



What is melanoma?

Skin cancer that forms in certain cells of the epidermis, the outermost part of the skin. Melanoma tumors often start as small, brown or black mole-like spots but can also have no color. Melanoma accounts for 5% of all skin cancer cases.

Is it common?

In 2008, an estimated 62,480 new cases of melanoma were diagnosed and 8,420 deaths occurred in the U.S. Lifetime risk is one in 50 for whites, one in 200 for Hispanics and one in 1,000 for blacks.

What causes melanoma?

While the cause is not known, many cases can be traced to over-exposure to UV radiation (sunlight and tanning lights). Those who have fair skin, a family history of melanoma, and who have many moles are at greatest risk.



The facts about melanoma

What are the signs of melanoma?

Unlike normal moles, melanoma tumors often grow and change shape or color. But not all melanomas follow the same progression. Have your doctor check suspicious spots.

How is it detected?

Check your skin at least once a month and see a doctor for a thorough skin exam as directed. If melanoma is suspected, your doctor will order a biopsy.




How is melanoma treated?

Surgery often cures early-stage melanoma. Advanced cases may require chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiation therapy and other protocols.

How can I prevent melanoma?

Avoid over-exposure to UV light by avoiding tanning lights and wearing protective clothing, hats, sunglasses and sunscreen outdoors. Ask your health care practitioner for skin screening advice.



**For more information about melanoma,
talk to your health care practitioner.**

Source: www.cancer.org

