesion is flat or elevated) along with age and gender of the patients. Figure 7 demon-

As it can be seen from Table 1, integrating the condensed feature maps with patient information increases the diagnosis accuracy of BCC. The BCC lesions of our dataset are mostly of the nodular type,

IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics

**Seven-Point Checklist and Skin Lesion Classification Using Multitask Multimodal Neural Nets**

Publisher: IEEE

[Cite This](#)



Jeremy Kawahara ; Sara Daneshvar ; Giuseppe Argenziano ; Ghassan Hamarneh [All Authors](#)

2) *Classify Using Image and Meta-Data:* As the meta-data (gender, lesion location, and lesion elevation) is categorical, we one-hot encode the meta-data to produce a meta-data vector.

ible under dermoscopy. The classification layer that uses clinical, dermoscopic, and meta-data together yields the highest average accuracy. However, we note including clinical images

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Computers in Biology and Medicine

Volume 116, January 2020, 103545



## The impact of patient clinical information on automated skin cancer detection

Andre G.C. Pacheco <sup>a</sup> , Renato A. Krohling <sup>a b</sup>

We summarize the presented analysis as follows:

- It is expected that these features improve the model performance for pigmented and non-pigmented lesions detection.
- Certain features, such as a change in the lesion pattern and elevation are important for MEL detection.

## scientific reports

Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 08 April 2021

## Predicting the clinical management of skin lesions using deep learning

[Kumar Abhishek](#) , [Jeremy Kawahara](#) & [Ghassan Hamarneh](#)

evaluate our prediction models. The dataset contains clinical and dermoscopic images of skin lesions, patient metadata (patient gender and the location and the elevation of the lesion), the corresponding seven-point criteria<sup>32</sup> for the dermoscopic images, and the diagnosis and the management labels for 1011 cases with mean [standard deviation] age of 28.08 [18.70] years; 489 males (48.37%); 294 malignant cases (29.08%); skin lesion diameter of 8.84 [5.39] mm.

3. The inclusion of patient metadata may improve the management prediction accuracy. When using only clinical images ('CM' versus 'C'), only dermoscopic image ('DM' versus 'D'), or both ('CDM' versus 'CD'), all but one metrics improved with the inclusion of metadata by  $2.23 \pm 2.68\%$ , with the most impactful contribution of metadata being in the 10.63%

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- Assessing if elevation alone can improve lesion diagnosis performance.

## scientific reports

Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 08 April 2021

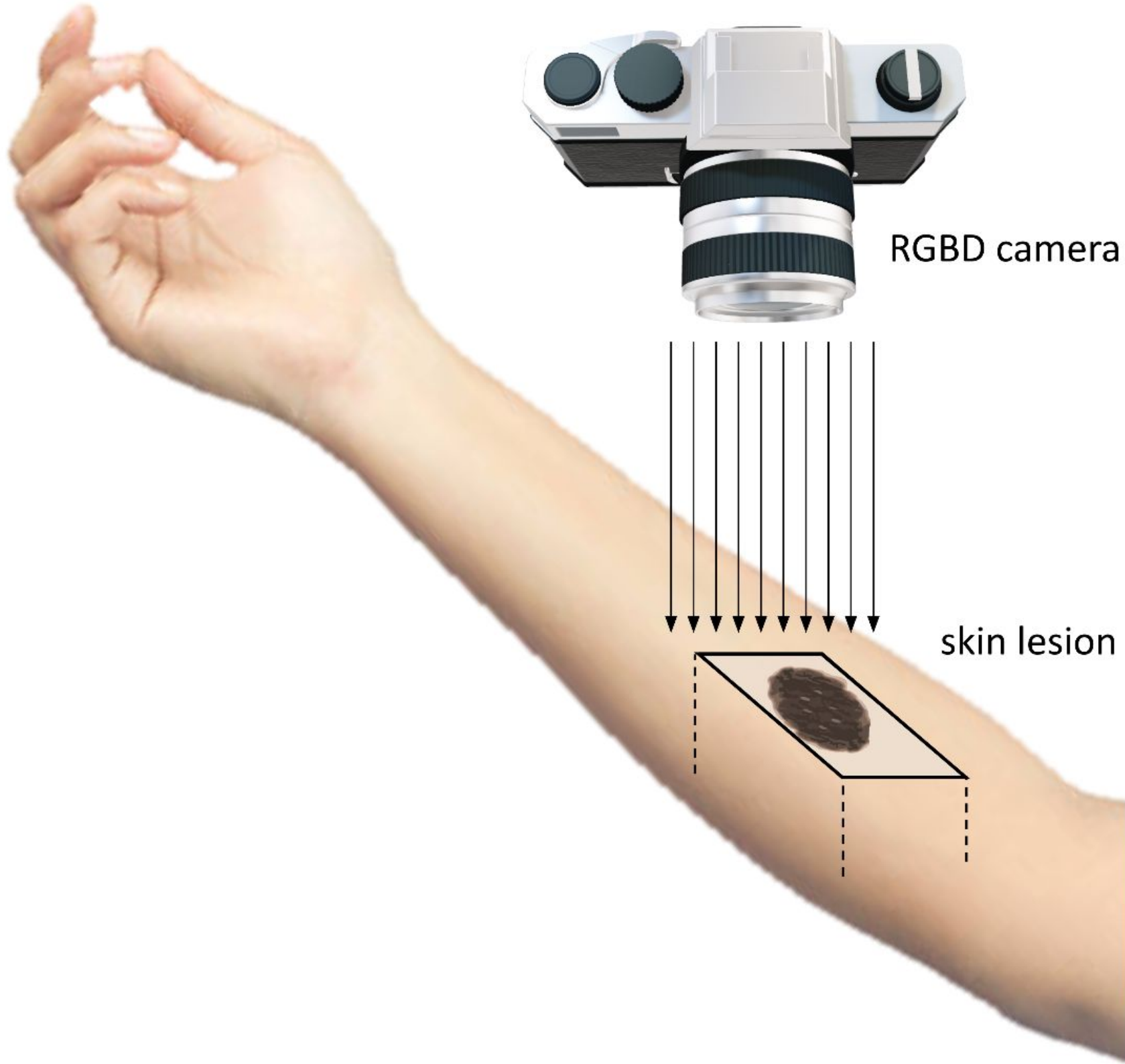
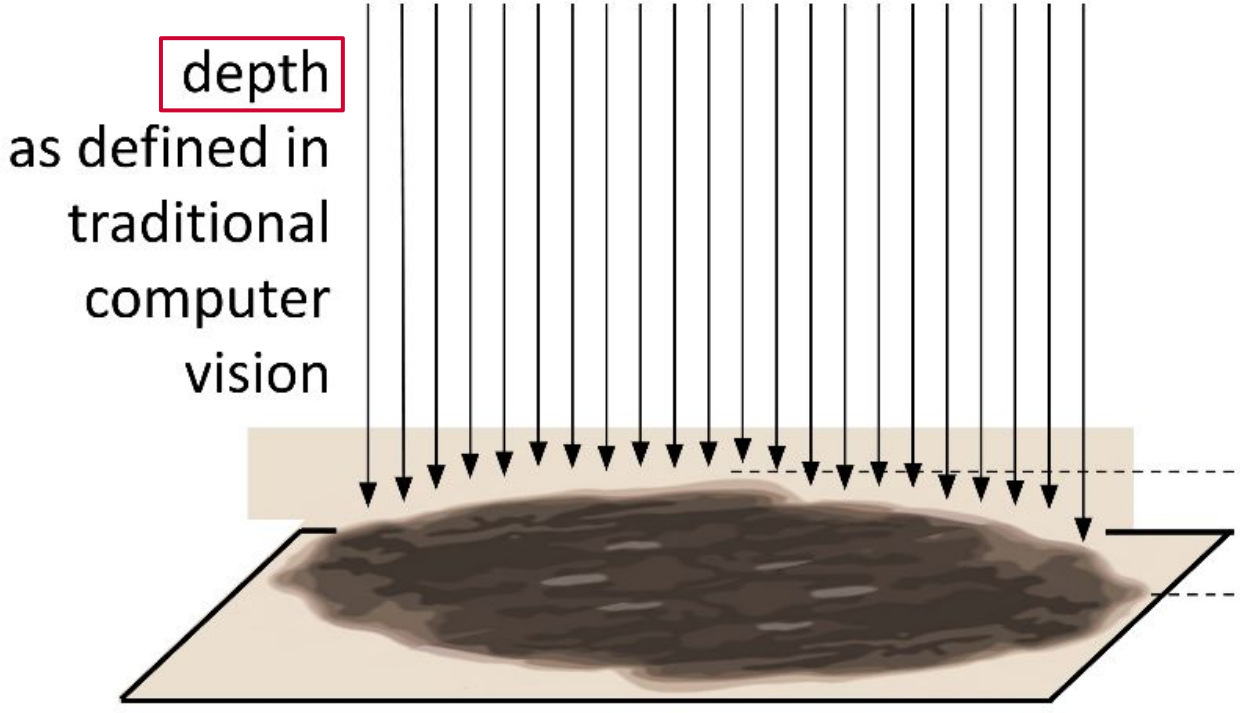
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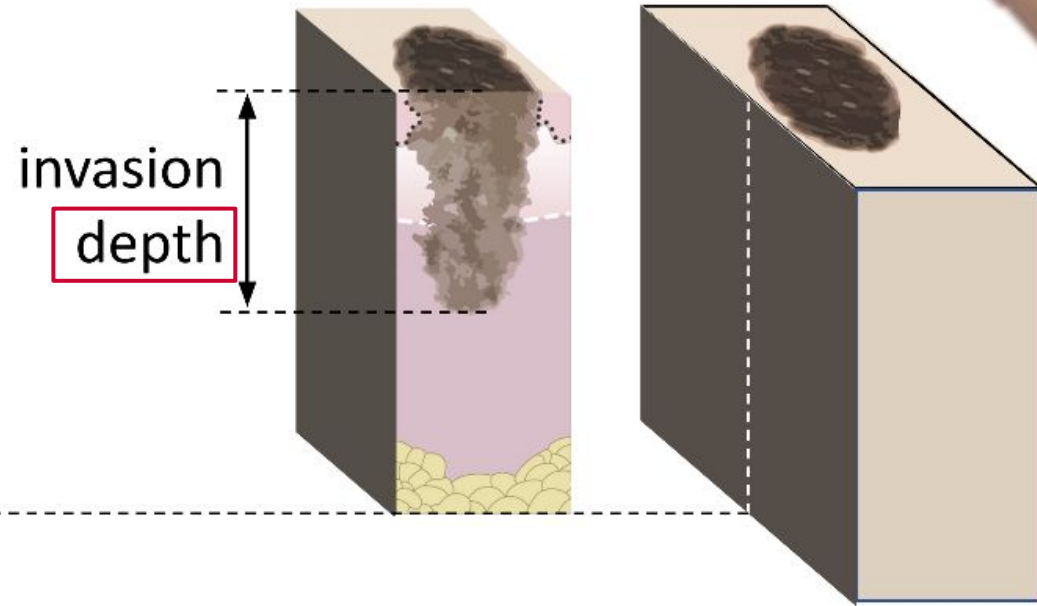
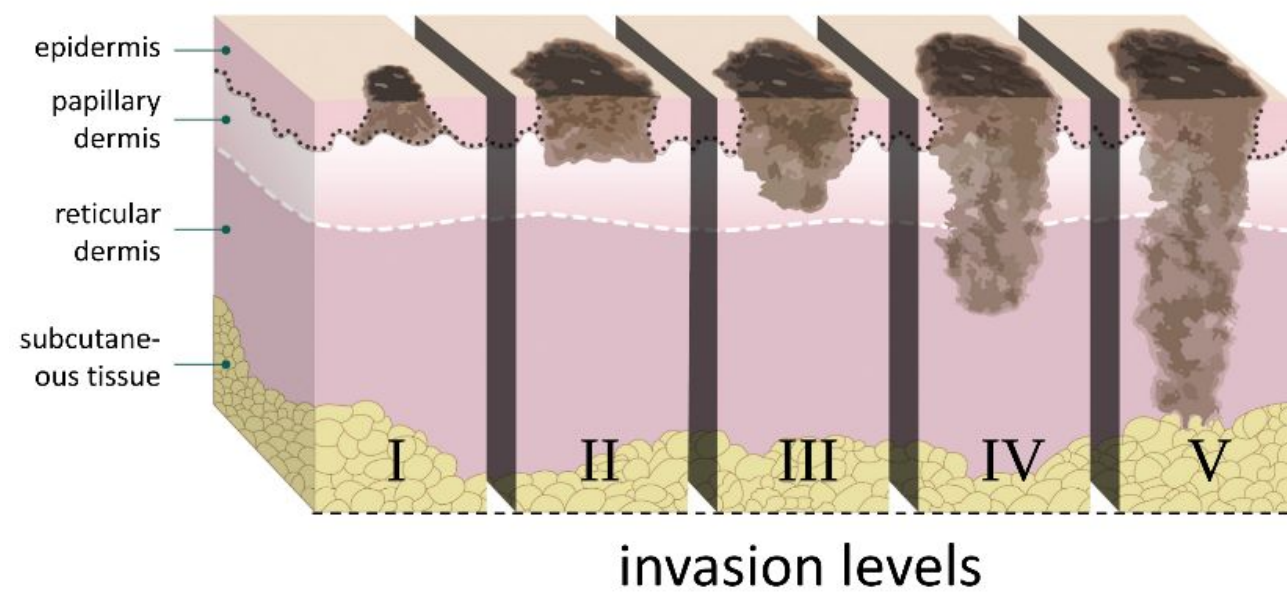
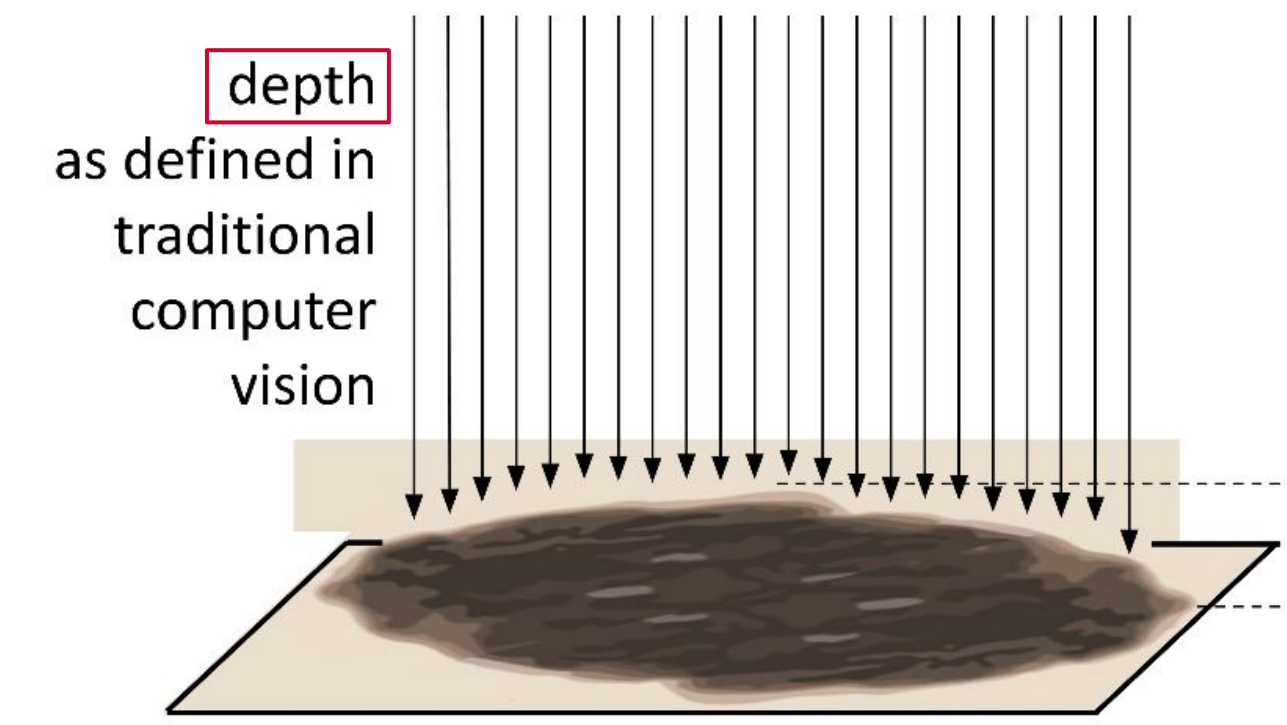
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# Is elevation the same as depth?



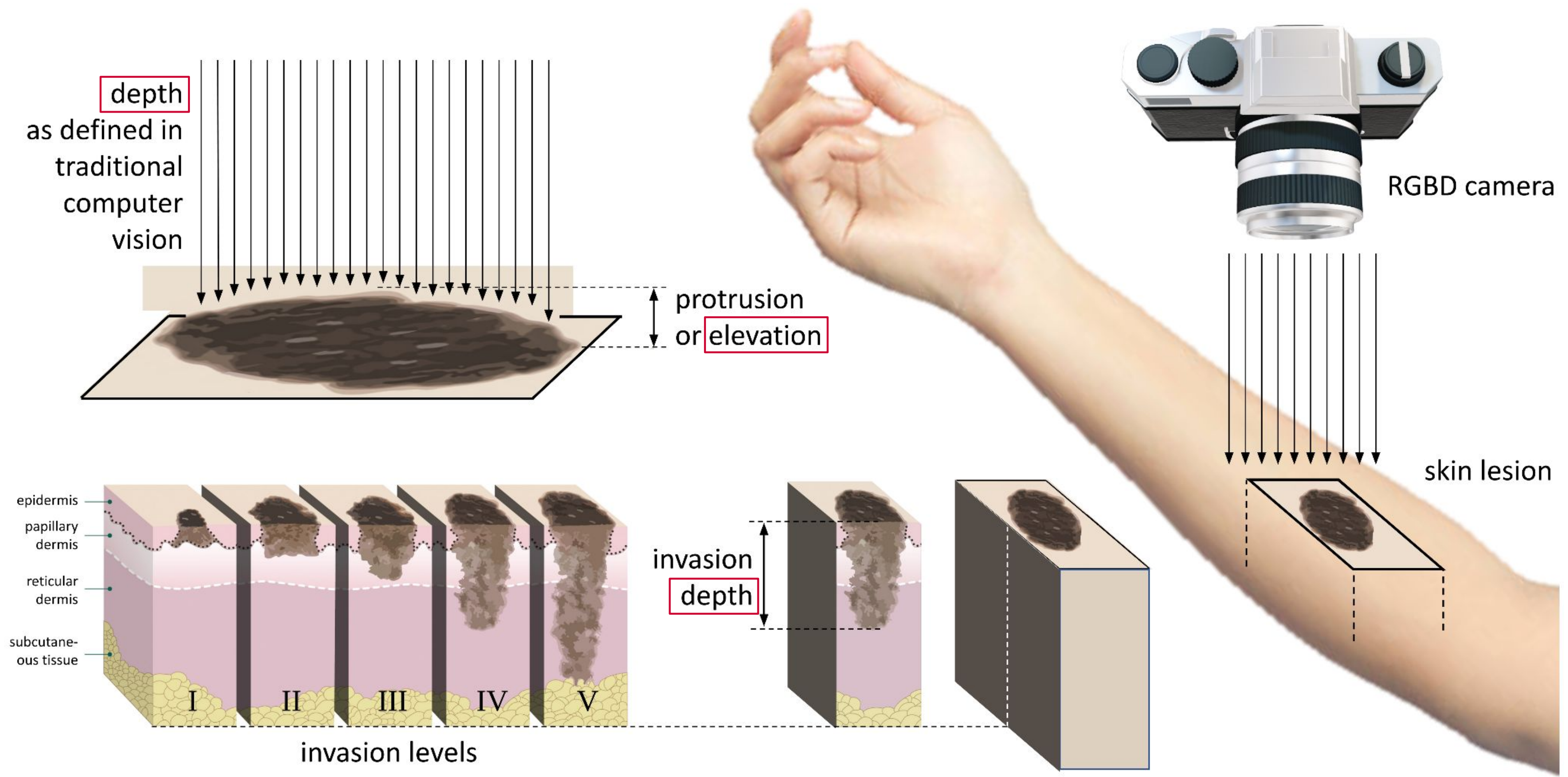
Inset figure courtesy of Melanoma Institute Australia [6].

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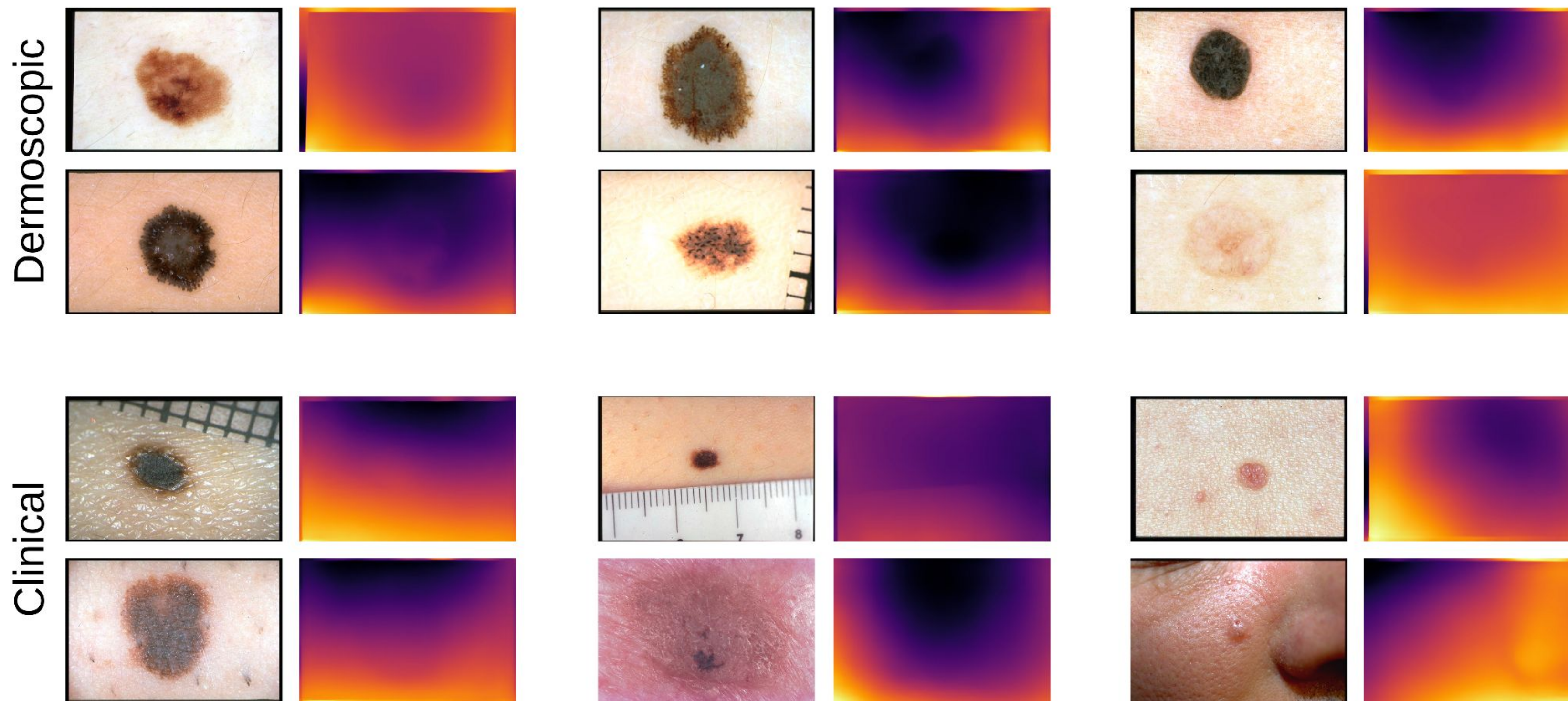
# This Work

## **We pose three questions:**

- Can we estimate lesion elevation from skin lesion images alone?
- Can ground truth lesion elevation alone, as a meta-data, improve diagnosis?
- Can we rely on estimated lesion elevation to improve diagnosis?

Can we use off-the-shelf depth prediction models trained on natural images?

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No, because:

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- natural images scenes generally have a depth anisotropy.
- considerable difference in scale between natural images' depths (typically in meters) and skin lesions' elevations (typically in millimeters).

# Lesion Elevation Datasets

## PAD-UFES-20

- **Size:** 2,298 images.
- **1 modality:** Smartphone images.
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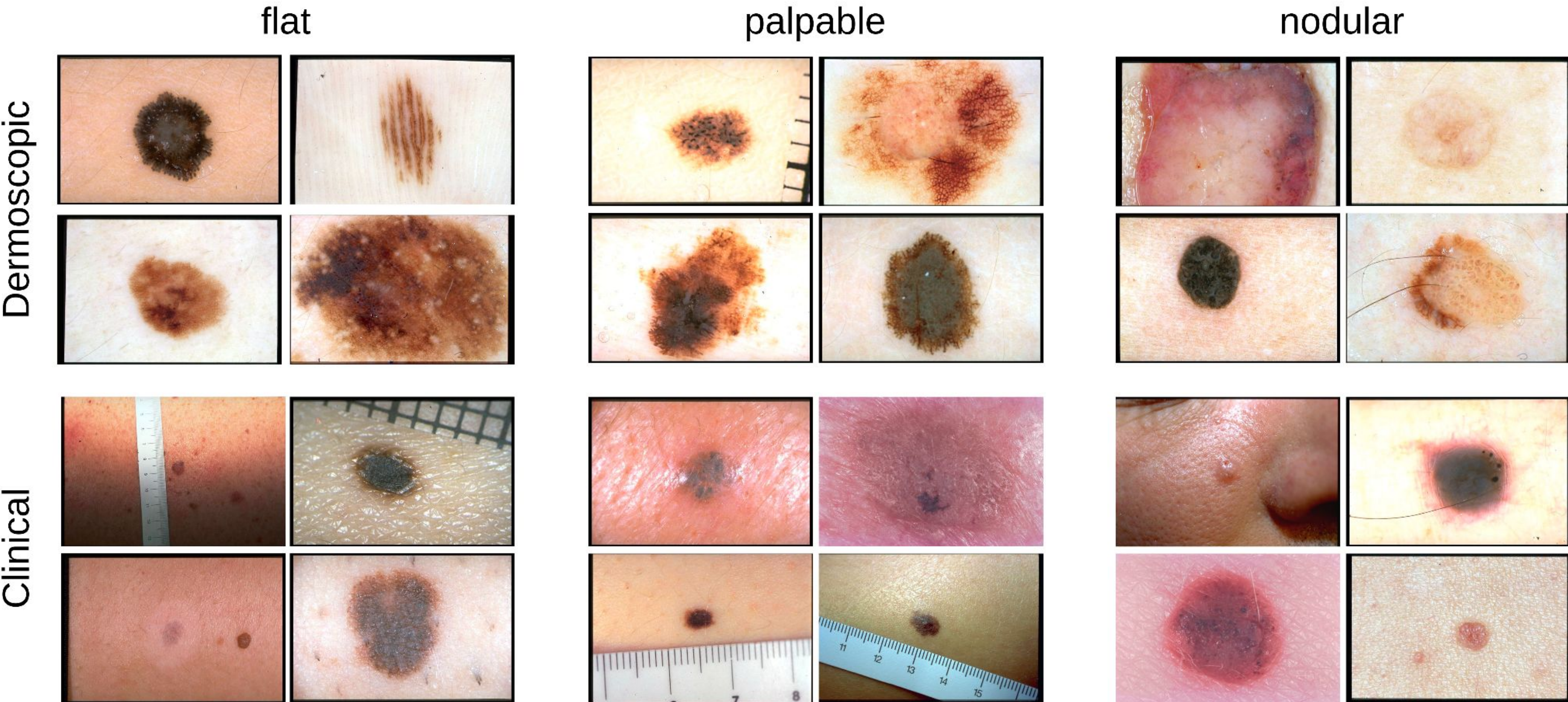
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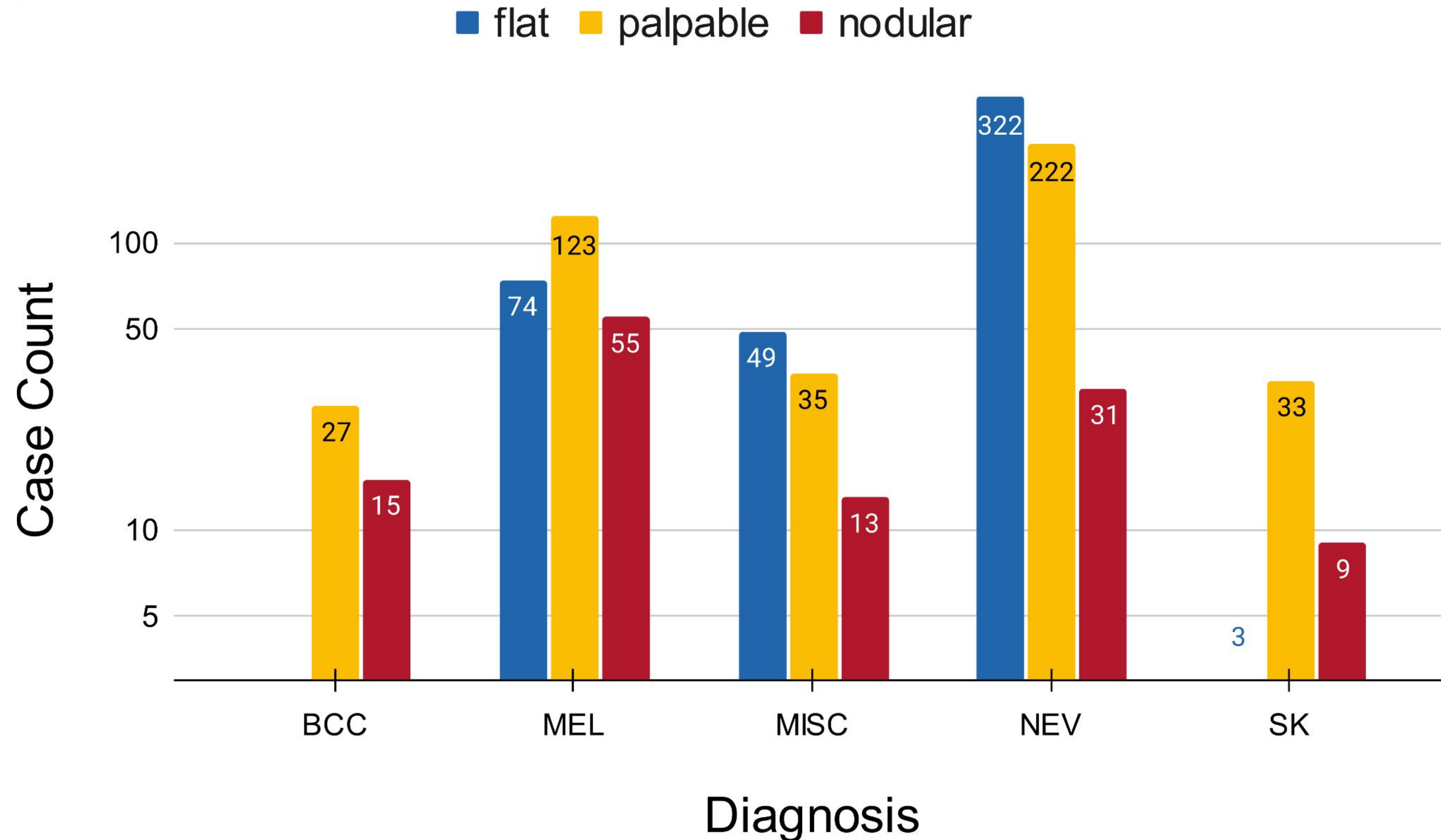
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# Elevation labels in derm7pt - Samples



# Elevation labels in derm7pt - Diagnosis-wise distribution

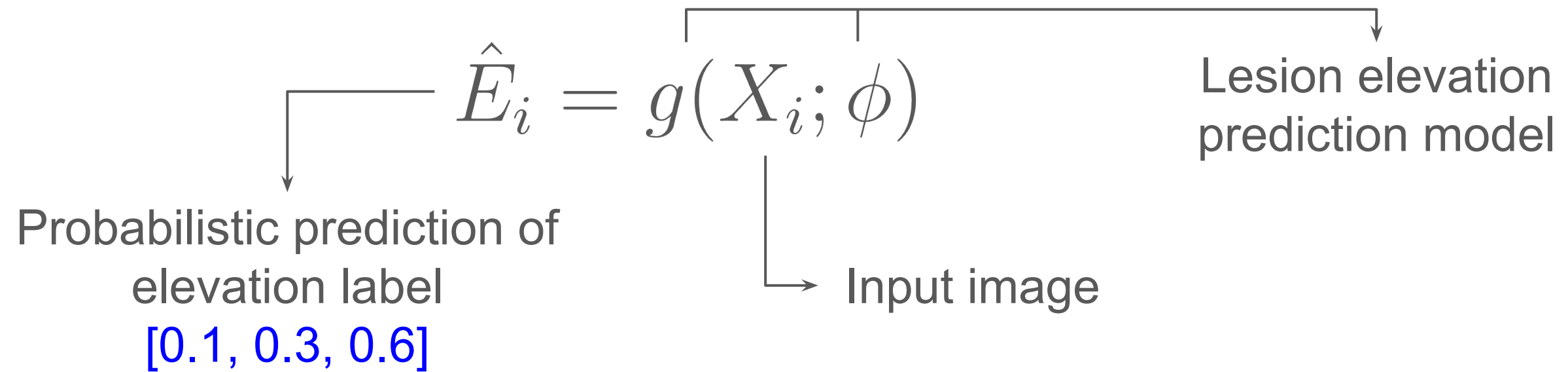


Can we predict skin lesion elevation labels from images alone?

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- MobileNetV2
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- EfficientNet-B0
- EfficientNet-B1
- DenseNet-121
- VGG-16
- ResNet-18
- ResNet-50

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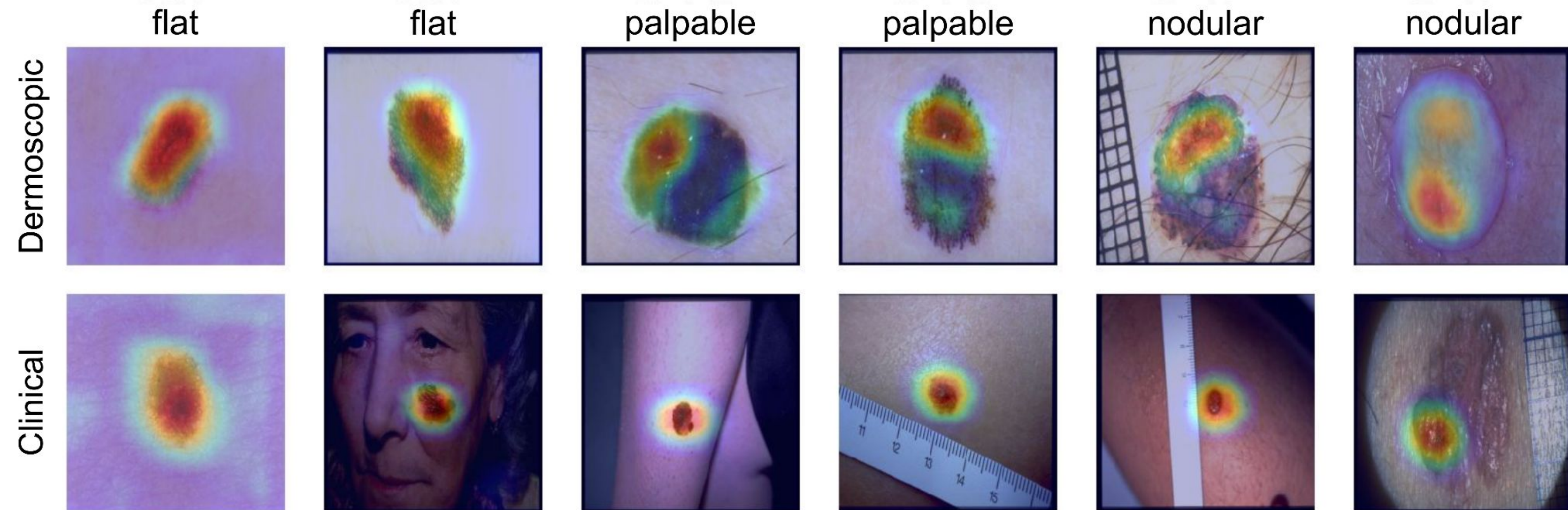
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- EfficientNet-B1
- DenseNet-121
- **VGG-16**
- ResNet-18
- ResNet-50

<b>VGG-16</b>	<b>Accuracy</b>	<b>AUROC</b>
<b>Clinical Images</b>	0.8543	0.8220
<b>Dermoscopic Images</b>	0.8475	0.8152

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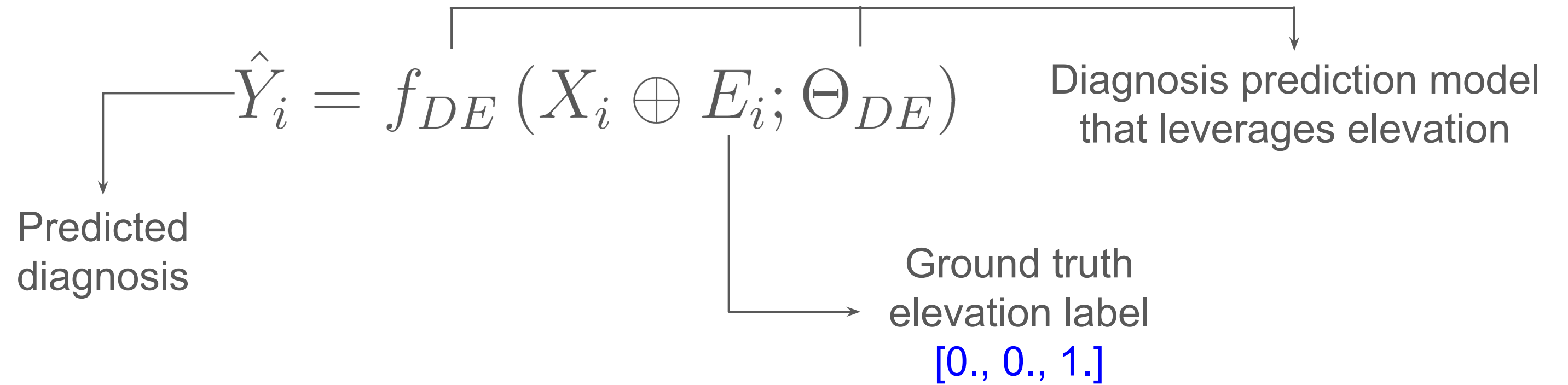
Activation maps (GradCAM) localize the lesion well, despite artifacts.



Do ground truth elevation labels help improve diagnosis?

$$\hat{Y}_i = f_{DE} (X_i \oplus E_i; \Theta_{DE})$$

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<b>VGG-16</b>	<b>Clinical Images</b>		<b>Dermoscopic Images</b>	
	Accuracy	AUROC	Accuracy	AUROC
<u>Without</u> ground truth elevation	0.8464	0.6331	0.9137	0.8431
<u>With</u> ground truth elevation	0.8569	0.6820	0.9216	0.8703



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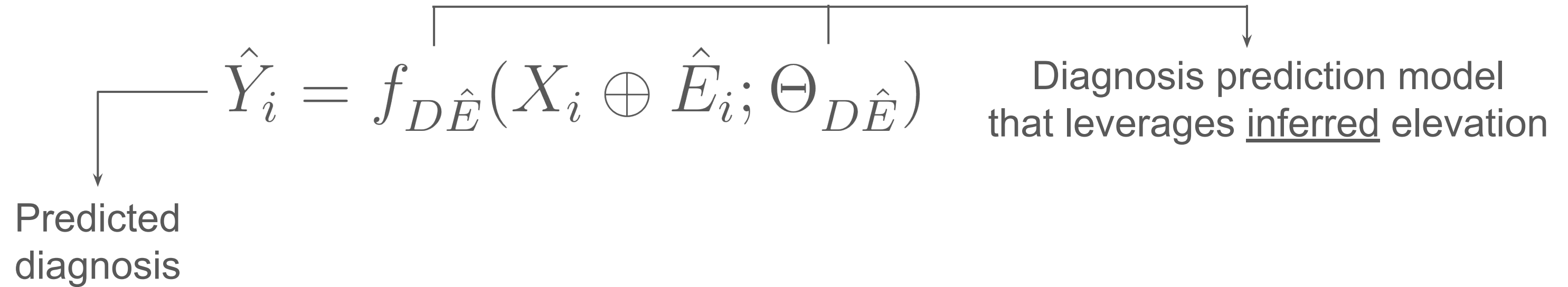
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<b>VGG-16</b>	<b>Clinical Images</b>		<b>Dermoscopic Images</b>	
	Accuracy	AUROC	Accuracy	AUROC
<u>Without</u> ground truth elevation	0.8464	0.6331	0.9137	0.8431
<u>With</u> ground truth elevation	0.8569	0.6820	0.9216	0.8703
<b>Improvement</b> 	1.05%	4.89%	0.79%	2.72%

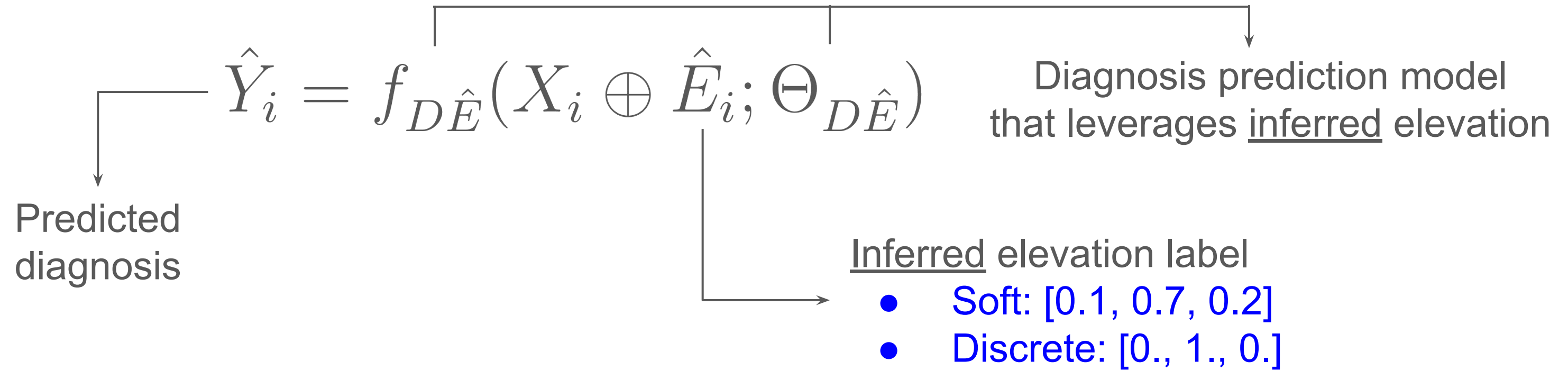
Can inferred elevation labels improve lesion diagnosis?

$$\hat{Y}_i = f_{D\hat{E}}(X_i \oplus \hat{E}_i; \Theta_{D\hat{E}})$$

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## Clinical Image Datasets

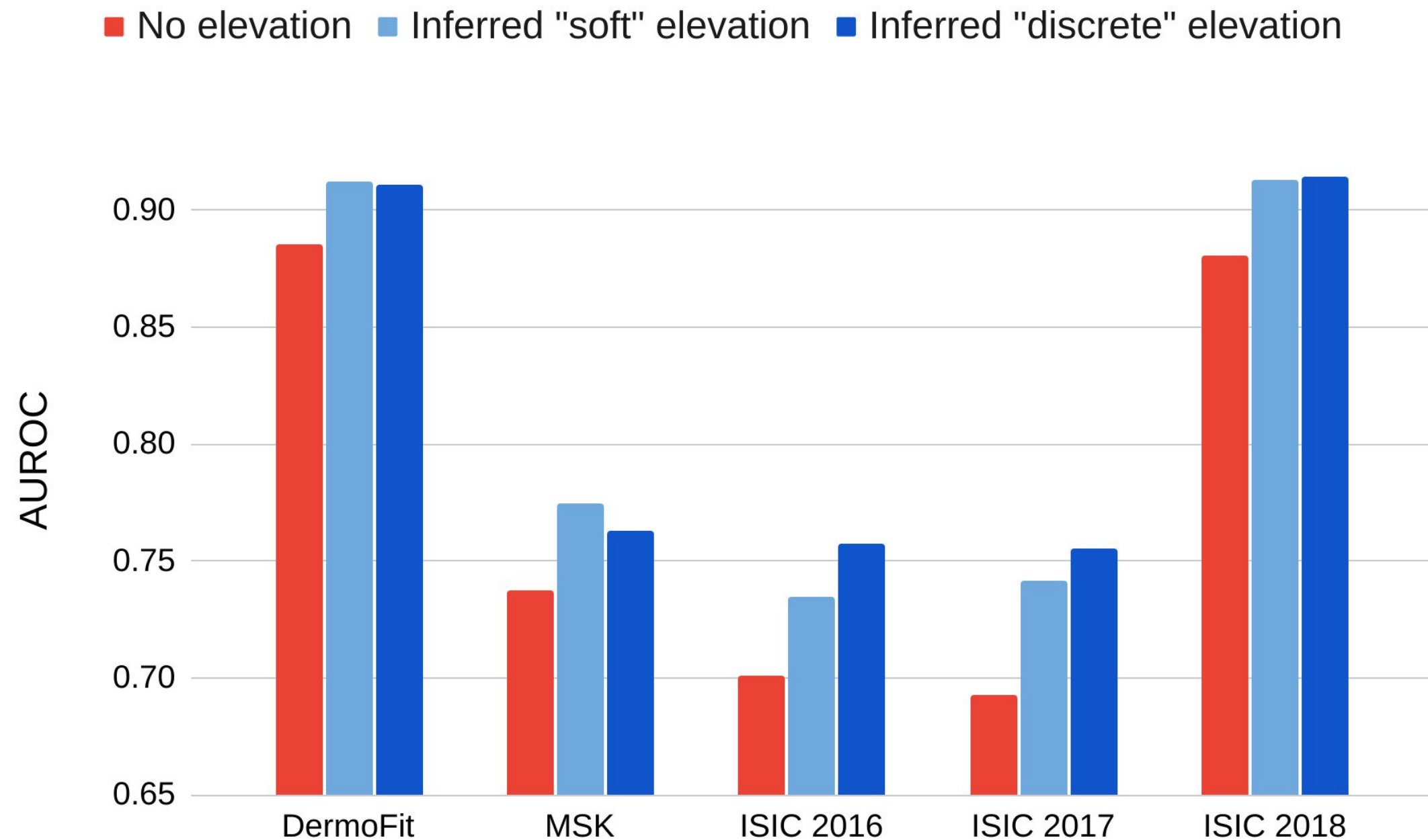
- DermoFit

## Dermoscopic Image Datasets

- MSK
- ISIC 2016
- ISIC 2017
- ISIC 2018

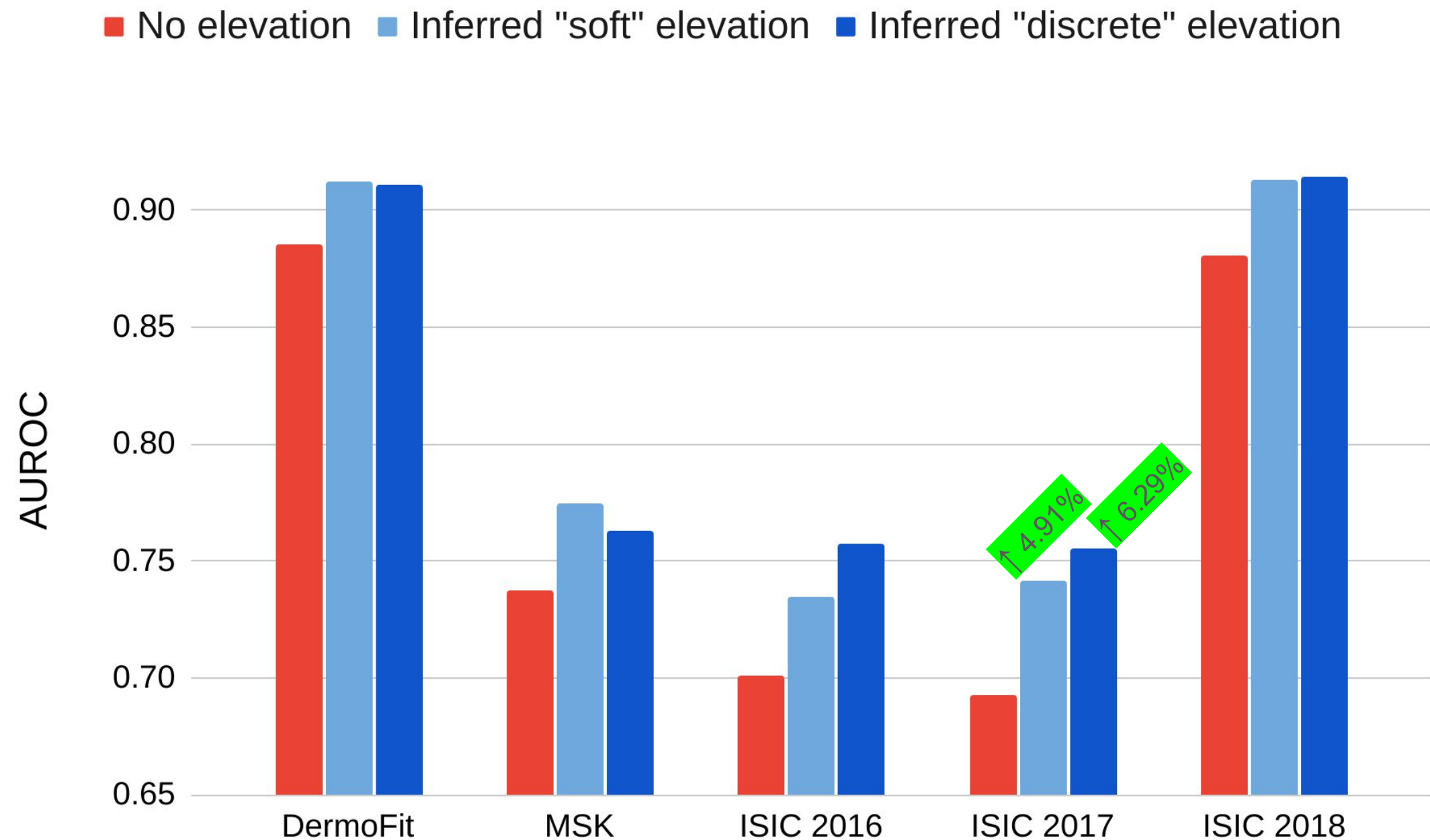
# Can inferred elevation labels improve lesion diagnosis?

$$\hat{Y}_i = f_{D\hat{E}}(X_i \oplus \hat{E}_i; \Theta_{D\hat{E}})$$



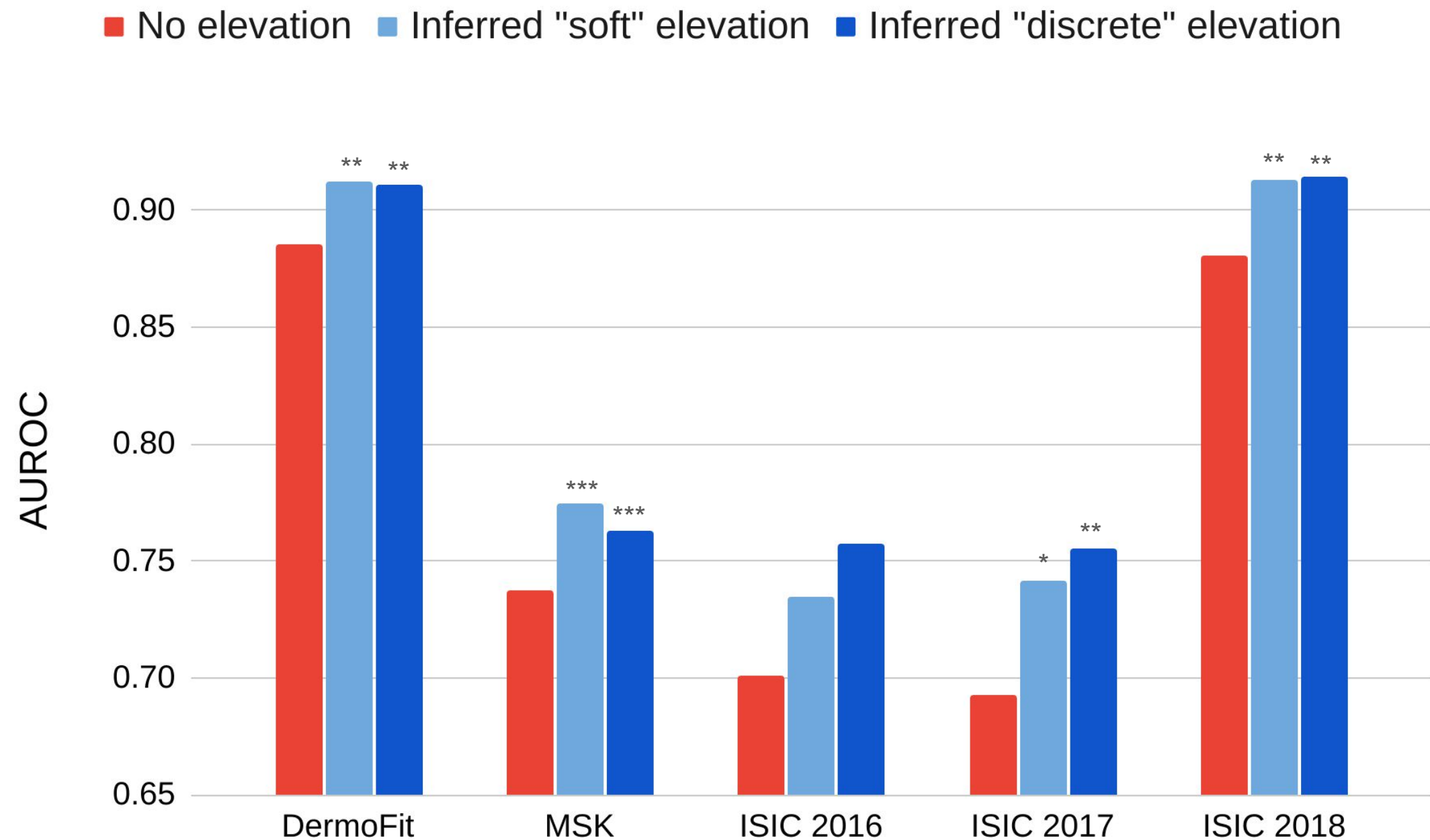
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## Statistical Significance Tests:

- McNemar's mid-p: AUROC improvements **stat. sig. ( $p < 0.05$ )** for all datasets except ISIC 2016.
- Cohen's  $d$ : "small" effect size for ISIC 2016, "**huge**" effect sizes for all other datasets.



# Conclusion

- ✔ Can we estimate lesion elevation from skin lesion images alone?

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**It is possible to predict image-level skin lesion elevation labels directly from 2D RGB images with sufficient accuracy.**

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- ✔ Can we rely on estimated lesion elevation to improve diagnosis?

On datasets without ground truth elevation labels, **estimated elevation labels** may help **improve lesion diagnosis**.

# Conclusion

- ✓ Can we estimate lesion elevation from skin lesion images alone?
- ✓ Can ground truth lesion elevation alone, as a meta-data, improve diagnosis?
- ✓ Can we rely on estimated lesion elevation to improve diagnosis?

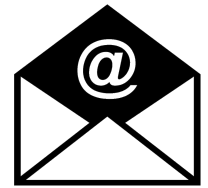
The ability to predict and leverage elevation from 2D images may offer the potential to **improve teledermatology consultations** by offering previously unavailable clinical information.

# References

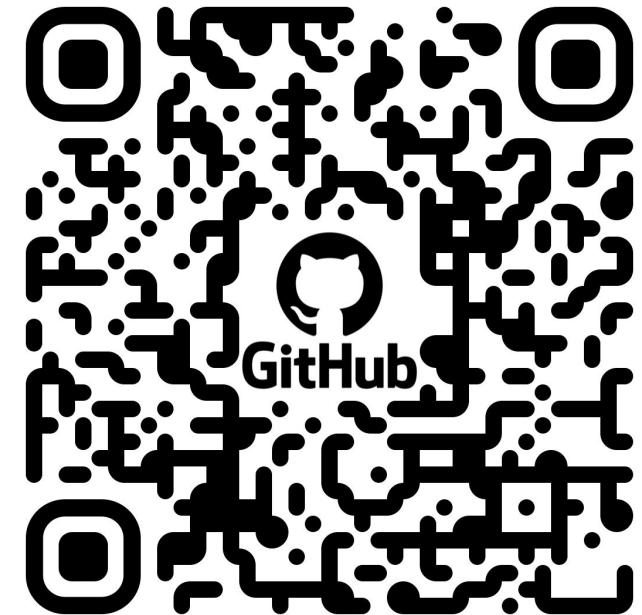
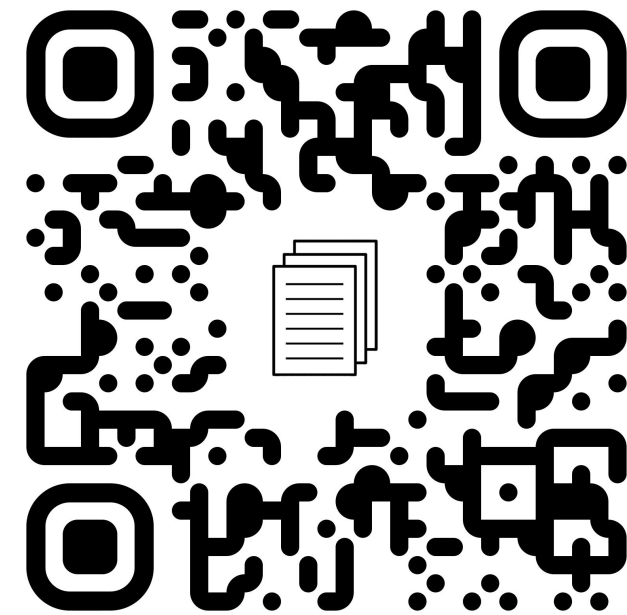
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# Thank you.

## Questions?



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## Acknowledgements



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