

Title: Basal Cell Skin Cancer: Information for patients and their families

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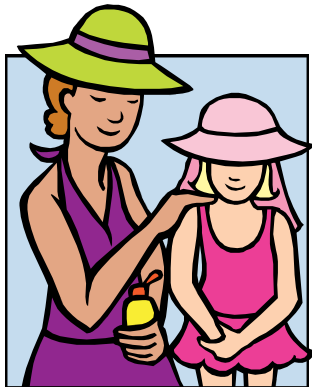
Abstract:

Basal cell skin cancer is the most common type of skin cancer in America. It can be cured with early diagnosis and treatment. Appropriate treatment depends on the appearance and location of the growth, with simple surgery being a common treatment. This pamphlet describes risk factors, tips for detecting skin cancers and treatment options.

Risk factors for basal cell skin cancer:

- Sun exposure
- Fair skin
- Increasing age
- Other skin cancers

Limiting time in the sun and using sunscreen are very important tools for preventing skin cancer. It's important to start good habits early to prevent sun damage during childhood.



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Images:
www.skincancer.org

Basal Cell Skin Cancer:

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Basal cell skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the USA. This type of cancer rarely spreads beyond the skin, but the lesions can become large and cause damage to normal tissues. This type of cancer can be cured with early treatment.

Basal cell skin cancers can look different, but everyone should be on the look-out for:

The 5 Warning Signs

1. An open sore
2. A reddish patch
3. A shiny bump
4. A pink growth
5. A scar-like area

Some examples:



How is it treated?

Your doctor may recommend a specific treatment based on how the growth looks and where it is located. Some common options are:

- **Surgery:** This may be a single surgery or several small surgeries. The growth will be examined to make sure that the cancer has been removed.
- **Curettage:** The growth is destroyed with gentle scraping and heat.
- **Cold therapy:** Very cold liquid is used to freeze the growth.



What else can I do?

- Have your skin checked by your doctor every year
- Keep an eye out for The 5 Warning Signs
- Avoid excess sun and wear sunscreen
- Wear a hat when outside
- Learn more about skin cancer!

Resources:

The Skin Cancer Foundation

www.skincancer.org

American Cancer Society

www.cancer.org