MELANOMA
A POTENTIAL KILLER

American Skin Association
americanskin.org
The rate of melanoma has been rising for the past 30 years. The number of cases of melanoma worldwide is increasing faster than any other malignancy. It now ranks as the fifth most common cancer in men and sixth in women.

Each hour, someone dies from melanoma. Although it is most commonly found in males over age 50, it can occur at any age. About one in 50 people in the United States will develop melanoma in their lifetime.

If detected early, melanoma is easily treated, and the 5 year cure rate is over 99%. Both the clinical and histopathologic diagnosis can be extremely difficult.

American Skin Association (ASA) is dedicated to reversing this melanoma epidemic by providing grants to fund research projects. Since its inception, we have awarded money to over 300 investigators ranging from senior medical researchers to medical students.

Unfortunately, federal research money is drying up. The economics of medicine are forcing many who might have entered research to become clinicians. Providing seed money and encouragement to young investigators can help reverse this trend.

I firmly believe in the goals of ASA, and I can assure you any contribution to our organization will be well spent. It might even save your life!

Sincerely,

David A. Norris, M.D.
President, American Skin Association
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People with a large number of atypical moles are at significantly increased risk for developing melanoma

Melanoma of the leg which had already metastasized when first discovered
**MELANOMA FACTS**

- In 2021, 106,110 new melanomas will be diagnosed (about 62,260 in men and 43,850 in women)
- About 7,180 people are expected to die of melanoma (about 4,600 men and 2,580 women)
- The majority of those diagnosed are Caucasian men over age 50, but it can occur at any age
- Melanoma is 20 times more common in Caucasians than African-Americans
- Melanoma in African-Americans and Asians usually occurs in non-exposed skin with less pigment — especially the palms, soles, and nail-beds
- Melanoma is the fifth most common cancer in both males and females
- Only breast cancer outranks melanoma in women under age 39
- Melanoma is one of the most common cancers in adults under age 30
- Melanoma can develop on any part of the body including non-sun exposed areas
- The majority of cases, but not all, are due to gene mutation
- Most melanomas arise on normal skin and not in pre-existing moles
- Women under age 40 are 8 times more likely to develop melanoma now than in 1970, and men are 4 times more likely
- Indoor tanning is a significant contributing factor to the development of melanoma
- The lifetime risk in Caucasians is 2.6%, 0.1% in African Americans, and 0.6% in Hispanics

**RISK FACTORS**

- Light skin type (easier tendency to burn)
- Ultraviolet light exposure / Indoor tanning
- One or more childhood blistering sunburns raises the risk significantly
- Large number of irregular moles
- Family history of melanoma
- 8–10 fold increased risk for melanoma survivors to develop a second atypical nevus or melanoma
- Incidence increases with age — the average age of diagnosis is 65 years old
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Superficial melanoma of the face in a sun damaged man

Superficial melanoma of the back discovered early

(Inset) Same melanoma as seen under magnification
AMERICAN SKIN ASSOCIATION
has awarded more than 300 grants
to scientists and with its affiliates
has committed over $50 million to
advance dermatological research. It
also provides free instruction in sun safety
and skin health to students, through
award-winning, national school programs
such as Sun Protection Outreach Teaching
by Students (SPOTS).

TO SUPPORT RESEARCH
KINDLY SEND DONATIONS TO:
American Skin Association
240 S. Pineapple Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

ASA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization
State of Florida Registration #CH62954

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Your contribution will be designated for
MELANOMA

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