



FIGURE 11-5: Squamous cell carcinoma. (Reprinted from Barankin, B, and Freiman, A: Derm Notes: Clinical Dermatology Pocket Guide. F.A. Davis, Philadelphia, 2006; p 150.)



FIGURE 11-6: Melanoma. (Reprinted from Barankin, B, and Freiman, A: Derm Notes: Clinical Dermatology Pocket Guide. F.A. Davis, Philadelphia, 2006; p 116.)

Patients should be instructed to notify their physician if a **nevus** (mole) or discolored skin area changes in color, grows, or develops irregular borders, because this could be a sign of cancer, and a biopsy might be ordered. Treatment includes surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. The medications used in treatment of these more invasive types of cancer are covered in Chapter 17, Immunological System Medications.

● ● ● S U M M A R Y

- The integumentary system consists of the skin, hair, and nails.
- The skin is the major defense organ of the body and consists of the epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis.
- Skin disorders are classified as infectious, inflammatory, or cancerous.
- Integumentary medications are given either topically or systemically based on the diagnosis.
- Skin infections are caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses, and fungi. Medications include antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, pediculicides, scabicides, and retinoids.
- Inflammatory conditions include burns, atopic dermatitis, and psoriasis. Medications include anesthetics and antibiotics for burns; corticosteroids, immunomodulators, and antihistamines for atopic dermatitis; and antipsoriatic agents and ultraviolet (UV) therapy for psoriasis.
- Types of skin cancer include the common basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and malignant melanoma.
- Thorough skin assessment can detect problems early on, and an understanding of treatments and available medications is essential for true patient advocacy.