SKIN CANCER DIAGNOSIS EXPLAINED

KERATOACANTHOMA



Commonly found on the leg, neck, hands and arms, these lesions appear as a pink lump with a "plug" in the centre. They usually grow quickly over a few weeks.

SEBORRHOEIC KERATOSIS



Usually appearing from middle age onwards, these common, benign lesions feel raised to the touch and appear grey, brown or black.

DYSPLASTIC NAEVUS



These lesions usually indicate an increased risk for developing melanoma in the future, and can occur in families.

SUPERFICIAL BASAL CELL CARCINOMA



Often developing on the trunk or upper extremities, these lesions appear as a red, scaly patch. Their unclear edges can make surgery more difficult.

NODULAR BASAL CELL CARCINOMA



Usually pale, pearly or red, these lesions appear as a lump or sore that doesn't heal on the head, neck, shoulders, back or chest.

INFILTRATING BASAL CELL CARCINOMA



This is a sub-type of basal cell carcinoma associated with a higher rate of recurrence. These lesions often show unclear borders, making surgery more difficult.

SOLAR KERATOSIS



This very common lesion appears as a scaly red area and is sometimes a precursor to squamous cell carcinoma.

SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA IN SITU / BOWEN'S DISEASE



These lesions appear red, scaly and crusted, and are the earliest form of squamous cell carcinoma on the upper layer of skin.

SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA



Appearing as a raised red spot or sore that doesn't heal, this lesion occurs mostly on sun-damaged skin and the lips, especially in smokers.

LENTIGO MALIGNA / MELANOMA IN SITU



Melanoma in situ means the cancer cells are confined to the upper layer of skin and have not spread. This is the earliest and most treatable form of melanoma, and usually appears on the sun exposed skin of older people.

MALIGNANT MELANOMA



Occurring on any body part, melanomas may appear as a new spot or an existing mole that changes shape, colour or size. They can spread to other organs and wide excision is required.

Images courtesy of Dr Colin Armstrong and Dr Aimilios Lallas.

