## Squamous Cell Carcinoma Treatment

Cancer is complex — there is no routine squamous cell carcinoma, nor is there ever a routine way to treat

There are several types of treatment for squamous cell carcinoma. The best treatment for each patient based on his or her specific, individual squamous cell carcinoma. Patients may receive one treatment or a combination of treatments.

Most squamous cell carcinomas of the skin can be completely removed with relatively minor surgery or occasionally with a topical medication. Which squamous cell carcinoma of the skin treatments are best for you depends on the size, location and aggressiveness of the tumor, as well as your own preferences

## Treatment Options

There are several types of treatment available for squamous cell carcinoma.

#### (A)Surgery

Surgery may be used to treat squamous cell carcinoma or actinic keratosis. Types of surgery include:

#### 1-Mohs Microscopic Surgery

The doctor removes the cancer from the skin in thin layers and each layer is analyzed under a microscope during surgery for cancer cells. The doctor continues to remove one layer at a time until removing a layer with no evidence of cancer cells. This allows the surgeon to be certain the entire growth is removed and avoid taking an excessive amount of surrounding healthy skin.

2-Simple Excision

The doctor removes the skin cancer and some of the healthy tissue around it.  In this procedure, your doctor cuts out the cancerous tissue and a surrounding margin of healthy skin. Your doctor may recommend removing additional normal skin around the tumor in some cases (wide excision). To minimize scarring, especially on your face, consult a doctor skilled in skin reconstruction.

(B)Radiation Therapy

Radiation therapy uses X-rays or other types of radiation to destroy cancer cells. Most radiation is delivered from a machine outside your body that is targeted directly at the cancer cells. This may be an option for treating deeper tumors, those that have a risk of returning after surgery and tumors in people who can't undergo surgery.

(C)Chemotherapy

* Chemotherapy uses drugs to stop the growth of cancer cells, either by destroying the cells or by stopping the cells from dividing. Chemotherapy for squamous cell carcinoma and actinic keratosis usually is applied to the skin as a cream or lotion, which is called topical chemotherapy. **Medicated creams or lotions.** For very superficial cancers, you may apply creams or lotions containing anti-cancer medications directly to your skin.

Chemotherapy may be used for squamous cell carcinoma that is metastatic (has spread to other organs) or when the skin cancer cannot be treated with local therapy but only in specific circumstances.

#### (D)Photodynamic Therapy

Photodynamic therapy uses a drug and a laser light to destroy cancer cells. The drug is injected in a vein and only becomes active when the laser light shines on the skin.

#### (E)Immunotherapy

Immunotherapy, also called biologic therapy, helps boost a patient’s immune system to fight cancer. Interferon may be injected to help treat squamous cell carcinoma by slowing the growth of cancer cells.

Immunotherapy may be used for squamous cell carcinoma that is metastatic (has spread to other organs) or when the skin cancer cannot be treated with local therapy.

* **(F) Electrodesiccation and curettage (ED and C).** ED and C treatment involves removing the surface of the skin cancer with a scraping instrument (curet) and then searing the base of the cancer with an electric needle. This treatment is often used for very small squamous cell cancers of the skin.
* **(G) Curettage and cryotherapy.** Similar to the ED and C procedure, after the tumor removal and curettage, the base and edges of the biopsy site are treated with liquid nitrogen.
* **(H) Laser therapy.** An intense beam of light vaporizes growths, usually with little damage to surrounding tissue and with a reduced risk of bleeding, swelling and scarring. Laser treatment may be an option for very superficial skin lesions.
* **(I)Freezing.** This treatment involves freezing cancer cells with liquid nitrogen (cryosurgery). It may be an option for treating superficial skin lesions.