Melanoma is a potentially deadly type of skin cancer. Less common than either basal cell or squamous cell skin cancers, melanoma is more dangerous because it’s more likely to spread, making treatment challenging.

**WHAT MELANOMA LOOKS LIKE**

Only 20 to 30% of melanomas are found in existing moles while 70 to 80% arise on apparently normal skin. Look for one or more of the following ABCDE characteristics:

- **Asymmetry.** One half does not match the other half.
- **Border** is irregular. The mole’s edges are ragged, notched or blurred.
- **Color** is uneven. Mole may appear shades of black, brown, tan, red, gray, white, pink or blue.
- **Diameter** is larger than 6 millimeters (mm) or ¼ inch, about the size of a pencil eraser. Any sudden or continued increase in size is of special concern.
- **Evolving.** The mole or lesion is changing in size, shape or color.

**RISK FACTORS**

- **Fair complexion**, including skin that freckles and burns easily; blue, green or light-colored eyes; and red or blond hair
- **History of significant sun exposure** from spending a lot of time in the sun, working outdoors, sunbathing, or living (or once lived) in an area with intense sunlight.
- **History of severe, blistering sunburns**, especially as a child or teen.
- **History of indoor tanning**, even if only a few times.
- **Personal or family history** of melanoma
- **Moles** that are numerous, large, or unusual looking
- **Weakened immune system**

Indoor tanning raises the risk of melanoma more than 50%. More than 76,000 new melanoma cases are expected this year.

When melanoma is found and treated early, the cure rate is almost 100%.

Some common medications increase skin’s susceptibility to UV damage.

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WHY ROSWELL PARK?

- **Multidisciplinary care** by a team of melanoma specialists – dermatologists and surgical, medical and radiation oncologists who work together – all under one roof.
- **Mohs surgery** by experienced surgeons to delicately remove melanoma cells while preserving healthy tissue.
- **Latest treatment options** – immunotherapies, targeted drugs and clinical trials – unavailable from other providers.
- **Plastic & reconstructive surgeons** onsite to restore appearance and function of important skin structures.

PRACTICE SUN SAFETY

A healthy tan is a myth. Any tan is a sign that skin cells are damaged and this damage is what leads to skin cancers, eyelid cancers and premature skin aging and wrinkling.

- **Avoid tanning**, outdoors as well as tanning beds, booths and sunlamps.
- **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.

MEET OUR DOCTORS

**Surgical Oncology**
1. John Kane III, MD, FACS
2. Joseph Skitzki, MD

**Medical Oncology**
3. Marc Ernstoff, MD
4. Igor Puzanov, MD, MSCI, FACP

**Dermatology**
5. Oscar Colegio, MD, PhD
6. Ilene L. Rothman, MD
7. Bethany Lema, MD
8. Gyorgy Paragh, MD, PhD

**Mohs/Dermatologic Surgery**
9. Michael Bax, MD
10. Kimberly Brady, MD

**Dermatopathology**
11. Adeel Ahmad, MD, MBA, FCAP
12. Paul Bogner, MD

**Head and Neck Surgery**
13. Hassan Arshad, MD
14. Jon Chan, MD
15. Vishal Gupta, MD
16. Wesley Hicks, Jr., MD, FACS
17. Moni Kuriakose, MD, FDSRCS, FFDRCS, FRCS Ed, FRCS, BDS
18. Ryan McSpadden, MD
19. Kimberly Wooten, MD

**Radiation Oncology**
20. Dheerendra Prasad, MD, MCh, FACRO

1 in 58 people will develop melanoma at some time during their life.