



Skin Lesion Information

Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) - Nodular & Morphoeic

Basal Cell Carcinoma is the most common type of cancer in humans and is particularly prevalent in Australia and New Zealand.

BCCs typically affect adults of fair complexion who have had a lot of sun exposure, or repeated episodes of sunburn.

Treatment - *Surgical Removal*

Superficial Basal Cell Carcinoma (sBCC)

This type of BCC appears as a pink or red patch of scaly skin and can be mistaken for patches of dermatitis or eczema.

Superficial BCC's commonly occur on the shoulders, back, chest and abdomen.

They do not often grow deeply into the skin layers, however the longer they are left untreated, the larger and deeper they can grow.

Treatment - *Aldara, Liquid Nitrogen Therapy (Cryotherapy), Photodynamic Therapy (PDT), Surgical Removal*

Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) - Invasive

These are a common type of skin cancer. It is derived from squamous cells, the flat cells that make up the outside layers of the skin, the epidermis.

Most SCCs are found on sun-exposed sites, particularly the face, lips, ears, hands, forearms and lower legs.

Treatment - *Surgical removal, Radiotherapy*

Squamous Cell Carcinoma Insitu (SCC Insitu)

SCC insitu is a common type of skin cancer.

'In situ' means the malignant cells are confined to the cell of origin i.e., the epidermis. The development of a lump or bleeding may indicate progression into invasive SCC.

Treatment - *Liquid Nitrogen Therapy (Cryotherapy), Photodynamic Therapy (PDT), Surgical Removal*

Dermatofibroma (DF)

A Dermatofibroma is a common benign fibrous skin lesion. It is due to a non-cancerous growth of dermal dendritic and histiocyte cells and in some cases it arises at the site of a minor injury, especially an insect bite or thorn prick.

Dermatofibromas most often occur on the legs and arms.

Treatment - *No treatment necessary, Surgical Removal*

Actinic Keratoses (AK) / Solar Keratoses (SK)

These are a reflection of abnormal skin cell development due to exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

They are considered precancerous. They are very common on sites repeatedly exposed to the sun especially on the backs of hands and the face, most often affecting the nose, cheeks, upper lip, temples and forehead.

Treatment - *Liquid Nitrogen Therapy (Cryotherapy), Curettage & Cautery, Efudix, Aldara, Photodynamic Therapy (PDT), Surgical Removal*

Actinic / Solar Cheilitis

This is a term used to describe benign or pre-malignant changes on the lip due to chronic sun exposure.

Treatment - *Liquid Nitrogen Therapy (Cryotherapy), Efudix, Aldara, Topical Retinoids, Photodynamic Therapy (PDT), Surgical Removal*



Seborrhoeic Keratoses

Seborrhoeic Keratoses are very common harmless skin lesions that appear during adult life. They begin as slightly raised, skin coloured or light brown spots. Gradually they thicken and take on a rough, warty surface.

Seborrhoeic Keratoses appear on both covered and uncovered parts of the body.

Treatment - *Liquid Nitrogen Therapy (Cryotherapy), Curettage & Cautery, Laser Surgery, Shave Excision*

Lichenoid Keratoses (LK)

Lichenoid Keratosis is usually a benign solitary lesion that looks reddish to brown. The lesions appear to develop from a regressing existing lesion such as a lentigo or seborrhoeic keratosis.

Treatment - *Liquid Nitrogen Therapy (Cryotherapy), Curettage & Cautery*

Atypical Naevus (mole)

Atypical Naevi (*pl.*) are moles or melanocytic naevi with unusual features. They may resemble malignant melanoma (cancerous mole), but are actually harmless. People with atypical naevi have a slightly higher risk than the general population of developing melanoma, particularly if they have five or more atypical naevi.

Treatment - *Atypical naevus should be surgically removed if looks suspicious or is changing.*

Malignant Melanoma (MM) a

Malignant Melanoma is a potentially serious type of skin cancer. It is due to uncontrolled growth of pigment cells, called melanocytes.

Normal melanocytes are found in the basal layer of the epidermis, i.e. the bottom part of the outer layer of skin. The melanocytes produce a protein called melanin, which protects the skin by absorbing ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

Non-cancerous growth of melanocytes results in moles and freckles. Cancerous growth of melanocytes results in melanoma.

Treatment - *Surgical Removal*

Melanoma In situ

This means that all the melanoma cells are confined to the epidermis.

Treatment - *Melanoma in situ is always cured by Surgical Removal because it has no potential to spread around the body.*

Lentigo Maligna Melanoma

A special kind of melanoma in situ that occurs around hair follicles on sun damaged skin of the face or neck.

Treatment - *Lentigo Maligna is always cured by Surgical Removal because it has no potential to spread around the body.*

Solar Lentigo

A Solar Lentigo is a flat brown spot on the face and/or hands arising as a result of sun damage and are commonly known as liver spots. (Plural - solar lentigines).

Treatment - *Intensed Pulsed Light (IPL), Alpha Hydroxy Acids, Vitamin C, Retinoids, Laser Surgery*

For further information contact your GP or Skin Cancer Doctor for advice or review of any lesions of concern.