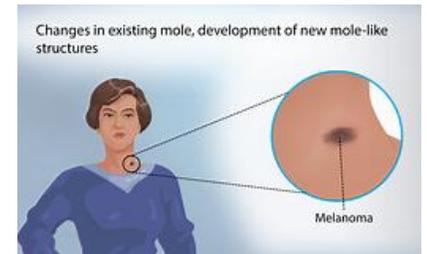


Melanoma kills an estimated 10,130 people in the US annually. If melanoma is recognized and treated early, it is almost always curable, but if it is not, the cancer can advance and spread to other parts of the body, where it becomes hard to treat and can be fatal.

Causes

- Exposure to UV radiation is the most common cause.
- Gene mutation (Faulty genes) can also increase the risk.
- Cumulative exposure the sun's radiation.
- Repeated X- ray radiation can induce changes in the genetic make-up.
- Multiple gene mutations can cause uncontrolled cell growth.



Symptoms

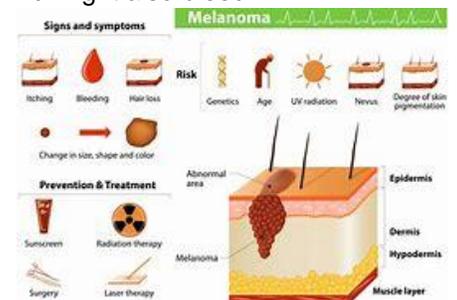
- The common symptoms is a change in an existing mole.
- The development of a new pigmented or unusual- looking growth on your skin.
- The below mentioned strategies helps discriminate the melanoma from other skin cancers.
- The ABCDE's of melanoma helps identify the disease condition:
 - Asymmetry: The mole will not be uniform, one half looks different from the other half.
 - Border irregularity: The moles will be uneven or notched.
 - Color: The moles will be of different colors and irregular patterns.
 - Diameter: The mole will be bigger in size, at least a 6mm size.
 - Evolving: The mole will be changing colors, size and texture. And might also bleed.

Melanoma Prevention Guidelines

The Skin Cancer Foundation has always recommended using a sunscreen with an SPF 30 or higher as one important part of a complete sun protection regimen. Sunscreen alone is not enough, however.

Below are some skin cancer prevention tips:

- **Seek the shade**, especially between 10 AM and 4 PM.
- **Do not burn.**
- **Avoid tanning and never use UV tanning beds.**
- **Cover up** with clothing, including a broad-brimmed hat and UV-blocking sunglasses.
- **Use a broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen** with an SPF of 30 or higher every day. For extended outdoor activity, use a water-resistant, broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 50 or higher.
- **Apply 1 ounce** (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every two hours or immediately after swimming or excessive sweating.
- **Keep newborns out of the sun.** Sunscreens should be used on babies over the age of six months.
- **Examine your skin** head-to-toe every month.
- **See your physician every year** for a professional skin exam.



Treatments

Treatment involves surgery and radiation therapy.

Medication

- Chemotherapy: Uses combination of drugs to kill cancer cells.

Medical procedures: Melanoma surgery

Therapies: Radiation therapy · Immunotherapy · Targeted Therapy