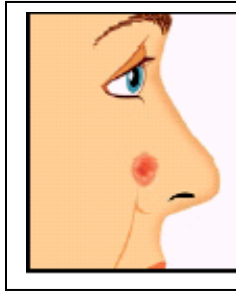


Skin cancer is a serious disease that can affect anyone. It is the most common form of cancer. If caught early, skin cancer can often be treated with success. But in some cases, it is life-threatening. To play it safe, start doing monthly skin checkups. If you see any changes in your skin, contact your doctor right away. Read on to learn more.

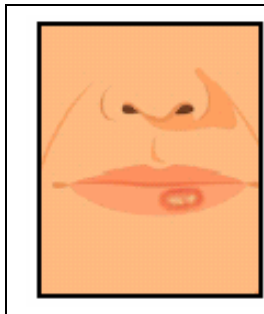
Basal cell cancer is the most common skin cancer. Lesions often appear on the face, ears, neck, trunk, or arms. Varying in color, these lesions may be waxy, pearly, scaly, or scarlike. Tiny blood vessels may be seen through the lesion's surface.



Melanoma is the most dangerous type of skin cancer. A melanoma lesion's borders are often poorly defined. It may be mixed in color. The shape and size of melanoma lesions tend to differ from one side to the other.



Squamous cell cancer is also a common type of skin cancer. Lesions often form on the face (commonly on the lips), ears, neck, hands, or arms. The lesions are firm, red bumps or flat, scaly, crusty growths.



Pagets disease is a less common type of skin cancer. Lesions appear on only one breast. Or, they may form on the armpits or genitals. This disease takes the form of a scaly, reddish rash with sharp borders. The rash looks like dry skin, is firm to the touch, and is slightly raised. This rash does not clear up.

Bowen's disease is an early stage of squamous cell cancer. The lesions are red, crusty, scaly growths with well-defined borders

A Precancerous Skin Change

Actinic keratosis is not skin cancer. It is a common, precancerous skin change. Actinic keratosis lesions tend to appear on sun-exposed parts of the body. They can be reddish-brown or skin-colored. These lesions are most often raised, scaly, and rough, like sandpaper. In some cases, actinic keratosis lesions are painful.

