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

Staging & Survival Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Survival Rate (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1&amp;2</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Localized</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
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<td>Distant</td>
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<td>Unstaged</td>
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Incidence of melanoma has been increasing for at least 30 years.

Melanoma represents 1.7% of the estimated 19 million new cancer cases worldwide.

An estimated 324,600 new melanoma cases are diagnosed globally each year.

Median Age

65 at diagnosis

71 at death

Survival Rates & Risk Factors

Staging & Survival Rates

Five-year relative survival rates vary depending on the stage and type of melanoma:

- Localized: 99%
- Regional: 68%
- Distant: 30%
- Unstaged: 88%

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

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