

Risk Factors for Skin Cancer

There are some risks that you should be aware of for you and your family that you can control. It is important to remember that everyone is at risk for skin cancer regardless of race.

Risk Factors You Can Control

- Ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is the main risk factor that causes skin cancer. UV radiation comes from the sun (even on cold or cloudy days), sunlamps and tanning beds. A person's risk of skin cancer is related to a lifetime exposure to UV radiation. Skin damage happens when there is any change to the color in the skin, including tanning and burning.
- A few bad sunburns can increase a child's risk for skin cancer later in life.
- Water, snow, sand and concrete can increase the exposure from reflected rays.

Risk Factors You Cannot Control

- Personal past history of skin cancer
- Family history of skin cancer
- Fair skin
- Light-colored hair and eyes
- Men are more likely to have skin cancer than women



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