

BASAL CELL CARCINOMA

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PATIENT INFORMATION

BASAL CELL CARCINOMA is the most common form of skin cancer. It occurs most frequently on sun-exposed regions of the body. Although this skin cancer rarely spreads (metastasizes) to other organs of the body, it can cause destruction of surrounding tissue. Thus early detection and treatment are needed.

Most basal cell carcinomas are caused by chronic sun exposure, especially in people with fair skin, light hair and blue, green or grey eyes. In a few instances, there are other contributing factors such as burns, exposure to radiation, arsenical intoxication or chronic dermatitis.

Basal cell carcinoma may have several different appearances on your skin. Some warning signs that may indicate basal cell carcinoma are an open sore, a reddish patch, a growth with an elevated border and a central indentation, a bump or nodule and a scar-like area.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF?

Because chronic overexposure to sunlight is the leading cause of basal cell carcinoma, sun avoidance, especially during peak sunlight hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., is an important preventive measure to help reduce the risk of developing this skin cancer.

Limit skin exposure to the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays by wearing sunglasses, broad-brimmed hats and protective, tightly woven clothing. Furthermore, use a broad-spectrum sunscreen, rated SPF-15 or higher, on all exposed skin, including the lips, even on cloudy days. Reapply sunscreen frequently. Additionally, avoid tanning parlors and artificial tanning devices.

Inspect your entire body regularly for any skin changes, especially those already mentioned, and **routinely visit your physician for a skin examination.**

TREATMENT OPTIONS

After sections of tissue from a biopsy of your skin are assessed under a microscope by a dermatopathologist and determined to be basal cell carcinoma, your physician will discuss several treatment options. Your physician's choice of therapy depends on the size, location and subtype of basal cell carcinoma. Your age and general health are also taken into consideration. The more common treatment options include excisional surgery, electrosurgery, radiation therapy and Mohs Micrographic Surgery. Your physician will discuss these treatment options with you.



DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC

Not only is basal cell carcinoma the most common form of skin cancer, it is the most common of all cancers, affecting over 1,000,000 Americans each year. Men are affected more often than women. Basal cell carcinomas generally tend to occur in older individuals, although they may occur in young adults and even children. People with one basal cell carcinoma have a greater chance of developing others, thus emphasizing the importance of regular follow-up visits to a dermatologist.

Source 2009 American Cancer Society


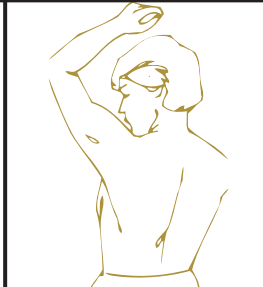
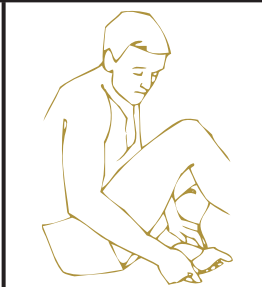
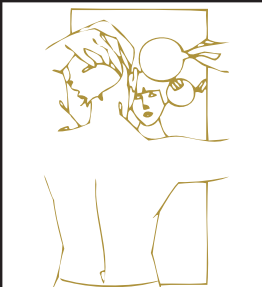
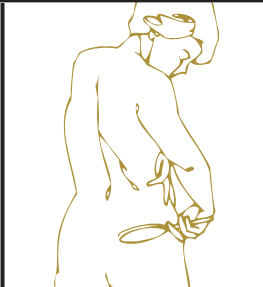
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PERIODIC SELF-EXAMINATION

Aids in the recognition of any new or evolving lesions.
Consult your physician if changes are noticed.

				
STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
Examine your body front and back in the mirror, then right and left sides, arms raised.	Bend elbows and look carefully at forearms and upper arms and palms.	Look at the backs of legs and feet, spaces between toes and soles.	Examine back of neck and scalp with a hand mirror. Part hair for a closer look at scalp.	Finally, check back and buttocks with a hand mirror.

Images and content provided by the American Academy of Dermatology

DO YOU WANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BASAL CELL CARCINOMA?

American Academy of Dermatology
888.462.DERM
www.aad.org

The Skin Cancer Foundation
800.SKIN.490
www.skincancer.org

National Cancer Institute
800.4.CANCER
www.cancer.gov

REFERENCES: **Greenway, H.T., and C.M. Peterson.** Treatment Guidelines for Basal Cell Carcinoma. *The Skin Cancer Foundation Journal* 16:16-17, 81, 1998.

Weedon, D. *Skin Pathology*. New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1997.



Passion for Patients is the expression of who we are and delivering patient care at the highest possible level is what we do. Our goal is to have every Dermpath Diagnostics associate exclusively focused on giving their best, realizing that there is a concerned patient, a life, behind every specimen and diagnosis. This patient centric goal is what drives the continual development of our Passion for Patients company culture.

To obtain more information about skin cancer and to learn more about the services Dermpath Diagnostics provides, please visit our website.

PASSION FOR PATIENTS

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