



SUN SAFETY FACT SHEET

Screening & Treatment



Cover up!



Wear
UV-protective
sunglasses!



Put
on
sunscreen!

Screening

Individuals should use a hand mirror to perform a self skin examination every one to three months to check moles and other possible signs of skin cancer.

View the American Cancer Society's Skin Cancer and Self-Exam video at www.cancer.org/

Visit the "self-examination" section on The Skin Cancer Foundation's website www.skincancer.org to view pictures of what to look for. Read about the warning signs of specific cancers by clicking on the types. See a dermatologist if you suspect any problems.

Treatment

Both non-melanoma (basal cell and squamous cell) and melanoma skin cancers can be successfully treated in almost all cases if they are diagnosed and treated when the tumor is relatively thin. When melanoma is diagnosed and treated at an early stage, the five-year relative survival rate is 94%, whereas only 13% with late stage diagnosis.

Eighty to 90 percent of skin cancers are treated with surgery. The choice of skin cancer treatment depends on the type, stage, size and location of the cancer, whether or not the cancer has spread (metastasized), and your overall health. Skin cancer treatment options also include chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and/or radiation therapy.

Chemotherapy is the use of drugs to kill cancer cells. For melanoma, this is typically used when there is a high risk that the melanoma may spread, or to control advanced disease.

Immunotherapy (also called targeted or biologic therapy) helps the body's immune system find and attack cancer cells. It uses materials either made by the body or in a laboratory to boost, target, or restore immune function.

Radiation therapy is the use of high-energy X-rays or other particles to kill cancer cells. The most common type of radiation treatment is called external-beam radiation therapy, which is radiation given from a machine outside the body.

