

ABCDE'S OF MELANOMA



Asymmetry



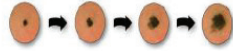
Border Irregularity



Color Variation Within



Diameter > 6 mm



*Evolving

*Most important sign! Any mole which is constantly changing should be looked at!

BASAL & SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA

Basal and Squamous Cell Carcinomas (BCC/SCC) are actually the most common types of skin cancers. They tend to receive less attention, though, because (with very little exception) they are not considered life threatening. As opposed to melanoma, which has a strong genetic component, BCC/SCC are closely tied to the total amount of sun exposure one has had in their lifetime.

The key difference in how BCC/SCC appear as compared to melanoma is that they are typically not dark. Instead, look for any spot on your skin that seems to constantly crust, scab, or otherwise just won't heal. The most common statement we hear from patients who have BCC/SCC is that they thought they had "a bug bite, scratch, or pimple that just wouldn't heal after a few months".

A third lesion, related to SCC, is called a "Keratoacanthoma". They are considered benign since they don't "spread". However, they arise very quickly and still need to be removed surgically. Most patients who come into our office with these think that they have "cyst" or a "boil" that arose suddenly, but doesn't drain, and it won't heal.



BCC



SCC



Keratoacanthoma



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