What You Should Know About SKIN CANCER

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. Generally defined as the abnormal growth of cells in the skin tissues and/or cells, it occurs in the form of skin burns. Although skin cancer is generally considered to be a cancer that is curable, it can be very dangerous if not treated properly and in time. According to the American Cancer Society, skin cancer is classified into three types: melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, and squamous cell carcinoma. The most common type is basal cell carcinoma because it occurs in over 99% of all skin cancers. Although skin cancer can occur at any age, it is most commonly found in those over 60 years old.

SKIN EXAMS

Family History

A strong family history of skin cancer can be a risk factor for developing skin cancer. The risk is about 20% more common in those who have family members with skin cancer.

RISK FACTORS

ULTRAVIOLET (UV) LIGHT EXPOSURE

People who live in areas where the sun is bright and stay outdoors for hours can increase their risk of skin cancer. The effects of low exposure may not appear until later in life.

Especially during high-risk hours of 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PREVENTION

LEAD EXPOSURE TO UV RAYS

Skin Cancer is the most common cancer in the United States, with an estimated 10% of people developing skin cancer at some point in their lifespan. Skin cancer is generally defined as the abnormal growth of skin cells. This can be caused by various factors, including sun exposure, age, and family history.

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STAGE OF THE CANCER

Treatment options for skin cancer may include immunotherapy, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, surgery, and phototherapy. Immunotherapy is a treatment that prompts a person’s immune system to attack cancer cells. It does this by either stimulating the immune system to attack cancer cells or by providing the immune system with antibodies and other weapons it needs to fight cancer. Immunotherapy is generally used for metastatic skin cancer, but it may also be used for non-metastatic skin cancer.

CHEMOTHERAPY

Chemotherapy uses anti-cancer drugs to slow or stop the growth of rapidly dividing cancer cells in the body. These drugs may be given in combination with other treatments, such as surgery or radiation therapy. The common side effects of chemotherapy are nausea, vomiting, hair loss, and fatigue.

TARGETED THERAPY

Targeted therapy blocks the growth and spread of cancer by targeting specific molecular changes that occur in cancer cells. This treatment can be given in combination with other treatments, such as surgery or radiation therapy. The common side effects of targeted therapy are skin rash, fatigue, and hair loss.

RADIATION THERAPY

Radiation therapy delivers a high dose of radiation to the cancer cells to destroy them. It is often used after surgery to prevent the recurrence of cancer. The common side effects of radiation therapy are skin irritation, hair loss, and fatigue.

SURGERY

Surgery involves the removal of the cancerous tissue. This may be done by a method called wide excision, which involves removing a margin of normal tissue around the cancer. The common side effects of surgery are pain, swelling, and scarring.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Phototherapy uses light to kill cancer cells. This is generally used as a treatment for psoriasis and other skin diseases. The common side effects of phototherapy are skin irritation, itching, and scarring.

IMMUNOTHERAPY

Immunotherapy is a treatment that helps the immune system recognize and fight cancer cells. This can be done by stimulating the immune system or by providing it with antibodies and other weapons it needs to fight cancer. Immunotherapy is generally used for metastatic skin cancer, but it may also be used for non-metastatic skin cancer.

SOURCES

Screening

SKIN CANCER

Melanoma is a type of skin cancer that can spread to other areas of the body if not treated properly and in time. The most common types of melanoma are superficial spreading melanoma, nodular melanoma, and acral lentiginous melanoma. Melanoma is generally defined as the abnormal growth of skin cells, which can occur in any part of the body. The most common symptom of melanoma is a mole or skin lesion that changes in size, shape, or color. Melanoma is generally diagnosed and treated by a dermatologist.

Other Warning Signs

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- Change in the color of a mole
- Change in the size or shape of a mole
- Change in the feel of a mole
- New mole or skin lesion

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