

Risk factors for skin cancer:

Light skin, especially if it is "freckled"

Blue, green, or hazel eyes

Blonde or red hair, or thinning hair/baldness

Personal history of skin cancer or "pre-cancer", dysplastic nevus, atypical lesion

Family history of skin cancer or "pre-cancer"

History of sun/UV overexposure, either.....

Occupational: lifeguard, letter carrier, etc.

or

Recreational: fishing/boating/sailing, tennis, golf, tanning

Ownership of a boat or a beach house--now or in the past

History of blistering sunburn(s)

Many moles, especially if some are unusual/atypical or dysplastic

A burn scar

A history of radiation exposure or radiation therapy (eg. breast cancer)

A history of phototherapy or light therapy (eg. for psoriasis)

Immunosuppression from medications or illness, eg. CLL (leukemia), prednisone

Childhood/adolescence spent in a very sunny locale (eg. South Africa, Israel, California, Florida, Australia, Caribbean, PR, etc.)

Regular visits to a very sunny locale, eg. timeshare in Aruba

History of frequent visits to a tanning parlor

Smoking

Some genetic diseases, including BRCA2 gene mutation

Irish or Celtic heritage

A personal or family history of some cancers (eg. pancreas, breast)

Exposure to some toxins and chemicals

Signs of skin cancer:

A new "mole" after the age of 40

A change in an existing mole: color, shape, size, symptoms (itch/pain/bleeding)

An "ugly duckling" lesion--a mole that does not resemble the majority of other moles on your body

A lesion that does not heal, or heals but reappears in the same spot

Any new bump on the face, especially on the nose, after the age of 40

A scaly pink spot that never goes away

Any spot on the face that bleeds repeatedly, even if you think it is just a shaving nick

A black lesion

A pink bump

A scar-like patch

A spot that feels rough to the touch, especially if it is tender

A rapidly-growing, crater-like bump