

Skin Cancers

• AK: Actinic Keratosis

A pre-cancerous lesion that is usually a result of sun damage. These lesions usually appear on the face, chest, and arms as scaly red spots with a "sand paper" like feel. These can sometimes progress to an SCC.

• SCC: Squamous Cell Carcinoma

SCCs typically appear on sun exposed areas of the skin and are usually due to chronic, ongoing sun exposure. SCCs normally appear as small red, scaly sores that may have a "crusty" top appearance, but may appear in different forms. These often arise from an AK.

• BCC: Basal Cell Carcinoma

Typically arising from sun exposure earlier in life, we consider this type of skin cancer the "safest" to have as it is usually very slow growing. BCCs commonly grow on the sun exposed areas of the body such as the face, arms and legs. BCCs typically appear as small red bumps with pearly borders but may appear in different forms.

• AMN/DMN: Atypical Melanocytic Nevi/Dysplastic Melanocytic Nevi

These are common non-cancerous lesions, but some may be abnormal enough to require further removal. AMNs/DMNs can be difficult to tell apart from a melanoma and melanomas can sometimes arise from AMNs/DMNs. People with multiple abnormal nevi have a higher risk of developing melanoma in the future.

• Melanoma

This is considered the most severe type of skin cancer to have. Melanoma, in its early stages, can appear as a mole with abnormalities that defy the ABCDE's of moles (see on pg. 2). MMis, or Melanoma in Situ, is considered the "safest" kind as it does not yet have a potential to spread. Invasive Melanoma, on the other hand, has a potential to spread and its danger depends mainly on its depth.

Common Benign (non-cancerous) Lesions

• SK: Seborrheic Keratosis

• Cherry Angioma

• DF: Dermatofibroma

• Angiofibroma (fibrous papule of the nose)

• SGH: Sebaceous Gland Hyperplasia

• Benign Mole (benign nevus)

• Skin Tags (Acrochordons)

• Plantar Warts (warts)

• Lichenoid Keratosis/Lichen Planus-like Keratosis/Benign Lichenoid Keratosis

• Angiokeratoma

• Prurigo Nodularis (LSC)