MELANOMA IS A FORM OF SKIN CANCER CHARACTERIZED BY THE UNCONTROLLED GROWTH OF PIGMENT-PRODUCING CELLS (MELANOCYTES) LOCATED IN THE SKIN.

THERE ARE FOUR 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.

MEDIAN AGE

- **64** at diagnosis
- **70** at death

5-YEAR SURVIVAL RATES

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

Source: American Cancer Society 2017

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 MEAN YOU ARE AT A HIGHER RISK FOR MELANOMA, INCLUDING:

- SEVERAL ATYPICAL MOLES
- MORE THAN 50 COMMON MOLES

TREATMENT APPROACHES

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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