

Important facts about skin cancer

There are two types of skin cancer—melanoma and non-melanoma. Non-melanoma skin cancer is more common and develops slowly in the upper layers of skin. Melanoma, the more aggressive type, affects cells that give skin its color.



Skin cancers can affect anyone, no matter their ethnicity or skin color

Although the risk of skin cancer is lower for people of color, when found, it tends to be at a more advanced stage.

Skin cancer can be a big deal. Checking for it isn't.

The rate of skin cancer is rising in Canada. And it can affect people of any race, sex or age.

The survival rate of melanoma is high if it is detected early and unlike many cancers, melanoma is often clearly visible on the skin.



When detected early
Survival rates can be high

Skin cancer: what to look for

- New or changing moles
- · A clear, red, brown, or black growth that gets larger
- Any growth that bleeds or itches
- Open sores, scabs, or pimples that don't go away

ABCDEs of melanoma



SYMMETRY (uneven shape)
Two sides don't match



ORDER (ragged edges)
Borders are uneven



OLOR

Two or more colors



IAMETER (size)
Larger than 1/4 inch

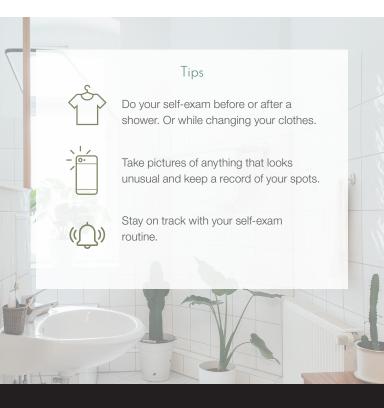


VOLVING (changing)
 Changing in size, shape, color, or symptoms

Self-exam preparation and tips

What you will need:

- A full-length mirror and hand mirror
- A brightly lit room
- A smartphone or paper to take notes
- · A blow dryer or a comb if you need help parting your hair



It's a full body check. Simple as that.

Pick a convenient time for your monthly check. It shouldn't take more than about 10 minutes

- 1 Check your scalp.
- **2** Look at your nose, lips, cheeks, and ears with a mirror.
- **3** Look at your upper back. You'll need two mirrors.
- **4** Focus on your neck, chest, and torso with two mirrors.
- **5** Give your hands, fingers, forearms, upper arms, and armpits a good scan.
- 6 Check your lower back, buttocks, and genital area.
- 7 Closely look at your legs and feet. Don't forget to look between your toes and the soles of your feet.

If something doesn't look right, please talk to your doctor.















Overexposure to the sun is bad news

The sun exposes you to two types of UV rays: UVB and UVA. Both can play a part in skin cancer formation, premature aging, and other forms of skin damage.

Look for broad spectrum sunscreens that offer both UVB and UVA protection. For the best protection against sunburn, use SPF 30 or higher.





Sun safe checklist

- The best sunscreen is the one you will use every day.
 Keep it where you'll remember to apply regularly, like near your toothbrush or keys.
- Apply a generous amount of your broad spectrum SPF 30 (or higher) sunscreen every day. Reapply every 2 hours or more frequently, especially after exercise.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, long sleeves, and pants for additional protection.



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- Melanoma Network of Canada Sun Safety Council Skin Cancer Facts https://www.melanomanetwork.ca/sunsafetycouncil/skincancerfacts/
- 2. Melanoma Network of Canada Melanoma Stats & Facts https://www.melanomanetwork.ca/stats-and-facts/

*Neutrogena® research, 2021.