



SKIN INSTITUTE

Skin Cancer Assessment Information Sheet

Skin Cancer Assessments are available for individuals who detect any changes (shape, colour, size) in existing pigmented lesions or develop new lesions. Individuals should regularly check all areas of their skin, including skin not normally exposed to the sun.

Early detection

Recognition of early signs and the early seeking of medical advice are key factors in the early detection, effective treatment and survival from skin cancer, particularly melanoma.

What is Skin Cancer?

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in New Zealand. It is the result of abnormal cell growth often due to repeated exposure to the sun, especially when the result of the exposure is burning and blistering.

Main Types of Skin Cancer

- Melanoma Skin Cancer
- Non-melanoma Skin Cancer

Who can get skin cancer?

Skin cancer is most prevalent in fair skinned people, especially those with blonde, red or light brown hair and blue, green or grey eyes, who have had excessive exposure to sunlight.

Who is most at risk?

- People who have had over exposure to sunlight and repeated burning as far back as childhood.
- People who have a tendency to burn easily or those that don't tan well.
- People with many moles, a good indication would be those with more than 50 moles.
- People undergoing immuno-suppressive or photosensitive therapies.
- People with a personal history or family history of skin cancer.

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