



Canadian Dermatology Association 2011 Skin Cancer Fact Sheet

- Skin cancer is one of a small number of cancers that is **highly preventable** through simple measures such as limiting sun exposure, seeking shade, wearing hats and clothing, and using an SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum sunscreen.
- More than 74,000 new cases of non-melanoma skin cancers (basal and squamous) are expected during 2011.¹
- Approximately 5,500 Canadians will be diagnosed with melanoma in 2011 and 950 will die of it.¹
- Skin cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in Canadians. It is also the most common cancer in the world.
- Basal cell and squamous cell skin cancer are the two most prevalent forms of this disease. Skin cancers, including melanoma, are highly curable if found and treated early.
- While less common, melanoma is the most dangerous type of skin cancer since it can spread in the body and cause death.
- Canadians born in the 1990's have two to three times higher lifetime risk of getting skin cancer compared to those born in the 1960's. For those born in the 1990's, there is a **1 in 6 lifetime risk** of having skin cancer. For those born in the 1960's, there is a 1 in 20 lifetime risk.³
- The main cause of skin cancer is too much UV radiation.
- Skin cancer is one of a small number of cancers that can be prevented through simple measures such as limiting sun exposure, seeking shade, wearing hats and clothing, and using an SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum sunscreen.
- There is a group of people at particularly high risk for skin cancer because of their skin type and amount of sun exposure. This includes those with: fair skin and blond or red hair; skin that burns and freckles easily rather than tans; a lot of sun exposure through outdoor work or recreation; many moles (> 50) or some large and unusual moles; a history of severe sunburns.
- The estimated cost of treating skin cancer is predicted to almost double from \$532 million in 2004 to \$921 million in 2031 (H. Krueger & Associates Inc. The Economic Burden of Skin Cancer in Canada: Current and Projected. 2010. Prepared for the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer).

Please visit www.dermatology.ca for more information on the prevention and early detection of skin cancer.

1 Canadian Cancer Statistics 2011

2 Demers Alain A. et al. Trends of nonmelanoma skin cancer from 1960 through 2000 in a Canadian population, Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, August 2005, Vol 53, Number 2, 320-328