

**CURRENT GUIDELINES FOR  
SCREENING AND DETECTING  
SKIN CANCERS IN PRIMARY CARE  
SETTINGS:  
AN EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH**

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## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

“Skin Cancer is the most common cancer in the United States” (AAD).



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to:

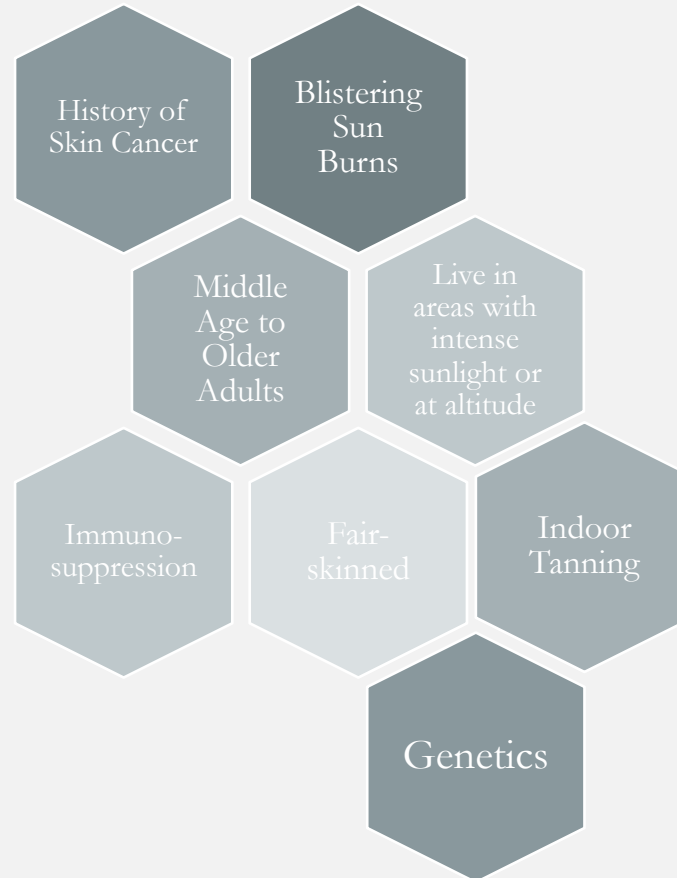
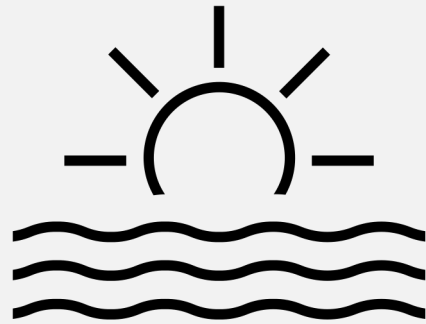
- Apply evidence-based practice guidelines to distinguish the key features associated with the 3 most prevalent skin cancers (basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, melanoma)
- Provide timely and age-appropriate recommendations to patients pertaining to treatment and referrals

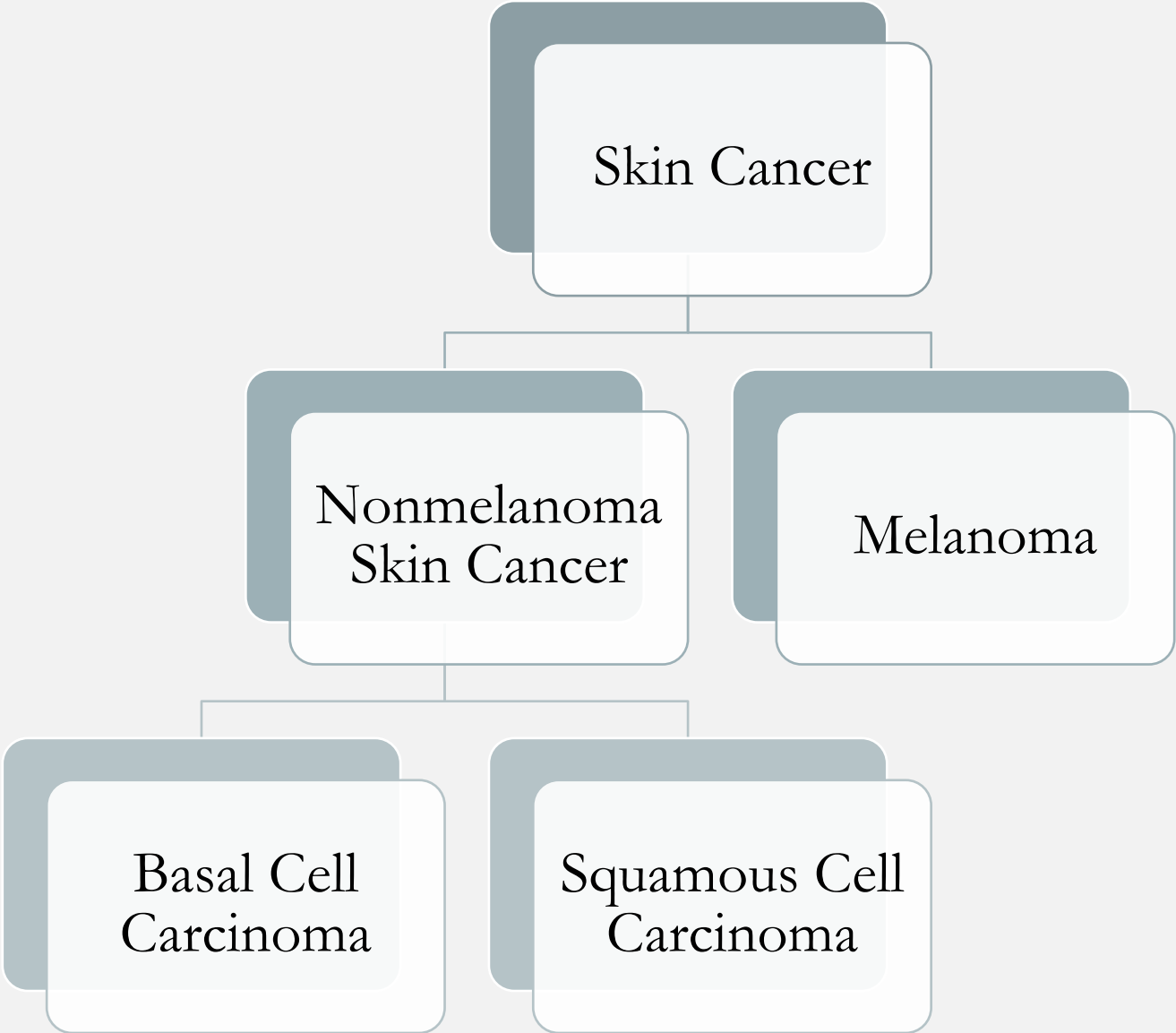


## SKIN CANCER PREVENTION

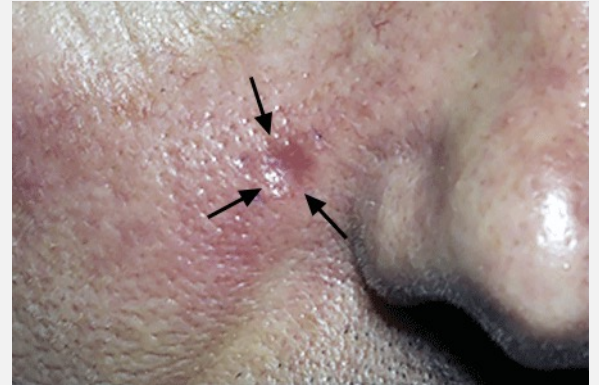
- **Patient education is key**
- Seek shade, UV index is highest from 10 am to 2 pm
- Utilize sun protective clothing
- Avoid tanning beds, consider self tanning products
- Broad spectrum sunscreen, SPF 30 or higher
- Encourage regular self skin exams
- Reapply sunscreen every 2 hours or after swimming or sweating
- Caution around snow, sand and water

# WHO IS AT RISK?





# BASAL CELL CARCINOMA



# CLINICAL PRESENTATION

## Where is it found on the body?

- **Sun exposed areas** – head, neck, back
- Rarely seen on dorsum of hands or on lower extremities
- BCC can occur in areas where there is no to little history of sun exposure (20% of cases)
  - Example: behind the ears, areas of chronic trauma or chemical exposure.



# CLINICAL PRESENTATION



## Nodulocystic BCC

- Round growth
- Color: red, pink, flesh colored
- Pearly, translucent appearance
- Over time the center can ulcerate
- Rolled edges
- Telangiectasias within the border
- Friable, non-healing
- Appears as a sore, pimple or wound

## CLINICAL PRESENTATION



### Pigmented BCC

- Mottled, blue or brown color
- Can be misdiagnosed as a Seborrheic Keratosis or Melanoma

# CLINICAL PRESENTATION



## Superficial BCC

- Pink to Red Color
- Well-defined macules or plaques
- Scaly, Rough
- Seen more on the trunk and extremities
- Can be sensitive or bleed easily
- Can have delayed diagnosis due to resembling eczema, psoriasis and other common skin findings

## CLINICAL PRESENTATION



### Morpheaform BCC

- Only comprise 1% of BCCs
- Sclerotic plaques
- Atrophic, waxy white surface
- Resembles a scar

# SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA



# CLINICAL PRESENTATION

## Where is it found on the body?

- **Sun exposed areas** – face, hands, lips, areas of thinning hair, anterior lower extremities
- Areas of previous injury (scars, burns)
- Nails
- Can develop in areas with little to no sun exposure
  - Mouth
  - Anus
  - Genitals

## SCC CLINICAL PRESENTATION



- Rough-feeling area, often red and scaly
- Raised round growth with/without raised borders
- Sore that won't heal or recurs
- Brown spot that resembles an age spot
- Cutaneous Horn
- Wart-like
- Sore developing in a previous scar
- Complaints of itching, tenderness, soreness

## CLINICAL PRESENTATION: *SCC IN SITU*



### Squamous Cell Carcinoma *in situ*

- Atypia is seen throughout the entire epidermis, but has not invaded the dermis
- Most common in sun exposed areas
- Erythematous patch or plaque
- Can be pigmented
- Can be tender, bleed, ulcerate
- 3-5% potential risk to progress to invasive SCC if left untreated
- Can be misdiagnosed as dermatitis



## CLINICAL PRESENTATION SCC *IN SITU* SUBTYPES



### Bowen's Disease

- SCCis, Found in hair bearing epithelium
- Often in areas with limited sun exposure
- Can be misdiagnosed as dermatitis

### Bowenoid Papulomatosis

- SCCis, Thought to be due to HPV
- Often occur in the genitals
- Well demarcated red papules or plaques that can ooze or crust

### Erythroplasia of Queyrat

- SCCis, develops on the glans and prepuce of penis
- Often in uncircumcised, older men
- Solitary, shiny, red, well-defined plaque that can ulcerate. Often is not tender

## CLINICAL PRESENTATION: KERATOACANTHOMA



### Keratoacanthoma

- Low-grade SCC variant
- Sun exposed areas
- Firm, dome shaped, flesh to red colored papule
- May have central crusting or horn
- Can be tender
- Fast growing, can grow 1-2 cm within weeks
- Resembles a “volcano”

## CLINICAL PRESENTATION: VERRUCOUS CARCINOMA



### Verrucous Carcinoma

- Low-grade SCC variant
- Due to HPV
- Found in the genitals, oral area, soles of foot, hands, areas of chronic irritation
- Can be misdiagnosed as a plantar wart

## CLINICAL PRESENTATION: INVASIVE SCC



### Invasive SCC

- Sun exposed areas
- Can be smooth or hyperkeratotic
- May develop cutaneous horn
- Can present as a papule, plaque, nodule
- Can indurate and ulcerate over time
- Can bleed, be tender or painful

## DIAGNOSIS & NEXT STEPS

Referral

Biopsy

Staging

Treatment  
Plan

Management

# RISK ASSESSMENT & TREATMENT: NMSC

- **Low Risk vs. High Risk?**

- Location
- Size/Depth
- Histology
- History



- **Low Risk**

- Surgical (Excision, Electrodesiccation & Curretage)
- Nonsurgical (Topical Imiquimod, Topical 5-FU, XRT)

- **High Risk**

- MOHs, excision, XRT, Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor, Hedgehog Pathway Inhibitors

# CUTANEOUS MELANOMA



## RISK FACTORS

- Intense or prolonged sun exposure
- Hx of Skin Cancer
- Tanning bed use
- Immunosuppressed
- Blistering sunburns
- Fair skin, light colored eyes, red or blonde hair, tendency to burn, inability to tan
- Hx Breast or Thyroid Cancer
- Family History of Melanoma
- Genetic Mutations (CDKN2A, BRAF, NRAS, MC1R, and BRCA2)
- Age over 50 years old
- Certain Moles
  - Over 50 moles
  - Mole that covers large surface area (ex. Congenital nevus)
  - 1 or more atypical moles



# ABCDES & EFGS OF MELANOMA



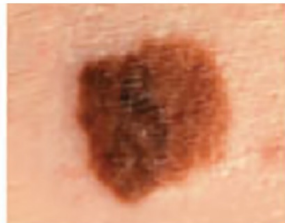
A is for Asymmetry



B is for Border



C is for Color



D is for Diameter or Dark



E is for Evolving (Before)



E is for Evolving (After)

## Nodular melanoma with EFG characteristics



Nodular melanoma

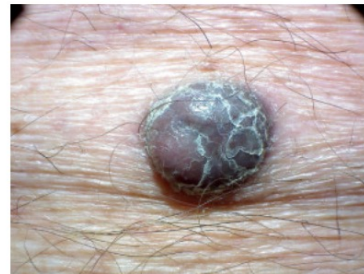


Nodular melanoma



Nodular melanoma

## Melanomas without ABCDs



Nodular melanoma

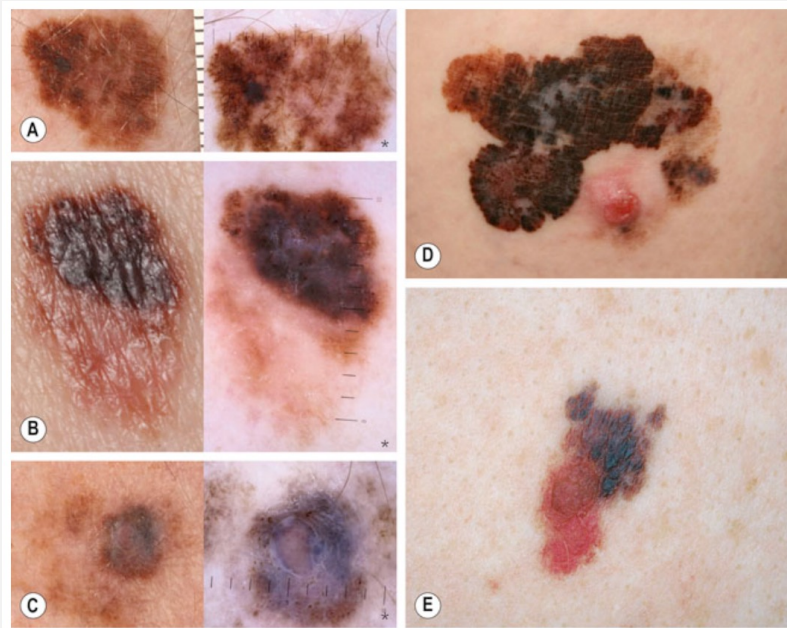


Amelanotic melanoma



Small melanoma

# CLINICAL PRESENTATION

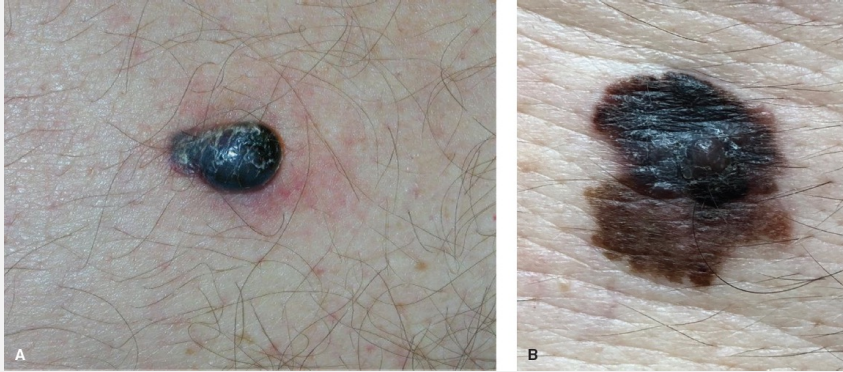


## Superficial Spreading Melanoma

- Most common type of Melanoma
- Think ABCDEs
- Flat or slightly raised
- Often with multiple colors (brown, black, pink, blue)
- Most commonly diagnosed in the fourth to fifth decade and on the trunk
- Often preceded by a pre-existing nevus
- Slow-growing

# CLINICAL PRESENTATION

## Nodular Melanoma



- Most aggressive type of Melanoma
- Found mostly on back or extremities
- Fast growing
- Dark brown to black papule, but can be pink or amelanotic
- Can ulcerate and become friable
- Can be mistaken for BCC or SCC
- More often *de novo*
- Usually diagnosed at an advanced stage

# CLINICAL PRESENTATION



## Lentigo Maligna

- Sun exposed areas (temples, cheeks, nose)
- Diagnosed most often 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> decade
- Irregular, mottled macules
- Brown color with variegated pigment
- Often hidden within sun damaged skin and solar lentigines
- Can be misdiagnosed as a solar lentigo

# CLINICAL PRESENTATION



## Acral Melanoma

- Pigmented macules
- Most commonly found on the plantar aspect of the sole. Also seen on palms and subungual area
- Accounts for 20% of melanomas in those with skin of color compared to 2% of Caucasians
- Can be misdiagnosed as a hematoma
- Poor 5-year survival rate (25% to 51%) due to delayed diagnosis or misdiagnosis
- Subungual melanomas present as longitudinal pigmentation or diffuse nail discoloration.
- Watch for the Hutchinson sign (pigment extends to the proximal nail fold)

# CLINICAL PRESENTATION



## Amelanotic Melanoma

- Presents as pink or flesh colored macules, papules, plaques
- Does not fall under the ABCDEs
- Think Ugly Duckling Sign
- Listen to patient's concerns
- Mimics benign lesions
- High level of misdiagnosis

## DIAGNOSIS & NEXT STEPS

Referral

Biopsy

Staging

Treatment  
Plan

Management

# STAGING & TREATMENT: MELANOMA

- **Staging**

- Tumor Thickness & Ulceration (Breslow Depth)
- Node Involvement
- Metastasis



+/- Referral

- **Treatment**

- Re-excision
- Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy
- Radiation
- Systemic Therapies -  
Chemotherapy



## CLINICAL PEARLS - MELANOMA

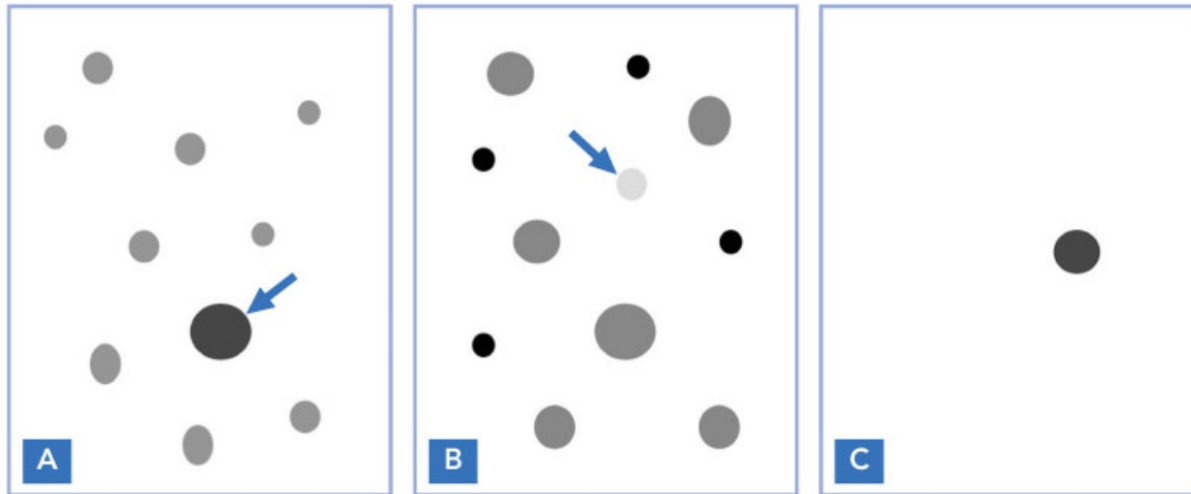


Figure 1. Three Examples of an Ugly Duckling

- “Five Foot View”
- Ugly Duckling Sign
- ABCDEs and EFGs
- Listen to the patient even if the lesion presents with benign characteristics
- Total Body Skin Exams
- Biopsy the Entire Lesion
- Refer early and often if there is any suspicion – early diagnosis is key to survival!



KEY TAKEAWAYS  
&  
CONSIDERATIONS

- Patient education is key for skin cancer prevention and detection
- If there is any doubt/concern/suspicion, biopsy (when appropriate) or promptly refer to dermatology
- Anyone is at risk for skin cancer regardless of skin color or age
- There are multiple other subtypes of the 3 most common skin cancers as well as other skin cancers and neoplasms of the skin
- Up-to-date guidelines regarding diagnosis and treatment recommendations for BCC, SCC and Melanoma should guide treatment plans and management



QUESTIONS

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