

Signs and Symptoms of Less Common Skin Cancers

Shanetia S. Avinger*

Inpatient Surgical Oncology Nurse Practitioner, Cancer Treatment Centers of America Newnan, USA

*Corresponding author: Alireza Heidari, Inpatient Surgical Oncology Nurse Practitioner, Cancer Treatment Centers of America Newnan, USA E-mail: avingerss@upenn.edu

Citation: Avinger SS. Signs and Symptoms of Less Common Skin Cancers. Arch Can Res Vol.9 No. S3: e002.

Introduction

Skin cancer is the abnormal growth of skin cells most often develops on skin exposed to the sun. But this common form of cancer can also occur on areas of your skin not ordinarily exposed to sunlight. There are three major types of skin cancer are basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. You can reduce your risk of skin cancer by limiting or avoiding exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Checking your skin for suspicious changes can help detect skin cancer at its earliest stages. Early detection of skin cancer gives you the greatest chance for successful skin cancer treatment.

Less common types of skin cancer include: Kaposi sarcoma is rare form of skin cancer develops in the skin's blood vessels and causes red or purple patches on the skin or mucous membranes. Kaposi sarcoma mainly occurs in people with weakened immune systems, such as people with AIDS, and in people taking medications that suppress their natural immunity, such as people who've undergone organ transplants. Other people with an increased risk of Kaposi sarcoma include young men living in Africa or older men of Italian or Eastern European Jewish heritage.

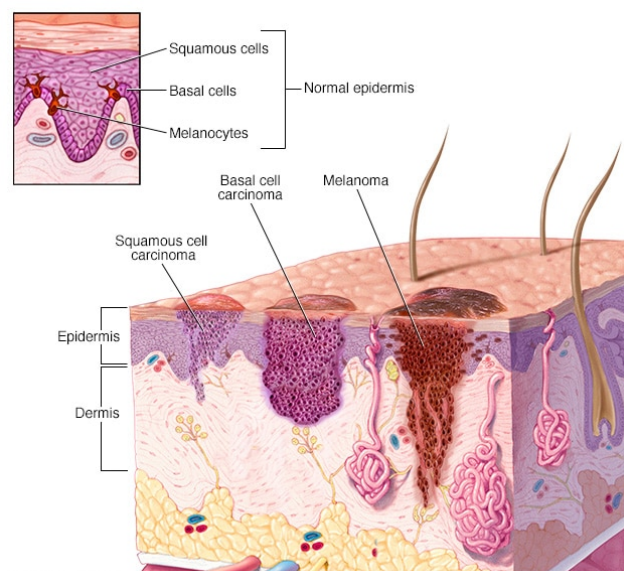
Merkel cell carcinoma Merkel cell carcinoma causes firm, shiny nodules that occur on or just beneath the skin and in hair follicles. Merkel cell carcinoma is most often found on the head, neck and trunk. Sebaceous gland carcinoma is uncommon and aggressive cancer originates in the oil glands in the skin. Sebaceous gland carcinomas which usually appear as hard, painless nodules — can develop anywhere, but most occur on the eyelid, where they're frequently mistaken for other eyelid problems.

Cells involved in skin cancer

Skin cancer begins in your skin's top layer is the epidermis. The epidermis is a thin layer that provides a protective cover of skin cells that your body continually sheds. The epidermis

contains three main types of cells: Squamous cells lie just below the outer surface and function as the skin's inner lining. Basal cells, which produce new skin cells, sit beneath the squamous cells. Melanocytes which produce melanin, the pigment that gives skin its normal color are located in the lower part of your epidermis. Melanocytes produce more melanin when you're in the sun to help protect the deeper layers of your skin. Where your skin cancer begins determines its type and your treatment options.

Much of the damage to DNA in skin cells results from ultraviolet (UV) radiation found in sunlight and in the lights used in tanning beds. But sun exposure doesn't explain skin cancers that develop on skin not ordinarily exposed to sunlight. This indicates that other factors may contribute to your risk of skin cancer, such as being exposed to toxic substances or having a condition that weakens your immune system. (Figure 1)



© MAYO FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Figure 1: Cells Involved in Skin Cancer