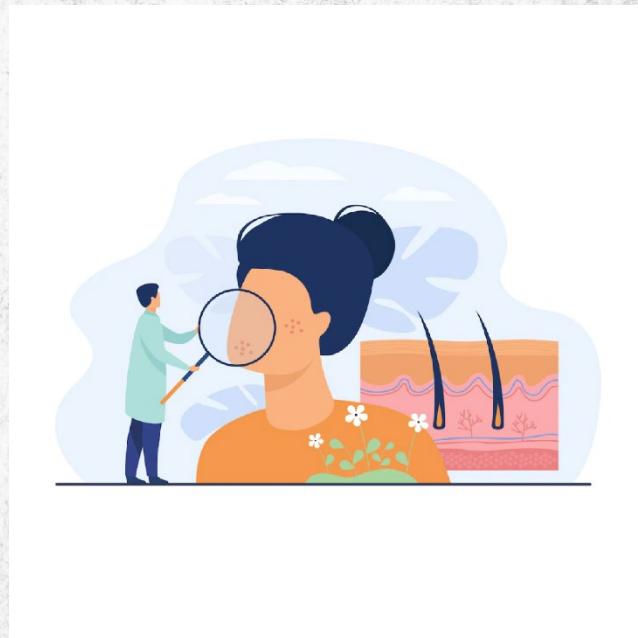


## Skin cancer:



Skin cancer is the abnormal growth of skin cells, it can develop on skin exposed to the sun, and it can also develop on areas of the skin not exposed to sun.

There are three major types of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma.

The risk can be reduced by limiting or avoiding exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

## Symptoms:

Skin cancer develops primarily on areas of sun-exposed skin, including the scalp, face, lips, ears, neck, chest, arms and hands, and on the legs in women. But it can also form on areas that rarely see the light of day your palms, beneath your fingernails or toenails, and your genital area.

Skin cancer affects people of all skin tones, including those with darker complexions.

### Basal cell carcinoma

- A pearly or waxy bump
- A flat, flesh-colored or brown scar-like lesion
- A bleeding or scabbing sore that heals and return

### **Squamous cell carcinoma**

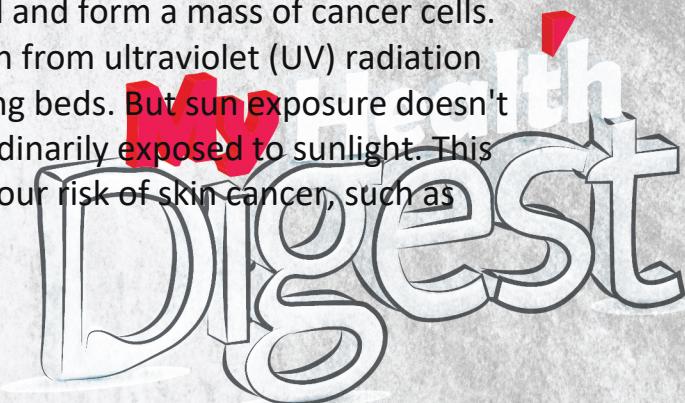
- A firm, red nodule
- A flat lesion with a scaly, crusted surface

### **Melanoma**

- A large brownish spot with darker speckles
- A mole that changes in color, size or feel or that bleeds
- A small lesion with an irregular border and portions that appear red, pink, white, blue or blue-black
- A painful lesion that itches or burns
- Dark lesions on your palms, soles, fingertips or toes, or on mucous membranes lining your mouth, nose, vagina or anus

### **Causes:**

Skin cancer happens when mutations occur in the DNA of skin cells. The mutations cause the cells to grow out of control and form a mass of cancer cells. Much of the damage to DNA in skin cells happen from ultraviolet (UV) radiation found in sunlight and in the lights used in tanning beds. But sun exposure doesn't explain skin cancers that develop on skin not ordinarily exposed to sunlight. This indicates that other factors may contribute to your risk of skin cancer, such as



being exposed to toxic substances or having a condition that weakens your immune system

## **Risk Factors:**

- Fair skin
- Excessive sun exposure
- Moles
- A family history of skin cancer
- A weakened immune system

## **Treatment:**

- Freezing: the doctor may destroy some small, early skin cancers by freezing them and this is called (cryosurgery)
- Excisional surgery: This type of treatment can be applicable for any type of skin cancer. The doctor excises the cancerous tissue and a surrounding margin of healthy skin
- Mohs surgery, which is procedure is for larger, recurring or difficult-to-treat skin cancers, which may include both basal and squamous cell carcinomas. It's often used in areas where it's necessary to conserve as much skin as possible, such as on the nose.
- Radiation therapy that uses high-powered energy beams, such as X-rays, to kill cancer cells. It is an option when cancer can't be completely removed during surgery.

