SKIN CANCER Info Sheet

DON'T FALL FOR THESE MYTHS ABOUT SKIN CANCER

Myth  A little tan is healthy
Fact  Any tan is evidence of skin damage from UV radiation. Damaged skin is more likely to develop skin cancer.

Myth  Indoor tanning is safer than sun tanning
Fact  Tanning beds can cause more damage because they use UVA light, which penetrates deeper. Newer, high-pressure sunlamps yield 12 times the UVA dose as sunlight.

Myth  Sun exposure clears up acne
Fact  Tanning can aggravate acne. Plus, acne treatments and antibiotics make skin more sensitive to UV rays and more susceptible to burning and damage.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun (or sunlamp) tans, burns and damages your skin. Damaged skin cells are what lead to skin cancer, the most common of all cancers. Skin cancers affect more than 2 million people each year and include:

- Basal cell carcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Melanoma

Melanoma can be deadly. If not caught early, it often spreads to other body areas, making treatment challenging and disfiguring.

RISK FACTORS FOR SKIN CANCER

- UV exposure from either sunlight or sunlamp. Your exposure accumulates over your lifetime.
- A bad sunburn. One or more blistering sunburns as a child or teen more than doubles your risk for melanoma later in life.
- Fair skin that burns easily. People with fair skin, red or blonde hair, blue or gray eyes, or many freckles are more likely to develop skin cancer.

The number of skin cancers from tanning is higher than the number of lung cancers due to smoking.

Using a tanning bed before age 35, increases melanoma risk by 75%.

The American Academy of Dermatology recommends choosing a sunscreen that states the following on the label:

- BROAD SPECTRUM
- SPF 30 OR HIGHER
- WATER RESISTANT

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**PRACTICE SUN SAFETY**

- **Ban the tan!** If you must “glow,” opt for shimmery cosmetics or lotion bronzers.
- **Apply sunscreen daily** at least 30 minutes before sun exposure and on cloudy days, too.
- **Seek shade** during the sun’s most intense hours between 11 am and 3 pm.
- **Use a broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen** with SPF of at least 30. Choose a water-resistant formula and reapply every two hours, and more frequently after swimming or sweating.
- **Cover up** with protective clothing including a broad-brimmed hat.
- **Shade your eyes** with sunglasses that filter UV rays.

**HAVE A DOCTOR CHECK ANY:**

- New or changed mole or skin growth
- Darkened, rough or scaly skin patch
- Sore that won't heal

**MEET OUR DOCTORS**

**Dermatology**
1. Gyorgy Paragh, MD, PhD, Chair
2. Bethany Lema, MD
3. Drew Kuraitis, MD, PhD
4. Susan Pei, MD
5. Shana Bradigan, NP
6. Kelly Joyce, PA-C
7. Ruth Rohl, NP
8. Megan Veneziano, PA-C

**Mohs/Dermatologic Surgery**
9. Michael Bax, MD
10. Kimberly Brady, MD
11. Jamie Bill, PA-C
12. Shirley Schierer, NP

**Dermatopathology**
13. Paul Bogner, MD
14. Alicia Goldenberg, MD
4. Susan Pei, MD

**Surgical Oncology**
15. John Kane III, MD, FACS
16. Joseph Skitzki, MD

**Medical Oncology**
17. Igor Puzanov, MD, MSCI, FACP

**You have 67% increased risk for squamous cell carcinoma after ONE indoor tanning session.**

**Yroswell**
for a w/o cancer

A website designed specifically for young people who want to get involved and help create a world without cancer.

**LEARN MORE**
yroswell.com

**RoswellPark.org/CareNetwork**