



Skin Cancer



Overview

This is the most common form of cancer. We often see it on skin that gets a lot of sun. This includes your head, face, neck, arms and hands. Anyone can get skin cancer. But it's more common in people who have fair skin, red or blonde hair and light-colored eyes.

Causes

Cancer forms because of a mutation in a cell's DNA. This is the blueprint that tells cells how to grow and function. DNA can mutate on its own. It can also mutate because of something that affects it. Repeated exposure to natural or artificial sunlight raises your risk for some skin cancers.

Types of Skin Cancer

What are the types of skin cancer? The main types you should know are squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, and melanoma. The first two are called "nonmelanoma" skin cancers. They're the easiest to treat. Melanoma is much less common. It's harder to treat, and more dangerous. And it can spread from your skin to other parts of your body.

Treatment

How is skin cancer treated? Well, it depends on the type and stage of your cancer. Options may range from medications to various types of surgeries. You may also need radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy or some other treatment. Your doctor will create a plan that's right for you.

