

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET



COUNTY MICHIGAN
HEALTH DIVISION

Department of Health & Human Services

oakgov.com/health

Skin Cancer

What is Skin Cancer?

Exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays, UVA and UVB rays, are the main cause of skin cancer. The (UV) radiation enters the skin and causes changes in skin cells that may lead to skin cancer. Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer among men and women in the United States.

What are the Symptoms of Skin Cancer?

- Changes in the skin such as bleeding, crusting, and/or itching
- Pain in an existing growth
- Sores that don't heal
- Changes in the size or color of existing or new growths

What are the Risk Factors for Skin Cancer?

- Fair to light skin complexion
- Family history of skin cancer
- Personal history of skin cancer
- Chronic exposure to the sun
- History of sun burns early in life
- Atypical moles
- A large number of moles
- Freckles (indicators of sun sensitivity and sun damage)

How is Skin Cancer Detected?

- Have a yearly skin exam by a qualified health care provider
- Regularly check your body for changes

OVER



How can the Risk of Skin Cancer be Reduced?

- Limit time in the sun during midday (10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.) even on cloudy days, during all seasons
- Cover up with clothing to protect your skin
- Wear a wide brimmed hat
- Use sunglasses that block UVA and UVB rays
- Use sunscreen of at least SPF (sun protection factor) 15 or higher with both UVA and UVB protection when in the sun
- Stay away from tanning booths, beds and sun lamps

How can Skin Cancer be Treated?

- Surgery- biopsy to remove all of the growth
- Radiation- use of high energy x-rays to kill cancer cells
- Chemotherapy- use of anticancer drugs to kill cancer cells

The best treatment for you, needs to be determined by you and your health care provider

For more information on Skin Cancer, call (248) 858-1406 or toll free 1 (800) 848-5533.

For additional copies, visit our website at www.oakgov.com/health or contact:

The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.