Can I Avoid This Condition?

Overexposure to sunlight is the chief cause of basal cell carcinoma. That’s why sun avoidance, especially during peak sunlight hours (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) is your best way to limit the risk of developing this form of skin cancer. You can check skin exposure to the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays further by wearing sunglasses, broad-brimmed hats, and protective, tightly woven clothing.

Furthermore, a broad-spectrum sunscreen should be applied liberally to all sun exposed skin (including the lips) on a daily basis, even cloudy days, and reapplied every 90 minutes during outdoor activities. Sunscreens should block both UVA and UVB rays and be rated SPF 15 or higher. Also, avoid tanning parlors and home tanning lights of any kind (self-tanning creams and sprays are OK).

Further, you should inspect your entire body for any skin changes, especially those already mentioned. And as a matter of course, you should visit your dermatologist for a skin examination.

Don’t Become a Statistic

Basal cell carcinoma is the most common form of skin cancer, affecting over one million people in the United States each year. Basal cell carcinomas generally tend to occur in older individuals, although they may occur in young adults and even children. People with one basal cell carcinoma have a greater chance of developing others, thus emphasizing the importance of regular follow-up visits to a dermatologist.

So What Treatment Can I Expect?

To confirm a diagnosis of basal cell carcinoma, your dermatologist will want to perform a biopsy. A biopsy involves removing a portion of tissue, which is then examined by a dermatopathologist under a microscope. If cancer is confirmed, treatment is required. Generally, there are several ways to treat basal cell carcinoma. Your physician’s choice of therapy will vary, depending on the tumor’s size, location, depth of penetration, and type of basal cell carcinoma encountered. The physician will also take into account the patient’s age and general health. Some of the treatment options currently available to you are: topical therapy, excisional surgery, electrosurgery, radiation therapy, and Mohs’ surgery (microscopically controlled surgery). Your dermatologist will discuss which of these treatment options is best suited to your situation.
Want To Learn More?

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Basal Cell Carcinoma

Our Credentials. And Our Mission.
Skin Pathology Associates, Inc., is a group of board-certified dermatopathologists. Our experienced staff includes a comprehensive array of disciplines in skin testing and diagnosis, supporting physicians throughout the Southeast. Further, Skin Pathology Associates operates under the guiding principle that speed is of the essence in evaluation and treatment. With this in mind, our technology and systems are built for rapid pickup, evaluation and report processing for your specimens.

While we do not treat patients directly, we provide invaluable assistance to your doctor by providing the most accurate possible diagnosis. All to provide you with the best possible outlook for recovery.