

**1 in 5**  
 Americans  
 will develop  
**skincancer**  
 during his or her  
 lifetime.

get the  
**4 1 1**

# rpoci

## tipsheet

### Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) at Roswell Park – No Surgery and Minimal Scarring

Imagine being diagnosed with skin cancer. Then, imagine being told that your treatment will not necessarily involve surgery. Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) – an innovative cancer therapy – is used for various types of skin cancer and is done without surgical excisions. PDT uses special creams that concentrate in the tumors and then become lethal to cancer cells when they are activated by various colors of light.

PDT is particularly well-suited for cancers on the face and lower legs; areas where appearance, preservation of function and rapid healing are important. PDT can be repeated if the cancer recurs or a new cancer develops.

### Mohs Surgery – Specialized Skin Cancer Surgery

Mohs surgery is one of the most advanced and effective treatments for both common and rare skin cancers. During this procedure, surgeons precisely identify and remove the entire tumor - while leaving the surrounding healthy tissue intact. The method minimizes the chance of re-growth and lessens the potential for scarring. This surgery is generally recommended for cancers which are in areas where it is important to preserve function or appearance such as the eyelids, nose, ears, lips and fingers.

→ See your dermatologist at least once a year if you have a history of skin cancer or many atypical moles.

→ Keep newborns out of the sun.

→ Examine your skin head-to-toe every month.

### Most Common of all Cancers

Each year there are more than one million new skin cancers in the U.S., more than all other cancers combined, and the incidence rate is increasing by about 5% per year. One in five Americans and one in three Caucasians will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. The good news is that skin cancers can be easily treated. Over 90% can be cured and, if detected early, nearly 100% can be cured.

There are several different types of skin cancer; the three main types are basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. The most dangerous type is melanoma as it can spread throughout the body, making it more difficult to treat. About 60,000 melanomas will be diagnosed this year, resulting in about 8,000 deaths.



### SUGGESTIONS FROM ROSWELL...

- Seek the shade, especially between 10 am and 4 pm.
- Cover up with clothing, including a broad-brimmed hat.
- Avoid outdoor tanning and especially tanning booths.
- Use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher and protection against both UVA and UVB rays.



## Symptoms of Melanoma

The ABCDE rules can help distinguish melanomas from ordinary, harmless moles. One or more of these features may indicate a melanoma:

- Asymmetry - One half does not match the other half.
- Border Irregularity - The edges of the mole are ragged, notched or blurred.
- Color - The color is not uniform. Shades of black, brown, tan, red, grey, white, pink or blue may be present.
- Diameter - The mole is wider than 6 millimeters or 1/4" (about the size of a pencil eraser). Any sudden or continuing increase in size should be of special concern.
- Evolving - The mole or skin lesion looks different from the rest or is changing in size, shape or color.

**Each year  
there are more  
new cases of skin  
cancer than cancers  
of the breast,  
prostate,  
lung and colon  
combined.**

## Roswell Park Dermatology Team

The dermatology team is comprised of a group of highly-qualified, experienced and caring professionals dedicated to the treatment of skin cancer.



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**Roswell Park researchers developed PDT which is used around the world for the treatment of skin cancer.**