

## Facts About Skin Cancer

Skin cancer is a growing concern for adults and children around the world. Destructive environmental trends leading the higher exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays, and lifestyle choices, are just two factors leading to this disturbing rise in skin cancer diagnoses.

Doctors advise everyone to be on close watch for skin cancer, as it is one of the most common forms of this deadly disease. The more you know about skin cancer, the better your chances of avoiding the risk factors, and noting changes in your body that may be signs of cancer.

Knowledge is a powerful tool, and the following points will help you to better understand the important facts about skin cancer:

- \* Every year, more than one million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed. These numbers continue to rise.
- \* Skin cancer is a general category that encompasses three different forms of the disease. These are basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. While the basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas will cause illness and damage to the body, it's melanoma that presents the greatest degree of risk to your livelihood.
- \* Carcinomas, when detected early and properly treated, have a cure rate of over ninety percent.
- \* Melanoma is responsible for approximately seventy five percent of all skin cancer deaths. Unlike the other forms of skin cancer, melanoma is known to spread to other organs including the lungs and the liver.
- \* When diagnosed early, melanoma can be removed without too much trouble. With time, however, chances of successful treatment decrease exponentially.
- \* Most people associate UV rays with causing only skin cancer, but there is another serious problem that you must be aware of. With excessive exposure to the sun, you are also at risk of developing lip cancer. That's why it's so important to use a lip balm that contains an SPF value to protect yourself while you're out in the sun.
- \* Melanoma is the most commonly occurring type of cancer in patients between the ages of twenty-five and twenty-nine. Lifestyle choices, such as sunbathing and using tanning beds, are likely contributing to these numbers.
- \* A study conducted in Australia weighed the risk of the average Australian afflicted by skin cancer. The results showed that the risk of developing skin cancer in male patients is approximately one in twenty five. In female patients, the risk is roughly one in thirty four. In total, humans have about a one in twenty nine chance of acquiring skin cancer.
- \* Eighty percent of all diagnosed skin cancers are non-melanoma skin cancers.
- \* An American Cancer Society study conducted in 2004 showed that approximately twelve people out every 100 thousand have been diagnosed with skin cancer.

As you can see, skin cancer is a common occurrence, and the numbers continue to grow. While some types of skin cancer can be relatively harmless and easily removed, it's not easy to tell which type of skin cancer you have. It's extremely important to receive proper diagnosis by a medical doctor. You should know your body and keep track of any changes, since early detection can be the key to eliminating even malignant skin cancers.

Remember, this is one of the most curable types of cancer, so if you have any fear that you may be afflicted, the best thing you can do is to speak with your doctor immediately.