

# Skin Cancers



Disease

Melanoma

Squamous Cell  
Carcinoma  
(SCC)

Basal Cell  
Carcinoma  
(BCC)

Presentation

Pigmented lesion that changes in morphology or grows.

**ABCDEs:**

- A** - Asymmetry
- B** - Borders (uneven)
- C** - Color (uneven)
- D** - Diameter (>6mm)
- E** - Evolving

Hyperkeratotic papule, plaque, or nodule that may either appear reddish or skin colored with an overlying crust or scale.

Pearly, red or black nodule with telangiectatic vessels throughout the lesion.

Common  
Locations

**Men:** head and back body.

**Women:** lower extremities.

Face, scalp, forearms, and dorsum of hands.

Face and neck.

Pathophysiology

Malignant proliferation of melanocytes within the basal layer of the epidermis.

Malignant proliferation of keratinocytes within the outermost layer of the epidermis.

Malignant proliferation of epidermal basal keratinocytes.

Types

1. Superficial spreading
2. Nodular
3. Acral lentiginous
4. Lentigo maligna
5. Amelanotic

1. Bowen's disease
2. Cutaneous horn
3. Keratoacanthoma
4. Marjolin ulcer
5. Carcinoma cuniculatum

1. Nodular
2. Superficial
3. Morpheaform/Sclerosing
4. Pigmented
5. Basosquamous

# Skin Cancers Continued

| Disease      | Melanoma                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Risk Factors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family history</li> <li>Individuals with fair skin and light coloured eyes</li> <li>History of UV exposure</li> <li>History of sunburns</li> <li>Immunosuppression</li> <li>≥ 50 common nevi</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals with fair skin and light coloured eyes</li> <li>History of UV exposure</li> <li>History of sunburns</li> <li>Immunosuppression</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals with fair skin and light coloured eyes</li> <li>History of UV exposure</li> <li>History of sunburns</li> <li>Immunosuppression</li> <li>Long-term arsenic exposure</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                        |
| Diagnosis    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full skin exam</li> <li>Dermatoscopy</li> <li>Excisional biopsy (gold standard):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1–3 mm margins</li> <li>Breslow depth</li> <li>Histopathology</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sentinel lymph node biopsy indicated with depth of invasion ≥1mm</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dermatoscopy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SCC in situ (Bowen disease):</b> dotted/ glomerular vessels, white-yellow scales</li> <li><b>Pigmented SCC in situ:</b> structureless brown, eccentric hypopigmented areas, radial brown dots</li> <li><b>Invasive cSCC:</b> white circles, hairpin and linear-irregular vessels</li> </ul> </li> <li>Shave, punch, or excisional biopsies for histopathology</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dermatoscopy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of a pigmented network</li> <li>Arborizing vessels</li> <li>Blue-gray ovoid nests</li> <li>Ulceration</li> </ul> </li> <li>Shave, punch, or excisional biopsies for histopathology</li> </ul>                                                            |
| Treatments   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Surgical excision</b> regardless of stage</li> <li><b>Stage 0:</b> surgical excision.</li> <li><b>Stage I:</b> surgical excision +/- lymph node biopsy.</li> <li><b>Stage II:</b> surgical excision with lymph node biopsy and adjuvant immunotherapy.</li> <li><b>Stage III (resectable):</b> surgical excision with neoadjuvant or adjuvant immunotherapy.</li> <li><b>Stage III (unresectable), Stage IV:</b> Systemic immunotherapy.</li> <li>Chemotherapy may be used for distant/metastatic disease</li> <li>Radiotherapy may be used as adjuvant therapy for some cases of localized melanoma, and palliation of bone and brain metastases.</li> </ul> | <p>Depends on the risk classification of the lesion and physician preference.</p> <p>Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical excision</li> <li>Mohs micrographic surgery</li> <li>Cryotherapy</li> <li>Topical immunotherapy</li> <li>Radiation therapy</li> <li>Photodynamic therapy</li> <li>Electrodesiccation and curettage</li> </ul>                                                                                                               | <p>Depends on the risk classification of the lesion and physician preference.</p> <p>Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical excision</li> <li>Mohs micrographic surgery</li> <li>Cryotherapy</li> <li>Topical immunotherapy</li> <li>Radiation therapy</li> <li>Photodynamic therapy</li> <li>Electrodesiccation and curettage</li> </ul> |

# Skin Cancers Continued

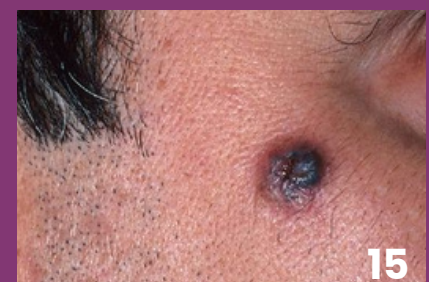
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Additional  
Images



## References

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