

# Melanoma

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



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

Source: American Academy of Dermatology Association



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

Source: GLOBOCAN 2022

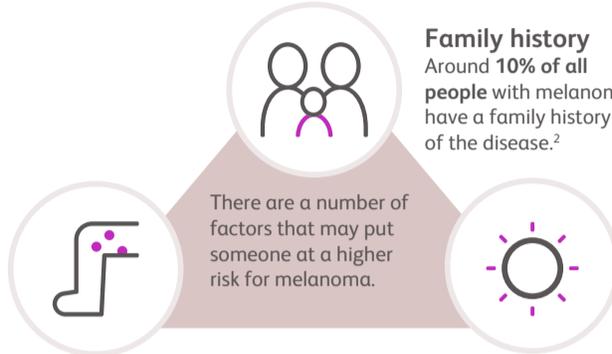


An estimated **331,722** new melanoma cases are diagnosed globally each year

Source: American Society of Clinical Oncology

## Risk factors and screening

Periodic skin examinations, both done at home and at an annual dermatologist visit, could be key to diagnosing skin cancer. If an area of concern is found on the skin, it is always best to consult a dermatologist as soon as possible.



**Family history**  
Around **10%** of all people with melanoma have a family history of the disease.<sup>2</sup>

**Several atypical moles**  
The presence of **more than 50** common moles indicates an increased risk of melanoma.<sup>1</sup>

**UV ray exposure**  
Melanoma is more than **20 times more common** in White people than in Black people.<sup>3</sup>

Source: 1. Mayo Clinic 2022 2. American Cancer Society 2019 3. American Cancer Society 2023

## Median age

**65**  
at diagnosis

Source: American Cancer Society 2023

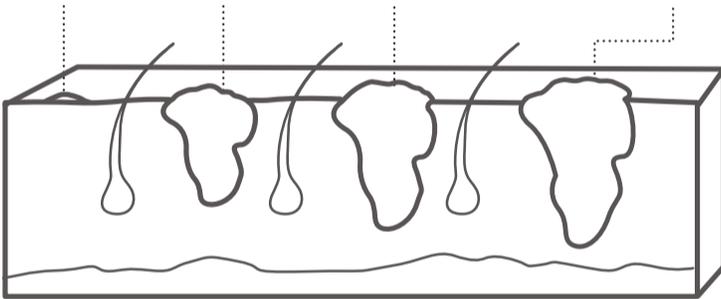
**72**  
at death

Source: SEER U.S. 2016-2020

## Diagnosis and staging

In the unfortunate event that an individual has skin cancer, a dermatologist will present a diagnosis of melanoma in one of the following stages:

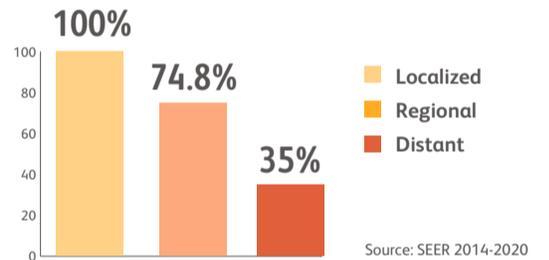
- Stage 0**  
Melanoma in situ, or an abnormality on the epidermal region of the skin
- Stage 1 and 2**  
Early stage, localized disease
- Stage 3**  
Cancer that has spread to the lymph nodes within the region of the cancer or to the lymph vessels
- Stage 4**  
Cancer that has spread to other major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



Source: American Society of Clinical Oncology

## Survival rates and recurrence

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



Within five years after surgery, **one third** of patients with stage IIB and **one half** of patients with stage IIC melanoma see their cancer return

Source: American Society of Clinical Oncology

## Potential benefits of early intervention

There are notable advantages of earlier diagnosis and treatment of melanoma. These may include:



Improved survival outcomes



Increased quality of life



Lower cost of treatment

Early detection is the most important predictor of melanoma survival and may also be associated with improved quality of life for patients. Surgery to remove early melanoma has proven to be curative for many patients over the course of 150 years. However, survival rates are roughly halved if regional lymph nodes are involved, emphasizing the importance of early intervention.

## Treatment options

Thanks to years' worth of research and development, several treatment options for melanoma exist. The recommended treatment will depend upon the stage that the cancer is diagnosed in, among other factors, and may include:



Immunotherapy



Surgery



Chemotherapy



Radiation therapy



Targeted drug therapy