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# Skin Cancer

## QUICK REFERENCE

	BASAL CELL CARCINOMA	SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA	MELANOMA
<b>Distribution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Most common skin cancer</li> <li>▶ Highest risk = fair skin; blond or red hair; blue, green, or gray eyes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Second most common skin cancer</li> <li>▶ Rare before age 50</li> <li>▶ Forms many of the skin cancers in African Americans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ One of the most common cancers in those under 30</li> <li>▶ Less than 2% of all skin cancer but causes the majority of skin cancer deaths</li> </ul>
<b>Appearance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Transparent bumps with blood vessels around and through them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Hard bump, lump, or patch with scaly or ulcerated appearance</li> <li>▶ May have elevated edges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>A</b> - Asymmetrical appearance of pigment</li> <li>▶ <b>B</b> - border irregular or poorly defined, may be raised or uneven</li> <li>▶ <b>C</b> - non-uniform color</li> <li>▶ <b>D</b> - diameter usually larger than 6 mm</li> <li>▶ <b>E</b> - evolving in size, shape or color</li> </ul>
<b>Character</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Oozing or crusty sore that bleeds easily</li> <li>▶ Chronic - heals and reappears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Open sore, may be pruritic</li> <li>▶ Chronic - heals and reappears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ May be sore, hard, swollen, or pruritic</li> </ul>
<b>Color</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Varies - pink, red, brown, white, or yellow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Reddish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Varies - shades of brown, black, red, white, blue</li> <li>▶ May be multi-colored or non-pigmented</li> </ul>
<b>Occurs where</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Typically on the head, neck, and arms, but can be anywhere that is exposed to the sun or UV rays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Most common on the ears, face, neck, arms, chest, back and hands but can be anywhere that is exposed to the sun or UV rays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Anywhere on the body including nails or genital area but more common in sun-exposed areas</li> </ul>
<b>Dangers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Can damage other tissues including bone and nerves</li> <li>▶ Can cause disfigurement depending on size and location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Can damage other tissues including bone</li> <li>▶ Rare metastases - most often at sites of chronic inflammatory skin conditions and on the ear, nose, lip, and any mucosal regions, including the lining of the internal organs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Can spread to adjoining lymph nodes - may need sentinel node biopsy to determine involvement</li> <li>▶ Local or distant metastasis possible</li> <li>▶ Can be fatal if not caught early</li> </ul>
<b>Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Excision</li> <li>▶ Mohs Surgery</li> <li>▶ <b>Other:</b></li> <li>▶ Curettage or electrodesiccation</li> <li>▶ Cryosurgery</li> <li>▶ Radiation</li> <li>▶ Photodynamic therapy (PDT)</li> <li>▶ Topical and oral medications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Excision</li> <li>▶ Mohs Surgery</li> <li>▶ <b>Other:</b></li> <li>▶ Curettage or electrodesiccation</li> <li>▶ Cryosurgery</li> <li>▶ Radiation</li> <li>▶ Photodynamic therapy (PDT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>If caught early:</b></li> <li>▶ Narrow excision</li> <li>▶ <b>In later stages:</b></li> <li>▶ Chemotherapy</li> <li>▶ Radiation</li> <li>▶ Immunotherapy</li> <li>▶ Targeted therapies</li> <li>▶ Clinical trials</li> </ul>