



## Canadian Dermatology Association 2012 Skin Cancer Fact Sheet

- More than 81,300 new cases of non-melanoma skin cancers (basal and squamous) are expected during 2012.<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately 5,800 Canadians will be diagnosed with melanoma in 2012 and 970 will die of it.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.<sup>2</sup>
- 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.<sup>3</sup>

Please visit [www.dermatology.ca](http://www.dermatology.ca) for more information on the prevention and early detection of skin cancer.

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Cancer Statistics 2012

<sup>2</sup> Demers, Alain A. et al. Trends of non-melanoma skin cancer from 1960 through 2000 in a Canadian population, *Journal of the Academy of Dermatology*, August 2005, Vol. 53, No. 2, 320-328.

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, *The Economic Burden of Skin Cancer in Canada: Current and Projected*, February 26, 2010.