Melanoma

Melanoma is a form of skin cancer characterized by the uncontrolled growth of pigment-producing cells (melanocytes) located in the skin.

Five Stages of Melanoma

- **Stage 0**: Melanoma in situ, or an abnormality on the epidermal region of the skin
- **Stage 1 & 2**: Early stage, localized disease
- **Stage 3**: Cancer that has spread to the lymph nodes within the region of the cancer or to the lymph vessels
- **Stage 4**: Cancer that has spread to other major organs in the body

**Survival Rates & Risk Factors**

**Incidence of melanoma** has been increasing for at least 30 years.

- Melanoma represents 1.7% of the estimated 18.1 million new cancer cases worldwide.
- An estimated 287,700 new melanoma cases are diagnosed globally each year.

**Median Age**

- 64 at diagnosis
- 70 at death

**Survival Rates by Stage**

- Stage I: 92-97%
- Stage II: 53-81%
- Stage III: 40-78%
- Stage IV: 15-20%

**Family History**

Around 10% of all people with melanoma have a family history of the disease.

**UV Ray Exposure**

Melanoma is more than 20 times more common in whites than in African Americans.

**Risk Factors**

There are a number of factors that may put someone at a higher risk for melanoma.

**Several Atypical Moles**

More than 50 common moles.

**Treatment Options**

For patients with melanoma, survival rates vary greatly depending on the stage of disease. Following diagnosis, options may include one or more approaches, including:

- Immunotherapy
- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Targeted Drug Therapy