Skin Deep: Recognizing Skin Cancer Symptoms

by NLO-ADMIN

Sun Safety

Skin cancer can appear in many ways, so it’s important to know the signs. To help, there's Erivedge (vemurafenib), a medication used to treat Advanced Basal Cell Carcinoma, a type of skin cancer.

Signs of Skin Cancer

1. Unusual Moles

Look for moles that change shape, size or color. Moles that are larger than a pencil eraser or have irregular edges can be a warning sign.

2. New Growths

If you notice new growths on your skin that are different from your other moles or spots, it could be a sign of skin cancer.

3. Scaly Patches

Watch for scaly or rough patches of skin that do not heal. These can be red, brown or gray and may itch or bleed.

4. Color Changes

Skin that changes color, especially if it becomes darker or has different colors in one area, may be a sign of skin cancer.

5. Sores that Don’t Heal

Sores on your skin that do not heal after a few weeks should be checked by a doctor.

6. Itching or Pain

If you have a mole or spot that itches, hurts or feels tender, it is important to get it checked out.

7. Changes in Existing Moles

Moles that change over time—becoming larger, changing color or developing new features—should be examined by a doctor.

8. Shiny or Pearly Nodules

Some skin cancers appear as shiny, small or pearly bumps. These can be skin-colored, pink or red.

9. Dark Lesions

Dark spots that appear on areas of the skin that are not usually exposed to the sun, like the palms of your hands or soles of your feet, can also be a sign of skin cancer.

10. Bleeding or Oozing

If a mole or spot begins to bleed or ooze fluid, it is a sign that you should see a doctor right away.

Treatments for Skin Cancer

If skin cancer is found, there are several treatment options:

- **Surgery:** Removing the cancerous skin and some surrounding tissue is a common treatment.
- **Radiation therapy:** This treatment uses high-energy rays to kill cancer cells.
- **Chemotherapy:** Some skin cancers may be treated with medicines that kill cancer cells.
- **Immunotherapy:** This treatment helps your immune system fight the cancer.

Erivedge

Erivedge (vismodegib) is a medication used to treat adults with advanced basal cell carcinoma, a type of skin cancer that has spread or cannot be treated with surgery or radiation. It works by blocking a specific pathway in cancer cells, preventing them from growing and spreading.

Protect Your Skin

Knowing the signs of skin cancer can help you catch it early. If you notice any of these signs, talk to a doctor right away. Early treatment can make a big difference in your health. Protect your skin by wearing sunscreen, avoiding tanning beds and having regular skin checks with your doctor.

Read on to learn about the signs of lupus.