

Common Types of Skin Cancer

Actinic Keratosis (AK) - Actinic keratosis (AK) is a precancerous condition that forms on skin damaged by chronic exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun and/or indoor tanning. AKs often appear as small dry, scaly, or crusty patches of skin. They may be red, light or dark tan, white, pink, flesh-toned, or a combination of colors and are sometimes raised. Because of their rough texture, actinic keratoses are often easier to feel than see.



Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) – Basal cell carcinoma is the most common form of skin cancer and highly treatable when identified early. BCCs can look like open sores, red patches, pink growths, shiny bumps, scars, or growths with slightly elevated, rolled edges and/or a central indentation. At times, BCCs may ooze, crust, itch, or bleed. The lesions commonly arise in sun-exposed areas of the body.



Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) – Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is the second most common form of skin cancer. When identified early, most SCCs are curable. SCCs can appear as scaly red patches, open sores, rough, thickened or wart-like skin, or raised growths with a central depression. At times, SCCs may crust over, itch, or bleed. The lesions most commonly arise in sun-exposed areas of the body, but SCCs can also occur in other areas of the body, including the genitals.



Melanoma – Melanoma is a serious form of skin cancer that can quickly spread to other areas of the body if not treated early. Melanoma is usually curable when detected and treated early, but once melanoma has spread deeper into the skin or other organs, it becomes more difficult to treat and can be deadly. Melanomas present in many different shapes, sizes, and colors, which is why it's tricky to provide a comprehensive set of warning signs. Early identification of any new, changing, or unusual skin growths using the ABCDEs of Melanoma can be key to early treatment.



If you notice any of these warning signs or anything new, changing, or unusual with your skin, contact your dermatologist or healthcare provider.

Information and Images Source: Skin Cancer Foundation (skincancer.org)

Total health